



## Archaeology in Shillington 2021-2

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

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## Introduction

After the lifting of the most draconian Covid restrictions, we were able to resume digging test pits with two in 2021 and three in 2022. This now brings the total in Shillington to 65.

Those who helped in 2021-2 included Ivor Davis, Mike Dewbrey, Alison Graham, Nigel Harper-Scott, Jane Harrison, Fiona Hutton, Dave Pengelly, Graham Spurway and Derek Turner. I thank them all for their hard work which ensured that we finished every test pit in less than two days. I also owe enormous gratitude to everyone who provided sites and allowed us to dig and, in some cases, joined in.

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. Enthusiasts from Shillington and elsewhere have helped me continue since then.

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.

Much pottery survives well in the soil. Its composition, method of manufacture and appearance makes it possible to identify its type and age. After the field work was completed, I took the ceramic finds to Paul Blinkhorn who analysed them and recorded the results in tables which are reproduced here. The abbreviations in the top row are listed in Appendix 1. Paul's comments- based purely on the pottery he was given- are shown *in italics* with his initials (*PB*). The animal bones and shells we found have not been examined by an expert but are assumed to be from farm or wild animals or from pets. Other items have been retained for further examination in the future but common building materials which usually make up most of the finds by weight are not. The other expert consulted was Neil Pinchbeck of Enfield Archaeological Society who has examined worked flints found during fieldwalking and assigned them to different periods.

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 2022. Next are the details of and results from each of the 2021-2022 test pit locations. I have added location maps and my own comments, taking into account all the available evidence.

Fieldwalking was carried out in Church Field W of Shillington church for the third time late in 2019 and I include a report for that too. For consistency, only test pit finds are used in the distribution maps and analyses in the appendices.

For the first time, I have moved all of my analysis of the pottery discovered in the test pits into the appendices where they now appear in a more logical order:

Appendix 1 is a map showing all of the locations where we have excavated test pits since 2013.

Appendix 2 lists the 31 distinct types of pottery we've discovered in their chronological order along with their locations.

Appendix 3 contains pottery distribution maps & comments for each historical period. It is assumed that the presence of pottery signifies settlement. However, it should not be inferred that little pottery or none means no settlement took place as some may be found in future.

Appendix 4 is a map dividing Shillington into areas based on its historic 'Ends'.

Appendix 5 uses these areas to list every test pit and the total pottery weights for each period.

Appendix 6 analyses statistically the information from Appendix 5 to allow comparisons to be made between different historical periods and different areas of Shillington. 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 in the third row from the bottom.

Finally, it is worth remembering that the total area excavated so far represents only a tiny part of the total parish area. Archaeology, by its very nature, can only provide part of the story of the past.

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 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 around 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 has been collected during fieldwalking west of Shillington church between 2017 and 2020. Among it was an Acheulian hand axe of a type used between 450,000 and 240,000 years ago by nomadic hunter-gatherers. Evidence of their manufacture has been found in Hitchin, leading to speculation that they were made there, probably during the warmer Hoxnian interglacial period around 400,000 years ago 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 otherwise, archaeological finds from the post-Roman/Early and Middle Saxon/'Dark Age' era through to 850AD are rare in Shillington and for many miles around.

It is difficult to know how to interpret this. The plague broke out towards the end of the Roman occupation and this could have been responsible for many deaths and a drastic fall in or elimination of the local population. There may have been fatal raids by unknown enemies. 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 after the Romans left.

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.

### 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 continual usage during both periods. It's presence in eight 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 after 1400 brings a major decline in the fortunes of Pegsdon. There is a massive fall in the amount of contemporary pottery discovered in test pits. Only 933g has been found in total, down from 7,007g 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 around that time and more were added as the years passed. Documentary evidence builds up too and shows that the village and its population are recovering from the plague and the problems it caused. Test pit pottery made during the following 250 years backs this up, showing settlement sites rising from 34 in 1550 to 57 in 1800 with many old ones being recolonised. 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 built with much of it in previously undeveloped areas.

# Location of test pits in Shillington, 2021-2022





## Test pits in 2021: results

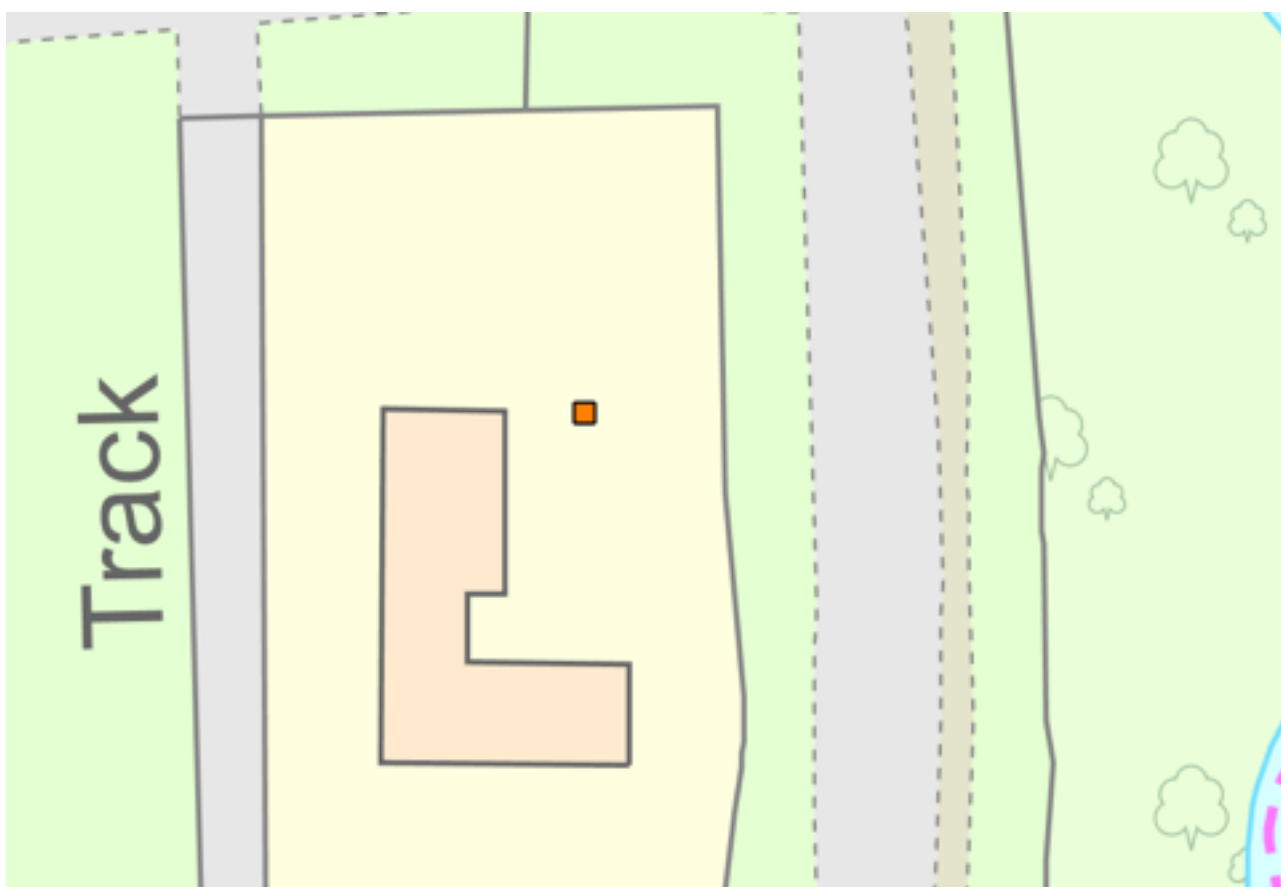
### Test Pit SH21/1

**Mulberry Cottage, 14 Apsley End Rd, SG5 3LX (TL 1075 3426))**

12 June 2021

The original E-W range of this 'L'-shaped thatched cottage may date from the late 1400s while the range to the N is more recent. The building is timber-framed with red brick infill

The test pit, marked in orange on the map, was dug in the lawn of the garden on the N side of the house 3m E of the nearest (NE) corner of the modern extension, 10.85m N of the original house and 10m W of the roadside. It was 62m NNE of the test pit at the Musgrave Arms (SH14/8).



The maximum depth reached was 55cm where light grey clay was assumed to be the natural geology.

Cntxt	HG		LMT		GRE		MANG		VIC		Date Range
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	3	15							36	48	1150-1900
2	4	32	1	1	5	31			77	118	1150-1900
3	3	10							61	85	1150-1900
4	2	7					1	1	30	47	1150-1900

*The pottery from this test-pit shows that there was activity at the site in the earlier medieval period, but then very little until the modern era. 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

### Comment

As in the remainder of Apsley End, this test pit produced no evidence of settlement during the Roman period. There was plenty of early medieval Hertfordshire Greyware (HG) here in soil disturbed presumably when the house was extended. This matches other test pits in this area, strongly indicating occupation in the 12th to 14th centuries before Mulberry Cottage was built.

