

Community Test Pitting, Stoke-by-Nayland SBN 096

Archaeological Test Pit Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/011

Client: The Stour Valley Landscape Partnership

Author: Rob Brooks

May 2013

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Community Test Pitting, Stoke-by-Nayland SBN 096

Archaeological Excavation Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013/011

Author: Rob Brooks

Contributions By: Richenda Goffin and Andy Fawcett

Illustrator: Rob Brooks

Editor: Richenda Goffin

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Prepared By: Rob Brooks
Date: 09/07/2013
Approved By: Joanna Caruth
Position: Senior Project Officer
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Signed:

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Summary




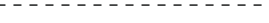








A community test pitting event took place at Stoke-by-Nayland in Suffolk, over the 27th and 28th October, 2012. This was run by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service and The Stour Valley Landscape Partnership as part of the Managing a Masterpiece scheme. The test pitting revealed a small number of prehistoric and Roman finds - pottery, worked flints and Ceramic Building Material (CBM). The prehistoric material indicates a low level of background activity, with the Roman CBM as well as that recorded in the church and a local house suggesting the presence of a nearby Roman building. There were gradually increasing levels of finds from the 12th century onwards with a peak of artefactual material from the post-medieval period, mainly consisting of pottery and CBM. The medieval and post-medieval finds, as well as the map evidence and surviving buildings may show shifts in the focus of occupation from the north-west to the south-east of the village. They also indicate typical domestic occupation throughout these periods, as well as agriculture, medieval businesses organised from the guildhall, and industry in the form of medieval malting and post-medieval smithing.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum  18.45m OD

1. Introduction

A community test pitting exercise was carried out in Stoke-by-Nayland and Tendring Hall Park (to the south of the village), in Suffolk on the 27th and 28th October, 2012. A total of fifteen test pits were dug by volunteers from the community and local educational institutions, overseen by professional archaeologists. The project was run by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service on behalf of and in conjunction with The Stour Valley Landscape Partnership as part of their Managing a Masterpiece project. This project is funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and focuses on aspects of wildlife, landscape, archaeology, art, recreation, conservation of built and natural features, and transport.

2. Geology and topography

The village lies on a high point within the local landscape, being almost entirely located on a plateau within the 55m contour, with ground levels dropping to the River Box to the north-east, and a drainage basin leading to the River Stour to the south and south-west. Tendring Hall Park lies to the south-east of the village, where the topography slopes down to the south-west from the 50m contour to the 15m contour. The Hall itself was originally terraced into this slope before its demolition.

The recorded superficial geology for the village consists of Kesgrave Formation and Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel, overlying a bedrock formation of Red Crag Formation sand (BGS, 2013).

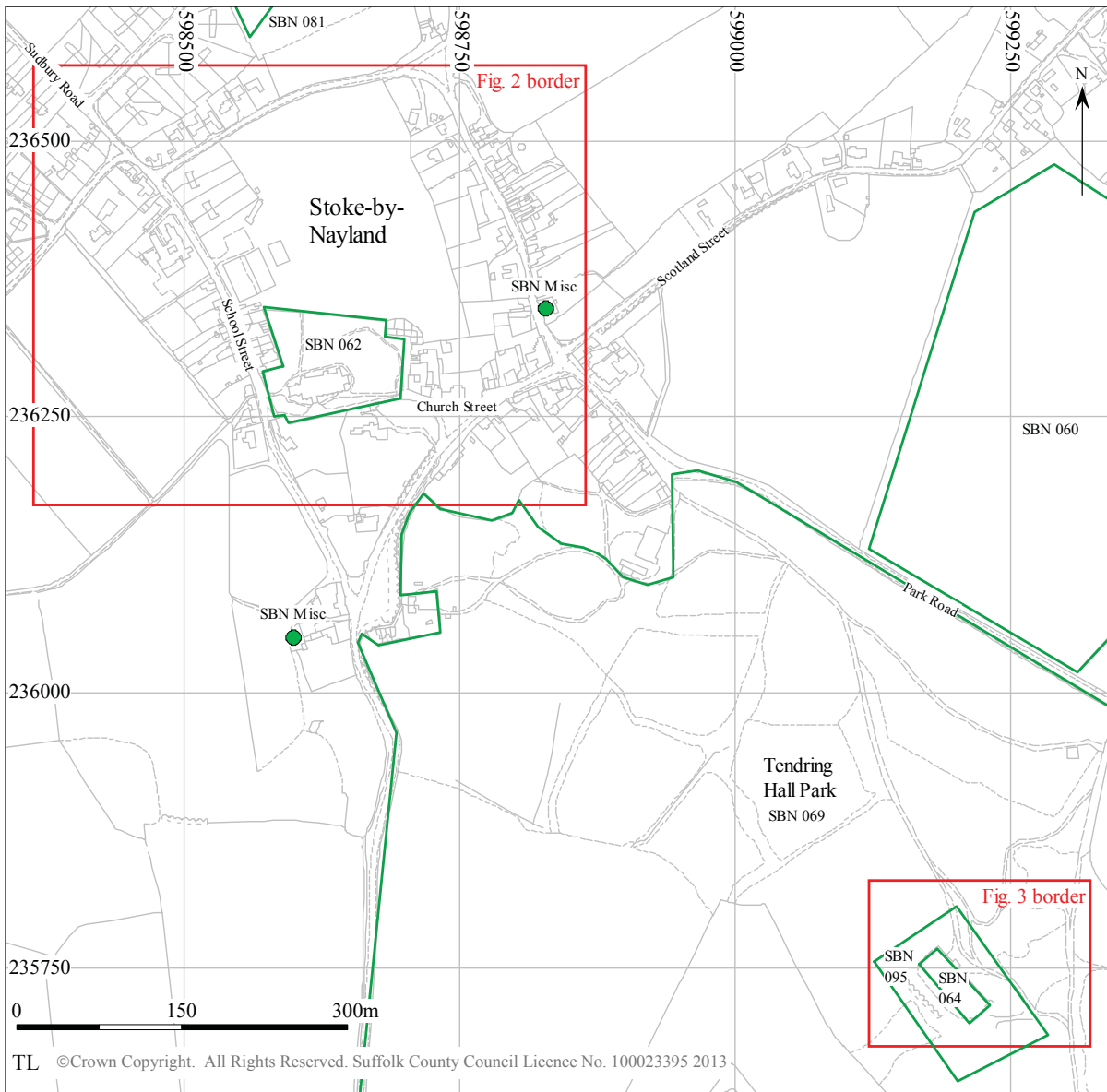
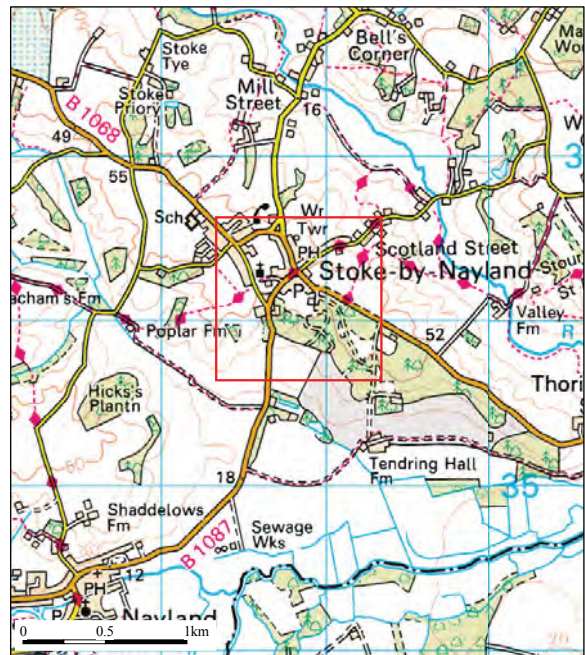


Figure 1. General locations of test pitting (red) and HER entries (green)

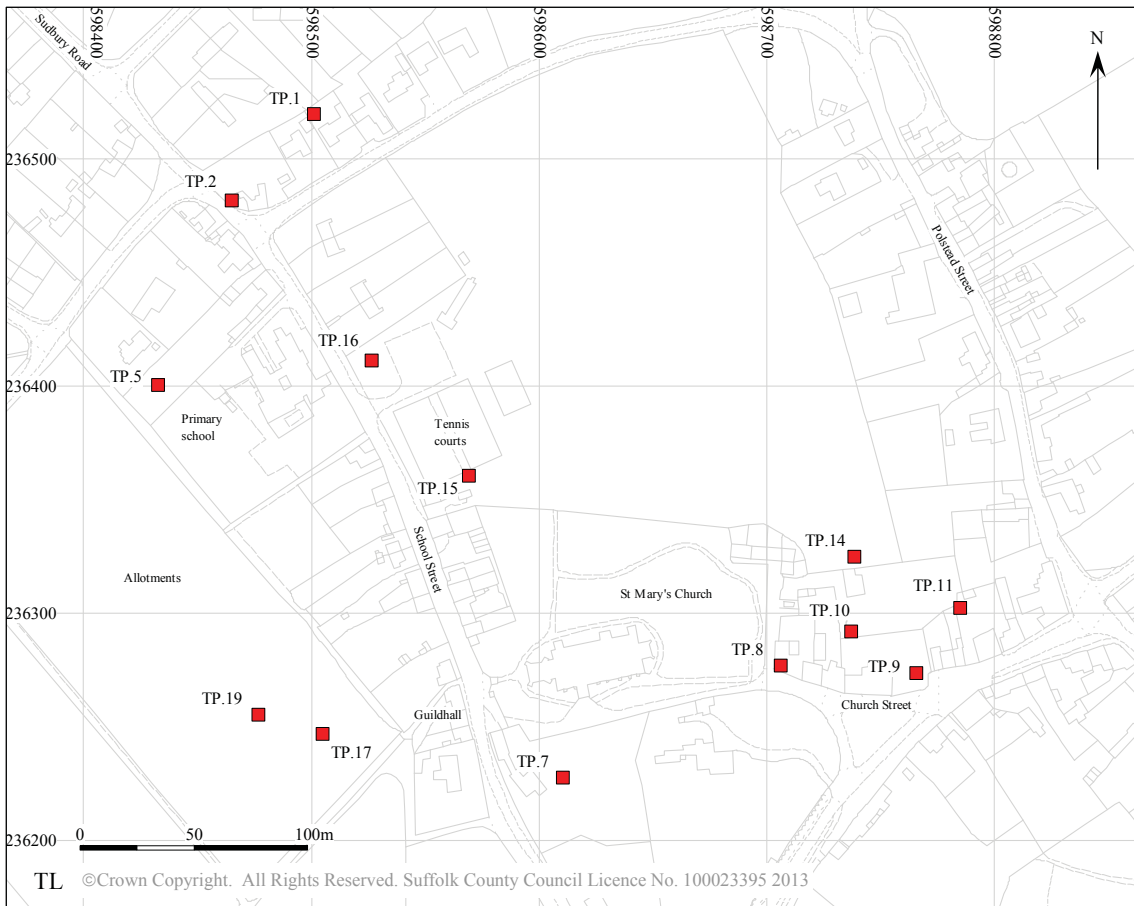


Figure 2. Test Pit locations in the village (test pits not to scale)

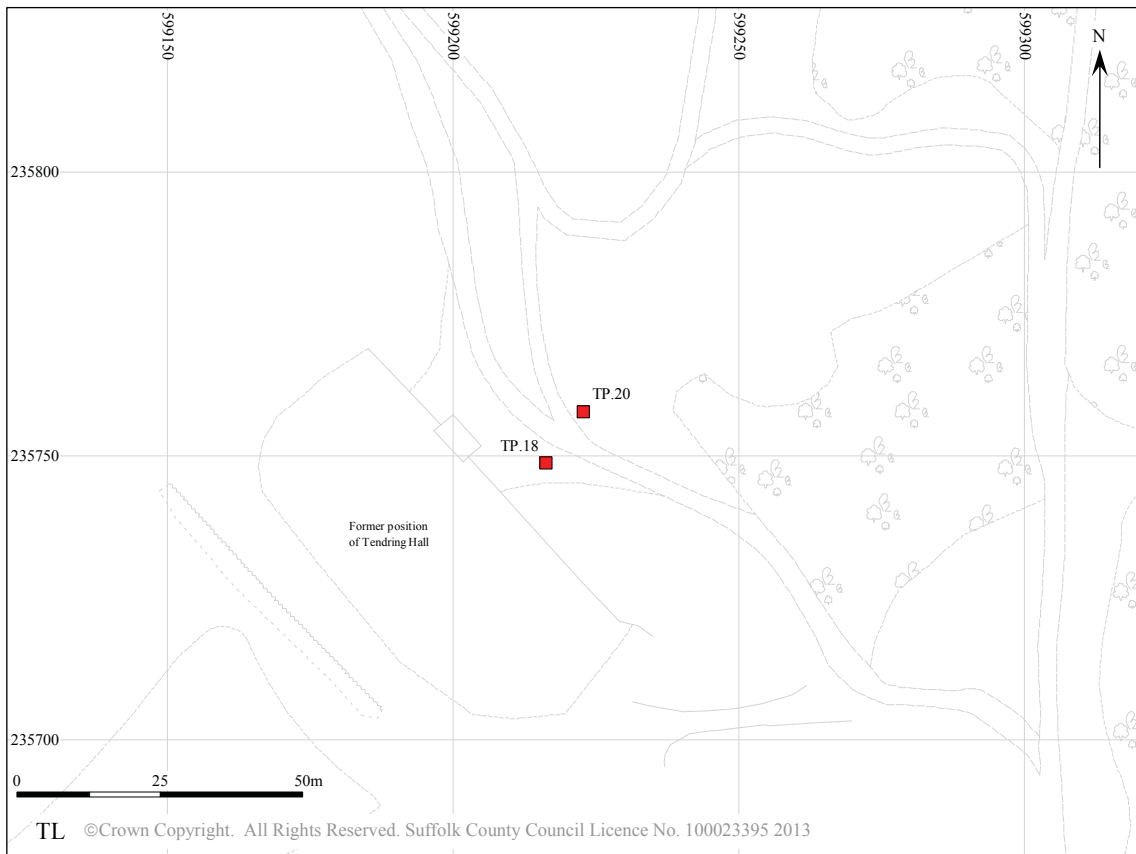


Figure 3. Test Pit locations in Tending Hall Park (test pits not to scale)

3. Archaeology and historical background

A Landscape Character Study of the Stour Valley was carried out by The Stour Valley Landscape Partnership, which details the historical, archaeological and natural characteristics of the area. A brief summary of this is now given, detailing the historical and archaeological background to both the village of Stoke-by-Nayland and Tendring Hall areas in which this phase of test pitting took place. A list of Historic Environment Record (HER) entries for the Stoke-by-Nayland parish and some other nearby areas is also included as Appendix 1.

