UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Access Cambridge Archaeology

Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in West Mersea, Essex, 2006-2010

Catherine Collins

Aimhigher...

EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND hefce

Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in West Mersea, Essex, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010

Catherine Collins

2019

Access Cambridge Archaeology
Department of Archaeology
University of Cambridge
Pembroke Street
Cambridge
CB2 3QG

01223 761519

access@arch.cam.ac.uk

www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk

(Front cover image – the team at WME/10, test pit 7 – copyright ACA)

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1 Summary

A total of 58 1m^2 archaeological test pits were excavated from West Mersea, on Mersea Island along the Essex coast between 2006 and 2010. The excavations were run as part of their Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) out of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge and were undertaken by 191 school pupils from 14 local secondary schools.

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

Evidence for both Late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity were found on the island through the test pitting, the latter focused more around the coast and likely relating to the start of the salt-making industry that would have also continued through the Roman period. The start of West Mersea as we see it today may have been during the Middle Anglo Saxon period and there are three references to Mersea Island in the Domesday Book, after which settlement expanded. Any settlement does not seem to have been too greatly affected by the Black Death as noted through the relatively stable pottery levels recorded during the excavations. From the post medieval onward the settlement expanded into the thriving fishing village that is still seen today.

2 Introduction

Six, two-day test pit excavations were undertaken in the village of West Mersea on Mersea Island in Essex over a five-year period. A total of 58 1m^2 archaeological test pits were excavated in that time and these numbers break down by year as six pits being excavated in 2006 and 10 test pits in 2007. There were two excavations in 2008, 13 pits were excavated first followed by another nine test pits the following week. In 2009, 10 test pits were excavated and in 2010 a further 10 pits were excavated. The test pits were sited in residential gardens where local residents offered spaces to dig and were undertaken by 191 secondary school students from 14 local schools. All the excavations were funded by Aim Higher Essex and the European Social Fun as well as the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The excavations were undertaken as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) designed to investigate currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) and was organised and supervised by Access Cambridge Archaeology, based in the Department of Archaeology, in the University of Cambridge.

2.1 Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA)

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

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

2.2 The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA)

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

On HEFA, participants spend two days running their own small (1m^2) archaeological excavation within living villages, just like thousands did in TV's Big Dig in 2003 and Michael Wood's Great British Story in 2012, with the aim of applying and developing a wide range of

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

2.3 Test-pit Excavation and Rural Settlement Studies

Rural settlement has long been a crucial area of research for medieval archaeology (Gerrard 2003; Lewis et al 2001, 5-21), notably since the pioneering work of W. G. Hoskins, Maurice Beresford and John Hurst in the 1940s and 1950s (Hoskins 1955; Beresford 1954; Beresford & Hurst 1971), but until recently attention was focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements which are today deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), overlain by domestic housing and related buildings of living secular communities – the villages, hamlets and small towns of today – were generally largely disregarded as targets for research-driven excavation. Very few regions have seen any systematic research-driven primary investigation aimed at CORS, and most of that which has taken place has not involved excavation, including those of a survey based nature (Roberts 1987; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). However, recent attempts to redress this bias in favour of the majority of medieval rural settlements which are still inhabited have opened up new areas for debate which are beginning to call into question established theories about the development of rural settlement in the historic period (Aston & Gerrard 1999; Jones & Page 2007). However, despite these recent advances, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation including excavation remains very small. In order to begin to resolve this problem, Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in more than 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, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015).

3 Aims, objectives and desired outcomes

3.1 Aims

The aims of the test pit excavations in West Mersea were as follows:

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

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of test pit excavations in West Mersea were as follows:

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

3.3 Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the test pit excavations in West Mersea were as follows:

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

4 Methodology

The five-years of test pitting in West Mersea was organised by ACA in conjunction with members of Mersea Museum, with both the excavation and recording following the standard Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) instruction handbook and recording booklet.

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

The test pits are all $1m^2$ and the turf, if present, was removed in neat squares by hand. Each test pit was excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The horizontal surface of each context/spit is then drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation, a photograph taken and the colour recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart, included in the written handbook. A pro-forma recording system was used by the students to record their test pit excavation. This comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with students and members of the public with no previous archaeological experience. The site code is WME/year, so WME/06 for 2006, WME/07 for 2007, WME/08 for 2008, WME/09 for 2009 and WME/10 for 2010.

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

After the two days of excavation are completed, the archaeological records and finds (all of which are kept and cleaned on site) are retained by ACA at the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HER's, publication and ongoing research into the origins and development of rural settlement. Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857). ACA retain all finds in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible, but any requests to return finds to owners will be agreed.

5 Location

5.1 The settlement today

Essex is a coastal county, located in south east England and is bounded by Suffolk to the north, Cambridgeshire to the north west, Hertfordshire to the west, the River Thames and Greater London to the south with the North Sea to the east (figure 1). Mersea Island is the most easterly inhabited island in the British Isles and is situated just off the north-east Essex coast. It is less than 14km south of Colchester and c.42km east of Chelmsford and is bounded by the River Blackwater in the south, the Strood Channel to the north and west, the Pyefleet Channel to the north and east and the River Colne to the east.

West Mersea is the larger of two settlements on the island (figure 2), occupying the western half of the island while the much smaller and scattered settlement of East Mersea occupies the eastern half. The island is quite small and slightly oval in shape, measuring only c.14.9km in length and 3.2km in width. It is connected to the main land on its north western side through an artificial causeway, known as 'The Stroud', part of the B1025, which often floods at high tide. This main road continues into the centre of West Mersea, whilst the rest of the village comprises small lanes, which also cross the island. West Mersea is centred on NGR TM 009125.

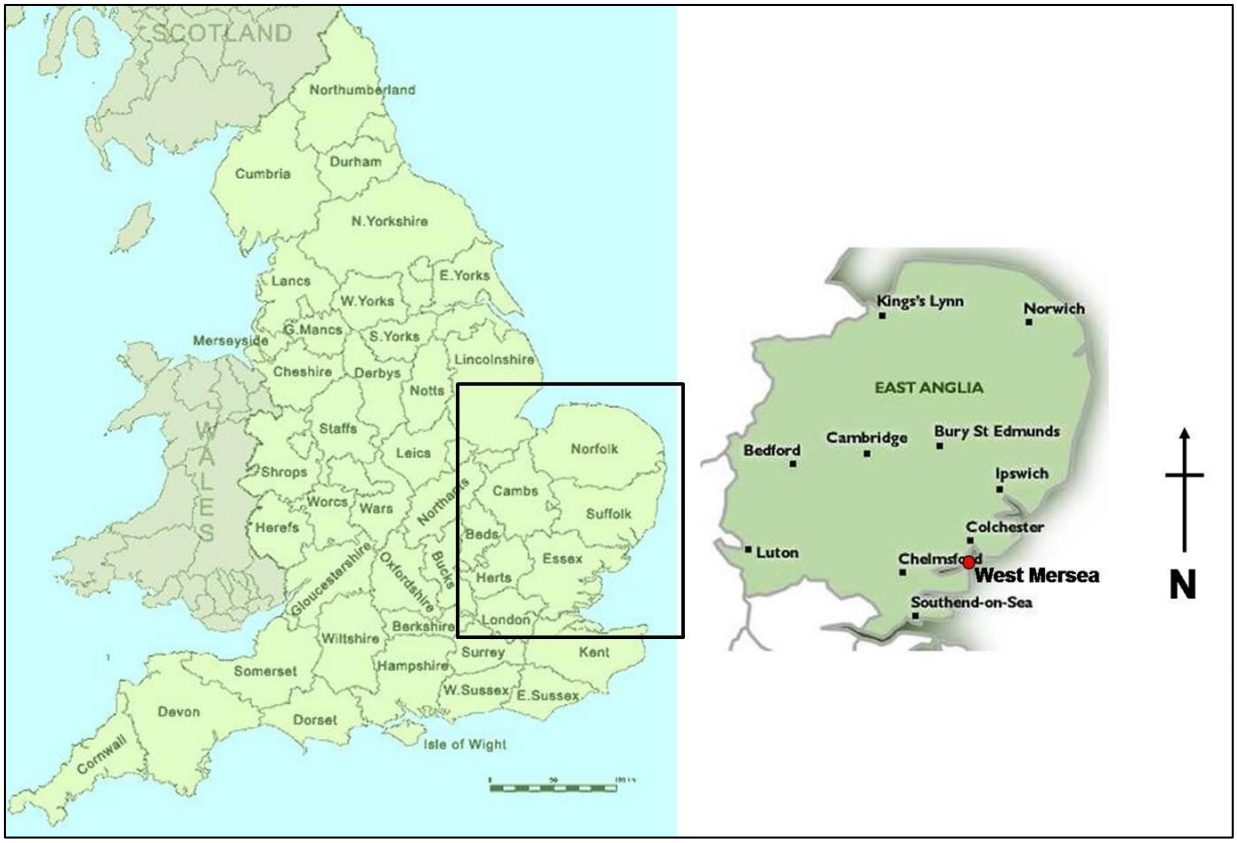

Figure 1: Map of England with a close up insert of East Anglia, and the village of West Mersea highlighted in red.

West Mersea today is a large modern seaside village with the vast majority of its housing and development dating to the second half of the 20th century. It was however, originally a small fishing village as late as the early 20th century, which was concentrated around the

church and westwards along Coast Road. The traditional building materials consisted of weather boarded properties, as well as using thatch, tile and brick.

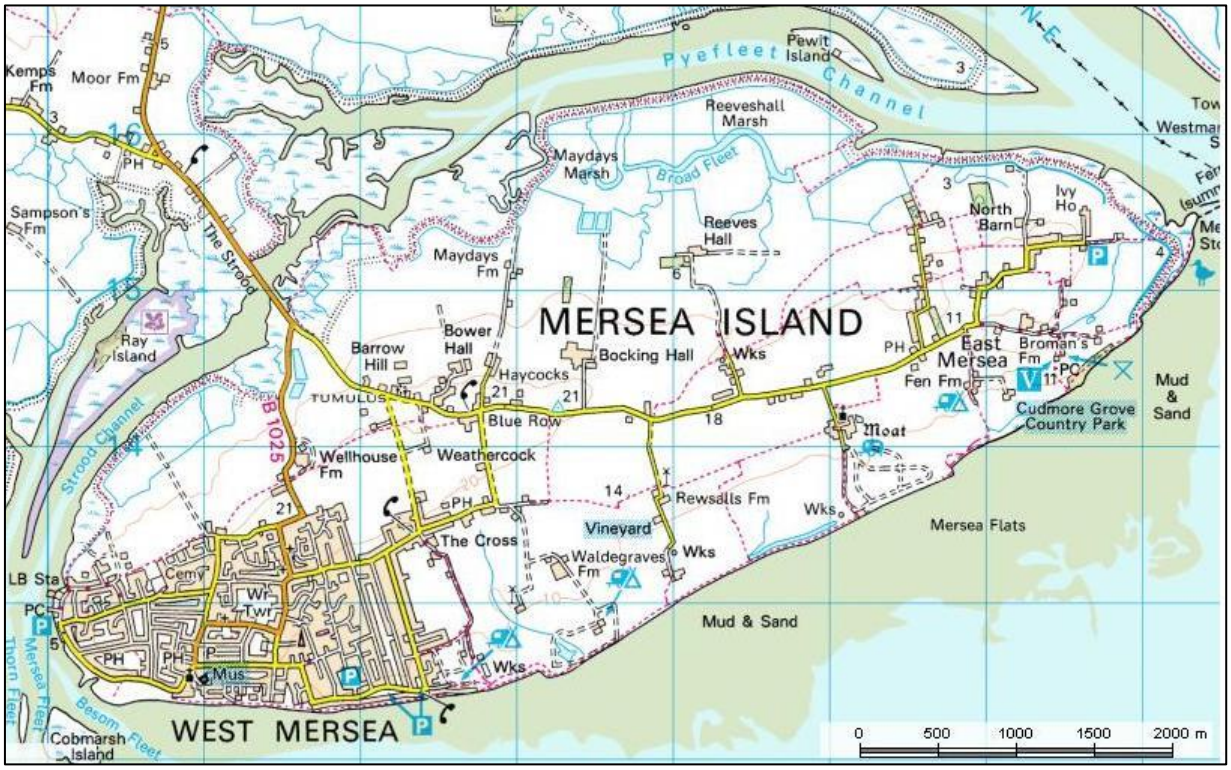

Figure 2: Modern OS map of Mersea Island © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 40,000

The traditional economy on the island related to boat building and oyster fishing, both of which are still evident today that has also developed to include a yachting port with also the increasing tourist industry on the island. The village today boasts a community centre, various shops, restaurants, public houses, restaurants, bank, library, police station and several churches.[1] The modern population of West Mersea was calculated at 6,925 on the 2001 National Census and 7,183 on the 2011 census.[2]

A small area of West Mersea is a designated Conservation Area (figure 3), which begins on the landward side at The Victory Pub and continuing westwards down to The Lane, but not extending beyond it. The seaward side however extends further along Coast Road, from the Monkey Steps across from St Peter's Well Meadow over the mudflats, down to Mersea Hard (Tyler 2009).

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Mersea (Accessed March 2014)
[2] http://www.westmersea.org/uploads/appraisal2.pdf (Accessed March 2014)

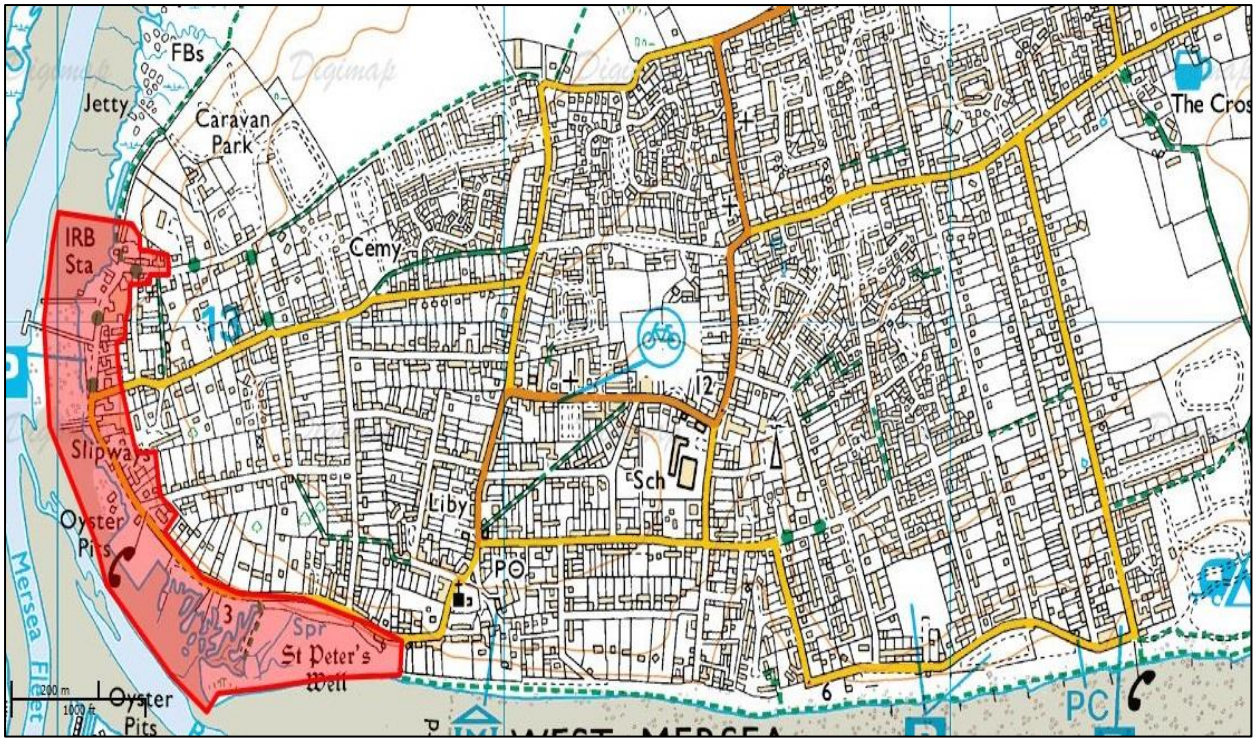

Figure 3: Extent of the West Mersea conservation area (shaded red) © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

In East Mersea, the majority of the coastal areas are either part of the Cudmore Grove County Park, or have been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which also forms part of the Colne Estuary National Nature Reserve. These are all designated as special wetland sites, particularly as bird and other wildlife habitats.[3]

The Metropolitan Greenbelt has prevented any further growth of London northwards into the county and it extends across the south of the county, from the east it is bounded by the River Crouch to the north, at the end of which it extends north to skirt the southern extent of Chelmsford before continuing westwards to Bishops Stortford and the Hertfordshire border. The rest of the county to the north of the Greenbelt is still quite rural, with small towns and villages, including the area around Mersea Island; the exceptions are the larger towns of both Colchester and Chelmsford. The highest point in the county is Chrishall Common to the west of Saffron Walden and close to the Hertfordshire border which reaches 147m.[4]

[3] http://www.essexinfo.net/east-mersea-parish-council/village-design-statement/ (Accessed March 2014)
[4] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essex (Accessed March 2014)

5.2 Geology and Topography

Mersea Island is formed through a ridge of London Clay that comprises the bulk of the island. The rest of the geology of the island is part of the Thames Group of clay, silt, sand and gravel with further superficial deposits of glacial sand and gravel[5].

There is a wide area of low lying very flat land to the north of the island, with extensive mudflats and tidal sands to the south. It is between 4-5m OD along the coastal edges to a height of 20m OD towards the centre of the island, which also incorporates the north western corner of West Mersea town.

The topography of the island consists of small to medium regular sized fields that are bounded by tall hedges of the ridge and by drainage ditches on the flat marshes. There are a mix of both pastoral and arable farmland with many wide-open views of the sea and estuary[6]. The landscape along this part of the Essex coastline has been classified as the National Character Area Profile 81: The Greater Thames Estuary[7] that is also described as being a predominately flat, low-lying coastal landscape where extensive open spaces and the presence of numerous coastal estuaries extend this maritime influence far inland.

[5] http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html (Accessed March 2014)
[6] www.**essex**.gov.uk/AnalyticsReports/CB_LCA_**Essex**_2002.pdf (Accessed March 2014)
[7] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4531632073605120?category=587130 (Accessed January 2018)

6 Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1 Historical Background

Some of the first historical references to Mersea Island were recorded in the early 10th century when it was known as *Meresig* and is believed to derive from the Old English word of *mere* to mean 'island of the pool' (Mills 2011). In the Domesday Book of 1086 the island was recorded as *Meresai*, and later spellings have also been recorded as *Meresai, Myresia, Myraesagae,* to *Martsley* in the 13th century and *Mersay* in the later 14th century (Reany 1935).

There are three entries for Mersea Island in the Domesday Book and additional information about understanding the Domesday Book is available online.[8] The first entry mentions the manor of Mersea and six hides were held by Swein of Essex and was recorded to have '*two ploughs, the men had eight ploughs, now six. There were then nine villans, now eight, then three slaves, now none. There was woodland for 40 pigs. There are five acres of meadow, four fisheries. There was then one horse, nine head of cattle, 25 pigs and 107 sheep. There are now three horses, 12 head of cattle, 10 pig, 100 sheep and one hive of bees. It is worth £10*' (Williams & Martin 2003; 1004).

A further 20 hides were held by St Ouen on Mersea that was recorded to have '*then four ploughs, now six. Then as now the men had 16 ploughs and there were 36 villans and 62 bordars. Then 10 slaves, now three. There are 11 horses and two colts, 16 head of cattle, 34 pigs and 300 sheep. To this manor was also held half a hide, that belonged to a priest, which then and now is worth 10s and there is woodland for 200 pigs and pasture for 300 sheep. There was then also one fishery. It was then worth £26, now £22'.* (Williams and Martin 2003; 985)

The third entry was in reference to two hides at Mersea which were held by the manor at Bocking, but all owned by the Holy Trinity church in Canterbury. The two hides were recorded as having '*one plough and the men have one plough and there are two villans and one border. There is pasture for 50 sheep. Then the whole was worth £24 now £28'.* (Williams and Martin 2003; 974).

The parish church of St Peter and St Paul is situated at the south of the High Street and close to the sea and is Grade I listed (SMR 2274). It was constructed during the 11th century, although the tower today is the only part of the building that remains of that date, with much of the chancel and nave rebuilt in the 14th century and the addition of the north porch in the 15th century. Rebuilding took place in both the 16th and 18th centuries when the south vestry was added. The building is mainly constructed out of ragstone, but it also contains both Roman and later brick and tile fragments that have been incorporated into its structure. The site of the church is thought to have been the site of a Saxon minster, and close to both the Benedictine Priory and a Roman villa. Also adjoining the church is an irregular moat feature (SMR 2199), which may actually represent an area of deserted medieval settlement.

Although no church was specifically mentioned in the Domesday Book, there is a reference to it during the later Anglo Saxon period (the early 10th century) in wills left by Aelfgar, an Ealdorman, which was a high-ranking royal official and his daughters Aethelflaed (who was

[8] http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/ (for general information and https://opendomesday.org/place/TM1031/west-mersea/ for West Mersea specifically (Accessed April 2018))

widow of King Edmund) and Aelffaed (widow of another Ealdorman). The wills stated that properties in Mersea, Peldon and Fingringhoe were to be left to St Peters church on Mersea.[9] Local research has suggested that when St Cedd founded the historic St Peters Chapel in c.654 AD across the Backwater Estuary on the Bradwell peninsula,[10] it was Cedd and his monks that subsequently founded the church on Mersea also in the 7th century that was also dedicated to St Peter.[11] The church would have likely suffered as Danish raids became more frequent in East Anglia but it may have the bequests of Aelfgar and his family that helped restore the church during the late 9th and early 10th centuries. A Danish encampment is also thought to have been sited within the earthworks and moated site at East Mersea church (SMR 2119) and the original Strood causeway is said to have Anglo Saxon origins with dating of the original timber walkway to between 684 and 702 AD (Crummy et al 1982), the timing of which fits in with the likely construction of St Peters church.

St Edmunds church in East Mersea (SMR 2120) is also Grade I listed and is originally 12th-13th century in date, although much of the structure dates to the 14th-16th century and there is no evidence for any later rebuilding. Today, much of the exterior of the structure is heavily weathered and dampness is a problem inside the church, parts of the flooring are decayed and there is a large crack in the chancel arch.

In 1042 the manor estates of Mersea had reverted to the crown (from the church) and it was by a charter in 1046 by Edward the Confessor that the manor and estates were granted to the Abbey of St. Ouen in Rouen (Normandy). The Abbey founded a small Benedictine priory in West Mersea, centred around the church itself.[12] The Domesday Book entry for the landholding of the abbey are recorded in the second entry above. In 1202 the possessions of the priory were leased to the Bishop of London and a record of its worth in 1291 was recorded at £19. 5s. 5 ½d. In 1294, an exact evaluation of the priory was taken which also included information about the three manors that were also owned by the two monks that were reportedly in residence. In that year, the manor of Mersea was worth £11. 10s. 6d. annually with extra income recorded from outside the island in rents from other nearby manors. The church at West Mersea was recorded at £6. 13s. 4d. and the livestock recorded at that time on the island amounted to 12 stots, four oxen, 12 cows, six calves, 120 sheep, 16 weak sheep, 120 lambs, 21 pigs, one boar and 24 piglets.[13]

As the priory was alien, in that it was in the control of another religious house outside of England, this case in France, the priory was often taken back into the hands of the crown. One record of this in 1324 stated that there was only one monk on Mersea and that they had an allowance of 3s a week and additional figures for the priory have been recorded as the yearly rent, which rose from £55 in 1338 to £60 in 1378. With a licence from Henry IV, the priory was granted to John Doreward, the bishop of Annaghdown in Ireland and his wife, for life. In the second year of the reign of Henry V, he dissolved all alien priories in 1414 and it was not until 1422 that the priory at Mersea was out of the hands of the crown when it was granted to the archbishop and archdeacon of Canterbury for the college that the archbishop had license to found at Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire. The priory and its possessions remained in the hands of the college until the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1542, when they were granted to Robert Dacres in fee.[14] Additional

[9] https://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmresdetails.php?ba=cke&typ=ID&pid=TXA00900&rid=IA003961&rhit=1 (Accessed March 2014)
[10] http://www.bradwellchapel.org/chapel.html (Accessed February 2018)
[11] https://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmresdetails.php?ba=cke&typ=ID&pid=TXA00900&rid=IA003961&rhit=1 (Accessed March 2014)
[12] *Ibid*
[13] https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol2/pp196-197 (Accessed March 2014)
[14] https://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmresdetails.php?ba=cke&typ=ID&pid=TXA00900&rid=IA003961&rhit=1 (Accessed March 2014)

information about the medieval history of Mersea Island is recorded on the Mersea Museum website.[15]

In East Mersea, at Mersea Stone, a fort was built in 1547 (SMR 2217) as part of a chain of 'Device Forts' along the Essex coast to protect against attack from either France or Spain and was commissioned by Henry VIII. It comprised of a triangular earthwork with a palisade that was surrounded by a defensive ditch and because of its small size it only ever housed four to six guns.[16] During the English Civil War, the island was utilised when the Royalists marched on Colchester and in 1648 it was fortified (it had already begun to fall into disrepair) to control the supply of food up the River Colne. The Parliamentary Army arrived soon after the Royalists and besieged Colchester (although it took 75 days before the Royalists surrendered) and also retook the blockhouse fort.[17] In 1655 Cromwell ordered its demolition but the owner of the land forbade its destruction, the fort was however in decay again in the early 18th century and in ruins by 1768. Today nothing remains on the site.

In 1801, on the first national census, there were a recorded 660 people living in West Mersea (East Mersea had just 246). For West Mersea this number steadily increased through the 19th century to reach 1,306 in 1901, after which the population rose quickly through the first half of the 20th century to reach just over 3,000 in 1951[18]. The second half of the 20th century saw the population of West Mersea double to 6,925 in the 2001 census, a trend which continues to this day (Tyler 2009). In East Mersea, the first census record of the population was at 236 individuals in 1801, but this number did not rise as significantly as the population did in West Mersea. The population peak in East Mersea was in 1841 when a recorded 331 people were living in the east of the island, but otherwise the population generally remained low, dipping to 205 people in 1921[19] and now on a slow rise through the latter half of the 20th century and the early 21st century to be at 257 people in 2001 and 266 at the 2011 census.[20]

Mersea Island had its 'heyday' between 1750 and 1850, at a time when smuggling would also have been rife along the east coast of England, the smaller labyrinth of creeks offering a variety of easy escapes for smugglers who would secretly dump goods of tea, tobacco or spirits overboard to collect them later under the pretence of dredging for oysters (Clements and Rainbird 2008-9). Two pubs on the island are known for aiding smugglers; The Dog and Pheasant on the outskirts of East Mersea and the Peldon Rose on the mainland side of The Strood[21] where the goods could be hidden, for a fee. A coastguard stationed on West Mersea and more modern communications from 1850 onwards meant that smuggling was much reduced on the island.[22]

There were plans for a railway line to come to the island during the later 19th and early 20th century, along with a grand hotel, promenade and pier, but the start of the First World War meant the plans were put on hold and after the war they were never completed.[23] The main industries on Mersea have remained, despite the increase in tourism through the 20th century with farming and fishing (including oyster cultivation) that still continues today.

---

[15] https://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmhistory.php (Accessed February 2018)
[16] http://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmresdetails.php?tot=57&col=MM&pid=COR2_020&typ=all&rt=Article&syn=all&ord=dtadd&wds=&hit=32 (Accessed March 2014)
[17] https://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmhistory.php (Accessed February 2018)
[18] http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10244699/cube/TOT_POP (Accessed February 2018)
[19] http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10244675/cube/TOT_POP (Accessed February 2018)
[20] https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-parishes-eastofengland.php?adm2id=E04003986 (Accessed February 2018)
[21] http://www.smuggling.co.uk/gazetteer_e_12.html (Accessed February 2018)
[22] http://www.visitmerseaisland.co.uk/blog/113-mersea-smugglers/ (Accessed February 2018)
[23] http://www.visitmerseaisland.co.uk/blog/185-was-there-ever-a-railway-on-mersea-island/ (Accessed February 2018)

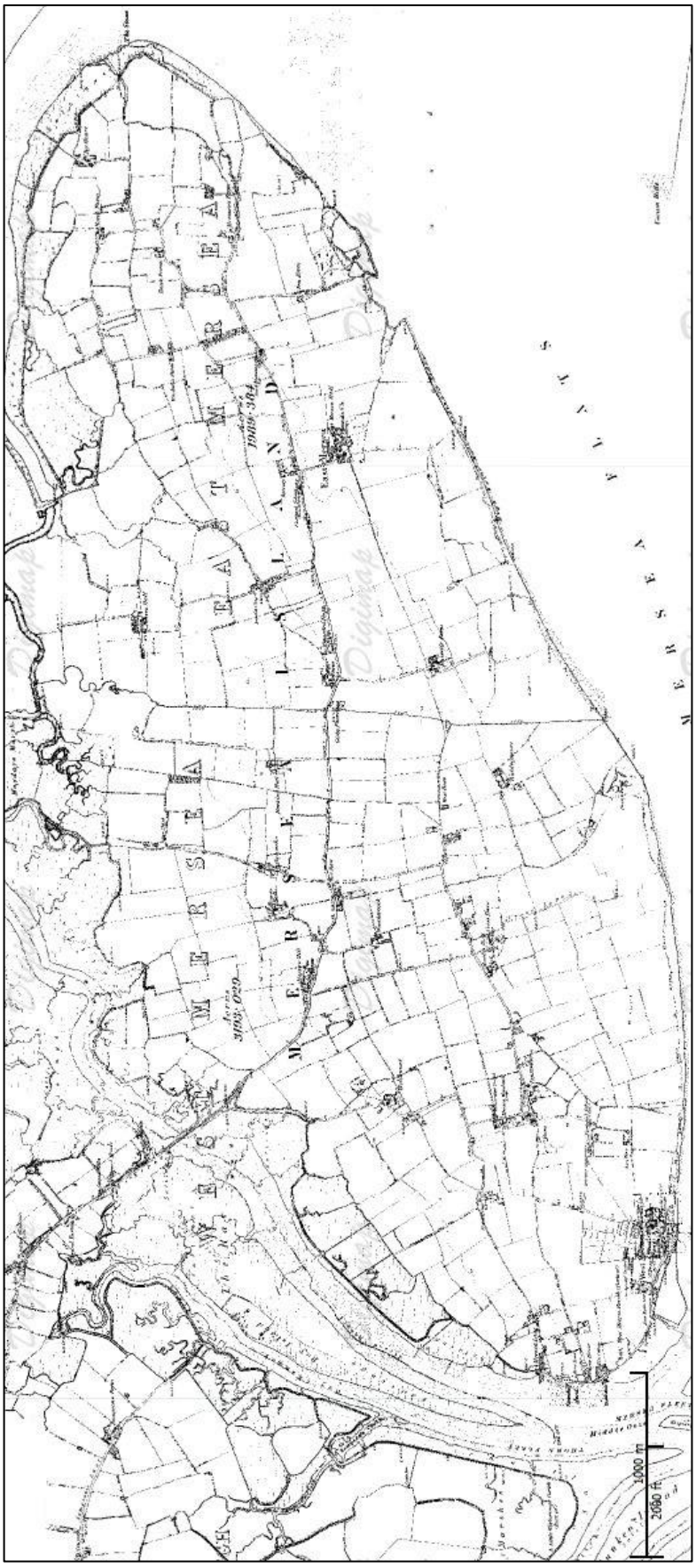

Figure 4: 1880's OS map of Mersea Island © Crown Copyright and Database rights/Ordnance Survey 2019, 1: 10,000

6.2 Archaeological Background

A small number of finds and monuments have been recorded from Mersea Island on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Essex that were found through a 5km search on the Heritage Gateway website[24] and will all be discussed below in chronological order. This search includes the finds from both East and West Mersea at the time of writing.
A record of the 56 listings for West Mersea and 38 for East Mersea are omitted from this report for issues of space, but detailed summary can be found by searching on the Heritage List for England website.[25]

6.2.1 Prehistoric

A range of both prehistoric (up to AD 43) features and artefacts (mainly in the form of flints); have been recorded from across Mersea Island. These all seem to suggest Mersea was mostly utilised periodically, including industrial workings such as fishing and salt making, as well as for burials, from which there may only be small settlement activity, which is also yet to be identified on the archaeological record. In early prehistory the coast line would have been very different to today, with the courses of both the River Thames and River Medway flowing through Essex and likely met just east of Mersea Island (figure 5) about 400,000 years ago, until the ice sheet pushed the rivers further south to their current positions (figure 6) and it was the combined Thames-Medway river after the Ice Age that laid down the gravels evident in East Mersea at Cudmore Grove Country Park.[26] Sea levels started to rise through the Mesolithic, to eventually surround the mound of London Clay that comprises Mersea Island to became an actual island, perhaps by the Neolithic. Mersea today still becomes an island when it is cut off from the mainland twice a day at high tide, and would have influenced settlement development on the island. Any settlements here well positioned in later prehistory to trade with other communities up and down the coast, as well as perhaps the continent, particularly as both Iron Age pottery and coins have been found on the island to come from both Greece and France.

A small number of artefacts have only been able to be identified as prehistoric on the HER, and so may actually date to any time from the Lower Palaeolithic through to the Late Bronze Age. One example is a flint waste flake from a knapping site at Cudmore Park in East Mersea (SMR 19599) with further worked flints also found from East Mersea (SMR 12699 and 12700). Scatters of flints have also been found elsewhere on the island, particularly around the coast line (SMR 2167 and 2174). The butt end of a polished axe has also been recorded (SMR 2098) as well as a flint arrowhead (SMR 2092) and all would require analysis to determine their exact date.

Evidence of activity dating to the Palaeolithic (800,000 to 10,000 BC) has been recorded from Mersea, but in the form of the wild fauna that once roamed this part of Essex and included shrew, monkey, rhino, various amphibians, and hippo (SMR 19600 and 46933). Finds that have been specifically dated as Palaeolithic are also recorded at West Mersea with the recovery of two handaxes (SMR 2110 and 1911) and show that there were people in this area as well as the variety of animals.

[24] http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx (Accessed March 2014)
[25] https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/
[26] http://www.geoessex.org.uk/the_arrival_of_humans.html (Accessed April 2018)

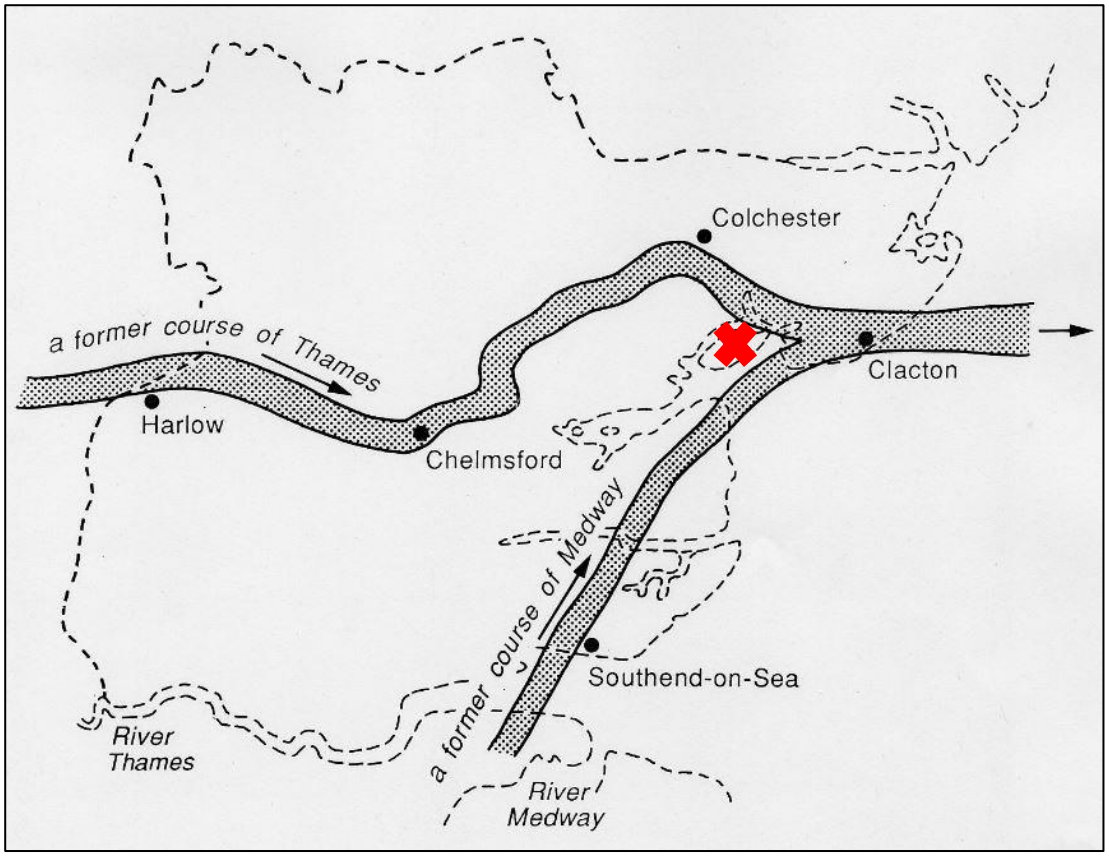

Figure 5: The former courses of the River Thames and River Medway with the location of Mersea Island marked with a red cross, c.400,000 BC (adapted from © Lucy 1999)

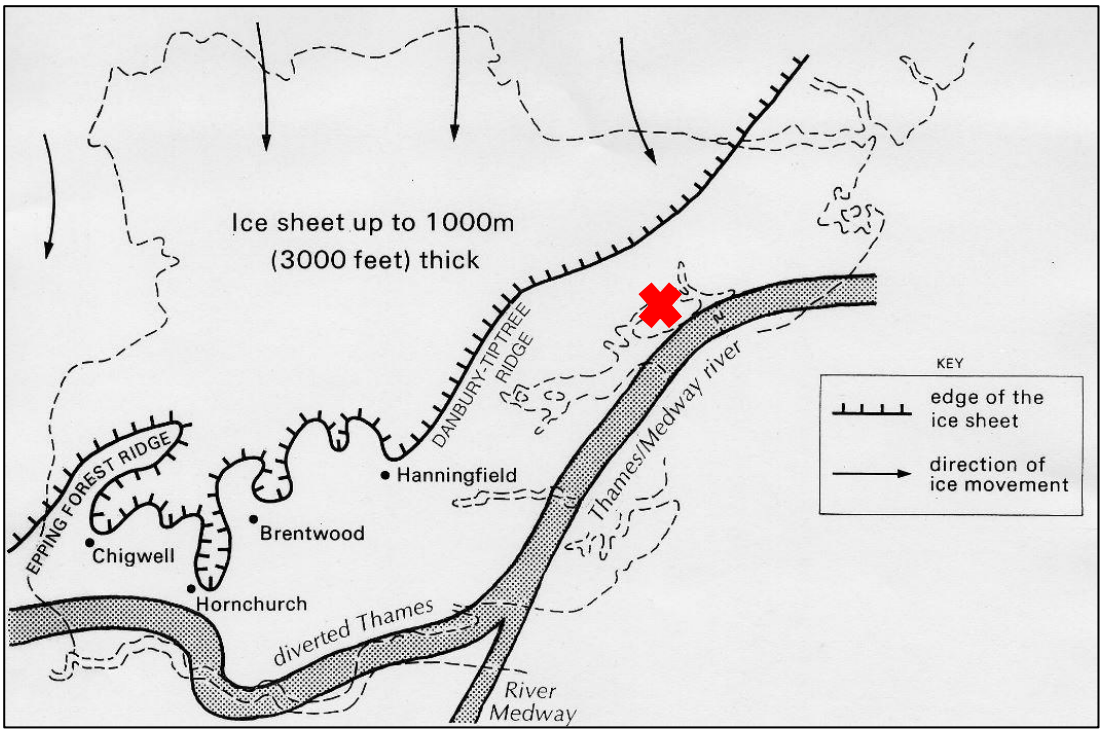

Figure 6: The extent of the Essex ice sheet and the location of Mersea Island indicated by a red cross (adapted from © Lucy 1999)

Mesolithic activity (10,000 to 5,000 BC) has been recorded in the form of additional worked flint tools that were found at Cudmore Grove Country Park in East Mersea as part of a general scatter recorded as 'worked flints' (SMR 2720). A potential Mesolithic (SMR 13636) or Neolithic (SMR 13637) buried land surface has also been recorded at the Blackwater site at Cudmore Grove Country Park, which yielded burnt stone, struck flints and sparse charcoal flecking. A pebble mace head (SMR 47239) has also been recorded from East Mersea.

From the Neolithic period (5,000 to 2,200 BC) onwards a greater spread of activity on Mersea Island has been recorded. Adjacent to the Blackwater site where Mesolithic or Neolithic activity was recorded, a Neolithic flint core and a fragment of polished axe were both found with several waste flakes and a flint blade (SMR 2219). A split quartzite pebble (SMR 2094) has also been recorded to the east of West Mersea and stone axes were also found from the sea front at West Mersea (SMR 2177).

Some flints have found on Mersea Island have only been tentatively dated from the Early Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age and consist of a perforated hammerstone that was made from a large quartz pebble (SMR 2089). Fieldwalking was undertaken at Fen Farm in East Mersea and a thumbnail scraper was recorded dating from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, as well as a waste flint flake and several burnt flints (SMR 14655).

It was from the Bronze Age (2,200 to 700 BC) that archaeological features have been found to represent the first evidence for permanent settlement on Mersea Island. These consist of a single ring ditch which have been recorded at Bond Green Farm (SMR 2237) as well as a single bowl barrow that was found to contain a single central cremation (SMR 12698) and were both recorded from East Mersea. Other structures have been identified from the Blackwater site at Cudmore Grove Country Park, also in East Mersea, in the form of a series of wooden structures comprising of a fish trap, a hurdle structure and a large forked chunk of oak that also has flat metal cut ends (SMR 13640).

Isolated Bronze Age spot finds have also been recorded on the HER from all over Mersea Island, including an Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead from Cudmore Grove County Park in East Mersea (SMR 19601) and a Late Bronze Age sword that was found from the foreshore at West Mersea (SMR 1910).

