Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Shillington, Bedfordshire, 2014

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Pottery reports and comment by Paul Blinkhorn
Pottery maps by Access Cambridge Archaeology
Summary
This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological excavation of 9 one metre square ‘test pits’ in the Bedfordshire village of Shillington in summer 2014. This follows the excavation of 23 test pits in 2013, bringing the total excavated to 32. The results provide further evidence for the development of the area now occupied by the village.

Previous evidence had shown that the landscape was used by humans in the prehistoric period and a 2014 test pit has produced a little Bronze Age pottery to complement a larger find made in a 2013 test pit. Both of these sites have also produced Roman pottery. The pottery strongly suggest continuous occupation between different periods at many of the locations. The 2014 results- like those in 2013- show how the ‘Ends’ of Shillington flourished in the High Medieval period but were affected by demographic and geographical contraction in the Late Medieval before a gradual recovery took place.

Introduction
In June 2013, Shillington History Society arranged for the archaeology of the village to be investigated using a series of 1 metre square test pits. The Society received advice from Access Cambridge Archaeology (University of Cambridge) and the excavation was co-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under their All Our Stories funding stream and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under their Connected Communities programme, Cambridge Community Heritage. Sixteen of the test pits were dug by family groups and friends and supervised by Access Cambridge Archaeology. Seven more test pits were dug by amateur archaeologists with experience of test pitting in other locations, making a total of 23.

The results were encouraging and it was decided to seek further sites for test pits in 2014. Local residents and supporters, including many with experience from 2013 would carry out the excavations, but without professional support. The HLF kindly allowed the underspent part of the 2013 grant to be used for the analysis of finds and other costs incurred.

During July and August, 2014, 9 more test pits were dug using the same methodology as in 2013, which included excavating in 10cm layers or ‘contexts’, retaining finds of all non-natural materials (except for obviously modern materials with little historic value), cleaning finds and recording all the information in ‘Excavation Records’ booklets. Pottery specialist, Paul Blinkhorn (PB), analysed all of the pottery finds which are shown in a table for each test pit and his comments are incorporated into the report for each test pit.
Test Pit 1 (SH 14/1)
Test pit 1 was dug on land belonging to Apsleybury Farm. The earliest reference to Aspley Bury (sic) is in 1476 although it is possible that this refers to what is now known as Shillington Manor rather than to Apsleybury Farm. These buildings are situated 250m apart and the current Apsleybury Farmhouse is believed to date from the 17th century. It was not possible to dig close to this as it stands within a medieval moat (HER 410 and 9376) that is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Hence, the excavation site was selected in an undulating meadow about 100m from the farmhouse and 20m from Apsley End Road opposite the main gate to Shillington Manor. The meadow is crossed by a linear depression that may be the overflow channel from the moat. Test pit 1 occupies part of a slightly raised area as some low-lying parts of the meadow are susceptible to flooding after heavy rain. It is shown on the map by the northernmost of 3 red squares. The other two squares show the nearby locations of test pits 3 & 6 at the Old Court House. (DT)
(Apsleybury Farm meadow, Shillington. TL 12011 32297).

Test pit 1 was excavated to 70cm with one quarter taken down to 80cm. No finds were made below 60cm and the it was assumed that the natural subsoil had been reached. (DT)

Test pit 1 produced a fairly broad range of pottery which indicates that the site was occupied in the earlier medieval period (c AD1100-1400). After that time, it seems to have had a more marginal use, other than possible occupation in the 16th – 17th century. (PB)
The test pit produced plenty of Early Medieval Greyware and Hertfordshire Greyware and was only the 4th test pit in Shillington to produce Hedingham Ware. These show that this site was occupied in the High Medieval period. All Post-Medieval pottery was found in the top 0.3m and much of the oldest was in contexts below this. Hence, it is assumed that the soil had suffered little disturbance. (DT)

The excavation also found pieces of broken brick and tile and corroded metal (mainly nails) in the top 20cm, as well as the bones and teeth of small animals, oyster shells and charcoal. The range of pottery (9 types) was broader than that in Test Pits 3 & 6 at the Old Court House some 50m away but had a similar age distribution. (DT)
Test Pit 2 (SH 14/2)

Test pit 2 was in the front lawn of a bungalow in Apsley End built in 1966 on land that was formerly orchard between Apsley End Road and the brook. (85, Apsley End Rd, Shillington. TL 12176 32634)