The village of Stoke-by-Nayland is known to have Saxon origins, with a reference in the will of Ealdorman Ælfgar of Essex to the church in 950, then by his daughter in 1000-2 (HER listing SBN 062, Fig. 1). The Ealdorman family bequeathed gifts to the church to set up a major monastery, but most of these assets appear to have ended up instead going towards the growth of the Abbey at Bury St Edmunds. Nonetheless, the village formed with the substantial church as one of its key focal points. Much of the tile and brick used within the construction of the church is reused Roman material, indicating that a substantial Roman building or buildings were present locally.

Several listings from the HER are present close to the settlement, including undated cropmarks and a trackway just north of the village (SBN 081), with further undated field systems to the east (SBN 060). Within the village a post-medieval 'witch bottle' was discovered opposite the Angel Inn (SBN Misc), whilst 210m south of the church a Roman lamp was found (SBN Misc).

Tendring Hall, and its associated park and gardens, is located immediately south-east of the village (SBN 064 and 069). The original hall was built in the 1630s, or possibly as early as the 1560s, however in the 18th century Sir John Soane was employed as the architect for a new hall for the Rowley family, which he located on a new site where today only the listed portico still exists. By 1811 the hall had been substantially enlarged. During WWII the hall was brought into use for troops and prisoners of war, but was finally demolished in 1955 (Lever, 2009). The park consists of a formal 18th-century landscape including a canal and an oak grove.

A search of the National Heritage List records 192 listed properties in Stoke-by-Nayland. The majority of these are Grade II listings for medieval and post-medieval houses and other buildings. However, four structures are rated as Grade II* with the church as Grade I, with further details given in Appendices 2 and 3.

The 1783 Hodskinson's map does not show a great deal of detail for Tendring Estate or Stoke-by-Nayland, although the focus of the settlement seems to be located on the eastern side of the village. The area that is now Polstead Road has been highlighted, suggesting that it had become the main route (Suffolk Records Office reference T113/2, Fig. 4). The 1838 Tithe map for both the village and the estate show that the form of the village was similar to that which exists today, and it is apparent that the Rowley family held a large amount of local land, going well beyond the extent of the park and gardens (Figs. 5-6). The apportionments for the Tithe map are listed in Table 1 and indicate the presence of shops, hemp growing (presumably for textiles), other agricultural fields and also a local malting industry. The early Ordnance Survey maps of the village show a very similar layout to that seen today, whilst the map of the Tendring Estate shows the hall layout prior to its demolition (Figs. 7 and 8).

Plot	Description	Occupier	Land owner
16	Malting Field	Iver Golding	Sir Joshua Rowley
19	Garden	Dickens and others	Sir Joshua Rowley
20	Garden	William Cowley	Sir Joshua Rowley
25	House and yard	Samuel Beneworth	Sir Joshua Rowley
26	Cottage and gardens	William Frost	Lucy Cook
28	House and gardens	Rev C.M Torlesse	Sir Joshua Rowley
29	House and shop	herself	Elizabeth Mortimer
30	House and shop	William Pillock	Bailey Pillock
32	Cottage and shop	Cook and others	Samuel Mortimer
35	House and gardens	Palmer and others	Sir Joshua Rowley
38	Beerhouse	Thomas Crookes	Joseph Pensow
40	Hemp land	John Mortimer	Martha Mortimer
42	Cottage and gardens	Vince Lothers	Charles Martin ???
43	Cottage and gardens	King and Hughes	Thomas Beeton
44	Cottage and gardens	Hughes and others	William Chisnell
48	Cottage and shop	Holmes and others	Martha Mortimer
536	Malting meadow	William Durham	Sir Joshua Rowley
537	Malting office and cottage	William Durham	Sir Joshua Rowley
650	Pasture	Iver Golding	Sir Joshua Rowley
647	Cross field	Iver Golding	Sir Joshua Rowley

Table 1. Apportionment listings (1838)

Suffolk Records Office reference T113/1

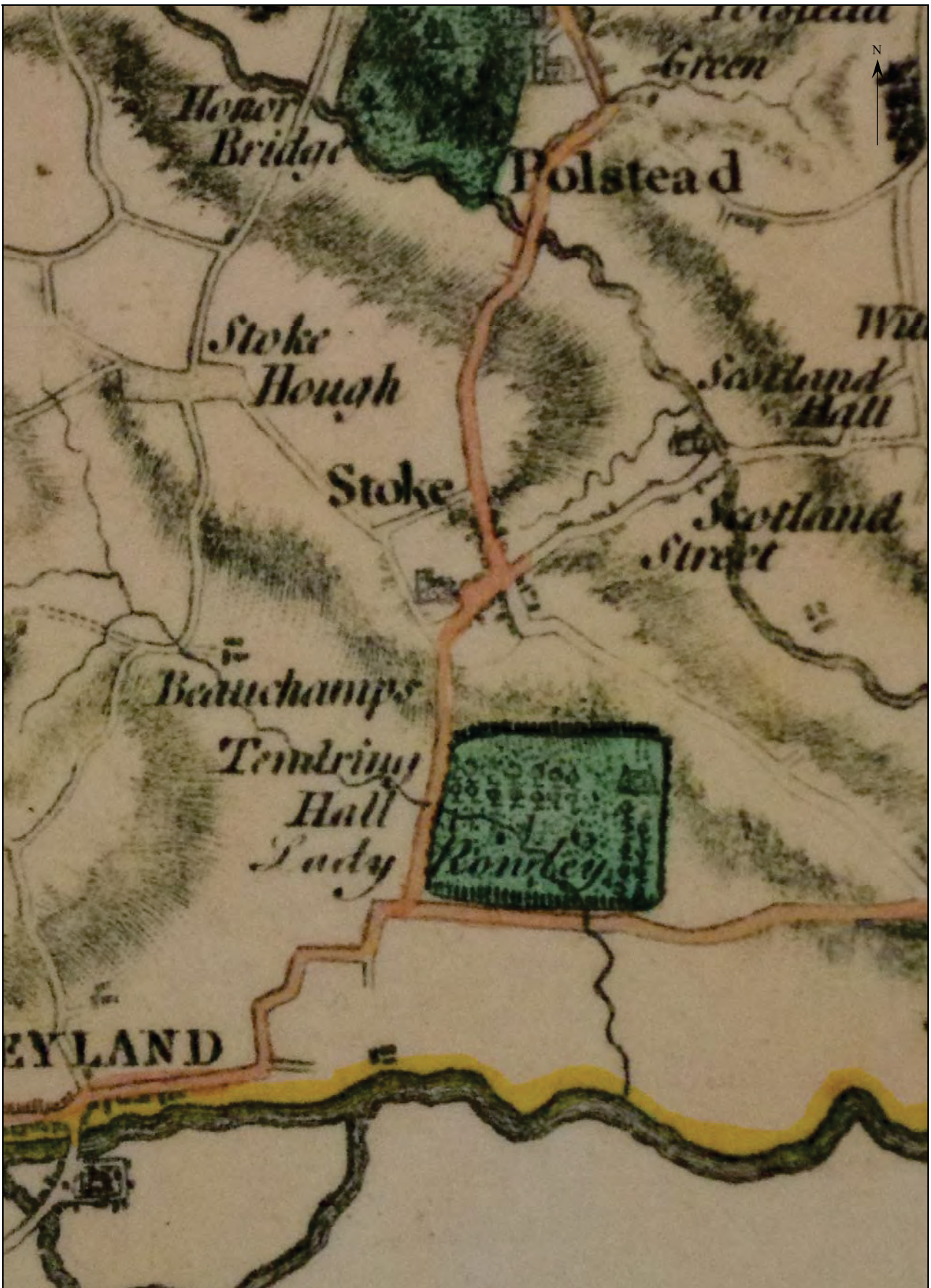


Figure 4. Extract from Hodskinson's 1783 map, with the village marked as 'Stoke'