Activity on the island has continued into the Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43) in the form of artefact scatters from around the island, from the marshland to the north of the island and close to the Pyefleet Channel. Both briquetage and Iron Age pottery were recorded from this area (SMR 2311 and 2312), as well as from Cudmore Grove Country Park in the south of the island (SMR 19602) suggesting a possible association with salt workings. Further areas of possible salt workings have also been recorded on the salt marsh in Mersea Channel (SMR 47004 and 47003). During dredging at the mouth of the River Colne a forgery of tetradrchm (an Ancient Greek silver coil) of Nichomedes II of Bythynia that was also found to date to 149-95 BC (SMR 2093). Another type of Greek coin, a stater was also recorded from West Mersea (SMR 2172), as was a Late Iron Age gold stater (SMR 17584), and a Late Iron Age stater of the Morini Belgic tribe of northern Gaul was found near Bocking Hall in the north of the island (SMR 2091).

A Late Iron Age cremation burial has also been found at 42 Fairhaven Avenue in the eastern half of West Mersea, consisting of four Belgic pots and cremated bone (SMR 12734). An Iron Age bowl was also found close to Bond Green Farm in East Mersea (SMR 2236).

Iron Age structures have also been recorded at the Blackwater site at Cudmore Grove County Park in the southeast of the island. These consist of a possible fish trap sited at the

mean low tide mark, a hurdle structure contained in the clay, c2.75m below the high tide mark and a large forked chunk of oak that may be associated with the hurdle structure (SMR 13639). A single large earthwork has also been recorded from the edge of the Mersea Channel (SMR 46982) likely dating from the Late Iron Age and consists of a roughly rectangular enclosure, from which all but the northern side are still visible. The fact that red earth is visible in the eroding sections as well as the presence of briquetage, suggests the fact that this site may also have been utilised for salt making.

6.2.2 Roman

The trade links established during later prehistory became even more important into the Roman period (AD 43-410), particularly given the prominent position of Mersea, surrounded by navigable estuaries and accessible from the continent and the rest of the Roman Empire. The River Colne, that passes Mersea Island to the east, flows through Colchester, which is what gave the town of Colchester its significance and made it an important port as early as the mid-1st century AD to become the original capital of Roman Britain, known as Camulodunum, originally the tribal centre of the *Trinovantes,* whose territory covered Essex and south Suffolk.[27]

The town of Roman Colchester would have had a significant influence on the economy of the immediate area, including Mersea Island, with a ready market for local products, such as salt, shellfish, fish, meat and grains (Brown et al 2009). The production of salt would have been a major industry along the Essex coastline that had begun by the Late Iron Age at the latest, but particularly flourished during the Roman period (Bennett 2011). These are known as 'red hill' sites and a concentration of red hills have been found around the backwaters of Mersea Island, suggesting it was a centre for this industry during the Roman period (Brown et al 2009). Red hill sites have been recorded in the north of the island and close to Bowers Hall Farm (SMR 12573) where a substantial red mound is surrounded by a square bank and a causeway that runs into the sea. Briquetage has been found with hearths, vessels, pedestals and firebars and may date from the early Roman period with the saltern and earthworks later additions. Also, on the northern side of the island, on the banks of the Pyefleet channel, was another red hill site that produced briquetage, wedges, T-pieces and harder ware (SMR 2137) and to the west of Wellhouse Farm (SMR 2140) on a site that has now been bulldozed flat. Further sites have also been recorded at Reeves Hall Farm (SMR 2206 and 17053) and Bocking Hall (SMR 2138), both of which are located in the northern half of the island and north of East Mersea Road, as well as from The Strood Channel, where potential soil marks were noted from aerial photographs (SMR 17052) and from the salt marsh in the Mersea Channel (SMR 47004 and 47003), both of which may have origins in the Iron Age. A ploughed out probable red hill site was also identified in the north of the island (SMR 12570) as several pieces of briquetage were recorded. Another possible red hill site has also been noted at Maydays Farm, also in the north of the island (SMR 2139), as well as at Pete Tye Bridge where some burnt clay and pottery were also identified (SMR 2084). Fragments of pottery were found to the east of West Mersea and indicating the presence of a further possible red hill sites along the coast (SMR 2096, 2208 and 2166) and another red hill site is recorded to the north of Moor Farm (SMR 2199) and to the north of Wellhouse Farm (SMR 2183) in West Mersea.

At the Blackwater site at Cudmore Grove Country Park in East Mersea, fragments of several pedestals and pieces of briquetage were all recorded, suggesting the presence of another red hill site (SMR 2168) and the presence of a low lying mound also within the park may also be evidence of salt working, either dating from the Early Iron Age to the Roman

[27] https://www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk/?p=30550 (Accessed April 2018)

period (SMR 19602), although no evidence of briquetage or burnt deposits have been exposed. Another possible red hill site in East Mersea is at North Farm (SMR 2165).

A round barrow has also been recorded to date to the very early Roman period, between AD 60-90 from the off centre burial that was found within a chamber made from flanged roof tiles and contained a lead casket, in which were the ashes stored in a glass flask (SMR 1) and it has been suggested that the earthwork structure that was originally identified as Late Iron Age in date may well have continued into the Roman period (SMR 46982). It is situated on the edge of the Mersea channel and consists of a roughly rectangular enclosure, from which all but the northern side are still visible. The presence of red earth may also indicate that the site continued to be utilised for salt working well into the Roman period. Also, along the coast to the east of West Mersea, a number of rectangular pits have been recorded that were also found to be lined with vegetable matter. These have been potentially interpreted as oyster storage pools (SMR 2169).

From a wide area around West Mersea Church, West Mersea Hall and Yew Tree House on Coast Road several Romano-British artefacts have been recovered. These include areas of mosaic floor, wall foundations as well as a midden (SMR 2214), as well as fragments of pavement and tesserae (SMR 2191) and brick rubbish and burnt tile (SMR 2188). Also close to the church and extending into the gardens of 4 and 6 Beach Road and 20 Yorick Road is a wheel tomb that was originally identified in the late 19th century (SMR 38). It measured c.19.8m in diameter with a small hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls, which meet the c.0.9m thick encircling wall, but also project beyond it for just over 1m as external buttresses. There were 12 buttresses in total and the whole structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and ragstone, and there is no sign of a doorway or floor. It has been interpreted as a tomb based on similar Roman examples from both Italy and Germany and now has been recorded as a Roman Mausoleum. A few metres east of the wheel tomb were found the remains of a brick tomb (SMR 2109) which contained a child cremation in a glass urn with a lead lid. Textile impressions were also preserved on the lid, suggesting a date of possibly the early 2nd century AD. The urn was placed in a flue tile and contained the teeth of a child between 12-15 months old.

Close to the Mausoleum at 20 Yorick Road (SMR 45986) were the remains of demolition rubble from the mausoleum, which were found from foundation trenches during a watching brief at the property prior to an extension. As well as the demolition rubble, an additional two features were also recorded as a greensand and mortar wall foundation and the second was part of a modern soakaway (Holloway 2005). During the development of a modern housing estate to the south of West Mersea church on Coast Road (SMR 13280/12501), the foundations of Roman buildings were cut through, although only one foundation was recorded. Further to the south were the possible remains of the base of a tessellated pavement or mosaic with moulded fragments of Roman plaster and probable 2nd century AD pottery (Crummy 1992). Also close to West Mersea church, fragments of cement, tesserae, tile and flue tile have all been recorded in the early 20th century. These were found with an Antoninianus of Postumus (SMR 2190).

The church of St Edmunds in East Mersea has fragments of Roman tile and brick included in the fabric of the church, with further fragments recorded during grave digging (SMR 2121). A small 4th century coin has also been recorded from the church suggesting that there were the remains of a Roman Villa at the church site. During fieldwalking carried out at Fen Farm in East Mersea during the planting of a new wood (under the Woodland Grant Scheme), a single sherd of Roman pottery was recorded with a number of later sherds (SMR 14656).

Further building foundations have been recorded at Bonheur in West Mersea, including a c.0.6m wide thick wall built of stone and tile and set in pink mortar, which was also found

with burnt daub and oyster shell in the early 1920's. Later excavations on site yielded additional pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (SMR 2189). At Saint Peters Well (SMR 2122), situated just south of Coast Road in West Mersea, were the remains of a tessellated pavement. The well or spring was associated with the priory at West Mersea but may have had origins in Roman period.

A coin hoard of 657 coins was found in East Mersea, to the west of Fen Farm that date to the 3rd century AD from Gallienus to Tetricus II (SMR 12591). Four coins of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Elagabalus and Valens were also recorded to the east of West Mersea (SMR 2103) as were a number of coins said to derive from a hoard found in 1980, including Antoninianus of Postumus, a bronze coin of Victorinus and a bronze coin of Claudius Gothicus (SMR 2106). A coin of Constantine was found between Mersea mount, near Barrow Hill and the sea (SMR 2099) and an Antoninianus of Tacitus was found from a house on Upland Road in West Mersea (SMR 12733). On Ray Island, three coins of Theodosius were found in the first half of the 20th century (SMR 2179) along with two coins of Constantine (SMR 2181). A denarius of Antonius Pius has been found at Firs Farm (SMR 2178) and to the north of East Mersea Road at Blue Row was found a coin of Caracalla or Elagabulus (SMR 2207). An illegible sestertius of Hadrian has also been recorded from close to the sea front to the far east of West Mersea (SMR 12607) and another coin of Hadrian (dated 118 AD) was also recorded on West Mersea foreshore, 30m below the high-water mark (SMR 2171). An unspecified number of coins of Constantine were recorded on land between Barrow Hill and The Marshes at West Mersea (SMR 12732) and 20-30 metal detected Roman coins were found from a field to the north of West Mersea (SMR 17644)

Other find spot sites dating to the Roman period on Mersea include close to The Strood, where several bronze objects were recorded including a fibula and a sestertius of Faustina II, plus a tessera (SMR 2102). A copper alloy snakehead bracelet was found during metal detecting at Bocking Hall Farm in the north of the island (SMR 48106). Pottery and briquetage were also recorded from the beach at West Mersea (SMR 2235) and a lamp and coin were also found from the sea front at West Mersea (SMR 2176). A small flask was also found to the east of West Mersea (SMR 2104) and just east of West Mersea at Waldegraves Farm were the remains of an undated boat on the foreshore (SMR 17645), from around which were also recorded two sherds of Roman pottery (SMR 17648). A Greyware flask was recorded from a house on Seaview Avenue in West Mersea (SMR 2173) and pottery was also found from a property along Melrose Road in what may have been a grave (SMR 2215). At Cudmore Grove Country Park in East Mersea, a Roman amphora was found whilst preparing the park (SMR 2266). Roman pottery has also been recorded from Ray Island (SMR 2180) and Cobmarsh Island (SMR 12606) in the form of a marine encrusted Haddam Ware bowl. To the northern end of the Causeway were found fragments of Roman tile under the modern road (SMR 2148) and fragments of Roman tile were also found to the north of Wellhouse Farm, situated to the north of West Mersea (SMR 2184).

Given the extent of the Romano-British remains on Mersea Island, settlement and activity was likely widespread across the island, with people attracted here by the abundance of natural resources and the money to be made by salt making.

6.2.3 Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon period in Britain is traditionally divided into three phases; the Early Anglo-Saxon period (AD 410-699), immediately after the Roman administration withdraws from Britain is also at a time when the population was mainly pagan. The Middle Anglo-Saxon

(AD 700-849), where the first evidence for Christianity can be found and the Late Anglo-Saxon period (AD 850-1066), when the majority of our present-day villages were founded. The county name of Essex is derived from the East Saxon kingdom that developed in the 7th century, as territories became established from the Saxon seizing of land (Bennett 2011).

Anglo-Saxon finds and features recorded on the HER for Mersea Island are sparse, although there is evidence for activity at this time, evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement on the island has yet to be identified, despite the evident population growth on the island into the Late Saxon period that led to the three separate entries in the Domesday Book. In the wider area a concentration of Middle Anglo-Saxon occupation exists around the Blackwater Estuary, with a royal vill at Brightlingsea and an important estate on Mersea (Bennett 2011).

A small priory is said to have stood close to the current church in West Mersea, most likely to its west (SMR 2187), and may have had its origins in the 7th century, becoming a Minster church in the 10th century. Edward the Confessor granted the church and manor at West Mersea to the Abbey of St Ouen in France, to commemorate his succession to the throne and the church through St Ouen, became a Benedictine priory in 1064 (Brown et al 2009). It is likely that the construction of the Strood, connecting Mersea to the mainland, likely had Anglo Saxon origins and perhaps built to demonstrate the socio-economic power of the local estate owner in the later 7th century (*Ibid*). This original causeway, of between 3,000 and 5,000 piles was located during the laying of a new water main at The Strood (SMR 13288), although no Saxon piles were noted at the time, due to the shallow nature of the water pipe trenches (Robertson 2007), subsequent work has determined a date for the Strood construction to the later 7th century AD.

Fish traps have been recorded near the low tide line at West Mersea, to the south of St Peter's Well (SMR 9973). The weir runs for c.100m and the site may have been one of three fisheries mentioned as existing at Mersea Island in the Domesday Book and could also have been another demonstration of local power at this time.

There is a record that the Danes made a temporary camp on the island in AD 894 (SMR 2090) in the north of the island around Barrow Hill, although no archaeology has yet been found to support this.

During metal detecting on land to the north of West Mersea, were found two groats dating to the Middle Saxon-period (700-710 AD and 710-725 AD). These were found with a copper alloy disc shaped mount, the front of which has a finely cast head and upper body of a male figure in classical/byzantine dress (SMR 17643). Also, during metal detecting at Bocking Hall Farm to the north of the island were the remains of a silver sceatta coin (SMR 48107). Saxon pottery (410-700 AD) has also been recorded adjacent to an undated boat (SMR 17645) along the foreshore at West Mersea with both earlier and later finds (SMR 17647).

6.2.4 Medieval

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

Find spots dating to the medieval period have been noted across the island, as well as at Cobmarsh Island and the salting there, where 13th-14th century pot has been found (SMR 1900). During fieldwalking, whilst planting a new wood at Fen Farm in East Mersea, five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered (SMR 14657) and a single sherd of medieval pottery was recorded from a watching brief for house foundations on Coast Road in West Mersea (SMR 19875) that was also found with post medieval pottery and unstratified finds of peg tile and oyster shell. During the excavation of service trenches on a house along Church Road, human remains were found and thought to have been medieval in date and associated with the Benedictine Priory sited just to the south (SMR 12546).

Crop marks of possible field boundaries have been recorded at West Barn Farm in West Mersea (SMR 46887) and 21 oak piles have been found in the Mersea Strood that are thought to date to the early 14th century (SMR 2289) although their actual use is still to be determined. A fish trap has been recorded from Coopers Beach in East Mersea (SMR 18672) and a raised area along the Mersea Channel may have been the site of a house, potentially dating to either the medieval or post medieval periods (SMR 47006) although there is no cartographic evidence to support this.

6.2.5 Post-Medieval and later

The post medieval period (AD 1540-1799) is classified to start at the end of the dissolution of the monasteries, when the power, wealth and land of the church was seized by King Henry VIII and this period ends with the start of the Industrial Revolution during the 19th century. A number of post medieval features and finds have been recorded across the island on the HER, the landscape likely much as it was during the medieval period, with a patchwork of fields and areas of saltmarsh still dominant (figure 7), which would have been valued for sheep grazing and for the quality of meat and cheese that ensued (Brown et al 2009).

Oyster pits have been recorded along the western edge of Cobmarsh Island (SMR 9988) along with various wares of 16th to 19th century pottery that also include two types of imported Dutch wares (SMR 1901). Fragments of post medieval pottery have also been recorded in Cudmore Grove Country Park in East Mersea and identified as part of a jug handle (SMR 2267) and as Stoneware from a garden at Broomhill Road in West Mersea (SMR 2175) although it has also been noted that the soil may have been bought in from elsewhere to Broomhill Road when the houses were built.

A timber sluice associated with oyster pits have also been recorded on Ray Island (SMR 46938) with also further oyster pits identified (SMR 46936, 46939 and 46937). Also found on Ray Island were a line of wooden posts along the edge of the marsh (SMR 46934), which also line up with features recorded on the 1st edition OS map of the island. A sub-circular water hole, possibly a well (SMR 46945) has also been recorded that is roughly central in an earthwork complex. A large bank has been noted to also cross Ray Island (SMR 46949) with both a relict ditch (SMR 46944) and traces of a ditch only (SMR 46948) and a pond was recorded on the 1893 map (SMR 46962).

Earthworks have also been identified along the Mersea Channel in the form of a bank that crosses the saltings (SMR 46993) as well as a double bank and ditch (SMR 47007). The line of a possible defensive earthwork is also noted to spur off the old sea wall along the Mersea Channel (SMR 46995).

Figure 7: Excerpt from Chapman and André's Map of Essex 1777 of Mersea Island, digitized by © Tim Fransen. Available online at: http://www.rochforddistricthistory.org.uk/page/chapman_and_andrs_map_of_essex_1777

A brass spur was found on the banks of the River Colne in East Mersea (SMR 2095) and a D shaped object (SMR 17646) has also been found along the foreshore off Waldegraves Farm in West Mersea, where the remains of an undated boat were recovered (SMR 17645), which potentially may be a door fitting and was found with a fragment of horse leg bone and a cattle skull fragment.

A double ended flat bottomed clinker built boat was found on the foreshore at West Mersea and was thought to have been built between c.1750-1890 (SMR 17295). A raised area of land has also been noted on the Mersea Channel that may have been the site of a house, either dating to the medieval or post medieval periods (SMR 47006). Also, in the Mersea Channel was a possible sluice that was recorded on the 1st edition OS Map of the island (SMR 46994).

Later 18th century decoy ponds have been noted on the south coast at Waldegraves Holiday Park in West Mersea (SMR 2303), and consists of a large rectangular pond measuring 100m by 60m and the channel pipes of which have been largely infilled although records suggest that the pond remained in use until the third quarter of the 19th century. A second decoy pond has been recorded to the East of Bromans Farm (SMR 2262) in East Mersea that was marked on the 1840 Tithe map. The rectilinear patterns noted on this area of waterlogged ground may also indicate the gradual infilling of the pond.

Brickworks have also been recorded at West Mersea (SMR 15559 and 15926) to date from 1897 and were in use through to World War II. The wreck of a sailing barge, The Victa, has been found in the creek bed of the Mersea Channel (SMR 46992); although the exact date of the vessel is unknown it may date from the post medieval or may be more recent in date.

The eroded remains of a 19th century quay have also been recorded from West Mersea (SMR 46991).

Fieldwalking has been recorded at Fen Farm in East Mersea which took place during the planting of a new wood yielded a scatter of post medieval tile and 13 sherds of post medieval pottery (SMR 14658), which were also found with several earlier pottery sherds.

During the construction of a modern housing development on Coast Road, post medieval wall foundations were recorded north-south across site (SMR 13281 and 12512). It was constructed of unfrogged bricks with a foundation of smaller bricks, fragments of septaria, greensand, Roman tile and one fragment of carved stone. Unstratified clay pipe fragments were also recorded (Crummy 1992).

The 20th century and later finds and monuments recorded on the HER for Mersea Island, mainly date from the Second World War that are mainly predominant in East Mersea especially and in and around Cudmore Grove Country Park. The whole of the Essex coastline would have been heavily fortified during World War II, and the war also led to an intensification of agriculture in the district with the amalgamation of smaller fields to create larger areas for growing with the loss of hedgerows and other boundaries. The World War II defences on Mersea include battle observation posts (SMR 10029) as well as gun emplacement sites (SMR 10031, 10030, 10039, 20117 and 10038), searchlight emplacements (SMR 10028, 10033, 10041 and 10037), bombing decoys (SMR 10036), anti-invasion obstacles (SMR 21111) and a battery observation post (SMR 10040). A defence boom across the River Colne has also been recorded (SMR 21337) as have a large number of pillboxes, again the majority of which are in East Mersea (SMR 10026, 10027, 10035, 10025, 10032, 10019, 21112, 10024, 10023, 10020, 10021, 10022 and 10034).

During redevelopment close to the church in West Mersea, two trial trenches were dug and a timber framed barn was surveyed prior to its demolition, but only modern disturbances were noted, including a quantity of modern rubbish (SMR 6554). The signpost at the junction of Colchester Road and the B1025 in West Mersea is thought to date from the 1920's to 1930's (SMR 40789) and another signpost at the High Street junction with Barfield Road (also in West Mersea) is cast iron and also dates to the early 20th century (SMR 40294).

6.2.6 Undated

The finds and features that are recorded as undated on the HER for Mersea Island have mainly been recorded as earthworks and cropmarks, as well as field boundaries, from which no work has been undertaken to determine their date or use.

Field boundaries have been identified to the northeast of Fen Farm in East Mersea (SMR 2284) along with several large pits, which may have been sunken houses or part of a larger defensive feature. Also, in East Mersea, to the north of Broman's Farm were some linear cropmarks, possibly field drains and two isolated ring ditches just to the south that were identified from aerial photographs (SMR 2294). A number of cropmarks of various linear features have been recorded from High Hoe in East Mersea (SMR 2259), some of which form a rectilinear enclosure with internal divisions. The site also appears to be attached to a slightly curved trackway.

To the east of Rewsalls Farm are some vague cropmarks of ring ditches and a rectangular feature (SMR 2238) and elsewhere on the farm are cropmarks of two linear features, one of

which represents a former field boundary (SMR 16752). Three further possible ring ditches have been recorded to the northeast of Reeves Farm in the north of the island (SMR 2307) and potential ring ditches, disordered linear features with a number of former field boundaries have all been found to the north of West Barn also in West Mersea (SMR 16748). Another rectilinear enclosure was also visible on the salt marsh on Strood close in West Mersea (SMR 16804). As part of the Great Thames Estuary Survey a double row of parallel earthwork banks was recorded with a ditch in between them that may also be associated with the network of earthworks on Ray Island (SMR 45823), as well as possible ridge and furrow earthworks in West Mersea (SMR 45827 and 45824), a possible drainage ditch (SMR 45826) and oyster beds (SMR 45829 and 45828).

A number of earthwork features have also been recorded from Ray Island, including the remains of a curving ditch and bank (SMR 46946) as well as a ditch thought to cross the entire island (SMR 46940 and 46950) and traces of additional ditches that may be part of a larger complex of features (SMR 46961, 46960, 46943 and 45825). An earthwork bank was also identified (SMR 46941). Also, on Ray Island was found a row of wooden stakes on the beach that may have been part of an old groyne (SMR 46963). A probable boat wreck has also been found on the tip of the island (SMR 46971).

A line of posts has been recorded as being 100m in length and orientated at right angles to the shoreline, about 300m offshore in East Mersea (SMR 9977) and may have been part of a partially eroded fish trap or some form of sea defence. Additional timbers have been recorded on the foreshore of Cudmore Grove Country Park (SMR 45993) although they seem to have no apparent pattern; they are orientated roughly northeast-southwest and parallel to the foreshore. Additional timbers and post holes in the same area have tentatively been interpreted as an early attempt at coastal protection (SMR 45994). A rectangular wooden structure has been located to the east of the fort (SMR 2217) also in East Mersea and there may be an associated floor surface lying to the west of the building and posts to the south west may be part of an embankment (SMR 45992).

A tightly packed row of wooden posts has also been recorded at the base of the sea wall in West Mersea, which may be part of an old sea wall or utilised in its repair (SMR 46965). Another set of rows of timbers in the Mersea Channel may have been utilised as revetting to stabilise the creek as part of the sea defences (SMR 46996). Also found in the Mersea Channel were a group of timber pilings in a creek bed that appear to have been displaced and may also have been part of an original sea defences, perhaps a wall (SMR 46984), as well as timbers that were associated with a path leading to a grazing area, so potentially was a sheep bridge (SMR 46980). A possible old land point was found near the edge of a mud flat (SMR 47000 and 47005), with additional timbers also present on the mud flat (SMR 46990). Timbers that may have been part of sea defences have also been found in the Mersea Channel (SMR 46987, 46973, 46999, 46985 and 46986). Parallel and single rows of timbers from the Mersea Channel were also found in the side of the creek (SMR 46989 and 46988). A hollowed out square cut timber was also recovered in the base of the creek (SMR 46997) with a number of oyster pits cut into the edge of the saltings (SMR 46998 and 47001) and the remains of a wrecked dinghy were also found in the mud flat of Mersea Channel (SMR 47002).

At Cudmore Grove Country Park an ancient land surface has been recorded on the beach and foreshore and visible in the form of a peaty bed that contained bone fragments, tree stumps and branches (SMR 2218). Fragments of pottery were also found on the sandbanks along the Mersea flats in West Mersea but were washed away by the tide before identification could take place (SMR 2269). An undated wooden pile was also found to the north of Wellhouse Farm in West Mersea (SMR 2185). A possible midden has been recorded on Ray Island in the form of a spread of oyster shell close to the marsh edge

(SMR 46935), with a second midden found to contain oyster shell, bird bone and general debris (SMR 46947).

In West Mersea and to the east of Wellhouse Farm were found a number of field boundaries as well as ring ditches situated to the south of three rectangular pits that may have been Anglo-Saxon in date as sunken feature buildings (SMR 2154). Another cropmark of a possible building has also been recorded to the north of Mortimer's Farm (SMR 2300). To the east of Rewsalls Farm in the south of the island are the cropmarks of foundations of a building that was still clearly visible in 1938 (SMR 2170). In West Mersea a wall was found near to the lane of Captains Road that also contained Roman red mortar (SMR 2216). Part of a cellar was found c.2.6m below the surface in West Mersea and was also faced with yellow tiles (SMR 2275). In the vicinity of West Mersea are cropmarks of linear features and pits (SMR 7251) and various linear features, including a probable trackway have been recorded at Barrow Hill (SMR 17227). Cropmarks of various linear features have been recorded to the north of West Mersea and include two parallel straight lines with may represent a former avenue or road (SMR 16755). A network of earthworks, visible from aerial photography is present on the surface of the salt marsh in the Mersea Channel, some of which appear to follow the line of former creeks. A rectangular enclosure was also identified with possible lines of former boundaries (SMR 46981).

Undated red hill sites have also been recorded on the island, some of which have been ploughed out (SMR 12578, 12572, 12565 and 12566), and others are also situated on the Strood Channel (SMR 17061). A circular enclosure was noted in in the far north of West Mersea along the Strood Channel that surrounds a likely former red hill saltern site; although no evidence for red earth was seen on the photographs (SMR 12585). Also along the Strood Channel was another red hill site with associated oyster pits (SMR 2232). Further possible red hill sites have also been recorded to the north of Wellhouse Farm (SMR 2259), near the beach along Seaview Avenue (SMR 2229), along the coastline of West Mersea (SMR 2224), to the north of Morro Farm (SMR 2245) and at the Caravan site, all of which are situated in West Mersea (SMR 12564). Another red hill site close to Ivy House Farm and the coast in East Mersea has also been identified with pieces of briquetage (SMR 2213) and two ploughed out red hill sites have been identified at Reeves Hall Farm, also in East Mersea (SMR 2100 and 2101), as well as to the north of the farm at (SMR 2230). Further unspecified red hill sites have also been recorded in East Mersea (SMR 12568) as well as to the northwest of North Farm also in East Mersea (SMR 2231). Visible at low tide to the north of Michels Farm in East Mersea is a red hill site (SMR 2225). Areas of briquetage have also been identified at Cudmore Grove Country Park in East Mersea (SMR 13638) as well as from West Mersea (SMR 12571).

Fish traps have also been recorded in East Mersea (SMR 9970) but are undatable as they are only exposed at the very lowest of tides, which also suggests that they cannot have been used at present sea levels. A further possible fish trap was recorded from Waldegraves Farm in the form of a line of posts visible from an early 11930s photograph (SMR 17649) and a timber alignment at Seaview park in West Mersea may also have been utilised as a fish weir (SMR 19743). Oyster pits have been identified on Marsh Island (SMR 9997), Cobmarsh Island (SMR 16715) and along Besom Fleet in West Mersea and visible as aerial photographs (SMR 16749). Earthworks have been recorded along the Ray Channel as a probable former trackway/sea wall as seen from aerial photographs, which also surround a circular enclosure. Oyster beds are also associated with this feature (SMR 16750). Also, in this channel were identified a row of timber stakes that crossed the Ray channel (SMR 46942).

A boat wreck has been recorded along the foreshore at Waldegraves Farm in West Mersea (SMR 17645) and although the boat itself has been undatable, a number of Roman and later finds have also found close to the wreck. In the far east of the island at Mersea Stone

are the remains of two boat wrecks that were seen on the mudflats from RAF aerial photographs in the early 1950's (SMR 9986). A wrecked vessel has also been recorded adjacent to the East Mersea Blockhouse fort site (SMR 16939). A boat wreck lodged in the salt marsh at Ray Island has been recorded from aerial photographs (SMR 16236).

To the north of Wellhouse Farm in West Mersea were the remains of the sea wall that have been recorded through aerial photographs (SMR 16754)

7 Results of the test pit excavations in West Mersea

The approximate locations of the 58 test pits excavated between June 2006 and March 2010 can be seen figure 8 below. By year, these break down to six test pits excavated in June 2006, 10 test pits excavated in April 2007, 22 test pits excavated in April 2008, 10 test pits excavated in March 2009 and 10 test pits excavated in March 2010. The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order and by year. Most excavation was in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm.

An assessment of the overall results, synthesizing the data from all the pits, including deductions about the historic development of West Mersea and the potential of the buried heritage resource of the village is presented in the following Discussion section (Section 8). Finds from each test pit are discussed in summary in this section and listed in detail in the relevant appendices (Section 12). Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space.

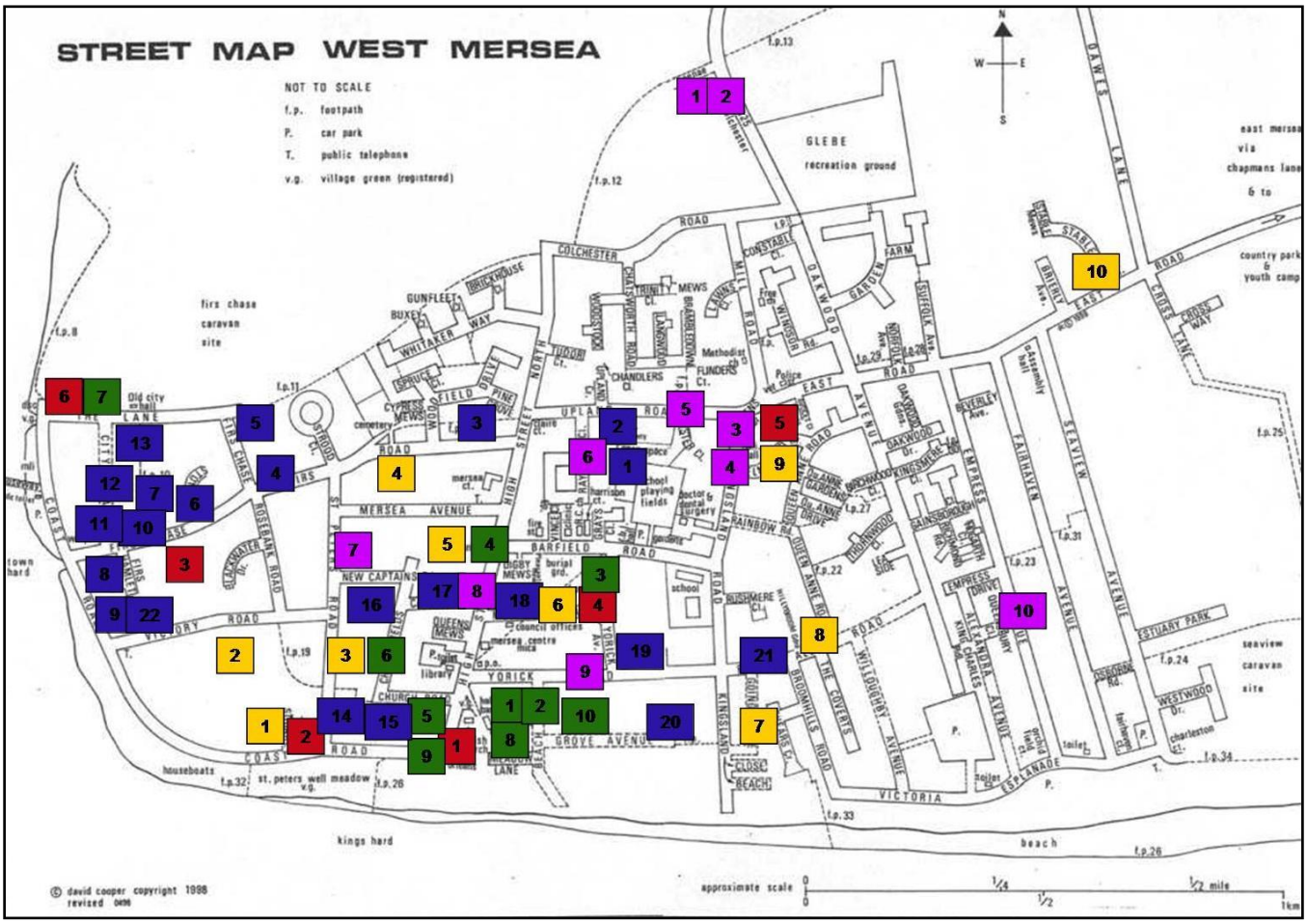

Figure 8: Test Pit location Map (NB test pits are not to scale): 2006 (red), 2007 (green), 2008 (blue), 2009 (yellow) and 2010 (purple) Map adapted from © David Cooper

7.1 2006 Excavations

A total of six 1m^2 archaeological test pits were excavated in West Mersea on the 27th-28th June by 19 HEFA participants from Clacton County High School, Manningtree High School, Tendring Technology College and The Colne Community School (school names correct at time of participation). The test pits were spread through the town where residents volunteered their garden.

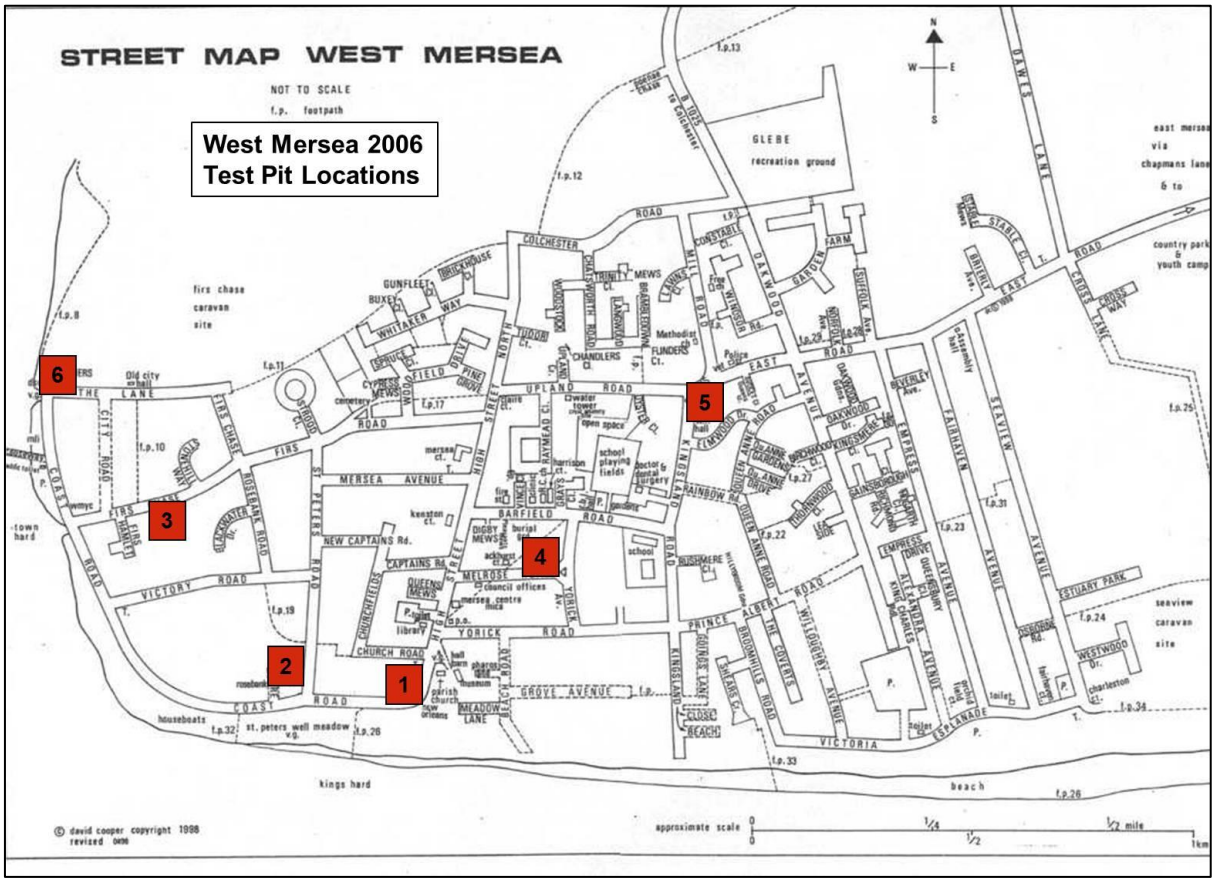

Figure 9: Location map of the West Mersea test pits from 2006 (NB test pits not to scale) Map adapted from © David Cooper

Test Pit one (WME/06/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the large side garden of a grade II* listed early 18th century detached house in the far south of the village, just south west of the church and close to the coast (Yew Tree House, High Street, West Mersea. TM 600854 212481).

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

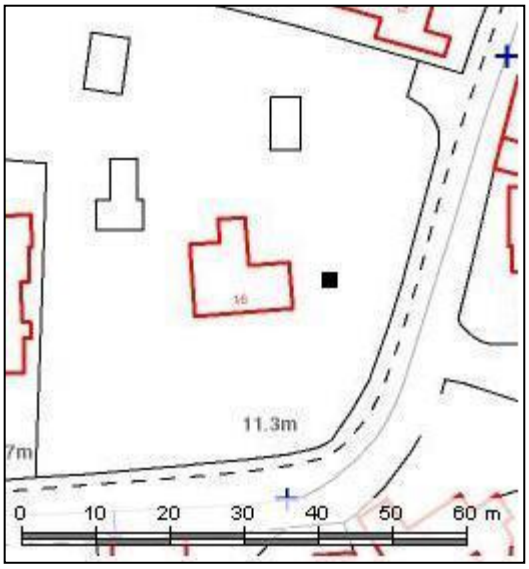

Figure 10: Location Map of WME/06/1

Three sherds of Roman Greyware were excavated mixed through the contexts of WME/06/1. Very small numbers of medieval and post medieval pottery were also recovered and consist of Essex Grey ware and Late medieval Colchester ware which were found in the bottom half of the pit and Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware and Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware which were generally found in the upper half of the test pit. The vast majority of the pottery however dates to the Victorian period and was found in larger numbers through the upper five contexts of test pit one.

		Roman		Essex Grey		LMT		GRE		Delft		White SGS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1													16	31	1500-1900
1	2	1	2									1	6	15	41	100-1900
1	3									1	2			10	17	1600-1900
1	4													11	77	1800-1900
1	5			1	1			1	5					3	11	1200-1900
1	6	1	2													100-400
1	7	1	3			2	6									100-1500
1	8					1	1									1400-1500

Table 1: Pottery excavated from WME/06/1

The presence of Roman pottery with a fragment of Roman box-flue tile and two small tesserae that were all excavated from WME/06/1 indicate that there was most probably a building here during the Roman period. Given the indication of a mosaic floor and part of an under-floor heating system, this building was more high status and with its prominent position overlooking the sea, was probably the site of a Roman Villa. There was no further evidence for occupation until the medieval period but given the small number of pottery that was recovered to date to both the medieval and post medieval periods the site was potentially fields, with occupation focused elsewhere, until the current house was built. This more recent occupation on site has greatly disturbed the earlier archaeology, which includes the presence of concrete in both contexts seven and eight. The rest of the finds consist of brick and tile, oyster shell, iron nails, glass, animal bone, slate with mortar and daub also recovered from contexts five and six.

Test Pit two (WME/06/2)

Test pit two was excavated ion the enclosed rear garden of a modern house, set back from the road in the south of the village (6 The Square, West Mersea. TM 600636 212537).

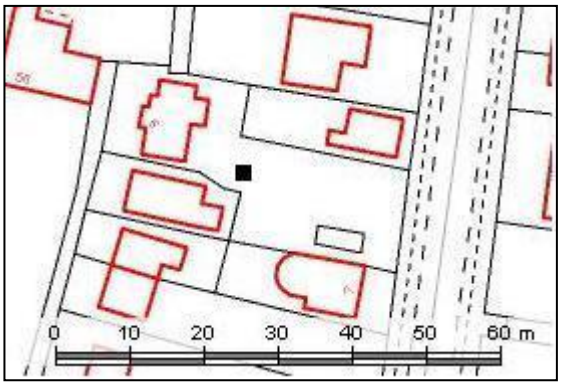

Figure 11: Location Map of WME/06/2

Test pit two excavated to a depth of 0.5m when a pipe was found. Excavations continued in the south of the test pit to 1m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from WME/06/2 dates to the end of the medieval period with a single sherd of German Stoneware recovered from context six. A range of post medieval wares were identified in the form of Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware, Staffordshire Slipware and Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware that were mixed through the test pit. The vast majority of the pottery however, dates to the Victorian period and was excavated through the upper seven contexts of test pit two.

		German St		GRE		Delft		Staffs Slip		White SGS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			2	19							9	14	1550-1900
2	2			1	3							27	92	1550-1900
2	3			1	5					2	25	25	54	1550-1900
2	4			2	21			1	2			12	35	1550-1900
2	5			1	28			1	7			28	68	1550-1900
2	6	1	6	1	12							3	10	1550-1900
2	7					2	5	1	5			2	19	1600-1900
2	9			1	12									1550-1700

Table 2: Pottery excavated from WME/06/2

It is probable that there was no activity on site until the 16th century when there was a general expansion of occupation in the village, which continue to peak into the 19th century when the most disturbance on site also occurred. The upper seven contexts have most certainly been disturbed in and since the 19th century with the presence of glass, CBM and coal excavated from that context. The rest of the finds consist of CBM, oyster shell, slate, iron nails, glass, coal, scrap iron, plastic and clay pipe. A small number of fragments of CBM were excavated from contexts eight and nine and may be related to the post medieval activity on site and are potentially undisturbed archaeological layers.