The diggers encountered numerous small roots from a nearby tree. One quarter of the test pit was dug to 50cm but as saturated subsoil was encountered and there were no further finds, excavation was abandoned. (DT)

The single sherd of Medieval pottery from this test-pit shows that the site probably had a marginal use at that time, and continued to do so from then until the Victorian era. (PB)

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The soil appeared to have been disturbed greatly, perhaps when the house was built. There were 21 pieces of modern pottery. Only 5 pieces predate the Victorian period, including 2
pieces of Staffordshire Slipware (SS), a solitary piece of Midlands Blackware (MB) (only its fourth appearance in Shillington to date), a piece of Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) and a piece of Hertfordshire Greyware (HG), possibly made in a kiln in Hitchin some time between 1150 and 1400. The test pit contained many pieces of brick, tile, glass, corroded metal and a blue bead that were recent, as well as the bones of small animals and charcoal. The finds do not show sufficient evidence to suggest that this site had been occupied before the current house was built. (DT)
Test Pit 3 (SH 14/3)

Test Pit 3 was close to the southern end of this property which is a Listed Building and dates from the early 1600s. Despite the age and name of the house and the ‘manacles’ decoration on the front which faces south-eastwards across Apsley End Road towards Shillington Manor, the owner has been told by a researcher that she can find no evidence that the building has ever been used as a court house.

In recent years, this house has been undergoing substantial renovation and construction of a new extension at the rear. The test pit site was suggested by the builders working on the property who said that the soil had been disturbed very little unlike that in much of the remainder of the garden. Test Pit 3 is shown on the map by the westernmost red square and the other red squares show its proximity to test pits 1 and 6. (DT)

(The Old Court House first test pit, Apsley End Rd, Shillington TL 11974 32280)

The test pit finished at 80cm after reaching chalk subsoil with no sign of disturbance. The finds included a 1947 halfpenny coin in the 1st context. There were numerous pieces of modern broken brick, roof and floor tiles, manhole cover, plastic, glass, corroded metal (mainly nails) and pieces of clay pipe as well as Victorian pottery between 0 and 60cm. The excavation penetrated an uneven 10 - 20 cm thick layer of chalk between about 40 and 60cm which was clearly not of natural occurrence. These features all indicate that the soil had been greatly disturbed to down to 60cm which may account for the paucity of Post-Medieval finds that would be expected at a property of this age.
The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was occupied throughout the medieval period, before being abandoned in the later years of the 16th century. It then seems to have remained unoccupied until the 19th century. (PB)

The High Medieval pottery from below 60cm is apparently in context and consistent with earlier occupation of the site. The pottery types found here were also found in Test Pit 1 about 50m to the north of here and a reduced range was found in Test Pit 6 in the same garden. The pottery suggests the site was occupied up to 500 years before the current house was constructed. (DT)
Shillington Bury, part of which was built before 1600, sits in grounds of 3ha on the flank of a hill and at the same elevation as the parish church 1km away. Possible Iron Age field boundaries are visible in aerial photographs of fields to the north of here. A topographical description in a Ramsey Abbey document of 1016 suggests that Shillington Manor occupied elevated ground (unlike the building currently known as Shillington Manor) and hence, may have been in this area. It has also been suggested that earthworks (HER2563) south of the house could be associated with a moated medieval manor house. Test pit 4 was excavated in part of the walled garden on the southwestern side of this rambling building (DT)

Test Pit 4 (SH 14/4)

The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1m with one quarter dug to 1.2m. There were no finds below 1m indicating that sub-soil had been reached.

The wide range of pottery here shows that this site had a marginal use in the prehistoric and Roman periods, and was then occupied in the earlier medieval period. before reverting to a more marginal use in the 15th and 16th centuries. It then appears to have been abandoned until the Victorian era. (PB)

This is the 2nd Test Pit in Shillington where rare Bronze Age pottery has been unearthed, following the important discovery of 11 sherds from a test pit at the Old Vicarage in 2013. Only one sherd was found here- not enough to be certain of occupation then- although it may
be relevant that a Bronze Age tanged flint arrowhead (HER 18535) was discovered on this side of Shillington. Two sherds of Roman pottery from here complement the 7 other test pits where similarly small quantities have been found. The St Neots Ware and only the second find of Stamford Ware in Shillington (also at 2013 test pit 11 at the Old Vicarage) may indicate pre-Conquest settlement.