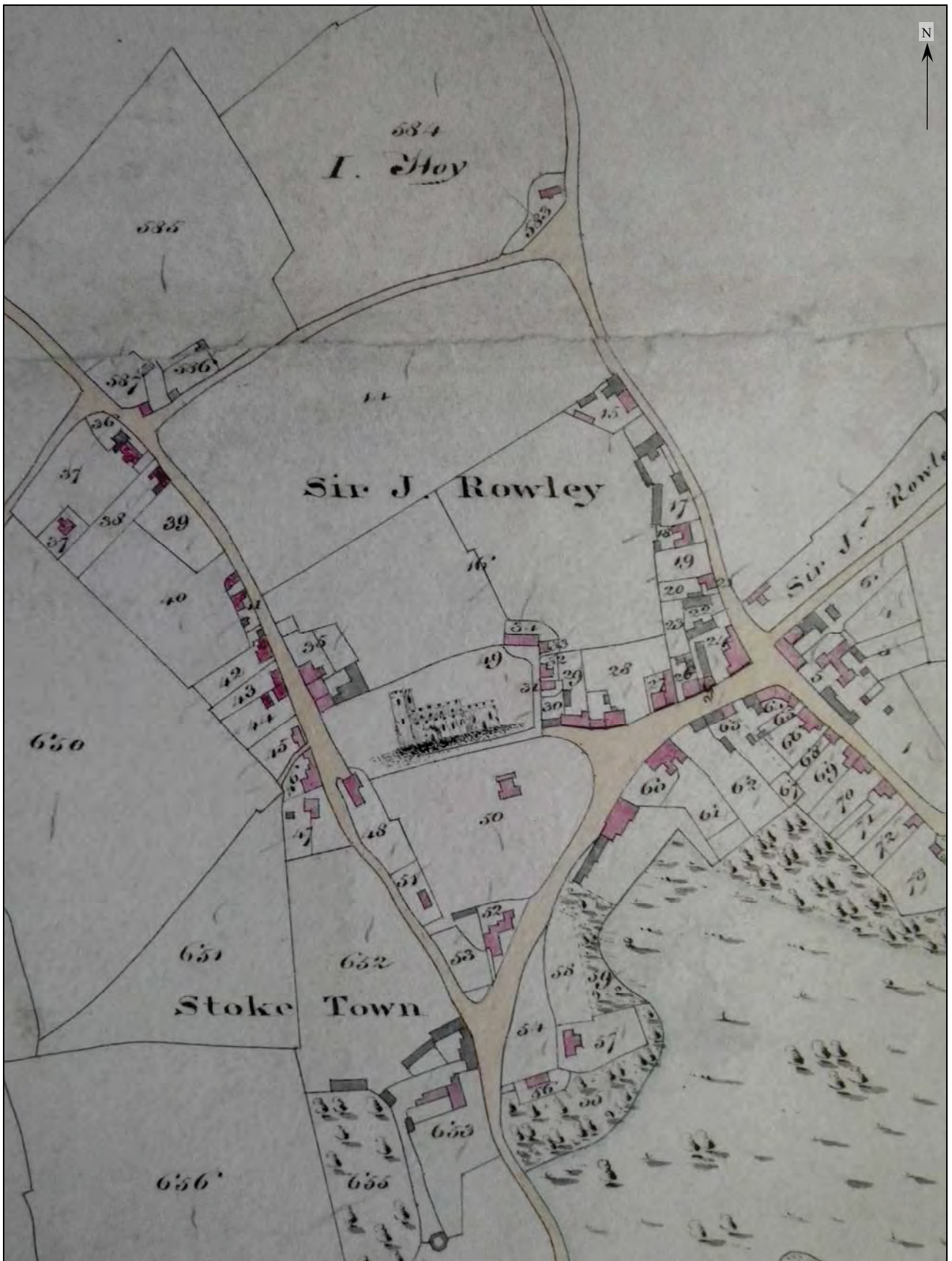


Figure 5. 1838 Tithe map of the village

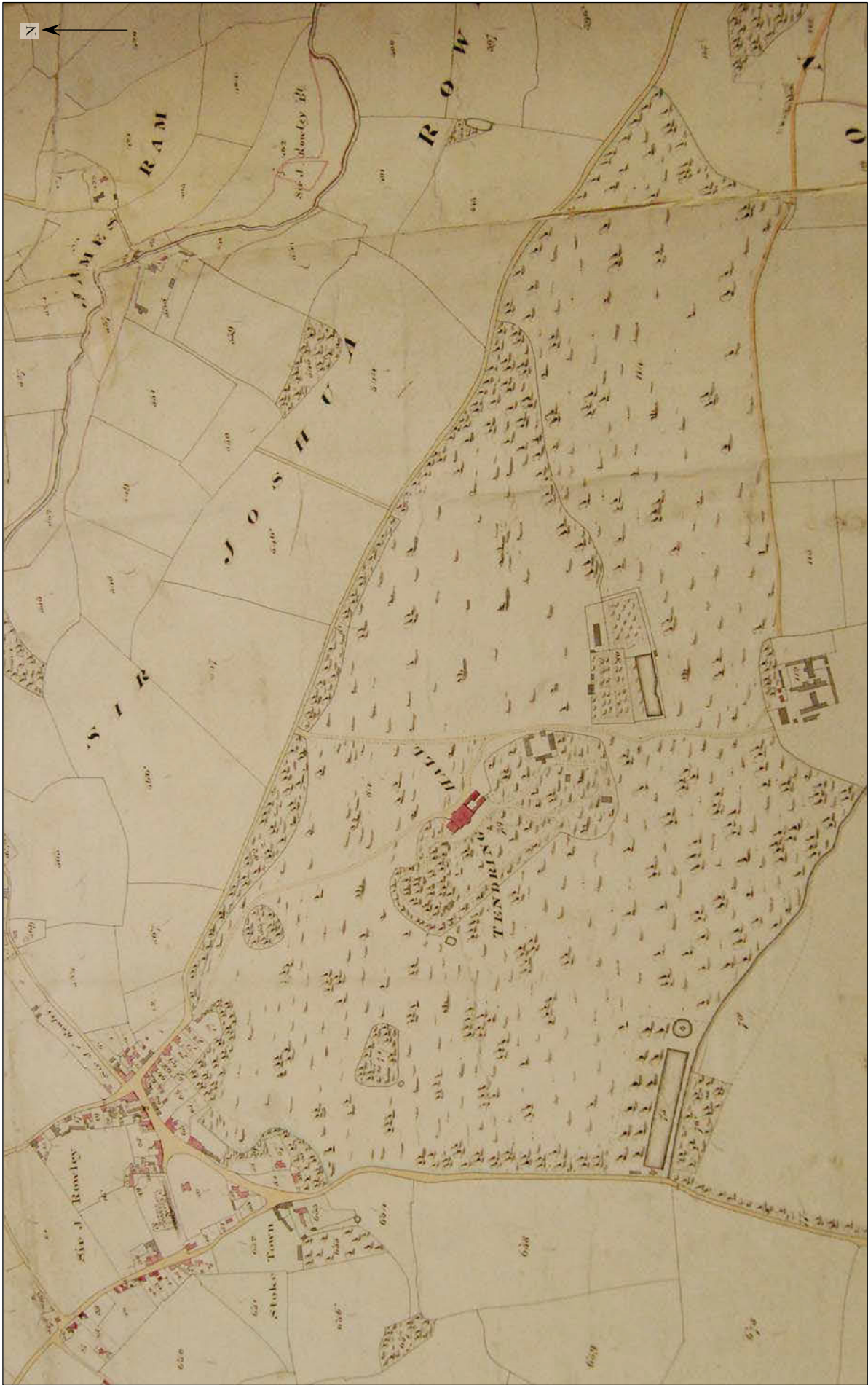


Figure 6. 1838 Tithe map of Tendring Hall, with its park and gardens

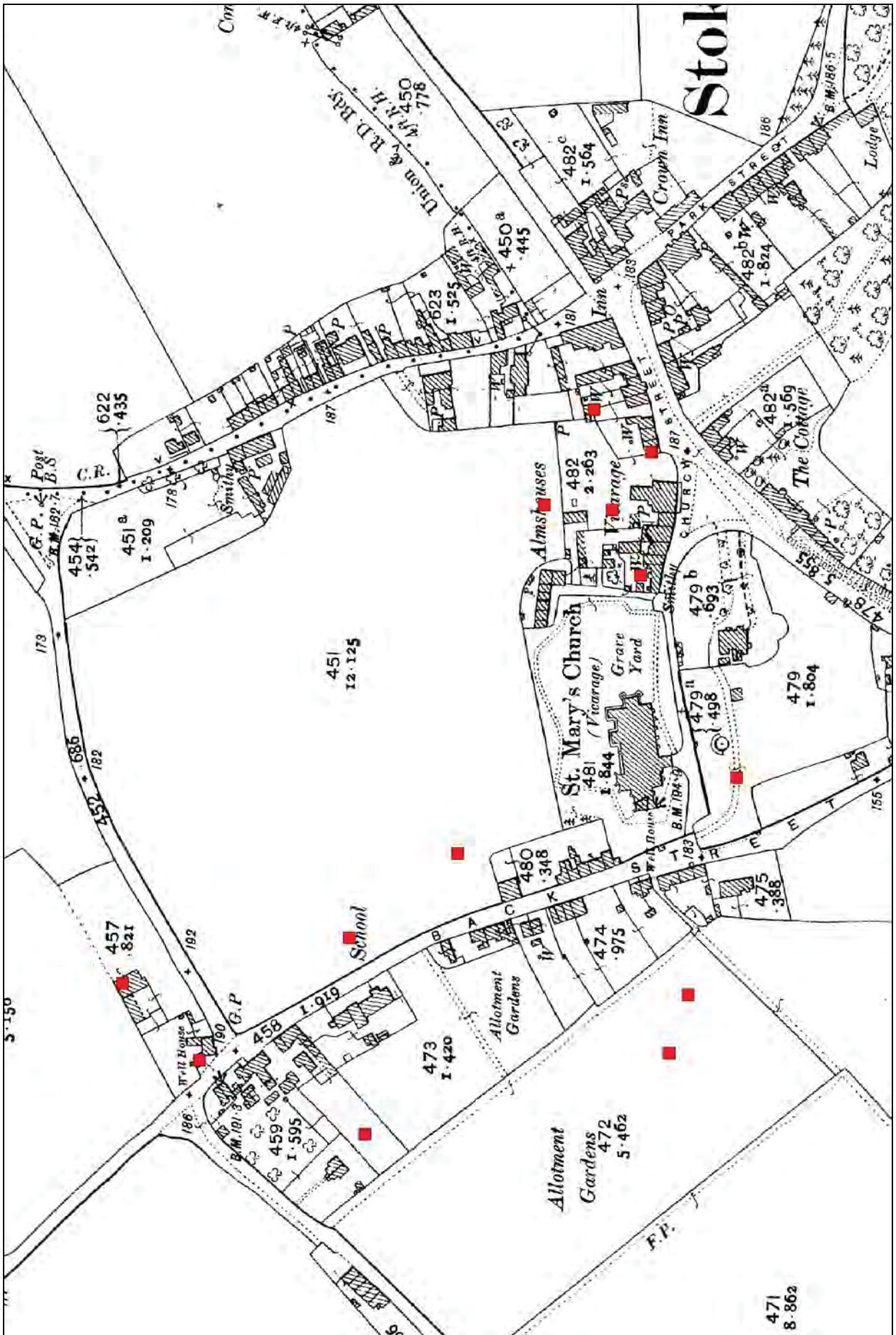


Figure 7. 1904 Ordnance Survey map of the village with approximate test pit locations (red)

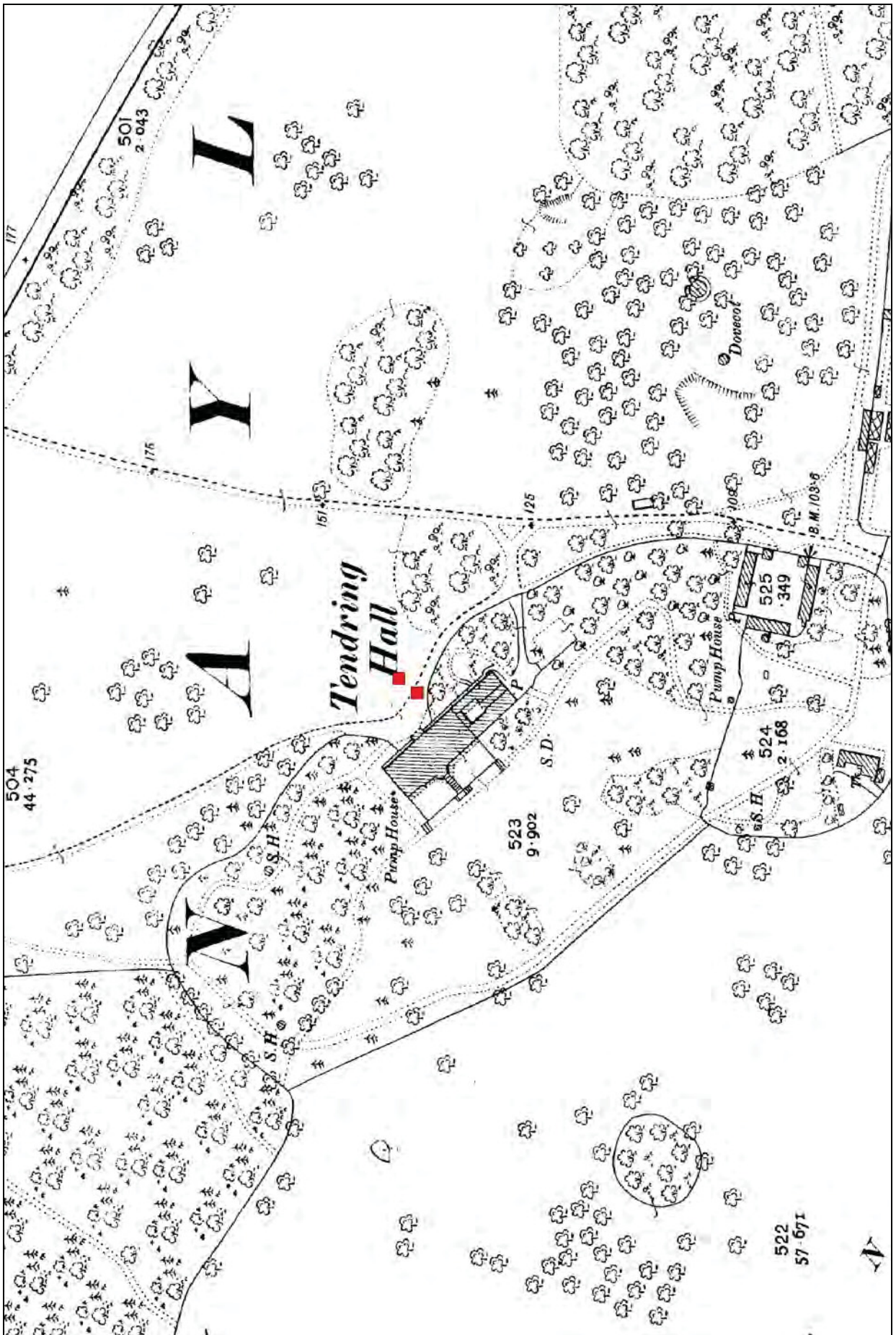


Figure 8. 1904 Ordnance Survey map of the hall with approximate test pit locations (red)

4. Methodology

Prior to the weekend of excavation, the volunteers were issued with a booklet describing what was needed in order to complete the test pits regarding the excavation methodology, time and basic equipment requirements. On the day, any further equipment, including recording booklets and tools were issued and an introductory talk was given. The volunteers were instructed on health and safety methodologies, such as excavation in relation to cables or services. A qualified first aider from SCCAS was also available on both days of the exercise. Out of the twenty test pits that were to be dug, five were abandoned without being started. An outreach programme at the primary school excavated a further two test pits under the supervision of Duncan Allan (SCCAS/FT).