Test Pit three (WME/06/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the open front garden of a grade II listed house dating to 1624 and is set back from the main road in the west of the village (Dirleton Cottage, 30 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600390 212892).

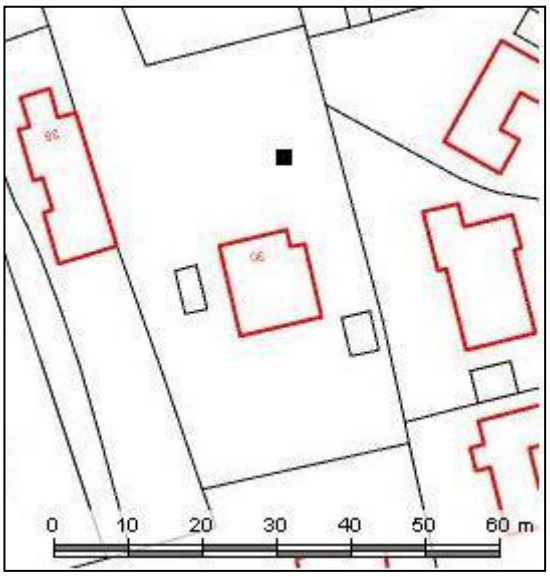

Figure 12: Location Map of WME/06/3

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

The majority of the pottery excavated from WME/06/3 dates to the Victorian period and was recovered from the upper seven contexts of the test pit. A range of medieval and post medieval wares were also excavated that were generally mixed through the middle and upper contexts. These consist of Essex Grey ware, Late medieval Colchester ware, German Stoneware, Cistercian Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware and Manganese Ware.

		Grey		LMT		German St		Cistercian		GRE		Manganese		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1													2	11	1800-1900
3	2									2	11	1	2	44	138	1550-1900
3	3			1	7					1	7			23	55	1400-1900
3	4	1	4			1	4			2	5			7	32	1200-1900
3	5	1	1	1	10									4	5	1200-1900
3	6			1	9			1	9							1400-1700
3	7													1	2	1800-1900
3	8					1	2									1600-1900

Table 3: Pottery excavated from WME/06/3

The presence of both medieval and post medieval activity on site indicates that this part of the village was in constant use, rather than a tight cluster of activity focused around the church. There seems to be great increase in the pottery or finds dumped that date to the 17th century when the house was built, but the front may not have been the focus for the disposal or rubbish at that time. The peak in activity however was certainly during the 19th century which is also when the greatest level of disturbance was also recorded. The upper half of the test pit contained lots of oyster shell, glass, coal, tile, iron nails, brick fragments, cockle shell, clay pipe, a small iron ring with a possible pin attachment and a small silver rod –possibly part of a watch. Contexts five to nine contained mainly animal bone, oyster shell, coal, tile and scrap iron that suggests all the contexts of WME/06/3 have been disturbed.

Test Pit four (WME/06/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern property in the centre of the village to the north east of the church (29 Melrose Road, West Mersea. TM 601213 212777).

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

Five sherds of Victorian pottery were only excavated from WME/06/4 and were found in contexts two and three.

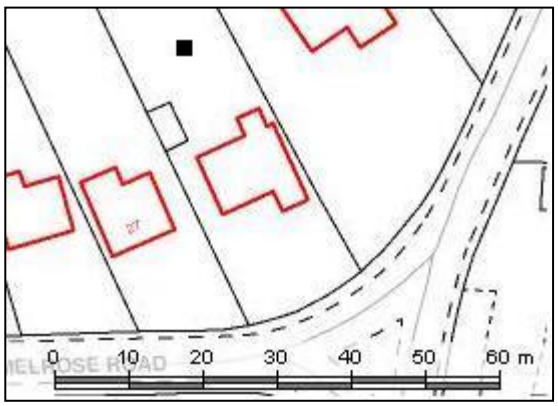

Figure 13: Location Map of WME/06/4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	2	2	9	1800-1900
4	3	3	12	1800-1900

Table 4: Pottery excavated from WME/06/4

The finds and pottery excavated from WME/06/4 suggest that the site has been thoroughly disturbed during the 19th century and was probably utilised as open fields until the current house was built in the 20th century. A small number of finds were recovered which consist of CBM, oyster shell, glass, coal and clay pipe all of which were found from contexts two and three. An additional two small sherds of tile were also excavated from context five.

Test Pit five (WME/06/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern property fronting the main road in the north east of village (Fountains Cottage, 2 Queens Corner, West Mersea. TM 601524 213113).

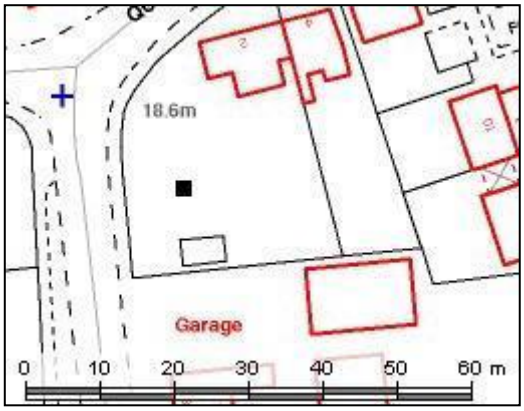

Figure 14: Location Map of WME/06/5

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

The majority of the pottery excavated from WME/06/5 dates to the Victorian and was mainly recovered from the upper half of the test pit. Small numbers of medieval and post medieval wares were also excavated, again from the upper half of the test pit. These consist of Essex Grey ware, German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware and Manganese Ware. Fragments of a large Glazed Red Earthenware jug were also recovered from context eight.

		Essex Grey		German St		GRE		Delft		Manganese		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1											13	24	1800-1900
5	2			1	9			1	2			20	29	1500-1900
5	3	1	1			1	4					19	64	1200-1900
5	4					1	45					19	66	1550-1900
5	5	1	9									3	12	1200-1900
5	6									1	2			1690-1800
5	7											1	1	1800-1900
5	8					46	1366							1550-1700

Table 5: Pottery excavated from WME/06/5

The medieval activity identified in WME/06/5 given its location in the far north east of the village and away from the focus of settlement in the south around the church and to the west of the village, suggests that the site was potentially open fields as part of an isolated farmstead. The same is most probably true for the post medieval occupation, the large GRE jar that was excavated from context eight had a hole drilled into its base and may have been used as a flower pot. As during the 16th century gardening was only a past time of the rich it is possible that the residents here at that time had above average wealth. The large amount of activity on site during the 19th century represents an increase in occupation across Mersea Island; this site in particular had been greatly disturbed, with coal, CBM and iron nails which were deposited through the test pit to depths to contexts six, seven and eight. The rest of the finds consist of glass, slate, oyster shell, animal bone, a crushed metal thimble and a bone button.

Test Pit six (WME/06/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a 20th century terraced cottage on the northern limit of the Coast Road and fronting the coast in the far west of the village (154a Coast Road, West Mersea. TM 600157 213148).

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

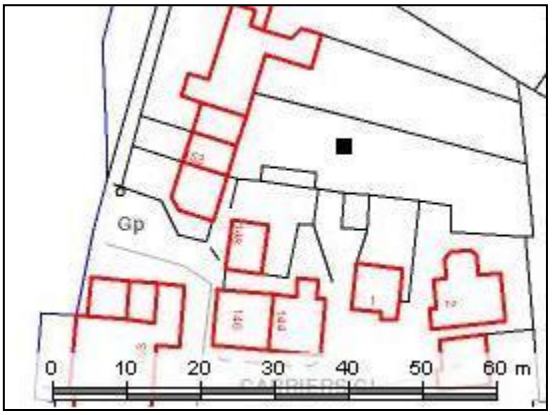

Figure 15: Location Map of WME/06/6

The majority of the pottery excavated from WME/06/6 dates to the Victorian period and was found through the test pit. Small numbers of medieval and post medieval wares were also recovered from the lower half of the test pit only. These consist of Essex Grey ware, Late medieval Colchester ware, German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware.

		Grey		LMT		German St		GRE		Staffs Slip		White SGS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1													9	12	1800-1900
6	2							3	25	2	8	1	3	13	73	1550-1900
6	4	1	3	2	20	1	1	4	26	1	8	1	2	13	67	1200-1900

Table 6: Pottery excavated from WME/06/6

Although the test pit was not fully excavated, the large amount of 19th and 20th century pottery and finds indicate there has been a great deal of disturbance on site, most probably destroying the earlier medieval and post medieval archaeology present. The finds consist of oyster and cockle shell, iron nails, CBM, glass, coal, animal bone and clay pipe, all of which was found in contexts one, two and four. The pottery suggests continual occupation on site from the medieval period to the present day, and the site along the coast may have been the location for occupation rather than its use as farmland.

7.2 2007 Excavations

A total of 10 test pits were excavated in West Mersea in 2007, bringing the total so far dug to 16 and were mainly sited around the southern end of the High Street with a few pits also sited further north and at the end of Coast Road. A total of 30 HEFA participants took part in the excavations from Clacton County High School, Thomas Lord Audley School and Language College, Passmores School and Technology College, Manningtree High School and The Plume School (school names correct at time of participation).

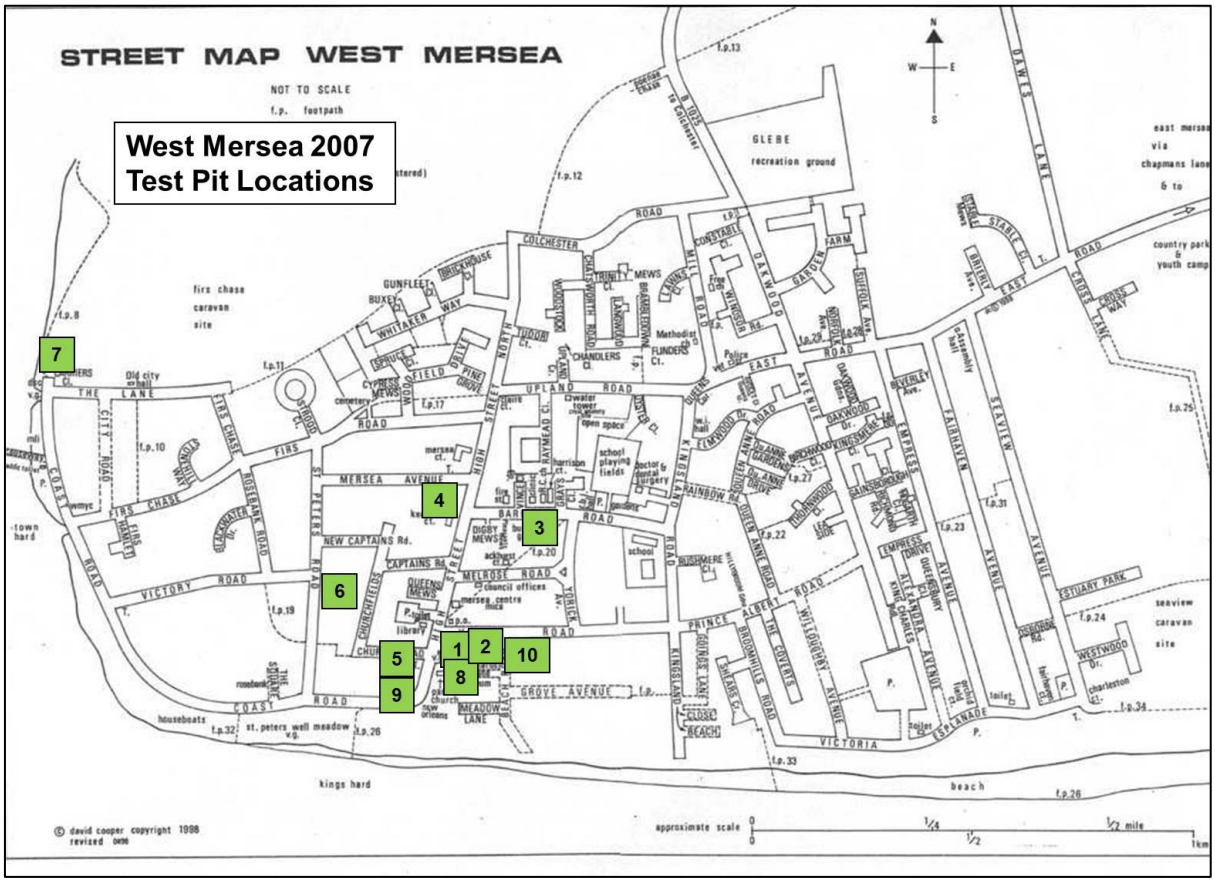

Figure 16: Location map of the West Mersea test pits from 2007 (NB test pits not to scale) Map adapted from © David Cooper

Test Pit one (WME/07/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a cottage built in 1910 opposite the church to the east in the centre of the village. It was the southern of two test pits excavated within this property; see also WME/08/8 (Clarrys Cottage, 10 High Street, West Mersea. TM 601011 212489).

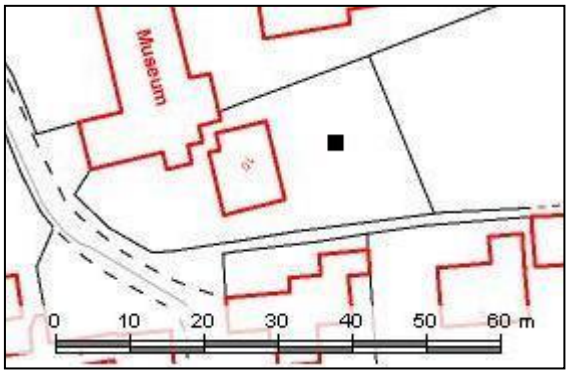

Figure 17: Location Map of WME/07/1

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural was not reached but due to the large amounts of scrap and waste metal, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from WME/07/1 date to the Victorian period and was found in both the two contexts excavated.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1	6	20	1800-1900
1	2	1	5	1800-1900

Table 7: Pottery excavated from WME/07/1

The large amounts of metal uncovered in WME/07/1 with other domestic rubbish such as CBM fragments, coal, iron nails, window and bottle glass, mortar, fragments of drain, modern lino, concrete and animal bone from the upper two contexts, suggest that this area of site was used as a rubbish dump, possibly as an infill for an earlier feature. The Victorian pottery present also suggests that this dump occurred during the 19th or 20th century.

Test Pit two (WME/07/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern house in the south of the village and east of the church (Orchard Cottage, 2 Beach Road, West Mersea. TM 601102 212548).

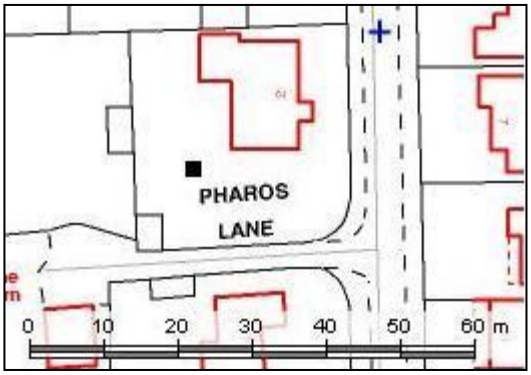

Figure 18: Location Map of WME/07/2

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

Two sherds of post medieval Staffordshire Slipware pottery were both excavated from context two, but the majority of the pottery recovered dates to the Victorian period and were found in the upper four contexts of WME/07/2.

		SS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			2	4	1800-1900
2	2	2	4	12	43	1650-1900
2	4			1	6	1800-1900

Table 8: Pottery excavated from WME/07/2

The small amount of post medieval pottery and clay pipe recovered suggests that the site was most likely fields during this time, with occupation only from the Victorian period onwards. The rest of the finds seem to correspond with this notion as CBM, iron nails and scrap iron, slate, glass and animal bone were all recovered from the upper three contexts, representing more recent activity on site.

Test Pit three (WME/07/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the long enclosed rear garden of a modern end of terrace house central in the village and north east of the church (18 Barfield Road, West Mersea. TM 601178 212804).

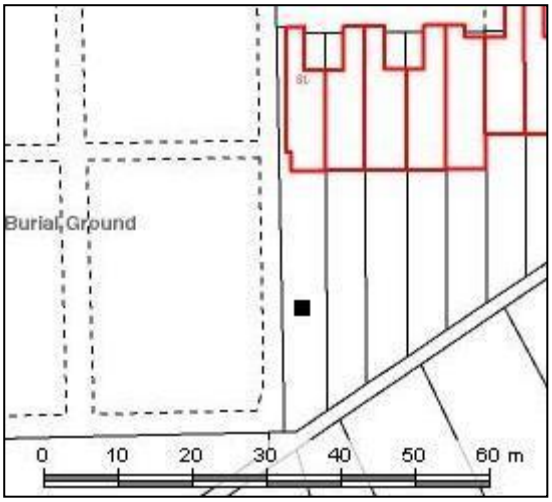

Figure 19: Location Map of WME/07/3

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

Single sherds of Late Bronze Age, Roman and medieval – Essex Red Ware pottery were all excavated from context six of WME/07/3. An additional sherd of Late medieval Colchester ware was also recovered from context two, but the majority of the pottery dates to the Victorian period with wares identified from the upper four contexts of the test pit.

		LBA		Roman		Essex Red		LMT		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1									6	10	1800-1900
3	2							1	6	3	35	1500-1900
3	3									2	8	1800-1900
3	4									4	9	1800-1900
3	6	1	3	1	18	1	4					1000BC - 1200

Table 9: Pottery excavated from WME/07/3

The small sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery potentially suggests the presence of a Bronze Age settlement located quite central in West Mersea, also quite far inland which may be due to higher sea levels at that time. There appears to be minimal activity in the Roman, medieval and post medieval periods that suggests sporadic use of the site, most probably for agricultural land, until more intense occupation in the Victorian period. The majority of the finds date to the last 200 years and were found through the upper five contexts with iron nails, glass, coal, concrete, CBM, scrap iron, cockle shell and a toy plastic man were found with clay pipe fragments. A single small fragment of CBM was excavated from context six that may mean that the context was not disturbed during with 19th century activity.

Test Pit four (WME/07/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the open side garden of a modern detached house situated centrally along the High Street in the centre of the village and north of the church (69 High Street, West Mersea. TM 600971 212862).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, with half the test pit taken down to 0.8m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

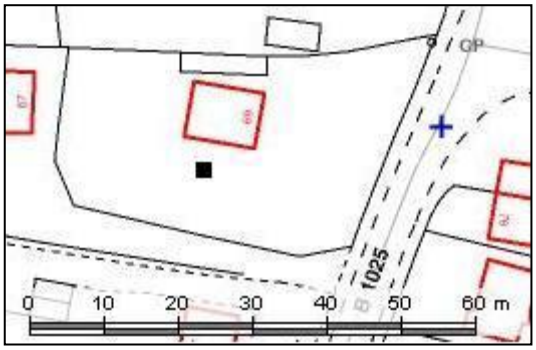

Figure 20: Location Map of WME/07/4

Three small sherds of Essex Red ware were excavated from the upper contexts of WME/07/4 with a large number of Victorian pottery sherds from the same contexts.

		Essex Red		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	2	2	4	32	55	1200-1900
4	3	1	5	3	3	1200-1900

Table 10: Pottery excavated from WME/074

The medieval activity identified through test pitting in West Mersea appears to be quite scattered throughout the village with activity around the church and along the coast. The inland sites, such as at WME/07/4 may potentially have been open fields as only a few small sherds of high medieval pottery were recovered. This was probably the same during the post medieval with the few fragments of clay pipe that was also identified. The earliest evidence for occupation on site comes in the Victorian period with the amount of pottery and finds excavated from the test pit. The finds include CBM, animal bone, concrete, coal, oyster shell, slate, modern glass and brick fragments and a plastic valve and were recovered through to context seven. Two pieces of waste flint were also recovered from context two and may suggest prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit five (WME/07/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a grade II* listed early 18th century house situated close to the coast and opposite the church to the west. It was also the northern of two test pits excavated within the property; see also WME/07/9 (Yew Tree House, High Street, West Mersea. TM 600825 212476).

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

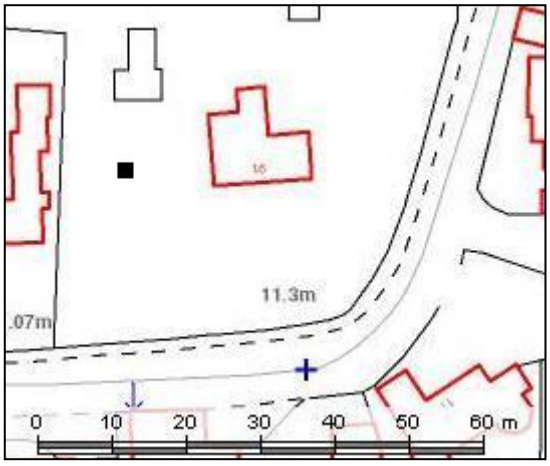

Figure 21: Location Map of WME/07/5

A single small sherd of Iron Age pottery was excavated from the basal context of WME/07/5 but was found with later pottery. Two small sherds of medieval pottery – Essex Grey ware and Essex Red ware were identified from the upper most contexts with two sherds of German Stoneware. A range of post medieval wares were also identified with Glazed Red Earthenware found in the bottom half of the test pit and Cologne Stoneware and Black-glazed Earthenwares recovered from the upper three contexts. A large number of Victorian pottery sherds were excavated that were found in every context of the test pit.

		IA		Essex Grey		Essex Red		GS		GRE		WCS		BG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1					1	4	1	3					1	43	7	20	1200-1900
5	2							1	5			1	2			18	64	1500-1900
5	3			1	2							1	11			7	60	1100-1900
5	4									1	5					8	24	1550-1900
5	5									1	4					4	11	1550-1900
5	6															2	11	1800-1900
5	7	1	4							2	37					2	4	500BC - 1900

Table 11: Pottery excavated from WME/07/5

Evidence for Iron Age occupation was also noted from the second test pit excavated within this property – WME/07/9 and suggests that this site was potentially part of an Iron Age settlement on the island that was also sited on a prominent location overlooking the sea. A fragment of Roman tile was excavated from context five, Roman pottery was also recovered from WME/07/9 and a Roman mosaic was uncovered within the property, although not through test pit digging, but suggests that the land continued to be a focus of settlement into the Roman period. The medieval and post medieval pottery sherds excavated were generally quite small and potentially means the land was used as open fields from the Roman period until the post medieval period. An increase of activity has been seen into the Victorian period from which most of the pottery and finds date. These include CBM, coal, iron nails, animal bone, oyster shell and slate, although clay pipe was also found and were all mixed through the seven contexts excavated.

Test Pit six (WME/07/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of an early 20th century house built quite central in the village to the north west of the church and slightly inland (33 Churchfields, West Mersea. TM 600790 212679).

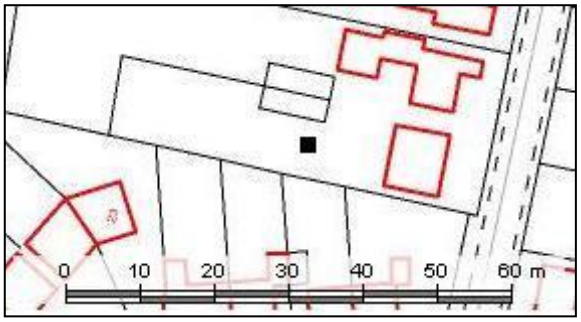

Figure 22: Location Map of WME/07/6

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

The vast majority of the pottery excavated dates to the Victorian period and was recovered from every context. A single sherd of Late medieval Colchester ware was identified from context two and a single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware was also excavated from context one of WME/07/6.

		LMT		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1			1	13	16	24	1550-1900
6	2	1	10			40	114	1500-1900
6	3					29	64	1800-1900
6	4					3	7	1800-1900
6	5					1	1	1800-1900
6	6					1	5	1800-1900
6	7					3	3	1800-1900

Table 12: Pottery excavated from WME/07/6

The little evidence excavated to date to pre 1800 suggests that the site was most probably open fields until the current house was built in the early 20th century. The finds recovered include slate, coal, iron nails and metal wire, oyster shell, CBM, glass, animal bone, a decorated metal disc and an iron key and were found mixed through the seven contexts excavated. Clay pipe was also found, as were a couple of pieces of burnt stone from context five that may represent prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit seven (WME/07/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a 19th/20th century terraced cottage fronting the coast, in the far west of the village (154A Coast Road, West Mersea. TM 600162 213147).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.7m; with a sondage excavated to 0.8m in corner one. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

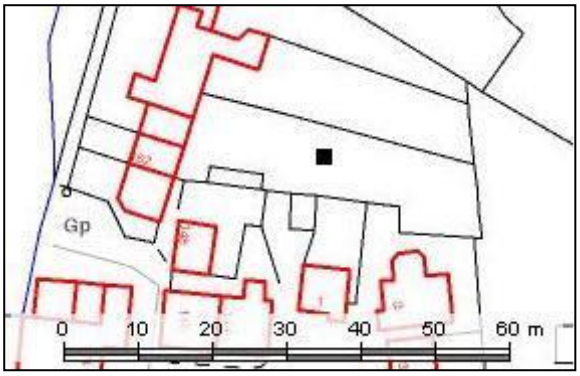

Figure 23: Location Map of WME/07/7

The majority of the pottery excavated from WME/07/7 dates to the Victorian period and was recovered from the upper five contexts of the test pit. Three sherds of medieval pottery were identified from contexts four and five and include Essex Red ware and Late medieval Colchester ware. A range of post medieval pottery types were also excavated, but in very small numbers; Glazed Red Earthenware, Black-glazed Earthenwares, Cologne Stoneware, Metropolitan Slipware, Staffordshire Slipware and English Stoneware.

		Essex Red		LMT		GRE		BW		WCS		MS		SS		ES		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	1																	2	14	1800-1900
7	3					1	1									1	12	18	64	1550-1900
7	4			1	9			1	2	1	3	1	23					8	24	1500-1900
7	5	2	2											2	7			5	9	1200-1900

Table 13: Pottery excavated from WME/07/7

Although a wide range of pottery types were excavated from WME/07/7 to date to the medieval and post medieval periods, the majority are small in size with only one or two sherds of each type recovered. This potentially means that the site was open fields most likely until the current houses were built in the 19th century. There was a lot of disturbance in the upper 0.5m of the test pit which is where the Victorian pottery and finds were excavated from. The finds consist of animal bone, clay pipe, coal, iron nails, glass, scrap iron; concrete, CBM, oyster shell and a button that were found from the five contexts and suggest more recent occupation of the land.

Test Pit eight (WME/07/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a cottage built in 1910 situated opposite the church to the east and quite central in the village. It was also the northern of two test pits excavated within the property; see also WME/07/1 (10 Clarrys Cottage, High Street, West Mersea. TM 601011 212496).

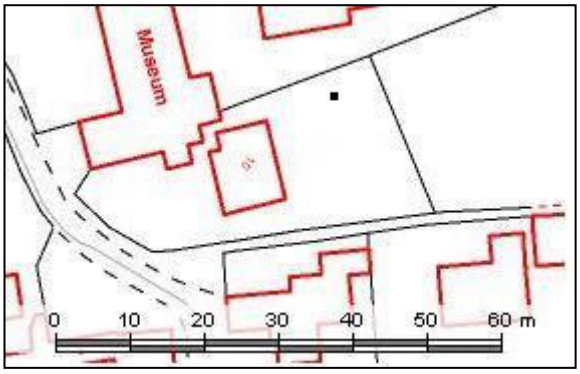

Figure 24: Location Map of WME/07/8

Test pit eight was excavated to a depth of 0.5m; while half the test pit continued to 0.8m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of Victorian pottery was only excavated from context three of WME/07/8.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
8	3	1	2	1800-1900

Table 14: Pottery excavated from WME/07/8

Very few finds and pottery were recovered from WME/07/8 and suggests that there was almost no activity on site prior to the house being built in the early 20th century, which is unusual given its location opposite the church. The finds consist of coal, iron nails, CBM and slate, which were excavated from the upper two contexts of the test pit and most of which probably relates to the construction of the house.

Test Pit nine (WME/07/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a grade II* listed early 18th century house situated close to the coast and opposite the church to the west. It was the southern of two test pits excavated within the property; see also WME/07/5 (Yew Tree House, High Street, West Mersea. TM 600822 212458).

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

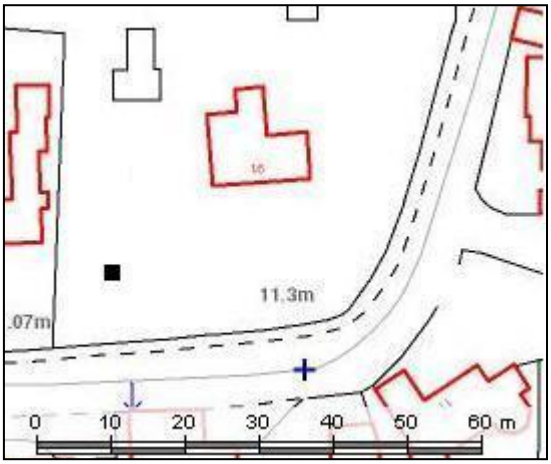

Figure 25: Location Map of WME/07/9

Single sherds of Iron Age and Roman Greyware pottery were excavated from context five of WME/07/9. The medieval and post medieval wares of Essex Grey ware, Essex Red ware, German Stoneware and Cologne Stoneware were all mixed through the five contexts excavated. Most of the pottery dates to the Victorian period, which was also recovered through the test pit.

		IA		RB		Essex Grey		Essex Red		GS		WCS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1					1	4							5	9	1100-1900
9	2							2	9	1	8					1200-1600
9	3									1	2			1	2	1500-1900
9	4							1	2					3	19	1200-1900
9	5	1	7	1	6							1	2	1	16	500BC-1900

Table 15: Pottery excavated from WME/07/9

The results from both test pits were very similar and suggest little variation over the site and as Iron Age pottery was excavated from both the test pits at Yew Tree House, this site was potentially part of an Iron Age settlement sited on a very prominent location overlooking the sea. The presence of Roman pottery and the mosaic that was uncovered within the property, although not through test pit digging, suggests that the land continued to be a focus of settlement into the Roman period. Similar medieval and post medieval results were also recovered that supports the idea that the site was probably used as open fields from the Roman period until the post medieval. A large deposit of oyster shell was uncovered from 0.3m in depth that appeared to be deposited in a linear feature orientated north – south through the centre of the test pit (pictured below). Due to the amount of Victorian disturbance through all the excavated contexts it suggests that this deposit is most probably later in date and deposited into a shallow trench, the date of which is unknown. The finds have also been mixed through the test pit and consist of CBM, iron, coal, glass, animal bone, clay pipe and a large fragment of tile. Burnt stone was also excavated from context one and may indicate prehistoric activity on site.

Figure 26: The oyster shell deposit from WME/07/9. © ACA

Test Pit 10 (WME/07/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern detached house situated to the east of the church and close to the coast (13 Beach Road, West Mersea. TM 601160 212509).

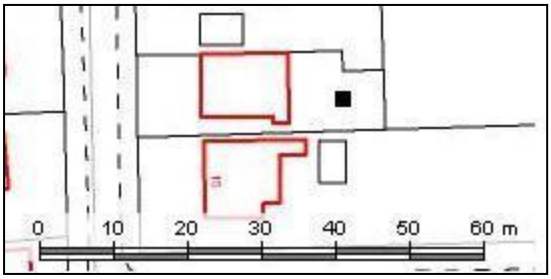

Figure 27: Location Map of WME/07/10

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

Small numbers of Victorian pottery were only excavated from the upper two contexts of WME/07/10.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1	1	7	1800-1900
10	2	2	13	1800-1900

Table 16: Pottery excavated from WME/07/10

The finds and pottery excavated from WME/07/10 suggest that there was very little activity on site prior to the 19th century, the finds consisting of CBM, coal, iron wire and nails, slate, glass, animal bone, oyster and sea shells with a metal fixing and a blue plastic bead and were all recovered from the upper two contexts of the test pit.

7.3 2008 Excavations

Two two-day test pit excavations took place in West Mersea in 2008. The first of this was over the 16th-17th April where 33 HEFA participants from Tendring Technology College, Manningtree High School, Colbayns High School, St Helena School and Thomas Lord Audley School (school names correct at time of participation) excavated 13 test pits. The test pits were mainly sited in the west of the town along Coast Road, Firs Chase and The Lane with a cluster around the junction of the High Street and Upland Road.

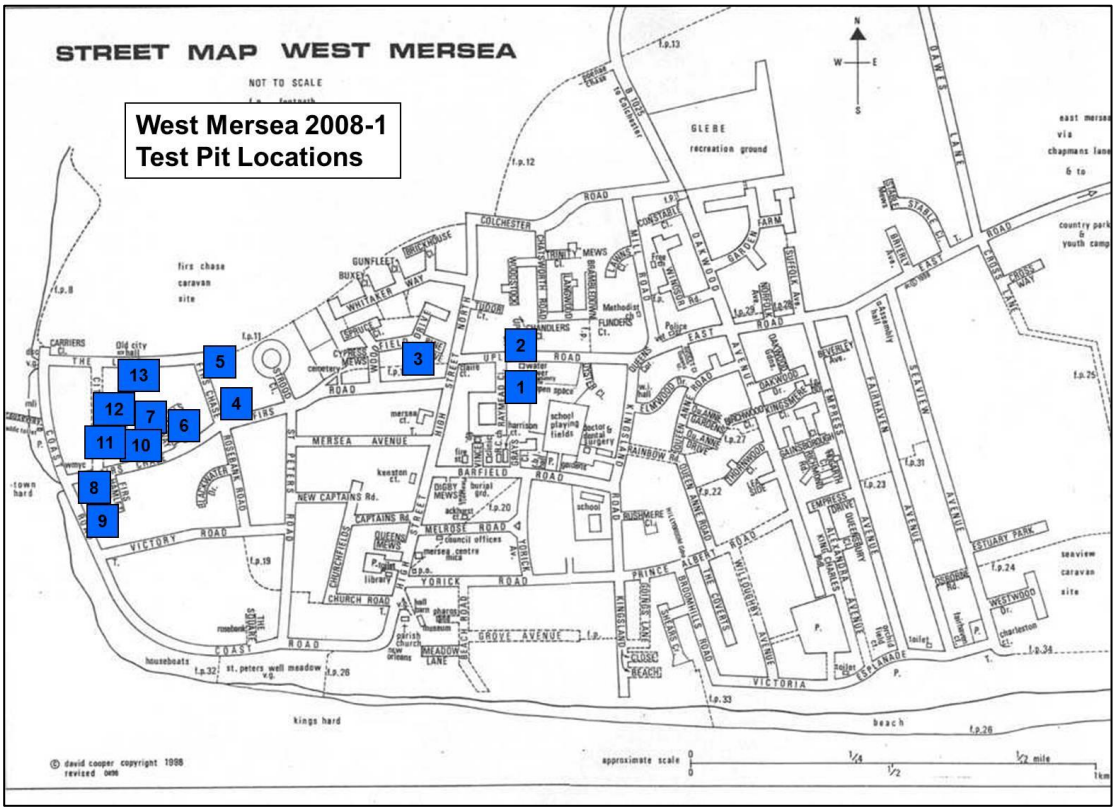

Figure 28: Location map of the West Mersea test pits from the first dig in 2008 (NB test pits not to scale) Map adapted from © David Cooper

The second set of excavations in 2008 were on the 23rd-24th April where an additional nine test pits were excavated to bring the total so far dug in the town to 38 and were excavated by 32 HEFA participants from Alderman Blaxill School, Woodlands School, Clacton County High School and The Plume School (school names correct at time of participation). The second 2008 test pits were mainly sited through the south of the town in gardens where homeowners volunteered their land and on sites in between previous years' excavations.

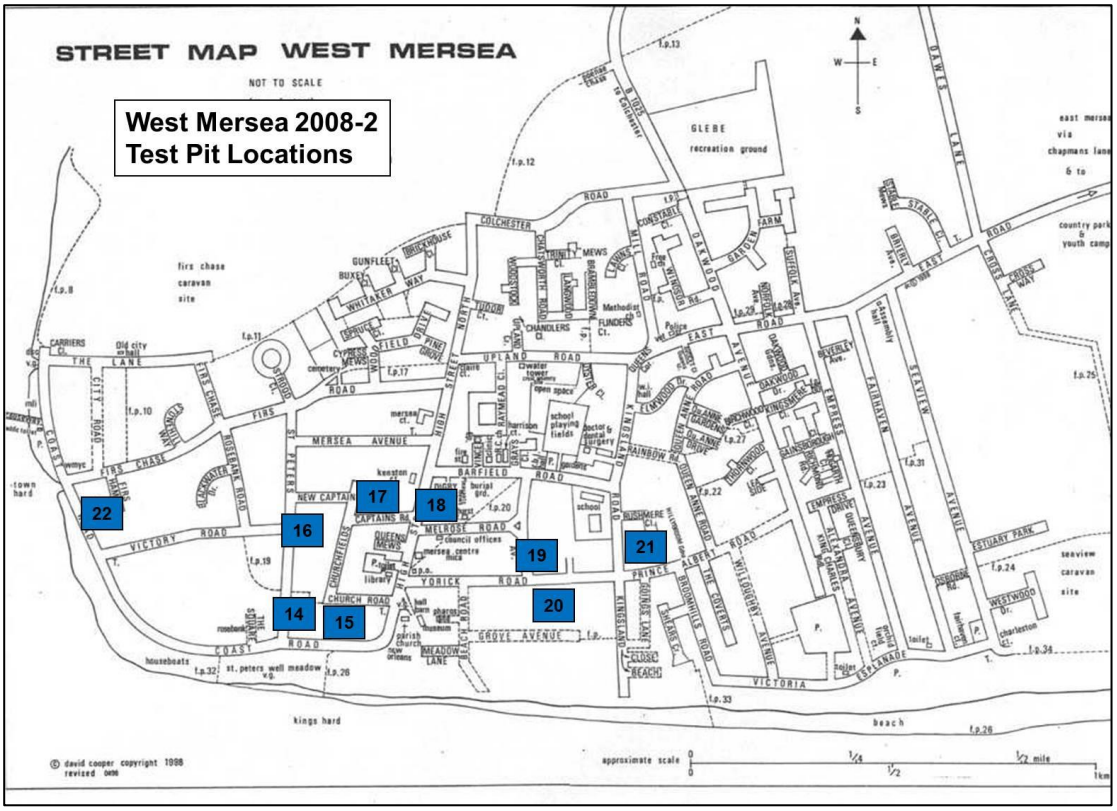

Figure 29: Location map of the West Mersea test pits from the second dig in 2008 (NB test pits not to scale) Map adapted from © David Cooper

Test Pit one (WME/08/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the centre of the village, in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern house that backs onto open fields (9 Raymead Close, West Mersea. TM 601211 213065).

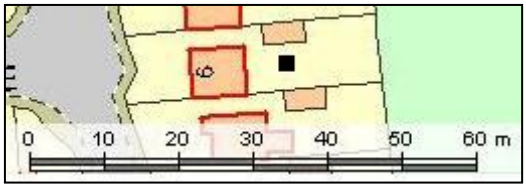

Figure 30: Location Map of WME/08/1

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

Although not much pottery was recovered from WME/08/1, the majority of it dates to the Victorian period. The depth of the Victorian pottery also suggests that the area was disturbed during the 19th century as a sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from context three. Another sherd of Bronze Age pot was also identified in the bottom context suggesting possible undisturbed prehistoric activity.

		BA		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1			2	2	1800-1900
1	2			2	21	1800-1900
1	3	1	6	1	2	1200BC-AD1900
1	4			2	7	1800-1900
1	5			3	3	1800-1900
1	7	1	3			1200-800BC

Table 17: Pottery excavated from WME/08/1

Prehistoric activity is known from Mersea Island and this area around WME/08/1 has yielded evidence of a potential Bronze Age settlement, set quite far inland in the centre of what is now central to West Mersea. As well as the Bronze Age pottery excavated, a number of waste flint flakes were identified and also date as Bronze Age. There is very little evidence for settlement on site until the 19th century with few fragments of building material, iron nails and modern glass mixed with the prehistoric and Victorian pottery.

Test Pit two (WME/08/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the centre of the village in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern house that backs onto open fields. This test pit is located two houses north of test pit one (5 Raymead Close, West Mersea. TM 601206 213084).

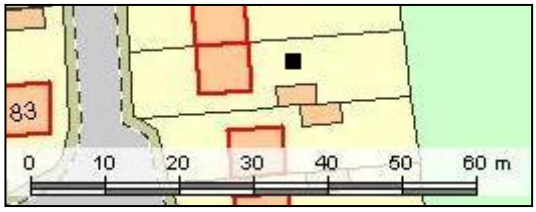

Figure 31: Location map of WME/08/2

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

Victorian pottery was only excavated from WME/08/2 and in the first three contexts, suggesting that the ground has been disturbed during the 19th century but there was also very little activity on site prior to that.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1	2	2	1800-1900
2	2	2	4	1800-1900
2	3	2	17	1800-1900

Table 18: Pottery excavated from WME/08/2

Due to the proximity of this test pit to WME/08/1; the potential for prehistoric settlement evidence is high, but further excavations are needed to confirm this. Very little occupation evidence was identified until the 19th century with a few sherds of Victorian pottery, modern glass and tile. The presence of clay pipe suggests that the land was being worked during the post medieval period and was most probably utilised as fields.

Test Pit three (WME/08/3)

Test pit three was excavated to the north of the village in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern house (28 Firs Road, West Mersea. TM 600862 213089).

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

Two sherds of pottery were excavated from WME/08/3, both of which date as Victorian. This also suggests that there has been little disturbance on site and very little activity prior to the 19th century.

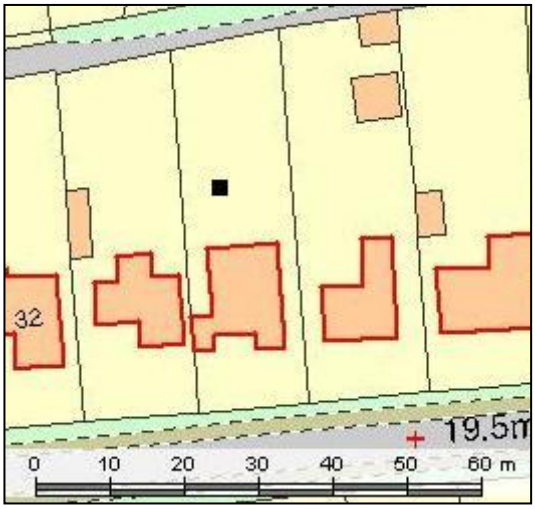

Figure 32: Location map of WME/08/3

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2	1	15	1800-1900
3	3	1	2	1800-1900

Table 19: Pottery excavated from WME/08/3

In the northern area of West Mersea, as has been seen in other test pits, there is very little activity evident of site prior to the 19th century. The few brick fragments, iron nails, melted plastic and modern glass dominate the finds assemblage, suggesting that site was open fields until the houses were built in this part of West Mersea.

