



## Archaeology in Shillington 2020

Shillington History Society  
Report compiled by Derek Turner  
Pottery analysis and comments by Paul Blinkhorn  
[www.shillington-history.org.uk](http://www.shillington-history.org.uk)

## **Index**

p2 - 4	Introduction
p4 - 6	The historical context- Shillington's development based on evidence to 2019
p7	Location of test pits and other archaeological finds in 2020
	Reports on the 2020 Shillington test pits
p8 -9	SH20/1
p10 - 11	SH20/2
p12 - 13	SH20/3
p 14 - 15	SH20/4
p16	Fieldwalking late in 2019
p17	Casual finds 2020
p18	Map of all test pits locations in Shillington 2013-20
	Pottery distribution maps, analysis and conclusions for different periods:
p19	Bronze Age
p20	Iron Age
p21	Roman
p22 - 23	Late Anglo-Saxon
p24	Early Medieval
p25	Late medieval
p26	Post Medieval
p27	Modern
p28 - 34	Appendix 1- Pottery types found and locations
p35 - 47	Appendix 2- Amount of pottery by test pit and area
p38 - 39	Appendix 3-Analysis of pottery by period and area

## **Introduction**

The extraordinary circumstances in 2020 were not enough to prevent an eighth year of archaeological investigations into the history of settlement in Shillington from taking place. The 4 test pits in the village were completed in between lockdowns with fewer people working at most times to meet social distancing guidance. Test pits were also dug in the hamlet of Pegsdon and, for the first time, these are published in a separate report.

Shillington History Society began its first test pit on 15 June 2013 with the help and guidance of Access Cambridge Archaeology (University of Cambridge) and funding from an All Our Stories grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Family groups and friends, many with no previous experience of archaeology, excavated 23 test pits then.

The author and other enthusiasts have continued since then and a total of 68 test pits have been excavated with 61 of them in Shillington, 5 in Pegsdon and 2 in Upper Gravenhurst. Those who helped in 2020 include Steve Bottle, Ivor Davis, Mike Dewbrey, Alison Graham, Nigel Harper-Scott, Jane Harrison, Fiona Hutton, Kevin Jorganssen, Dave Pengelly, Graham Spurway, Derek Turner and Lindsay Wheeler. I thank them all for their support and hard work and everyone who provided sites and allowed us to dig.

The methodology used has been consistent since 2013 including excavating in ‘contexts’ of 10cm deep layers, except where a buried surface or change in the soil is encountered, in which case a new context is begun. The participants sieved the soil or sorted through it by hand, retaining and cleaning finds of non-natural materials, taking photographs and recording information in ‘Excavation Records’ booklets.

Pottery is usually robust and survives well in the soil. It’s composition, method of manufacture and appearance changed often allowing identification and dating to a specific period. When the field work was completed, ceramic finds were sent to Paul Blinkhorn, a specialist in pottery from central and southern England. He separated the sherds into different types, counted and weighed them and placed the results in tables. The abbreviations in the top row (for example, RB for Roman age pottery) are fully listed in the Pottery types information in Appendix 1). Paul’s comments- based purely on the pottery that he was given are shown *in italics* with his initials (*PB*). Animal bones and shells have been found and are assumed to be from common food and farm or wild animals but these have not been examined by an expert. Other items have been retained for further examination in the future but common building materials which usually make up most of the finds are not.

This report is based on the format that Access Cambridge Archaeology established for test pit excavations when it began working with community groups in 2005. It begins with a brief summary about the archaeological and historical background of Shillington drawn from a range of sources including test pit finds made between 2013 and 2019. Next are the details of and results from each of the 2020 test pit locations. I have added location maps, and my own comments based on previous results and my knowledge of the area.

The conclusions in this report are based on the age of the finds and the assumption that they are items that were broken, thrown away or lost by people who lived in the vicinity at that period. It is possible though that some items were spread in manure when the site where they were found was farmland and may have originated elsewhere. Archaeology, by its very nature, can only provide part of the story of the past. Some items may have been missed and others may be lost to disturbance of the soil or because they did not survive. This report only comments on what has been found in the test pits and the total excavated area represents only a tiny part of the total parish area.

After digging test pits for 8 seasons, we have found enough pottery- all types of which are listed in Appendix 1- to facilitate further analysis of what it reveals about the place that we call Shillington. The maps showing pottery finds for each period are accompanied by statistics showing how this has changed over time and the results from different parts of the village, using calculations made in Appendices 2 and 3. It should be noted that the historic periods to which the pottery is assigned vary in length and corrected totals that account for this are shown. From these, I have made conclusions about what I think the pottery reveals about the development of the Shillington and its many ‘Ends’.

Pottery collected during field walking and chance finds made in the area since the 2019 report was published are also included in the report but, for consistency, only test pit finds are used in the distribution maps and analyses.

I have strived for accuracy and objectivity throughout this report and apologise if there are any errors. If you notice any, please let me know.

Derek Turner, Shillington History Society, February 2021, <http://www.shillington-history.org.uk>

### **The historic context- a brief summary of Shillington's history and development**

Since the digging of test pits began in 2013, the finds from them have complemented other archaeological discoveries made through chance finds, by metal detecting and during investigations ahead of development, which are listed in the Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service. Pottery is datable which makes it particularly useful as its distribution provides clues about the evolution of Shillington as a village before documentary evidence begins to appear after 1500. Archeological evidence had been sparse before test pit excavation began in 2013 but more has been added every year since. Fieldwalking has also contributed to our knowledge and the collection and examination of prehistoric worked flints have pushed Shillington's history back by many thousands of years.

#### Prehistoric times

Long before the first documentary evidence appeared, we know that people visited or even lived temporarily in what we know as Shillington. Worked flint was collected during fieldwalking west of Shillington church since 2017. Among it was an Acheulian hand axe of a type used between 450,000 and 240,000 BP by nomadic hunter-gatherers. Several examples have been discovered around Hitchin, leading to speculation that they were made there, probably during the warmer Hoxnian interglacial period around 400,000 BP by *Homo heidelbergensis*.

Scrapers, blades and pot boilers of Mesolithic (9600 - 4000 BC) and Neolithic (4000 - 2300 BC) forms have also been found at Church Field and several test pits have yielded worked flint. These may have been fashioned locally and be the first signs of semi-permanent settlement after the climate had warmed sufficiently as Britain emerged from end of the "Ice Age". As the fieldwalking finds were picked off the surface of the cultivated soil, it is quite possible that they were spread there in manure, perhaps when this area was allotments during and after World War II. If this is the case, their presence does not necessarily imply that settlement occurred on this exposed west and north-facing slope. Later in this report is evidence that suggests people have used and reused the same sites for their homes, so it seems more likely that the manure came from the area where many of them lived on the relatively sheltered south-eastern side of the hill where All Saints Church stands in what we know as Church St or from one of the farms in Shillington's many 'Ends'.

Burial mounds survive on the hills at Pegsdon. An early to mid-Bronze Age serrated arrowhead was found in December 2005 at an undisclosed location in Shillington. Two Shillington test pits have produced Bronze Age pottery with a relatively large quantity exposed in the Old Vicarage garden test pit (SH13/11) producing the best evidence yet for an early settlement site in Shillington. The availability of one of life's essentials- fresh water from nearby springs- makes this most plausible.

Evidence of settlement during the Iron Age is sparse but ditches and enclosures showed up in aerial photos near Shillington Bury and a single small sherd of pottery from this period appeared in test pit SH19/3 at 59, Hanscombe End in 2018. An Iron Age brooch discovered close to here near Northley Farm probably dates from between 400 and 100 BC.

### The Roman occupation and beyond

Roman era coins and jewellery have been found in several parts of Shillington parish. Roman pottery has occurred widely in modest quantities in about 1 in 4 of the test pits. Unless manuring has affected the distribution of this pottery, it suggests a landscape of small, dispersed settlements- possibly family-run farms- at this time. Partially-excavated remains of a probable late Roman villa, coins and artefacts were found in a field about 500m east of Upton End at Ashton's Well. This may have been the home of a trusted local person who oversaw the efficient production of foodstuffs and other resources at this time.

A buckle frame found by a detectorist N of New Farm (BH-82CF20) has been dated to between 375 and 425 AD and Samian pottery was found nearby but generally, archaeological finds from the post-Roman/Early and Middle Saxon/'Dark Age' era through to 850AD are rare in this area and this is so in Shillington. Brooches have been found previously near Northley, Chibley, Upton End and Parsonage Farms, in the latter case along with a coin from the early 700s. No pottery from this era has come from any test pits and so far, we have no idea where people lived then. In nearby Pirton, evidence is also scant although one small pottery sherd was found off Walnut Tree Lane near the sports field.

It is difficult to know how to interpret this. There were outbreaks of plague towards the end of the Roman occupation and this could have been responsible for many deaths and a drastic fall in the local population. Also possible is that little or no pottery was used in this area during this period or that most people lived in an, as yet, unexcavated part of Shillington. However, 2 test pits in every 3 that contained Roman pottery also show evidence of use in Late Saxon times, hinting that habitation might have been continuous but left behind no surviving evidence.

### Late Saxon and Medieval times

Late Saxon finds had been patchy until the test pits began but they have added a lot of information about this crucial period in Shillington's development as a village. One in three have yielded pottery attributable to this period. Plotting its distribution reveals patterns with 6 sites clustered on the relatively sheltered east and southeastern sides of the hill where the church stands. This seems to depict the formation of the village centre as families left individually-worked, scattered sites to congregate and co-operate in various ways. Another

6 sites in close proximity at Upton End and 3 in Hanscombe End suggest the evolution of satellite settlements and the earliest of Shillington's many 'Ends'. All parts of the village contain some pottery from the Late Saxon period onwards.

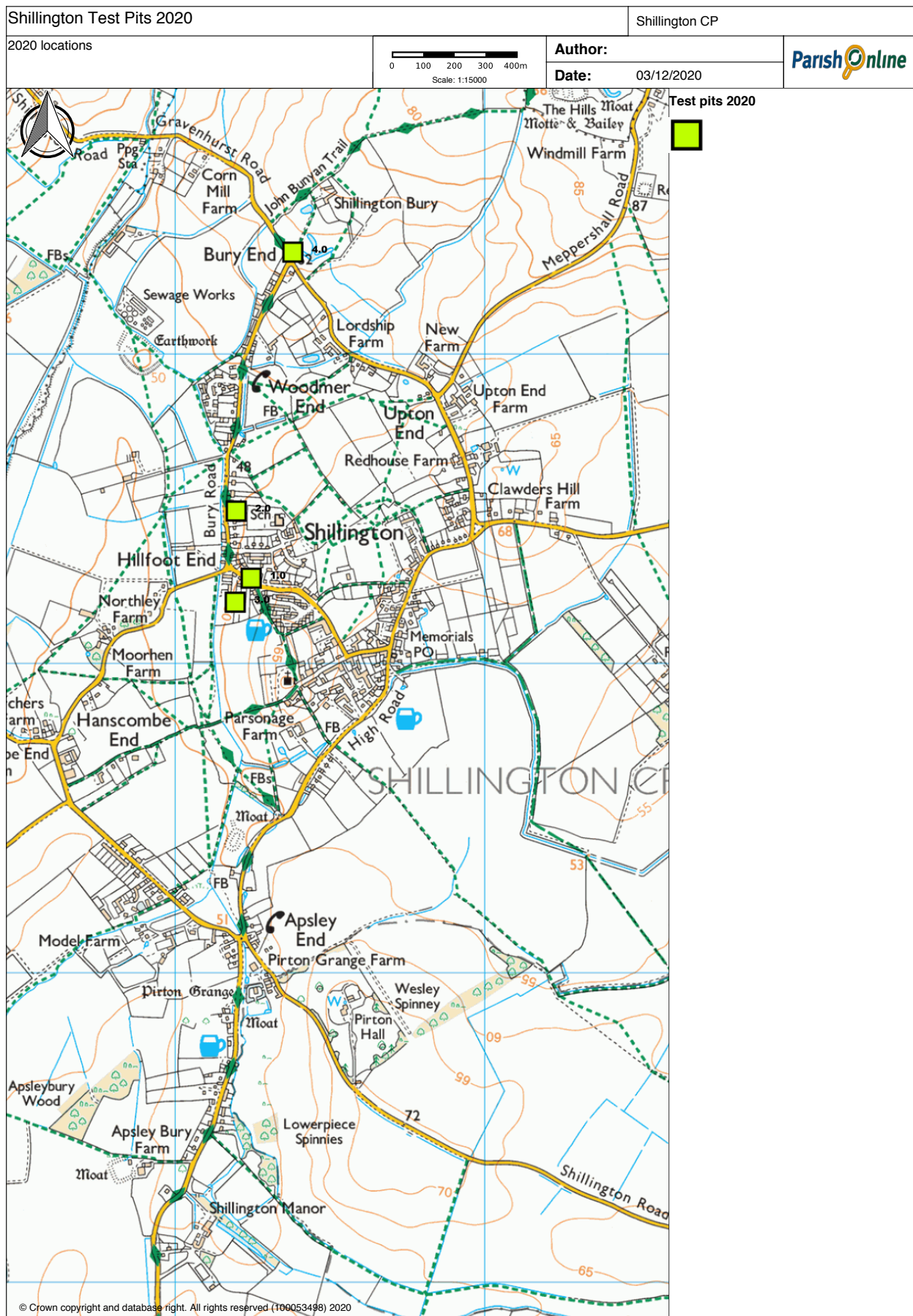
After this, the landscape shows increasing signs of human activity with moated sites demonstrating that some individuals had become comparatively wealthy. The creation of strip lynchets on hillsides (assuming it occurred at this time) shows extra land being used for crop production and suggests a rising population. Having appeared now in 81% of test pit sites, Early Medieval pottery has been found in all of modern Shillington and its 'Ends'. Most of the 18 sites that had Late Saxon pottery also contained Early Medieval suggesting continued usage through both periods. It's presence in 28 test pits where no evidence of earlier occupation had been found points to a rapidly increasing population and a vigorous expansion of settlement in response. The pottery distribution shows that the village had attained a similar layout by around 1300 to that shown on Ordnance Survey maps published in the late 1800s.