The test pits were all excavated by hand, having been first measured to 1m x 1m and pre-assigned with an individual number. These pits were then plotted onto sketch plans using known OS points. Prior to excavation digital photographs were taken of the top of the test pit, and a 1:10 plan was made with a written description of any pertinent features on *pro forma* record sheets. At this point the first 0.1m of each test pit was dug and sieved through a 1cm mesh. The finds for that spit were then washed and listed on the record sheet, as was the context description. Each spit was numbered from a single continuous numbering system, with 0001 being the top spit (0-0.1m deep), 0002 being the next spit (0.1-0.2m) and so on. At the beginning of each new spit further 1:10 plans and descriptions were made, with a new photograph being taken. Finds were separated by spit and assigned their relative context number. During the recording process members of SCCAS circulated throughout the village, checking that the excavations were being carried out successfully and safely, and that the recording methodology was being followed. However, the poor weather conditions made recording extremely difficult in some cases. At the end of each day finds were returned to the village hall and collected. The target depth for each trench was 0.6m below ground level, in order to obtain a reasonable sample of material, whilst attempting to make the work as practical and safe as possible. At the end of the excavation of each test pit, sections were drawn at 1:10 of each test pit, although due to time constraints and the inclement weather, this was not always possible.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code SBN 096. Each spit was issued a unique context number relevant to the test pit and spit, e.g. 0205 represents Test Pit 2, spit 5. The primary school test pits and two unstratified contexts were assigned numbers beginning with 9101, 9201 and 9301 (Appendix 4). An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-141653, Appendix 5) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER code SBN 096.

SCCAS would like to acknowledge and give thanks to Access Cambridge Archaeology and Carenza Lewis (University of Cambridge), for providing the recording booklets used during the exercise, as well as for giving advice on how to run the event.

5. Results and finds evidence

5.1 Introduction

The following results describe the contexts recorded in each trench, as well as any pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) recovered and a brief interpretation from the author. The presence of worked flint and animal bone is also summarised. Full soil descriptions as recorded on site are included in Appendix 4, whilst a pottery catalogue and bulk finds catalogue are included as Appendices 6 and 7 respectively. Most of the CBM, with the exception of two Roman pieces (TPs 16 and 19) and five medieval pieces (TP16 and the Primary School Test Pits TPs 1 and 2), was all identified as being later medieval or post-medieval. The distribution patterns for the CBM, pottery and worked flint have been included as Figures 17, 18 and 19. Other finds from the test pits were almost entirely post-medieval, including bottle glass, window glass, clay tobacco pipes and iron nails, although prehistoric worked flint was also recovered from eight test pits. A number of other iron objects were not identifiable.

5.2 The pottery

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

A total of 739 sherds of pottery was recovered from twelve test pits, with another 37 sherds from two test pits within the primary school grounds (abbreviated as PSTP1 and 2). Five unstratified sherds are also present. The pottery was counted and scanned for fabric and form type, and an overall date range for each fabric was established.

The pottery was catalogued by test pit and context using letter codes based on fabric and form and inputted onto a spreadsheet (Appendix 6). The codes used are based mainly on broad fabric and form types identified in *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich* (Jennings 1981), and additional fabric types established by the Suffolk Unit (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

A breakdown of quantities of pottery from each test pit is shown below:

Test Pit	Total number of sherds
1	8
2	167
5	31
7	19
8	185
9	1
10	79
11	124
14	40
15	7
16	11
19	67
PSTP 1	17
PSTP 2	20
Unstratified	5
Total	781

Table 2. Pottery quantities

Most of the pottery recovered dates to the post-medieval period. However there is a small abraded sherd of flint-tempered ware in Test Pit 16, context 2 which has an overall prehistoric date. Two fragments of Roman date were also identified. Twelve sherds of medieval date were also present in four of the test pits and three were found in two unstratified contexts.

5.3 Test Pit results

Pottery analysis by Richenda Goffin and CBM identification by Andy Fawcett

Test Pit 1 – Merchant’s House

Test Pit 1 was located within the garden of a modern house (Fig. 9). A building is shown in the north-west corner of the plot on the 1886, 1904 and 1926 Ordnance Survey maps, with fields immediately to the north. The site was reported by the current owners to have been a haulage yard from the 1930s to 2000, when it was redeveloped to build the existing house.

Two spits were dug within this sondage to a depth of 0.2m below ground level (BGL), only recording topsoil. The pit was then abandoned due to the quantities of modern material present within contexts 0101 and 0102 (Appendix 4).

Eight small fragments of pottery were recovered from the pit. A fragment of a hard wheelthrown buffware was present, which may date to the Roman period. The other sherds are all late post-medieval wares and consist of Staffordshire Salt-glazed stoneware dating to the 18th century and fragments of plain white refined white earthenwares dating to the 19th century.

Thirty fragments of CBM were recovered from the test pit, consisting mainly of post-medieval material, as well as a small number of possible late medieval pieces. One piece of worked flint, another of burnt flint and a fragment of animal bone were also found in this pit.

Test Pit 2 – Well House

Test Pit 2 was located within the garden of Well House, a Grade II listed 14th century timber-framed house with later additions (Fig. 10). The early Ordnance Survey maps for the site show it with much the same layout as today, with the eponymous well adjoining the western side of the house and farmland to the north and west of the property.

In total seven spits were excavated within this test pit (Appendix 4 - 0201-0207), with the first three (0-0.3m BGL) interpreted as light to dark brown topsoil. The remaining spits (0.3-0.7m BGL) were interpreted as a mixture of buried topsoil/garden soil, mixed with subsoil through post-medieval and modern activity, as well as root action.

167 fragments of pottery were collected from this test pit, of wide ranging date. The earliest sherd is a fragment of a Roman colour coated ware dating from the 2nd-4th century AD. The fabric is fine and buff in colour, and it is possible that the sherd is an imported ware, perhaps from Central Gaul (Andy Fawcett, pers. comm.). If so this is a very unusual find for a Suffolk assemblage.

Five fragments of medieval coarseware dating to L12th-14th century were identified in five different contexts from Test Pit 2. One sherd is from a neckless jar of the type found in assemblages in Colchester (Cotter 96, fig 16). A large, relatively unabraded sherd of the same date was present in context 6. Other small fragments of post-medieval and late post-medieval wares were also recovered from this context. Sherds of Glazed red earthenware (contexts 2, 6 and 7) and Iron Glazed wares (context 7) dating to the 16th-

18th century were also present. The majority of the assemblage however consists of 18th-19th century wares such as Nottinghamshire stoneware, Pearlware, Creamware and Ironstone china with transfer printed decoration. Forms present include dishes, flowerpots and a chamberpot rim.

In total, 440 fragments of post-medieval CBM were recovered from this test pit, which were all post-medieval or modern. Ten pieces of worked flint, six of burnt flint and twenty of animal bone were collected from the various spits.

Test Pit 5 – The Croft's

Test Pit 5 was located within the vegetable garden of Croft's House (Fig. 11), which is present on all three of the early edition Ordnance Survey maps and appears to have changed little in its layout. The maps show that the allotments were already present beyond the south-west boundary at the end of the garden. A Grade II listed timber-framed house lies to the north of the property, whilst the Grade II listed primary school is immediately south of the site.

Seven spits were excavated within this test pit to 0.7m BGL (Appendix 4 - 0501-0507). The soil profile appeared to be quite disturbed, with the first two spits (0-0.2m BGL) encountering topsoil, whilst the next four spits (0.2-0.6m) were a mix of orange-brown and dark brown stony-sandy-clayey soil with some low levels of charcoal flecks. These spits were interpreted as a mixture of topsoil and disturbed subsoil. The final spit (0.6-0.7m) was made up of brownish-orange sand with very high quantities of gravel, which was a mixture of subsoil and the natural geology.

This test pit also contained sherds of a wide ranging date, but the group is far smaller than in Test Pit 2. A fragment of a medieval coarseware base was found in context 5 dating to the late 12th-14th century. A sherd of the base of a Raeren stoneware drinking vessel made in the Rhineland and a fragment of a Dutch-type redware dates to the early part of the post-medieval period, c. 15th-17th C (context 4). Other late post-medieval wares are also present, including Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware dating to the 18th century, and sherds of Creamware, English stoneware, Late post-medieval red earthenwares and Ironstone china. Forms represented include a drinking vessel, a bottle and a flowerpot.

One late medieval CBM fragment was recovered from this test pit, but the remaining twenty-four pieces were all post-medieval and modern. One piece of worked flint and one piece of animal bone were found in this pit.

Test Pit 7 – Cross Keys

Test Pit 7 was located within the garden of Cross Keys (Fig. 12), a house that was at least partially built in 1970s, but in a traditional style. It lies immediately across the road from the church, with the Grade II* listed Guildhall to the north-west, the Grade II listed St Mary's Cottage to the west and the Grade II listed Old Vicarage to the east. The 1886 Ordnance Survey map shows buildings on the site, whilst the 1904 and 1926 maps indicate that the buildings had been demolished and the site served as the entrance track to the Vicarage. The first three spits were amalgamated in this pit.

The first three spits (0-0.3m BGL) were recorded as dark brown soil, with stones, brick fragments, charcoal and low levels of chalk, which was interpreted as a topsoil layer. The final spit (0.3-0.4m BGL) was a pale brown soil later, containing stone and charcoal, which was interpreted as a buried topsoil/disturbed subsoil mix. These relate to entries 0701-0704 in the context list.

The nineteen sherds recovered from two contexts in this test pit consist of a sherd of Glazed red earthenware (16th-18th C), sherds of creamware dating c.1740-1880, Refined white earthenware, Yellow ware and Ironstone china dating to the L18th-19th century.

Twenty-nine fragments of CBM were recovered from this test pit. Medieval material including a piece of glazed tile has been recorded along with post-medieval fragments. The medieval CBM was found in two spits. One piece of worked and another of burnt flint were collected, as were eight pieces of animal bone.