The top 4 contexts of this test pit contained little pottery as well as many pieces of brick and tile. This indicated substantial disturbance of the soil, which could explain the surprisingly poor pottery evidence for presumed occupation of the house during the Post-Medieval and Victorian eras. A fine range of pottery from the High Medieval period includes some of the first finds in Shillington of Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ Ware and the 1st find of London Ware, which probably indicates a high-status building was present. Other finds in context 4 and deeper included pieces of charcoal and oyster shells, corroded metal (probably nails), pieces of bone and a large curved canine tooth.

Taken together with other evidence, the pottery finds make a convincing case that this site has been occupied for 1,000 years and certainly from long before the current house was built. A little Roman and Bronze Age pottery raises the possibility that occupation has occurred for 2,000 or even 3,000 years.
Test Pit 5 (SH 14/5)

This test pit was situated in the front garden of one of three pairs of semi-detached Hexton Manor estate cottages in Apsley End. They are believed to have been built in the 1960s on what had been part of the pasture field immediately to the west - apparently an area that had not been occupied previously.

(44 Apsley End Road, TL 12082 32447)

Test pit 5 was excavated completely to 1.1m and in one corner to 1.2m where natural clay subsoil was encountered. The top 4 contexts have a mixed range of pottery including examples from various periods through to Victorian, indicating that the soil has been disturbed greatly to 0.4m depth.

This test-pit produced large quantities of medieval period showing that the site was occupied during the period c AD1100-1400. The presence of a few sherds of Thetford Ware implies that there may also have been pre-conquest activity. After that time, it seems to have had a more marginal use, and was probably abandoned by the 17th century. (PB)

A surprisingly good haul of Early Medieval Sandyware and Hertfordshire Greyware pottery in Context 5 and below seems to be in context. Test pit 5 also yielded slag and burnt stone adding further evidence for occupation and possible metal smelting during the High Medieval period. The presence of Thetford Ware is interesting as it points to possible settlement before the Conquest. This is the only incidence of it in the 2014 test pits although it was found in 2013 test pit 5 at 77, Church St.
There are few examples of pottery from later periods and it is likely that the site was not occupied for at least 300 years before the current house was built.
Test Pit 6 (SH 14/6)

The lack of recent management of the garden and the owner’s approval led to the decision to dig a second test pit at the same property as Test Pit 3. It was excavated close to the eastern boundary hedge of the property adjacent to the road where the builders thought that the ground had not been disturbed during recent renovation of the property. (DT)
(The Old Court House second test pit, Apsley End Road, Shillington. TL 11991 32266)

Test pit 6 was excavated to a maximum of 0.7m where chalk sub soil was encountered that was markedly different from the soil above and assumed to be natural.

This site seems to have been largely unused before the Victorian era, other than possibly having had a marginal use in the 12th and 16th centuries. (PB)
There were just 4 sherds of High Medieval pottery and these were found in the top 0.2m while Victorian pottery and the presence of glass, corroded metal and fireplace ash to 0.7m indicate that the soil here had been greatly disturbed in modern times. Other finds included pieces of animal bone (including one large one), clay smoker’s pipe and corroded metal (probably nails).

The shortage of pottery evidence here was disappointing but the types found—although not as varied—had also been seen in Test Pit 3 elsewhere in the garden and in Test Pit 1 about 50m to the north. (DT)
Test Pit 7 (SH 14/7)

Test pit 7 was dug in an abandoned chicken run about 20m south of the bungalow which was built less than 50 years ago. (DT)
(Pump Farm Bungalow, 144, High Road, Shillington. TL1230 33036)

This site seems to have been largely unused before the Victorian era, other than possibly having had a marginal use in the 13th and 16th centuries. (PB)

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Test pit 7 was excavated to 0.5m where undisturbed clay was discovered. It yielded few finds which makes it difficult to draw any conclusion about previous use of the site. However, it may be relevant that 2013 test pit 28 at Willow Thatch just 200m to the north contained only Victorian pottery casting doubt about the possibility of earlier settlement there, despite the fact that Willow Thatch is a late 17th century building.
It is possible that the scarcity of finds in test pit 7 is due to the processing of coprolites in this area during part of the period between 1861 and 1890 when they were being extracted from open-cast pits in this area. Several procedures, including unloading, washing, sorting and loading the coprolites, led to disturbance and possible removal of the soil and much of the archaeological resource.(DT)
The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was occupied at the beginning of the medieval period, and possibly even before the Norman Conquest. This occupation seems to have continued right through until the 16th century, after which time it had a more marginal use until the Victorian era, at which point it was once again settled. (PB)

