



Keyston Dig 2025

Archaeological Evaluation

By Robert Wishart

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Site Code: KEY DM 25

Receiving Body: Hillymead House, Keyston

Prepared by: Robert Wishart
Position: Archivist, Covington and Keyston History Group
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Checked by: Thomas Richard Brown
Position: Chairman Covington and Keyston History Group
Date: 03rd April 2026

Signed:

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Covington and Keyston History Group

**Robert Wishart
Hillymead House
2 Linden Grove
Keyston
Cambridgeshire
PE28 0RG**

t: 01832 710239
e: Robert.wishart@rawdatastrategy.com

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Summary

The Covington and Keyston History Group (CKHG) was created to provide residents of both villages with a vehicle through which they could explore the history of their villages using a variety of methods, including archaeology.

The group had visited the site on two previous occasions both of which proved extremely successful without actually pinpointing a building

In late August 2025 we had instructed Barwood Archaeology to conduct a magnetometry survey of a part of Denford Meadow the results of which looked extremely positive, so on the first weekend in September 2025 (6th and 7th) we arranged for a digger to be brought on site and four trenches excavated. Over the next five weekends finishing on the Sunday the 5th of October a small group of dedicated volunteers dug and sieved the site extracting a large number of finds.

As always cleaning, identifying and analysing these finds can be time consuming but always proves productive as once again we have made some incredible discoveries. I have tried to provide a glimpse into the type and range of the items found through example pictures but these will never convey the full story.

Introduction

Location and scope of work

Covington and Keyston are both small villages on the Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire borders. Covington has approximately 38 houses and 80 residents, whilst Keyston is slightly larger with approximately 70 houses and 200 residents. Both parishes have 12th/13th Century churches and benefit from having village halls. There are 3.7 miles between the two villages.

Geology and topography

Denford Meadow lies to the north of Keyston village close to the A14 and Obelisk Farm. The agricultural land is grade2 (very good) quality. The soil is strong clay and has traditionally been used for arable agriculture mixed with some pastoral elements; subsoil is a clay and sand mixture.

Archaeological and historical background

The two villages have existed for a long time; each appears in the Domesday Book on its own accord and research suggests they were even older. In Keyston a Neolithic greenstone axe was found and is now stored in the British Museum¹ also Roman and Iron Age ditch enclosures have been identified. Whilst in Covington a Bronze Age tanged and barbed flint arrowhead² has been found, and previous archaeology has identified both Iron Age, Saxon and Medieval sites.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank T Brown & Son (Covington) Ltd and Richard Brown for letting us conduct the dig on their land, and Michael Brown for digging the trenches. We are also indebted to Robert McLaren for setting up the grid and to everyone who took part in any or all events be that field walking, pot washing, metal detection, excavation, item identification, refilling the trenches. With special thanks to the pupils of Oundle school (Jemima Adesye, Katinka Hutchinson, Rachel Iga, Kayley Ho) who participated for the first time and Clare Westran their teacher. We could not have done this without you.

Thank you one and all.

¹ The Ancient Stone Implements, Weapons and Ornaments, of Great Britain by John Evans

² CAM-BA13D6

Aims and Methodology

The main objectives of this dig were:

- a. Try to identify what had existed on Denford Meadow that would explain the pottery being found
- b. Investigate some of the anomalies highlighted by the Magnetometry results
- c. Enhance our understanding as to best practice when conducting an archaeological dig
- d. Research ways of involving other parties

The initial starting point was to replicate the fieldwalking grid exactly as it had appeared in 2020. This was fairly straight forward as we know the exact location of the datum from the previous grid and thereby recreated the same set up.

It was then planned that the magnetometer would be used over the site, to try and find changes in the geometric field. What we were to discover was that for optimum results the grid had to be in a North/South direction meaning that the magnetometry grid was at an angle to our grid.

The final phase was to dig a trench based on locations identified by the magnetometry results.