Figure 9. Test Pit 1 location

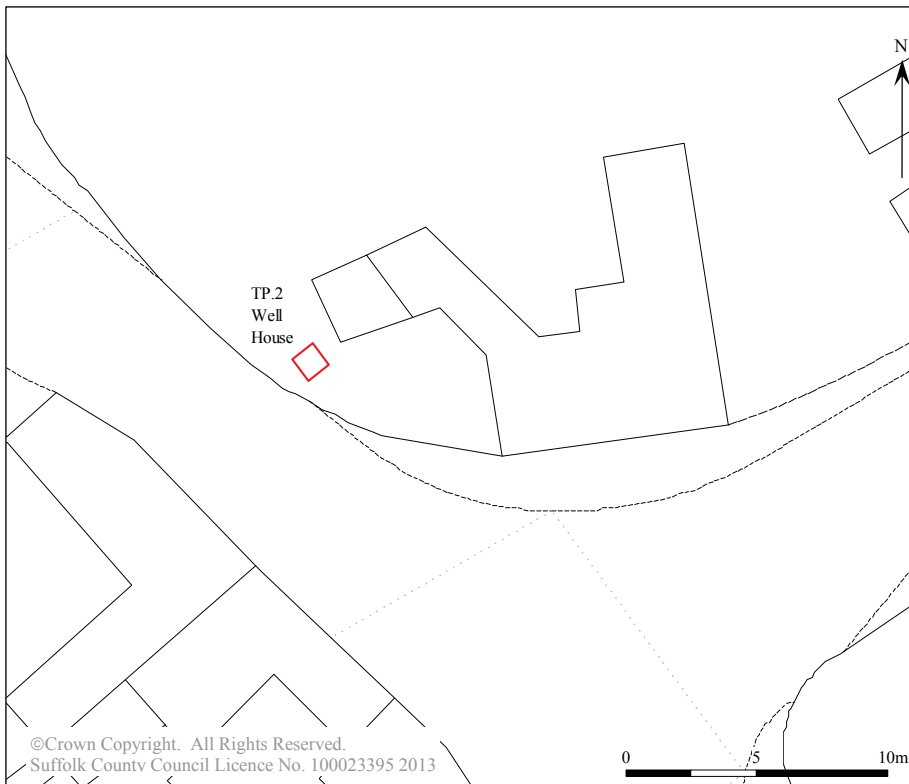


Figure 10. Test Pit 2 location

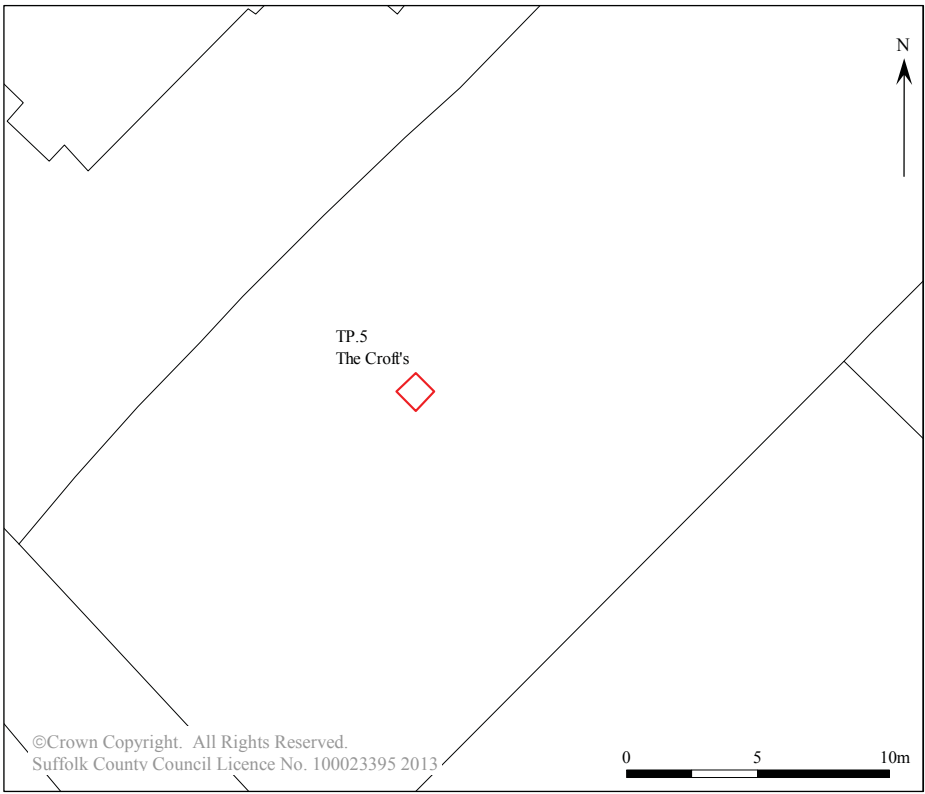


Figure 11. Test Pit 5 location

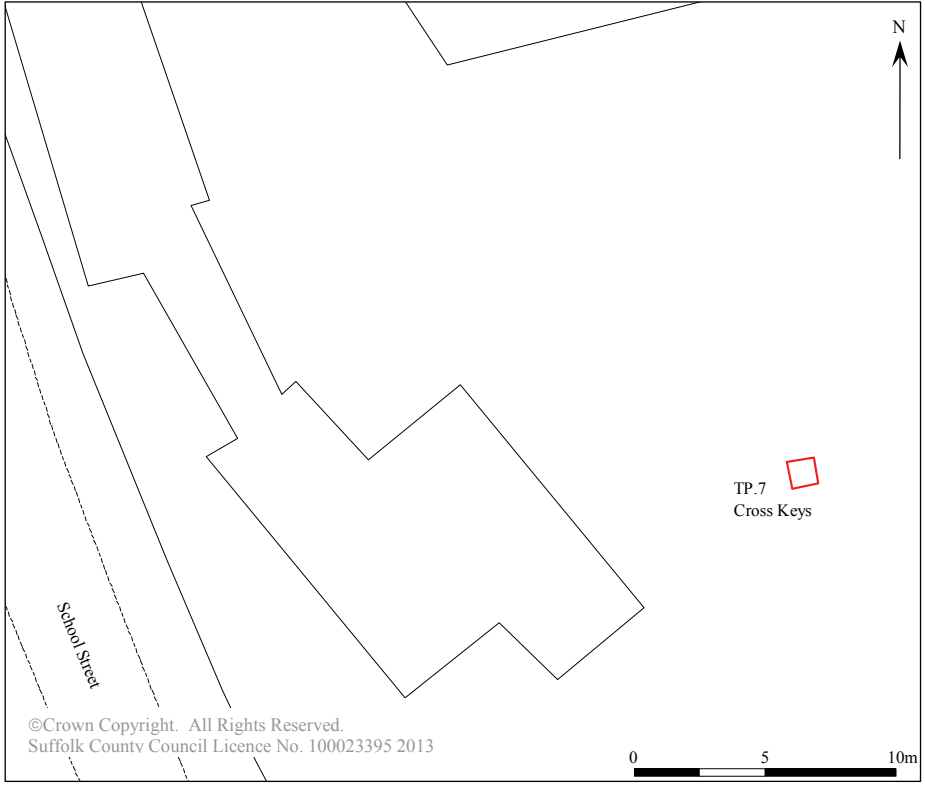


Figure 12. Test Pit 7 location

Test Pit 8 – Half Moone Cottage

Test Pit 8 was located within the garden of Half Moone Cottage (Fig. 14). This property is a Grade II listed timber-framed property, located immediately east of the church, adjoining the Grade II listed vicarage/Old Rectory to the east. On both the 1886 and 1904 Ordnance Survey maps the full street frontage of the plot, including the area of the test pit, was built on. However, by the time the 1926 OS map was drawn up, the western range of the building had been demolished, leaving that which is still present today. The plot was in what appears to have been the heart of the village at the time, close to the church, public house and police station. It was reported by several of the volunteers that the Half Moone property was once a public house, and it is known as a relatively common name for pubs and inns.

Six spits were excavated within this test pit (Appendix 4 - 0801-0806) with the top of the next spit described as 0807. Spits 0801-0803 (0-0.3m BGL) were recorded as dark brown soil with stone, occasional grey ash and root disturbance and this material was interpreted as a layer of topsoil. The remaining spits (0.3-0.6m BGL) consisted of light brown soil, with stones, occasional clay and sand content, brick fragments and occasional charcoal, which is thought to be a mixture of buried topsoil and disturbed subsoil. The top of the next unexcavated spit was recorded as containing brick, tile and stones.

The largest quantity of pottery from all the test pits was recovered from seven contexts in Test Pit 8 (185 sherds). Fragments of Late Colchester-type wares were identified in context 7. These included several sherds from jugs or cisterns (one probably dating to c.1475-1550), and a perforated fragment from a strainer or colander. Overall such local redwares date from the 14th century through to the early 16th century. Other early post-medieval wares were identified in context 4. Fragments of Late medieval and transitional redwares were present, including a cauldron or jar and a possible lid. A number of Glazed red earthenwares (16th-18th C) from the pit include fragments from a panchion and different pipkins, one of which has a tubular rod handle.

A large range of different later post-medieval wares were identified from Test Pit 8. These include Nottinghamshire stonewares, English stoneware, Ironstone china, Staffordshire stoneware, Late Slipped redware, Refined white earthenware, Yellow

ware, English lustreware, Pearlware, and Banded creamware, all dating from the late 17th century through to the 19th century. A large part of a Banded creamware bowl with flat rim and blue and white annular decoration was present in context 6.

The CBM assemblage consisted of at least five medieval pieces, whilst the remaining thirty pieces were post-medieval. Nineteen fragments of animal bone, as well as one burnt flint and some slag fragments were recovered from this pit.

Test Pit 9 – The Old Rectory

Test Pit 9 was located within the garden of The Old Rectory (Fig. 13), which is a Grade II listed brick house, located east of the church, adjoining the Grade II listed Half Moone Cottage to the west. The first three editions of the Ordnance Survey map indicate that the layout of the site has remained largely unchanged.

Four spits were excavated within this test pit (Appendix 4 - 0901-0904). The first three (0-0.35m) were recorded simply as soil and were interpreted from the photographic evidence as topsoil. Below this the final spit (0.35-0.45m BGL) was recorded as a mixture of 80% soil and 20% clay and may indicate a transition to a topsoil and subsoil mixture.

Only a single fragment of pottery was recovered from context 2. This was a fragment of blue and white transfer decorated Pearlware dish dating to 1770-1850.

Seven fragments of post-medieval CBM were recovered from the test pit, along with three pieces of animal bone.



Figure 13. Test Pit 9 location

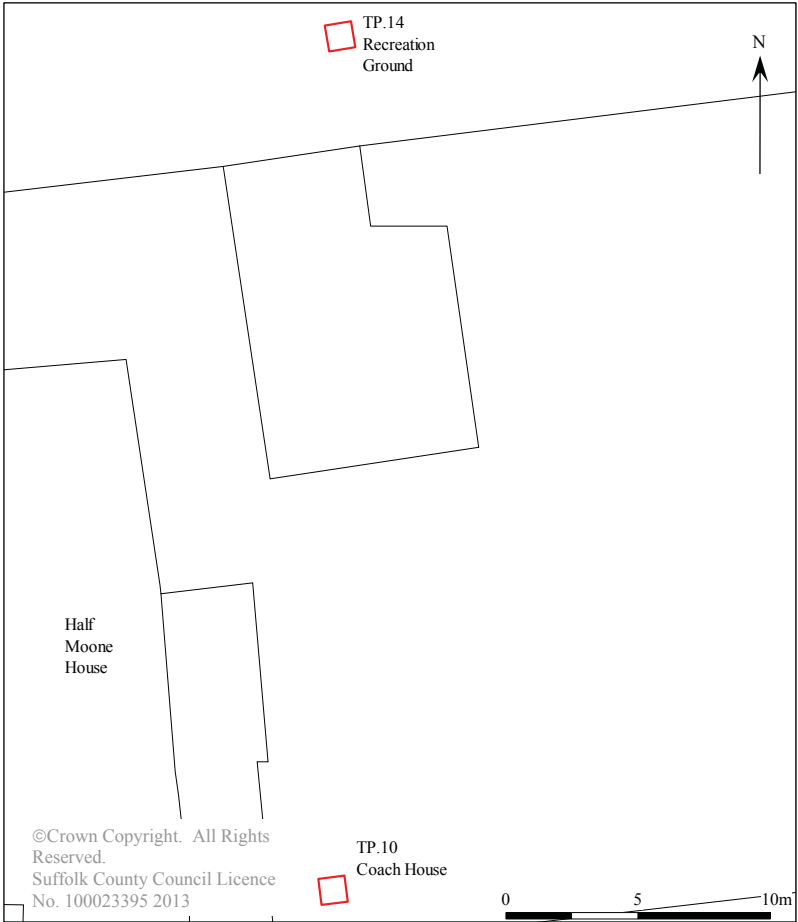


Figure 14. Test Pits 10 and 14 locations

Test Pit 10 – Coach House

Test Pit 10 was located in the south-west corner of the Coach House garden (Fig. 14), which used to be part of the vicarage/Old Rectory gardens. The property is immediately north of The Old Rectory, east of the church and also the Grade II listed Almshouses. It appears that the test pit has been part of the old Rectory's gardens since at least 1886.

Within this test pit seven spits were excavated, the first two of which (0-0.2m BGL) were recorded as dark brown soil with stones and were interpreted as the local topsoil layer. The following four spits (0.2-0.6m BGL) were a very mixed layer of lighter brown sandy soil, stones, mortar/sand patches and clay, which was probably a mixture of topsoil and disturbed subsoil. The final spit (0.6-0.83m BGL) was a corner sondage dug to expose the natural geology, which recorded orange-light brown sandy-clay with large stones that overlaid the brownish-orange sandy-clay geology. These relate to entries 1001-1007 in the context list.

A single fragment of medieval coarseware dating to c. late 12th-14th century was identified from this test pit. The remainder of the pottery dates to the post-medieval period. A fragment of Colchester slipware dating to the 15th-16th century was recovered from context 5. Glazed red earthenwares and Iron glazed blackwares are present in small numbers (8 sherds) dating to the 16th-18th century. A small amount of 18th century wares made up of Staffordshire salt-glazed stoneware and Nottinghamshire stoneware is present. The remainder of this test pit assemblage is made up of late post-medieval wares including English stoneware, Creamware, Pearlware, Refined white earthenware, Ironstone china and Late post-medieval redwares.

Fifty-nine fragments of post-medieval and modern CBM were recorded in all but one of the spits in this test pit, along with one worked flint, one burnt flint, slag fragments and eleven pieces of animal bone.

Test Pit 11 – Street House

Test Pit 11 lies in the back garden of Street House garden (Fig. 15), a Grade II* listed timber-framed jettied house, with the Grade II listed timber framed Beech Cottages to the west and the Grade II listed Street Cottage to the east. The Angel Inn, also Grade II

listed, also backs onto the Street House garden. The layout of the property has changed little since the late 19th century.

Seven contexts were issued for this test pit, which encountered a well at 0.4-0.5m BGL, numbered as 1105 and 1107. The first four spits (0-0.4m BGL) were recorded as topsoil. In Spit 05 (0.4-0.5m BGL) the well top was uncovered. It was made of reused Tudor bricks and plain handmade bricks bedded into lime mortar, and was located in the north-west corner of the sondage. No further excavation was carried out into the well itself, but surrounding the structure a greyish-orangish-brown soil was recorded (0.5-0.6m BGL) which was probably a buried topsoil/disturbed subsoil layer. These relate to entries 1101-1107 in the context list.

A small quantity of Glazed red earthenware was present in the contexts of Test Pit 11. In addition the base of a probable Westerwald stoneware chamberpot from the Rhineland was identified from context 2 dating from the 17th-18th century. A fragment of Sunderland slipware dish was present in 003/004 dating to the 19th century. The remains of a number of small and deep bowls were present in context 7. These include a large footring from a Pearlware blue and white decorated bowl, possibly a punch bowl (1770-1880), and a fragment of a heavily sooted Staffordshire combed slipware bowl which is slightly earlier in date (1650-1800). A wide range of other late post-medieval wares are also present in this test pit dating from the 18th-19th century.

The 108 fragments of CBM from the test pit were a mixture of medieval and post-medieval pieces, including a post-medieval unfrosted brick of pre-1850 date. Eight pieces of animal bone and one of burnt flint were also collected from the test pit.

Test Pit 14 – Recreation ground to rear of Coach House

Test Pit 14 lies in the recreation ground to the north of Coach House, east of the church and Almshouses (Fig. 14). The early Ordnance Survey maps show that the recreation ground was probably common land at this point and was much the same shape as it is today. There is no evidence to suggest that the area has been built on at any point since the late 19th century.