Test pit 8 was excavated to 0.8m. No pottery was found below 0.7m where clay was encountered, leading to the conclusion that natural sub-soil had been reached. The upper contexts had much broken brick, tile, slate, glass and the ground was extremely disturbed with Victorian pottery down to 0.6m below much older Hertfordshire Greyware. Also found were 111 pieces of broken, white clay (smoker’s) pipe, animal bones and teeth and oyster shells.

Remarkably, 16 different types of pottery were found here- more than in any of the 31 other test pits excavated so far- indicating possible continuous use of the site for over 1,000 years. the pottery included one of the first finds in Shillington of Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ Ware and a second find of Cistercian Ware- previously only in 2013 Test pit 4 at 52, Church St. (DT)
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Test Pit 9 (SH 14/9)

This is the first test pit to be excavated in Hanscombe End. The Hanscombe name was first recorded in 1223. Whilst no evidence of early settlement has yet been discovered, stray finds of various ages have been made within 200m of this site that include some of Roman origin (HER 18585), a 5th or 6th century disc brooch (HER 18497), buckles, mounts, coins, purse fittings and an 11th century stirrup near Moorhen Farm (HER 18401), a buckle, coin and finger ring at Northley Farm (HER 18949) and a silver dress hook on on Northley Farm (HER 18949). Test pit 9 was dug in the front garden lawn of a bungalow built in about 1970 on what had been part of an old pasture belonging to Hanscombe End Farm.

(Sengaharri, 82a, Hanscombe End Rd. TL 11710 33885)

The test pit did not produce much pottery, but that which is present suggests that the site was occupied in the Roman period, and again in the Late Saxon era. It then appears to have been abandoned until the 19th century. (PB)
This test-pit was excavated to 0.8m through soil that exhibited several variations. Below thin topsoil were irregular layers of light grey clay with few stones, large lumps of chalk, small pebbly flints set in grey clay, and grey-brown clay containing small pieces of chalk.

Finds were few with only one sherd of pottery (Victorian) found in the top 0.5m of the test pit along with pieces of brick and broken glass and a small piece of bone. Coupled with the changes in soil type, it is possible that the soil is disturbed to 0.5m. In Context 6 was an intact large animal bone that broke into 3 large and about 30 small pieces when lifted. Contexts 6 and 7 were apparently undisturbed and contain 3 pieces of Roman and 8 sherds of Saxon pottery. These may indicate continuous occupation here for nearly a thousand years from Roman times until the Norman Conquest. (DT)
Discussion

Prehistoric period ~1,200BC - 0
The earlier discovery of a Bronze Age tanged flint arrowhead (HER 18535) indicated local human activity in Shillington at this period and the 2013 discovery of 11 sherds of Bronze Age pottery in the Old Vicarage test pit strongly suggested the presence of a settlement on that site. The single sherd from Shillington Bury test pit 4 in 2014 is inadequate on its own to indicate a second area of settlement and further evidence will be required to prove this.

Both of these test pits also yielded pottery of Roman and many other periods pointing to possible continuous occupation of these sites for over 3,000 years. No Iron Age pottery has yet been found in Shillington test pits although likely field boundaries of this period are visible in aerial photographs near Shillington Bury. It is recommended that more test pits should be dug in this area to seek further evidence of early settlement.

Roman period ~0 - 450AD
Two more test pits at Shillington Bury (test pit 4) and in Hanscombe End (test pit 9) produced Romano- British pottery in 2014 to add to the 6 where it was found in 2013. None was found in any of the 7 test pits dug in Apsley End.

The proportion of test pits with Roman pottery (8 out of 32 dug so far, or 25%) is high compared with many other villages including nearby Pirton (19% to 2013) where they are concentrated in a couple of areas suggesting two distinct settlements there. By contrast in Shillington, the Roman finds so far are scattered widely across the village and they are low in number and weight. They may be evidence that occupation was well-dispersed at this time. However, it is possible that the pottery does not represent settlement but was sourced from a probable Roman villa site near Upton End, either in waste spread on agricultural land or because the villa was pillaged of pottery after it was abandoned. This issue may be resolved when more test pits are excavated. No pottery has yet been found from between the Roman and the Late Saxon periods.