As there was only one small sherd of Late Medieval Ware (LMT) from between 1400 and 1600 and little Grey Red Earthenware (GRE) & Manganese Ware (MANG) made subsequently, there is not enough evidence to suggest that the house was occupied continuously. Plenty of Victorian and modern (VIC) pottery from after 1800 show that the house has been occupied since then.

The pottery profile here is similar to that found in several other test pits nearby and likely to be a good indicator that Apsley End was thriving in the early medieval period but declined afterwards. Some new buildings were constructed subsequently and more appeared from 1800 onwards.

## Test Pit SH21/2

98a Bury Rd, SG5 3NZ (TL 1080 3448)

18-19 September 2021

This brick and tile house is less than 20 years old and sits among others that were built along this part of Bury Rd from the mid 19th century onwards. 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.



This is an area that has not been investigated previously. An earlier test pit- SH17/5 had been dug 240m ENE of here at 70, Upton End Rd and another was 340m NNE of here adjacent to the drive to Shillington Bury..

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

TP	Cntxt	LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1							21	44	1800-1900
2	2	1	2	4	91			24	57	1400-1900
2	3							30	86	1800-1900
2	4					1	2	19	128	1640-1900
2	5							20	52	1800-1900
2	6							11	55	1800-1900
2	7			1	22			11	24	1550-1900

*The range of pottery types suggests that other than low-level activity in the later medieval and earlier post-medieval periods, the site was unoccupied until the modern era.*

Other finds included-

- numerous pieces of brick, slate, glass and nails, presumably relics from the time the house was constructed
- 6 pieces of peg tile
- 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

#### Comment

Older pottery finds were few in this test pit with nothing earlier than a small sherd of Late medieval Ware (LMT) which is inadequate to suggest that there were any homes in this area at that time. The small amount of Staffordshire Slipware (SS) made between about 1640 and 1750 is not enough to show occupation took place then either.

The other finds including the Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) and Victorian and modern pottery (VIC) made after 1800 are consistent with the age of nearby houses. It seems most likely that this area was never settled before these were constructed.

## Test pit results 2022

### Shillington SH22/1

45, Church St, Shillington, SG5 3LJ (TL 1080 3420)

26-28 August 2022

This is a detached house of brick and slate, part of it possibly from the 1700s, with later extensions. The test pit was located S of the SW corner of the extension with boundary fences 3m away to W and 4.65m to the E. It was also 3.25m from the SW corner of the garden. The location was 25m W of SH16/5 (19, Church St).



The last find was made just below 60cm but digging continued into light grey clay to about 75cm in one corner.

TP	Context	STAM		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		EST		MANG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1									2	24	1	3					29	68	1550-1900
1	2									3	24			1	12			32	86	1550-1900
1	3					1	2			2	6					1	1	29	86	1150-1900
1	4					1	5	1	32	4	25							8	27	1150-1900
1	5	1	3	1	1	1	1			1	1							2	8	1000-1900
1	6			1	15	2	11											1	1	1100-1900
1	7					1	29													1150-1350

*The range of pottery types shows that there was activity at this site from around the time of the Norman Conquest to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, after which very little pottery was deposited until the modern era. PB*

Other finds included:

- numerous pieces of building materials such as red and white brick, roof tiles, slate, mortar, glass, floor tiles, window glass and tarmac
- a piece of clay drainage pipe
- 14 pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem and 2 pieces of bowl
- 64 pieces of animal bone
- 1 animal tooth
- 1 pieces of oyster shell
- numerous pieces of corroded iron including nails, a hinge, 3 washers
- other metal including a small cog wheel, possibly from a clock
- small pieces of coal
- A glass marble
- modern glass, aluminium foil, plastic, a broken button, pieces of broken wine bottles, pieces of clothes pegs
- a possible worked flint core
- a coprolite\*

### Comments

This is only the third Shillington test pit that has produced any Stamford Ware (STAM), probably made in about AD1,000, the others being at the Old Vicarage (SH13/11) and the Bury (SH14/4). The pottery shows that occupation continued here throughout the medieval period.

The Grey Red Earthenware (GRE) could have been made at any time after 1550 and with few other post-medieval finds, the area may not have been settled again until the house here was built. The construction materials appear to relate to various periods of building or rebuilding.

Most of the finds including the modern (VIC) pottery seem to have been items thrown out by occupiers of the house since it was built.

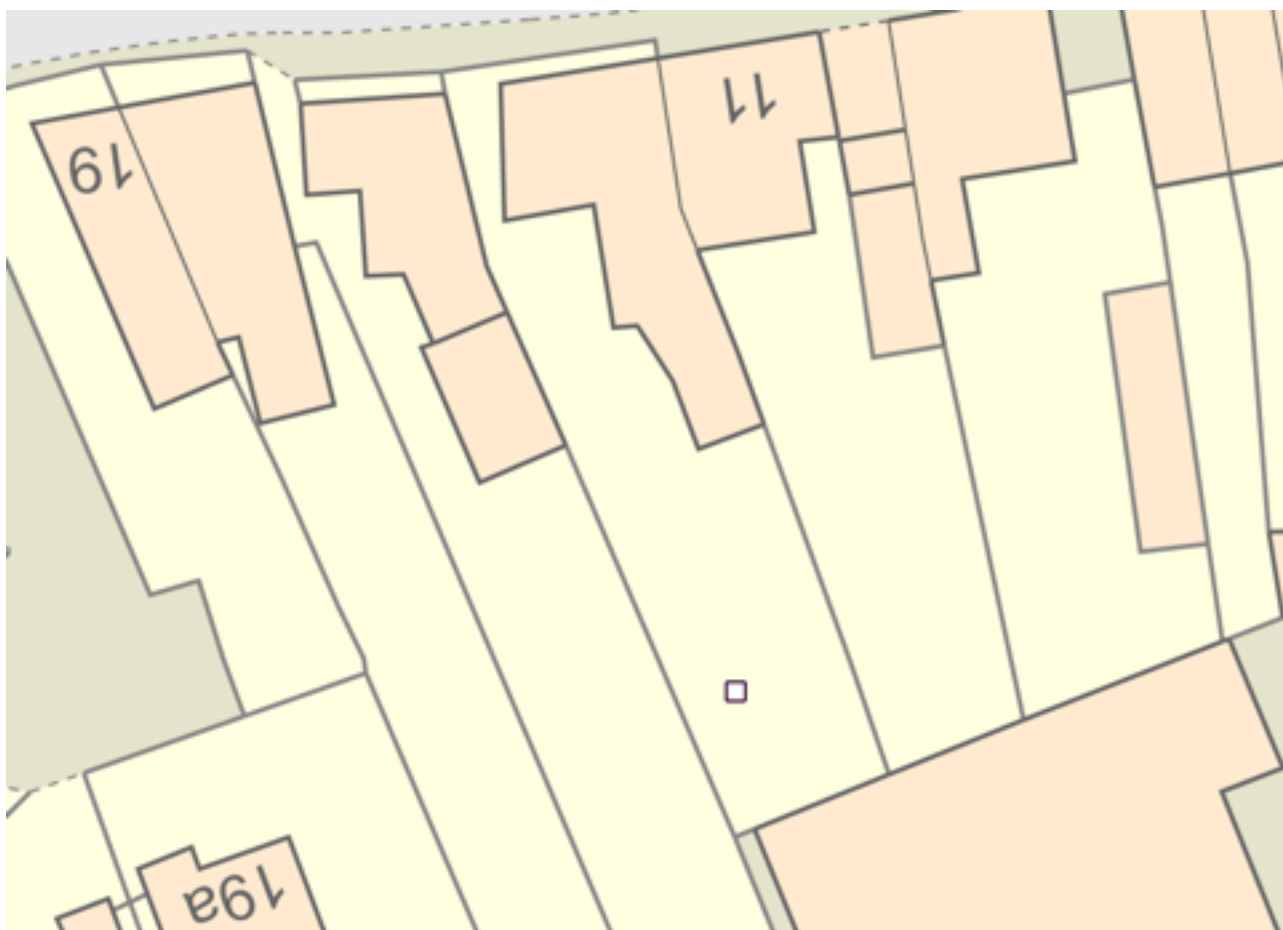
\*Coprolite are made of fossilised faeces and other material of animal origin that occurs in a geological stratum up to 2 metres thick at the junction of the West Melbury Marly chalk formation (aka Chalk Marl) and Gault Clay. It was extracted on an industrial scale from beneath fields around Shillington in the late 19th century for use as a fertiliser. The bed is shown on the British Geological Survey geology viewer crossing Church St about 50m uphill from or west of here.

## Test Pit Shillington SH22/2

### The Old Manse, 13, Church St, SG5 3LH (TL 1238 3532)

13 to 15 August 2020

This semi-detached house of brick and slate was bought as a Manse for the minister of the Congregational church in 1897 but had been built a few years before this along with other houses in this part of Church St. A rear extension was added in 2021. This test pit was situated in the rear garden about 30m S of the original house, 1.4m from the boundary fence on the W, 5.6m from the boundary to the S and 7.3m from the fence on the E.