The two upper spits within this test pit were made up of topsoil consisting of dark brown soil with stones (0-0.2m BGL). Underlying this were two spits of topsoil with disturbed subsoil, recorded as lighter brown soil with some stones and charcoal flecks (0.2-0.4m BGL), which covered a final spit simply recorded as light orange-brown (0.4-0.5m BGL) that was probably an interface between the subsoil and the uppermost geological layer. These relate to entries 1401-1405 in the context list.

Small quantities of pottery were recovered from four contexts in Test Pit 14. The earliest is a fragment of Colchester-type ware which has a wide date range of 13th-Mid 16th century, which was found with a sherd of Glazed red earthenware (16th-18th C) in context 1, but was also found with sherds of 18th and 19th century date. The remainder of the assemblage dates from the mid 18th through to the 19th century.

Most of the 150 fragments of CBM from this test pit were post-medieval, though it was not possible to fully identify all of the material. Four pieces of worked flint and one of animal bone were also recorded.

Test Pit 15 – Recreation ground north-west of the church

Test Pit 15 is positioned in the recreation ground to the north-west of the church grounds, immediately south of the tennis courts and across the road from three Grade II listed timber-framed buildings (Fig. 16). There is no evidence to suggest that the area has been built on at any point since the late 19th century.

Five spits were excavated in this test pit, with the upper four (0-0.4m BGL) being made up of light-mid brown soil, with varying levels of stones and clay and occasional sand, interpreted as topsoil. The final spit (0.4-0.5m BGL) was brown sandy-clay and stones, interpreted as a mixture of topsoil and disturbed subsoil. These relate to entries 1501-1505 in the context list.

The seven sherds recovered from this test pit are almost exclusively late post-medieval in date. The earliest fragment is a sherd of banded Creamware dating from 1780-1900.

Seventeen fragments of mainly post-medieval CBM were recovered from this test pit, although some medieval material was also present, as well as six burnt flints and one piece of animal bone.

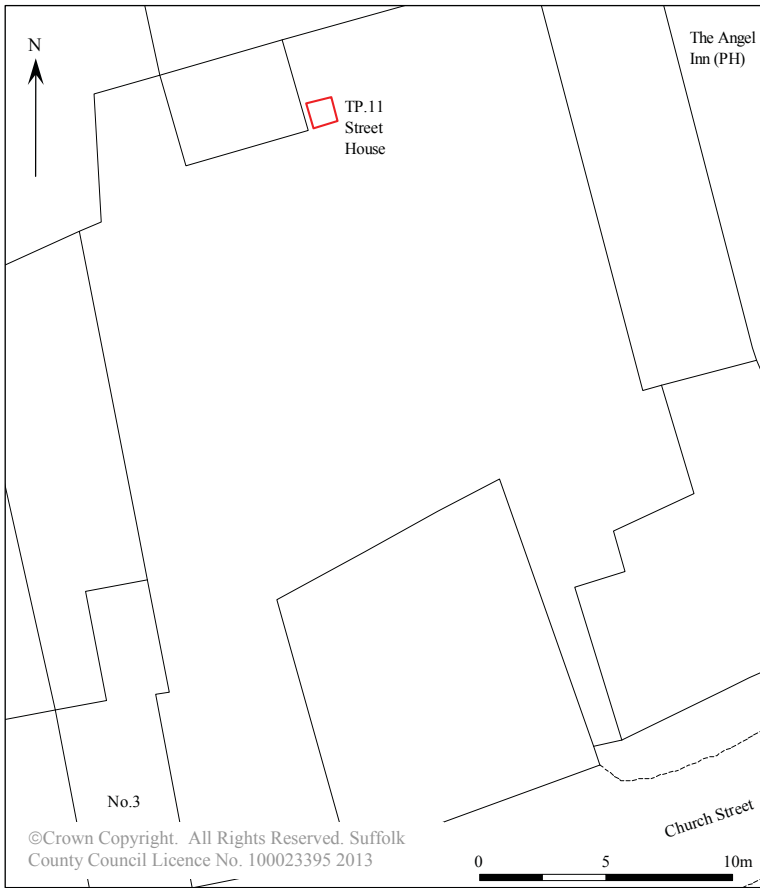


Figure 15. Test Pit 11 location

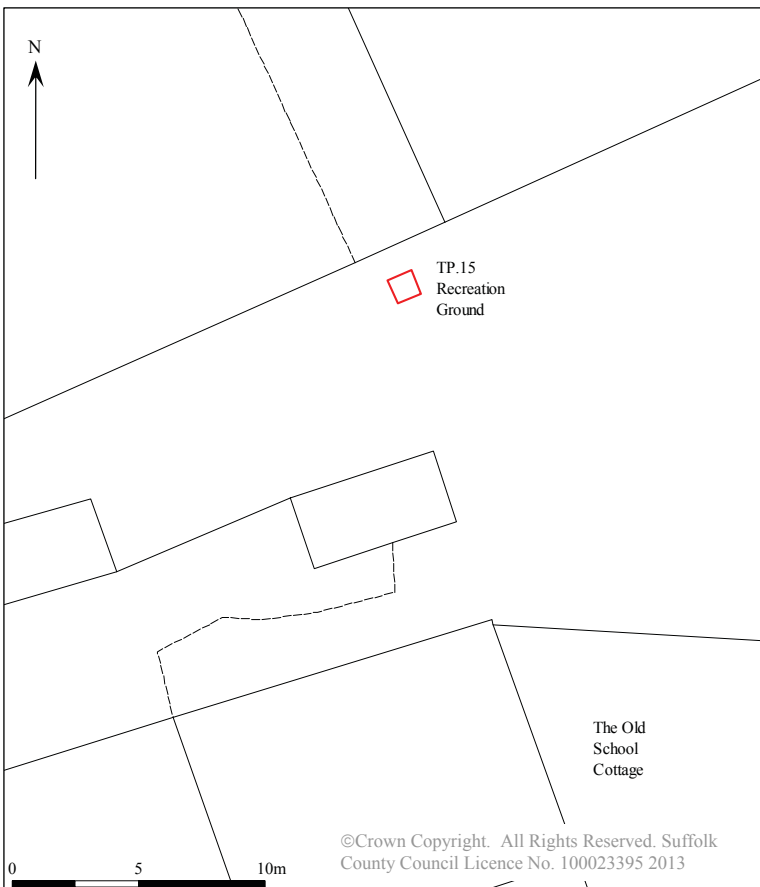


Figure 16. Test Pit 15 location

Test Pit 16 – Recreation ground north-west of the church

Test Pit 16 is near the west edge of the recreation ground to the north-west of the tennis courts, across the road from the Grade II listed primary school (Fig. 17). There is no evidence to suggest that the area has been built on at any point since the late 19th century.

The upper three spits (0-0.3m BGL) of brown sandy soil with some stones and occasional darker brown patches were interpreted as topsoil. Underlying this was a layer of darker brown sandy-soil with stones (0.3-0.4m BGL), which was a buried topsoil layer. Underlying this was an orangish-brown disturbed sandy-subsoil layer, containing a deposit of charcoal (0.4-0.6m BGL). These spits relate to contexts 1601-1606 in Appendix 4.

Although only eleven sherds were recovered from this test pit, an abraded flint-tempered sherd dating to the prehistoric period was recorded from context 2. In addition five sherds of medieval coarseware were present, and a sherd of unprovenanced glazed ware which is also medieval. The medieval component therefore represents a considerable quantity of the total amount of pottery from the pit, although it is clearly residual and accompanied by later, post-medieval wares. A fragment of a Glazed red earthenware pipkin and a Staffordshire combed slipware dish were identified which are post-medieval.

Sixty-four fragments of CBM were found within this test pit. This represents one of the more diverse selections of CBM from the village, with a possible Roman piece, medieval and later medieval material, as well as post-medieval examples. Three worked flints and two animal bones were collected.

Test Pits 17 and 19 – Allotments

Test Pits 17 and 19 were located within the allotments on the south-west edge of the village, to the rear of three Grade II listed buildings and the Grade II* listed Guildhall (Fig. 18). The area was an undeveloped field on the early Ordnance Survey maps. No records were returned for Test Pit 17, which was only excavated 0.1m into the topsoil (context 1701 – Appendix 4).

Five spits were excavated into Test Pit 19, of which the top two (0-0.2m BGL) were made up of medium brown stony topsoil with low levels of charcoal. The next two spits were interpreted as subsoil (0.2-0.4m BGL) recorded as sandy and stony, with charcoal flecks. Underlying this, the final spit (0.4-0.5m BGL) was made up of orange stony-sand which was the natural geology. The spits in this test pit are recorded as 1901-1905 in Appendix 4.

Sixty-seven sherds were recovered from this test pit. They are almost all of late post-medieval date apart from sherds of Glazed red earthenware and one of Iron Glazed blackware (16th-18th C), a fragment of a red stoneware teapot dating to the 18th century and a sherd of Staffordshire combed slipware.

CBM from Test Pit 19 totalled seventy-eight fragments, the majority of which were post-medieval. However, a possible Roman piece was also recorded as was a fragment of animal bone.

Test Pits 18 and 20 – Tendring Hall

Test Pits 18 and 20 were located just to the east of the upstanding portico of Tendring Hall, in the area occupied by the driveway to the hall on the early Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 19). After the removal of turf and 0.05m of topsoil, compacted gravel and sand was recorded in Test Pit 18, which was interpreted as either evidence of the former driveway surface or more probably the natural geology (context 1801 – Appendix 4). No finds were recorded from this test pit.

Test Pit 20 was dug in two spits to 0.2m BGL, recording topsoil, mixed with orange-clayey subsoil, above orangish-brown sandy-gravel subsoil and clay (contexts 2001 and 2002 – Appendix 4). At the base of the second spit a natural geological layer of sand, gravel and clay was uncovered. Eighteen sherds of post-medieval CBM were recovered from this test pit, although the state of the material made it hard to identify. A single burnt flint was also found within the test pit.