Test Pit four (WME/08/4)

Test pit four was excavated to the north west of the village in a large open front garden of a modern house close to the road (54 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600485 213025).

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

All the pottery recovered from WME/08/4 was excavated in the upper three contexts and consisted of Victorian pottery only, suggesting very little activity on site prior to the 18th century.

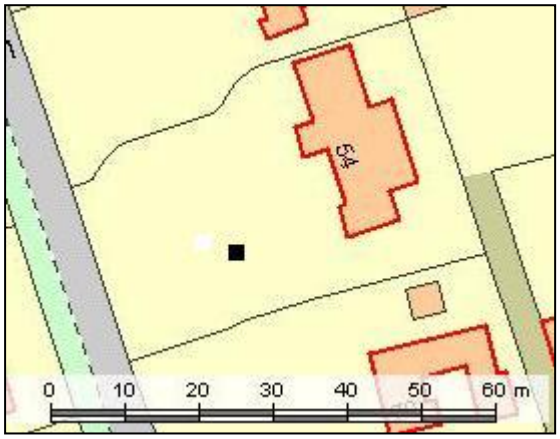

Figure 33: Location map of WME/08/4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1	2	2	1800-1900
4	2	15	21	1800-1900
4	3	2	3	1800-1900

Table 20: Pottery excavated from WME/08/4

Very few finds were excavated from WME/08/4, the few brick rubble fragments, coal; iron nails, slate and glass suggest limited activity on site. As seen in this northern part of West Mersea, this area was likely to have been open fields until the current houses were built.

Test Pit five (WME/08/5)

Test pit five was excavated to the north west of the village in the front garden of a property dating to the early 18th century (60 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600480 213081).

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

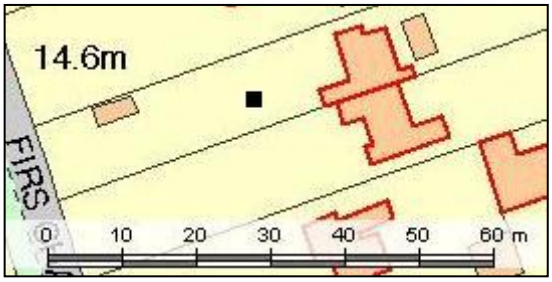

Figure 34: Location map of WME/08/5

Victorian pottery dominates the assemblage from WME/08/5, with large numbers of sherds excavated especially from the upper contexts. One sherd of Delft Ware was recovered from the upper context of test pit five, suggesting that the ground has been greatly disturbed to bring up a 17th century piece of pottery.

		TGE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1			16	50	1800-1900
5	2	1	3	4	23	1600-1900
5	3			24	124	1800-1900
5	4			4	5	1800-1900
5	5			2	6	1800-1900
5	6			2	2	1800-1900

Table 21: Pottery excavated from WME/08/5

The location of WME/08/5, again in the north of the village, has very little evidence for occupation until the house was built in the 18th century. Prior to the house, the site was most probably open fields that have been worked from at least the 17th century, based on the pottery results. The finds recovered suggest more recent activity with modern glass, coal and iron nails found.

Test Pit six (WME/08/6)

Test pit six was excavated to the north west of the village in the former vegetable patch to the east of a grade II listed house, dating from 1756. (The Firs, 19 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600346 213021).

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

A small amount of pottery was excavated from WME/08/6, the majority of which dates to the Victorian period, but a single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware was also recovered from context two.

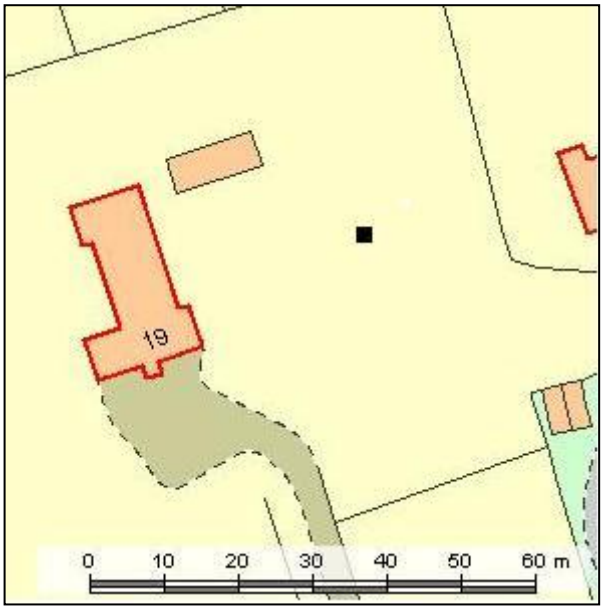

Figure 35: Location map of WME/08/6

		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	2	1	8			1550-1750
6	3			3	8	1800-1900
6	6			1	2	1800-1900

Table 22: Pottery excavated from WME/08/6

The Firs is reportedly the oldest building present in West Mersea. The pottery results suggest very little activity on site prior to the 19th century, but this may be due to the location of WME/08/6 situated away from the main focus of activity that would have been around the house. The single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware does suggest that there was activity on site during the 16th century, but a lot of the area surrounding the property may have still been open fields, which was generally the norm for the northern part of West Mersea. Very few finds were also recovered (only a number of small fragments of brick tile and scrap iron). The use of this land as an allotment may explain why not many finds remain and the level of the ground disturbance.

Test Pit seven (WME/08/7)

Test pit seven was one of five test pits excavated within this property in the north west of the village (see also WME/08/10, WME/08/11, WME/08/12 and WME/08/13). This test pit was excavated quite close to the western edge of the modern house. (15 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600273 212956).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 1m, at which depth natural was recorded. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from WME/08/7 dates to the medieval period. The Essex Grey Ware identified dates to between the 12th and mid-14th centuries only.

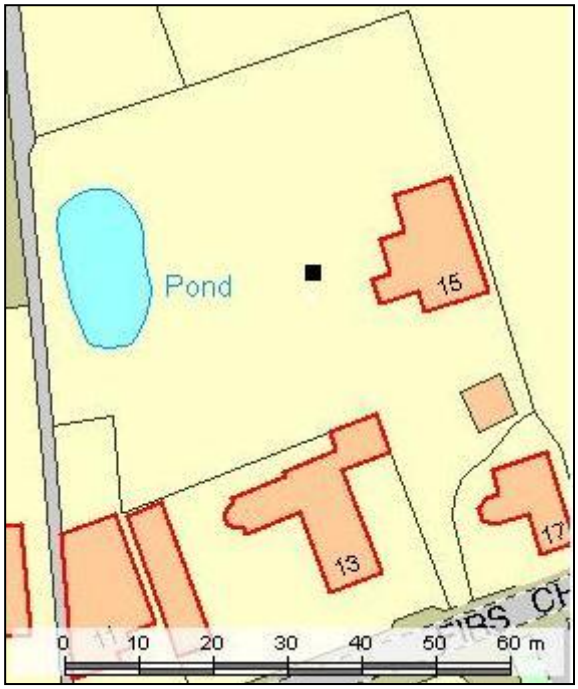

Figure 36: Location map of WME/08/7

		Grey		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	25	1100-1350
7	4	1	18	1100-1350
7	5	1	7	1100-1350
7	7	1	9	1100-1350

Table 23: Pottery excavated from WME/08/7

The only finds excavated from WME/08/7 were the four sherds of medieval pottery. This has not been seen elsewhere in West Mersea and suggests that most probably the land was utilised in the early medieval but was abandoned or severely affected after the Black Death in the mid-14th century. Dispersed areas of West Mersea appear to have been inhabited in the medieval period, around the church, along coast road and inland to test pit seven. There is no further evidence of settlement until the current house was built in the 20th century.

Test Pit eight (WME/08/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the north west of the village, close to the coast. The test pit was sited in an enclosed back garden and relatively close to the back of the modern house (8 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600164 212863).

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

Figure 37: Location map of WME/08/8

The majority of the pottery identified dates to the Victorian period and was also recovered from all of the contexts of WME/08/8. Three sherds however, were identified to date to the very late medieval into the post medieval period with single sherds of German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware and Delft Ware present. Activity on site in the 19th century has disturbed earlier material in the test pit with the potential for undisturbed contexts at a greater depth.

		GS		GRE		TGE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1							1	20	1800-1900
8	2							3	5	1800-1900
8	3			1	3			13	40	1800-1900
8	5					1	10	2	15	1600-1900
8	6	1	6					1	3	1500-1900

Table 24: Pottery excavated from WME/08/8

As in the northern parts of West Mersea, this area to the west and along the coast road may also have been open fields that were certainly utilised during the later medieval and into the post medieval periods. A mix of CBM, iron nails, modern glass and oyster shells were also excavated from test pit eight and with the pottery suggest that intense occupation was not probably evident until the 19th century.

Test Pit nine (WME/08/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the west of the village, next to the coast. This test pit was excavated in an enclosed front garden between the likely early 20th century house and the coast road and was one of two test pits excavated within this garden; see also WME/08/22 (Elm Tree House, 104 Coast Road, West Mersea. TM 600127 212781).

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

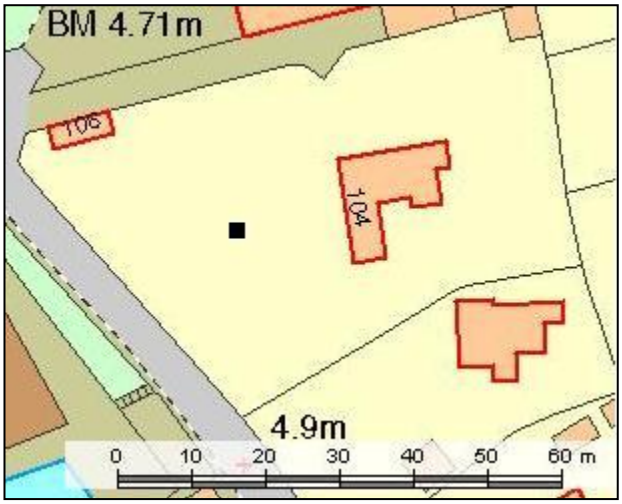

Figure 38: Location map of WME/08/9

A wide range of pottery types were identified from WME/08/9, including imported Dutch, Spanish and German wares and little disturbance during the 19th century also suggests that these were likely also found *in situ*. The majority of the pottery dates to the medieval period with a range of pottery types found through all the contexts. Less pottery was identified to date to the post medieval and Victorian periods, although the rare imported wares of the 16th century suggest that this property was of a higher status.

		Grey		Red		LMT		GS		DTGE		STGE		TGE		WCS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1					1	3											2	4	1400-1900
9	3			1	4							1	7					2	4	1200-1900
9	4			1	2	4	24							5	31					1200-1700
9	5	2	8			3	31	2	24	1	3					1	1			1200-1700
9	6	12	135			2	3													1200-1550

Table 25: Pottery excavated from WME/08/9

The location of this property on the coast suggests an ideal location for settlement activity. This is evident in WME/08/9 as the site was most probably occupied as part of the dispersed medieval settlement along Coast Road. The drop off in pottery in the post medieval may be because the test pit was located in the front garden of the property and not the back, which is where the majority of the rubbish would have been disposed, rather than a drop off in activity during that time. The clay pipe excavated suggests that the land was still occupied and worked during the post medieval and the pottery suggests a wealthy high-status family lived here in the 16th century, in comparison to the other residents of West Mersea at that time. The finds also excavated potentially suggest an earlier building located in the area of the front garden with the large amounts of brick, tile and iron work found. This is the only evidence for high status occupation on West Mersea from all test pits excavated on the island.

Test Pit 10 (WME/08/10)

Test pit 10 was one of five test pits excavated within this property in the north west of the village (see also WME/08/7, WME/08/11, WME/08/12 and WME/08/13). This test pit was excavated quite close to the western edge of a modern house, directly south of WME/08/7 (15 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600276 212948).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which depth natural was recorded. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of pottery was excavated from the first context of WME/08/10. The sherd of Late medieval Colchester ware dates quite specifically to the start of the 15th century to the mid-16th century.

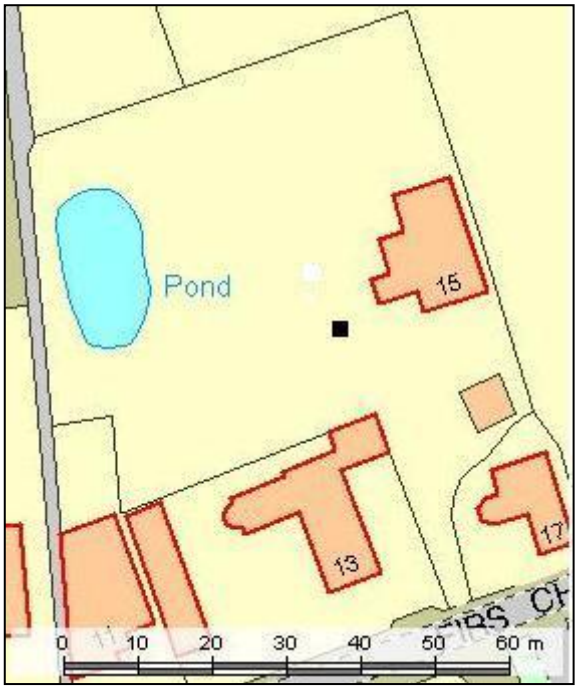

Figure 39: Location map of WME/08/10

		LMT		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1	1	4	1400-1550

Table 26: Pottery excavated from WME/08/10

Similar to the results from WME/08/7, the pottery excavated from WME/08/10 yielded a single sherd of late medieval pottery, that suggests occupation continued here throughout the medieval period. The settlement was most probably affected by the Black Death; there was not an entire drop off of activity on site at this time. A possible waste flint excavated may suggest prehistoric activity, previously unseen in this part of West Mersea through the test pitting strategy, whilst the rest of the finds excavated suggest a possible earlier structure on site prior, although there is very little evidence for occupation after the medieval period.

Test Pit 11 (WME/08/11)

Test pit 11 was one of five test pits excavated within this property in the north west of the village (see also WME/08/7, WME/08/10, WME/08/12 and WME/08/13). This test pit was excavated away from the modern house and close to the rear boundary of another property (15 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600249 212932).

Test pit 11 was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural was not recorded at this level but due to time constraints, excavations were halted, and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Three sherds of Victorian pottery were only excavated from WME/08/11, suggesting that the upper levels of the test pit have only been disturbed during the 19th century.

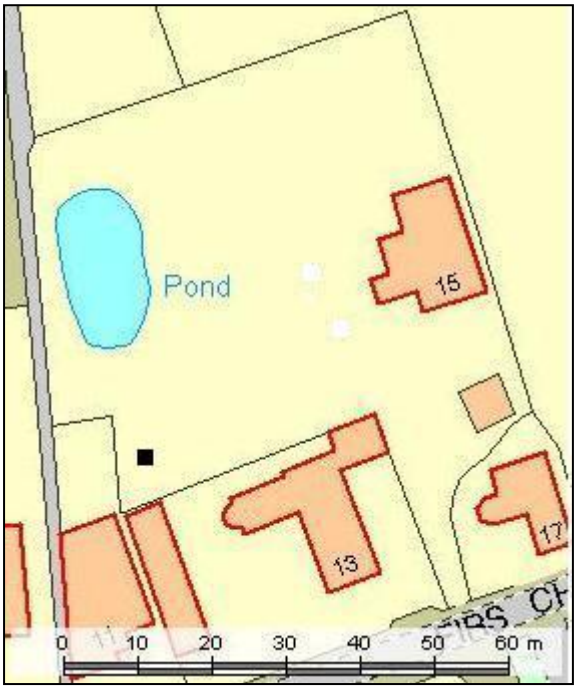

Figure 40: Location map of WME/08/11

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
11	1	3	21	1800-1900

Table 27: Pottery excavated from WME/08/11

The first evidence for occupation of this property from the 19th century has been identified in WME/08/11, although the results may reflect changing boundaries between this property and the houses that WME/08/11 sits directly behind. The pottery and the finds of brick and tile, iron nails and modern glass are generally consistent with more recent activity on site. Further excavation is needed in this part of the garden.

Test Pit 12 (WME/08/12)

Test pit 12 was one of five test pits excavated within this property in the north west of the village (see also WME/08/7, WME/08/10, WME/08/11 and WME/08/13). This test pit was excavated opposite the modern house and close to the property boundary with a north south orientated lane (15 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600241 212938).

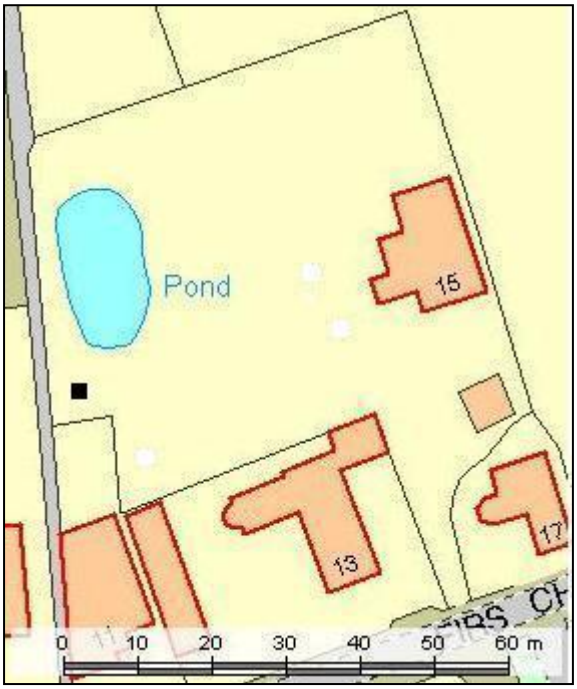

Figure 41: Location map of WME/08/12

Test pit 12 was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural was not recorded at this level but due to time constraints, excavations were halted, and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Eight sherds of Victorian pottery were excavated from the upper contexts of WME/08/12 and suggest that the ground has been greatly disturbed during the 19th century.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
12	1	2	46	1800-1900
12	2	3	57	1800-1900
12	3	3	21	1800-1900

Table 28: Pottery excavated from WME/08/12

The results from WME/08/12 are similar to those from test pit 11 and suggest 19th century disturbance with very little evidence for activity on site prior to that time. The finds include a small metal decorative cross, which may have been part of a broach and also a fragment of clay pipe which suggests activity on site during the post medieval period.

Figure 42: The cross and the rest of the non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/12, context two. © ACA

Test Pit 13 (WME/08/13)

Test pit 13 was one of five test pits excavated within this property in the north west of the village (see also WME/08/7, WME/08/10, WME/08/11 and WME/08/12). This test pit was excavated along the northern boundary of the property, set away from the modern house (15 Firs Chase, West Mersea. TM 600266 212974).

Test pit 13 was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural was not recorded at this level but due to time constraints, excavations were halted, and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

No pottery was excavated from WME/08/13.

The finds excavated from WME/08/13 suggest recent activity, although no pottery was recovered to specifically date it. The finds mainly consist of iron nails and modern glass with a large sheet of metal which may probably be associated with current house.

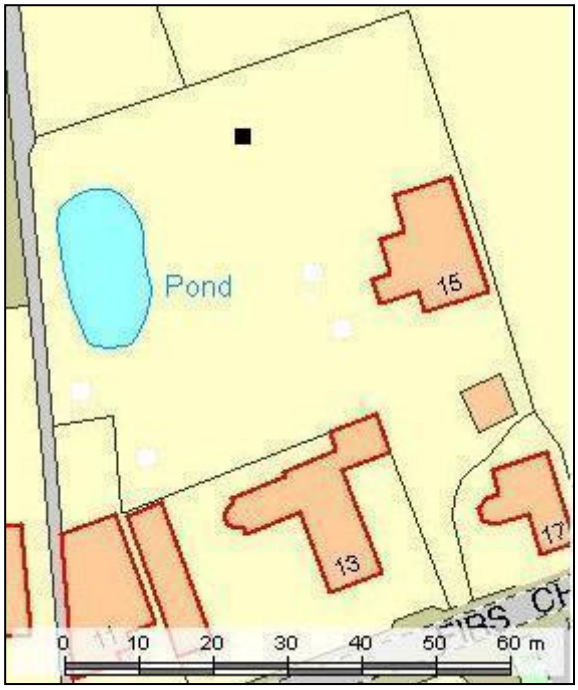

Figure 43: Location map of WME/08/13

Test Pit 14 (WME/08/14)

Test pit 14 was excavated in the south of the village, just off of the main Coast Road. The test pit was excavated in an enclosed rear garden (8 St Peters Road, West Mersea. TM 600698 212556).

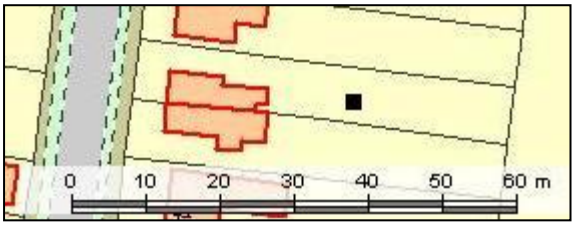

Figure 44: Location map of WME/08/14

Test pit 14 was excavated to a depth of 1m. Natural was not recorded at this depth but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery recovered from WME/08/14 suggests the presence of a probable 19th to early 20th century ash pit as only Victorian pottery was excavated.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
14	1	1	3	1800-1900
14	2	1	2	1800-1900
14	3	2	4	1800-1900
14	4	12	17	1800-1900
14	5+	54	1248	1910-1930

Table 29: Pottery excavated from WME/08/14

The location of WME/08/14 in an area close to the church where medieval activity has already been identified yielded very little in the way of early pottery and finds. Victorian pottery dominated the assemblage with a large amount of rubble, nails and bottle glass suggestive that the lower contexts were all from the same feature, an ash pit, used to dispose of domestic rubbish. The date appears to be consistent with the construction of the house in the early 20th century and many of the ash pit pottery types are typical with the First World War.

Test Pit 15 (WME/08/15)

Test pit 15 was excavated in the south of the village, quite close to the church. The test pit was situated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house (23 Church Road, West Mersea. TM 600785 212541).

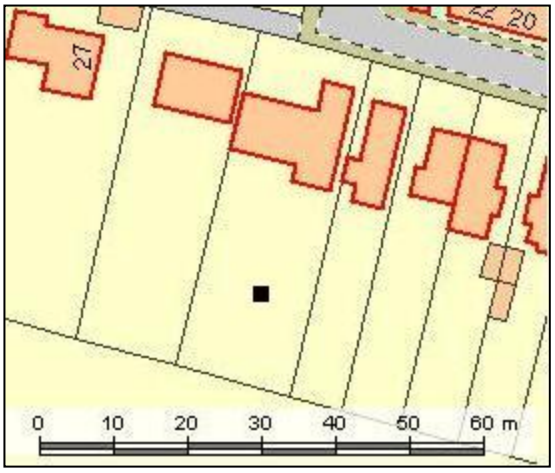

Figure 45: Location map of WME/08/15

Test pit 15 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not recorded at this depth but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the activity at WME/08/15 dates from the 18th century with two sherds of Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware and seven sherds of Victorian pottery. A single sherd of Roman Grey Ware was also identified from an upper context that suggests that activity during the post medieval and 19th century has disturbed potential Romano-British archaeology.

		Roman Grey		SWSG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
15	2					3	24	1800-1900
15	3	1	7	1	2	1	1	100-1900
15	4			1	3	3	8	1720-1900

Table 30: Pottery excavated from WME/08/15

The presence of Roman pottery in WME/08/15 is consistent with a cluster of Roman activity around the current church and extending north along the High Street and is potentially evidence of settlement and agricultural activity. The land to the west of the church most probably remained open fields through the medieval period, and although there is a potential increase of activity in the area during the post medieval, the site was most probably not inhabited until the construction of the current house during the 20th century. The finds are consistent with this date with brick, tile, slate, iron nails, coal, animal bone and oyster shell dominating the finds assemblage.

Test Pit 16 (WME/08/16)

Test pit 16 was excavated in the south of the village and was situated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house to the north west of the church (15 Churchfields, West Mersea. TM 600753 212643).

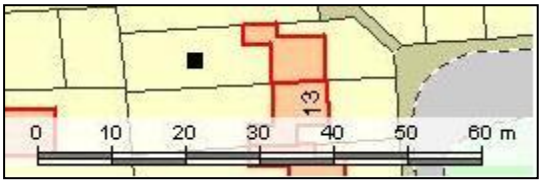

Figure 46: Location map of WME/08/16

Test pit 16 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which depth natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the pottery excavated from WME/08/16 dates to the Victorian and was also present in every context. A single sherd of Essex Grey ware was identified from the first context and a sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware was mixed in the upper contexts suggesting a great deal of disturbance during the 18th century.

		Grey		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
16	1	1	6			2	12	1100-1900
16	2					7	14	1800-1900
16	3			1	3	4	13	1550-1900
16	4					2	8	1800-1900
16	5					3	25	1800-1900

Table 31: Pottery excavated from WME/08/16

The singe sherds of medieval and post medieval pottery and fragments of clay pipe identified from WME/08/16, suggest that the site was utilised from the 12th century, but was most probably open fields until construction of the house during the 20th century. The finds appear consistent with this date with the majority associated with building materials. Additional modern glass, concrete and plastics also excavated.

Test Pit 17 (WME/08/17)

Test pit 17 was excavated in quite central in the village, just to the east of the High Street. The test pit was situated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house (12 Captains Road, West Mersea. TM 600878 212783).

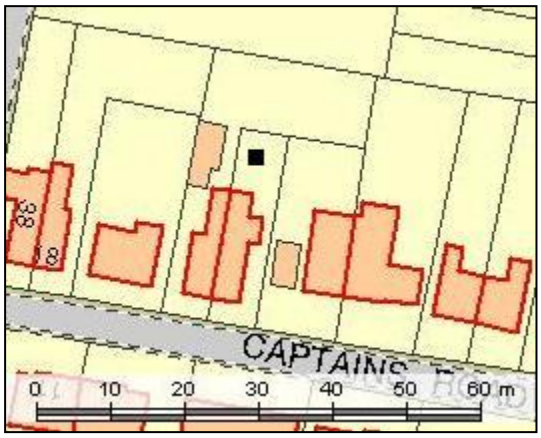

Figure 47: Location map of WME/08/17

Test pit 17 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, at which depth natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Sixteen sherds of pottery were excavated from WME/07/17 and date as Victorian. The presence of these in the upper four contexts suggest a lot of disturbance during the 19th century, but a single sherd of Ipswich Ware in the last context also suggests activity on site during the Middle Saxon period.

		Ipswich		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
17	2			8	43	1800-1900
17	3			2	2	1800-1900
17	4			6	25	1800-1900
17	5	1	6			720-850

Table 32: Pottery excavated from WME/08/17

Only two test pits have yielded Saxon pottery on West Mersea, the second, WME/08/18 situated just to the east of WME/08/17, suggest there was potential settlement activity in the area during the 8th and 9th centuries. Any Saxon archaeology had probably been disturbed during the medieval and post medieval when the area was most likely open fields. Glass and small CBM fragments were excavated from contexts six and seven, below the Saxon pottery, whilst the upper finds are consistent with the more recent disturbances related to the occupation of the house.

Test Pit 18 (WME/08/18)

Test pit 18 was excavated centrally in the village, on the High Street. The test pit was situated in the enclosed rear garden of a likely late 19th to early 20th century house (50 High Street, West Mersea. TM 600985 212743).

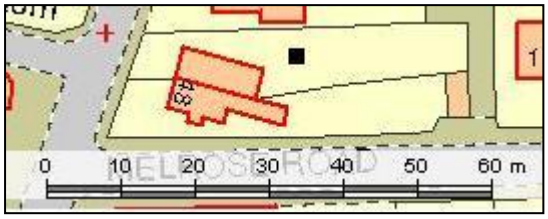

Figure 48: Location map of WME/08/18

Test pit 18 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m. Natural was not recorded at this depth but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the pottery excavated from WME/08/18 dates to the Victorian period. There was little disturbance in the test pit as the Victorian pot was only recovered from contexts two and three. Two sherds of Ipswich Ware were excavated in the lower context, most probably disturbing the earlier Roman activity on site. The Roman pottery consisted of 10 sherds of Roman Grey Ware and two sherds of Samian that were mixed from context two to context six.

		Roman Grey		Samian		Ipswich		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
18	2	1	4					2	14	100-1900
18	3							10	34	1800-1900
18	4	4	12							100-400
18	5	1	12			1	24			100-850
18	6	4	9	2	2	1	23			100-850

Table 33: Pottery excavated from WME/08/18

Roman activity identified in WME/08/18 suggests Roman activity was quite prevalent in the area, and potentially part of a larger Roman settlement extending south towards the coast and the church. The same area appears to have been utilised during the Middle Saxon period, evidence of which was also seen from WME/08/17. The Saxon activity has also disturbed the earlier Romano-British archaeology with only CBM fragments recovered from the lower contexts. The little disturbance recorded in the upper contexts of the test pit suggest that the site was open fields through the medieval and post medieval periods until activity increased on site during the 19th and 20th centuries. The finds include added scrap iron and iron nails with CBM fragments consistent with the building of the house.

Test Pit 19 (WME/08/19)

Test pit 19 was excavated in the south of the village, in an enclosed rear garden of a modern house (33 Yorick Road, West Mersea. TM 601262 212647).

Test pit 19 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which depth natural was recorded. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

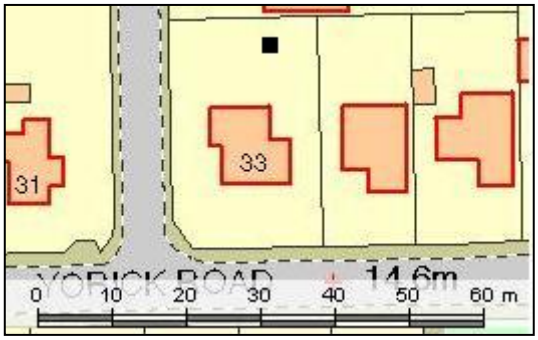

Figure 49: Location map of WME/08/19

The lower contexts of WME/08/19 yielded a potentially undisturbed Iron Age occupation layer. A single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware and four sherds of Victorian pottery were excavated from the upper contexts that were also mixed together, suggesting disturbance during the 19th century.

		MIA		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
19	1					1	2	1800-1900
19	2			1	2	2	3	1550-1900
19	3					1	1	1800-1900
19	4	4	15					500-200BC

Table 34: Pottery excavated from WME/08/19

The Middle Iron Age pottery excavated has yielded new evidence for undisturbed Iron Age occupation on West Mersea, previously only identified in test pitting to the south east of the church, close to the sea and had been greatly disturbed by 19th century landscaping. The undisturbed archaeology may represent an Iron Age occupation layer, suggesting the extent of the settlement extended to the east at least as far as WME/08/19. The post Iron Age material culture is quite sparse, suggesting that through the Roman to the Victorian period, this area of West Mersea was open fields. A few fragments of CBM were recovered, with some clay pipe and possible waste flint. This is consistent with other test pit results that occupation spread eastwards away from the church from the late post medieval, but more intensively into the 19th century.

Test Pit 20 (WME/08/20)

Test pit 20 was excavated in the south of the village, in an enclosed rear garden of a modern house in an area that was once an orchard (19 Grove Avenue, West Mersea. TM 601390 212521).

Test pit 20 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which depth natural was recorded. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Victorian pottery was only excavated from WME/08/20 suggesting very little activity on site prior to the 19th century.

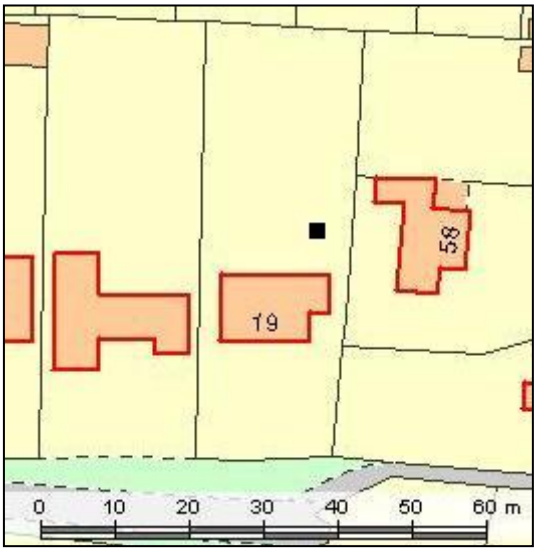

Figure 50: Location map of WME/08/20

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
20	1	4	13	1800-1900
20	3	3	3	1800-1900
20	5	1	1	1800-1900

Table 35: Pottery excavated from WME/08/20

The location of WME/08/20 to the east of the church, is part of the more modern development of West Mersea and is consistent with the other test pits in the area suggesting very sparse to no occupation whatsoever in the part of the village. A single fragment of clay pipe suggests that the land was being utilised and most probably as open fields, as well as an orchard, during the post medieval period. The intense period of occupation dates from the Victorian period, continuing through to the present day.

Test Pit 21 (WME/08/21)

Test pit 21 was excavated in the south of the village, in an open front garden of a modern house along the main road (13 Prince Albert Road, West Mersea. TM 601569 212613).

Test pit 21 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Natural was not recorded but due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled

Victorian pottery was only excavated from WME/08/21 suggesting very little activity on site prior to the 19th century.

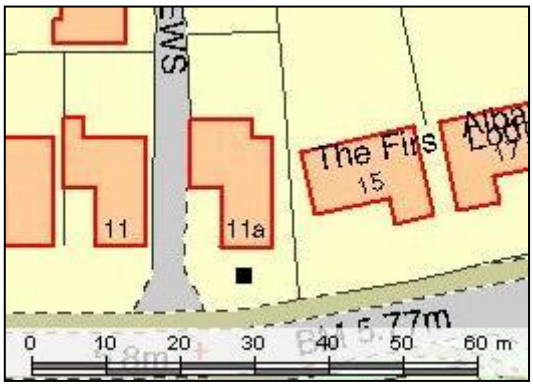

Figure 51: Location map of WME/08/21

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
21	1	2	4	1800-1900
21	2	6	25	1800-1900

Table 36: Pottery excavated from WME/08/21

WME/08/21 was one of the furthest east excavated test pits and yielded very little evidence for occupation prior to the Victorian period. A large number of modern artefacts were recovered, mainly building materials and modern glass but also a large sign for “Wills’s Woodbine Cigarettes” which were popular during the early 20th century and especially during the First World War.

Test Pit 22 (WME/08/22)

Test pit 22 was excavated in the southwest of the village, next to the coast. The test pit was excavated in an enclosed front garden between the likely early 20th century house and the coast road and was one of two test pits excavated in the garden; see also WME/08/9. (Elm Tree House, 104 Coast Road, West Mersea. TM 600150 212836).

Test pit 22 was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. Natural was not recorded at this depth but due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled

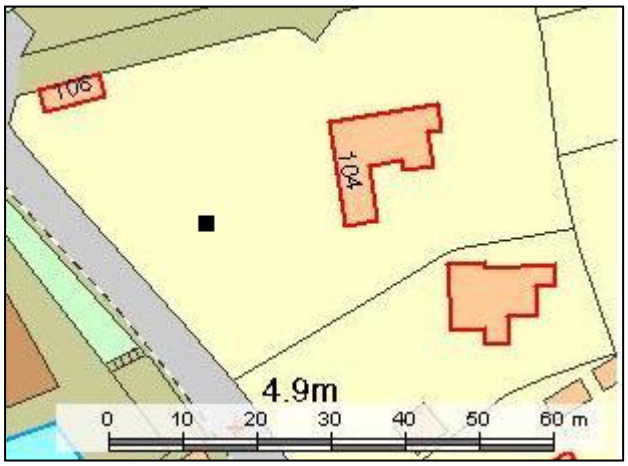

Figure 52: Location map of WME/08/22

Three sherds of post medieval pottery were excavated from WME/08/22, including two sherds of German Stoneware and one sherd of Border Ware. The majority of the pottery however dates to the Victorian, which was present in all contexts suggesting a lot of disturbance during the 18th century.

		GS		BW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
22	1	1	6			1	1	1500-1900
22	2					3	10	1800-1900
22	3	1	7	1	3	8	19	1500-1900

Table 37: Pottery excavated from WME/08/22

Unlike the previous high-status evidence for test pit nine excavated in this garden, WME/08/22 yielded more 'common' pottery types. However, as the upper three contexts were only excavated, which had also all been disturbed during the Victorian period, there is potential for further evidence at a great depth. The finds excavated are contemporary with the pottery recovered suggesting that the clay pipe, CBM fragments, coal with slate pencils and modern glass date to the post medieval, consistent with the post medieval expansion of the village that continued through to the present day.

7.4 2009 Excavations

The 2009 test pit excavation in West Mersea were undertaken over the 25th-26th March in which 10 1m^2 test pits were excavated by 40 HEFA participants from Clacton County High School, Clacton County High Sixth Form, Gable Hall School, Colbayns High School, St Helena School and Tendring Technology College (school names correct at time of participation). The test pits in 2009 were spread across the town in between previous years' test pit locations where the residents of West Mersea offered their gardens.

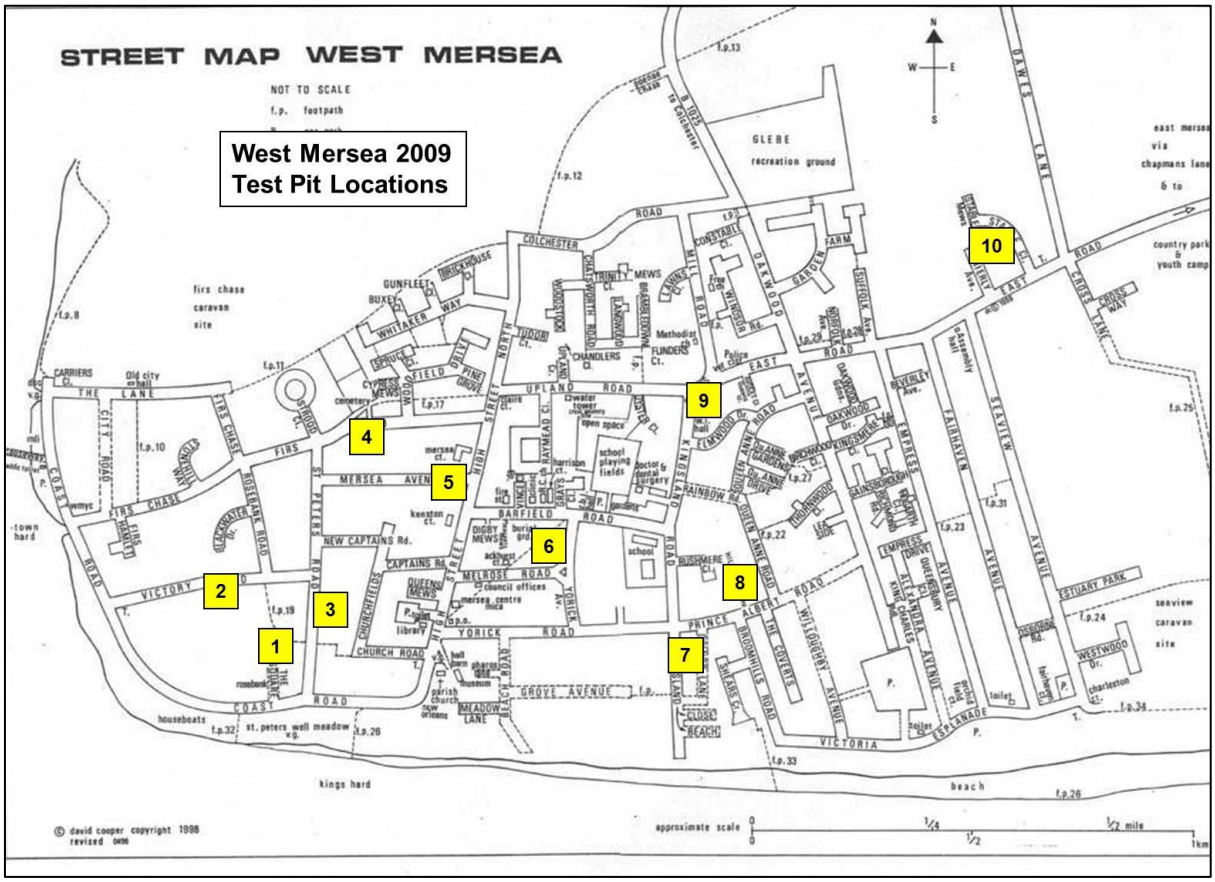

Figure 53: Location map of the West Mersea test pits from 2009 (NB test pits not to scale) Map adapted from © David Cooper

Test Pit one (WME/09/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the large open front garden of a grade II listed house, built around 1800 and set on an area of higher ground, close to the coast in the far south west of the island (Walnut Tree House, 58 Coast Road, West Mersea. TM 600615 212598).

Figure 54: Location map of WME/09/1

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0. 6m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from WME/09/1 date to the Victorian period, but a wide range of earlier medieval and post medieval wares were also identified. Single sherds of Essex Grey Ware, Essex Red Ware and Late medieval Colchester ware were all mixed through the test pit with the later wares of German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Border Ware, Harlow Slipware, Staffordshire Slipware and Creamware.

		Grey		Red		LMT		GS		GRE		BW		PSW		SS		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1																			6	13	1800-1900
1	2			1	5					1	1	1	7			1	2			16	34	1200-1900
1	3							1	1									2	2	22	36	1550-1900
1	4							1	2					1	1					9	21	1550-1900
1	5	1	4			1	8			2	75			1	3					6	8	1100-1900

Table 38: Pottery excavated from WME/09/1

.