The location was 25m E of 19, Church St (SH16/5) and 55m S of 8 Elmhurst Gardens (SH13/7)

TP	Cntxt	SHC		HG		HGZ		LMT		GRE		BW		MANG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1									1	13					55	123	1550-1900
2	2 & 3															54	123	1800-1900
2	4							3	7					3	4	37	83	1400-1900
2	5 & 6	1	4	3	7	2	4	14	46	2	11	1	2			4	35	1100-1900

*The range of pottery types shows that there was low-level activity at this site throughout the medieval period to the 16th century, after which very little pottery was deposited until the modern era. PB*

We discovered two types of pottery for the first time in a test pit in Shillington.

- There was a small amount of Hertfordshire Glazed Ware (HGZ) and it would also be found during the following dig at 34 Church St (SH22/3).
- Border Ware had only previously been found during renovations of the kitchen floor at Northley Farmhouse (SH17/N).

The pottery from contexts 2 and 3 was accidentally mixed up when it was washed and the same happened to that from contexts 5 and 6. There was pottery from many different periods indicating disturbance of the soil down to 60cm where we began to encounter what appeared to be the natural clay geology. Digging continued in one corner to 75cm to confirm this and no further finds were made.

Finds were numerous and included a variety of materials:

- numerous pieces of building materials such as red and white brick, roof tiles, slate, mortar, glass, floor tiles, window glass and tarmac
- 2 pieces of slag from possible metalworking
- coal
- 4 pieces of plastic
- an old penny (too worn to identify), a 1957 sixpence
- a metal toy lorry, a metal washer, a safety pin, 81 pieces of rusty metal (including nails), one steel button, one copper button, some copper wire, aluminium foil
- 112 pieces of window and bottle glass
- 6 piece of clay tobacco pipe stem, 1 piece of churchwarden's pipe stem
- 57 pieces of animal bone
- 10 pieces oyster shell
- 1 piece mussel shell.

### Comment

The early medieval and late medieval pottery suggest that this area was occupied during those periods. After this, the lack of pottery or other evidence of occupation suggests that this lower part of Church St was abandoned and remained as fields until the current house and others nearby were built in the late 1800s.



## Test pit Shillington SH22/3

### 34, Church St, SG5 3LJ

15 - 16 October 2022

This detached house of brick and slate was built in a garden used for growing cabbages in 1959 and a front extension was built in 2020-1. The test pit was excavated at the end of the drive where it funnels into a path 3m in front of the new extension. The test pit was 10.5 m from the boundary fence on the W and 4m from the one on the E.

The location was 12m WSW of SH16/1 next door at 32, Church St (marked in dark green on map), 49m NW of SH13/14 (20A, Vicarage Close) and 53m NE of SH13/5 (77, Church St).



We began by moving the loose stones making up the surface to one side then cut through a synthetic membrane and broke through a weak-mix concrete layer before reaching the surface of soil.

The ground had been disturbed and we found layers of clay and soil intermixed before reaching the deepest finds at about 65cm. A possible post hole contained dark soil and reached a depth of 78cm. In the remainder of the test pit, excavation ceased at 66-72cm in light grey chalk marl.

TP	Cntxt	HG		HGZ		LMT		GRE		MB		SS		MANG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			1	4			5	55	1	20	1	2			49	113	1350-1900
3	2	1	7			1	2	3	47	1	5			1	2	59	103	1150-1900
3	3	2	19			3	7	5	20	1	5	1	6			79	127	1150-1900
3	4	1	6	2	3			7	32	1	1					18	29	1150-1900
3	5 & 6	5	20					1	17							2	5	1150-1900
3	7	1	22															1150-1350

*The range of pottery types shows that there was activity at this site throughout the medieval period to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, after which very little pottery was deposited until the modern era. PB*

Other finds included:

- numerous pieces of building materials such as red and white brick, roof tiles, slate, mortar, glass, floor tiles and window glass
- 14 pieces of bottle glass
- 51 rusty nails, 1 piece of corroded hinge, 1 piece corroded metal strap
- 21 pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem
- 4 animal teeth
- 25 pieces of animal bone
- 9 pieces of oyster shell
- 2 pieces of mussel shell
- 3 possible knapped flint flakes, 1 possible snapped flint

### Comment

We were surprised to find no Roman or Late Saxon pottery as there had been in the test pit next door at no 32 (SH16/1), suggesting that settlements during those periods were small and localised. Otherwise, the age profile of the pottery was fairly similar in both.

Among the early medieval pottery, we found a little Hertfordshire Glazed Ware (HGZ), only its second occurrence in Shillington. We had also found some in the previous test pit at 13, Church St (SH22/2).

There was a little late medieval pottery but not enough to prove that this area was occupied continuously after the plague struck Shillington around 1350. There may have been sporadic occupation after this and the pre Enclosure map of 1802 shows a possible house in this area which would account for the Victorian pottery (VIC) found here. This house did not survive into the late 19th century as Ordnance Survey maps from this time show that this area was one of three small paddocks between 20 and 38 Church St.

## SH19/CF2 Fieldwalking finds 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 beginning in 2017. Paul Blinkhorn has examined it all and allocated each piece to one of 17 types. In the tables below, the most recent collection (SH19/CF2) from Oct 2019 is shown in the row above the totals.

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

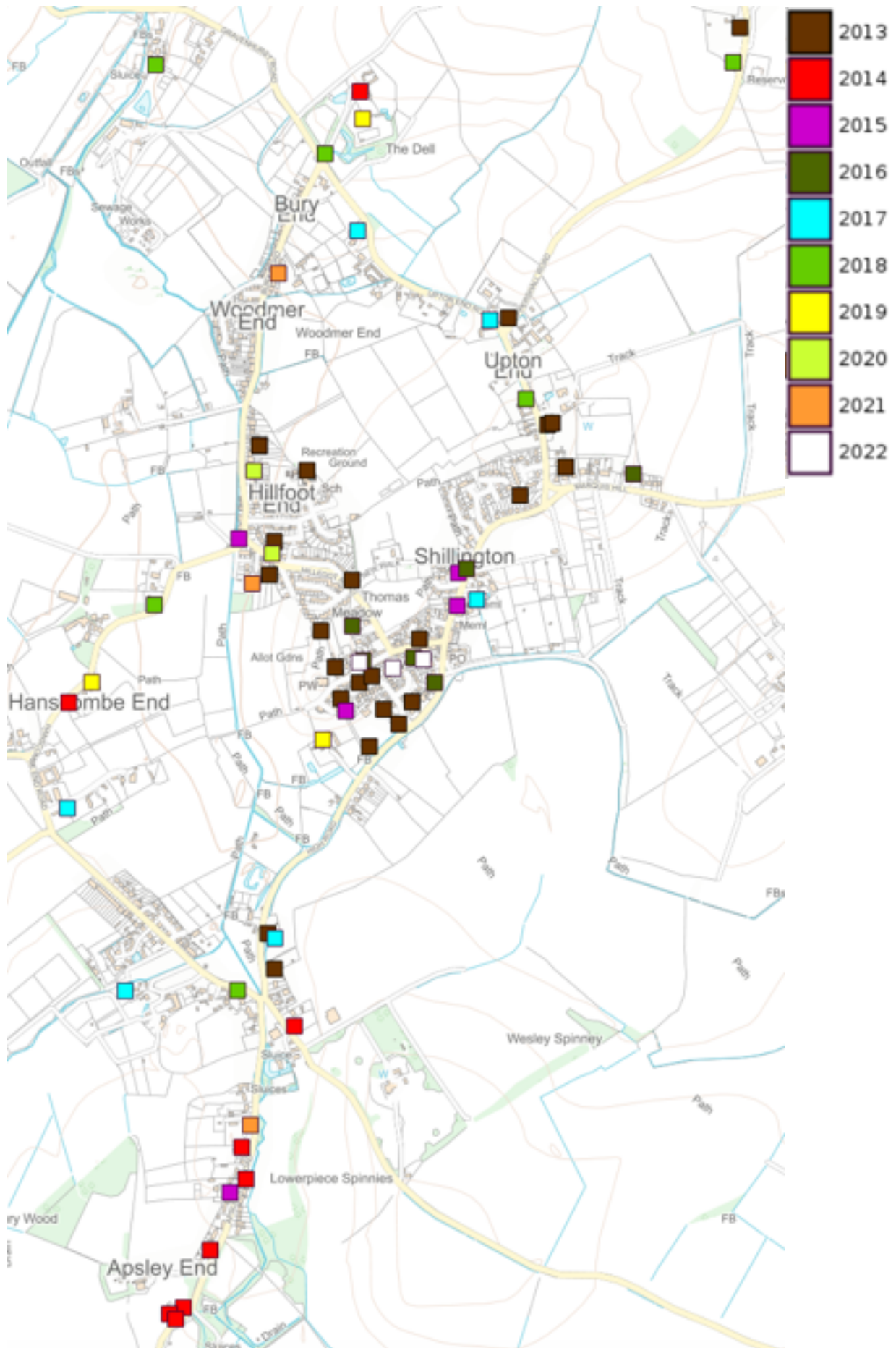
MB		FR		WCS		HSW		SS		SMW/ MANG		EST		VIC	
No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			No	Wt	No	Wt
3	36	6	68	2	18	4	57	2	19			7	286	211	2271
1	4	2	36	2	25			1	7					1	3
				1	7			11	24	1	35	3	62	2	78
4	40	8	104	5	50	4	57	14	50	1	35	10	348	214	2352

### Comment

Other finds here have included an Aeschulian Hand axe and knapped flints. The open NW aspect and the sloping nature of the land together with the presence of plenty of modern pottery unrelated to any known housing in this field suggest that this area was never occupied.