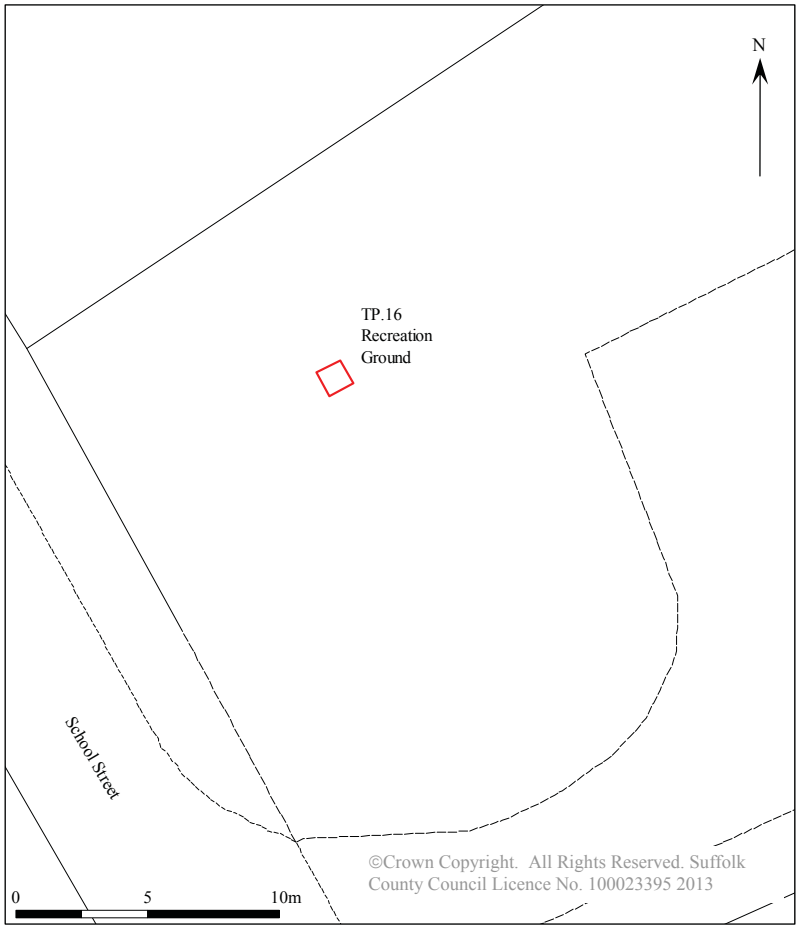


Figure 17. Test Pit 16 location

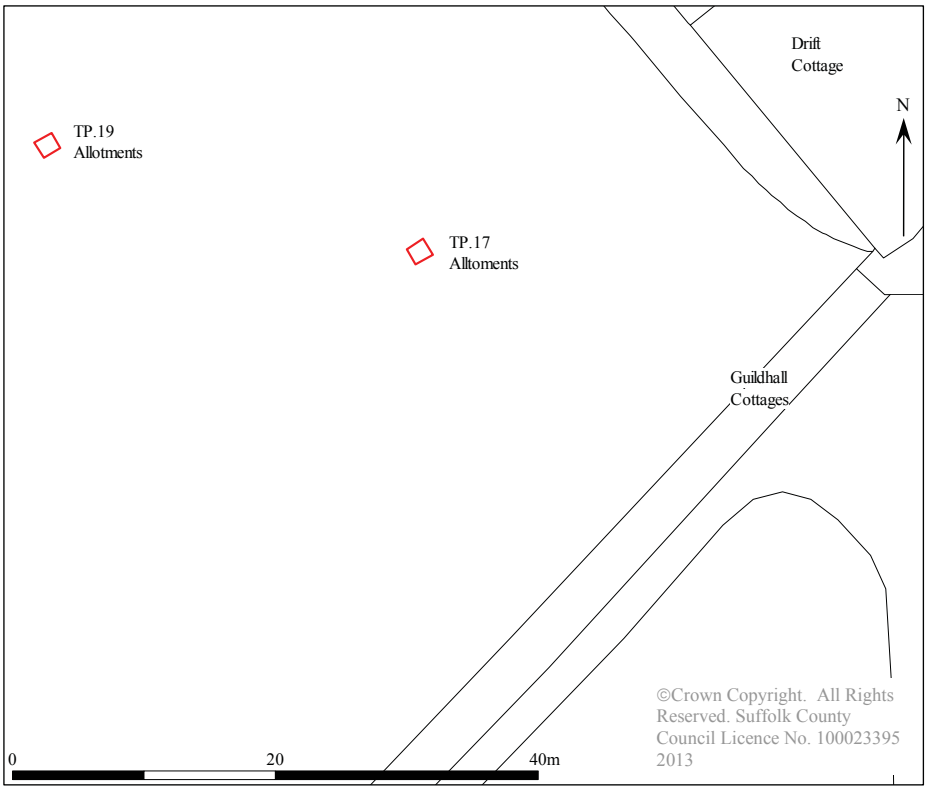


Figure 18. Test Pits 17 and 19 locations

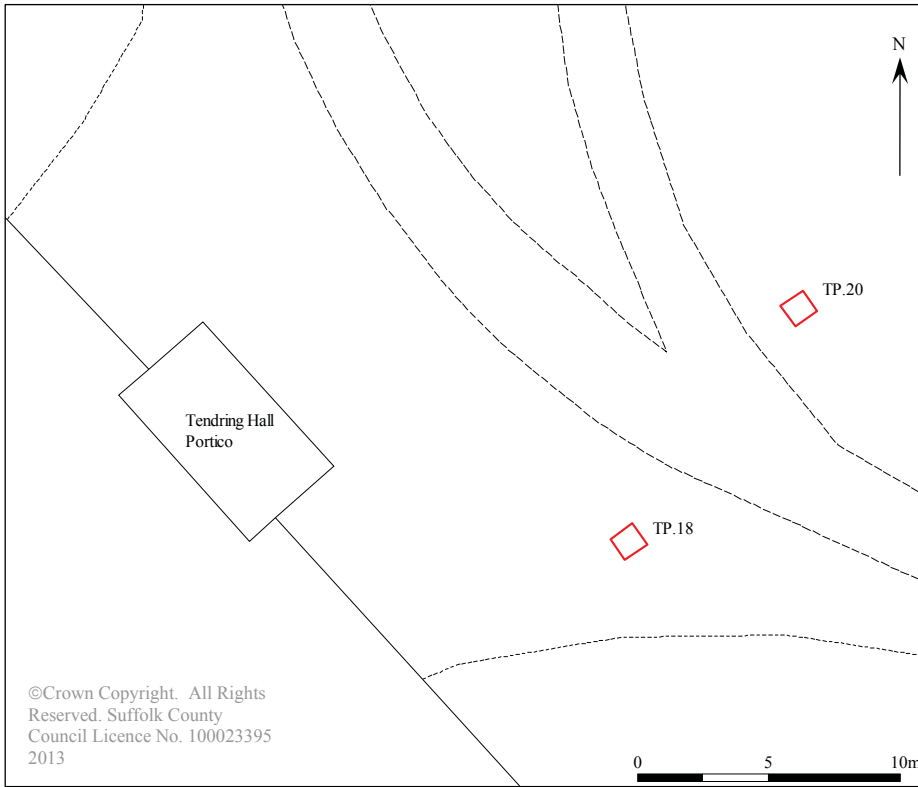


Figure 19. Test Pits 18 and 20 locations

Primary School Test Pits

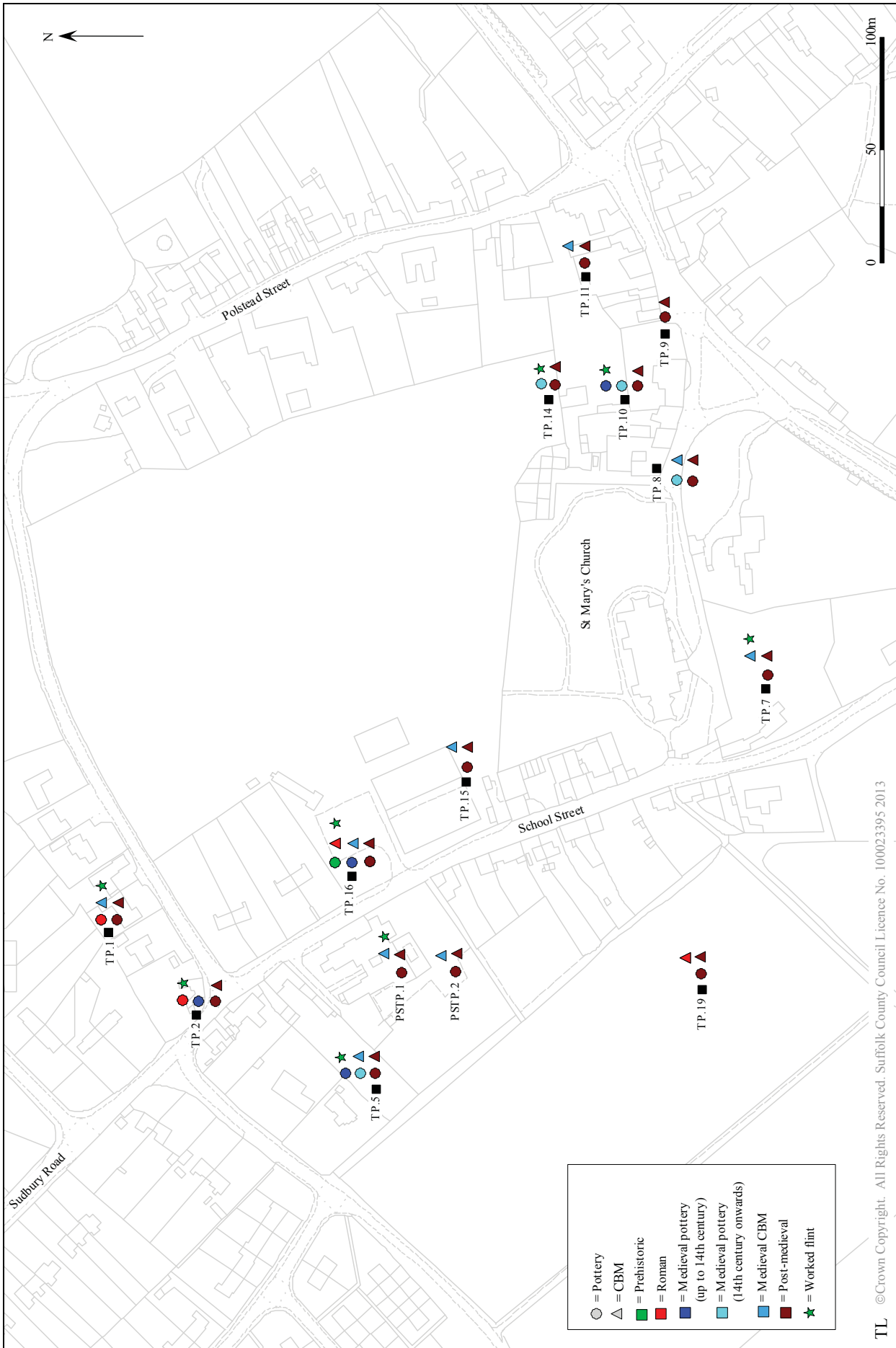
Two test pits were excavated as part of an Outreach programme at the Primary School. These were both only excavated to 0.2m BGL, revealing topsoil in all spits (contexts 9101-9102 and 9201-9202 – Appendix 4).

The earliest pottery from Primary School Test Pit (PSTP) 1 was a sherd of 16th century local early post-medieval ware, whilst in PSTP 2 there was a body sherd of 16th-18th century Glazed red earthenware. The remainder of the pottery from both of these test pits was later 17th-20th century.

PSTP 1 produced one sherd of medieval CBM and twenty-eight sherds of post-medieval and modern CBM, whilst PSTP 2 had four or more fragments of medieval CBM and approximately eighty sherds of post-medieval CBM. A small piece of worked flint and a piece of animal bone were also recovered from PSTP 1.

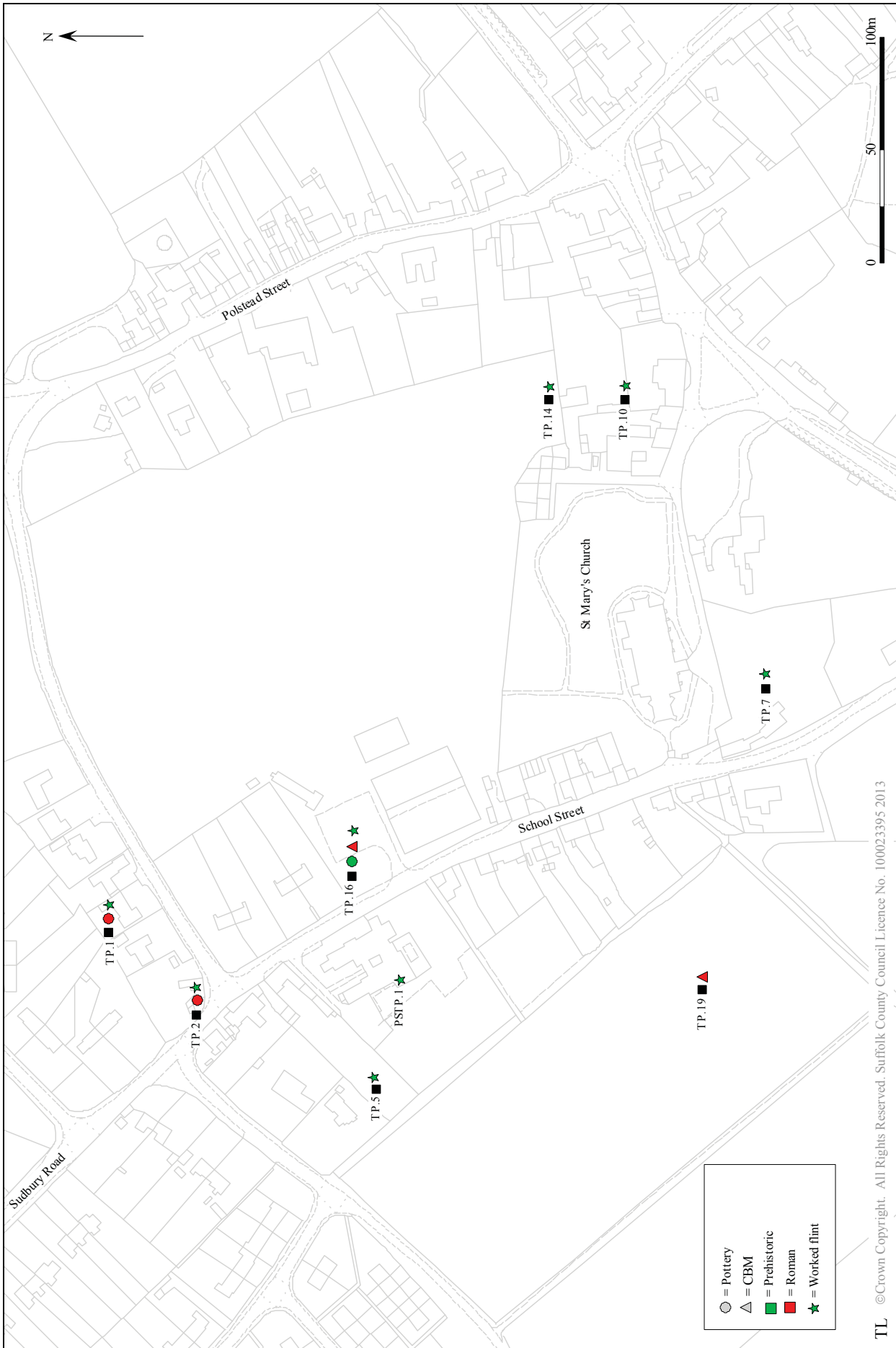
Other finds

Five sherds of pottery were collected from incorrectly recorded contexts. These include two late 12th-14th century coarseware body sherds that have been recorded herein as being in context 9301. These sherds were originally recorded as coming from Test Pit 116, Spit 2. The remaining pieces include a further medieval coarseware sherd, a 15th-17th century Dutch-type redware sherd and a 19th century ironstone china sherd, which have been assigned context 9302, having originally had no context number assigned.