The Late Medieval period starting in the mid 15th century brings a major decline in the fortunes of Shillington's people. There is a massive fall in the amount of contemporary pottery discovered in test pits. Only 830g has been found in total, down from 6,553g in the Early Medieval period. About 40% of the occupation sites had apparently been abandoned too. The impact seems to have varied with Upton End and Hillfoot End the worst hit. In contrast, test pits at Apsley End continued to yield Late Medieval pottery and this area seems to have suffered less. Generally though, the pottery decline supports other evidence that the plague or Black Death had caused a significant fall in the population of Shillington after 1348 and it took a long time to recover.

#### Post medieval onwards

Significant information about Shillington's recovery from the plague is available from 1550 onwards. Some of Shillington's oldest surviving buildings date from then and more were added as time went by. Documentary evidence builds up too and shows that the village is recovering from the plague-induced problems. Pottery made during the next 250 years backs this up, showing settlement sites rising from 29 to 49 and yields nearly trebling. Old sites were recolonised and the population was recovering again rapidly. The trend continued with the amount of modern pottery made after 1800 accounting for nearly half of the ceramic finds made so far. From 1862 until 1890, the exploitation of phosphate-rich coprolites quarried from beneath fields around the village for fertiliser boosted Shillington's fortunes with many new houses built of local 'Arlesey white' bricks. Economic depressions and two world wars hampered progress until 1945 but the village has prospered again since then with new housing, much of it situated in previously undeveloped areas.

# Location of test pits in Shillington, 2020



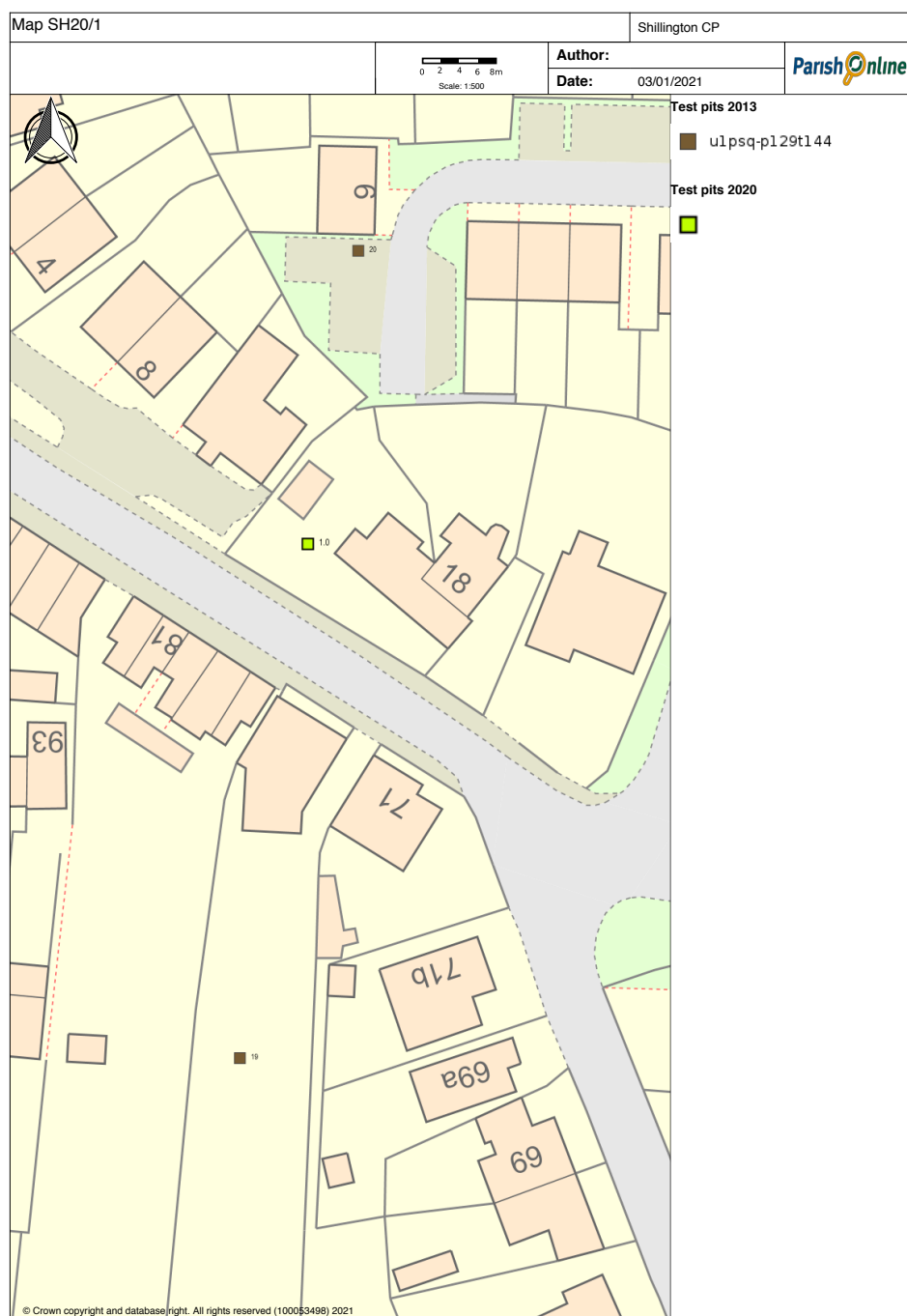
## Test pits in 2020- results

### Shillington Test Pit 1 (SH20/1)

20, Hillfoot Road, SG5 3NS (TL 1075 3426)

18 21 May 2020

The owner believes that the oldest part of this building at the SE end dates from 1570 with modern extensions added to the NW. The oldest part is also attached on its NE side to 18, Hillfoot Rd which is a “C17 or C18 building of local interest”. Most other nearby buildings appear to be mid C19th or younger.



SH20/1 was dug in a paved part of the garden 3m W of the nearest (SW) corner of the single-storey extension to the house.

Two previous test pits have been dug nearby. SH13/20 was situated 32 m to the N of here in what is now part of Jepps Close and SH13/19 was 56m to the S at 73, Hillfoot Rd.

The maximum depth reached was 90cm where digging ceased in grey-brown clay.



TP	Cntxt	RB		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		MOD		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			1	3	2	6			2	30	1	2	40	161	1100-1900
1	3			1	5	10	34	1	2	2	4	1	2	37	68	1100-1900
1	4			1	4	10	62			1	16			3	3	1100-1900
1	5			10	46	11	45									1100-1200
1	6			1	3	3	6									1100-1200
1	7			2	10											1100-1150
1	8	1	5	1	4											100-1200

*The range of pottery from this test-pit suggests the site had a marginal use during the Roman period, perhaps as fields, but was then occupied during the earlier medieval period. Activity dropped off sharply during the late medieval period, and the site then seems to have had a marginal use again until relatively recently. PB*

Numerous other finds included-

Lots of red brick, red roof tiles, red and cream floor tiles, slate, mortar and rusty nails, and pieces of coal (all discarded)

Two pieces of modern window glass, one piece of 2mm window glass and one piece of Victorian beer bottle

11 pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem and 5 pieces of bowl

2 pieces of decorated flower pot

36 pieces of animal bone, 7 animal teeth (some probably sheep)

3 pieces of oyster shell

### Comments

A small piece of Roman (RB) era pottery was found between 70 and 80cm down. Two pieces of Roman pottery had been found nearby in SH13/19 in disturbed soil. Such quantities are insufficient to show that settlement took place here at this time.

There was plenty of early medieval pottery- Early Medieval Ware (EMW) and Hertfordshire Greyware (HG)- here, much of it in context, which matches the results from other test pits in this area, strongly indicating occupation in the 12th to 14th centuries.

One small sherd of Late Medieval Ware (LMT) from between 1400 - 1600 is not enough to indicate that anyone lived here then. Grey Red Earthenware (GRE) & Staffordshire Slipware (SS) made after 1600 and Modern (MOD) pottery since 1800 is consistent with the likely age of the house.

The pottery profile here is similar to that found in previous test pits nearby and likely to be a good indicator of when settlement occurred in this part of the village.

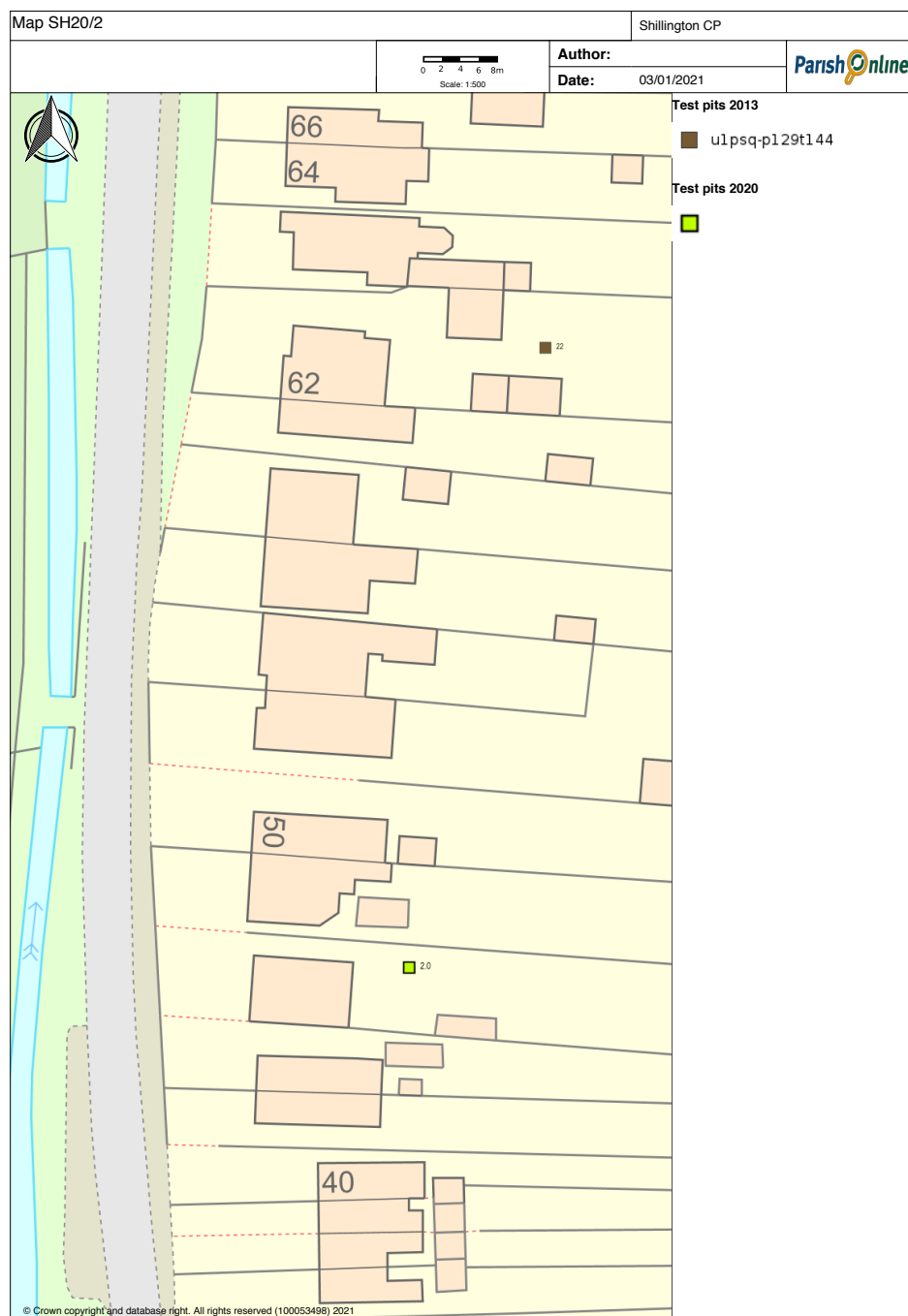
## Shillington Test Pit 2 (SH20/2)

46, Bury Rd, Shillington, SG5 3NY (TL 1080 3448)

5 - 7 June 2020

The brick and slate house here was one of several built along this part of Bury Rd between 1920 and 1939 on what was previously farmland. The test pit was dug in the lawn in the rear garden about 6m east of the conservatory and 3m from the plot's N boundary fence.

An earlier test pit had been dug in this area- SH13/22 was located 68m to the N at 62, Bury Rd.



The test pit encountered gault clay before digging ceased at 90cm depth. The deepest finds recorded were at about 78cm depth

TP	Cntxt	RB		EMW		HG		GRE		WCS		MOD		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1											10	39	1800-1900
2	2									1	22	25	60	1600-1900
2	3			1	1							15	62	1100-1900
2	4											1	14	1800-1900
2	5							2	4			1	1	1550-1900
2	6			1	1	1	2							1100-1200
2	7	1	3											100-400

*This site appears to have had a somewhat marginal use from Roman times until relatively recently. PB*

Other finds included-

numerous pieces of brick, slate, glass and nails, presumably relics from the time the house was constructed (discarded),

6 pieces of peg tile (discarded),

38 pieces of animal bone including a hamster's jaw bone, an animal tooth,

3 pieces of oyster shell,

3 pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem,

2 marbles (one glass and one ceramic),

a bead from a necklace,

2 buttons (one of bakelite, another of copper)

metal items including two 'crown' bottles tops, a small piece of hinge, a broken piece of door hinge, bolts, a piece of copper strap, a squeezable metal tube (toothpaste?), a short piece of electrical cable

a small perfume bottle, the bottom half of a 'Sanizal' bottle,

lots of fireplace ash and tiny pieces of coal (discarded).