It seems likely that the material arrived during manuring, which is known to have occurred during and after World War 2 for example, when this area was used as allotments. If this is so, the pottery originated from gardens and farms situated elsewhere in Shillington. The age profile is fairly similar to material found in the test pits in the central part of Shillington around Church St and it is suggested that the material came from there.

# Appendix 1: Location of all test pits 2013 - 2022



## Appendix 2- Pottery types found in Shillington

35 different types found in test pits and during fieldwalking up to & including 2022

**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

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**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

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**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 (98/a, Bury Rd)

SH21/1 (Mulberry Cottage) and SH21/2 (98a Bury Rd)

19 test pits. Also SH17/F1, SH 19/CF1 & SH19/CF2, (Church Field fieldwalking, SH18/BFM1 (spot find in pasture south of Bury Farm, Meppershall); SH 20/RH1 (spot find in arable field S of Rosehill farm).

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### 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))

5 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)

SH22/1 (45, Church St)

3 test pits

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**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);

SH22/2 (13 Church St)

24 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);

SH22/1 (45 Church St);

35 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 NW side 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

SH21/1

SH 22/1, 2, 3,

49 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

**HGZ: Hertfordshire Glazed Ware**, 1350 – 1450. Fine glazed ware, pale fabric with iron, copper-speckled glazes. Mostly jugs.

SH22/2 (13 Church St)

SH22/3 (34 Church St)

2 test pits

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#### **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), 3 (59 Hanscombe End Rd)

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

SH20/1 (20 Hillfoot Rd)

SH21/1 (Mulberry Cottage), 2 (98a Bury Rd)

SH22/1 (45 Church St), 2 (13 Church St, 3 (34 Church St)

29 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 Field1) & 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

SH21/1, 2;

SH22/1, 2, 3;

55 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);

SH22/3 (34 Church St)

15 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.

SH22/2 (13 Church St)

1 test pit. Also 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 17<sup>th</sup> century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were plain white, and humble vessels such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

SH13/1 (1 Clawders Hill), 4 (52 Church St), 6 (91 Church St), 14 (20a Vicarage Close);

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)  
11 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;  
SH21/2;  
SH22/1, 3  
21 test pits. Also SH17/F1, SH19/CF1& SH19/CF2 (Church Field fieldwalking).

**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;  
SH21/1  
SH22/1, 2, 3  
16 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;  
SH22/1

16 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

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

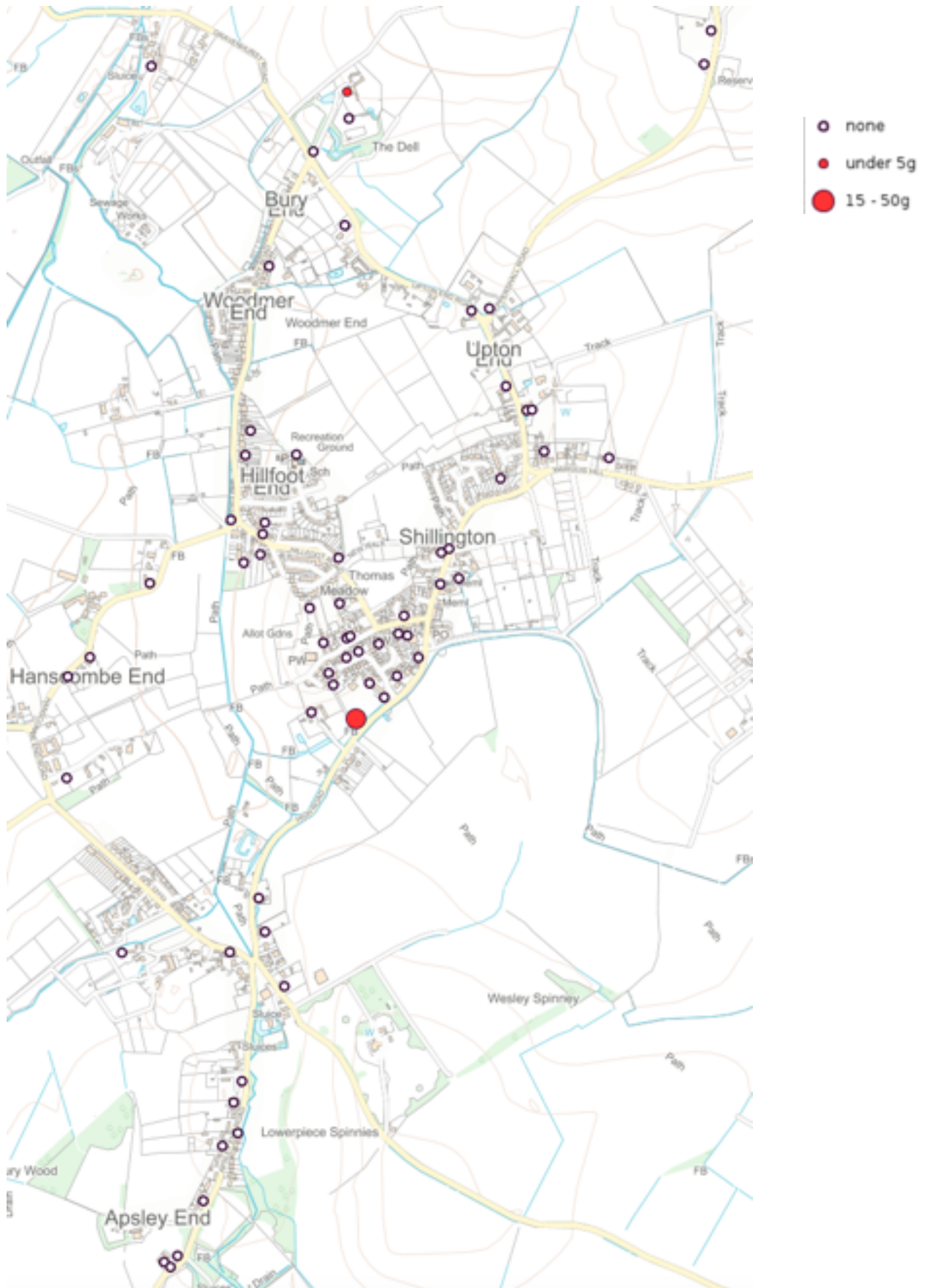
**MOD: Modern pottery including 'Victorian'.** A wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800.

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;  
SH19/2, 3;  
SH20/1, 2, 3, 4  
SH21/1, 2  
SH22/1, 2, 3

63 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)

### Appendix 3: Pottery distribution maps & comments for each historical period: Bronze Age 1,200 - 800BC



- No more Bronze Age pottery was found in the 2021 or 2022 test pits.
- The only sites with it so far are the Old Vicarage (SH13/11) and Shillington Bury (SH14/4).
- No. of test pits with Bronze Age pottery- 2 of 66 (3%)
- Total weight of Bronze Age pottery- 44g
- Average weight (where found)- 22g per test pit

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

### Analysis

It is unusual to find any pottery of this antiquity and the 42g found at the Old Vicarage test pit (SH13/11) is very interesting as there is enough to indicate 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) indicates settlement there as well. Both sites have also produced pottery from many other periods and may have have been settled during much of the last 3,000 years or more.