The medieval activity identified at WME/09/1 appears to be part of a scattered spread of medieval occupation over the south and west of the island and the small sherds excavated suggest that the site was potentially open fields at this time with an increase of activity into the post medieval, corresponding with the construction of the house. The peak of occupation occurred during the Victorian period, when also the house was extended and there is a lot more evidence for disturbance on site. A mix of finds were excavated from test pit one, including clay pipe, oyster shell, coal, glass, iron nails with CBM, concrete, tile, slate, scrap iron, animal bone and a metal button. A possible fragment of lava stone was also identified, possibly part of a quern stone. Three pieces of burnt stone were also excavated and may suggest prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit two (WME/09/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern detached house, inland but in the south western corner of the island (Jasmine, 23 Victory Road, West Mersea. TM 600449 212674).

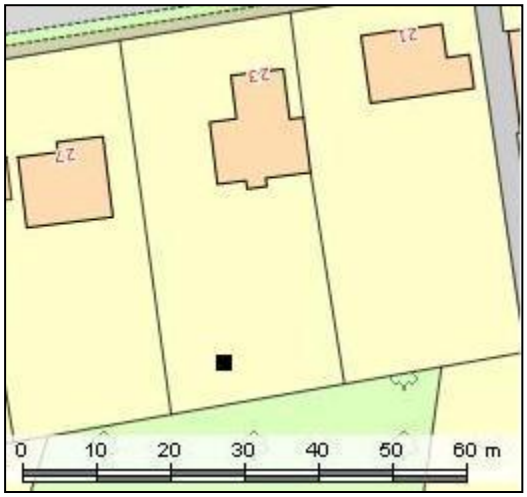

Figure 55: Location map of WME/09/2

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

A small amount of pottery was excavated from WME/09/2 with the medieval pottery of Essex Grey Ware and Essex Red Ware mixed through the test pit, whilst the post medieval wares of Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and Creamware were recovered from the upper half of the pit with two sherds of Victorian pottery.

		Grey		Red		GRE		SS		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	2			1	6					1	3	2	2	1200-1900
2	3			1	2	1	7	1	2					1200-1700
2	4									1	1			1750-1800
2	5	2	5											1100-1200

Table 39: Pottery excavated from WME/09/2

A large amount of burnt stone and possible waste flint flakes were excavated from WME/09/2 that may indicate prehistoric activity on site. The small amount of pottery and finds also excavated from test pit two suggest that the site was open fields through the medieval and post medieval until the current house was built in the 20th century. The rest of the finds consist of oyster shell, tile, CBM, glass and coal and were found mixed through the upper five contexts of the test pit.

Test Pit three (WME/09/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house, set inland to the north west of the church (32 St Peters Road, West Mersea. TM 600712 212678).

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

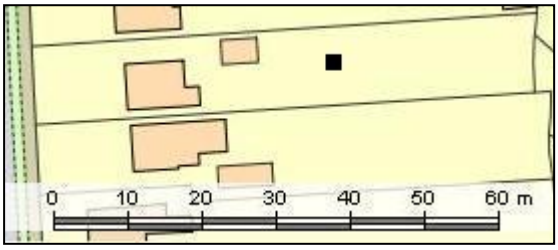

Figure 56: Location map of WME/09/3

A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was excavated from WME/09/3, but the majority of the pottery dates to the Victorian period with five sherds found mixed through the test pit.

		IA		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2			2	13	1800-1900
3	3			2	10	1800-1900
3	4	1	4			500-100BC
3	6			1	4	1800-1900

Table 40: Pottery excavated from WME/09/3

The Iron Age pottery identified from WME/09/3 is part of a spread of Iron Age activity in the south of the island around the church. Two possible waste flint flakes were also identified that may suggest earlier prehistoric activity on site. The rest of the finds and pottery excavated suggest the site had been abandoned until the Victorian period, possibly when the land was farmed, until the current house was built in the 20th century. The small amount of finds also recovered consist of CBM, glass, coal, oyster shell and an iron bolt that were mixed through the test pit.

Test Pit four (WME/09/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern semi-detached house in the north of the village (41 Firs Road, West Mersea. TM 600752 213015).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, with a sondage to 0.5m at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Three sherds of Victorian pottery were only recovered from context four of WME/09/4.

Figure 57: Location map of WME/09/4

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	4	3	7	1800-1900

Table 41: Pottery excavated from WME/09/4

The test pitting has shown that WME/09/4 and the surrounding area to the north of the village have had no activity until the Victorian period, from which the majority of the finds date to and from when the current house was built. These include a red clothes peg, foil milk bottle cap, coal, glass, CBM and tile with iron nails, wire with black plastic covering, oyster shells and scrap iron. Burnt stone and waste flint were also identified and may suggest prehistoric activity in the north of the village.

Test Pit five (WME/09/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern semi-detached house, set inland but quite central in the village (41 Firs Road, West Mersea. TM 600752 213015).

Figure 58: Location map of WME/09/5

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

A single sherd of Roman Grey Ware pottery was excavated from context six of WME/09/5, but the rest of the pottery recovered dates to the post medieval with single sherds of both Glazed Red Earthenware and Creamware mixed through the test pit. The majority of the pottery dates to the Victorian period and was found through the upper four contexts of test pit five.

		RG		GRE		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	2			1	1			3	7	1550-1900
5	3							2	8	1800-1900
5	4							1	7	1800-1900
5	5					1	1			1750-1800
5	6	1	1							AD50-400

Table 42: Pottery excavated from WME/09/5

The Roman pottery excavated from WME/09/5, due to its size suggests that the site was most probably fields during the Roman period and on the north western fringe of Roman activity so far identified from test pitting in West Mersea. There appears to have been very little activity on site until the Victorian period, but probably remained open fields until the current house was built in the 20th century. The finds consist of glass, scrap iron, tile and CBM with mussel shell, mortar, plastic, wire and clay pipe were found with a single piece of slag that may have been bought in to manure the fields rather than representing metal working on site. Also found were two shark teeth (pictured) which may have been caught locally or could have been traded from further afield.

Figure 59: Two shark teeth excavated from WME/09/5. © ACA

Test Pit six (WME/09/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house, central in the village to the north east of the church (23 Melrose Road, West Mersea. TM 601178 212773).

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

A single sherd of Late medieval Colchester Ware was excavated from WME/09/6 with single sherds of post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and Victorian pottery.

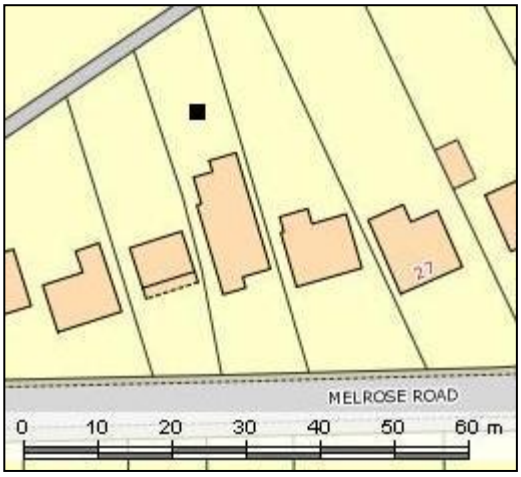

Figure 60: Location map of WME/09/6

		LMT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	3			1	1	1	1	1550-1900
6	4	1	5					1475-1550

Table 43: Pottery excavated from WME/09/6

The small amount of pottery excavated from WME/09/6 suggests that the site was continuously used as open fields from the later medieval until the current house was built in the 20th century. The three pieces of burnt stone however may suggest prehistoric activity on site, but the rest of the finds consist of coal, tile, glass, iron nails, CBM, scrap iron, oyster shell, concrete, animal bone, cockle shell, slate and clay pipe dating from when the site was utilised as fields and left over rubble etc. from the construction of the house.

Test Pit seven (WME/09/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house in the south of the village east of the church (The Rectory, 93 Kingsland Road, West Mersea. TM 601481 212456).

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

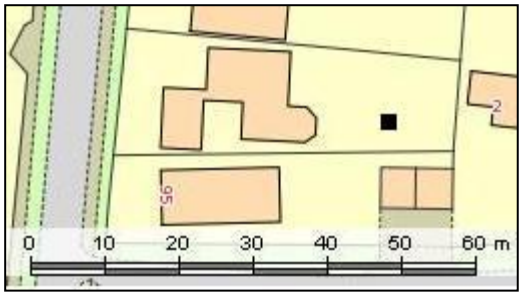

Figure 61: Location map of WME/09/7

Single sherds of both Late medieval Colchester Ware and Germans Stoneware were excavated from context two of WME/09/7.

		LMT		GS		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	3	1	7	1475-1600

Table 44: Pottery excavated from WME/09/7

The site has most probably been continuously open fields until the current house was built in the 20th century and the later medieval pottery recovered appears to be the eastern extent of later medieval activity so far identified by test pitting in West Mersea. A small number of finds was also excavated from contexts two and three and consist of glass, CBM, coal, tile, modern tile, asbestos, slate and mortar with a small thin flat metal ring., most of which probably relate to the construction of the house.

Test Pit eight (WME/09/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the large enclosed garden to the west side of the modern house, on the lower terrace part of the garden, set on the main road in the east of the village (Hillybroom House, 21 Prince Albert Road, West Mersea. TM 601625 212643).

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

A single sherd of Harlow Slipware was excavated from context three of WME/09/8.

Figure 62: Location map of WME/09/8

		PSW		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
8	3	1	19	1700-1800

Table 45: Pottery excavated from WME/09/8

From the test pitting so far undertaken in West Mersea it is apparent that no activity prior to the 16th century has been identified in the far east of the village, and it was only at this time that activity expanded eastwards, although still primarily still used for agriculture. The small amount of finds and pottery excavated from WME/09/8 suggest the site was open fields until the current house was built in the 20th century. The finds consist of tile and CBM only with a number of burnt stone pieces and a potential waste flint that may suggest prehistoric activity in the area.

Test Pit nine (WME/09/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a likely early 20th century cottage fronting the main road in the north east of the village (Fountain Cottage, 2 Queen's Corner, West Mersea. TM 601534 213112).

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

Figure 63: Location map of WME/09/9

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from WME/09/9 dates to the Victorian period and was found through the upper seven contexts of the test pit. A small amount of earlier pottery was also identified in a range of wares and including single sherds of both Bronze Age pot and Roman Grey Ware, with single sherds of also Medieval Grey Ware and Late medieval Colchester ware. The post medieval pottery also recovered consists of Germans Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware that were generally found through the lower half of the test pit.

		BA		RG		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		SS		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1											2	29					16	54	1550-1900
9	2																	18	40	1750-1900
9	3					1	3											18	31	1100-1900
9	4	1	6	1	6							1	11	1	1			23	42	1200BC-1900
9	5									1	1					1	1	23	66	1550-1900
9	6							1	24									1	2	1475-1900

Table 46: Pottery excavated from WME/09/9

The sherd of Bronze Age pottery excavated from WME/09/9 appears to be part of a spread of Bronze Age activity identified through test pitting to the north west of the village and the presence of burnt stone may also indicate further prehistoric activity on site. The small amount of Roman pottery is also part of a spread of Roman occupation, but test pit nine appears to be the furthest north and east that Roman activity has been identified in Mersea, again through the test pitting. The small amount of both medieval and post medieval pottery wares that were also excavated from site suggest that the site was open fields, potentially until the current house was built in the 19th century, when there also appears to be a greater disturbance on site. A mix of finds were also recovered, mainly relating to this later occupation on site and consist of oyster, cockle and mussel shells, glass, tile, coal, CBM, Perspex, Bakelite, part of a battery, iron nails, modern plaster, a metal plant tag, mortar, slate and clay pipe.

Test Pit 10 (WME/09/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set in the far north east of the village (9 Brierley Avenue, West Mersea. TM 602215 213481).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Single sherds of both post medieval Staffordshire White Slat-Glazed Stoneware and Victorian pottery were excavated from context three of WME/09/10.

Figure 64: Location map of WME/09/10

		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
10	3	1	3	1	5	1720-1900

Table 47: Pottery excavated from WME/09/10

A lot of builder's rubble and modern rubbish was excavated from WME/09/10, including the edge of a large plastic sheet that was encountered in the test pit from when the existing house was built in the late 20th century. The rest of the finds consist of coal, glass, CBM, cockle shell, concrete, plastic, polystyrene, mortar, iron nails, scrap iron and grey string. A piece of slag was also identified and a fragment of possible lava stone, perhaps from a quern? The pottery suggests very little in the way of activity on site until the post medieval when the area was most probably utilised as open fields, although two possible pieces of worked flint may indicate the presence of prehistoric activity on site.

7.5 2010 Excavations

The 2010 excavations in West Mersea were undertaken on the 24th-25th March where a total of 10 archaeological test pits were excavated by 36 HEFA participants from Clacton County High School, Gable Hall School, Clacton Coastal Academy, St Helena School and Furtherwick Park School (school names correct at time of participation). The test pits were sited throughout the town where the residents of West Mersea offered their gardens and brought the total excavated in the town to 58 test pits.

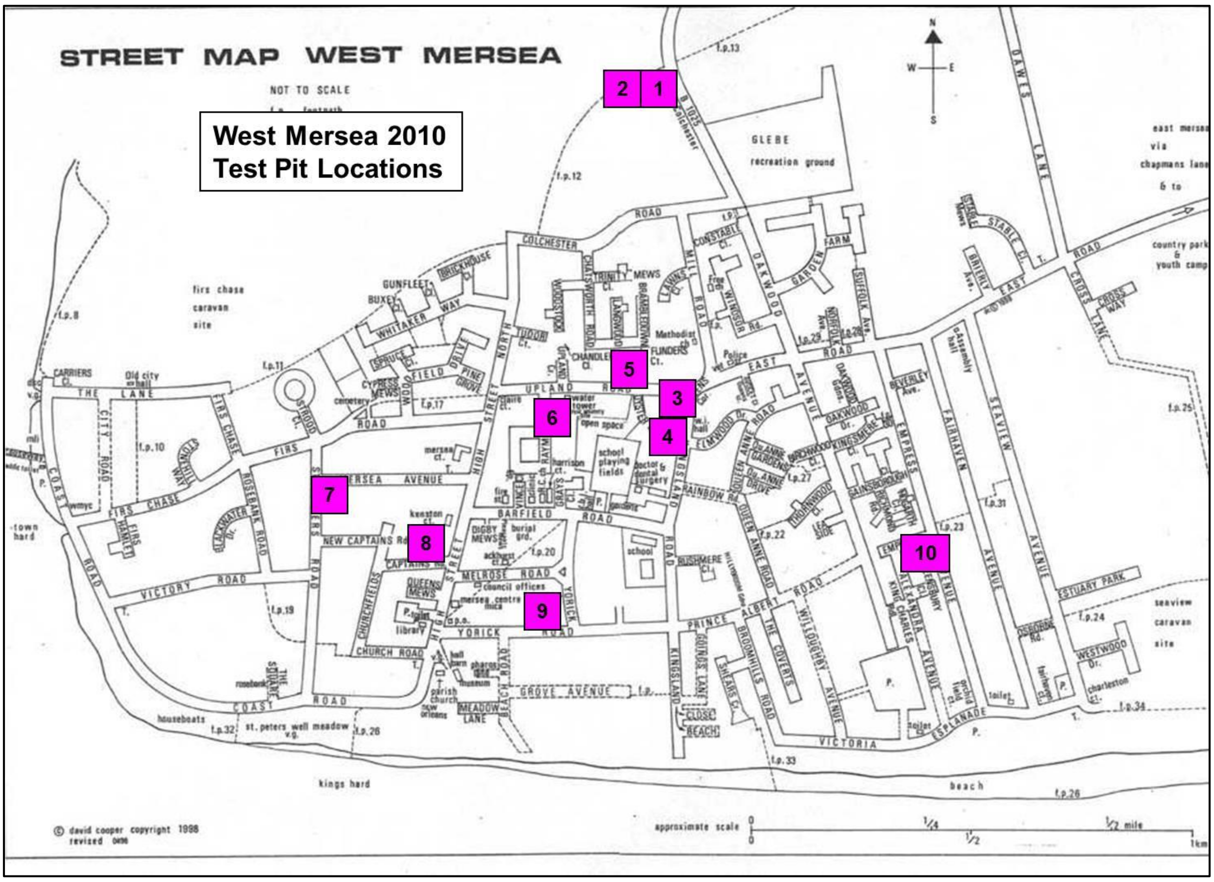

Figure 65: Location map of the West Mersea test pits from 2010 (NB test pits not to scale) Map adapted from © David Cooper

Test Pit one (WME/10/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the enclosed garden to the east of a detached house that was built in c.1745. The house is set in the far north of the village along the main road into West Mersea. It was also one of two test pits excavated here; see also WME/10/2 (Wellhouse Cottage, 3 Poenae Chase, West Mersea. TM 601505 213747).

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

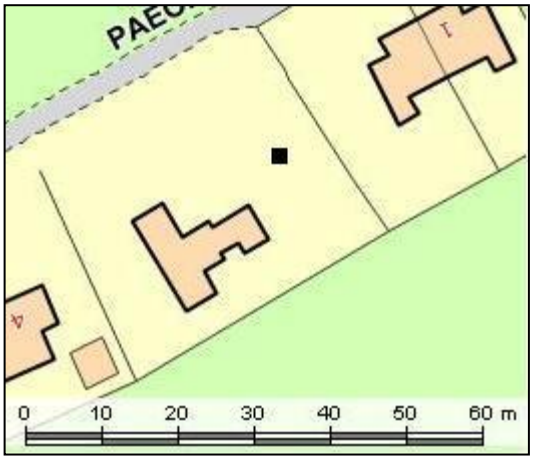

Figure 66: Location map of WME/10/1

Two small sherds of Roman pottery were excavated from the upper contexts of WME/10/1, but the rest of the pottery recovered dates to the post medieval and later, suggesting very little occupation until the 16th century and peaking after the house was built in the mid-18th century. German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and English Stoneware were all identified through the test pit, although the vast majority of the pottery excavated dates to the Victorian period and was recovered from every context.

		RB		GS		GRE		SS		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1					1	5	1	8			10	16	1550-1900
1	2	2	7									26	42	100-1900
1	3					2	12					46	70	1550-1900
1	4					1	4			1	4	25	44	1550-1900
1	5			1	5			1	2			28	60	1550-1900
1	6											2	5	1800-1900

Table 48: Pottery excavated from WME/10/1

The Roman activity identified at WME/10/1, along with WME/10/2, is the furthest north on the island that has so far been identified through the test pitting and suggests that the spread of Roman activity in West Mersea extends further north than previously thought. Despite the location of test pit one close to the main road off the island, there is very little activity on site until the current house was built in the mid-18th century. The large amount of 19th century and later pottery and finds have greatly disturbed the ground; the area was probably used to dump domestic rubbish at that time. The finds consist of tile, CBM, glass, clay pipe, coal, plastic, oyster and cockle shells, concrete, modern drain fragments, Bakelite, Perspex, silver foil and the end of a shotgun cartridge with iron nails, mortar, twine, a small possible toy lead horse, slate, part of a plastic comb, a corroded metal spanner, part of a horseshoe, a slate pencil and possible pieces of slag melted onto fragments of CBM that suggest metal working on or near to site. The single piece of burnt stone also suggests the presence of prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit two (WME/10/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the enclosed garden to the west of a detached house that was built in c.1745. The house is set in the far north of the village along the main road into West Mersea. It was also one of two test pits excavated here; see also WME/10/1 (Wellhouse Cottage, 3 Poenae Chase, West Mersea. TM 601485 213733).

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

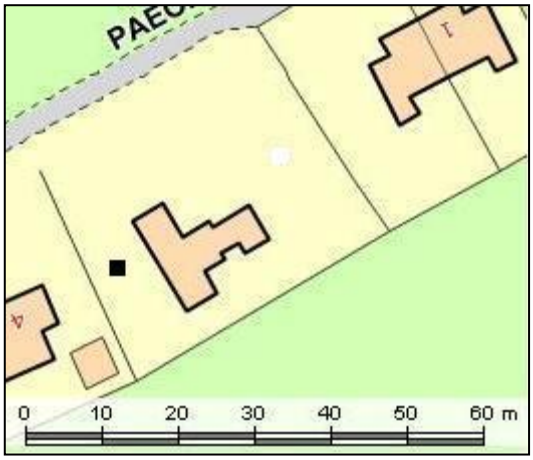

Figure 67: Location map of WME/10/2

Two large sherds of Roman pottery were excavated from the upper half of WME/10/2, but like WME/10/1 the rest of the pottery identified dates to the post medieval and later with small amounts of German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware all mixed through the upper half of the pit. The vast majority of the pottery however dates to the Victorian period, which was also found from every context of test pit two.

		RB		GS		GRE		TGE		EST		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			1	20	3	7					3	10	19	65	1550-1900
2	2	1	12									3	3	32	122	100-1900
2	3	1	25			1	4	1	3	2	5	1	1	21	38	100-1900
2	4									1	1			7	19	1720-1900
2	5													1	6	1800-1900

Table 49: Pottery excavated from WME/10/2

The finds and pottery excavated from WME/10/2 are very similar to those from WME/10/1 with the Roman activity identified is the furthest north on the island so far recognised through test pitting, although it is still likely peripheral to the concentration of occupation further south. Again, there is very little activity until the current house was built in the mid-18th century, with a peak of activity during the 19th century with the large dump of pottery and finds that also caused a lot of ground disturbance. The finds consist of CBM, tile, glass, iron nails and bolts, oyster shell, coal, slate, clay pipe, metal buttons, part of a horseshoe, Perspex, a central part of a battery, a bullet casing, scrap iron and a metal hinge with intact nails. The presence of burnt stone may also indicate prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit three (WME/10/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the large enclosed rear garden of a detached house built in 1905 and set in the north of the village along the main road in the centre of West Mersea. It was also the north of two test pits excavated here; see also WME/10/4 (Upland House, 2 Kingsland Road, West Mersea. TM 601472 213115).

Figure 68: Location map of WME/10/3

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

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from WME/10/3 dates to the 19th century and most probably relates to the construction and habitation of the house. Two small sherds of medieval Essex Grey Ware pottery were also recovered mixed through the test pit.

		Grey		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1			1	5	1800-1900
3	2	1	1	11	30	1100-1900
3	3			10	21	1800-1900
3	4			3	14	1800-1900
3	5	1	10	2	4	1100-1900
3	6			1	3	1800-1900
3	7			1	5	1800-1900

Table 50: Pottery excavated from WME/10/3

The vast majority of the pottery and finds excavated from WME/10/3 date to the 19th century and later, relating to the occupation of the current house. The finds consist of tile, oyster shell, CBM, coal, glass, iron bolts and nails, concrete, modern white china tile, mortar, slate, clay pipe, base and rim of a metal can, asbestos, cockle shell and a possible piece of slag, suggesting metal working on or near site. This later activity on site has greatly disturbed the earlier medieval activity also identified at test pit three, which appears to be part of a cluster of activity along the main road into the village but set apart from the central occupation around the church and along the coast. The presence of both possible burnt stone and waste flint flakes may also indicate prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit four (WME/10/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the large enclosed rear garden of a detached house built in 1905 and set in the north of the village along the main road in the centre of West Mersea. It was also the north of two test pits excavated here; see also WME/10/4 (Upland House, 2 Kingsland Road, West Mersea. TM 601472 213115).

Figure 69: Location map of WME/10/4

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of Roman pottery was excavated from context six of WME/10/4 and mixed in with a large amount of medieval Essex Grey Ware pottery all recovered from the lower half of the test pit. Single sherds of later and post medieval sherds were all found in the upper half of the test pit and consist of Late medieval Colchester ware, German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware and English Stoneware. A number of Victorian sherds were also excavated from the upper half of test pit four.

		RB		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		TGE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1							1	4							4	11	1500-1900
4	2					1	4									4	14	1400-1900
4	3			2	4					1	5	1	2			3	10	1100-1900
4	4			2	10									1	6	4	5	1100-1900
4	5			10	54											1	4	1100-1900
4	6	1	7	6	37													100-1200
4	7			2	11													1100-1200

Table 51: Pottery excavated from WME/10/4

Much like WME/10/3, the pottery and finds excavated from WME/10/4 mainly date to the 19th century and later and relate to the occupation of the current house. The finds consist of slate, CBM, iron nails, concrete, coal, oyster shell, clay pipe stem, glass, tile, snail shells and slag which suggest metal working on or near to site. These later deposits have also caused a great deal of disturbance through the upper half of the test pit mixing the small amounts of both late and post medieval pottery that was probably put on the fields for manuring. The large deposit of medieval pottery however does suggest there was occupation on site during that time that is evident as part of a cluster of medieval occupation either side of the main road into the village to the north and west of the church. The single sherd of Roman pottery also excavated is likely part of peripheral Roman activity focused to the south and the site was probably fields during that time. The two pieces of burnt stone may also indicate prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit five (WME/10/5)

Test pit five was excavated close to the back of a modern house in a long enclosed rear garden and, set a little back from the road in the north of the village. (16 Upland Road, West Mersea. TM 601381 213167).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.36m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Small amounts of pottery were excavated from WME/10/5 including two sherds of Bronze Age pot with a single sherd of Roman Grey Ware. Single sherds of both Late medieval Colchester ware and Victorian pottery were also identified.

Figure 70: Location map of WME/10/5

		BA		RB		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1			1	2					100-200
5	2	1	4			1	4			1500BC-1500
5	3	1	3					1	1	1500BC-1900

Table 52: Pottery excavated from WME/10/5

A number of pieces of burnt stone and waste flint were excavated from WME/10/5 and with the small sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery the area of higher ground, now quite central in the village was the site of Bronze Age occupation. After this though the site likely remained open fields with evidence of minimal activity in the Roman period, the Late medieval and the Victorian periods, until the current house was built in the late 20th century, as a lot of the finds are more recent in date, although some may have been used for earlier manuring. They consist of a plastic fork, slate, CBM, glass, coal, tile, snail shells, scrap metal, cockle shell, clay pipe and half a blue glass bead. A small piece of slag was also recovered that suggests metal working on or close to site.

Test Pit six (WME/10/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern detached house set in the north of the village. This was the second pit to be excavated in this property; see also WME/08/1 (9 Raymead Close, West Mersea. TM 601221 213068).

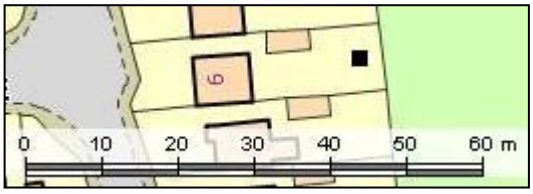

Figure 71: Location map of WME/10/6

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A small amount of Victorian pottery was only excavated from the upper contexts of WME/10/6.

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1	2	11	1800-1900
6	2	2	14	1800-1900
6	3	1	2	1800-1900

Table 53: Pottery excavated from WME/10/6

All the finds and pottery excavated from WME/10/6 dates to the 19th century and later, come of which is also left-over building rubbish from when the current house was built in the 20th century. The finds consist of slate, a flat plastic washer, concrete, a coin (date unknown), modern drain fragments, CBM and tile with coal, a red painted wooden rod and mortar. Three pieces of slag were also excavated and suggest metal working on or close to site and with some of the other finds were bought to site to manure the fields, although there only seems to be an increase in activity in this part of the village into the 19th century. A single piece of burnt stone was however also recovered and may indicate prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit seven (WME/10/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the open side garden south of a likely early 20th century house, set inland in the western half of the village (64 St Peters Road, West Mersea. TM 600671 212901).

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

Two sherds of Victorian pottery were only excavated from context three of WME/10/7.

Figure 72: Location map of WME/10/7

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
7	3	2	15	1800-1900

Table 54: Pottery excavated from WME/10/7

The only pottery and finds excavated from WME/10/7 date to the 19th century and later and correspond to the construction and subsequent occupation of the current house. The land use before this appears to be minimal and was likely left as pasture, although a single possible flint flake was excavated that is prehistoric in date. The rest of the finds recovered consist of tile, CBM, clay pipe, iron nails, slate, coal and oyster shell.

Test Pit eight (WME/10/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the small enclosed rear garden of a modern house set in the western half of the village. It was also the second pit excavated within the property; see also WME/08/17 (12 Captains Road, West Mersea. TM 600879 212779).

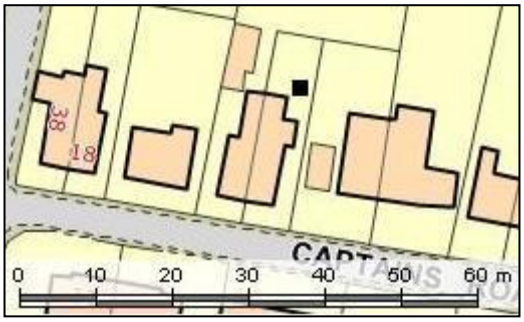

Figure 73: Location map of WME/10/8

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

A single sherd of Staffordshire Slipware was excavated from the lower half of WME/10/8, but the majority of the pottery recovered dates to the Victorian period and was found in the upper three contexts.

		SS		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1			12	71	1800-1900
8	2			8	45	1800-1900
8	3			2	25	1800-1900
8	5	1	10			1650-1750

Table 55: Pottery excavated from WME/10/8

Despite being located quite centrally in the village, there seems to be very little activity on site until the current house was built when lots of later pottery and domestic rubbish were deposited on site. The finds consist of coal, oyster shell, tile, and glass, concrete, slate, CBM, slate, cockle and sea shells, plastic, corroded scraps of iron, mortar, iron nails and bolts with two pieces of probable slag, indicative of metal working on or close to site. Before the house was built the site likely utilised as agricultural or pastoral land, but the number of burnt stones that were also recovered may suggest prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit nine (WME/10/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house in the south of the village (25 Yorick Road, West Mersea. TM 601188 212651).

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

A small amount of pottery was excavated from WME/10/9 including two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware from the lower half of the pit and three sherds of Victorian pottery from the upper half of the test pit nine.

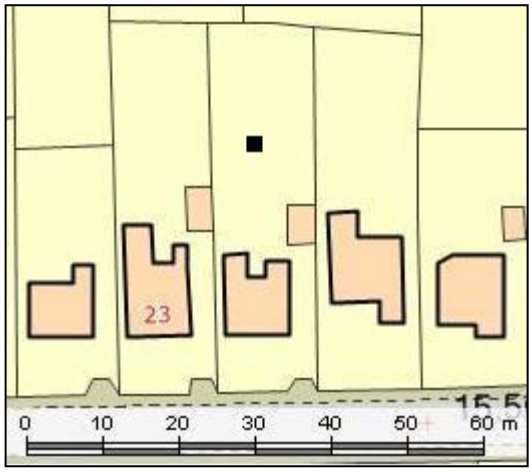

Figure 74: Location map of WME/10/9

		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	2			1	4	1800-1900
9	3	1	6	2	5	1550-1900
9	4	1	4			1550-1600

Table 56: Pottery excavated from WME/10/9

Activity at WME/10/9 appears to start during the 16th century, possibly relating to changes in land use and that this part of the village was utilised more for agriculture and continued until the current house was built in the mid-20th century. A small number of finds were also excavated from test pit nine that may be from the construction of the house as well as from the manuring of the fields. They consist of coal, tile, slate, CBM, iron nails and bolts, animal bone, oyster and sea shells, concrete, chalk/mortar and a thin metal heart shaped broach. Three pieces of slag were also recovered suggesting metal working on or near site and a number of both waste flint flakes and burnt stone suggest there was most likely also prehistoric activity in the area too.

Test Pit 10 (WME/10/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set inland in the far east of the village (66 Empress Avenue, West Mersea. TM 602057 212736).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.55m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Figure 75: Location map of WME/10/10

Three sherds of Roman Grey Ware were only excavated from the upper contexts of WME/10/10.

		RB		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	2	1	1	100-200
10	3	2	70	100-200

Table 57: Pottery excavated from WME/10/10

Despite the location of WME/10/10 in the far east of the current village there is evidence of Roman activity on site, although most likely used as fields given its distance from the main cluster of Roman activity identified through test pitting. A few pieces of burnt stone were also recovered and may suggest prehistoric activity on site, but the rest of the finds excavated from test pit 10 relate to the construction of the current house in the mid to late 20th century. They consist of CBM, breezeblock, mortar, tile, glass, slate, coal and iron nails.

8 Discussion

The test pitting in West Mersea has contributed greatly to the wider understanding of the history and archaeology of the island. The results from the five years of test pitting in the settlement are included in the analysis below. The pottery has been utilised as the main source of dating in this report, as pottery can be the most accurately dated, often within a hundred years of so and it is one of the most frequent finds recovered from the test pitting strategy. The results will be discussed in historical order below.

8.1 Prehistoric

From the finds and monuments already recorded on the HER record for Essex, there is widespread evidence for prehistoric activity on the island, the earliest of which dates from the Palaeolithic (450,000 to 10,000 BC). There is evidence that humans were utilising the island (in the form of two flint handaxes), although no evidence for settlement has been found. At this time, the island would have been more inland than it is today, as sea levels were lower, and the climate was very different. It has been suggested that the original course of the River Thames actually flowed past the south-eastern coastline of the present Mersea Island, as seen in figure 76 below[28]

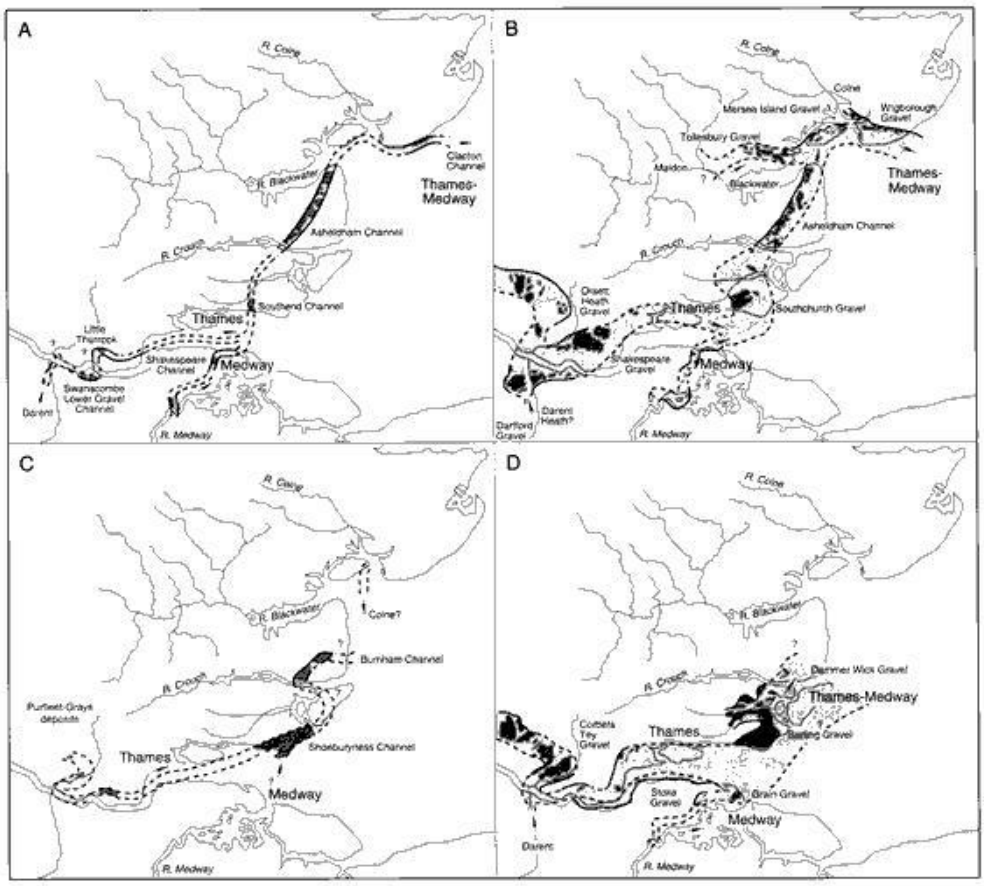

Figure 76: Series of Palaeographical maps of the lower reaches of the River Thames in relation to Mersea Island[29]

[28] http://www.finestprospect.org.uk/Palaeo-Meso/Palaeo-meso.htm#Map (Accessed April 2014)
[29] *Ibid*

A number of wild fauna now extinct in the British Isles have been found on Mersea that have been identified as shrew, monkey, rhino, various amphibians as well as hippo who were likely roaming this river valley with the humans who were also utilising the local natural resources.

Into the Mesolithic period (10,000 to 5,000 BC) of the Essex region, the climate was getting warmer, although the coastline was still a few kilometres east of its present day location, Mersea would still have been situated on river banks and would have been an ideal landscape for the hunter gatherer groups that were roaming the land at this time. A small number of worked flint tools were recorded on Mersea, particularly to the east of the island, suggesting that perhaps the resources on Mersea was not greatly utilised, or that the natural flora was not abundant enough at this time to warrant much activity in the area. The use of the island as a seasonal coastal settlement is not unfeasible.

Further worked flints have been recorded from Mersea Island, which date from the Neolithic period (5,000 to 2,200 BC) and even though this was when the first permanent settlements are known to date from in Britain, there is so far no evidence for a Neolithic settlement on the island. It is thought that the land around the river estuaries was quite heavily wooded at this time; so much clearance would have been needed before a settlement could be established[30]. The high tide line in the Neolithic was thought to be not far from the present low tide line, suggesting the coastline as we know it would have been the most similar as it is today (Green 1999).

As the format of this writing is at the grey report stage a full analysis of the lithics has not been undertaken and only the presence of any worked flint or burnt stone has been recorded here. Because of this a definitive date cannot be assigned to the test pit lithics at the time of writing, but a later prehistoric date, such as Neolithic or Bronze Age is most likely, particularly given that this is the date of the majority of the finds already recorded on the HER.

Bronze Age (2,200 to 700 BC) settlement on Mersea island is known from the HER record, although the majority of which has been found in East Mersea. Later Bronze Age pottery was however also recorded from the test pitting undertaken by ACA in West Mersea from which a total of six sherds were found, from four test pits (WME/07/1, WME/08/1, WME/09/9 and WME/10/5). In East Mersea, a ring ditch and a barrow, containing a single cremation have been specifically dated as Bronze Age in date, although a number of so far undated ring ditches have also been identified on the island and may be of a contemporary date. It is likely that the sea levels were rising at this time, so Bronze Age settlements tended to move inland, away from the edge of the estuaries. The pottery recorded through the test pitting is part of a relatively small cluster, suggesting there was potentially a focus of activity in the area of higher ground around the location of the primary school and playing field (see maps in appendix 12.3). The pottery found in this area could represent where there was a focus of settlement in this part of this island, although during the Later Bronze Age especially, a greater expansion of both settlements and agricultural systems are generally known (*Ibid)* and the Later Bronze Age date of the pottery found supports this notion, perhaps as a move westward from the already known activities in East Mersea.

Also, during the Later Bronze Age, with the increase in agricultural practices, there was also a move to utilise more of the estuarial resources by using the marshes for grazing and the estuaries for fishing, hunting and shellfish gathering (*Ibid*). In East Mersea a number of wooden structures have been identified in the estuary as fish traps and hurdles and it is highly likely that the number of undated oyster beds also recorded on the HER may also

[30] http://www.the-edi.co.uk/downloads/introduction_to_lca_essex_coast_web_version.pdf (Accessed April 2014)

date from the Later Bronze Age onwards. It is also known that salt production began on the Essex coast at this time and given the large amount of 'red hill' sites that have been identified over the island; it is possible that some again some may have a start date in the Later Bronze Age.

Activity and occupation on the island continued and likely expanded through the Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43) as the population grew and agriculture intensified. Spot finds of both Iron Age pottery and a number of coins have been found over the island, suggesting there were well established trade routes already being utilised with the continent at this time. The presence of a Late Iron Age cremation burial that was been found in West Mersea and consisted of four Belgic pots and cremated bone, further supports the notion of influence and trade from the continent on this part of the Essex coast. A total of seven sherds of Iron Age pottery was also recovered from four of the test pits in West Mersea (WME/07/5, WME/07/9, WME/08/19 and WME/09/3), all of which were concentrated in the southern half of the town and close to the coast (appendix 12.3). This certainly suggests that there was a shift in the focus of settlement further south from the Bronze Age into the Iron Age, perhaps due to better sea defences from flooding; it enabled an expansion of the settlements closer to the coast once more.

Coastal resources would have been very important into the Iron Age, as the HER record shows that both fish traps and hurdles are still being utilised in the waters around the island. Salt making also seems to increase at this time and a rectangular enclosure that was found on the edge of the Mersea channel may be entirely associated with the process of salt making rather than a focus of occupation.

8.2 Romano-British

The location of Mersea Island on the estuary of the River Colne, which leads into Colchester, was one of the first Roman towns built in Britain. It was constructed by the mid-1st century AD and had been converted from the original fortress of *Camulodunum* which was then named as the capital of the new Roman province of Britannia and thereafter known as *Colonia Claudia.*[31] Although the town was burnt to the ground in the Boudicca led revolt in AD 61, there is no evidence that any of the uprisings affected life on the island.