### Comment

Older pottery finds were few in this test pit. As in the test pit at no. 62 (SH13/18), the isolated piece of Roman (RB) pottery is unlikely to indicate occupation here.

Pottery including medieval Early Medieval Ware (EMW) and Hertfordshire Greyware (HG) as well as later Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) and Cologne Stoneware (WCS) from before 1800 is sparse.

While the pieces of peg tiles may indicate the presence of an earlier farm building, the vast majority of finds including the modern (MOD) pottery made after 1800 are consistent with the age of the house. It seems most likely that this area was never settled before the house and its neighbours were constructed.

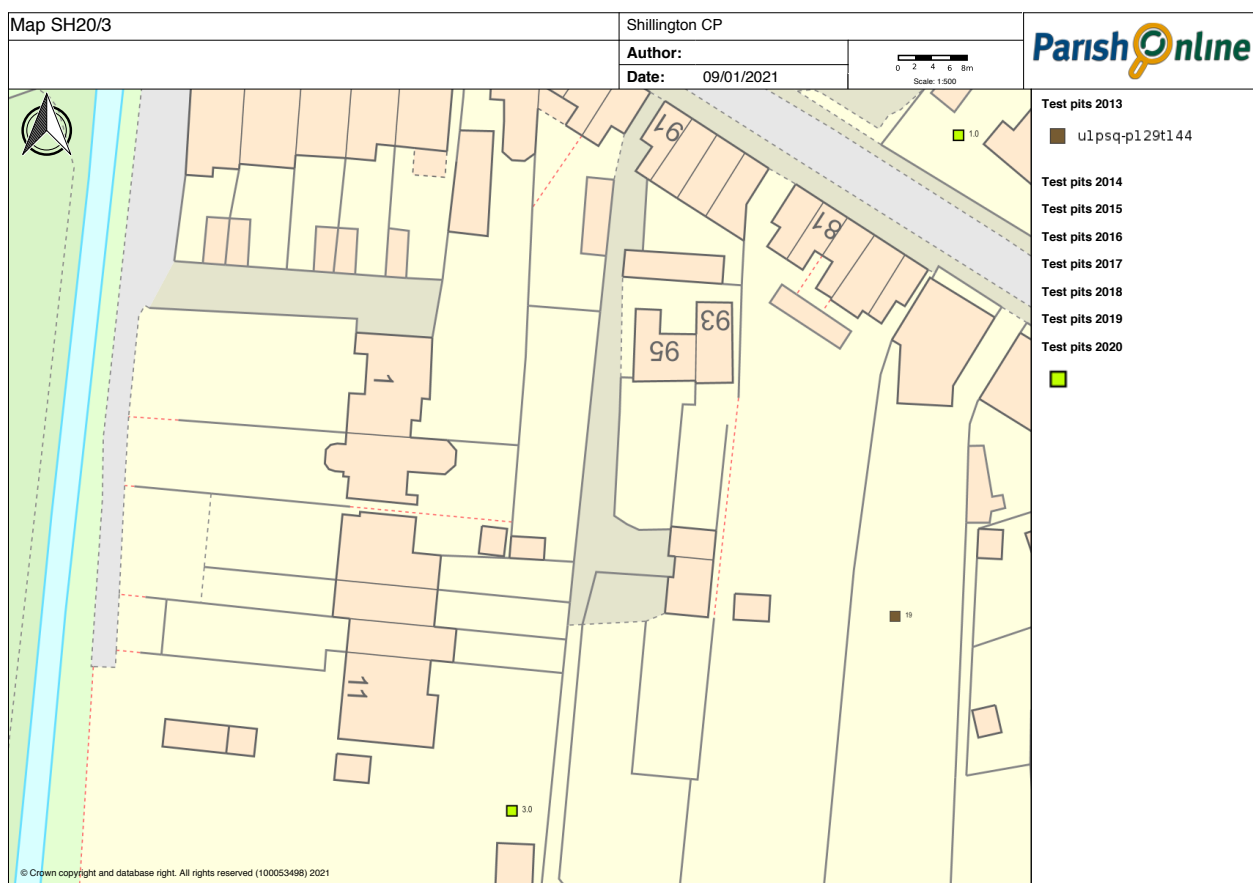
## Shillington Test Pit 3 (SH20/3)

11, Brookside, Shillington, SG5 3NT (TL 1080 3420)

24 -25 July 2020

This is the southernmost of 6 properties in Brookside, a short no through road (shown on the left of the map) off the northern end of Hanscombe End Rd, close to its junction with Hillfoot Rd and Bury Rd.

The test pit was located in a lawn 15m SE of the SE corner of the main house and 12m SE of the conservatory, close to an outbuilding. It was about 49m WSW of the test pit at 73, Hillfoot Rd (SH13/19) and 91m SW of the test pit in what is now Jepps Close (SH20/2).



The test pit was dug to a maximum of 65cm where light grey clay was reached. No finds occurred below 40cm.

TP	Cntxt	EMW		GRE		MB		MOD		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1							5	6	1800-1900
3	2					1	5	20	21	1550-1900
3	3			1	8			11	48	1550-1900
3	4	2	6					1	1	1100-1900

*This site appears to have had a somewhat marginal use in the medieval and post-medieval periods. PB*

Other finds included-

numerous pieces of broken brick, slate, tile, mortar, 22 pieces modern window glass, corrugated clear plastic roof sheeting and 6 no. nails (all discarded),  
a cable clip (discarded),  
1 broken shirt button  
4 pieces of animal bone,  
1 animal (rabbit?) tooth  
2 pieces of oyster shell  
3 broken pieces of Victorian glass bottle

#### Comment

The small amount of Early Medieval Ware (EMW) found here is consistent with pottery of similar age (1050 - 1400) found elsewhere in the Hillfoot End area.

Pottery from after 1600 including Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) and Midlands Blackware (MB) was also poorly represented.

Most of the finds including the modern (MOD) pottery seem to have been items thrown out by occupiers of the house and evidence of earlier settlement is lacking.

## Shillington Test Pit 4 (SH20/4)

off drive to Shillington Bury, SG5 3PB (TL 1238 3532)

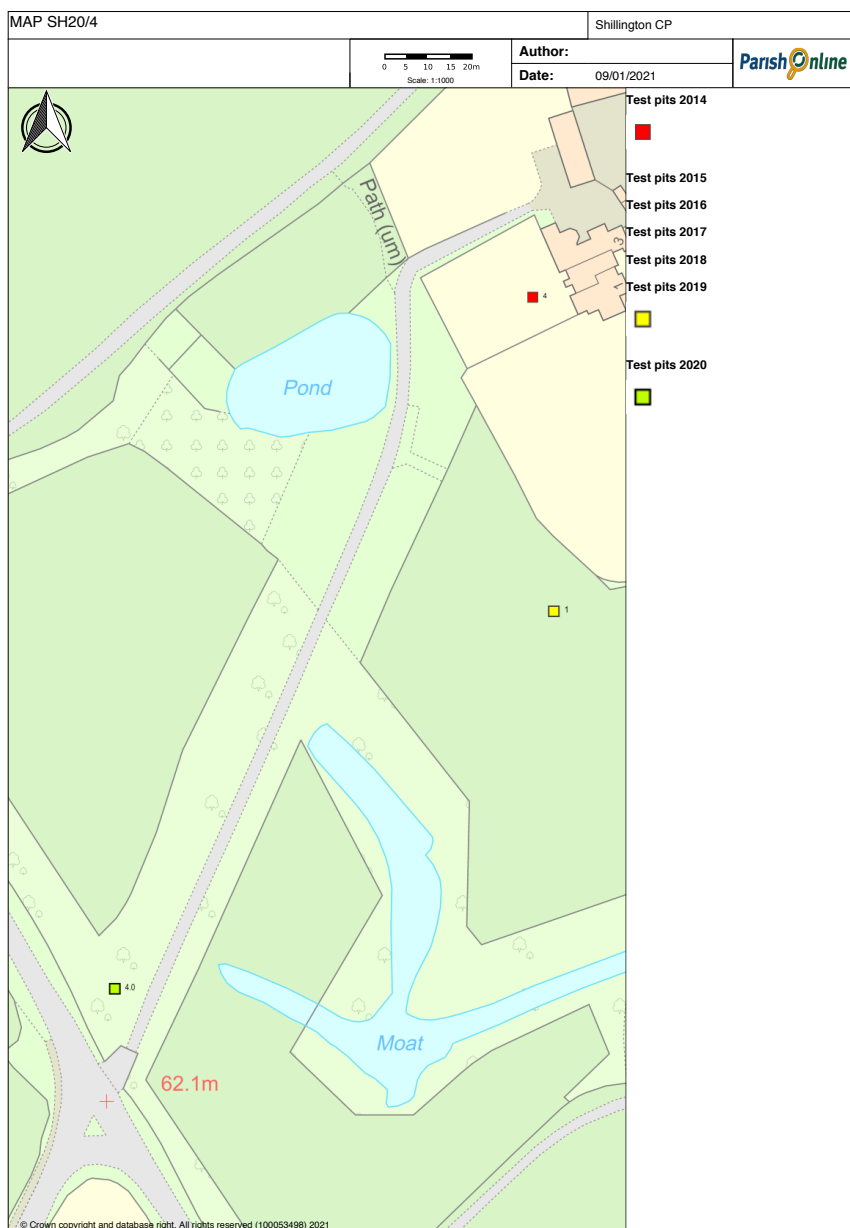
13 to 15 August 2020

The drive to Shillington Bury forms the NE branch of a crossroads along with Upton End Rd, Bury Rd and the road toward Upper Gravenhurst.

This test pit was situated about 9m NW of the edge of the metalled drive to the house and 14m NE of the edge of the carriageway of the road from Shillington towards Upper Gravenhurst. This location was 186m S of the test pit in the front garden of 3, Shillington Bury (SH14/4) and 133m SW of another (SH19/4) in a field belonging to 1, Shillington Bury to the S of the house and gardens.

The drive is lined with an avenue of lime trees and a large tree root running NW - SE was exposed at about 15cm and left in situ. Digging continued with some difficulty to 50cm, after which it was decided to abandon further excavation on the SW side of the root.

Digging resumed on its NE side and at about 53 cm, many large flints were exposed. The flints were removed and excavation continued. The deepest finds were 5 pieces of roof tile and two pieces of Early Medieval pottery mixed in the subsoil beneath the flint layer at about 60 cm depth. Digging ceased in clay speckled with chalk at 65 cm.



TP	Cntxt	HG		LB		MOD		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	2					1	1	1800-1900
4	5	1	3	1	5			1150-1350

*This site appears to have had a somewhat marginal use in the medieval period. PB*

Other finds included a few pieces of red brick and roof tile, a piece of slate, 3 rusty nails (all discarded), 1 piece of clay tobacco pipe stem and two pieces of animal bone. At 40cm depth, a layer was found composed of large flints and these may be remains of the surface of a floor or path.

#### Comment

The finds were disappointingly few.

A small 3gm sherd of Hertfordshire Greyware (HG) was unearthed to add to the massive 1,812gms found immediately in front of Shillington Bury (SH14/4) and 39gm in the field S of it (SH19/1). The single sherd of Lyveden 'B' Ware (LB) was a first for Shillington but a piece of the earlier Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware (LA) from the same source had been found in SH14/4 and also in 2 test pits at the other end of the village in Apsley End. Only 1 piece of modern (MOD) pottery turned up.

Shillington Bury dates from the 1600s or earlier and had once been the site of the earlier manor house for Shillington. It has been speculated that there might once have been a lodge in the vicinity of this test pit. The paucity of finds offers little support to this theory although the presence of what appears to be a constructed stone surface is intriguing and would be worth looking at again. It is possible that the construction and maintenance of the flint surface and the drive has disturbed the soil significantly and destroyed earlier archaeological evidence where we dug the test pit.

## SH19/CF2 Fieldwalking in Church Field, Shillington (TL 123 339)

21 October 2019

Pottery of many different ages and other finds have been collected in Church Field from an area W of Shillington church since 2017 and Paul Blinkhorn has analysed it. In the tables below, the most recent collection (SH19/CF2) from Oct 2019 is shown in the bottom row.

### Fieldwalking pottery from Church Field

		RB		SN		SHC		EMW		HG		LM T		LM Ox		RAER		GRE	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
SH17/ F1	Jan 17	4	106	1	13			5	70	2	40	6	85	1	8			39	1174
SH19/ CF1	Jan & Mar 2019			1	5			9	157	4	112	2	65			3	55	2	40
SH19/ CF2	Oct 2019	1	26			2	77			5	95	2	17					6	256
Totals		5	132	2	18	2	77	14	227	11	247	10	167	1	8	3	55	47	1026

MB		FR		WCS		HSW		SS		SMW/ MANG		EST		VIC	
No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			No	Wt	No	Wt
3	36	6	68	2	18	4	57	2	19			7	286	211	2271
1	4	2	36	2	25			1	7					1	3
				1	7			11	24	1	35	3	62	2	78
4	40	8	104	5	50	4	57	14	50	1	35	10	348	214	2352

### Comment

The open NW aspect and the sloping nature of the site suggest together with plenty of modern pottery unrelated to any known housing on the site together suggest that settlement may not have occurred here. It seems likely that the material arrived during manuring, which is known to have occurred during and after World War 2 when this area was used as allotments. If this is so, this pottery originated from gardens and farms situated elsewhere in Shillington.