Anglo-Saxon period ~850 - 1050AD
Small quantities of probable pre-Conquest St Neots Ware and Thetford Ware in test pits 4, 8 and 9 complement the 8 test pits where they were found in 2013. These 11 sites show that Late Saxon pottery is distributed widely in Shillington and indicative of dispersed settlement at this time.

Interestingly, 6 of the 11 test pits with Late Saxon pottery have also produced Roman pottery (2014 test pits 4 and 9 and 2013 test pits 11, 22, 25 & 26) and 4 others with Late Saxon (2013 test pits 1, 5, 10 & 24) are within 100m of other test pits containing Roman. If these finds genuinely demonstrate occupation of these sites in both periods, this would indicate that many of those places occupied during the Roman period continued to be inhabited in Anglo-Saxon times. Furthermore, these 10 test pits are situated in the central core of the village as well as in Bury, Hanscombe, Hillfoot and Upton Ends and it is tentatively suggested that
these parts of the modern village may be based around sites occupied in the Roman period. It will be interesting to see if this pattern continues when more test pits are dug.

High medieval period ~1050 - 1400
Large quantities of High Medieval pottery were found in 2014 test pits 1, 5 and 8 in Apsley End and test pit 4 at Shillington Bury. With a small quantity from test pit 9- the only one so far in Hanscombe End- and the 2013 finds in the centre of the village and at Upton End and Hillfoot End, pottery of this period has now been found in most parts of Shillington where test pits have been dug.

The High Medieval was a period of rapid population growth implying that some of the outlying areas, perhaps based around earlier farms, had become quite substantial settlements- or ‘Ends’- in their own right. The first record of the Hanscombe name in 1223 suggests that more pottery of this period should be discovered when further test pits are dug in Hanscombe End. No test pits have yet been excavated in the northern half (or upper part) of Bury Road in areas as Woodmer End and Bury End, or off the southern part of Hanscombe End Rd around Green Farm. Test pits in the other ‘Ends’ have produced plenty of High Medieval pottery and it will be interesting to see if this is the case with these areas.

Late medieval ~1400 - 1550
Pottery from this time was present in considerably smaller quantities than the High Medieval types. The 2013 test pits showed a substantial decline in pottery finds in the Late Medieval period and the same applies to the 2014 finds. This pattern has also been seen in other villages across East Anglia where test pits have been dug. This is highly likely to illustrate the effect of a deterioration in the climate at this time affecting food production and causing famine, illness and economic depression. The plague or Black Death first reached England in 1348 and probably reached Shillington soon afterwards, with further recurrences during the next 300 years or more. A particularly severe outbreak affected Shillington in 1560 and is said to have killed one in seven people- 14% of the population.

In Apsley End, a range of pottery types from this period were found at the Musgrave Arms (test pit 8) but there were few examples of each. There is little evidence for it in other Apsley End test pits, none at the sole pit in Hanscombe End and only a few sherds of this period at Shillington Bury. This points to the possible abandonment of settlement in the outlying parts of Shillington (the ‘Ends’) with plague survivors retreating to the core of the village.

Post medieval ~1550 - 1800
The Old Court House and Shillington Bury are two of about a dozen substantial houses surviving to this day that were built in Shillington before 1700 suggesting that there were several families present then with the means to build new homes. It is likely that these houses have been occupied for most of the time since they were built. However, finds from this period were disappointing at both of these sites (test pits 3, 4 and 6).
The Musgrave Arms test pit (8) in Apsley End contained examples of small quantities of different types of pottery from this time. Generally though, there is less pottery from this period than in the High Medieval period which suggests that Shillington’s population was still struggling to recover from earlier setbacks, especially in the outlying parts of the village.

Pottery from this period appears to be significantly under-represented in the gardens of houses known to have been built early in this period. The apparent shortfall at the Old Court House and Shillington Bury was also evident in many of the 2013 test pits near other 400 to 500 year old properties. Perhaps sites were kept ‘cleaner’ than previously, with rubbish dumped in discreet areas which the test pits have not yet investigated? Many properties have also been modified or extended during their lifetimes which may have destroyed or displaced the post-Medieval pottery. Future test pits, especially where located in the grounds of the older houses of Shillington, may shed further light on this.