# Iron age pottery- 800BC to 0

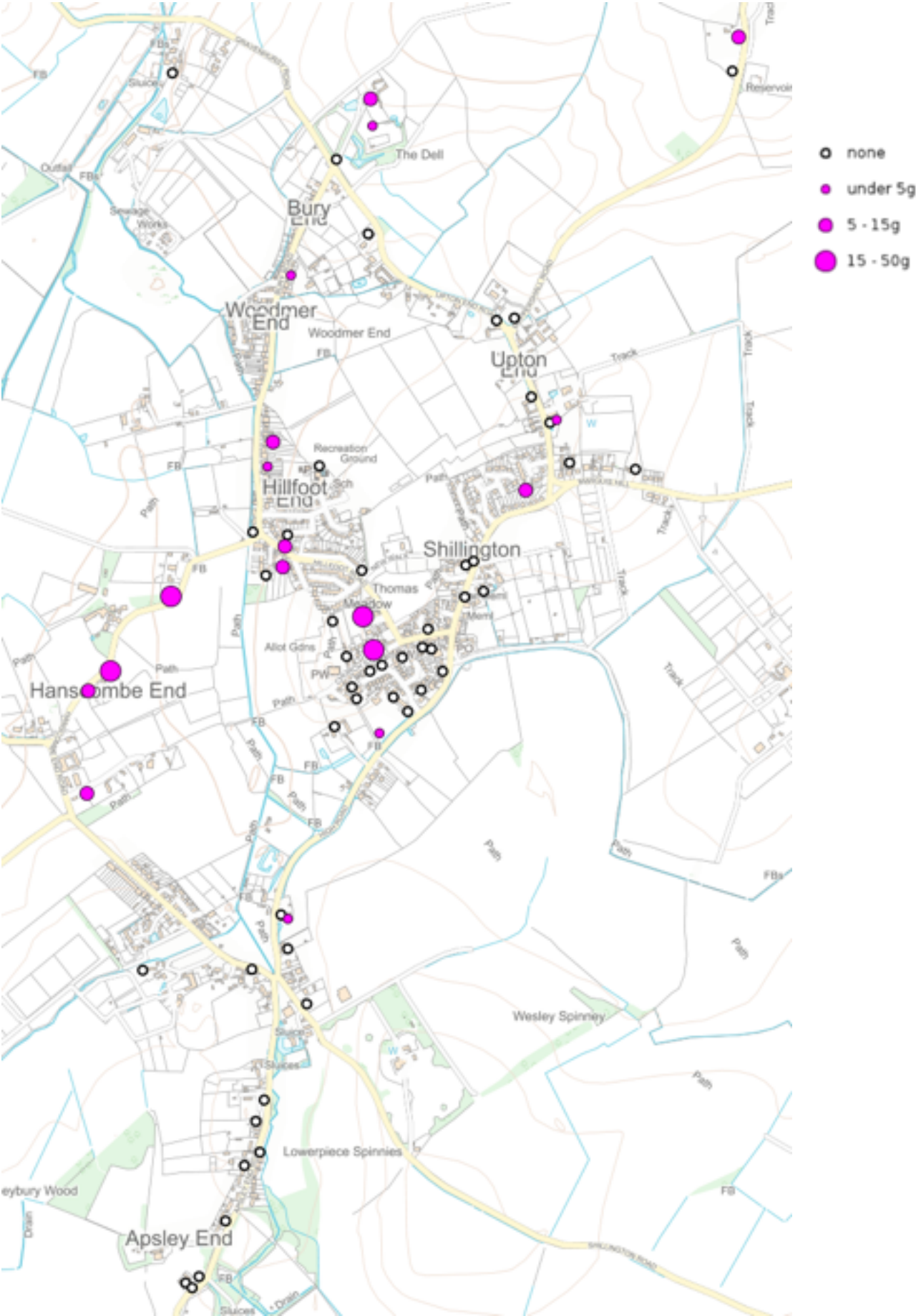


- No more Iron Age pottery was found in the 2021-2 test pits.
- A 7g sherd was found at 59, Hanscombe Rd (SH18/3) in 2018.
- No. of test pits with Iron Age pottery- 1 of 66 (1.5%)
- Total weight of Iron Age pottery found- 7g.
- Average- 7g per test pit (where found)

### Conclusion

Iron Age pottery does not usually survive well and its discovery at 59, Hanscombe End Rd (SH18/3) 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. These discoveries suggest that it may be worth searching for more Iron Age material in test pits in the Hanscombe End area.

# Roman pottery- 0 - 400AD





- Two of the 2021 test pits (Mulberry Cottage SH 21/1) and 98a Bury Rd(SH21/2) contained Roman pottery.
- There was none in any of the 2022 test pits.
- No. of test pits with Roman pottery- 18 of 66 (28.8%)
- 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 was found elsewhere during 2020 when a sherd of 25g on a footpath S crossing arable land S of Rosehill Farm (off the E side of the map).
- Fieldwalking west of the church between 2017 and 2019 has produced 132g of Roman pottery.

### Conclusions

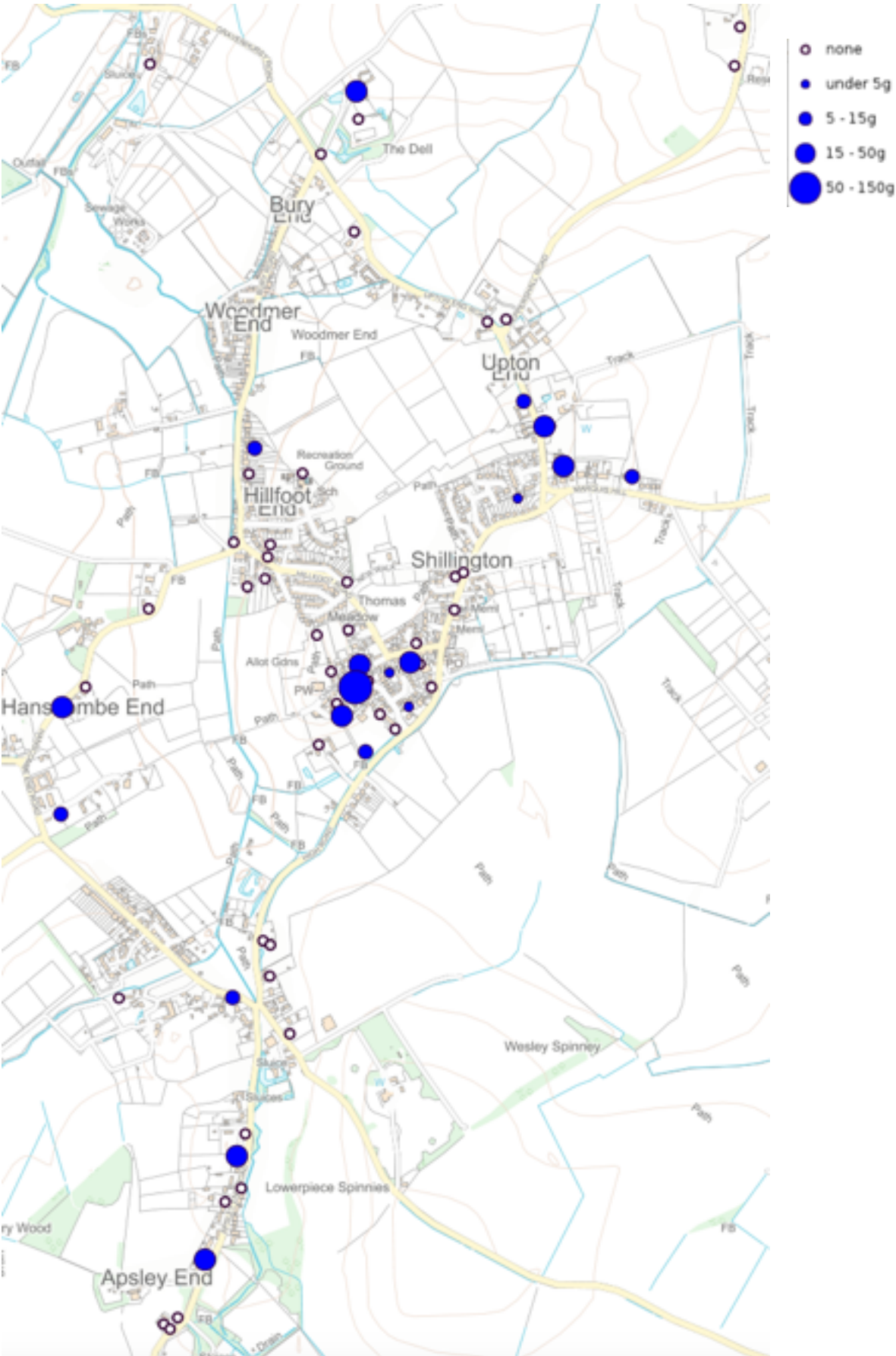
Roman pottery has been found, albeit usually in small amounts, across much of Shillington. The exception is Apsley End where none has been found to date. Taken at face value, this pattern suggests that the population inhabited multiple, small, dispersed sites which is a pattern that has been found elsewhere in England. However, it is known that manuring of fields was carried out during the Roman occupation and possible that some of this pottery was spread with it onto fields 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 pottery. This may demonstrate continuous use of the sites although it is possible that that they were abandoned and then reused.

No early or middle Saxon pottery made between about 500 & 1,000AD has yet been found in any Shillington test pit suggesting these possible scenarios, singly or in combination:

1. The people of Shillington disappeared. It is possible that a combination of famine and plague or other diseases wiped out the whole population
2. Everyone was killed during an attack by raiders. Raids by people from across the North sea picked up after Britain was no longer protected by Roman soldiers following their withdrawal in 410AD leaving the small 'kingdoms' that formed subsequently too weak to defend themselves.
3. The people moved to another settlement nearby or further west to escape from raids.