The Covington and Keyston History Group took out insurance to cover all archaeological activities by its members and guests on land owned by a group member. It was a condition of the insurance that no trench would be more than 1 metre deep.

All finds were carefully placed in labelled bags which were to be washed at a later date.

Before the trenches were closed section drawings and photographs were produced.

The following system of recording was used:

Site Code:	KEY DM 25	Cell Number: B3
Trench number:	Trench 1, Trench 2, etc	
Context number:	1,2,3 etc	

Results and Interpretation

Introduction

As each year passes the members of the group become older and less able, our interest is still there but our ability to dig deteriorates. We therefore sought a youthful addition to our activities by approaching Oundle School to see if any of their pupils would be interested in participating in an archaeological dig. Although we were only able to arrange a single day it proved successful with the pupils making some excellent finds even to the extent that they thought we had hidden the items for them to find! So, we may have stumbled across a process whereby we can continue the archaeology at our own pace but bring in young diggers to push us forward.

Magnetometry

Over the last couple of years, we have conducted several archaeological events on Denford Meadow with mixed results. I say mixed because although we are finding plenty of Roman pottery, we have not been able to prove that there was any form of building on the site.

So, we finally decided to bite the bullet and get some professional help with the Magnetometry.

We contacted a company called Barwood Archaeology whose services we secured for £400, through a subscription process we obtained the funds and on Wednesday the 27th August 2025 the field was scanned. The main thing we discovered was that Magnetometry has to be done in a North South direction otherwise the results will be distorted.

Upon completion we were provided with a report called

**“ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT: AUGUST 2025 FLUXGATE GRADIOMETER SURVEY
DENFORD MEADOW, OBELISK FARM, KEYSTON”**

Unfortunately, the report is under copyright so cannot be reproduced in this document but anyone interested in seeing it should get in touch and we will provide contact details for Barwood Archaeology.

That said, following the completion of their magnetometry activity Barwood Archaeology provided this summary

“The magnetometry results show an agricultural landscape with associated settlement dwelling and activity, perhaps, covering a multi-period. Most of the features would normally be associated with Romano British activity. There are sufficient geophysical anomalies to prove that the CKHG research has highlighted an area that is worthy of further investigation.”

The results of the magnetometry were plotted on google earth and this can be seen in appendix 1.

Field Walking

We had not planned to do any fieldwalking as we had just completed the same field back in March 2025 but a few members decided that they would rather field walk than get involved with the dig and there was no reason why they couldn't. In fact, it became very useful as an easy introduction to archaeology for the Oundle School pupils the first thing they learnt was field walking. Not all squares were walked as some trenches had already been put in place but a significant proportion were and once again produced interesting results.

Trenches

The location of the first trench was fairly obvious from the magnetometry smack bang in the middle of the grid was a large ditch shape with a white key shaped element over the top of it suggesting some sort of burning / metal. This proved to be our most productive trench producing large quantities of pot / bone and other items we believe it was some sort of drain that items were discarded into.

Trench 1 – Location Details

East: **On Application**

Central 1: **On Application**

Pit 1: **On Application**

Central 2: **On Application**

West: **On Application**

Ext 1: **On Application**

Ext 2: **On Application**

For the second trench we tried to cover two anomalies one in a North South direction and one at a 90-degree angle to it. Unfortunately, although we seem to have hit the anomaly that went in an East West direction, we seem to have missed the North South one as can be seen in appendix 1 and the trench 2 drawing where pit 1 is clearly the East / West anomaly.

Trench 2 – Location Details

North: **On Application**

Central 1: **On Application**

Pit 1: **On Application**

Central 2: **On Application**

South: **On Application**

Trench 3 was a big disappointment as can be seen from appendix 1 it was supposed to cross two ditches to see what they contained. But when we extracted the soil down to 33cm deep, there was no change in the colour of the soil whatsoever, now it is possible that we just did not go deep enough and that if we had then we would have seen a change in colour but in the other trenches the top soil only lasted until around 25cm.