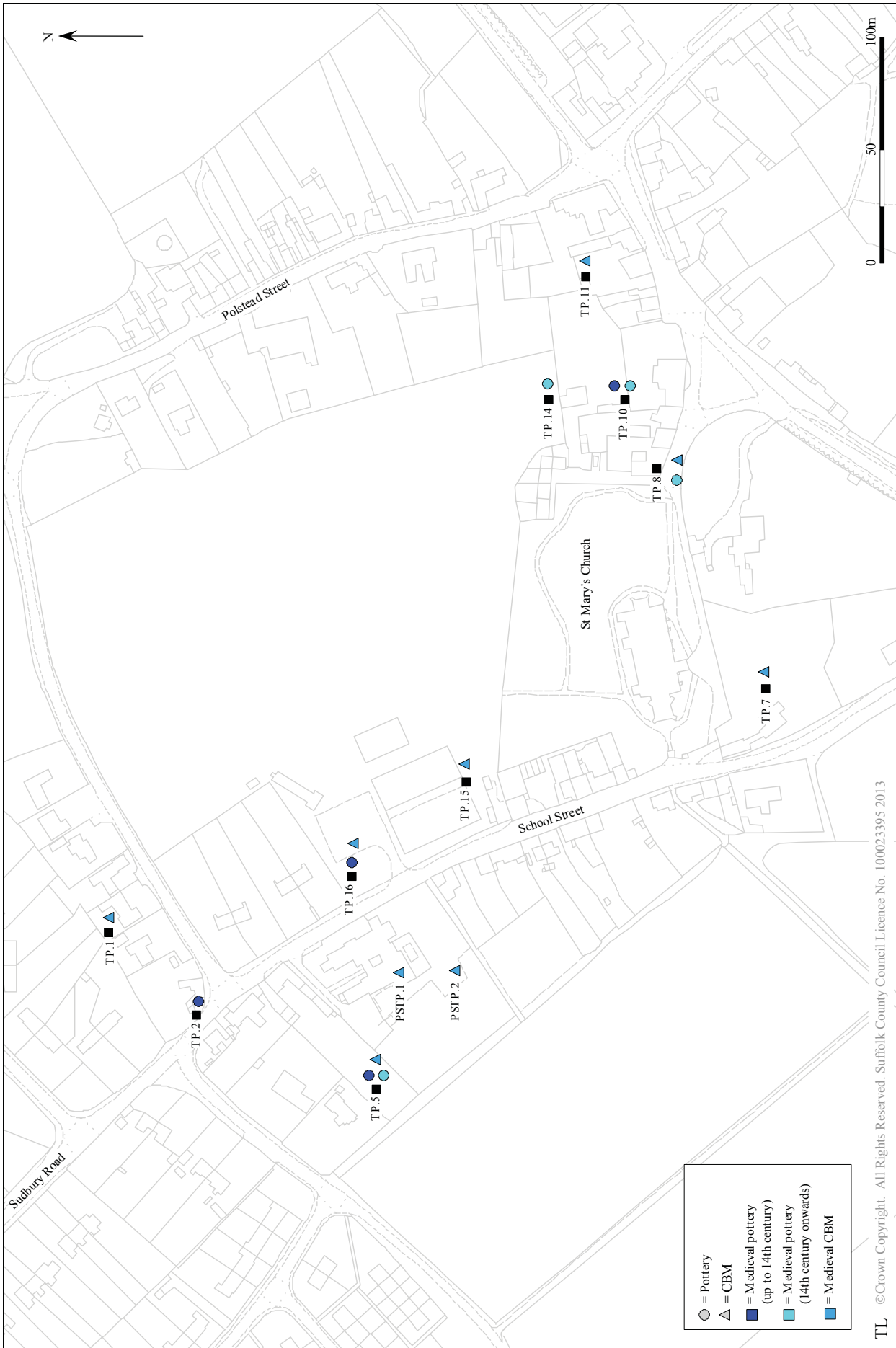
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Figure 20. Pottery, CBM and worked flint distribution plan (test pits not to scale)



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Figure 21. Prehistoric and Roman pottery, CBM and worked flint distribution plan (test pits not to scale)



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Figure 22. Medieval pottery and CBM distribution plan (test pits not to scale)



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Figure 23. Post-medieval pottery and CBM distribution plan, showing average pieces per spit (test pits not to scale)

6. Discussion

With contributions by Richenda Goffin

The test pitting exercise has revealed varying levels of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity across the modern settlement core of Stoke-by-Nayland but with an absence of material dating from the late Anglo-Saxon to late 12th century (Fig. 20). The majority of the finds assemblage represents material deposited into topsoil and disturbed subsoil during the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

Any consideration of the results needs to take account of various circumstances that may have biased the results, not least the weather conditions which hindered excavation work. The first of these is the variable depths to which the test pits were dug which affected the size of the individual samples from across the village and has made it more challenging to confidently plot any patterns in the data set. The other difficulty posed by the material is bias in the collection practices. For example, burnt flints are found in a general spread across the village, but their absence from some pits may indicate a bias in how effectively they were recognised and collected, rather than a true pattern.

Prehistoric artefacts were only found in small quantities, but worked flint was recovered from eight test pits spread across the village, with one pot sherd from Test Pit 16 on the recreation ground (Fig. 21). Such material is not unexpected and the area would have formed a favourable settlement site, close to a water source but above the floodplain. It is also possible that some of the worked flint derives from medieval and post-medieval building works.

The Roman finds from the site are recorded in the north-west corner of the village and the allotments and were recovered from four test pits (Fig. 21), with a fragment of wheelthrown buffware which is probably Roman found in Test Pit 1 and a rare colour-coated ware, dating to the 2nd-4th century identified in Test Pit 2. The latter is possibly an imported fineware and is therefore a significant find. It is notable that these two, only, finds of Roman pottery were recovered from adjacent test pits at the northern end of the village. The other material consists of two CBM fragments, which are possibly Roman. As this material was only present in small quantities, it is not clear if it is significant beyond indicating the presence of a low level of activity somewhere in the general area.

However it is also notable that Roman CBM has been recorded in the construction fabric of the church and is also apparently used in the cellar wall of a house on School Street (according to the owner). This shows that Roman artefacts were being spread around the village for some time after the period, as well as being reused. The presence of such a high level of CBM would seem to indicate the presence of at least one Roman building in the vicinity, but the location of this has not yet been identified.

Medieval artefacts were found across the village with CBM in Test Pits 1, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 15, as well as PSTPs 1 and 2 (Fig. 22). A slight shift appears in the pottery across the village, although this is once again only supported by low levels of artefactual evidence. Earlier pottery (12th century up to/including 14th century) was present in Test Pits 2, 5, 10 and 16, with later pottery (14th century-late medieval/transitional) in Test Pits 8, 10 and 14. This indicates a possible concentration of the earlier material in the north-west of the village, with later material usually being recorded in the south-east. This may indicate an early shift in settlement to that corner of the village as later depicted on Hodskinson's 18th century map (Fig. 6). However the lack of earlier medieval finds closer to the church seems abnormal, given that these buildings often indicate the core of medieval villages. The types of artefacts are typical of medieval domestic occupation and it is probable that some of the animal bone, shell and other finds types are also medieval material, redeposited in later contexts.

Post-medieval finds, usually consisting of CBM and pottery were found in every test pit, excluding pits 17 and 18 (with the average number of fragments of pottery and CBM per spit shown on Figure 23 and Appendix 8). These finds are typical of a post-medieval village, demonstrating activity such as small scale industry (in the form of slag from the smithy) and garden/field manuring (represented by the finds in the allotments and within gardens) as well as the build up of domestic refuse. High levels of pottery and CBM were found across the village, with c.180 sherds from Test Pit 8 (with 30 pieces of CBM), c.160 sherds recovered from Test Pit 2 (with 440 pieces of CBM) and 124 sherds from Test Pit 11 (90? pieces of CBM). The lowest recorded amount of post-medieval material was from Test Pit 1, where only seven sherds of pot were found along with c. twenty-five pieces of CBM. However this amount may be a result of the 20th century disturbance within the garden, as well as the shallow depth to which the pit was excavated. The average levels of pottery and CBM recovered per spit, as shown on Figure 23 do indicate a slight concentration of material in the south-east of the village,

again probably correlating with the concentration of buildings shown on Hodskinson's late 18th century map which also follow north along what is now Polstead Street (Fig. 6). There is also a peak in Test Pit 2, where the particularly high amount of CBM may show partial demolition and repair works to Well House. Other definitively post-medieval material includes glass and clay tobacco pipe fragments, whilst many of the other artefacts (animal bone, iron objects, shell, mortar/plaster and slag) could come from a mix of post-medieval and earlier periods. However, the predominance of early post-medieval to modern material suggests that most of these artefacts are likely to be post-medieval. The pieces of slag in Test Pits 8 and 10, close to the old smithy are almost certainly post-medieval (Fig. 4), whilst the CBM recovered from Test Pit 20 must relate to activity associated with Tendring Hall.

7. Conclusions

The test pitting works have indicated a low level of prehistoric and Roman activity in the area. The most unusual aspect of this is the presence of the Roman CBM within test pits and local structures, which suggests a nearby building. There is then an apparent gap in the occupation of the village until the late 12th century (when pottery appears to indicate settlement in the north-west corner of the village). However this gap merely reflects the limits of the finds assemblage, as it is known from documentary evidence that the settlement has Saxon origins and a 10th century church. The medieval and post-medieval finds, as well as the map evidence and surviving buildings may suggest a shift in the focus of occupation after the 14th century from the north-west to the south-east of the village.

Whilst the village has Saxon origins, these were not recorded within the finds assemblage and it has not yet clearly been established whether there was a centre of settlement within the existing village. It is possible that this earlier occupation may have existed on the topographical plateau that continues to the south-east and north-west of Stoke-by-Nayland. The post-Saxon medieval finds assemblage is typical, suggesting domestic occupation and an economy based on agriculture, as well as cottage industries, with local merchants overseeing these through the guildhall. The large church may stand on the site of the former monastery and reflects the wealth of its endowment, although in this case that may be a reflection of the wealth of particular individuals rather than that of the village as a whole (Richard Channon, pers comm.), as well as emphasising its relative importance within the county, despite the competition posed by the abbey in Bury St Edmunds. The post-medieval occupation evidence derived from the test pitting is typical of such a village, with evidence of domestic refuse, as well as manuring of agricultural land and smithing, whilst the map evidence shows that the malting and textile industries were part of the local economy, with several shops, a pub and a police station present at various times.

8. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Stoke by Nayland\SBN 096 Test pitting

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Stoke by Nayland

Finds archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

9. Acknowledgements

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Project management was undertaken by Jo Caruth who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians and Preston Boyles. The specialist finds report was produced by Richenda Goffin with additional advice provided by Andy Fawcett.

The report illustrations were created by Rob Brooks and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

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11. Plates

Fieldwork



Plate 1. SCCAS staff patrol the village!



Plate 2. View across the allotments and TP19.



Plate 3. Digging TP 19.



Plate 4. Digging TP10.



Plate 5. The first excavated spit in TP 7.



Plate 6. TP14 on the edge of the Recreation Ground.



Plate 7. TP 15 by the tennis courts.



Plate 8. TP 7.



Plate 9. Dedicated workers in the rain in TP 15.



Plate 10. TP 8.



Plate 11. TP 7.



Plate 12. Carefully sieved spoil heaps from TP 2.



Plate 13. Sieving at TP 19.



Plate 14. TP 16.



Plate 15. The top spit in TP1 and a selection of finds, note the Roman pottery in the centre!



Plate 16. TP 5, someone's enjoying the rain!



Plate 17. Well found in TP 11.



Plate 18. SCCAS staff, lots of them, supervise sieving in TP8!



Plate 19. Digging TP 2.



Plate 20. A monitoring visit at TP 10.



Plate 21. TP 16 being started in the rain.



Plate 22. Soil profile in TP2.



Plate 23. Recording TP 20.



Plate 24. Digging TP 16.



Plate 25. A barrowful of stones from the sieving is backfilled into the base of TP 5



Plate 26. TP 9 in one of the rare moments of sunshine!



Plate 27. TP 16 attracting attention!



Plate 28. TP18 uncovered the former drive to Tendring Hall.



Plate 29. Lots of pottery and tile finds were made the soil layers in TP 8.



Plate 30. All that remains of Tendring Hall. Setting out for TP 18.



Plate 31. SCCAS staff get stuck in in TP 19.

The Operations Centre



Plate 32. Discussing pottery



Plate 33. Gathering before the start



Plate 34. Pre-start briefing



Plate 35. Pre-start briefing



Plate 36. Gathering before the start



Plate 37. Gathering before the start



Plate 38. Discussing strategy



Plate 39. The finds start coming in



Plate 40. Finds brought to the Hall



Plate 41. Some of the finds from TP 8



Plate 42. Trays of finds in the Hall



Plate 42. End of weekend summing up.