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



- One of the 2022 test pits contained Late Saxon pottery
- It has appeared in 19 of the 66 test pits (28.8%) between 2013 and 2022
- Total weight of Late Saxon pottery to date is 342g, averaging 18g (where found).
- Maximum yields were 47g at 1, Clawders Hill (SH13/1) & 43g at 77, Church St (SH13/5).
- Fieldwalking W of the church between 2017 and 2019 has also produced 18g.

### Conclusions

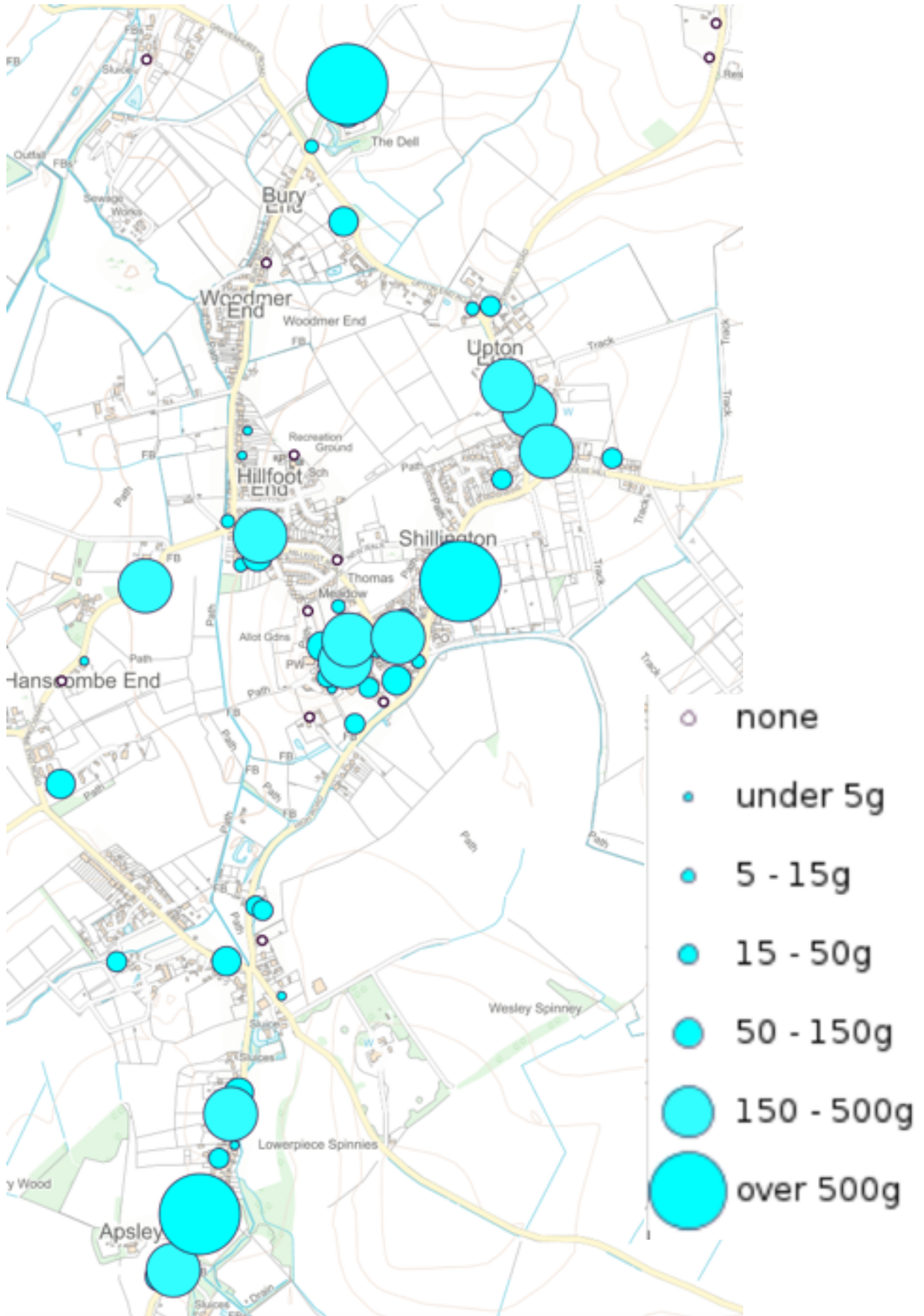
Like Roman, Late Saxon pottery is distributed thinly but widely in Shillington. Seven test pits in the centre of Shillington account for 37% of it, implying that for the first time, a distinct nucleated settlement was forming there.

This would be consistent with the place name evidence. The first time Shillington appeared in a document was in 1060 as Scytlingedune, the hill ('dun') of the people or followers ('ing') of Scyttel, probably a local leader 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 19 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, suggesting continuous use. The only exception was at 82A Hanscombe End Rd (SH14/9) where no Early Medieval was found.

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



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).

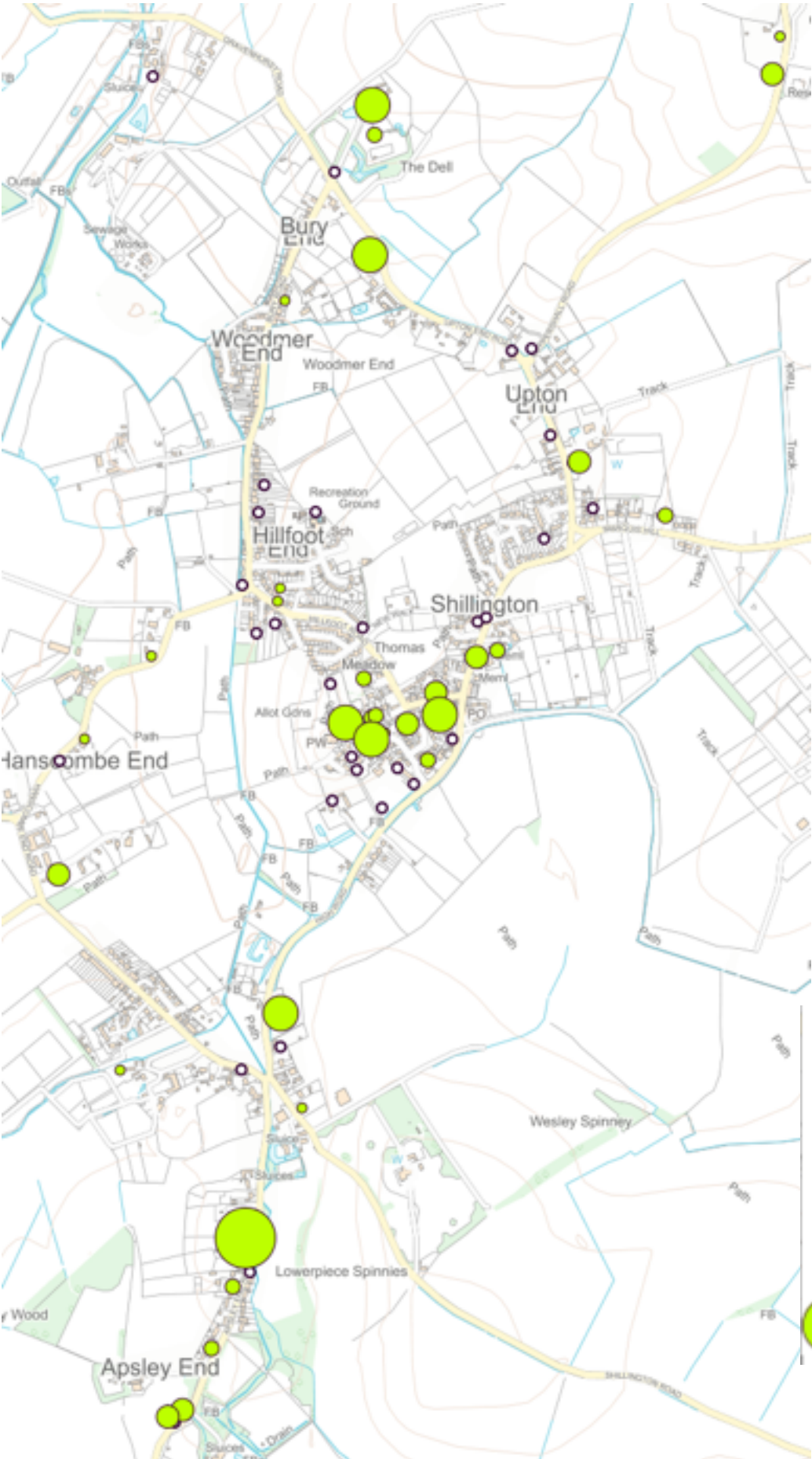
Fieldwalking W of the church since 2017 has produced 551g to date.