Trench 3- Location Details

North: **On Application**

Central: **On Application**

South: **On Application**

The final Trench 4 was fairly small at only 4 metres long but it did strike the same ditch we were looking for in Trench 3. We were possibly slightly ambitious in opening four trenches as we just did not have the man power to cover all four.

Trench 4 – Location Details

North: **On Application**

Central: **On Application**

Pit: **On Application**

South: **On Application**

[Finds Summary](#)

Across the site, over the five weekends we recovered 2,262 items weighing 22.375kg covering a wide range of objects from a simple piece of coal up to an elaborately designed pot.

Although only three pieces of glass were found they were very interesting the colours shone brightly hence their inclusion in the key finds section. Next, we had the shells we found 14 of them with a wide range from fossils such as Devil Toe Nails (*Gryphaea* – fossilised oyster shells) and *Belemnites* (fossilised squid) through to actual Oyster Shells and Snail Shells. This was followed by stone items of which we found 26 - again there was a wide range of objects including floor tiles and roof tiles along with pieces of flint and slate. We also found teeth 32 of which were found from a variety of animals including a jaw bone with 8 teeth attached. Apart for the glass items most of the other items were found in the trenches suggesting they were thrown away.

Sixty-two metal items were found mainly nails but we also found two rusty blades, part of a horseshoe and pieces of Iron Ore / Slag.

In terms of bones, we found 421 weighing 1.988 kg or an average of 4.5 grams each. They came from various animals and included an antler weighing 112 grams along with two very interesting items - a carved stamp and a gaming piece; see the key finds section.

Moving onto the ceramic building materials, we recovered 393 items weighing 3.461 kg; this consisted of 25 pieces of brick, 320 pieces of daub, 12 pieces of drainage pipe, 32 pieces of roof tile, 2 pieces of pumice and 2 pieces of mortar. Once again not all pieces of daub were picked up but given the quantity recovered and the types of items (all related to buildings) there must have been some sort of building present on the site. The number of finds mean that they could not just have drifted down from elsewhere.

This brings us to the pottery found; 1,213 pieces weighing just over 12 kg (or on average 10 grams each) were defined as being of Iron Age / Roman origin with the vast majority of it coming from the Nene Valley which, given how close Keyston is situated to this centre, is not surprising.

The main pottery types were Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware, Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware and Roman Shell Gritted Ware. But an above average number of pieces of Creamware (64) were found and only 25 Iron Age sherds. There was only a smattering of Samian items (7) suggesting that the focus was not on expensive pottery. Most of these items came from the trenches signifying they were thrown away into a specific pit or drain.

Finally, items classified as Post Roman, covering everything from the Middle Ages right through to Victorian were poorly represented with only 95 items found weighing just under 1 kg (again an average of 10 grams per find). The main finds in this group were Late Medieval Oxidised (20), Lyveden (23), Glazed Red (16). Mostly they are locally produced items that have not travelled very far. Very few of these items were found in the trenches, they mainly came from field walking exercises.

Environmental Summary

As we are still a very small group the full environmental survey is just not possible, we do not have the expertise to identify any plant remains or pollen spores, even the identification of animal remains is a specialised field (although we do have a reference collection, we rely on the few people with any knowledge of bones). Fossils and shells do tend to be easier to identify but they tend to be very limited. So, our focus tends to be on the topography of the area and the quantity and quality of our finds. In this case the magnetometry showed lots of straight-line ditches and what looked to be a possible fire place on the inside of a building. Unfortunately, this did not prove to be the case and what we seem to have discovered in Trench 1 was some sort of drain into which the locals threw their discarded pottery pieces. The hot section was not a fire just a very large nail. Yes, we have evidence of human occupation but no structure. Finding tiles for both a floor and roof means that there must have been something here we have just not identified it, we still need to consider that it may just have been made of wood and nothing substantial survives.

Key Finds

Bone

A couple of items were found that had been created out of bone the first of these was a piece of bone that had been carved into some form of tool at one end there were three lines, suggesting that it could be something a potter used to create a design on a pot.