The network of known Roman roads in the area around Mersea Island can be seen in figure 77 below, the majority of which connect Colchester to other major Roman settlements and forts in the south east. It is also highly likely that a smaller road connected Colchester to Mersea, utilising the lower sea levels at this time and potentially also accessing the island via Ray Island. Evidence for a track has been found with construction dated to the Roman period and consisted of a base of sand and gravel utilised to reinforce the trackway, where crossings were possible at low tide, much like a ford.[32] Access to the island would have been important as it would have been a strategic lookout point over both estuaries of the Rivers Colne and Blackwater, although a site for a Roman fort was chosen just across the estuary to the south at Bradwell on Sea.[33] As well as being a strategic lookout point, the island was also soon appreciated for its tranquil nature and its well wooded gently rolling

[31] http://www.visitcolchester.com/Roman-Colchester.aspx (Accessed April 2014)
[32] http://www.visitmerseaisland.co.uk/blog/110-who-built-the-causeway-onto-mersea-island/ (Accessed February 2018)
[33] http://www.the-edi.co.uk/downloads/introduction_to_lca_essex_coast_web_version.pdf (Accessed April 2014)

landscape and it soon developed into a kind of 'seaside resort with holiday homes' for the wealthier citizens of Colonia.[34]

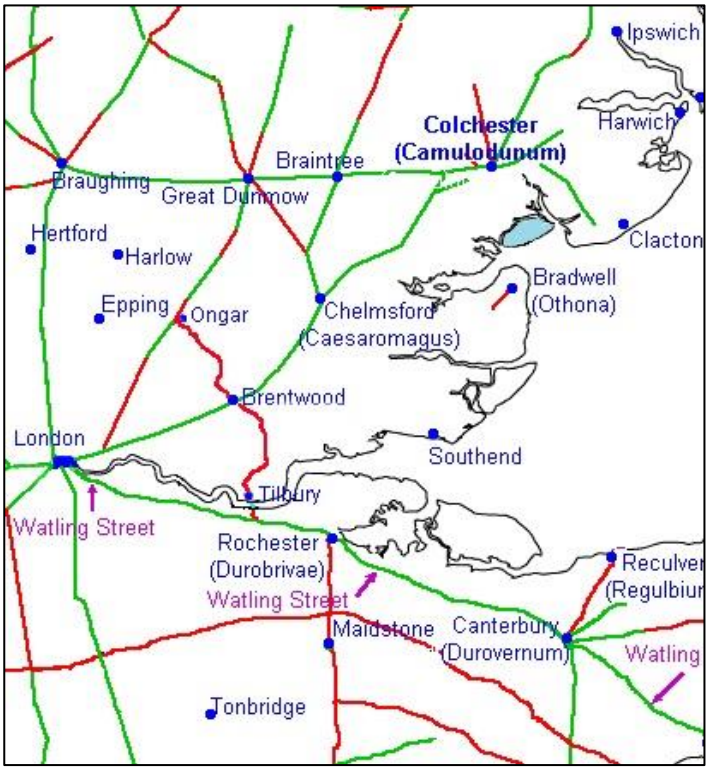

Figure 77: Known Roman roads (in green) and probable Roman road (in red) of south east Essex, with Mersea Island highlighted in blue (taken and edited from **http://polypath.wordpress.com/category/essex/brentwood/**)

The large amounts of Roman artefacts that have been recorded on the HER support the notion that there was a lot of activity on the island during the Roman period, particularly with the large scatter of different types of pottery, coins, brick and tile as well as a number of metal objects, all of which also date from the 1st to the late 4th century AD, and suggesting that Mersea island had continual occupation throughout the Roman period, until the end of Roman rule (Brown et al 2009). The mosaic floor that was recorded in the late 19th century around the vicinity of the church suggests that there was a probable villa on this site, which again implies there was a magnitude of wealth on the island.

The remains of a high-status burial have also been found from a large barrow situated in the north of the island and close to the Strood crossing. It was excavated in 1912 and was found to contain a central brick tomb in which were the cremated remains of an adult who was placed in a pale green glass jar, which was subsequently interred into a square lead casket (Tyler 2009). It is also believed to date from the very early 2nd century AD. Further burial sites were also recorded close to the church in West Mersea, the site is known as the Roman Mausoleum and was where the foundations of a circular Roman building were identified in the late 19th century and has since been interpreted as the base of a wheel tomb, given the similarities that were noted between this structure and similar ones in both Germany and Italy. It again suggests a degree of wealth was present for those who were laid to rest here. This may also have been part of a larger cemetery in West Mersea as a few metres to the east were found the cremated remains of a child between 12 and 15 months old, who was placed in a glass urn with a lead lid and again a date of the early 2nd century has been suggested for this burial. Both burials are quite close to the supposed villa

[34] http://www.essexinfo.net/east-mersea-parish-council/village-design-statement/ (Accessed April 2014)

site to the west of the church and may be contemporary. This display of status hints at the wealth that was accumulated by the people living on the island, utilising the natural resources and the proximity of Mersea to Colchester and the wider Roman Empire for trade, and its importance during the Roman period.

The test pitting in West Mersea recorded additional sherds of Romano-British pottery, mainly in the form of locally made Roman Greyware pottery; a total of 27 sherds of this were found from 12 of the 58 test pits (see map in appendix 12.3). From the 12 test pits that yielded Roman pottery, there was one cluster evident in the area to the west and north of the church (WME/06/1, WME/07/9, WME/07/3, WME/08/15, WME/08/18 and WME/09/5) and may have be associated with and contemporary with activities and occupation of the nearby villa site, perhaps as manuring for the fields. Roman pottery was also recorded further to the north (WME/10/1, WME/10/2, WME/09/9, WME/10/4 and WME/10/5) and east (WME/10/10), although still within West Mersea which also support the notion that West Mersea at least had a spread of occupation during the Roman period, either all as farmland, but additional farmsteads are also likely to have been on the island. The recovery of two sherds of Samian ware from WME/08/18 also hints at the good connections that this small island had with the rest of the Roman Empire.

The intensity of salt working appears to have increased into the Roman period, particularly given the large number of the red hill sites that have been identified on the HER from all over the island and date as Roman. It is likely that this part of the coast line was heavily utilised in the production of salt which was then exported to Colchester and other larger settlements in the south east as well as potentially to the continent as well.

8.3 Anglo-Saxon

Raids on the east coast of England and particularly Essex would have been common place even during the Roman period, although it was only after Roman rule left Britain that the country became more open to attacks from the continent. It was under Anglo-Saxon rule that Mersea acquired its name *Meresig* which means 'island of the pool' from the Old English word *mere*, which in this case it was probably used to describe the combined estuaries of both the Colne and Blackwater (Gelling 1993). It was however not known as *Meresig* until the 10th century and was soon after recorded as *Meresai* into the 11th century (Mills 2011).

Christianity first came to the Essex coast in AD 653 when a monk called Cedd was sent over from the continent and built was the very first churches at Bradwell and dedicated to St Peter, probably on the site of the Roman fort. Quite soon after, the church at West Mersea was built, also dedicated to St Peter and later became a Benedictine priory.[35] It was the wealth and importance of this minster that was the reasoning behind the construction of the Strood, which would have likely been constructed at the same time as the priory. Rising sea levels at this time also meant that a causeway was needed for access to and from the island so the monks would be able to carry out their work more efficiently and over a wider area. It was during excavation work for a water pipeline along the Strood in 1978 that found several timber pilings that were eventually dated to between 684-702 AD for its construction. It has been further suggested that the sheer magnitude of the construction, utilising over 4000 piles and covering a distance of up to 500m, would have only been undertaken due to the importance of access, most likely the church and who also would have needed a great deal of money to undertake this financial expenditure (Crummy et al 1982).

[35] http://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmhistory.php (Accessed April 2014)

In 793 AD it was recorded that the Vikings raided West Mersea and destroyed the church and priory[36] and it was from this period of disturbance on the island that the Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery (mid-8th to mid-9th century), excavated through the test pitting, dates to. A total of three sherds of Ipswich Ware were recorded from two test pits (WME/08/17 and WME/08/18), just to the north of the church along the High Street.

Surprisingly there is little to no archaeological evidence for the original church or priory in West Mersea and none of the test pits that were sited around the church yielded any Anglo-Saxon artefacts. It is possible that when the church was destroyed in the late 8th century, the inhabitants were forced to relocate elsewhere, potentially to the north around the locations of WME/08/17 and WME/08/18, where a small settlement may have been established. Further work in the area along the High Street would however be needed to confirm this theory.

Most of the spot finds also recorded on the HER for Mersea date from the Middle Anglo-Saxon period onwards, consisting of further pottery finds as well as coins and metal objects with fish traps and weirs that were probably associated with the two manors on the island. In the mid-10th century the church at West Mersea was re-built using the ruins of the Roman villa, from which it was also on the same site of[37] and was owned by the Aelfgar family, who held the manor at this time. The smaller moated manor of Bocking Hall and church in East Mersea was likely the site of an early 10th century Danish encampment,[38] which at this time had also passed to Christ Church in Canterbury (Hart 1980). By 1046 the church at West Mersea had reverted back to the crown and after being in his hands for only two days, King Edward the Confessor, in his charter decreed the church to the Abbey of St Ouen at Rouen in Normandy, the monks of who then became lords of the manor of West Mersea[39]. Despite the presence of a settlement here during the Late Anglo-Saxon period, no Late Saxon finds were excavated from any of the 58 test pits. This may be due to the nature of the test pitting strategy, in that the small 1m^2 excavations were either not able to get deep enough in the time available or that the pits were sited in the wrong place and therefore missed any remains that may still survive under the current settlement.

8.4 Medieval

As already mentioned in section 6, Mersea was recorded in the Domesday Book, but as the manor was already held by Normandy, the island was less influenced by the Norman invasion and the Battle of Hastings than perhaps the rest of the country was. Life on the island was mainly focused on farming as well as commercial fishing that had probably already been established from the Anglo-Saxon period, if not earlier.

The church in West Mersea was also developed at this time, as the tower dates from the 11th century[40] and the church of St Edmund in East Mersea was also constructed, the earliest foundations of which date from the 12th century.[41] The monks at St Ouen in Rouen

[36] http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/4503/Evidence-Base-Documents (Accessed April 2014)
[37] http://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmresdetails.php?tot=50&col=MM&pid=COR2_002&typ=all&rt=Article&syn=all&ord=dtadd&wds=&hit=41 (Accessed April 2014)
[38] http://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmhistory.php (Accessed April 2014)
[39] http://www.merseamuseum.org.uk/mmresdetails.php?tot=22&col=MM&pid=TXA00900&typ=all&rt=Article&syn=all&ord=dtadd&wds=&hit=21 (Accessed April 2014)
[40] http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=122946 (Accessed April 2014)
[41] http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=122873 (Accessed April 2014)

also held West Mersea until c.1420 when the estate was sold to the Archbishop of Canterbury[42].

It is evident from both the finds already recorded on the HER and the pottery that was excavated from the test pitting in West Mersea that there was a potentially quite scattered medieval settlement in West Mersea (appendix 12.3). A total of 70 sherds of high medieval pottery (AD 1066-1399) were recorded from 17 of the test pits that also appeared in small clusters of activity sited around the church, along Coast Road, up the High Street and at the northern end of Kingsland Road, perhaps representing isolated farmsteads or separate foci of activity related to manorial farm boundaries. All the pottery was locally made in Essex, the nearest production site for Essex Grey Ware in particular was at Colchester so it is perhaps not surprising that 55 sherds of this type of pottery was found through the test pits. It has been suggested that if five or more sherds of medieval pottery are found from one test pit, it likely indicates contemporary settlement in the immediate locale, whereas between one and four sherds of medieval pottery, likely indicate non-habitative activity, such as manuring of arable land (Lewis 2014).

The was a slight decrease in the amount of pottery found to date between the high and later medieval, which could be due to a number of factors and events that took place during the 14th century. A total of 50 sherds of mainly Late Medieval Colchester Ware were found from 18 of the test pits in West Mersea, the rest of the pottery has been recorded as German Stoneware (21 sherds) that would have been imported from the Rhineland in Germany. This pottery began its manufacture during the 15th century, so the very late medieval period, it also continued into the post medieval, but has been included as late medieval as an exact date cannot be determined. A single additional sherd of Cistercian Ware pot was also found from WME/06/3 in the west of the settlement that may reflect potentially different standards of living or different activities being undertaken here. The reduction of number of sherds between the high and late medieval pottery from the West Mersea test pits, has been calculated to be a decrease of 50% (Lewis 2016).

The changes during 14th century that would have affected the people of Mersea Island, started with a population boom, evident through the high medieval, which however then subsequently led to over population in some areas as well as land shortages and depleted soils. This was not helped by a series of both poor harvests and bad winters, subsequent famine and then of the course the Black Death that swept through the county. Although the amount of pottery found from the test pits cannot be equated to population figures at that time, the slight decline in the amount of pottery recovered from the test pits may reflect a minor population decline due to the Black Death. There may also have been small shifts in the settlement which would affect where the pottery was deposited, but the pottery distribution maps (appendix 12.3) do show that the later medieval pottery (AD 1400-1539) was mainly found in the similar areas of focus as recorded for the high medieval.

8.5 Post-Medieval and Later

The post medieval expansion of the settlement is well known, with the population of East Mersea especially expanding so that both parishes were almost equal in size. This was mainly due to the importance of the fishing industry, at a time when a large number of weirs and traps were also placed around the island[43].

[42] http://www.kemble.asnc.cam.ac.uk/node/157 (Accessed April 2014)
[43] http://www.essexinfo.net/east-mersea-parish-council/village-design-statement/ (Accessed April 2014)

This growth and expansion of West Mersea especially is seen in the test pit results and the amount and spread of the post medieval pottery that was identified. The vast majority of the pottery excavated from all the test pits dates to the post medieval and later, with 31 of the 58 test pits producing pottery of a post medieval date (AD 1540-1799). The test pitting results suggest that areas between the likely original scattered medieval settlements are beginning to be filled in and there is also an expansion of the village further north and east, although the layout of the village as seen today mainly dates from the 19th century and later when a large number of houses were built.

The majority of the post medieval pottery derived from a number of production sites in England to include specific sites in Essex, Staffordshire, Norfolk, Surrey/Hampshire and London (appendix 12.1.1). Only a small proportion of the pottery was imported and included five sherds of Cologne Stoneware, also made along the Rhineland in Germany with five sherds of Dutch Delft Ware and one sherd of Spanish Delft Ware. All the imported Delft Ware pottery derived from a single test pit, WME/08/9 along the Coast Road in the west of the town. The pottery found suggests that there was occupation on site from the high medieval period, but it was not until the late 15th and 16th century that status and wealth became evident in the archaeological record. The Spanish and Dutch wares are quite rare so suggest that the residents at that time here enjoyed an above average wealth, compared to the rest of the residents on the island.

9 Conclusion

The 58 archaeological test pits that were excavated in West Mersea, as part of the University of Cambridge's Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) with the help of Mersea Museum, have yielded archaeological evidence for settlement in West Mersea dating from the later prehistoric period through to the modern day. All the test pit results have also added to the 'bigger picture' of the development of the island as a whole which adds to both the previous archaeology and historical references to the settlement as well as also providing a new insight into the level of archaeological remains that are still present under West Mersea in particular.

The island has a long history from before the first humans arrived and the wild animals that roamed the Essex to the first evidence of permanent settlement during the Bronze Age. The test pitting strategy has also found evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlements as well as how the island was affected by Saxon and later invasions from the continent. The island appears to have been quite sheltered from the Black Death as there was a little drop off in the amount of pottery being found that dates to the later medieval, after which the village continues to grow. The test pitting results have also given a sense of the 19th century and later expansion of the village as it has taken the shape that is still seen today.

There is plenty of scope for further archaeological work in West Mersea. It is recommended that all the lithics from the test pits are analysed by a lithic expert, which will more accurately pin point the date and spread of the prehistoric activity in the parish. The test pitting strategy is also heavily reliant on people volunteering gardens and open spaces for the excavations so there is also scope for additional excavations in the village to 'fill in the gaps'. Re-examining some of the test pits that did not reach natural (27 of the 58 were not able to be excavated to natural in the time available) would also add to the picture of the archaeology in West Mersea. Although a lot of the archaeology on the island has been disturbed by later developments, there is still plenty of evidence under the extent of the current settlement.

10 Acknowledgements

The 2006 to 2010 test pit excavations in West Mersea were directed by Carenza Lewis with additional on-site supervision provided by Catherine Collins, Dan Auckett and Natalie White, with additional support provided by Jessica Rippengal, Jonathan Clynch and Matt Collins. The pottery analysis was undertaken by Paul Blinkhorn. The Higher Education Field Academy was funded by Aim Higher Essex and the European Social Fund, managed by Rachel Brown with additional funding provided from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Thanks must go to David Gallifant of Mersea Museum and Chris Kirkman who were the local coordinators in the village and found the test pit sites prior to the excavations. David Gallifant also kindly consulted on this report. The West Mersea Primary School also provided space for us to use the school as our base for the days that were digging on the island and for that we are immensely grateful. Our gratitude must also go to all the property owners in West Mersea who allowed the excavations to continue in their gardens and open spaces. Thank you also the 191 Year 9 and Year 10 school students who excavated the test pits and the staff and volunteers who supervised them. The schools involved with the five years of excavations were Clacton County High School, Manningtree High School, Tendring Technology College, The Colne Community School, Thomas Lord Audley School and Language College, Passmores School and Technology College, The Plume School, Colbayns High School, St Helena School, Alderman Blaxill School, Woodlands School, Gable Hall School, Clacton Costal Academy and Furtherwick Park School (school names correct at the time of excavation).

11 References

Aston, M.A. and Gerrard, C. 1999. 'Unique, traditional and charming: The Shapwick Project, Somerset' *The Antiquaries Journal,* 79, 1-58

Bennett, A. 2011. *The Historic Landscape Characterisation Report for Essex. Volume 1.* Chelmsford: Essex County Council and English Heritage

Beresford, M.W. 1954. *The Lost Villages of England*. London: Sutton

Beresford, M.W. and Hurst, J.G. 1971. *Deserted Medieval Villages.* London: Lutterworth Press

Brown, N; Gascoyne, A; Havis, R; Medlycott, M and O'Connor, T. 2009. *Colchester Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project.* Chelmsford: Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch

Clement, P and Rainbird, D (Eds) 2008-9. *West Mersea Village Appraisal Town Plan*.

Crummy, P; Hillam, J and Crossan, C 1982. Mersea Island: The Anglo-Saxon Causeway. *Essex Archaeology and History, Volume 14*

Crummy, P. 1992. Excavations at Culver Street, Gilberd School and other sites in Colchester. *Colchester Archaeological Trust Report No. 6.*

Gelling, M 1993. *Place Names in the Landscape*. London: Dent

Gerrard, C. 2003. *Medieval Archaeology: understanding traditions and contemporary approaches*. London: Routledge

Green, L.S (editor) 1999. *The Essex Landscape: In Search of its History. The 1996 Cressing Conference.* Chelmsford: Essex County Council

Hart, C 1980. The Mersea Charter of Edward the Confessor. *Essex Archaeology and History, Volume 12*

Holloway, B. 2005. An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex November 2003. *Colchester Archaeological Trust Report No. 255*

Hoskins, W.G. 1955. *The Making of the English Landscape*. London: Hodder & Stoughton

Jones, R and Page, M. 2007. *Medieval Villages, Beginning and Ends.* Macclesfield: Windgather Press

Lewis, C. 2005. 'Test pit excavation within occupied settlements in East Anglia in 2005'. *Medieval Settlement Research* 20, pp 9-16

Lewis, C. 2006. 'Test pit excavation within occupied settlements in East Anglia in 2006'. *Medieval Settlement Research* 21, pp 37-44

Lewis, C. 2007a. 'Test pit excavation within occupied settlements in East Anglia in 2007'. *Medieval Settlement Research* 22, pp 48-56

Lewis, C. 2007b. 'New Avenues for the Investigation of Currently Occupied Medieval Rural Settlement – Preliminary Observations from the Higher Education Field Academy'. *Medieval Archaeology* 51, pp 131-161

Lewis, C. 2008. 'Test pit excavation within occupied settlements in East Anglia in 2008' *Medieval Settlement Research* 23, pp 60-68

Lewis, C. 2009. 'Test pit excavation within occupied settlements in East Anglia in 2009' *Medieval Settlement Research* 24, pp 43-58

Lewis, C. 2012. 'Test pit excavation within currently occupied rural settlements – results of the University of Cambridge CORS project in 2011'. *Medieval Settlement Research 27,* pp 42-56

Lewis, C. 2013. 'Test pit excavation within currently occupied rural settlements – results of the University of Cambridge CORS project in 2012'. *Medieval Settlement Research,* pp 77-89

Lewis, C. 2014. 'The Power of Pits: Archaeology, outreach and research in living landscapes' in K. Boyle, R. Rabett and C. Hunt (eds) *Living in the Landscape.* Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research Monograph. pp 321-338.

Lewis, C. 2015. 'Test pit excavation within currently occupied rural settlements: results of East Anglian CORS project in 2014'. *Medieval Settlement Research 30,* pp 39-49

Lewis, C. 2016. 'Disaster recovery: new archaeological evidence for the long-term impact of the 'calamitous' fourteenth century'. *Antiquity, Volume 90, Issue 351,* pp 777-797

Lewis, C., Mitchell Fox, P., and Dyer, C. C. 2001. *Village, Hamlet and Field.* Macclesfield: Windgather

Lucy, G. 1999. *Essex Rock – A look beneath the Essex Landscape.* Essex Rock and Mineral Society

Mills, A.D. 2011. A Dictionary of British Place Names. 1st Edition Revised. Oxford: University Press

Nightingale, P. 2005. 'New Evidence of Crises and Trends of Mortality in Late Medieval England'. In *Past and Present, No.187, pp. 33-68*

Reany, P.H 1935. *The place name of Essex*. English Place Name Society Volume XI. Cambridge: University Press

Roberts, B.K. 1987. *The Making of the English Village*. Harlow: Longman

Roberts, B.K. and Wrathmell, S. 2000. *An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England*. London: English Heritage

Roberts, B.K. and Wrathmell, S. 2003. *Region and Place.* London: English Heritage

Robertson, A, 2007. *Water Pipeline Replacement, The Strood Causeway, West Mersea: Archaeological Monitoring*

Tyler, S. 2009. *West Mersea: Seaside Heritage Project, Historic Urban Characterisation Report*. Chelmsford: Essex County Council

Williams, A & Martin, G.H 2003. *Domesday Book, A Complete Translation. Volume III Little Domesday and index of places.* London: The Folio Society

12 Appendices

12.1 Pottery Reports – *Paul Blinkhorn*

12.1.1 All Pottery Types (in chronological order)

BA: Bronze Age. Simple, hand-made pots with large amounts of flint mixed in with the clay. Dates to around 1200 – 800 BC

LBA: Late Bronze Age. Simple, hand-made pots with large amounts of flint mixed in with the clay. Date to around 1200 – 800 BC

IA: Iron Age. Similar to the Late Bronze Age pottery, but with less flint and more sand in the clay. Dates mainly from around 800-50BC.

MIA: Middle Iron Age. Soft, grey-brown ware. Outside of vessels sometimes covered in vertical cut lines, giving it the named 'Scored Ware'. Found all over Eastern England between the 5th and 2nd centuries BC.

RG/RB: Roman Grey Ware. This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery and was made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. It was most common in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4th century.

Samian: Roman Samian Ware. High quality red pottery made in central and southern France. Dish and bowls, often with moulded decoration, and usually found at richer Roman sites. 1st – 2nd century AD.

IW: Ipswich Ware. The first industrially produced pottery to be made after the end of the Roman period. Made in Ipswich, and fired in kilns, some of which have been excavated. Most pots were jars, but bowls also known, as are jugs. It is usually grey and quite smooth, although some pots have varying amounts of large sand grains in the clay. Very thick and heavy when compared to later Saxon pottery, probably because it was made by hand rather than thrown on a wheel. Dated AD720 – 850.

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

Red: Essex Red Ware. 13th – 14th century. Reddish pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Made at lots of different sites around Essex. Glazed jugs with painted white liquid clay ('slip') decoration are not unusual.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found

near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

CW: Cistercian Ware: Made between AD1475 and 1700. So-called because it was first found during the excavation of Cistercian monasteries, but not made by monks. A number of different places are known to have been making this pottery, particularly in the north of England and the midlands. The pots are very thin and hard, as they were made in the first coal-fired pottery kilns, which reached much higher temperatures than the wood-fired types of the medieval period. Vessels usually tall, narrow cups with up to 8 handles, known as 'tygs'.

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

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

BW: Border Ware. Made near London, in Surrey and Hampshire, between 1550 and 1700. White, slightly sandy clay, lots of different types of pots such as cups, mugs, bowls and candlesticks, as well as many types of specialist cooking and eating vessels, usually with a bright green or yellow glaze.

PSW: 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.

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 19th century. The 17th century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19th century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were plain white, and humble vessels such as chamber pots and ointment jars. Such pottery was made for about 100 years before it was first made in Britain, particularly in Italy, Holland ('**DTGE**') and Spain ('**STGE**').

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

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.

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

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

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

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

SMW: Staffordshire Manganese Ware, late 17th – 18th century. Made from a fine, buff-coloured clay, with the pots usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze. A wide range of different types of pots were made, but mugs and chamber pots are particularly common.

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

CR: Creamware. This was the first pottery to be made which resembles modern 'china'. It was invented by Wedgewood, who made it famous by making dinner surfaces for some of the royal families of Europe. Made between 1740 and 1880, it was a pale cream-coloured ware with a clear glaze, and softer than bone china. There were lots of different types of pots which we would still recognise today: cups, saucers, plates, soup bowls etc. In the 19th century, it was considered to be poor quality as better types of pottery were being made, so it was often painted with multi-coloured designs to try and make it more popular.

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

12.1.2 2006 Results

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

WME/06/1

		RG		Grey		LMT		GRE		TGE		SWSG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1													16	31	1500-1900
1	2	1	2									1	6	15	41	100-1900
1	3									1	2			10	17	1600-1900
1	4													11	77	1800-1900
1	5			1	1			1	5					3	11	1200-1900
1	6	1	2													100-400
1	7	1	3			2	6									100-1500
1	8					1	1									1400-1500

This test-pit produced a number of sherds of Roman pottery, as well as a fragment of Roman box-flue tile, which is very likely to be part of the central heating system of a Roman villa. The site appears to have been abandoned by the end of the Roman period, and remained unoccupied until the medieval period. The main period of activity seems to date from around the 15th century until the present day. The Roman and medieval pottery is mixed up with later types though, suggesting that some of the Roman and medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging.

WME/06/2

		GS		GRE		TGE		SS		SWSG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			2	19							9	14	1550-1900
2	2			1	3							27	92	1550-1900
2	3			1	5					2	25	25	54	1550-1900
2	4			2	21			1	2			12	35	1550-1900
2	5			1	28			1	7			28	68	1550-1900
2	6	1	6	1	12							3	10	1550-1900
2	7					2	5	1	5			2	19	1600-1900
2	9			1	12									1550-1700

All the pottery from this test pit dates to the end of the medieval period onwards. It seems likely that people started living here in the middle of the 16th century, and the site has been occupied ever since.

WME/06/3

		Grey		LMT		GS		CW		GRE		SMW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1													2	11	1800-1900
3	2									2	11	1	2	44	138	1550-1900
3	3			1	7					1	7			23	55	1400-1900
3	4	1	4			1	4			2	5			7	32	1200-1900
3	5	1	1	1	10									4	5	1200-1900
3	6			1	9			1	9							1400-1700
3	7													1	2	1800-1900
3	8					1	2									1600-1900

The pottery from this site indicates that people have been living here since the medieval period. There is a full range of all of the commonest pottery types from about 1200 onwards. The medieval pottery is all mixed up with later types though, suggesting that the medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging.

WME/06/4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	2	2	9	1800-1900
4	3	3	12	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test pit dates to the 19th century. It shows that there was little human activity at the site before that time.

WME/06/5

		Grey		GS		GRE		TGE		SMW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1											13	24	1800-1900
5	2			1	9			1	2			20	29	1500-1900
5	3	1	1			1	4					19	64	1200-1900
5	4					1	45					19	66	1550-1900
5	5	1	9									3	12	1200-1900
5	6									1	2			1690-1800
5	7											1	1	1800-1900
5	8					46	1366							1550-1700

The pottery from this site indicates that people have been living here since the medieval period. There is a full range of most of the commonest pottery types from about 1200 onwards. It is all mixed up with later types though, suggesting that the medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging. The deepest context produced the broken up remains of a large 16th century GRE jar. The vessel had a hole drilled in the base, and may have been used as a flower-pot. In the 16th century, gardening was only really the preserve of the rich, as poorer people used their gardens to grow food or raise

pigs or chickens. It would seem that whoever was living here in the 16th century is likely to have been of above-average wealth, as they did not need to grow their own food.

WME/06/6

		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		SS		SWSG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1													9	12	1800-1900
6	2							3	25	2	8	1	3	13	73	1550-1900
6	4	1	3	2	20	1	1	4	26	1	8	1	2	13	67	1200-1900

The pottery from this site indicates that people have been living here since the medieval period. There is a full range of most of the commonest pottery types from about 1200 onwards. It is all mixed up with later types though, suggesting that the medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging.

12.1.3 2007 Results

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

WME/07/1

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1	6	20	1800-1900
1	2	1	5	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian suggesting that the area may have been fields until the 19th century.

WME/07/2

		SS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			2	4	1800-1900
2	2	2	4	12	43	1650-1900
2	4			1	6	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, although the single piece of Staffordshire Slipware shows that there were people at the site around the time of the Civil War, in the mid-late 17th century. The area may have been fields until the 19th century.

WME/07/3

		LBA		RG		Red		LMT		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1									6	10	1800-1900
3	2							1	6	3	35	1500-1900
3	3									2	8	1800-1900
3	4									4	9	1800-1900
3	6	1	3	1	18	1	4					1000BC - 1200

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, although there is earlier material. The Bronze Age, Roman and medieval pottery, suggesting that there have been people at the site at various times for the past 3,000 years. The lowest context produced no pottery later than the 13th century.

WME/07/4

		Red		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	2	2	4	32	55	1200-1900
4	3	1	5	3	3	1200-1900

This test pit produced a mixture of medieval and Victorian pottery. All the earlier material was mixed in with the later pottery, suggesting that they were disturbed by digging in the 19th century. The small amounts of medieval pottery and the small size of the sherds suggests that the area was fields at that time.

WME/07/5

		IA		Grey		Red		GS		GRE		WCS		BG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1					1	4	1	3					1	43	7	20	1200-1900
5	2							1	5			1	2			18	64	1500-1900
5	3			1	2							1	11			7	60	1100-1900
5	4									1	5					8	24	1550-1900
5	5									1	4					4	11	1550-1900
5	6															2	11	1800-1900
5	7	1	4							2	37					2	4	500BC - 1900

This test-pit produced pottery from the Iron Age, showing that people were at the site around 500BC. The rest of the pottery is medieval and later, showing that people have been at the site from the 13th century to the present day. All the earlier pottery was found in Victorian contexts, which shows that the ground was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

WME/07/6

		LMT		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1			1	13	16	24	1550-1900
6	2	1	10			40	114	1500-1900
6	3					29	64	1800-1900
6	4					3	7	1800-1900
6	5					1	1	1800-1900
6	6					1	5	1800-1900
6	7					3	3	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian apart from single pieces of 15th century and a sherd of 16th century types. The site may have been fields at that time, but was not really used by people until the 19th century.

WME/07/7

		Red		LMT		GRE		BW		WCS		MS		SS		EST		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	1																	2	14	1800-1900
7	3					1	1									1	12	18	64	1550-1900
7	4			1	9			1	2	1	3	1	23					8	24	1500-1900
7	5	2	2											2	7			5	9	1200-1900

The pottery from this test-pit was 13th century or later, but most of it was of Victorian date. It is possible that the site was fields before that time, but the fact that so many different types of pottery were found shows that there have been people here from around the 16th century onwards. All the earlier pottery was found in Victorian contexts, which shows that the ground was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

WME/07/8

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
8	3	1	2	1800-1900

Only one sherd of pottery was found in this test-pit, and it is of 19th date. This suggests that the site was not really used by people until quite recently.

WME/07/9

		IA		RB		Grey		Red		GS		WCS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1					1	4							5	9	1100-1900
9	2							2	9	1	8					1200-1600
9	3									1	2			1	2	1500-1900
9	4							1	2					3	19	1200-1900
9	5	1	7	1	6							1	2	1	16	500BC-1900

This test-pit produced pottery which suggests that there were two phases of human occupation at the site. The first was in the Iron Age and Roman periods, and the second from the 12th century onwards. There is not a lot of pottery, and the sherds are quite small, so the site may have been fields until the 19th century. All the earlier pottery was found in Victorian contexts, which shows that the ground was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

WME/07/10

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1	1	7	1800-1900
10	2	2	13	1800-1900

This test-pit only produced only three sherds of pottery, all of which are Victorian. This suggests that people have not used the site until quite recently.

12.1.4 2008 Results

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

WME/08/1

		BA		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1					1800-1900
1	2			2	21	1800-1900
1	3	1	6	1	2	1200BC-1900
1	4			2	7	1800-1900
1	5			3	3	1800-1900
1	7	1	3			1200-800BC

This test pit produced by far the oldest pottery, in the form of two sherds of Bronze Age material dating to between 1200 and 800BC. The last context produced only pot of this date; show that it was in its original position, and that there was a prehistoric settlement at the site. The rest of the pottery was Victorian, showing that there was very little human activity at the site between then and the Bronze Age.

WME/08/2

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1	2	2	1800-1900
2	2	2	4	1800-1900
2	3	2	17	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/3

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2	1	15	1800-1900
3	3	1	2	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1	2	2	1800-1900
4	2	15	21	1800-1900
4	3	2	3	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/5

		TGE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1			16	50	1800-1900
5	2	1	3	4	23	1600-1900
5	3			24	124	1800-1900
5	4			4	5	1800-1900
5	5			2	6	1800-1900
5	6			2	2	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time, apart from one sherd which is likely to be of 17th century date.

WME/08/6

		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	2	1	8			1550-1750
6	3			3	8	1800-1900
6	6			1	2	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time, apart from one sherd which is likely to be of 16th - 17th century date.

WME/08/7

		Grey		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	25	1100-1350
7	4	1	18	1100-1350
7	5	1	7	1100-1350
7	7	1	9	1100-1350

All the pottery from this test-pit was medieval, and dates to between 1100 and 1350. There was no other pottery, suggesting that the site was abandoned around the time of the Black Death, and was then left deserted until very recently.

WME/08/8

		GS		GRE		TGE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1							1	20	1800-1900
8	2							3	5	1800-1900
8	3			1	3			13	40	1800-1900
8	4							2	12	1800-1900
8	5					1	10	2	15	1600-1900
8	6	1	6					1	3	1500-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, but there was also earlier material, suggesting that people have been using the site since around AD1500.

WME/08/9

		Grey		Red		LMT		GS		DTGE		STGE		TGE		WCS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1					1	3											2	4	1400-1900
9	3			1	4							1	7					2	4	1200-1900
9	4			1	2	4	24							5	31					1200-1700
9	5	2	8			3	31	2	24	1	3					1	1			1200-1700
9	6	12	135			2	3													1200-1550

This test-pit produced a very interesting group of pottery which not only tells us about how long people have been living at the site, but also something about how they lived. The range of pottery shows that there have been people living here from around AD1200 until the present, but the pottery from the 1500s includes Dutch, Spanish and German wares. These are quite rare, and are mainly found in the houses of the richer members of society at that time, so whoever lived here in the 1500s was amongst the more well-off citizens of West Mersea.

WME/08/10

		LMT		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1	1	4	1400-1550

This test-pit produced only one piece of pottery, but it dates to around 1400-1550, showing that there were people here at that time.

WME/08/11

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
11	1	3	21	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/12

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
12	1	2	46	1800-1900
12	2	3	57	1800-1900
12	3	3	21	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/13 – No pottery excavated

WME/08/14

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
14	1	1	3	1800-1900
14	2	1	2	1800-1900
14	3	2	4	1800-1900
14	4	12	17	1800-1900
14	5+	54	1248	1910-1930

All the pottery from this test-pit was 19th century or later. The lower contexts are all from the same feature, an 'ash-pit' which was used for disposing of household rubbish. Some of the types of pottery present suggest that it dates to around the time of the First World War.

WME/08/15

		RG		SWSG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
15	2					3	24	1800-1900
15	3	1	7	1	2	1	1	100-1900
15	4			1	3	3	8	1720-1900

This test-pit produced a single small sherd of Roman pottery, showing that there was activity there at that time, but the site was then abandoned until around the middle of the 18th century, and people have been living there ever since.

WME/08/16

		Grey		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
16	1	1	6			2	12	1100-1900
16	2					7	14	1800-1900
16	3			1	3	4	13	1550-1900
16	4					2	8	1800-1900
16	5					3	25	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit dates to the 19th century, but two pieces of earlier wares were there as well. One was medieval, and shows that people were using the site in the 12th or 13th century, and the dates to the 16th century.

WME/08/17

		IW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
17	2			8	43	1800-1900
17	3			2	2	1800-1900
17	4			6	25	1800-1900
17	5	1	6			720-850

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, apart from a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery from context 5. This was the only pottery from this context, and so it is likely that it comes from an undisturbed soil layer of 8th or 9th century date.

WME/08/18

		RG		Samian		IW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
18	2	1	4					2	14	100-1900
18	3							10	34	1800-1900
18	4	4	12							100-400
18	5	1	12			1	24			100-850
18	6	4	9	2	2	1	23			100-850

This test-pit produced a small amount of Victorian pottery, but otherwise, all the finds were Roman or Anglo-Saxon. Context 4, 5, and 6 did not produce any pottery later than the Anglo-Saxon period, and shows that there were people living at the site at that time. The large amount of Roman pottery present shows that people were also living here in Roman times, but the Roman layers were disturbed by the Anglo-Saxons. The site appears to have been abandoned between the 9th century and the 19th century.

WME/08/19

		MIA		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
19	1					1	2	1800-1900
19	2			1	2	2	3	1550-1900
19	3					1	1	1800-1900
19	4	4	15					500-200BC

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, apart from a small amount of Iron Age pottery from context 4. No other pottery was present in this context, so it would appear that there was prehistoric settlement at the site. It was then abandoned until the 19th century.

WME/08/20

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
20	1	4	13	1800-1900
20	3	3	3	1800-1900
20	5	1	1	1800-1900

All the pottery from this site was Victorian, so there was probably no human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/21

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
21	1	2	4	1800-1900
21	2	6	25	1800-1900

All the pottery from this site was Victorian, so there was probably no human activity at the site before that time.

WME/08/22

		GS		BW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
22	1	1	6			1	1	1500-1900
22	2					3	10	1800-1900
22	3	1	7	1	3	8	19	1500-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, but there is also earlier material, suggesting that people have been living at the site from around AD1500 onwards.

12.1.5 2009 Results

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

WME/09/1

		Grey		Red		LMT		GS		GRE		BW		PSW		SS		CR		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1																			6	13	1800-1900
1	2			1	5					1	1	1	7			1	2			16	34	1200-1900
1	3							1	1									2	2	22	36	1550-1900
1	4							1	2					1	1					9	21	1550-1900
1	5	1	4			1	8			2	75			1	3					6	8	1100-1900

This test-pit produced a wide range of pottery which shows that people have been living on the site continuously since the early medieval period.

WME/09/2

		Grey		Red		GRE		SS		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	2			1	6					1	3	2	2	1200-1900
2	3			1	2	1	7	1	2					1200-1700
2	4									1	1			1750-1800
2	5	2	5											1100-1200

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people have been at the site more or less continuously since the early medieval period, although there is no late medieval pottery, and the fact that only a few sherds of each type were found means that it may have been fields rather than where people lived.

WME/09/3

		IA		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2			2	13	1800-1900
3	3			2	10	1800-1900
3	4	1	4			500-100BC
3	6			1	4	1800-1900

This site seems to have been occupied during prehistoric times, but was then abandoned until the 19th century.

WME/09/4

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	4	3	7	1800-1900

The pottery from this site shows that it was not used before the 19th century.

WME/09/5

		RG		GRE		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	2			1	1			3	7	1550-1900
5	3							2	8	1800-1900
5	4							1	7	1800-1900
5	5					1	1			1750-1800
5	6	1	1							AD50-400

This site was used by people in Roman times, but was then abandoned until after the end of the medieval period. It produced very little pottery dating to before the 19th century, so may have been fields before then.

WME/09/6

		LMT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	3			1	1	1	1	1550-1900
6	4	1	5					1475-1550

This test-pit produced a couple of sherds of pottery dating to around the end of the medieval period, and just one piece of Victorian. It was probably used as fields during all that time.

WME/09/7

		LMT		GS		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	3	1	7	1475-1600

This test-pit produced a one sherd of pottery dating to the late medieval period, and just one piece of Victorian. It was probably used as fields during all that time.

WME/09/8

		PSW		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
8	3	1	19	1700-1800

This site only produced one piece of pottery, and it dates to the 17th century. This shows that the site has never been used very much by people, other than perhaps as fields.

WME/09/9

		BA		RG		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		SS		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1											2	29					16	54	1550-1900
9	2																	18	40	1750-1900
9	3					1	3											18	31	1100-1900
9	4	1	6	1	6							1	11	1	1			23	42	1200BC-1900
9	5									1	1					1	1	23	66	1550-1900
9	6							1	24									1	2	1475-1900

This test-pit produced a lot of pottery which covers a very long period of time. It shows that people were here in the Bronze Age and in Roman times, and then moved back to the site in the early part of the medieval period, and have been here ever since.

WME/09/10

		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
10	3	1	3	1	5	1720-1900

This test-pit did not produce any pottery dating to before the early 18th century, and shows that people did not use the site before that time. The fact that very little pottery generally was found suggests that the site has never been lived on until very recently, probably when the existing house was built.

12.1.6 2010 Results

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

WME/10/1

		RB		GS		GRE		SS		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1					1	5	1	8			10	16	1550-1900
1	2	2	7									26	42	100-1900
1	3					2	12					46	70	1550-1900
1	4					1	4			1	4	25	44	1550-1900
1	5			1	5			1	2			28	60	1550-1900
1	6											2	5	1800-1900

This test-pit produced two sherds of Roman pottery, showing that people were using the site at that time. There is then no more pottery until at least 1550, with most of it dating to the Victorian era, so it is unlikely people were living here in the medieval period.

WME/10/2

		RG		GS		GRE		TGE		EST		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			1	20	3	7					3	10	19	65	1550-1900
2	2	1	12									3	3	32	122	100-1900
2	3	1	25			1	4	1	3	2	5	1	1	21	38	100-1900
2	4									1	1			7	19	1720-1900
2	5													1	6	1800-1900

This test-pit produced two quite large pieces of Roman pottery, showing that people were using the site at that time. There was no medieval pottery, so the site was probably not used during that time, but there is quite a lot of post-medieval material, especially from around 1600 onwards.

WME/10/3

		Grey		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1			1	5	1800-1900
3	2	1	1	11	30	1100-1900
3	3			10	21	1800-1900
3	4			3	14	1800-1900
3	5	1	10	2	4	1100-1900
3	6			1	3	1800-1900
3	7			1	5	1800-1900

Nearly all the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, but there was also two pieces of medieval wares, showing that people were here at that time.

WME/10/4

		RG		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		TGE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1							1	4							4	11	1500-1900
4	2					1	4									4	14	1400-1900
4	3			2	4					1	5	1	2			3	10	1100-1900
4	4			2	10									1	6	4	5	1100-1900
4	5			10	54											1	4	1100-1900
4	6	1	7	6	37													100-1200
4	7			2	11													1100-1200

This test-pit produced a lot of medieval pottery, all of which seems to date to the 12th century. There are smaller quantities dating from around AD1400 onwards, so the site has probably been used more or less continuously since the 12th century. There is also a small piece of Roman pottery, so people were also using the site at that time, although it seems to have been abandoned throughout the Saxon period.