## Casual finds made in 2020

### SH20/MF1 (approx TL 1205 3398)

Cntxt	EMW		SHC		HG		GRE	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
MF1	1	5	1	11	1	9	1	2

The three pieces of medieval and one piece of post medieval pottery were found in a small area along public footpath 20, 294m SE of Moorhen Farm, in an arable field which was part of the medieval Church Field. Four pieces of Hertfordshire Greyware weighing 39gm were also found nearby in September 2018 (SH18/CF2). This discovery of more Early Medieval pottery suggests that there may have been settlement here.

### SH20/RH1 (approx TL 1351 3313)

Cntxt	RB	
	No	Wt
RH1	1	25

This piece of Roman pottery was found in an arable field called Bridlegate, part of the pre-enclosure Town Field east of Shillington on Bridleway 9, about 800m S of Rosehill Farm.

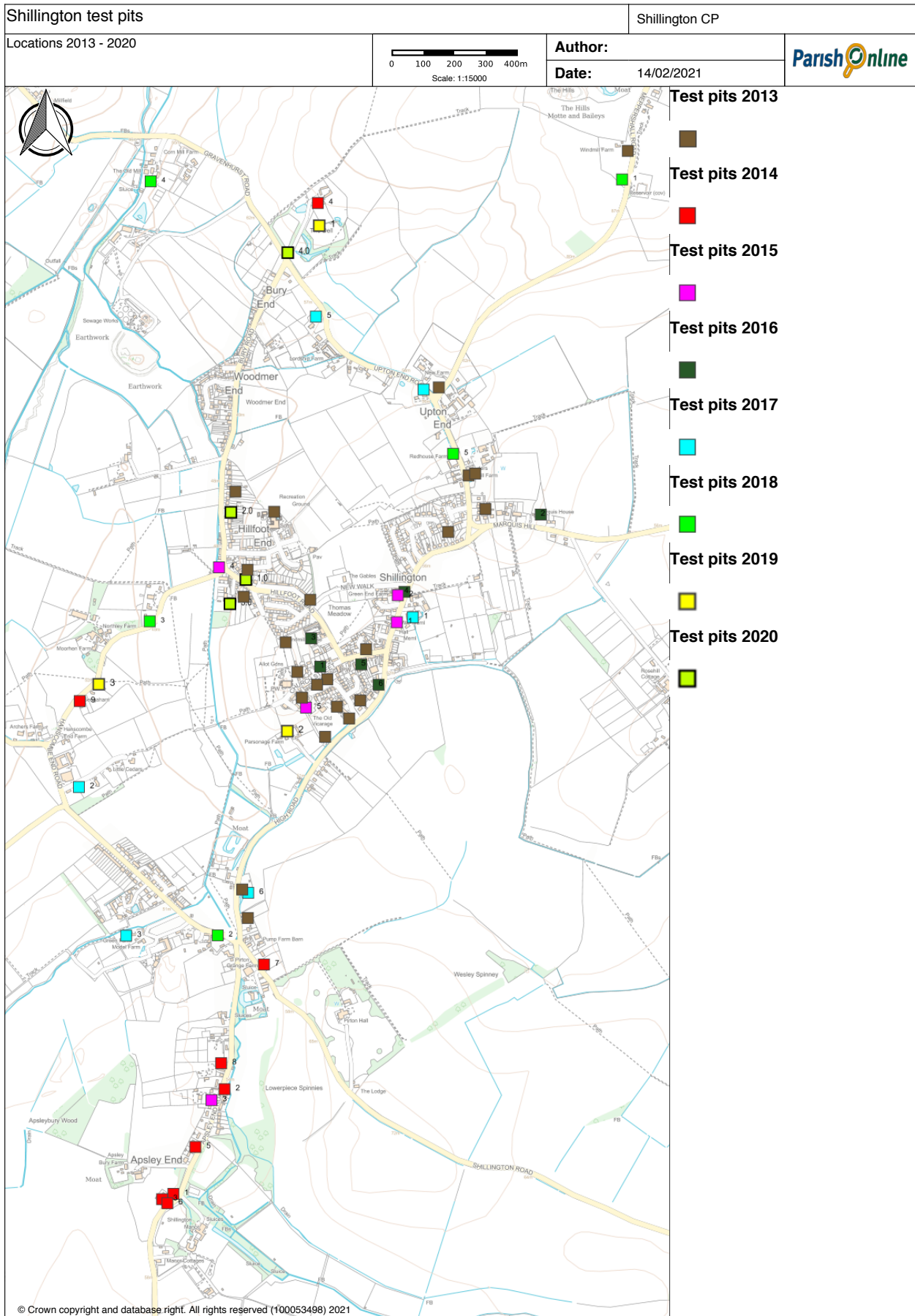
### HWBM20 (TL 159 345)

17 May 2020

Cntxt	HG	
	No	Wt
HWBM20	4	28

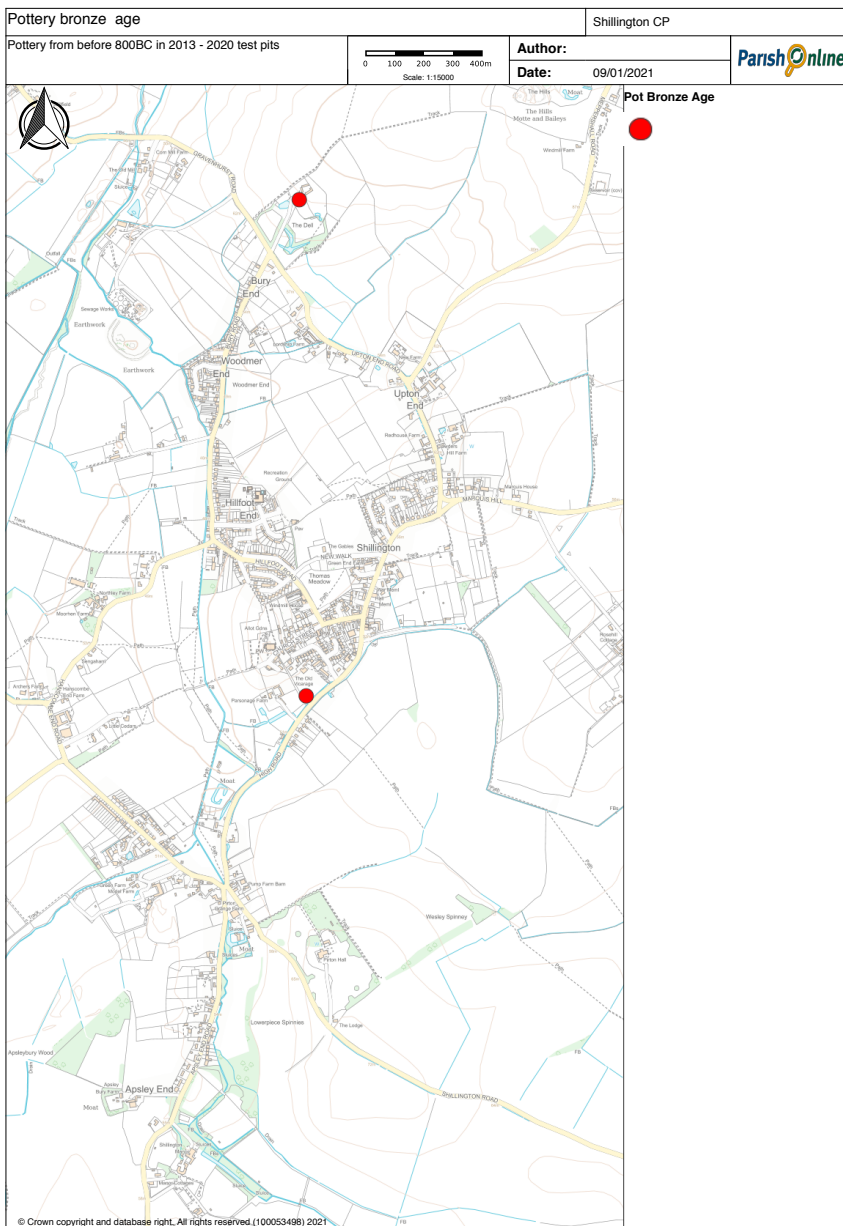
This Hertfordshire Greyware was discovered by a walker using Footpath 48 in the vicinity of Holwell Bury. This is one of the medieval manors of Shillington but later on, this area became part of Holwell parish.

# Location of test pits 2013 - 2020



## Pottery distribution maps & comments for different historical periods:

### Bronze Age 1,200 - 800BC



No. of test pits with  
Bronze Age pottery-  
2 of 57 (4%)

Total weight of Bronze  
Age pottery- 44g.

Average- 22g per test pit  
(where found)

The only sites with it so far  
are the Old Vicarage  
(SH13/11) and Shillington  
Bury (SH14/4).

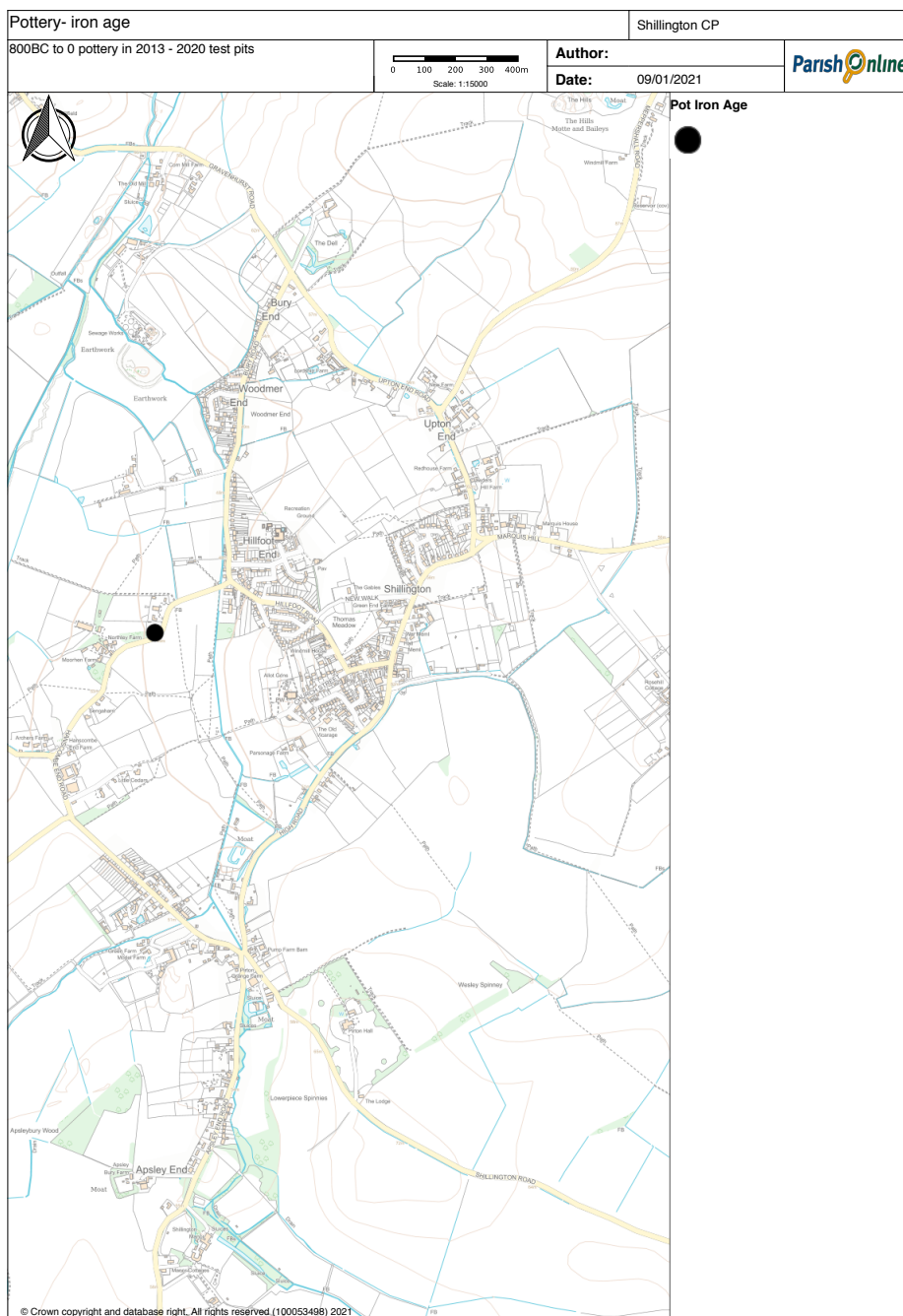
No more was found in the  
2020 test pits

One piece of Bronze or  
Iron Age pottery weighing  
32g, possibly from a burial  
urn, was found elsewhere  
in the parish at Pegsdon  
Hills Nature Reserve  
during 2020.

### Conclusion

It is unusual to find any Bronze Age pottery and the 42g found at the Old Vicarage test pit (SH13/11) is very interesting as there is enough of it to suggest that a small settlement existed there during this period. Springs occur in this locality and would have been a useful resource to have close by. It is possible that the 2g at Shillington Bury (SH14/4) may indicate settlement there as well. Both sites have also produced pottery from many other periods and may have been more or less continuously settled since then.