It is shaped a bit like a pencil and is 7cm long, it has clearly been worked to create its current shape, the other end has been flattened to make it easier to hold.

The second item is extremely small, just under 1.5cm – a long pentagonal prism shaped item possibly made of bone; one end has a kaleidoscope design on it, each of its sides has ten distinct lines possibly more but they have been broken off. At the other end there is no design but that may just be because it has been broken. It was thought to be a gaming piece but this has not been confirmed by Oxford Archaeology.



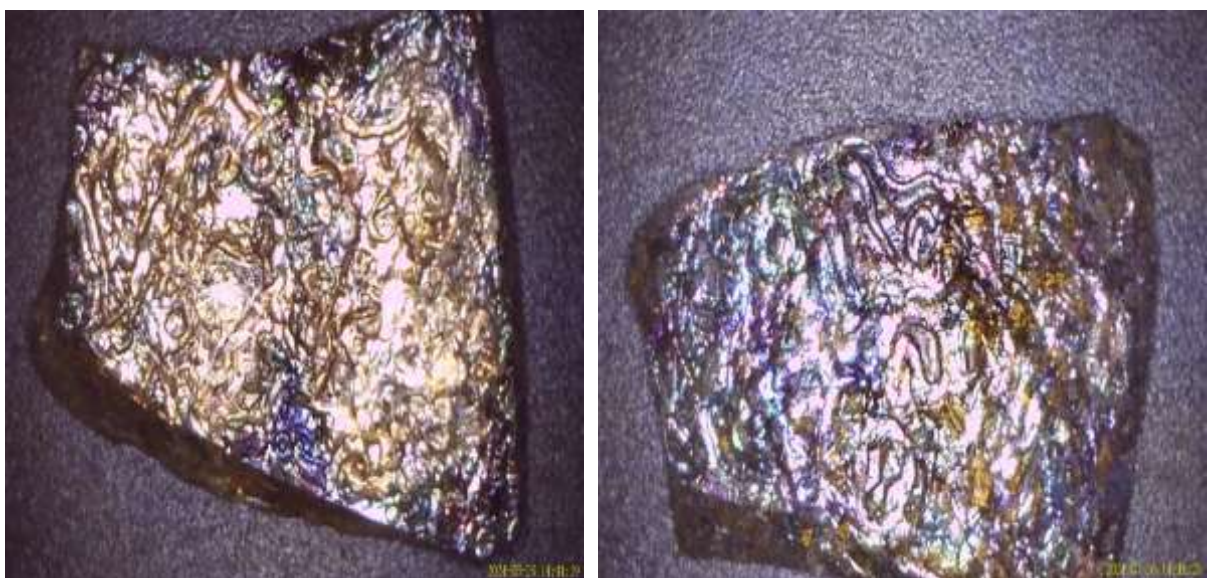
Coins

Throughout all of the time spent on the site this year we only found a single coin and even then, it was by way of our fieldwalking activities. The coin itself was a George III penny from 1806 and was found in square F2. For something that was over two hundred years old our responses were a bit muted because of the quality of the other finds we came across.



Glass

The first piece of glass found in square A2 was magnificently coloured in Red / Gold and Blue with circular designs. It only measured 2.5cm long and 1.5cm wide but was an exceptional find and was obviously very old.



The second piece of glass was found very close by in square A4. Once again, it has some intriguing patterns, the base glass seems to be green with a silver coating but as can be seen in the second photograph there were blocks of blue on the vessel. It was also 2.5cm long and 1.5cm wide. I do not think they came from the same item as the first piece had more of a gold tint and this one was more a silver colour but both were excellent finds.