WME/10/5

		BA		RG		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1			1	2					100-200
5	2	1	4			1	4			1500BC-1500
5	3	1	3					1	1	1500BC-1900

This test-pit did not produce much pottery, but that which was found is mostly very old. The Bronze Age pottery is a very rare find, and shows that people were using the site over 3000 years ago. The piece of Roman pottery indicates that the site was also in use at that time, but it appears to have been fields since then until very recently.

WME/10/6

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1	2	11	1800-1900
6	2	2	14	1800-1900
6	3	1	2	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, and shows that the site was not used by people before that time.

WME/10/7

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
7	3	2	15	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, and shows that the site was not used by people before that time.

WME/10/8

		SS		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1			12	71	1800-1900
8	2			8	45	1800-1900
8	3			2	25	1800-1900
8	5	1	10			1650-1750

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, apart from a single sherd that dates to around the time of the Civil War, and shows that the site was not used by people before that time.

WME/10/9

		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	2			1	4	1800-1900
9	3	1	6	2	5	1550-1900
9	4	1	4			1550-1600

This test-pit did not produce much pottery but that which was found shows that the site was used from around the 16th century.

WME/10/10

		RG		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	2	1	1	100-200
10	3	2	70	100-200

All the pottery from this test-pit was Roman, and suggests very strongly that there is a settlement of that date close by. The lack of any other sorts of pot show that it was not used from Roman times until the modern houses were built.

12.2 Other Finds – *Catherine Collins*

12.2.1 2006 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	tile x5 = 93g, clay pipe stem x 1 = 1g, small piece of grey tile roman tessera for mosaic = 2g	clear window glass = <1g, green bottle glass x3 = 7g, medieval/post med glass fragment = 3g	iron nails 3 = 20g	coal x3 =<1g	oyster shell x5 = 4g, concrete= 27g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x 6 = 10g, tile x19 = 132g, small piece of red stone roman tessera for mosaic = 3g	orange bottle glass = 10g	small piece unidentified metal = 3g	coal x14 = 22g	oyster shell x6 = 12g, concrete x2 = 10g
C.3	clay pipe stem x 3 = 6g, tile x5 = 62g	dark green bottle glass x1 = 3g	iron nail = <1g, small plate of iron with 2 nails sticking out = 16g	coal x13 = 13g	slate = 4g, oyster shell 10 = 64g, sea shells x3 = 12g, concrete x3 =20g
C.4	tile x15 = 271g, yellow tile x1 = 40g, clay pipe stem x 4 = 8g	green bottle glass x1 = 1g	iron nail x1 = 4g	coal x4 = 6g	oyster shell x1 = 4g, sea shell x1 = 4g
C.5	CBM fragments x26 = 446g, mortar/daub x3 = 65g		iron nail x1 = 16g		
C.6	CBM fragments x 16 = 496g, mortar/daub x1 = 33g				
C.7	CBM fragments x20 = 492g				concrete x3 =81g
C.8	CBM fragments x13 = 285g			stone tile? = 100g	concrete x6 = 388g

Table 58: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/06/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	tile fragments x 5 = 82g, clay pipe stem x 1 = 2g	green bottle glass x1 = 1g, clear window glass x1 = <1g	iron nail x2 = 4g, metal cartridge casing? = 10g	coal x4 = 7g	oyster shell x3 = 2g, snail shell x1 = 3g, slate x1 = 0g
C. 2	CBM fragments x 6 = 95g, clay pipe stem x1 = <1g	clear bottle glass x3 = 12g, clear window glass x3 = 4g, pink container glass x1 = 1g, dark green bottle glass x3 = 39g	iron nails x3 = 17g, scrap iron x1 = 11g	coal x14 = 30g	oyster shell x3 = 6g, slate x3 = 22g, snail shell x2 = 4g, concrete x4 =45g
C.3	clay pipe stem x 3 = 6g, CBM fragments x 10 = 154g	clear flat glass x5 = 8g, clear container glass x3 = 9g, orange bottle glass x1 = 4g, green bottle glass x1 = 1g, pink glass x1 = <1g, green glazed glass x4 = 11g	iron nails x 2 = 10g, small metal hoop = <1g	coal x17 = 51g	slate x2 = 15g, oyster shell x4 = 9g, sea shells x1 = 1g, green plastic fragments x2 =<1g, concrete =13g
C.4	clay pipe stem x 2 = 5g, CBM fragments x7 = 27g	green bottle glass x1 = 2g, clear bottle glass x1 = 4g	bent iron nail? = 21g, metal rusted onto decaying wood x1 = 37g	coal x10 = 31g	oyster shell x4 = 12g, slate x1 = <1g
C.5	CBM fragments x22 = 329g, clay pipe stem x 1 = 2g	clear bottle glass x 3 = 37g (including a neck), green bottle glass x 2 = 27g	iron nail x1 = 4g	coal x24 = 68g	slate x2 = 9g, oyster shell x2 = 9g, concrete x2 = 26g
C.6	CBM fragments x11 =158g			coal x2 =3g	
C.7	CBM fragments x15 =277g	dark green glazed bottle glass x1 = 30g, clear bottle glass x 2 = 5g		coal x2 =3g	
C.8	CBM fragments x4 =23g				
C.9	CBM fragment =24g				

Table 59: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/06/2

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	tile x2 = 78g	green bottle glass x1 = 6g	small thin flat piece of iron = 3g	coal x6 = 7g	oyster shell 11 = 18g, sea shells x4 = 5g
C. 2	tile x15 =133g	clear flat glass x1 = <1g, clear container glass x6 = 37g	iron nails x3 = 14g	coal x12 =30g	oyster shell x50 = 82g, seashells x15 = 36g
C.2/3	clay pipe stem x8 =17g				
C.3	brick/tile x5 = 165g	clear bottle glass x8 = 36g, clear flat glass x2 = 2g	iron nails x3 = 16g, small iron ring with possible pin attachment (broach?) = 18g, small silver rod – watch attachment perhaps? = 5g	coal x 3 = 10g	slate x2 = 16g, oyster shells x 36 = 56g, seashells x16 = 44g, small piece pink plastic = 2g, decorated handle?? = 10g
C.4	tile x12 = 239g, clay pipe stem x 7 = 11g	clear flat glass x1 = 3g, clear bottle glass 1 = 15g	iron nail x1 = 8g, scrap iron x2 = 12g, small metal button =2g	coal x4 = 12g	cockle shell 2 = 4g, oyster shell x19 = 44g
C.5	tile x3 =75g		iron nail x1 = 7g	coal x3 =7g	oyster shell x10 =8g
C.6	tile x3 = 41g			coal x1 =<1g	oyster shell x2 = 4g
C.7	tile =158g			coal x2 =2g	seashells x5 =3g
C.8				coal =3g	oyster shell x2 =11g
C.9	tile x2 =93g		scrap iron x2 =82g		

Table 60: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/06/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	CBM fragments x9 = 65g	clear flat glass x3 = <1g			oyster shell x1 = <1g
C.3	clay pipe stem x 1 = 4g, CBM fragments x12 = 76g			coal x2 = 2g	
C.5	tile x2 =49g				

Table 61: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/06/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragment x1 = 10g		iron nails x2 = 10g	coal x3 13g	seashells x3 = 9g, slate x1 = 4g
C. 2		clear flat glass x1 = 5g, clear container glass x2 = 11g, dark green bottle glass x2 = 4g	iron nails x2 = 27g	coal x11 = 27g	seashells x4 = 12g, oyster shell x1 = 4g
C.3	clay pipe stem x 1 = <1g	blue glass x1 = <1g, clear container glass (fragments of fish paste bottle?) x1 = 10g, clear container glass x1 = 1g	crushed metal thimble (19th century) = 3g	coal x10 = 63g	slate x2 = 14g, oyster shell x2 = 3g, seashells x10 = 30g
C.4	CBM fragments x13 = 139g	green bottle glass x1 = 8g, clear bottle glass x1 =<1g,			bone button = <1g, oyster shell x1 = 3g, slate x1 = 6g, seashells x5 = 10g
C.5	CBM fragments x12 = 447g	clear flat glass x1 = 5g	iron nails x3 = 40g, lump of iron x1 = 4g	coal x1 = 4g	oyster shell x2 = 8g, seashells x4 = 12g
C.6	CBM fragments x 21 = 102g		iron nails x1 = 67g	coal x13 = 70g	oyster shell x1 = 9g
C.7	CBM fragments x21 = 1051g, 15 = 1511g, brick fragments x2 = 1677g			coal x1 = 1g	
C.8	CBM fragments x 42 = 7666g		iron nail x1 = 6g	coal x1 = 25g	

Table 62: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/06/5

WME/06/6

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x 2 = 3g, CBM fragments x9 = 49g	dark green bottle glass x1 = 15g, clear bottle glass x1 = 27g	iron nail with square head x1 = 9g, small iron nail = <1g	coal x2 = 4g	oyster shell x32 = 63g, cockle shells x1 = 1g, seashells x3 = 31g, slate =1g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x 8 = 12g, brick/tile fragments x27 = 263g	green bottle glass =2g	iron nails x3 = 14g	coal x2 = 6g	oyster shells x11 = 59g
C.4	brick/tile fragments x23 = 451g, clay pipe stem x 5 = 8g	glazed glass =18g	iron nails x2 = 15g, small metal disc =<1g	coal x6 =13g	oyster shells x26 = 148g, seashells x3 = 16g, concrete x2 =16g

Table 63: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/06/6

12.2.2 2007 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x12 = 96g, fragments of drain x1 = 17g	clear window glass x2 = 17g, clear container glass x1 = 4g	slag x2 = 22g, iron nails x2 = 15g	coal x14 = 9g	mortar x3 = 17g, modern lino x1 = <1g
C. 2			iron nails x11 = 58g, slag x1 = 5g		concrete x3 = 230g

Table 64: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x8 = 107g		iron nails x1 = 3g		coal x1 = 1g
C. 2	CBM x1 = 24g, clay pipe stem x4 = 8g	light green bottle glass x2 = 7g, clear window glass x1 = 3g	iron nails x6 = 115g, scrap iron x5 = 29g, unidentified metal = 3g		slate x1 = 8g
C.3			iron nails x2 = 69g, scrap iron x1 = 12g, twisted wire = 3g		

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x4 = 22g, toy plastic man = 4g	clear container glass x1 = 8g	scrap iron x3 = 129g, iron nails x4 = 21g, scrap metal x1 = 1g	coal x2 = 1g	
C. 2	CBM x2 = 8g, modern tile x2 = 8g, green glazed tile x1 = 6g	clear window glass x2 = 7g, clear container glass x2 = 3g	iron nails x2 = 8g, scrap iron x2 = 51g, iron nails x1 = 6g	coal x7 = 8g	concrete x3 = 118g, cockle shell x1 = <1g, burnt newspaper fragments = <1g
C.3	CBM x4 = 30g, clay pipe stem x1 = 4g	clear window glass x1 = 6g	scrap iron x3 = 127g, iron nail x1 = 25g	coal x1 = 7g	
C.4	CBM x14 = 40g	clear container glass x1 = 2g, clear window glass x1 =3g	iron nails x5 = 49g, scrap iron x1 = 55g	coal x14 = 32g	
C.5	modern CBM =2g	clear container glass x2 = 2g	scrap iron =14g		
C.6	CBM =<1g				

Table 65: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	CBM x38 = 381g, clay pipe stem x2 = 2g, clay pipe bowl fragments x1 = <1g	light green bottle glass x2 = 4g, clear container glass x1 = 10g, clear window glass x2 =4g		coal x 51 = 91g	plastic valve =2g
C.3	modern CBM x2 = 24g, CBM x6 = 60g			coal x8 = 9g	slate x5 = 41g, sea shell x2 = <1g, oyster shell x1 = 4g
C.4	CBM x5 = 68g	dark green glazed container glass x1 = 3g		coal x2 = 3g	concrete x2 = 11g
C.5	CBM x5 = 50g				
C.6	CBM x9 = 120g				
C.7	CBM x2 = 1g				

Table 66: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x2 = 6g, CBM x6 = 78g		iron nails x2 = 44g	coal x5 = 8g	
C. 2	CBM x10 = 286g, clay pipe stem x2 = 4g, clay pipe bowl fragment x2 = 5g, black glazed tile/pot x1 = 20g		iron nail x1 = 7g		oyster shell x2 = 36g
C.3	clay pipe stem x3 = 11g, red tile x6 = 139g, yellow brick fragments x2 = 48g			coal x2 = 25g	oyster shell x2 = 30g
C.4	clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, red CBM fragments x24 = 355g, yellow CBM x2 = 12g		small metal hoop = <1g	coal x3 = 6g	oyster shell x3 = 18g, sea shell x1 = 1g, slate x1 = 2g
C.5	Roman tile x1 = 49g, red CBM x35 = 820g, clay pipe stem x3 = 4g			coal x1 = 2g	oyster shell x1 = 4g
C.6	CBM x6 = 125g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g			coal =1g	oyster shell x1 = 65g
C.7	red CBM x10 = 215g, yellow CBM x1 = 3g		iron nail x1 = 6g, small scrap iron x1 = 8g		oyster shell x1 = 1g

Table 67: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/5

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x5 = 56g, clay pipe stem x2 = 3g	clear container glass x4 = 5g, dark green bottle glass x1 = 6g	iron nails x15 = 54g, metal wire x1 = 2g, small iron ring = 1g	coal x13 = 21g	slate x11 = 36g, oyster shell x3 = 15g, sea shells x2 = 2g, plastic x3 =2g
C. 2	CBM x10 = 42g	clear container glass x4 = 21g, clear window glass x5 = 8g	iron nails x7 = 26g, a small rectangular metal plate x1 = 28g	coal x21 =57g	slate x8 = 67g
C.3	CBM x9 = 26g	clear container glass x7 = 24g, clear window glass x4 = 5g, light green bottle glass x2 = 12g	iron nails x1 = 4g, iron key? = 7g, metal fixing = 3g	coal x31 = 48g	oyster shell x1 = 6g, sea shells x1 = 4g, slate x2 =14g
C.4	CBM x2 = 21g			coal x12 = 40g	slate x2 = 2g
C.5	CBM =8g			coal x7 =15g	
C.6				coal x2 =29g	
C.7	CBM =4g		iron nails x4 = 9g, decorated metal disc =1g	coal x7 =90g	slate x2 =3g

Table 68: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/6

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C.3	clay pipe stem x3 = 7g, clay pipe bowl fragment x1 = <1g	clear container glass x1 = 5g	iron nails x3 = 12g, scrap iron x2 = 45g	coal x3 = 11g	button =1g
C.4	CBM x9 = 151g, clay pipe stem x2 = 3g		iron nails x2 = 15g, metal disc fragment? x2 = 3g	coal x1 = 2g	oyster shell x3 = 12g
C.5	CBM x5 = 24g, yellow brick fragment x1 = 370g			coal x1 = 1g	oyster shell x7 = 33g, sea shells x5 = 10g, button x1 = 1g, concrete x1 = 7g

Table 69: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/7

Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x7 = 107g		iron nails x2 = 42g	coal x5 = 19g	
C. 2	CBM x19 = 251g		iron nail x1 =5g	coal x2 = 1g	slate x1 = 2g

Table 70: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/8

Test Pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x39 = 113g	clear window glass x1 =<1g	scrap iron x1 = 32g	coal x1 = 2g	oyster shell x1 = <1g
C. 2	CBM fragments x84 = 935g	dark green bottle glass x3 = 33g, clear container glass x2 = 18g, light green bottle glass x1 = 2g	iron nails x3 = 31g	coal x9 = 26g	oyster shell x31 = 92g
C.3	clay pipe stem x2 = 5g, CBM x83 = 1273g		iron nails x2 = 19g	coal x1 = 2g	oyster shell x26 = 295g
C.4	brick fragments x3 = 2377g , CBM fragment x 28 = 797g, clay pipe stem x1 = 4g	light green bottle glass x1 = 3g	scrap iron x7 = 11g		oyster shell x2 = 1g
C.5	large tiles x2 = 2038g, CBM x50 = 1345g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g		iron nails x1 = 6g	coal x1 = 3g	

Table 71: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/9

Test Pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x7 = 162g, fragments of drain x5 = 67g	clear window glass x1 = 1g	iron wire = 8g	coal x4 = 18g	oyster shell x1 = <1g, sea shells x1 = <1g
C. 2	fragments of drain x7 = 369g, CBM x3 = 35g	clear container glass x1 = 1g	iron nail x1 = 9g, metal fixing x1 = 4g	coal x3 = 4g	slate x2 = 15g, sea shell x3 = 1g, cockle shell x1 = 1g, oyster shell x1 = 1g, blue plastic bead x1 = 1g

Table 72: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/07/10

12.2.3 2008 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x6 = 65g	clear window glass x1 = 2g, clear container glass x1 = 2g	iron nails x2 = 14g, modern nail x1 = 2g	coal x10 = 21g, unworked sandstone x1 = 23g	fragment of orange plastic = <1g, concrete x4 = 136g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x1 = 5g	clear container glass x2 = 18g	iron nails x2 = 8g	coal x7 = 22g	clunch x1 = 21g
C.3	red CBM fragments x3 = 26g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g	clear container glass x3 = 22g, clear window glass x1 = 2g	iron nails x3 = 13g	coal x4 = 11g	clunch x2 = 69g, orange plastic x1= <1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x3 = 47g	clear window glass x1 = 2g, green bottle glass x1 = 4g, clear container glass x3 = 7g	iron nails x1 = 10g	coal x7 = 13g	
C.5	red CBM fragments x8 = 37g	clear window glass x1 = <1g	iron nails x2 = 5g	coal x6 = 6g	clunch x2 = 32g
C.6	red CBM fragments x4 = 85g			coal x3 = 3g	
C.7		clear container glass x1 = 2g, light green bottle glass x1 = <1g			

Table 73: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	modern CBM fragments x1 = 15g				sea shell x2 = 5g, concrete x1 = 98g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x1 = 2g			coal x1 = 11g	
C.3	modern drain fragment x1 = 27g, red CBM fragment x1 = <1g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g	clear container glass x1 = 14g	iron nails x1 = 5g		
C.4	red CBM fragments x1 = 4g				
C.5	flat red tile fragments x1 = 187g			coal x3 = 6g	

Table 74: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/2

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x1 = 10g	clear container glass x1 = 5g	iron nails x15 = 78g, metal hooks (that will screw into wall) x2 = 10g, large iron bolt = 58g, modern metal valve part = 2g	coal x3 = 2g	melted plastic lumps x2 = 7g, burnt wood (unworked) x3 = 2g, white Perspex = 7g
C. 2		clear window glass x2 = 15g, clear container glass x1 = 4g	iron nails x4 = 16g, metal screw x1 = 7g, slag? =<1g		melted plastic x1 = 2g, white Perspex x1 = 3g
C.3	red CBM fragments x2 = 30g	clear container glass x8 = 36g	modern nails x4 = 11g, iron nails x7 = 26g	coal x8 = 15g	
C.4				coal x1 = <1g	concrete x1 = 206g, melted plastic x2 = 5g, white Perspex =6g

Table 75: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1		dark green bottle glass x1 = 34g, light green bottle glass x1 = 3g	scrap iron x1 = 4g	coal x2 = 9g	charred wood x2 = 13g
C. 2		clear container glass x1= 4g	iron nails x2 = 24g, lump of scrap iron x1 = 36g	coal x1 = 3g	slate x1 = 9g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x2 = 45g, red CBM fragments x1 = 33g	clear window glass x1 = 10g	iron nails x2 = 27g	coal x10 = 12g	

Table 76: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2		clear container glass x2 = 14g		coal x3 = 4g	oyster shell x1 = 9g
C.3		orange bottle glass x1 = 8g, clear container glass x1 = 2g, light green bottle glass x1 = 2g	iron bolt x1 = 27g		oyster shell x1 = 6g
C.4		clear container glass x1 = 29g			melted plastic? = 3g
C.5	white flat (ceramic?) disc – no markings = 8g				

Table 77: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/5

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	flat red tile fragment x1 = 23g	clear container glass x1 = 4g			
C.3	flat red tile fragments x2 = 32g, curved red CBM fragments x1 = 11g		lump of iron = 48g		
C.4	flat red tile fragments x3 = 65g			coal x1 = 2g	
C.5	red CBM fragments x1 = 4g				concrete x1 = 3g, oyster shell x1 = 2g
C.6	modern CBM fragments x3 = 15g			coal x2 =6g	

Table 78: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/6

WME/08/7

No Finds recorded

Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x1 = 25g, red CBM fragments x4 = 35g, clay pipe stem x2 = 3g	dark green bottle glass x1 = 5g, clear window glass x1 = <1g	modern screws x7 = 97g, iron nails x4 = 23g, slag x1 = 13g, scrap metal x5 = 40g, flat round metal discs with holes in centre x2 = 12g	coal x3 = 7g	sea shell x1 = 7g, oyster shell x3= 5g, cockle shell x2 = 2g, plaster? x1 = 2g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x5 = 20g	clear container glass x2 = 7g	part of horseshoe x2 = 64g, modern screw x1 = 18g, scrap iron x2 = 16g	coal x8 = 15g	oyster shell x4 = 17g, sea shells x4 = 9g, snail shells x3 = 12g, slate x2 = 3g, concrete x1 = 7g
C.3	red CBM fragments x5 = 26g, clay pipe stem x3 = 9g	green bottle glass x1 = 7g, clear bottle glass x1 = 15g	iron nails x1 = 5g, part of a horseshoe x1 = 11g	coal x27 = 57g	slate x1 = 10g, sea shells x12 = 39g, cockle shells x1 = <1g, oyster shell x10 =15g
C.4	red CBM fragments x9 = 72g, clay pipe stem x2 = 2g	green bottle glass x3= 32g (flaky and degraded), clear container glass x2 = 1g, clear window glass x1 = 1g	iron nails x4 = 19g, decorate flat thin plate of metal = 3g, folded plate of copper? = 3g, part of a horseshoe = 37g, scrap metal x1 = 12g, slag x1 = 3g	coal x17 = 37g	oyster shell x10 = 62g, cockle shell x1 = 4g, sea shells x7 = 23g, slate x1 = 33g
C.5	flat red tile fragment x1 = 50g, red CBM fragments x2 = 46g	green bottle glass x1 = 8g	iron nails x1 = 4g, scrap metal x1 = 2g	coal x2 = 5g	oyster shell x4 = 10g
C.6	red CBM fragments x1 = 32g, slightly curved red roof tile x1 = 60g			coal x2 = 12g	oyster shell x1 = <1g

Table 79: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/8

Test Pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red CBM fragments x4 = 64g, red CBM fragments x4 = 12g, clay pipe stem x1 = 3g		lumps of metal x2 = 138g, slag x1 = 10g	coal x5 = 13g	oyster shell x5 = 8g
C. 2	flat red CBM fragments x4 = 62g, red CBM fragments x23 = 102g, clay pipe stem x2 = 4g		metal screw x1 = 15g	coal x32 = 72g	slate x4 = 21g, sea shell x5 = 10g, oyster shell x9 = 20g
C.3	red CBM fragments x11 = 66g, flat red tile fragments x1 =2g, clay pipe stem =1g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x1 = 25g		iron nails x4 = 38g, metal button =2g, slag? x1 = 3g	coal x8 = 16g	oyster shell x2 = 30g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x8 = 181g, slightly curved red tile fragments x3 = 143g, red CBM fragments x10 = 55g, clay pipe stem x2 = 4g		iron nails x2 = 15g, scrap iron x5 = 7g, lead horses head = 12g	coal x10 = 11g	slate x1 = <1g, sea shell x1 = 7g
C.5	flat red tile fragments x13 = 526g, slightly curved red tile fragments x4 = 319g, curved red roof tile fragments (with holes) x2 = 72g, red CBM fragments x11 = 162g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g		large iron nail = 40g, scrap iron x1 = 12g	coal x2 = 11g	clunch x1 = 34g
C.6	flat red tile fragments x2 = 75g, red brick fragments (with horizontal grey centre) = 199g		iron nails x4 = 36g, small copper plate = <1g	coal x8 = 12g	

Table 80: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/9

Test Pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	red CBM fragments x3 = 89g, flat red tile fragments x5 = 129g	clear container glass x1 = 4g		coal x8 = 13g	
C.3	red CBM fragments x1 = 1g		iron nails x2 = 30g		
C.4	red CBM fragments x2 = 81g			coal =<1g	
C.6				coal x4 =18g	

Table 81: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/10

Test Pit 11	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x5 = 116g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x2 = 42g	clear window glass x1 = 3g	iron nails x1 = 7g		green plastic fragment x1 = <1g

Table 82: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/11

Test Pit 12	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	modern grey flat tile x1 = 7g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g		metal cross (for necklace) = 2g, metal bracket = 13g		oyster shell x1 = 3g

Table 83: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/12

Test Pit 13	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x3 = 19g, lump modern CBM = 168g	part of a clear glass chandelier = 48g, clear container glass x4 = 13g, orange bottle glass x1 = 2g, green bottle glass x1 = 24g	flat metal plate with writing on it "ENGAGEMENTS CLIMAX DRILLS" = 232g, iron nails x16 = 131g, metal rod with hoop at one end = 23g, coin 'half penny' dated 1939 = 6g, metal bracket x1 = 5g, squashed metal cap = 20g, scrap metal x2 = 4g, thin metal hoop = 2g	coal x2 = 10g	
C. 2			lump of metal (use unknown) =148g		

Table 84: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/13

Test Pit 14	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	modern white tile fragments x2 = 8g, modern CBM fragments x2 = 75g	light green bottle glass x1 = 7g	piece of lead (use unknown) = 28g		fragments of concrete x3 = 126g
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x6 = 85g, modern drain fragment x1 = 88g, modern CBM fragments x2 = 14g, red CBM fragments x1 = 6g		iron nails x1 = 17g		
C.3	modern drain fragments x5 = 231g, modern CBM fragments x6 = 343g, red CBM fragments x6 = 45g		iron nails x1 = 16g	coal x2 = 10g	sea shells x2 = 5g
C.4	modern CBM fragments x5 = 303g, red CBM fragments x3 = 54g	clear container glass x1 = 4g	iron nails x10 = 142g, part of a horseshoe = 21g, unidentified metal and plastic object = 23g, metal plate (iron?) = 86g, small metal ring = 2g	coal x1 = 12g	oyster shell x2 = 19g, concrete x3 = 275g, slate x2 = 11g, yellow plastic x2 = 4g, tarmac x1 = 36g
C.5-10	modern brick fragment x1 = 379g	small clear complete glass bottle = 91g, large complete clear glass bottle = 275g	scrap iron x12 = 315g, iron key? = 43g		oyster shell x2 = 53g

Table 85: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/14

Test Pit 15	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x1 = 11g, modern red tile fragments x1 = 20g	clear bottle glass base x1 = 18g, light green bottle glass x1 = 4g	rectangular lump of iron = 28g		slate x2 = 25g, snail shell x1 = 3g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, modern drain tile fragment x1 = 39g, flat red tile fragments x1 = 15g, red CBM fragments x2= 8g	green bottle glass x1 = 35g (flaky and degraded), clear container glass x3 = 9g, clear window glass x1 = 2g	iron nails x2 = 11g, metal button x1 = 4g, slag? x1 = 7g, thin plate of metal = 2g	coal x4 = 8g	slate x1 = 2g, oyster shell x2 = 6g, sea shells x3 = 6g, silver foil lid =1g, lump of concrete x1 = 46g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x5 = 85g, slightly curved red tile fragment x1 = 28g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, red CBM fragments x1 = 5g	clear window glass x1 = 6g, orange bottle glass x1 = 3g	metal coin/token = 8g (no writing visible), iron nails x6 = 25g	coal x3 = 14g,	sea shells x5 = 3g, slate x1 = 6g, oyster shell x3 = 3g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x3 = 41g		rectangular piece of metal = 5g	coal x4 = 2g	clunch? x2 =2g

Table 86: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/15

Test Pit 16	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x10 = 34g, clay pipe stem x2 = 5g	clear window glass x1 = <1g	metal wire = 2g	coal x20 = 6g	slate x38 = 72g, red foil milk bottle top = 0g, lump of white Perspex = 10g, concrete x4 = 18g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x4 = 39g, tile fragments (with plaster?) x2 = 15g, modern flat grey tile x4 = 14g	clear window glass x1 = 3g, clear container glass x4 = 10g	coin (amount unknown) – date 1932? = 2g, iron nails x1 = 6g,	coal x42 = 36g	oyster shell x2 = 5g, slate x14 =33g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x3 = 95g, red CBM fragments x4 = 52g, thin modern grey flat tile x3 = 58g, thick grey/black modern flat tile fragment x1 = 55g, modern flat black glazed tile x1 = 9g	clear container glass x2 = 7g	iron nails x1 = 2g, curving thin piece of metal = 3g, small flat piece of metal = 2g	coal x11 = 2g	slate x2 = 20g, white Perspex x1 = 2g, oyster shell x1 = <1g
C.4	modern flat grey tile x3 = 9g	clear container glass x1 = 2g		coal x3 = <1g	slate x5 = 27g, fragment of tarmac = 21g, oyster shell x4 =8g
C.5	red CBM fragments x8 = 38g, modern flat grey tile fragments x2 = 7g		slag? x1 = 4g	coal x2 = <1g	white Perspex x2 = 3g, oyster shell x1 = 2g, slate x5 =14g
C.6			lump of iron =1g		slate =<1g

Table 87: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/16

Test Pit 17	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1				coal x10 = 15g	concrete x4= 41g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x44 = 815g, flat red tile fragments x3 = 212g, modern CBM fragments x3 = 105g, clay pipe stem x1 = 0g, modern white tile x1 = 4g	clear container glass x2 = 14g	iron nails x8 = 133g	coal x14 = 30g	slate pencil x1 = 3g, bone? button = 1g, slate x10 = 68g, oyster shell x4 = 32g, sea shells x14 = 27g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x10 = 175g, red CBM fragments x15 = 63g, clay pipe bowl fragments x1 = <1g, clay pipe stem x2 = 3g	clear container glass x1= 10g, green bottle glass x1 = 2g	iron nails x1 =3g	coal x4 = 7g	oyster shell x2 = 18g, sea shells x5 = 9g, slate x4 = 14g
C.4	red CBM fragments x20 = 93g, flat red tile fragments x7 = 116g, clay pipe stem =<1g	green bottle glass x1 = 5g	iron nails x2 = 16g, slag x1 = 4g	coal x9 = 25g	oyster shell x1 = 0g, slate x1 = 1g, snail shell =<1g
C.5	red CBM fragments x5 = 23g			coal x1= <1g	
C.6	red CBM fragments x3 = 5g	clear window glass x1= <1g (flaky and degraded)		coal x4 = 5g	
C.7	red CBM fragments x4 = 4g,			coal x3 = 1g	

Table 88: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/17

Test Pit 18	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C.2	flat red tile fragments x3 = 156g, red CBM fragments x1 = 23g	orange bottle glass x1 = 2g, clear bottle glass x1 = 9g	iron nails x3 = 65g, lumps of iron x4 = 102g	coal x3 = 14g	oyster shell x1 = 6g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x3 = 77g, red CBM fragments x10 = 118g		iron nails x4 = 35g	coal x3 = 5g	sea shells x1 = 2g, slate x1 = <1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x58 = 497g, flat red tile fragments x5 = 198g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x1 = 31g		iron nails x3 = 45g, lump of iron x1 =6g	coal x3 = 4g	concrete x1 = 37g, slate =<1g
C.5	flat red tile fragments x8 = 534g, slightly curved red roof tile fragments x3 = 136g, red CBM fragments x21 = 385g		lump of iron x1 = 6g	coal x1 = 1g	
C.6	flat red tile fragments x2 = 48g, slightly curved red tile fragments x2 = 103g, red CBM fragments x22 = 390g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x2 = 166g		iron nails x2 = 8g, lump of iron x1 = 7g, slag x1 = 7g	coal x2 = 5g	

Table 89: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/18

Test Pit 19	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x3 = 50g, red CBM fragments x7 = 61g			coal x2 = 2g	
C. 2	red CBM fragments x12 = 58g, clay pipe stem x1 = 3g	green bottle glass x1 = 3g	modern nails x2 = 6g, lead (long piece folded in half – used in window?) = 31g, slag x1 = 8g		clunch? x1 = 9g
C.3	flat red tile fragment x1 = 21g, red CBM fragments x5 = 10g	clear container glass x1= <1g		coal x2 = 1g	

Table 90: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/19

Test Pit 20	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	clay pipe stem x1 = 1g	clear container glass x1 = <1g			white Perspex x2 = <1g
C.3	red CBM fragments x3 = 13g		lumps of iron x3 = 5g	coal x2 = 2g	
C.4			metal rusted onto small stone = 1g		

Table 91: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/20

Test Pit 21	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x6 = 11g			coal x3 = 18g	slate x2 = 8g
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x1 = 17g, modern CBM fragments x1 = 25g, red CBM fragments x1 = 11g	clear container glass x2 = 14g, clear window glass x1 = 3g		coal x1 = 9g	snail shell x1 = 0g, oyster shell x3 = 7g
C.3	red CBM fragments x6 = 71g, modern red glazed flat tile fragment x1 = 39g, modern CBM fragments x2 = 193g,	clear window glass x1 = 10g	large iron bolt = 244g, lump iron x1 = 9g	coal x6 = 43g	asbestos x2 = 5g, slate x2 = 6g, oyster shell x4 = 22g, concrete x2 = 27g
no context			Large metal sign = 1649g (“Will’s Woodbine Cigarettes”)		

Table 92: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/21

Test Pit 22	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x1 =2g, red CBM fragments x2 = 30g	clear container glass x1 = 6g		coal x6 = 8g	oyster shell x3 = 13g (one with small hole drilled through it), mussel shell x1 = <1g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x1 = 10g	green bottle glass x1 = 22g (with remnants of writing ‘NT’), clear container glass x1 = 1g	lumps of iron x2 = 6g	coal x6 = 13g	oyster shell x3 = 8g, slate pencils x2 = 14g
C.3	red CBM fragments x4 = 13g, clay pipe stem x2 = 2g, modern grey tile x1 = 8g	clear container glass x1 = 35g “….OR….IS….”	iron nails x1 = 28g		

Table 93: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/08/22

12.2.4 2009 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x1 =1g	green bottle glass x2 = 9g	lump of indented lead? = 38g, modern nail x1 = <1g, iron nails x1 =1g	coal x6 = 8g	oyster shell x1 = 6g, centre part of battery? = 6g, sea shells x2 =2g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x3 =5g, red CBM fragments x1 = 4g	clear container glass x1 = <1g, green bottle glass x2 = 5g, clear window glass x1 = 1g	iron nails x5 = 36g, modern nails x1 = 8g, metal washer? = <1g, modern tack? = <1g	coal x5 = 10g	oyster shell fragments x5 =4g
C.3	clay pipe stem x2 =5g, red CBM fragments x6 = 28g	green bottle glass x3 = 5g, clear container glass x2 = 3g	modern nails x2 = 4g, small metal hoop = <1g	coal x2 = 7g	oyster shell x1 =1g, slate x2 = 7g, concrete x1 = 4g
C.4	curving red tile fragments x2 = 182g, flat red tile fragments x1 =40g, clay pipe bowl fragments x1 = 1g, red CBM fragments x7 =12g, clay pipe stem x2 = 5g	clear container glass x2 =2g	scrap iron x2 =26g	coal x17 = 30g	slate =5g
C.5	flat red tile fragments x9 = 465g, clay pipe stem x2 =4g, red CBM fragments x7 = 54g, clay pipe bowl fragment x1 = 5g	clear container glass x1 = 2g	metal button = 2g, scrap iron x1 = <1g	coal x3 = 4g, lava stone fragment? =4g	concrete x2 = 8g, sea shell x1 =1g
No context			Iron nails x27 = 133g, iron bolt x1= 55g		

Table 94: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	flat red tile fragment x1 = 16g, red CBM fragments x3 = 10g				oyster shell x2 = 28g, sea shell x14 = 37g
C.3	red CBM fragments x5 = 37g				oyster shell fragments x1 = <1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x5 = 9g	green bottle glass x1 = 3g, degraded green bottle glass x1 = 5g		coal x3 = 3g	oyster shell fragments x1 = 1g
C.5				coal x3 =<1g	

Table 95: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/2

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	flat red tile fragment x1 = 16g, red CBM fragments x3 = 10g				oyster shell x2 = 28g, sea shell x14 = 37g
C.3	red CBM fragments x5 = 37g				oyster shell fragments x1 = <1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x5 = 9g	green bottle glass x1 = 3g, degraded green bottle glass x1 = 5g		coal x3 = 3g	oyster shell fragments x1 = 1g
C.5				coal x3 =<1g	

Table 96: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragment x3 = 130g, thin flat red tile fragments (decorated?) x3 =22g, modern strip of black and white glazed tile = 21g	clear container glass x3 = 66g		coal x1 = 1g	pieces of red clothes peg x2 = 3g, foil milk bottle cap = <1g
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x1= 52g, modern red CBM fragment x1 = 294g	green bottle glass x1 = 11g, clear container glass x5 = 22g, clear window glass x2 = 3g	iron nails x2 =8g, scrap iron x2 =170g	coal x3 = 20g	
C.3	thin flat (decorated?) red tile fragment x1=4g	green bottle glass x1 = 2g, clear container glass x1 = 5g	scrap iron x1 = 5g	coal x4 =10g	foil milk bottle top x2 = 1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x5 = 32g, red flat tile fragments x3 = 64g	orange bottle glass x2 = 54g, clear container glass x2 = 8g	iron nails x1 =2g, flat plate of iron = 59g	coal x33 = 37g	wire with black plastic covering = 2g, oyster shell x2 = 2g, sea shells x2 = 1g

Table 97: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1		clear container glass x1 =2g	small lump iron = 1g		
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x3 = 55g, red CBM fragments x2 = 5g		slag x1 = 6g		green plastic = <1g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x1 = 20g, red CBM cube (like a tessera?) = 19g, red CBM fragments x6 = 21g	clear window glass x1 = 5g			oyster shell x3 = 9g, snail shell x1 = <1g, mussel shell x2 = <1g, mortar x1 = 7g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x1 = 20g, clay pipe stem x1 =2 g		metal wire = 2g		
C.5	clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, red CBM fragments x2 = 4g		iron nails x1 =1 3g		oyster shell x1 = 2g
C.6	flat red tile fragments x1 = 30g, red CBM fragments x14 = 15g			white marble? like stone = 8g	

Table 98: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/5

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x1 = 17g, red CBM fragments x17 = 84g	clear window glass x2 = 6g	iron nails x2 = 10g, scrap iron x3 = 5g	coal x20 = 36g	
C.3	red CBM fragments x8 = 162g, red flat tile fragments x2 = 20g	orange bottle glass x1 = 3g, green bottle glass x3 = 35g, clear window glass x5 = 3g	iron nails x5 = 43g, scrap iron x3 = 21g	coal x14 = 54g	oyster shell x1 = 33g, concrete x2 = 108g, cockle shell x1 = 1g
C.4	clay pipe stem x1 =3g, red CBM fragments x3 = 31g	clear container glass x1 = 1g		coal x2 = 2g	slate x1 = <1g

Table 99: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/6

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	red CBM fragments x12 = 131g, flat red tile fragments x3 = 72g, very thin pink/red modern flat tile fragments x5 = 15g	clear window glass x4 = 23g	thin flat metal ring = 1g	coal x4 =4g	
C.3	very thin pink/red flat tile fragments x9 = 76g, red CBM fragments x4 = 16g, flat red tile fragments x1 = 10g	clear window glass x5 = 24g			asbestos x16 = 106g, slate x1 = 8g, mortar =11g

Table 100: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/7

Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x3 = 72g, red CBM fragments x3 = 19g				
C.3	red flat tile fragments x1 = 34g				

Table 101: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/8

Test Pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x1 =22g, red CBM fragments x5 = 11g	clear container glass x1 = 4g, green bottle glass x1 = 1g, clear window glass x1 = 2g		coal x4 = 10g	oyster shell x7 = 39g, white Perspex x1 = <1g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x1 = 34g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g	green bottle glass x1 = 3g, clear container glass x4 =23g		coal x10 = 28g	Bakelite x1 = 2g, part of battery x1 =3g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x2 = 54g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g	green bottle glass x3 = 2g	iron nails x2 =43g, unidentified lump lead = 15g	coal x6 = 20g	oyster shell x10 = 14g, slate x1 = 4g, mussel shell fragments x1 =2g, part of a battery x1 = 1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x3 = 21g, red flat tile fragments x1 = 43g	green bottle glass x1 =5g, clear window glass x1 = <1g, clear container glass x7 = 38g	metal button =1g	coal x17 = 49g	oyster shell fragments x2 =2g, slate x4 = 12g, cockle shell fragments x1 = <1g
C.5	clay pipe stem x1 =<1g	clear container glass x9 = 80g	metal plant tag = 1g, scrap iron x1 = 3g	coal x15 = 37g	oyster shell x1= 1g, mortar x2 = 21g, modern plaster? = 17g, cockle shell fragments x2 = 3g, snail shell x1 = 4g
C.7 (b?)					slate x1 =3g, sea shell x1 = 4g

Table 102: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/9

Test Pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x3 = 8g, flower pot? =4g	clear window glass x2 = 7g, clear container glass x1= 5g		coal x16 = 63g	cockle shell fragments x1= <1g, concrete x5 = 121g, thin black plastic = <1g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x17 = 333g		iron nails x7 = 41g, slag x1 = 15g, iron nail with plastic 'cap' fitted = 7g	coal x7 = 29g	polystyrene x4= 3g, mortar x2 = 22g, concrete x3 = 73g, asbestos x1 = 6g
C.3	red CBM fragments x2 = 18g		iron nails x1 = 10g, scrap iron x7 = 10g	lava stone?? = 4g, coal x5 =5g	grey string = <1g, sea shell x1 = 2g, mortar x3 = 64
C.4	red brick fragment =448g,red CBM fragments x6 = 44g		iron nails x1 = 1g	coal x2=3g	half a nut shell = 2g