## Iron age pottery- 800BC to 0



No more Iron Age pottery was discovered in 2020.

A small(7g) sherd of Iron Age pottery was found at 59, Hanscombe Rd (SH18/3) in 2018.

No. of test pits with Iron Age pottery- 1 of 57 (1.8%)

Total weight of Iron Age pottery found- 7g.

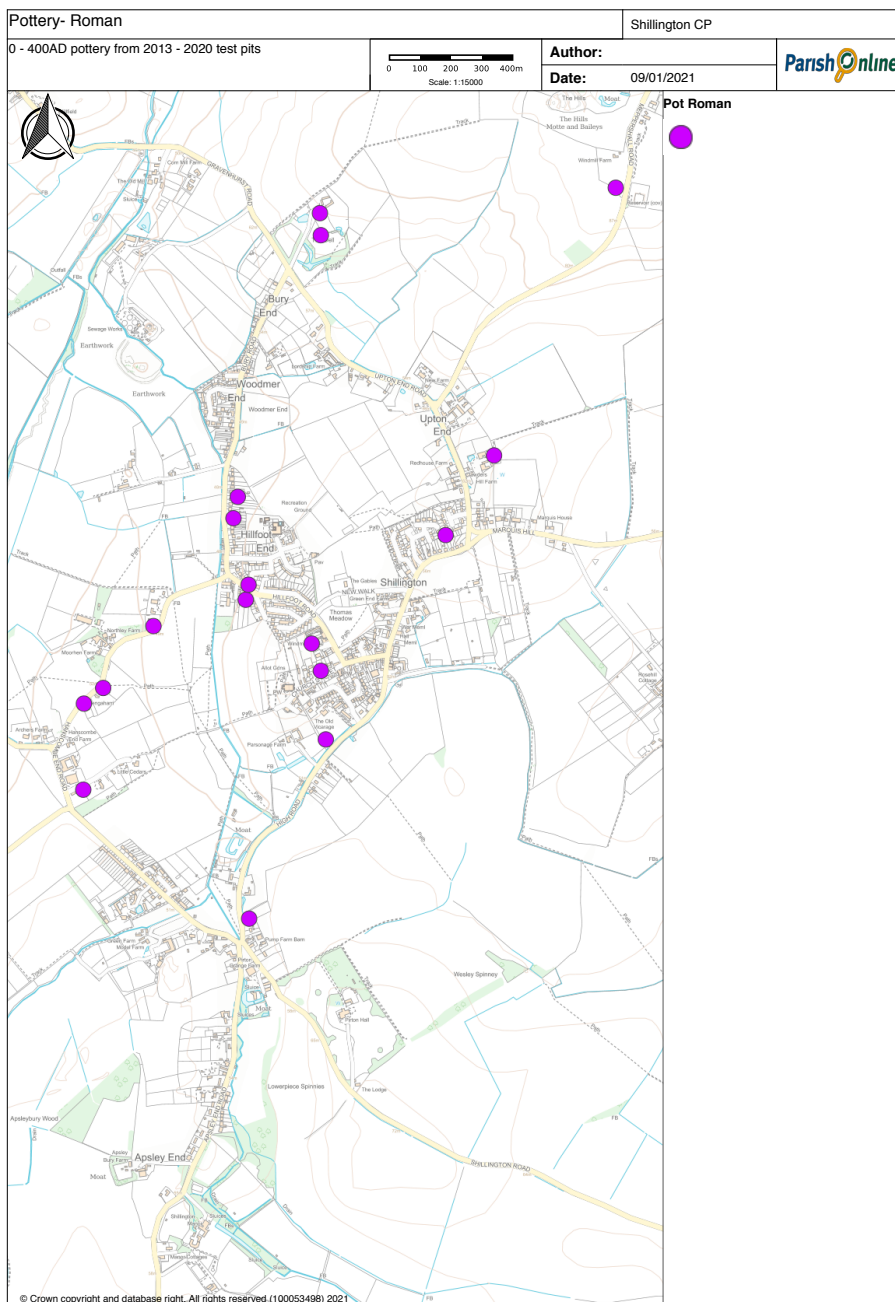
Average- 7g per test pit (where found)

### Conclusion

Iron Age pottery does not usually survive well and this is a rare find and the only one in Shillington so far. An Iron Age brooch dated to between 400 and 100AD was discovered quite close by near Northley Farm.

Parts of the Hanscombe End area have yet to be investigated using test pits and with the discovery of Iron Age pottery there, other nearby locations continue to be important targets for future digs.

## Roman pottery- 0 - 400AD



Two of the 3 2020 test pits (SH20/1, SH20/2) contained Roman pottery.

No. of test pits with Roman pottery- 17 of 61 (28%).

Total weight of Roman pottery- 189g- an average of 11.1g per test pit (where found).

The maximum amount in one test pit was 49g at SH16/1 (32 Church St). Two more had over 20g. 11 sites had 9g or less.

Roman pottery has been found elsewhere around the village including a sherd of 25g on a footpath S of Rosehill Farm during 2020. Fieldwalking west of the church since 2017 has produced 132g of Roman pottery.

### Conclusions

Roman pottery has been found across much of Shillington, except for Apsley End, albeit usually in small amounts. Taken at face value, this pattern suggests that the population inhabited multiple, small, dispersed sites. However, it is known that manuring of fields was carried out during the Roman occupation and possible that the pottery was spread with it away from settlement sites. Both test pits with Bronze Age pottery (SH13/11 & SH14/4) and the test pit with Iron Age pottery (SH18/3) also contained Roman. This may demonstrate continuous use of the sites although it is possible that they were abandoned and then reused.

No pottery made between 500 & 850AD has yet been found in any Shillington test pit.

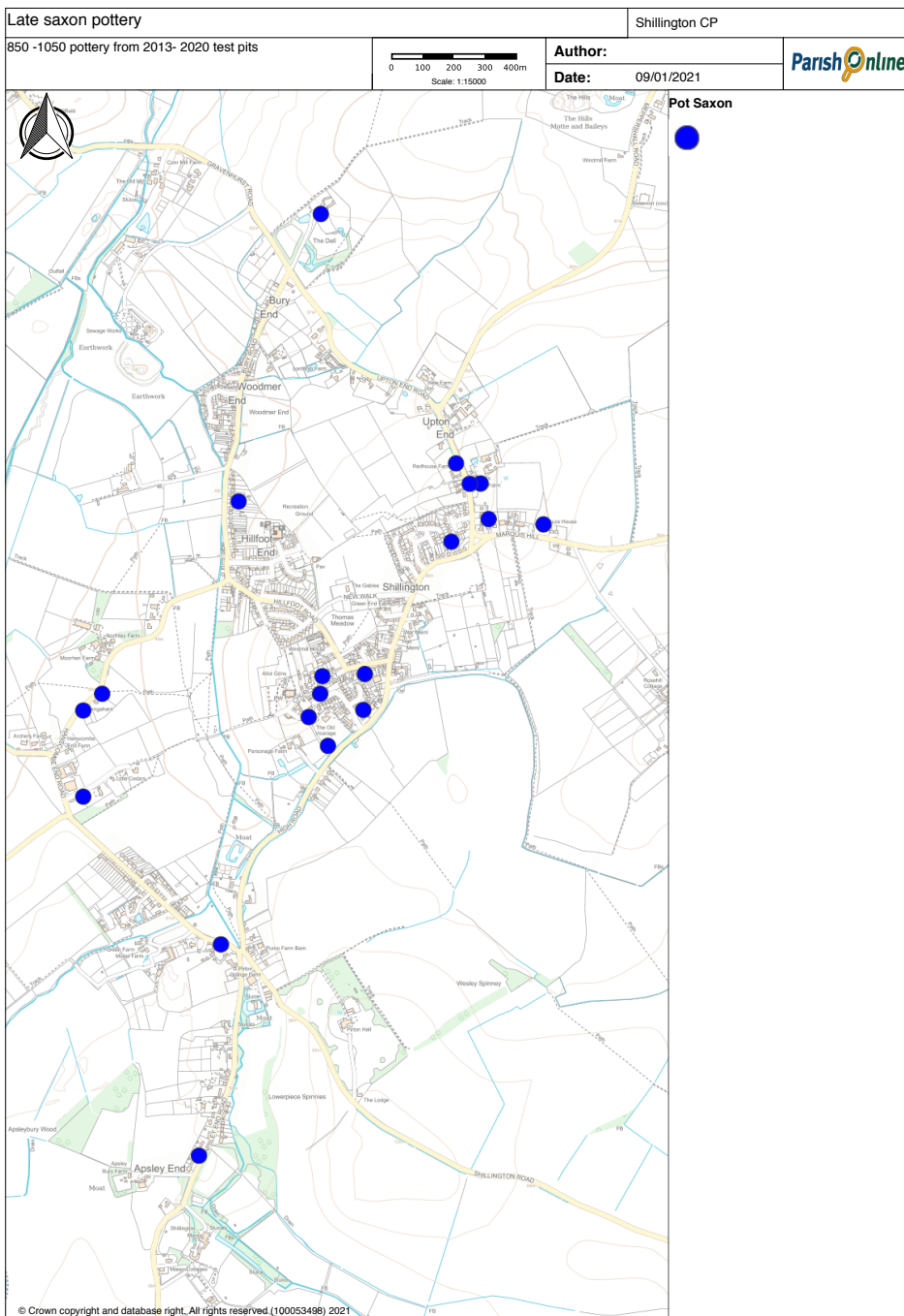
## Late Saxon- mid 9th to mid 11th century (850-1050)

None of the 2020 test pits contained Late Saxon pottery and the number of test pits with it remains at 18 of 61 (29.5%)

Total weight of Late Saxon pottery to date- 339g, averaging 18.8 g (where found).

Maximum yields were 47g at SH13/1 (1, Clawders Hill) & 43g at SH13/5 (77, Church St).

Fieldwalking W of the church since 2017 has also found 18g.



(continued on next page)

## Conclusions

Like Roman, Late Saxon pottery is distributed thinly but widely in Shillington. Six test pits in the centre of Shillington account for 36% of it, implying that for the first time, a distinct nucleated settlement was forming there.

This would be consistent with the place name evidence. The first appearance of Shillington was in a 1060 document as Scytlingedune, probably the hill ('dun') of the people or followers ('ing') of Scyttel who had lived here at some time between 700 and 900AD

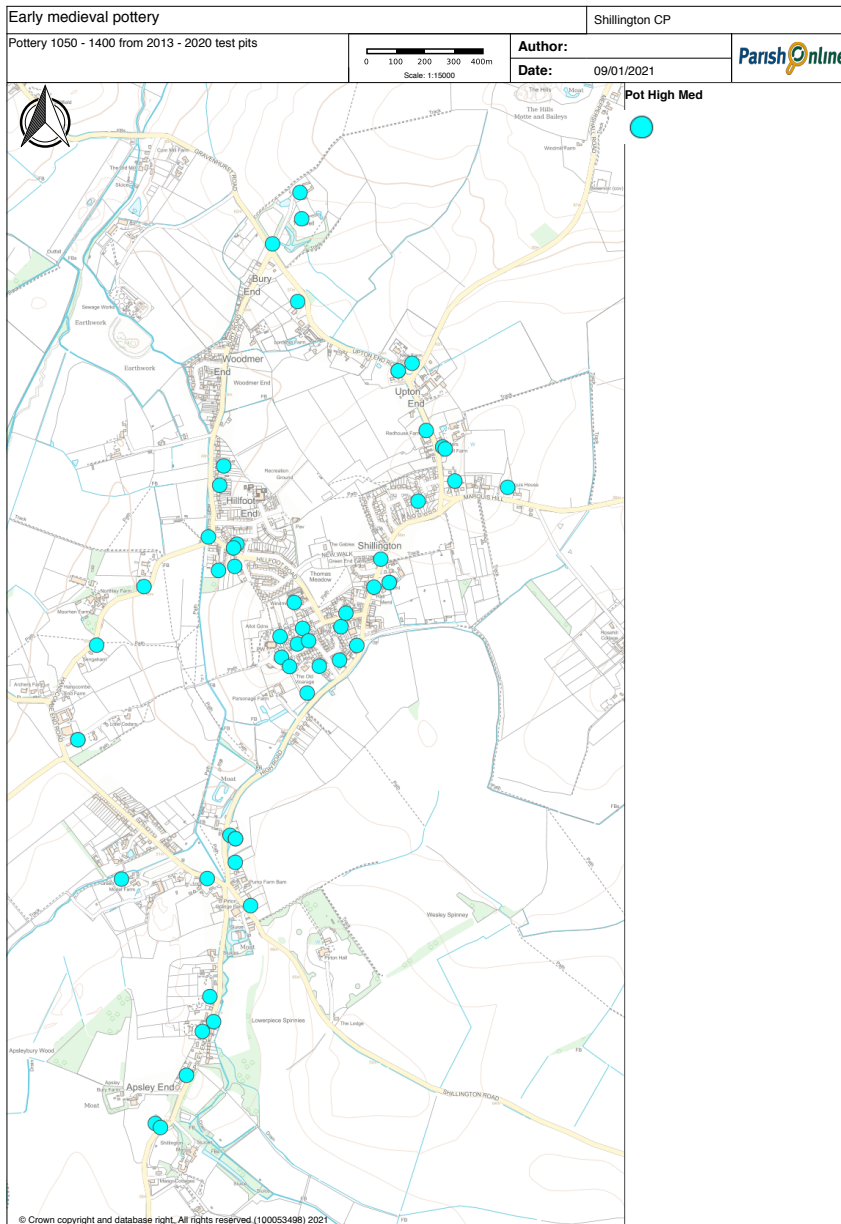
Late Saxon pottery was also common in Upton End where 6 test pits out of 9 produced another 30% of the total and at Hanscombe End with 3 occurrences in 4 test pits, suggesting the formation of these Ends too. There is not enough evidence yet to determine whether any other 'Ends' existed then and they may be little later.