Modern- post1800

If the quantity of pottery finds reflects the size of the population, Shillington did not regain its High Medieval population level until well into the Victorian period. Modern pottery from 1800 onwards appears- often in large quantities- in all of the test pits suggesting that those parts of Shillington that had been depopulated due to the Plague had been extensively re-settled. There are earthworks that may represent former settlement in certain pastures in Hanscombe End, Upton End and at Chibley Farm. Future test pits in these areas could give useful evidence about when they were occupied and abandoned. Shillington is a dispersed settlement and to provide further evidence of how settlement has changed, many more test pits are required in all areas.
Appendix 1
Pottery types from the 2014 Shillington Test-pits (Site SHI/14)

BA: Bronze Age. 1200-800BC. Simple, hand-made ‘bucket-shaped’ pots with lots of flint, shell and grog (ground-up pieces of old pottery) mixed in with the clay. Mainly used for cooking.

RB: Roman. All. 1st - 4th century.

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

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

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

SHC: Early Medieval Shelly Ware: AD1100-1400. Hard fabric with plentiful fossil shell mixed in with the clay. Manufactured at many sites in western Bedfordshire. Mostly cooking pots, but bowls and occasionally jugs also known.

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

LA: Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware: c. AD1150-?1400. Handmade/Wheel finished. Moderate to dense, ill-sorted shelly limestone platelets up to 3mm, sparse to moderate red ironstone up to
10mm, occasional quartz, ooliths, black ironstone. Produced at numerous kilns in the villages of Lyveden and Stanion in north-east Northants. Mostly jars and bowls.

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

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

LON: London Ware, 11th -14th century. Sandy earthenware, usually in the form of highly decorated jugs in a wide range of decorative schemes, including imitations of contemporary French pottery.

BB: Brill/Boarstall Ware. 13th – 16th century. Made at several centres on the Oxfordshire/ Buckinghamshire border. Buff to orange slightly sandy fabric, usually with a bright orange or green glaze. Usually glazed jugs.


LMT: Late Medieval Ware: Hard, reddish-orange pottery with lots of sand mixed in with the clay. Made from about 1400 – 1550 in lots of different places in East Anglia. Used for everyday pottery such as jugs and large bowls, and also large pots (‘cisterns’) for brewing beer.

CW: Cistercian Ware: Made between AD1475 and 1700. So-called because it was first found during the excavation of Cistercian monasteries, but not made by monks. A number of different places are known to have been making this pottery, particularly in the north of England and the midlands. The pots are very thin and hard, as they were made in the first coal-fired pottery kilns, which reached much higher temperatures than the wood-fired types of the medieval period. The clay fabric is usually brick red or purple, and the pots covered with a dark brown- or purplish-black glaze on both surfaces. The main type of pot was small drinking cups with up to six handles, known as ‘tygs’. They were sometimes decorated with painted dots and other designs in yellow clay. Cistercian ware was very popular, and is found all over England.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Just about everywhere in Britain began to make and use this type of pottery from about AD1550 onwards, and it was still being made in the 19th century. The clay fabric is usually very smooth, and a brick red colour. Lots of different types of pots were made, particularly very large bowls, cooking pots and cauldrons. Almost all of them have shiny, good-quality orange or green glaze on the inner surface, and sometimes on the outside as well. From about AD1680, black glaze was also used.
MB: Midland Blackware. AD1550 – 1700. Similar to GRE, but has a black glaze on one or both surfaces. Vessels usually tall cups, jugs and bowls.

DW: Delft Ware. The first white-glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft Ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland, which 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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.
Appendix 2

Shillington 2013 & 2014
Test pits containing pottery dating to 1200BC – 800BC

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

Undisturbed levels
- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more
Test pits containing pottery dating to the mid 1\textsuperscript{st} to mid 5\textsuperscript{th} century AD
Shillington 2013 & 2014

Test pits containing pottery dating to the mid 9th to mid 11th century AD

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

Undisturbed levels
- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more
Shillington 2013 & 2014

Test pits containing pottery dating to the mid 11th to end 14th century AD

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

Undisturbed levels
- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more
Shillington 2013 & 2014
Test pits containing pottery dating to the 15th to mid 16th century AD

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

Undisturbed levels
- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more
Shillington 2013 & 2014

Test pits containing pottery dating to the mid 16th to end 18th century AD

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

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