### 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.

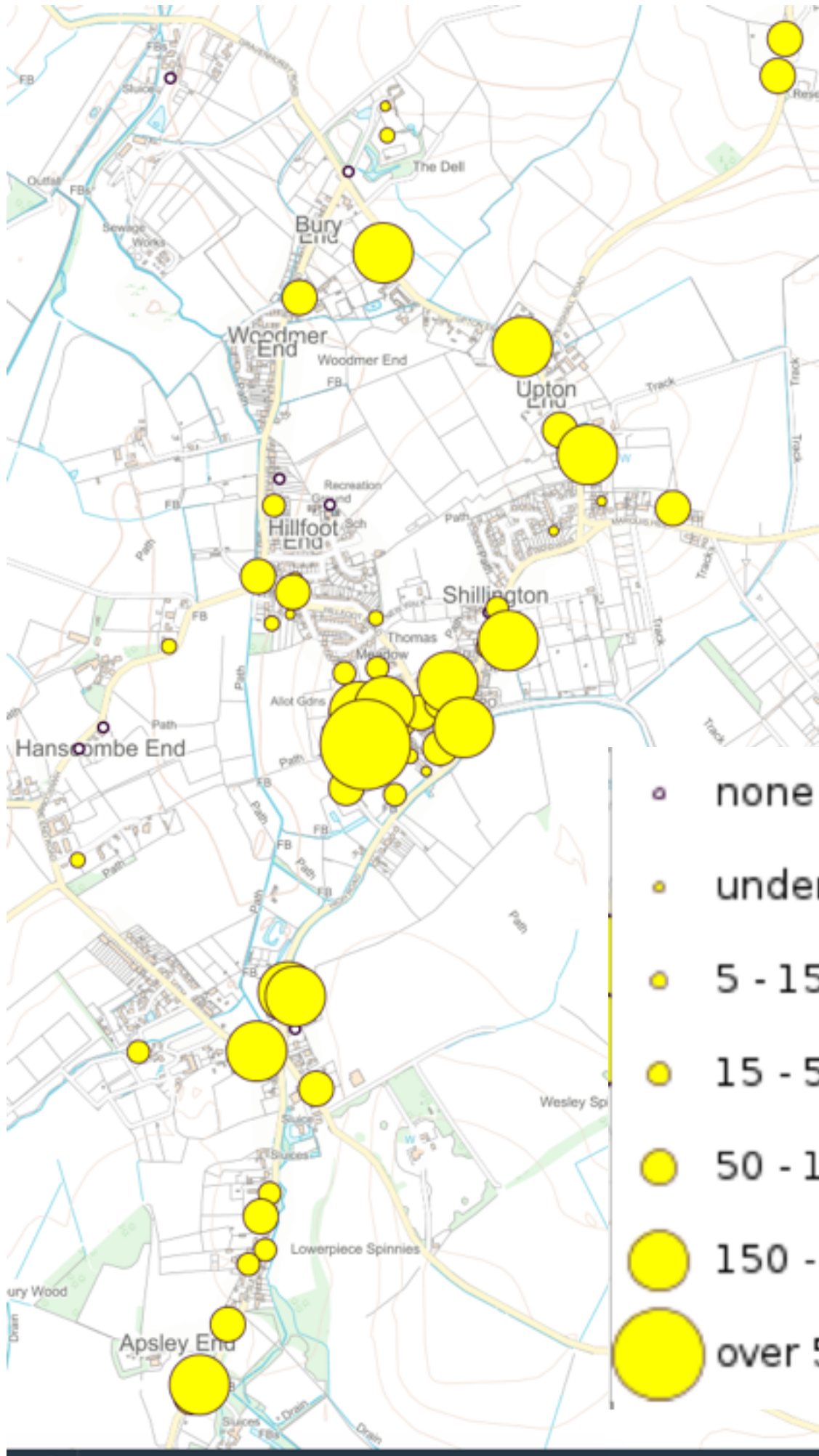
The maximum amount found was at 155g at SH14/8 (Musgrave Arms).

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)



Key

-  none
-  under 5g
-  5 - 15g
-  15 - 50g
-  50 - 150g
-  150 - 500g
-  over 500g



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.

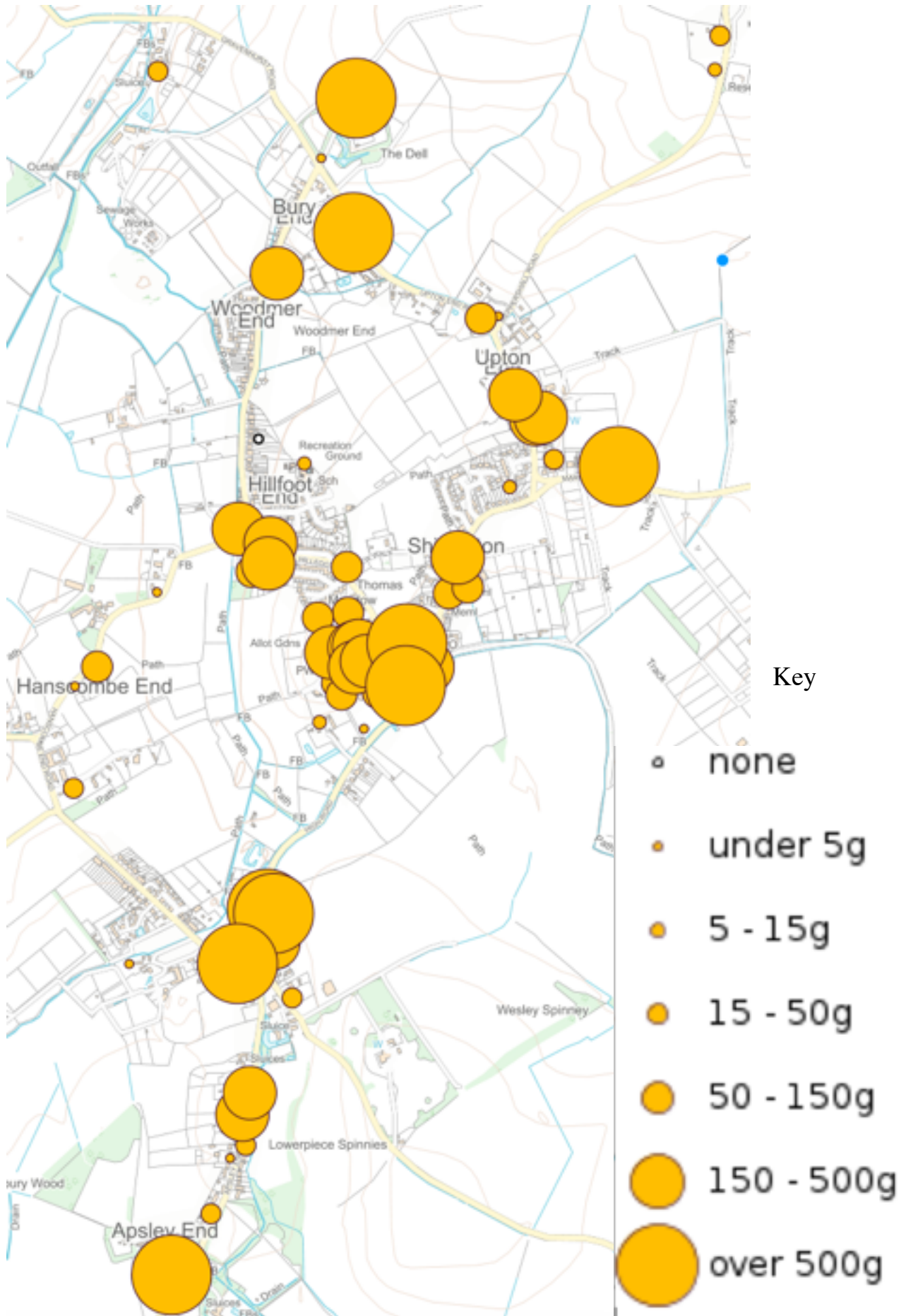
29 of the 30 sites (94.3%) with Late Medieval pottery were reused in the Post-Medieval period.

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%).