Nine of the 18 Late Saxon pottery sites had previously contained Roman pottery, demonstrating either continuity of settlement or reuse of suitable sites. All but one site went on to contain Early Medieval pottery, strongly suggesting their continuous use thereafter. The only exception was SH14/9 82a Hanscombe End Rd where no Early Medieval was found.

## Early (or High) medieval pottery(1050 - 1400)

Note that this era lasts for 350 years compared with 200 for the late Saxon.

Three of the 4 sites, excavated in 2020, all of them in the Hillfoot End area (SH20/1, 2 and 3), produced Early Medieval pottery.



The number of test pits with it is 51 out of 61 or over 83% of the total.

The total weight is 6,799g, an average of 133.3g per test pit where found.

Maximum yields were 1,812g in SH14/4 (Shillington Bury front garden), 646g at SH14/5 (44 Apsleybury Rd) and 592g in SH17/1 (29, High Rd).

Fieldwalking W of the church since 2017 has produced 551g to date.

### Conclusions

Early medieval is the earliest pottery discovered in 22 test pits which suggests that the sites were being occupied for the first time. A further 6 of the sites had not contained Late Saxon but had produced some Roman or earlier pottery.

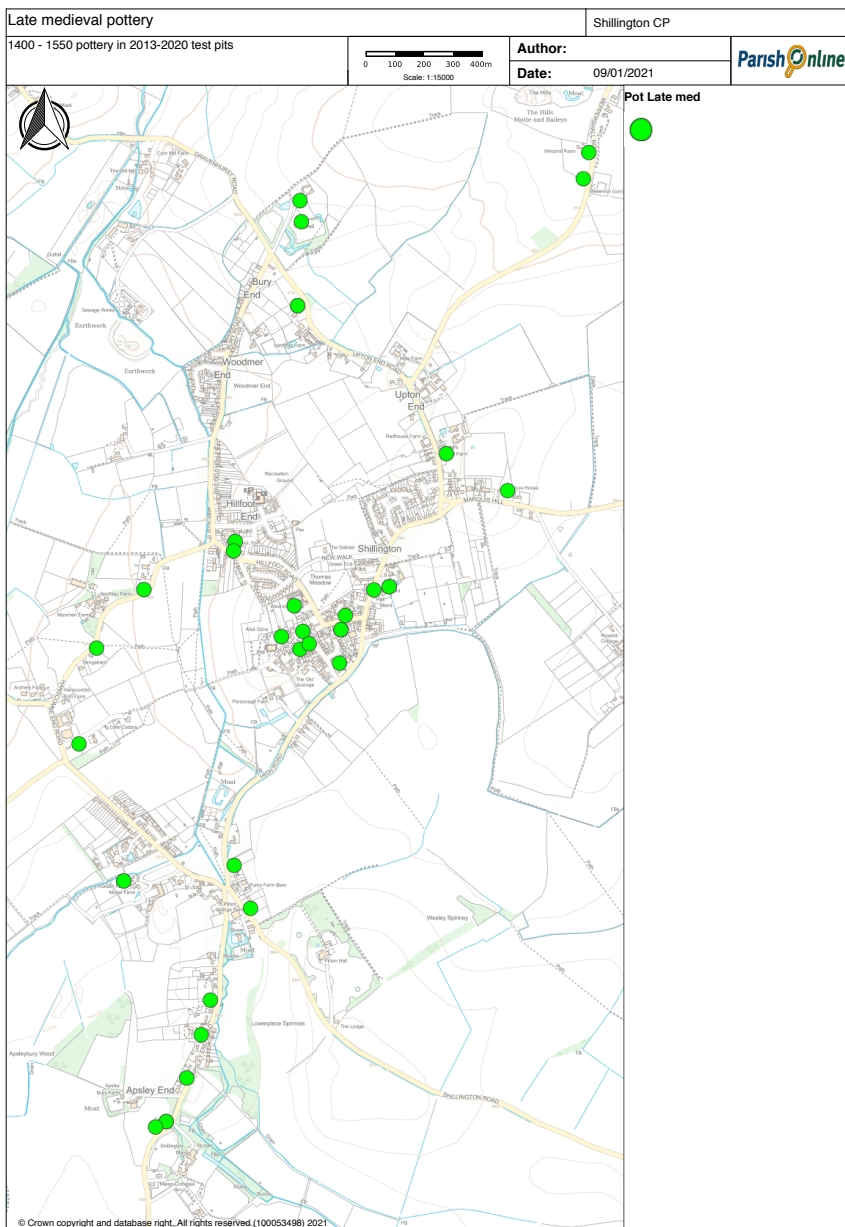
Considered alongside the continued use of most sites with Late Saxon pottery, this shows that Shillington was thriving at this time. Additional 'Ends' had been formed at Green, Hillfoot & Apsley Ends as well as in the Apsley Arch area.



## Late medieval pottery(1400-1550)

Just one small piece of Late Medieval pottery was found in 2020 in SH20/1 (20, Hillfoot Rd). The total of sites with this pottery is 30, 49% of the total and down from 51 in the Early Medieval.

The total weight of this pottery is 831g at an average of 27.7g (where found). Note that this period lasts only 150years.



After correcting for this, the yield of Late Medieval pottery is down from 38.1g to 18.5g.

The maximum amount found was at 155g at SH14/8 (Musgrave Arms).

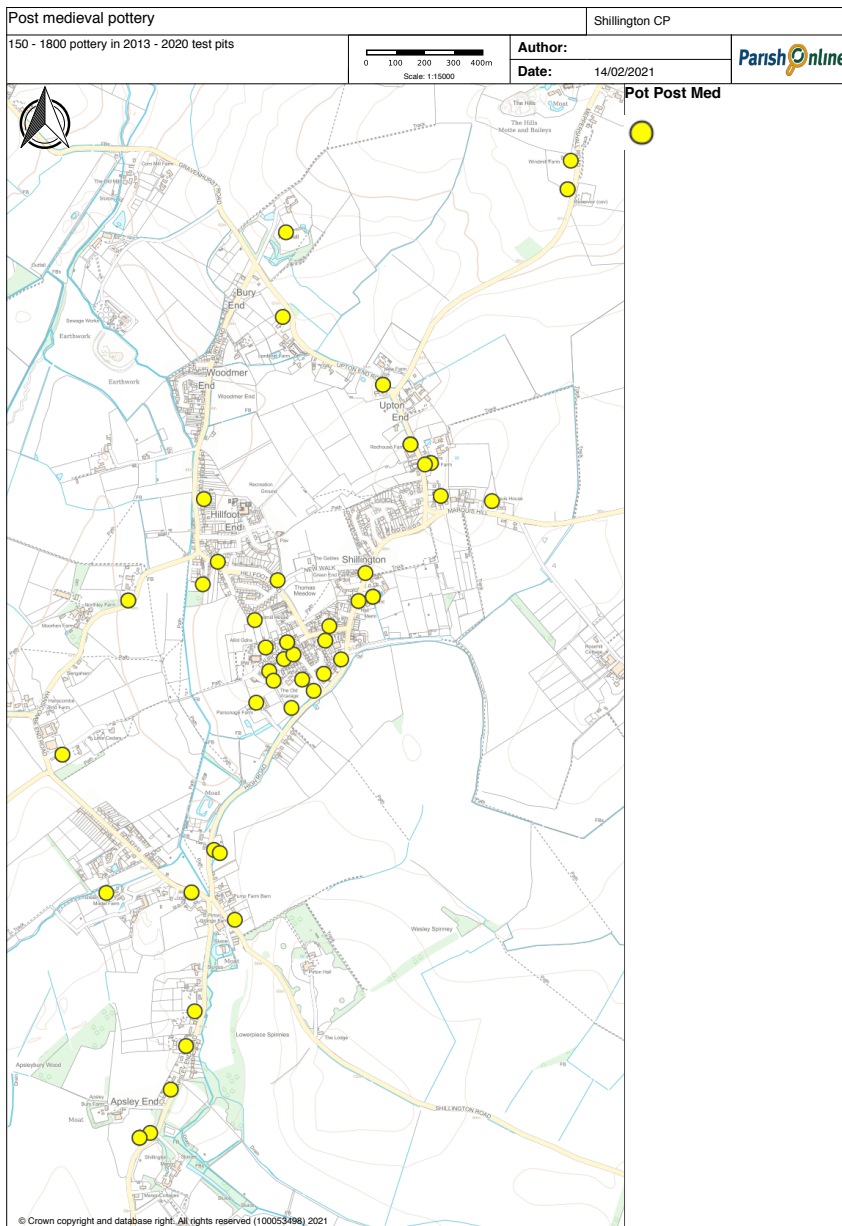
Fieldwalking W of the church since Jan 2017 has produced 175g.

Conclusions- Every part of the village shows a decline. The 13 test pits in the centre of Shillington with Early Medieval pottery had fallen to 8 with late Medieval. Upton End, down by 9 sites to 3, and Hillfoot End, down from 7 sites to 2, seem to have been particularly badly affected. In contrast, Hanscombe End (3 sites- same as before) and Apsley End (7 sites reduced to 5) may have fared comparatively well.

This pattern of decline in pottery yields and distribution mirrors a similar one observed elsewhere in East Anglia where test pits have been dug. Other evidence has proved that the climate changed in the 14th C, becoming cooler and wetter, leading to poor harvests, a shortage of food and less resistance to disease. The people were vulnerable as the plague spread and Shillington appears to have suffered a substantial fall in population at this time.

## Post medieval pottery(1550-1800)

Post-medieval pottery was found in all three 2020 test pits in the Hillfoot End area (SH20/1, SH20/2 & SH20/3). It has now been found in 53 test pits or nearly 87% of the total.



The total yield is now 6,652g at an average of 125.5g per test pit. By far the largest amount (1,826g) came from SH13/6 (91, Church St). The corrected yield has increased from 18.5g to 50.2g compared with the Late Medieval.

Fieldwalking W of the church has also produced 1,765g.

29 of the 30 sites (94.3%) with Late Medieval pottery were reused in the Post-Medieval period.

Compared with the Late medieval period, 23 new sites contain Post Medieval pottery. The village centre showed the most marked improvement with pottery sites increasing from 8 to 16.

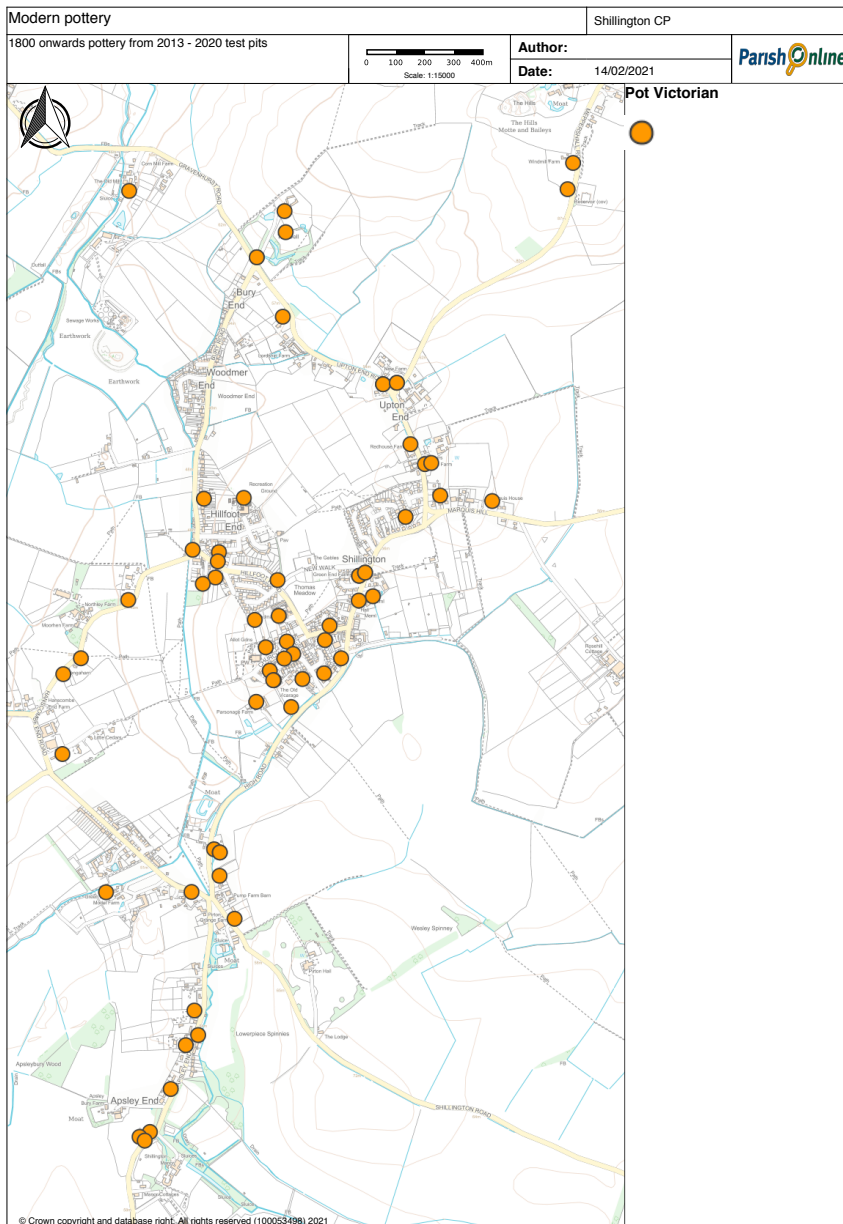
## Conclusions

The number of test pits with Post Medieval pottery has finally overtaken the number with Early Medieval. Many new settlement sites have been established and most older ones reused. Pottery yields are up to and all the figures point to a substantial recovery of Shillington's fortunes with an expansion in the population and an increase in the number of homes.