Table 103: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/09/10

12.2.5 2010 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x6 =139g, red CBM fragments x8 =33g, slag and CBM? x1 =11g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x4 =13g, clay pipe bowl fragment x1=<1g	clear container glass x1 =2g, clear container glass with red painted decorated pattern x2 =6g, clear flat glass x3 =7g	corroded iron nails x2 =24g	coal x8 =12g	concrete x2 =216g, oyster shell fragment x3 =3g, red plastic 2 =<1g
C. 2	modern drain fragments x1 =35g, flat red tile fragments x4 =54g, red CBM fragments x14 =61g, clay pipe stem x2 =2g	clear container glass x9 = 18g, clear flat glass x8 =14g, green container glass x2 =10g	end of a shotgun cartridge =6g, corroded iron nails x11 =51g, modern nails x1 =4g, corroded metal spanner = 44g	coal x19 =23g	partially melted plastic x1 =2g, blue wool =<1g, concrete x5 =117g, cockle shell fragments x1 =2g, Bakelite? x1 =2g, slate x1 =11g, oyster shell fragments x1 =1g, grey string/twine =0g, melted plastic and orange twine =2g, part of a white plastic plant tag =0g, white and blue Perspex x1 =2g, silver foil =<1g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x4 =45g, red CBM fragments x13 =64g, clay pipe bowl fragments x2 =3g, clay pipe stem x3 =5g, slag and CBM? x2 =12g	clear flat glass x7 =18g, green container glass x3 =7g, clear container glass x2 =2g	small flat lead horse (has no legs) =26g, corroded iron nails x9 =66g, flat corroded plates iron x3 =129g, U shaped corroded iron tack =6g, flat metal pin? (rounded at one end to a point at other) =5g, corroded metal screw x1 =7g	coal x36 =46g	yellow mortar fragments x44 = 153g, fragment of pink plastic comb =5g, netting material x2 =2g, sea shells x7 =15g, black plastic/Bakelite fixing x2 =<1g, concrete x1 =99g, cockle shell fragments x2 =2g, oyster shell fragments x12 =9g
C.4? Bag not labelled	red CBM fragments x3 =53g, clay pipe bowl fragment x1 =<1g, clay pipe stem x1 =3g	clear container glass with red painted decoration x1 =1g, clear container glass x3 =13g, clear flat glass x5 =7g	corroded iron nails x5 =69g, corroded part of a thin horseshoe? =9g, corroded lumps of iron x6 =66g	coal x14 =60g	fragment of white plastic wrapping =<1g, sea shells x9 =12g, slate x1=4g, mortar and plaster x3 =47g, oyster shell fragments x9 =8g, cockle shell fragments x1 =<1g, mortar x10 =24g
C.5	clay pipe stem x9 =16g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x2 =3g, red CBM fragments x11 =37g	green bottle glass x1 =9g	metal handle part of a zip =1g	coal x17 =25g, black stone? tile fragment x1 =44g	slate pencil x1 =2g, sea shells x8 =8g, oyster shell fragments x3 =2g, mortar x2 =2g
C.6	red CBM fragments x3 =30g		corroded iron x1 =15g, corroded iron scraps x2 =84g		

Table 104: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x14 =182g, flat red tile fragments x5 = 91g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x1 =34g	green bottle glass x1 =3g, clear flat glass x3 =3g, pink container glass x1 =10g, clear container glass x2 =11g	corroded iron nails x5 =13g, corroded iron bolt x1 =19g	coal x20 =95g	oyster shell x2 =7g, slate x1 =3g, nut shells x1 =7g
C. 2	flat red tile fragments x9 =355g, red CBM fragments x12 =148g, clay pipe stem x1 =2g	clear container glass x3 =14g, clear flat glass x1 =2g	corroded iron bolt =51g, metal fixing? x1 =5g, metal buttons x2 =2g, corroded iron nails x3 =26g, corroded part of horseshoe =20g		oyster shell fragments x6 =9g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x7 =162g, red CBM fragments x4 =71g, black flat tile fragment s x2 =173g, clay pipe stem x3 =4g	clear container glass x5 =28g, clear flat glass x3 =3g	corroded iron nails x7 =40g, metal hinge and nails =63g, bullet casing =13g, scrap iron x1 =10g	coal x7 =20g	yellow Perspex x1 =1g, centre part of battery =63g, sea shells x1 =2g
C.4	red CBM fragments x10 =392g, clay pipe stem x1 =3g, red brick fragments x2 =1456g		corroded iron nails x1 =4g		

Table 105: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/2

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red flat tile fragments x1 =14g, red CBM fragments x1 =1g				oyster shell fragments x2 =5g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x10 =38g, dirty yellow flat tile fragments x1 =59g, modern white kitchen/bathroom tile x1 =3g	clear glass bottle stopper =14g, blue container glass x1 =1g, clear container glass x2 =6g	corroded iron bolts x3 =224g, corroded flat plates iron x2 =81g, corroded iron nails x4 =36g, slag? x1 =8g	coal x27 =75g	oyster shell fragments x32 =103g, slate x2 =10g, sea shells x2 =6g, concrete x1 =35g
C.3	modern red flat red tile x 1 =64g, red CBM fragments x5 =16g		long corroded iron nail x1 =20g, corroded iron nails x2 =3g	coal x13 =27g	oyster shell x10 = 50g, slate x3 =11g, mortar? x2 =13g
C.4	clay pipe stem x1 =1g, cream modern tile fragment x1 =1g	clear container glass x1 =2g	corroded iron nails x1 =14g, corroded lump of iron x1 =5g	coal x9 =22g	slate x1 =17g, oyster shell fragments x6 =7g, cockle shell fragments x6 =2g
C.5		clear rounded glass jar =203g	corroded metal base of can =328g, corroded metal partial rim of can =44g, corroded lumps of scrap iron x17 =56g	coal x3 =35g	oyster shell x8 =52g, concrete x1 =188g
C.6					modern small fragment of flat blue painted wood =<1g
C.7	red CBM fragments x2 =36g		corroded metal lumps x7 =55g		asbestos x2 =65g, cockle shell x1 =<1g

Table 106: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x2 =31g		slightly corroded round head iron nail x1 =8g	coal x8 =17g	slate x4 =14g, concrete x1 =4g, oyster shell fragments x4 =3g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x1 =2g, clay pipe bowl fragment x1 =4g		corroded iron nails x1 =14g, part of a metal pulley? =7g	coal x3 =8g	slate x1 =<1g, oyster shell fragments x2 =4g, concrete x1 =3g
C.3	red CBM fragments x1 =1g	clear flat glass x1 =4g	corroded lumps of iron x2 =11g	coal x2 =20g	oyster shell x2 =7g
C.4			slag x1 =11g	coal x7 =8g	oyster shell x5 =13g, snail shell x1 =2g
C.5	clay pipe stem x1 =3g, flat red tile fragments x1 =15g, red CBM fragments x1 =2g		corroded iron bar =6g	coal x1 =2g	oyster shell fragments x3 =6g, snail shell fragments x1 =4g
C.6	red CBM fragments x2 =5g			coal x6 = 11g	
C.8				coal =<1g	

Table 107: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x3 =7g	green bottle glass x1 =1g		coal x7 =7g	small green plastic two prong fork =3g, slate x3 =16g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x5 =51g, flat red tile fragments x3 =26g	clear glass marble =5g, clear container glass x1 =7g	corroded lumps of iron x13 = 282g, slag x1 =4g, flat narrow strip of metal with hole at one end =3g	coal x10 =33g	snail shell x1 =2g, slate x1 =0g, sea shell x1 =2g, concrete x2 =6g, wood x2 =2g, mortar x1 =<1g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x1 =11g, clay pipe stem x1 =2g	half a blue glass bead (Roman?) =4g, clear container glass x1 =0g	corroded lumps of iron x18 =203g	coal x12 =17g	slate x1 =13g, cockle shell x1 =<1g, sea shell fragments x1 =<1g

Table 108: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/5

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	modern yellow and red brick fragment x1 =69g, modern purplish grey flat tile fragment x1 =202g, red CBM fragments x1 =2g		coin =2g	coal x1 =2g	slate x1 =4g, flat plastic washer =<1g, concrete x10 =301g, red plastic x1 =<1g
C. 2				coal x5 =11g	concrete x1 =18g
C.3	modern drain fragments x1 =62g		slag x3 =16g	coal x3 =49g	red painted plastic/wooden rod = 24g, wood x2 =<1g
C.4	red CBM fragments x3 =8g, modern CBM fragments x2 =2g			coal x3 =49g	
C.6	red CBM fragments x2 =8g				concrete/mortar x1 =6g

Table 109: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/6

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x4 =100g, red CBM fragments x1 =34g, clay pipe bowl fragments x2 =3g		corroded iron nails x1 =4g	coal x1 =8g	slate x1=2g, concrete x3 =131g, oyster shell fragments x1 =<1g
C. 2	modern red CBM fragments x1 =36g				
C.3	modern red flat tile fragments x1 =61g, red and black 'sandwich' flat tile fragment x1 =11g				

Table 110: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/7

Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x2 =23g, red CBM fragments x13 =83g	green bottle glass x2 =4g, clear container glass x3 =8g	thin metal ring =<1g, corroded lumps of iron x2 =27g	coal x58 = 111g, slag? x2 =9g	oyster shell x11 = 16g, concrete x8 =80g, slate x4 =11g, snail shell x10 =30g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x20 =292g, red flat tile fragments x3 =51g, modern white tile fragment =2g	clear container glass x3 =7g, clear flat glass x1 =3g, green bottle glass x2 =15g, glass blob and mortar =14g	large corroded iron bolt =47g, corroded iron nail x1 =8g, corroded iron scraps x1 =2g	coal x32 =63g	slate x5 =13g, oyster shell x8 =22g, sea shells x19 =62g, cockle shell fragments x3 =2g, concrete x1 =47g, thin red plastic circle =<1g, mortar? x2 =88g
C.3	flat red tile fragments x4 =62g, red CBM fragments x10 =69g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x2 =8g		corroded lumps iron x1 =5g	coal x8 =17g	cockle shell x1 =4g, sea shell fragments x4 =14g, oyster shell fragments x1 =<1g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x6 =182g, red CBM fragments x14 =116g	clear container glass x1 =16g		coal x5 =7g	sea shells x11 =92g, slate x1 =5g
C.5	flat red tile fragments x2 =87g, red CBM fragments x3 =12g			coal x4 =42g	slate x2 =5g, sea shell fragments x2 =1g

Table 111: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/8

Test Pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x2 =42g, red CBM fragments x3 =4g		corroded iron nails x2 =8g	coal x8 = 8g	slate x1 =<1g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x2 =12g		corroded iron bolt =21g, slag x2 =4g	coal x35 = 127g	charred wood x2 =7g
C.3	red CBM fragments x2 =9g, flat red tile fragments x1 =30g		corroded iron nails x1 =3g, slag? x1 =16g	coal x12 = 54g	sea shell fragments x1 =2g, concrete x2 =41g, oyster shell x3 =11g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x2 =38g, red CBM fragments x2 =5g		thin metal heart shaped broach =2g, corroded iron nails x1 =15g	coal x7 =30g	chalk/mortar x3 =3g
C.5				coal =2g	
C.6				coal x4 =10g	snail shell =3g

Table 112: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/9

WME/10/10

Test Pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragment x1 =8g				
C. 2	red CBM fragments x6 = 178g				grey breezeblock fragments? x2 =10g, chalk/mortar x1 =0g
C.4	red brick fragment x1 = 378g, flat red tile fragments x2 =56g, red CBM fragments x5 =14g	clear container glass x1 =2g, clear flat glass x1 =2g, degraded green bottle glass x3 =28g	corroded iron nails x7 =67g	coal x1 =2g	slate x1 =8g

Table 113: The non-pottery finds excavated from WME/10/10

12.3 Maps

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

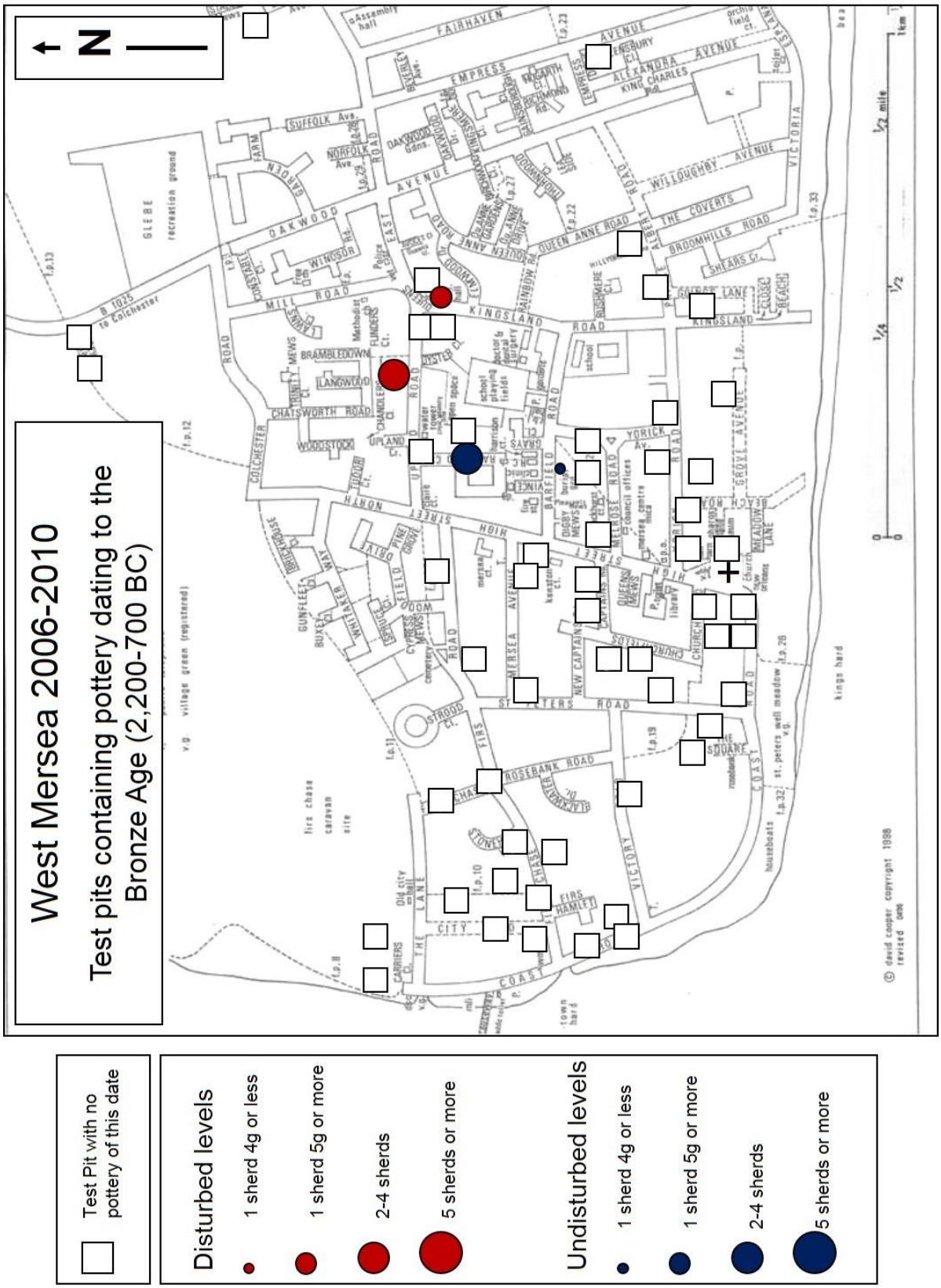

Figure 78: Bronze Age pottery distribution map of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

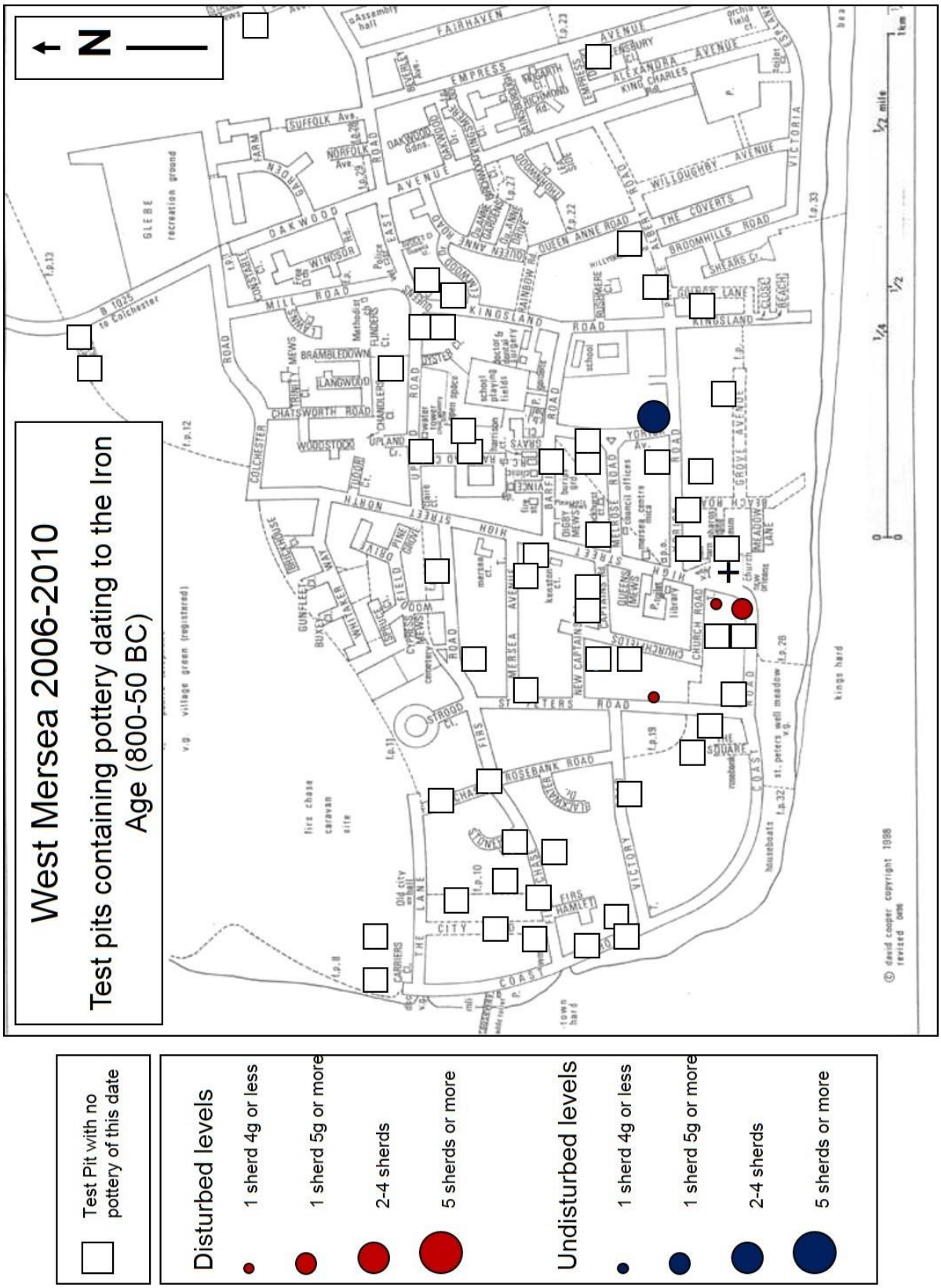

Figure 79: Iron Age pottery distribution map of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

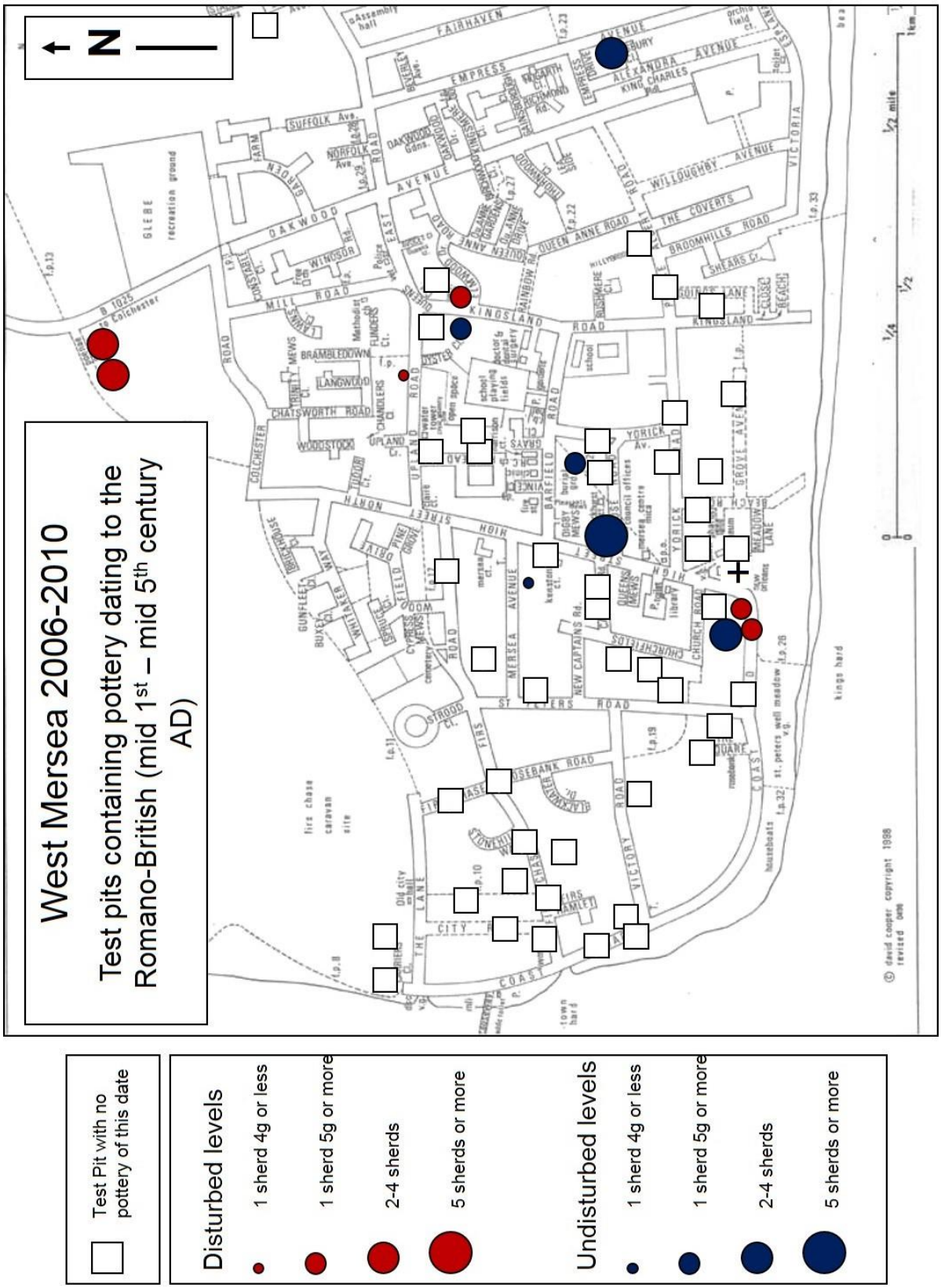

Figure 80: Roman pottery distribution map of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

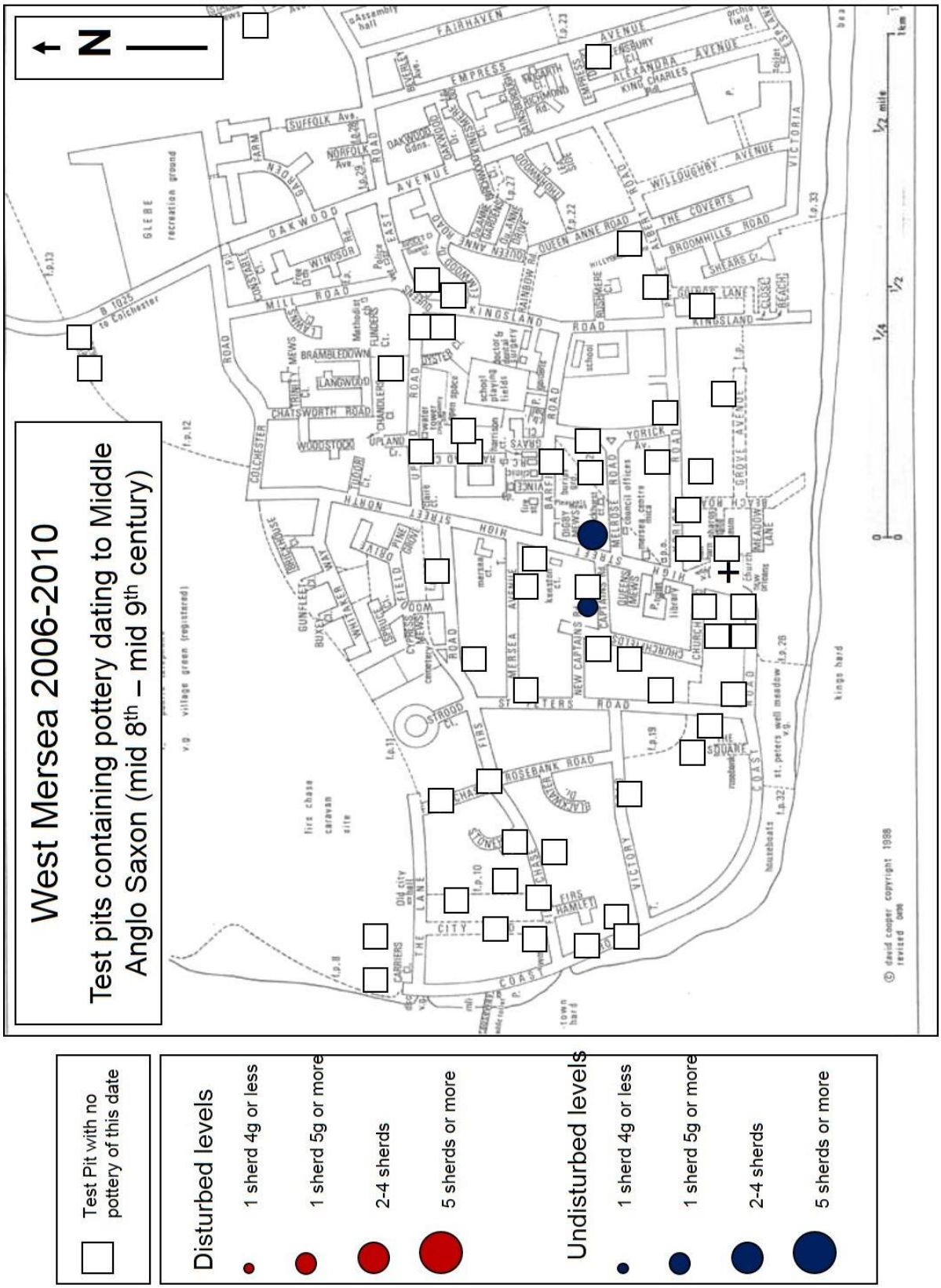

Figure 81: Middle Anglo Saxon pottery distribution map of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

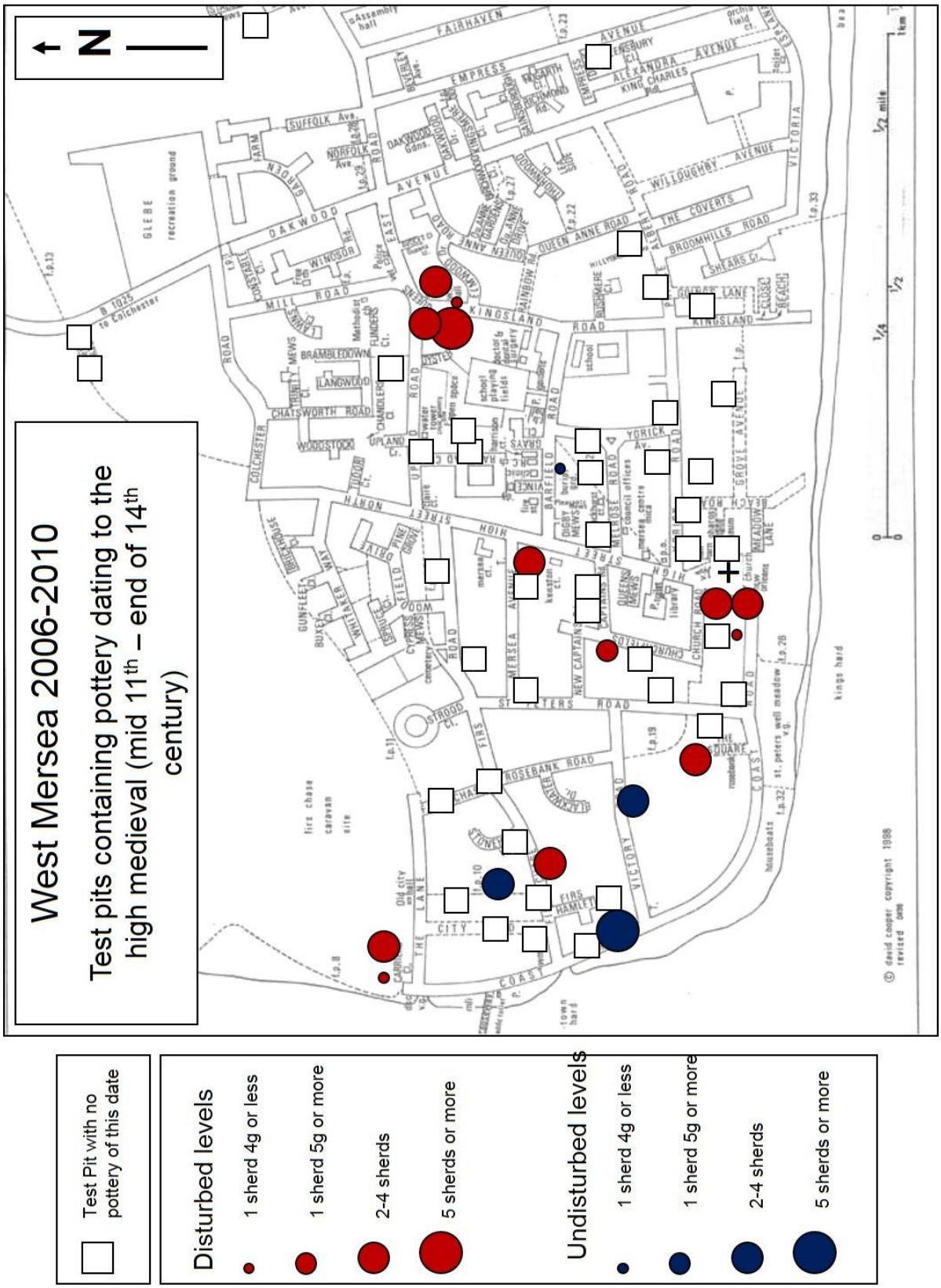

Figure 82: High medieval pottery distribution maps of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

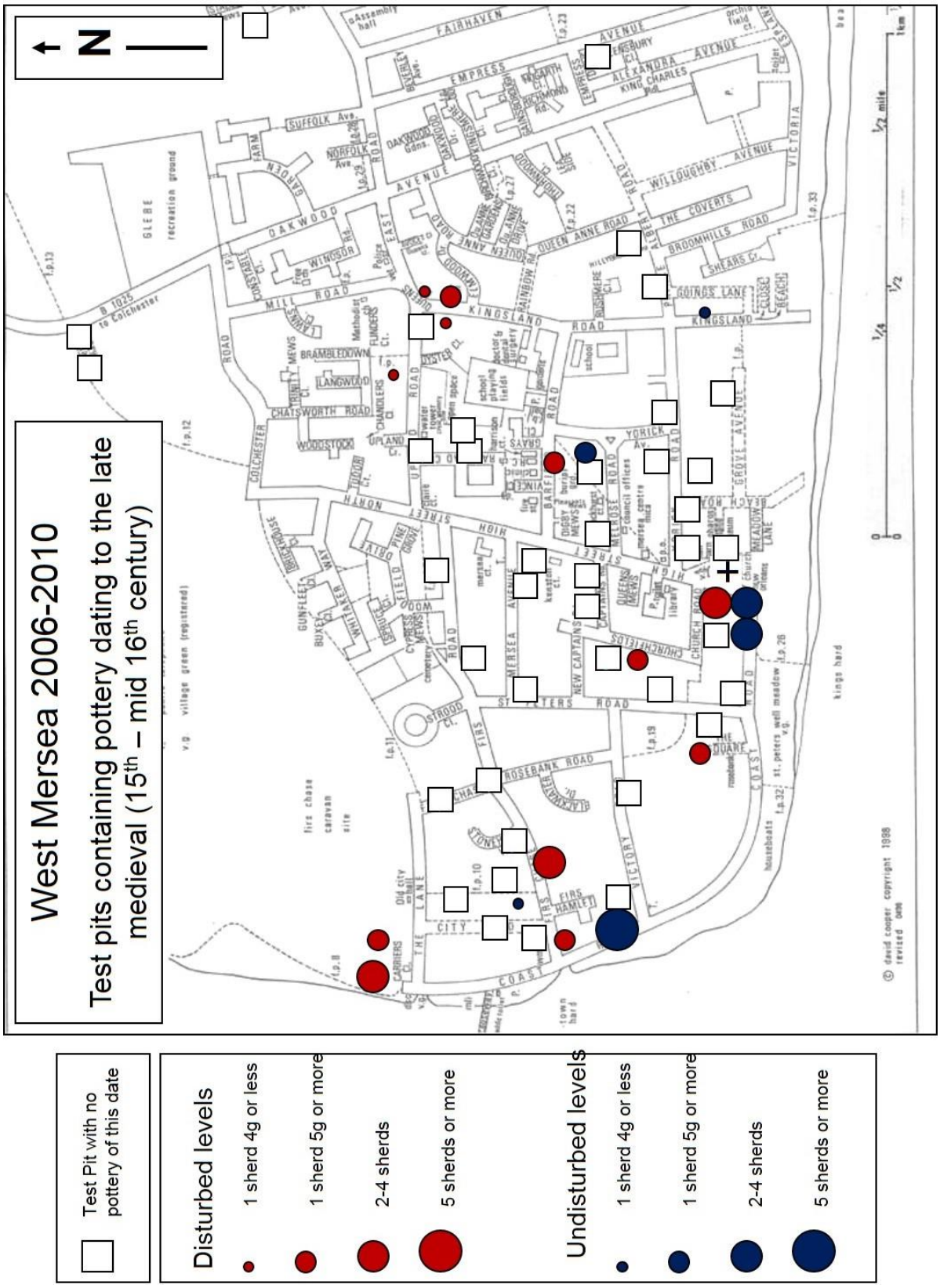

Figure 83: Late medieval pottery distribution maps of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

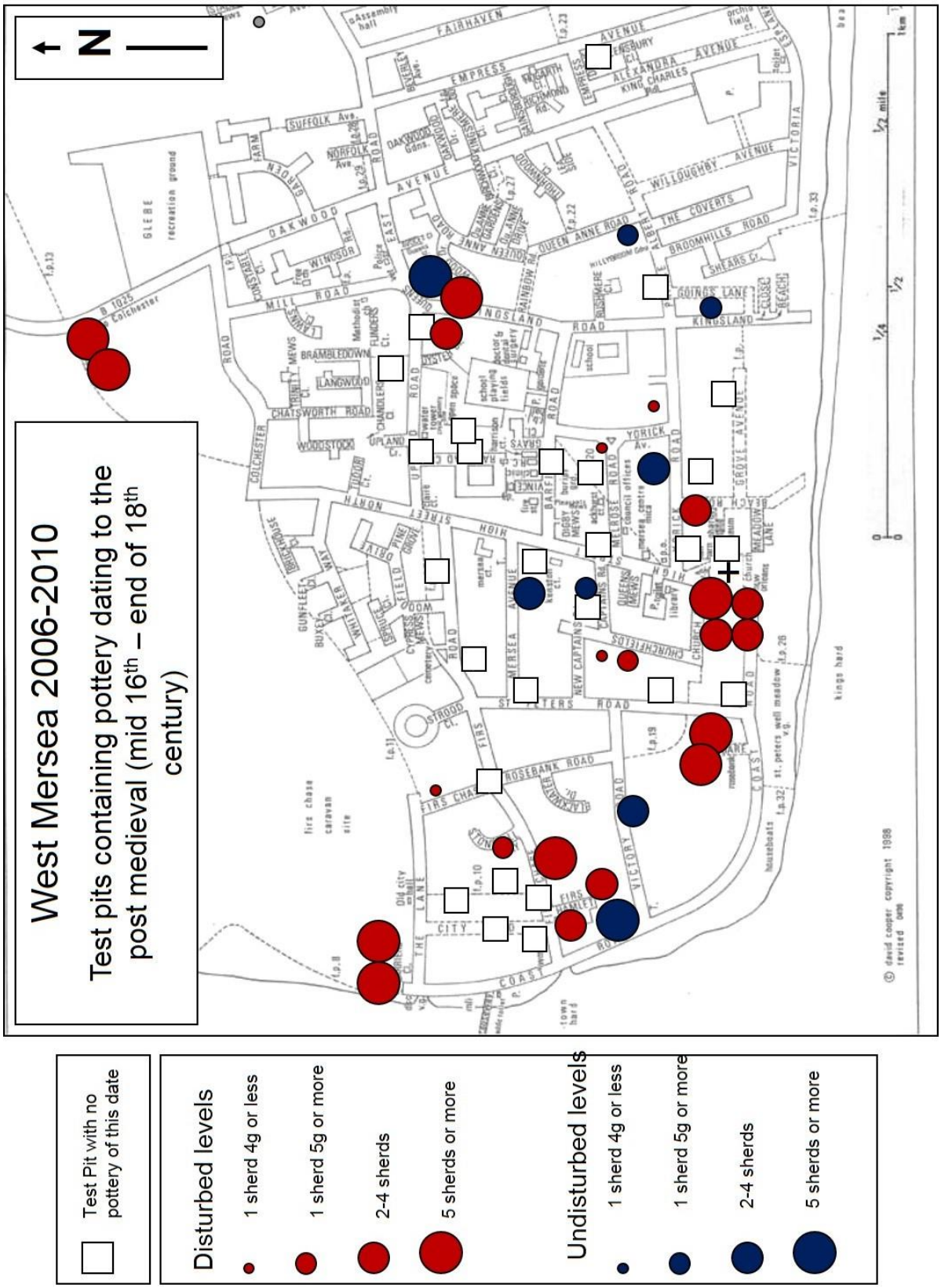

Figure 84: Post medieval pottery distribution maps of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper

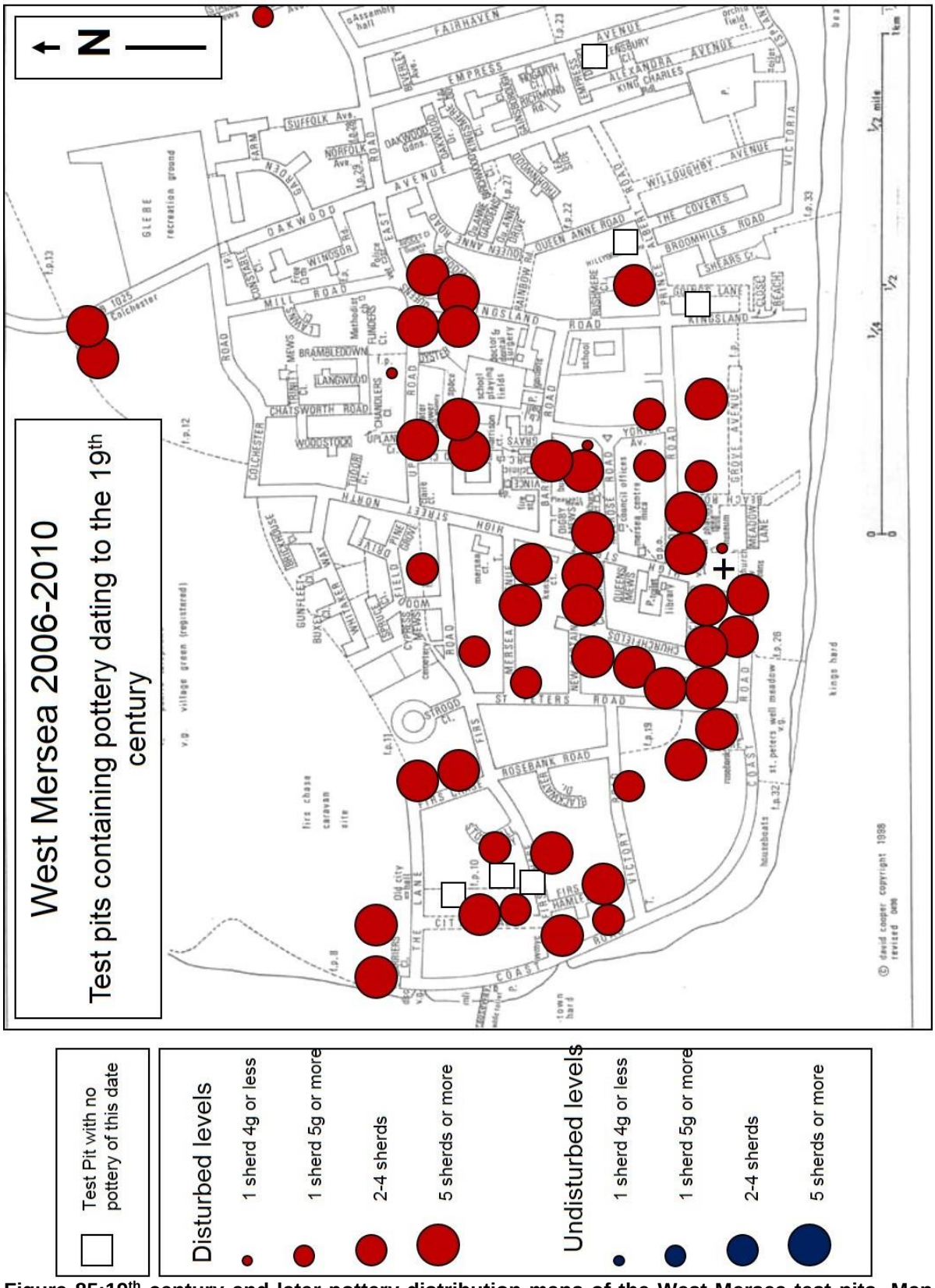

Figure 85:19th century and later pottery distribution maps of the West Mersea test pits. Map adapted from © David Cooper