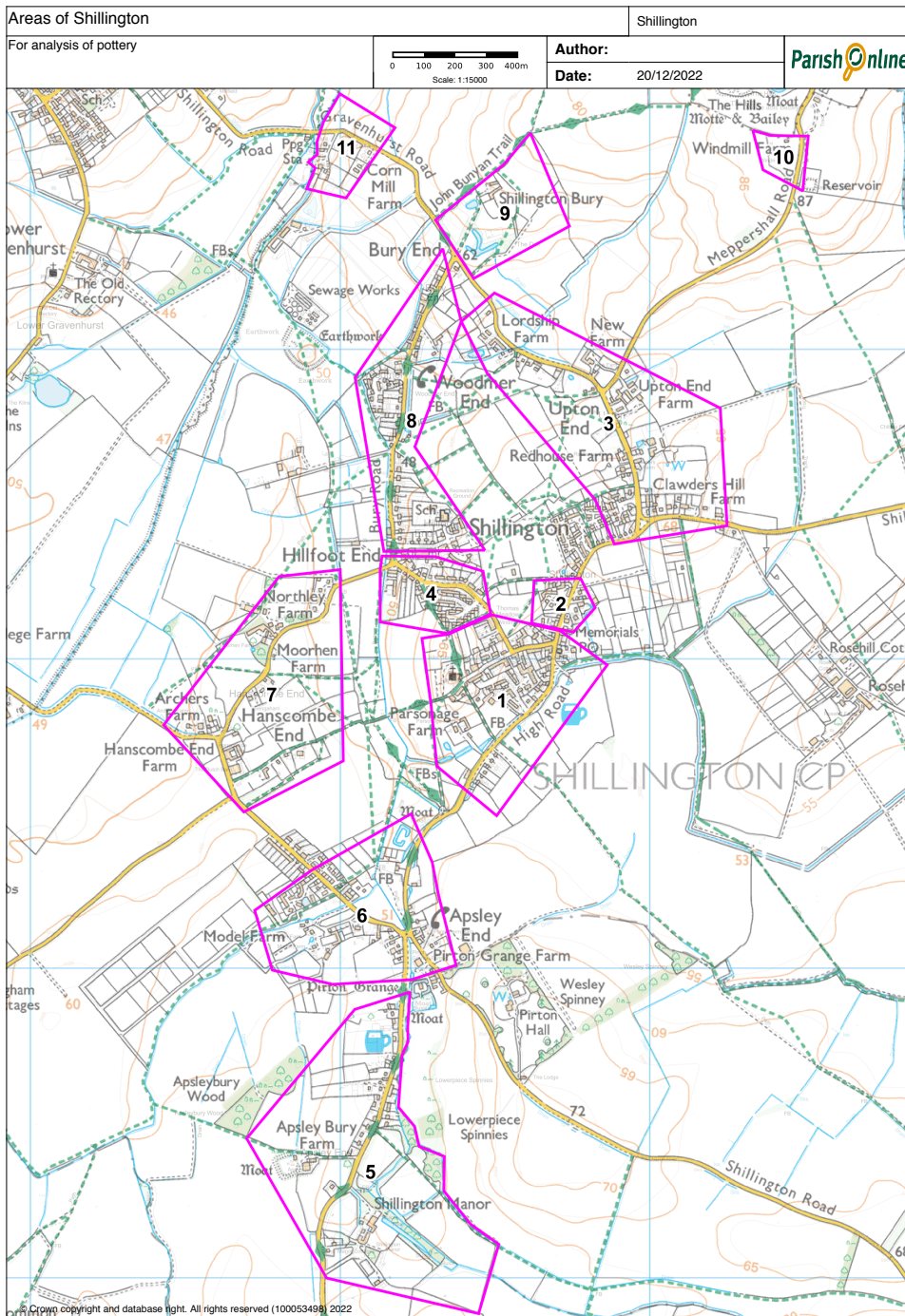
The total weight of Modern pottery is 12,522g at an average of 223g per test pit (where found) and the corrected yield was 107.9g, up from 50.2 g in the Post Medieval.

### 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 4- Map of areas of Shillington used for pottery analysis



The test pits have been clustered into 11 areas based on the historic ‘Ends’ to enable comparisons to be made between them.

1 Central- Church St, Vicarage Close and Parsonage Farm;

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

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

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

5 Apsley End- Apsley End Rd and nearby

6 Apsley Arch- around where Hanscombe End, High and Apsley End Roads meet at the bridge known locally as the “Arch”;

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

8 Bury Rd

9 Shillington Bury;

10 Windmill- Windmill Farm

11 Watermill- around the Mill site off Gravenhurst Rd.

## Appendix 5: Shillington pottery weights in each test pit by period

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 1400-1,550	Post med 1,550-1,800	Modern 1,800-2,000	Totals
<b>1. Central</b>									
SH13/4 52 Church St					61	59	414	255	789
SH13/5 77 Church St				43	331	50	53	365	842
SH13/6 91 Church St					15	0	1,826	140	1,981
SH13/7 8 Elmhurst Gardens					31	30	174	113	348
SH13/10 The Crown				1	71	7	86	640	805
SH13/11 Old Vicarage	42		2	14	39	0	19	3	119
SH13/14 20a Vicarage Close					27	1	124	435	587
SH13/15 Vicarage Cl bugalows					28	0	14	59	101
SH13/16 adj 1 Vicarage Close					0	0	1	0	1
SH13/17 Allotment N of church					0	0	25	118	143
SH15/5 new Vicarage				31	4	0	29	56	120
SH16/1 32 Church St			49	18	257	8	82	417	831
SH16/3 Windmill Lodge			23		11	8	34	143	219
SH16/5 19 Church St				16	172	3	100	906	1,197
SH16/6 Chestnut Farm					7	0	392	289	688
SH19/2 Parsonage Farm					0	0	100	12	112
SH22/1 45 Church St				3	48	32	96	276	455
SH22/2 13 Church St					15	57	30	364	466
SH22/3 34 Church St					81	9	212	377	679
<b>C. area totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>4,968</b>	<b>10,483</b>
<b>2. Green End</b>									
SH15/1 War memorial					9	22	42	118	191
SH15/2 Green End F'mhouse					0	0	0	12	12
SH16/4 1 New Walk					30	0	48	419	497
SH17/1 29 High Rd					592	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>
<b>3. 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	1,327	1,433
SH17/4 Old Red Signpost					9	0	152	163	324
SH17/5 Walnut Cottage					118	141	466	853	1,645
SH18/5 Red House Farm				13	342	0	69	168	592
<b>Upton End Totals</b>			<b>10</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>5,285</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 1400-1,550	Post med 1,550-1,800	Modern 1,800-2,000	Totals
<b>5. 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	646	12	73	23	770
SH14/6 Old Court House 2						17	0	56	409	482
SH14/8 Musgrave Arms					32	291	155	97	361	936
SH15/3 26a Apsley End Rd						48	8	21	4	81
SH21/1 Mulberry Cottage						64	1	32	298	395
<b>Apsley End Totals</b>			0	0	48	1,506	244	544	1,726	4,068
<b>6. 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>7. 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	0	106	158
<b>Hanscombe End totals</b>			7	54	35	225	52	11	125	509
<b>8. Bury Rd</b>										
SH13/23 School						0	0	0	10	10
SH13/22 62 Bury Rd				8	5	4	0	0	0	17
SH20/2 46 Bury Rd				3		4	0	26	176	209
SG21/2 98A Bury Rd				3			2	115	446	566
<b>Bury Rd totals</b>				14		8	2	141	632	797
<b>9. Shillington 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>10. 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>11. Watermill</b>										
SH18/4 Mill Cottage						0	0	0	32	32

## Appendix 6: Area pottery totals and further analysis

The pottery found so far in the 65 test pits can be analysed statistically to yield further information.

The top half of this table shows the weight of pottery (abbreviated as pot) from each historic period (also referred to later as ‘era’) in each part of Shillington.

Below that, the table shows the percentage (%age) of pottery that came from each era.

After this is a calculation showing the average weight of pottery in grams per test pit for each period. The next row lists how long these periods are in centuries which enables a fairer comparison between them in the following row. It is shown as ‘Ave wt of pot/test pit/100years’.

Also included are the number and percentage of sites that have been reused in the following period indicating that settlement continued without interruption.

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 1400-1,550	Post med 1,550-1,800	Modern 1,800-2,000	Totals
1. Central area totals	42	0	74	126	1,198	264	3,811	4,968	10,483
2. Green End area totals					631	32	366	639	1,668
3. Upton End totals			10	102	990	177	918	3,021	5,218
4. Hillfoot End Totals			16	0	373	3	175	739	1,306
5. Apsley End totals				48	1,506	244	544	1,726	4,068
6. Apsley Arch totals			3	9	205	69	982	2,335	3,603
7. Hanscombe End totals		7	54	35	225	52	11	125	509
8. Bury End totals	2	0	12	17	1,871	69	7	21	1,999
9. Shillington Bury			9	0	0	21	182	45	257
10. Watermill area total					0	0	0	32	32
<b>Total wt from each period</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>6,999</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>6,996</b>	<b>13,651</b>	<b>29,143</b>
<b>Total wt pot for each period</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>6,999</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>6,996</b>	<b>13,651</b>	<b>29,143</b>
<b>Era as %age of total weight</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>24.02</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>24.01</b>	<b>46.84</b>	
<b>No. sites with this pottery</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>% sites with this pottery</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>93.9</b>	
<b>Ave wt of pottery per test pit</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>129.6</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>220.2</b>	<b>441.6</b>
<b>Length of period in centuries</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	
<b>Ave wt of pot/test pit/100yrs</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.875</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>110.1</b>	
<b>No. sites reused in next period</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>50</b>		
<b>% sites reused in next period</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>87.7</b>		