## Modern pottery (1800-2000)

Modern pottery was present in all of the 2020 test pits- SH20/, SH20/2, SH20/3 & SH20./4.. It has been found in 58 of 61 test pits to date (95.1%).

The total weight of Modern pottery is 12,522g at an average of 223g per test pit (where found) and the corrected yield was 107.9g, up from 50.2 g in the Post Medieval.



### Conclusion

With most test pits located in the gardens of houses lived in today, it is not surprising that they have produced pottery from the last two centuries.

There are explanations for the exceptions. At SH13/22 (60 Bury Rd), the house and those nearby were built on fields after 1920, at SH13/16 (adj 1 Vicarage Close), a former pond was located close by and at SH19/1 (Shillington Bury pasture), the location was over 67m from the nearest dwelling.

## Appendix 1- Pottery types found in Shillington

30 different types found up to & including 2020

**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.

SH13/11 (Old Vicarage);

SH14/4 (The Bury)

2 test pits

---

**IA: Iron Age**, 800BC-AD50. Simple, hand-made pottery containing variable amounts of sand, shell, and/or flint.

SH18/3- (59 Hanscombe End Rd)

1 test pit

---

**RB: Roman**. All. 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century (0 - 400AD). . An assortment of common types of Roman pottery such as grey ware and Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware, and was made in many different places in Britain. Lots of different types of vessels were made.

SH13/11 (Old Vicarage), 19 (73 Hillfoot Rd), 22 (62 Bury Rd), 25 (Bryants Close garages), 26 (2 Clawders Hill), 27 (Windmill Farm);

SH14/4 (The Bury), 9 (82a Hanscombe End Rd)

SH16/1 (32, Church St), 3 (Windmill Lodge)

SH17/2 (Cedarwood), 6 (125 High Rd);

SH18/3- (59 Hanscombe End Rd)

SH19/1 (Shillington Bury pasture), SH19/3 (84 Hanscombe End Rd)

SH20/1 (20, Hillfoot Rd), SH20/2 (46, Bury Rd)

17 test pits. Also SH17/F1& SH19/CF2(Church Field fieldwalking) & SH18/BFM1(spot find in pasture south of Bury Farm, Meppershall); SH 20/RH1 (spot find in arable S of Rosehill farm).

---

### Late Saxon- mid 9th to mid 11th century (850-1050)

**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.

SH13/1 (1 Clawders Hill), 10 (Crown), 11 (Old Vicarage), 22 (62 Bury Rd), 24 (3 Marquis Hill), 25 (Bryants Close garages), 26 (2 Clawders Hill);

SH14/4 (The Bury), 9 (82a Hanscombe End Rd);

SH15/5 (All Saints Vicarage);

SH16/1 (32 Church St), 2 (Marquis House), 5 (19 Church St)

SH17/2 (Cedarwood);

SH19/3 (84, Hanscombe End Rd)

15 test pits. Also SH17/F1 & SH19/CF1 (field walking in Church Field).

**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.

SH13/5 (77, Church St);

SH14/5 (44 Apsleybury Rd);

SH18/2 (3 Hanscombe End Rd), SH18/5- (Red House Farm, 19 Upton End Rd))

4 test pits

**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.

SH13/11 (Old Vicarage);

SH14/4 (The Bury)

2 test pits

---

#### **Early Medieval- mid 11th to end 14th century (1050-1400)**

**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.

SH13/3, 5, 15, 24, 25;

SH14/1, 3, 4, 5, 8;

SH15/3, 5;

SH16/1, 2, 5;

SH17/1, 2, 3, 5, 6;

SH18/3 (59 Hanscombe End Rd), 5 (Red House Farm)

SH19/3 (Hanscombe End Rd)

23 test pits. Also at SH19 /CF2 (Church Field fieldwalking), SH19/P1 (spot find in material excavated from field entrance off High Rd), SH20/MF1 (SE of Moorhen Farm)

**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.

SH13/1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26;

SH14/1, 3, 4, 5, 8;

SH15/1, 4;

SH16/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SH17/1, 2, 4;

SH18/2 (3 Hanscombe End Rd), SH18/3 (59 Hanscombe End Rd), SH18/5- (Red House Farm)

SH20/1 (20, Hillfoot Rd), SH20/3 (11 Brookside)

34 test pits. Also SH17/CF1 & SH19/CF1 (field walking in Church Field), SH20/MF1

**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, oolites, black ironstone. Produced at numerous kilns in the villages of Lyveden and Stanion in NE Northants. Mostly jars and bowls.

SH14- 4 (The Bury), 8 (Musgrave Arms);

SH18/5- (Red House Farm)

3 test pits

**LB: Lyveden 'B' Ware.** Made at Lyveden and Stanion in Northamptonshire between AD1225 and 1400. The earlier pots are quite crude, as the potters did not throw them on a wheel, but built them by coiling. The clay fabric is usually grey with buff or orange surfaces. The main types of pot are jugs with a poor-quality green glaze, and vertical stripes and dots painted with white clay. Around AD1300, the potters changed to wheel-throwing their pots, resulting in better-quality vessels, but stopped decorating them with slip designs.

SH20/4 (Shillington Bury left of drive)

1 test pit

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

SH13/1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26

SH14/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8;

SH15/3, 4;

SH16/1, 2, 3, 5, 6;

SH17/1, 2, 3, 5, 6;

SH18/2, 3, 5

SH19/1

SH20/1, 2, 3, 4

44 test pits. Also SH17/CF1, SH19/CF1 & SH19/CF2 (field walking in Church Field), SH18/CF2 & SH 20/MF1 (casual finds Church Field- Moorhen Farm land), SH19/P1 (spot find in material excavated from field entrance off High Rd).

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

SH13- 4 (52 Church St), 6 (91 Church St), 7 (8 Elmhurst Gardens);

SH14- 1 (Apsleybury Fm meadow), 8 (Musgrave Arms)

SH16- 1 (32 Church St), 4 (1 New Walk), 5 (19 Church St);

SH17- 2 (Cedarwood), 5 (Walnut Cottage), 6 (125 High Rd);

11 test pits

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

SH14- 4 (The Bury);

1 test pit

---

#### **Late medieval- 15th to mid 16th century (1400-1550)**

**BB: Brill/Boarstall Ware**. 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

SH13/10 (Crown), SH13/20 (Jepps Close)

SH14/4 (Bury), 7 (Pump Farm bungalow), 8 (Musgrave Arms);

SH16/3 (Windmill Lodge), 5 (19 Church St);

SH17/1 (29 High Rd), 2 (Cedarwood), 3 (Green Farm);

SH18/3 (59 Hanscombe End Rd)

11 test pits

**TG: "Tudor Green" Ware**. 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century. Thin, white pottery with a bright green glaze. Made near London at sites in Surrey and Hampshire. Usually drinking vessels.

SH13/7 (8 Elmhurst Gardens), 12 (121 High Rd), 14 (20a Vicarage Close)

SH14/8 (Musgrave Arms);

SH16/1 (32 Church St);

5 test pits

**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.

SH13/4 (Bury), 5 (77 Church St), 7 (8 Elmhurst Gardens), 10 (Crown), 26 (2 Clawders Hill), 27 (Windmill Fm)

SH14/1 (Apsleybury Farm meadow), 3 (Old Court House 1), 4 (Bury), 5 (77 Church St), 8 (Musgrave Arms);

SH15/1 (War memorial), 3 (26a Apsleybury Rd);

SH16/1 (32 Church St), 2 (Marquis House), 3 (Windmill Lodge);

SH17/2 (Cedarwood), 5 (Walnut Cottage), 6 (125 High Rd);

SH18/1 (Windmill Farm 2), SH18/3 (59 Hanscombe End Rd)  
SH19/1 (the Bury pasture, SH19/3 (84, Hanscombe End Rd)  
SH20/1 (20 Hillfoot Rd)  
24 test pits. Also SH17/F1, SH19/CF1 & SH19/CF2 (field walking in Church Field) & SH17/N1 (Northley Farmhouse).

**LMR: Late Medieval Reduced Ware**, 1400 – 1550. Hard grey pottery with sand visible in the clay body. Rare dark green glazes, wide range of everyday vessel types. Made at a number of centres in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

SH17/5 (Walnut Cottage), 6 (125 High Rd);  
2 test pits. Also SH17/F1 (field walking in Church Field) & SH17/N1 (Northley Farmhouse).

**LMOx: Late Medieval Oxidized ware**, 1450 – 1550. Very hard orange sandy ware in a range of developed late medieval utilitarian forms, some with a dark green glaze. Numerous kiln sites throughout the south-east midlands, at places such as Sawtry in Bedfordshire.

0 test pits. Also SH17/F1 (field walking in Church Field).

### **Post-medieval pottery- mid 16th to end 18th century (1550-1800)**

**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.

SH13/4 (52 Church St)

SH14/8 (Musgrave Arms)

SH16/6 (Chestnut Tree Farmhouse);

3 test pits

**GS: German Stonewares**. First made around AD1450, and still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze. 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.

See also RAER - Raeren Ware (1450 - 1600), FR Freschen Ware (1550 - 1750) & WCS Cologne Ware (1600 onwards) below

SH13/4 (52 Church St), 6 (91 Church St), 7 (8 Whitehall Gardens), 20 (Jepps Close);

3 test pits

**RAER: Raeren Stoneware**, 1450 – 1600. Made at Raeren in Germany. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a brown iron wash. The most common vessel types were mugs.

0 test pits. Found in SH19/CF1 (field walking in Church Field)

**GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares**: Just about everywhere in Britain began to make and use this type of pottery from about AD1550 onwards, and it was still being made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The clay fabric is usually very smooth, and a brick red colour. Lots of different types of pots were made, particularly very large bowls, cooking pots and cauldrons. Almost all of them have shiny, good-quality orange or green glaze on the inner surface, and sometimes on the outside as well. From about AD1680, black glaze was also used.

SH13/1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27;

SH14/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8;

SH15/1, 3, 4, 5;

SH16/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6;

SH17/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6;

SH18/1, 2, 3, 5

SH19/1, 2

SH20/1, 2, 3

49 test pits. Also SH17/F1, SH19/CF1 & SH19/CF2 (field walking in Church Field), SH17/N1 (Northley Farmhouse) & SH19/P1 (spot find in material excavated from field entrance off High Rd, SH19/CF2 (Church Field fieldwalking), SH20/MF1.

**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.

SH13/5 (77 Church St), 18 (60 Hillfoot Rd);

SH14/2 (85 Apsleyend Rd), 5 (44 Apsleybury Rd), 8 (Musgrave Arms);

SH15/1 (War memorial);

SH16-/1 (32 Church St), 5 (19 Church St), 6 (Chestnut Tree Farmhouse);

SH17/1 (29 High Rd), 3 (Green Fm), 5 (Walnut Cottage)

SH18/1 (Windmill Farm 2), 5 (Red House Farm)

SH20/3 (11, Brookside)

13 test pits. Also SH17/F1 & SH19/CF2 (field walking in Church Field) & SH17N1 (Northley Farmhouse).

**BW: Border Ware.** 1550-1750. White/buff fabric with a bright yellow and/or green glaze. Made at a number of sites on the Surrey/Hampshire border, in a wide range of utilitarian forms.

0 test pits. Found at SH17/N1 (Northley Farmhouse1)

**FR: Frechen Stoneware.** Made between AD1550-1750 at Frechen in Germany. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze. The most common vessel types were bottles and jugs. English imitations were made in the 17th century. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany.

SH18/3 (59, Hanscombe End Rd)

1 test pit & SH17/F1 & SH19/CF1 (field walking in Church Field), SH19/P1 (spot find in material excavated from field entrance off High Rd)

**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.

SH13/1 (1 Clawders Hill), 4 (52 Church St), 6 (91 Church St), 14

SH14/1 (Apsleybury Farm meadow)

SH16/1 (32 Church St), 6 (Chestnut Tree Farmhouse)

SH17/1 (29 High R), 5 (Walnut Cottage)

SH18/2 (3 Hanscombe End Rd)

SH19/2 (Parsonage Farm)

10 test pits. Also SH17- /N1 (Northley Farmhouse)

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

SH13/4 (52 Church St), 6 (91 Church St), 10 (Crown), 24 (3 Marquis Hill)

SH15/1 (War memorial);

SH16/6 (Chestnut Tree Farmhouse);

SH17/6 (125 High Rd);

SH18/2 (3 Hanscombe End Rd)

7 test pits. Also SH17/F1 (field walking in Church Field).



**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.

SH18/1 (Windmill Farm 2)

SH20/2 (46, Bury Rd)

2 test pits. Also SH17/F1, SH19/CF1& SH19/CF19 (Church Field fieldwalking).

**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.

SH13/4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 26, 27;

SH14/1, 2, 8;

SH16/5, 6;

SH17/1, 5

SH18/1

SH20/1

18 test pits. Also SH17/F1, SH19/CF1& SH19/CF2 (Church Field fieldwalking).

**CP: Chinese Porcelain.** Very hard, thin and light white pottery, usually with blue painted decoration. First imported from China around AD1650.

PEG20/1

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

SH13/4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 27;

SH14/8;

SH17/3, 5;

SH18/1, 2, 5;

12 test pits

Also SH19/CF2 (Church Field fieldwalking)

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

SH13/4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15;

SH14/8;

SH16/4, 5, 6;

SH17/1, 4;

SH18/1,2;

SH19/2:

15 test pits. Also SH17/F1 & SH19/CF1 (fieldwalking in Church Field).

**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.

SH13/4, 6, 15;

SH14/5, 8;

SH15/5;

SH17/4

SH18/5

SH19/2

9 test pits

**CRM: Creamware.** This was the first pottery to be made which resembles modern 'china'. It was invented by Wedgwood, who made it famous by making dinner services 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.

SH18/1, 5

2 test pits

---

### **Victorian pottery- 19th century or later (1800-present)**

**MOD: Modern pottery including '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.

SH13/1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28;

SH14/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9;

SH15/1, 2, 3, 4, 5;

SH16/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6;

SH17-/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SH18/1, 2, 3, 4, 5;

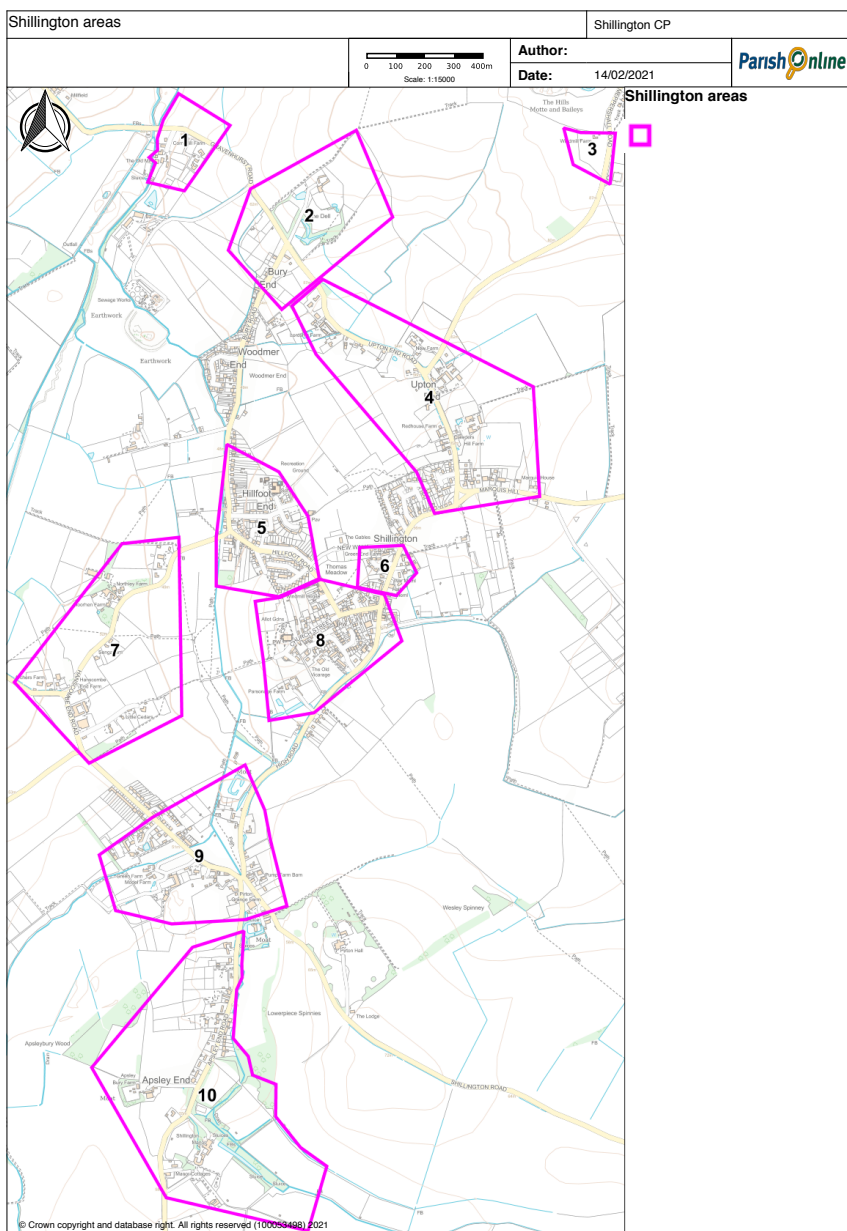
SH19/1, 2, 3;

SH20/1, SH20/2, SH20/3, SH20/4

58 test pits. Not at SH13/16 (entrance to Vicarage Close), SH13/22 (62 Bury Rd), SH19/1 (The Bury pasture).

Also SH17/F1, SH19/CF1 & SH19/CF2 (field walking in Church Field), SH17/N1 (Northley Farmhouse) & SH18/G1 (spot find, Gables Field)

The test pits have been clustered into 10 areas based on the historic ‘Ends’ to enable comparisons to be made between them. Starting in the NW and moving E and S, these areas are:



1 Watermill- around the Mill site off Gravenhurst Rd;

2 Bury End- Shillington Bury;

3 Windmill- around Windmill Farm;

4 Upton End- much of Upton End Rd and Marquis Hill;

5 Hillfoot End- NW end of Hillfoot Rd, S end Bury Rd & nearby;

6 Green End- around Green End Farm, the war memorial and village hall;

7 Central- Church St, the village green, Vicarage Close and Parsonage Farm;

8 Hanscombe End- around Hanscombe, Archers, Moorhen and Northley Farms;

9 Apsley Arch- where Hanscombe End, High and Apsley End Roads meet at the bridge known locally as the ‘Arch’;

10 Apsley End- Apsley End Rd and the area around Shillington Manor

Shillington Test Pits- weight of pottery (grams)

Area	Period > Bronze Age 1,200 - 800AD	Iron Age 800AD -0	Roman 0-500 AD	Late Sax 850- 1050	Early med 1,050- 1,400	Late med 1,400- 1,550	Post med 1,550- 1,800	Mod 1,800- 2,000	Totals
<b>Central</b>									
SH13/4 52 Church St					61	<b>59</b>	414	255	789
SH13/5 77 Church St				<b>43</b>	331	<b>50</b>	53	365	842
SH13/6 91 Church St					15	0	<b>1,826</b>	140	<b>1,981</b>
SH13/7 8 Elmhurst Gardens					31	30	174	113	348
SH13/10 The Crown				1	71	7	86	640	805
SH13/11 Old Vicarage	<b>42</b>		2	14	39	0	19	3	119
SH13/14 20a Vicarage Close					27	1	124	435	587
SH13/15 Vicarage Cl bungalows					28	0	14	59	101
SH13/16 adj 1 Vicarage Close					0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
SH13/17 Allotment N of church					0	0	25	118	143
SH15/5 new Vicarage				<b>31</b>	4	0	29	56	120
SH16/1 32 Church St			<b>49</b>	18	257	8	82	417	831
SH16/3 Windmill Lodge			<b>23</b>		11	8	34	143	219
SH16/5 19 Church St				16	172	3	100	906	1,197
SH16/6 Chestnut Farm					7	0	<b>392</b>	289	688
SH19/2 Parsonage Farm					0	0	100	12	112
<b>Central area totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>8,883</b>
<b>Green End</b>									
SH15/1 War memorial					9	22	42	118	191
SH15/2 Green End F <sup>'</sup> house					0	0	0	12	12
SH16/4 1 New Walk					30	0	48	419	497
SH17/1 29 High Rd					<b>592</b>	10	276	90	968
<b>Green End area totals</b>					<b>631</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>1,668</b>

Area	Period > Bronze Age 1,200 - 800AD	Iron Age 800AD - 0	Roman 0- 500AD	Late Sax 850- 1050	Early med 1,050- 1,400	Late med 400- 1,550	Post med 1,550- 1,800	Mod 1,800- 2,000	Totals
<b>Upton End</b>									
SH13/1 1 Clawders Hill				47	186	0	2	150	385
SH13/3 New Farm					35	0	0	3	38
SH13/24 3 Marquis Hill				32	213	0	1	20	266
SH13/25 garages Bryants Cl			6	1	29	0	2	5	43
SH13/26 2 Clawders Hill			4	2	23	26	172	332	559
SH16/2 Marquis House				7	35	10	54	<b>1,327</b>	1,433
SH17/4 Old Red Signpost					9	0	152	163	324
SH17/5 Walnut Cottage					118	<b>141</b>	<b>466</b>	853	<b>1,645</b>
SH18/5 Red House Farm				13	342	0	69	168	<b>592</b>
<b>Upton End Totals</b>			10	102	990	177	918	3,021	5,285
<b>Hillfoot End</b>									
SH13/18 60 Hillfoot Rd					0	0	10	57	67
SH13/19 73 Hillfoot Rd			11		89	0	2	168	270
SH13/20 (now Jepps Close)					35	1	6	12	54
SH13/22 60 Bury Rd			8	5	4	0	0	0	17
SH13/23 School					0	0	0	10	10
SH15/4 1 Bury Rd					15	0	90	194	299
SH20/1 20 Hillfoot Rd			5		228	2	54	232	521
SH20/2 46 Bury Rd			3		4	0	26	176	209
SH20/3 11 Brookside					6	0	13	76	95
<b>Hillfoot End Totals</b>		0	27	5	381	3	201	925	1,542
<b>Apsley End</b>									
SH14/1 Apsleybury Fm mead					330	38	199	14	581
SH14/2 85 Apsleyend Rd					4	0	27	24	55
SH14/3 Old Court House 1					106	30	39	593	768
SH14/5 44 Apsleybury Rd				16	<b>646</b>	12	73	23	770
SH14/6 Old Court House 2					17	0	56	409	482
SH14/8 Musgrave Arms				32	291	<b>155</b>	97	361	936
SH15/3 26a Apsley End Rd					48	8	21	4	81

Apsley End Totals									
		0	0	48	1,442	243	512	1,428	3,673
Period > Area	Bronze Age 1,200 - 800AD	Iron Age 800AD -0	Rom-an 0- 500AD	Late Sax 850- 1050	Early med 1,050- 1,400	Late med 400- 1,550	Post med 1,550- 1,800	Mod 1,800 -2,000	Totals
<b>Apsley Arch area</b>									
SH13/12 121 High Rd					20	0	362	524	906
SH13/28 Willow Thatch					0	0	0	334	334
SH14/7 Pump Fm bungalow					2	4	53	29	88
SH17/3 Green Farm					42	2	28	1	73
SH17/6 125 High Rd			3		47	63	307	659	1,079
SH18/2 Beam Ends				9	94	0	232	788	1,123
<b>Apsley Arch totals</b>			3	9	205	69	982	2,335	3,603
<b>Hanscombe End</b>									
SH14/9 82a Hanscombe E Rd			12	21	0	0	0	1	34
SH17/2 Cedarwood			6	7	69	23	6	16	127
SH18/3 59 Hanscombe E Rd		7	21		153	2	5	2	190
SH19/3 84 Hanscombe E Rd			15	7	3	27		106	158
<b>Hanscombe End totals</b>		7	54	35	225	52	11	125	509
<b>Bury</b>									
SH14/4 Shillington Bury	2		9	17	1,812	57	2	20	1,919
SH19/1 Shill. Bury pasture			3		51	12	5	0	71
SH20/4 bottom of drive					8	0	0	1	9
<b>Bury totals</b>	2		12	17	1,871	69	7	21	1,999
<b>Windmill</b>									
SH13/27 Windmill Farm 1			9		0	2	56	33	100
SH18/1 Windmill Fm 2					0	19	126	12	157
<b>Other total</b>			9			21	182	45	257
<b>Watermill</b>									
SH18/4 Mill Cottage					0	0	0	32	32

### Appendix 3- Analysis of pottery by period and area

The top part of this table shows the total weight of pottery from each historic period for each area of Shillington.

Below that, the table calculates the total and average yields in grams for each area then compensates for the unequal length of different historic periods.

Also included are the number and percentage of sites that have been reused in the following period indicating probable continuous settlement there.

Area	Period Bronze Age 1,200 - 800AD		Roman 0-500AD	Late Saxon 850- 1050	Early med'val 1,050- 1,400	Late med'val 1,400- 1,550	Post med'val 1,550- 1,800	Modern 1,800- 2,000	Totals
Central area	42	0	74	123	1,054	166	3,473	3,951	8,883
Green End					631	32	366	639	1,668
Upton End			10	102	990	177	918	3,021	5,218
Hillfoot End			27	5	381	3	201	925	1,542
Apsley End				16	1,442	243	512	1,428	3,641
Apsley Arch area			3	9	205	69	982	2,335	3,603
Hanscombe End		7	54	35	225	52	11	125	509
Bury End	2	0	12	17	1,871	69	7	21	1,999
Windmill area			9	0	0	21	182	45	257
Watermill area								32	32
Total weight pot from each period	44	7	189	329	6,799	831	6,652	12,522	27,384
No. test pits with pottery from this period	2	1	17	18	51	30	53	58	61
Average weight of pottery per test pits (excludes test pits with none)	22.0	7.0	11.1	18.8	133.3	27.7	125.9	215.9	448.9
Length of period in centuries	4.0	8.0	5.0	2.0	3.5	1.5	2.5	2.0	
Corrected average weight of pottery per test pit per century	5.5	0.9	2.2	9.4	38.1	18.5	50.2	107.9	
No. sites reused during following period	0	0	10	20	28	29	50		
% sites reused during following period	0	0	58.8	90.0	54.9	96.7	94.3		