The third piece of glass I would like to highlight is much plainer as it is just a piece of clear glass this item was found in D1 and is from the rim of a glass. It has lines on it suggesting that it was turned on something and was probably some form of drinking vessel from the 18th or 19th century. Once again it was 2.5cm long with but this time it is 2cm wide



Pottery

When you find a large piece of pottery it always gives you a big rush of adrenaline. During this dig, we were lucky enough to come across a number of such pieces. I will start with the pot that we are calling "Sue's Pot" the first picture shows you it in situ in the middle of Trench 1.



We then excavate it a little bit more and we get a better view of the pot



After it had been removed and cleaned up it was identified as LNVCCW (Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware)



Finally, we asked AI (Artificial Intelligence) to give as an idea of what it might have looked like and it came up with the following



The second pot (we are calling “James Pot”) was more like a fruit bowl, it was also found in Trench 1 not far from the above find. Once again, we have some photographs of it in Situ.



When it was cleaned up it was clear that this was imitation Samian ware probably a cheap copy sold to look a bit like the expensive version.





Again, we asked AI to produce an estimate as to what it would have looked like and it came up with the following.



The third pot was discovered by one of the Oundle pupils and would have been part of a very large storage vessel.



Once it had been cleaned up, we could see a ringed pattern around both the inside and outside of the pot. It also had a lot of inclusions such as shell and grain that had been used to hold the pot together during firing. Identified as RSGW (Shellyware)

Length: 25cm
Width: 10cm
Thickness/Height: 1cm
Diameter: 32cm



Another item found by the Oundle pupils was what looked to be a lid



Length: 12cm

Width: 10cm

Thickness/Height: 1.8cm

Diameter: Base 9cm

The inside was painted red similar to “James Pot” but not quite so dark and the circular part on the base would be an ideal handle when removing the lid.

Stone

We did recover a number of clearly worked cut stone that appeared to be floor tiles the most intriguing of which had a slot in it which was exactly the same size as a nail that was found close by. It was very easy to imagine some sort of door sitting on the nail and it acting as a hinge supporting the idea that what we had found were floor tiles.



Another item was a single bead, it had a diameter of just 1cm but the centre had obviously been carved out; they may have worried about it breaking hence it having a slight overhang.

External Diameter: 1cm
Internal Diameter: 0.8cm
Height: 0.5cm
Weight: 1g



The final stone item I would like to include is obviously some form of roof tile, it has a distinctive hole where some nail has been used to attach it to the roof of a building. It is just over 5cm long and 4cm wide and 1cm thick, you can just about see in the first picture that it is of a sandwich design with orange coating covering a grey interior. The hole itself is 1cm wide on the outside and just over 0.5cm on the inside providing an indication as to the size of the nail used.



Discussions and Conclusions

Pottery / Bone Identification

In some ways the Group was very lucky as we have access to an excellent reference collection but the sheer quantity of finds and the fact that they were mainly small to medium size pieces meant that we did not explore them in as much detail as we would have liked.

What would have been better would have been some idea as to what the sherds were from. I know it is difficult to imagine what each sherd would have looked like in its heyday but I think we should at least try and obtain more data from the finds e.g. using the rims and bases to estimate sizes, trying to allocate the pieces to three main types Jugs, Jars, Dishes/Bowls. We could design a new sheet for recording these facts.

Due to the size of our group, and the number of people that turn up for the identification events, we have to ignore the bones found and just classify them as animal, with the occasional full identification – if more people were involved could we be more detailed in our identification activities?

More detailed analysis requires more resources. As we have started a relationship with a school should we consider expanding that relationship to include identification. Perhaps we could take the finds and the reference collections to the schools and see if there is interest in conducting the identification there?

Illustrating pottery from a sherd is a specialised skill set that requires high quality artists.

I have added two diagrams to this report, produced by AI, perhaps we could look at using this new technology to provide a way of enhancing our understanding of what we think the finds were but again this will be resource dependant and will require better identification and measurement.

Also, a previous consideration was to support the creation of other reference collections, due to the amount of pottery sherds found and identified (particularly prevalent being the LNVGW and LNVCCW). I believe that if we created a more detailed reference collection it could speed up identification and may even help create more defined groups.

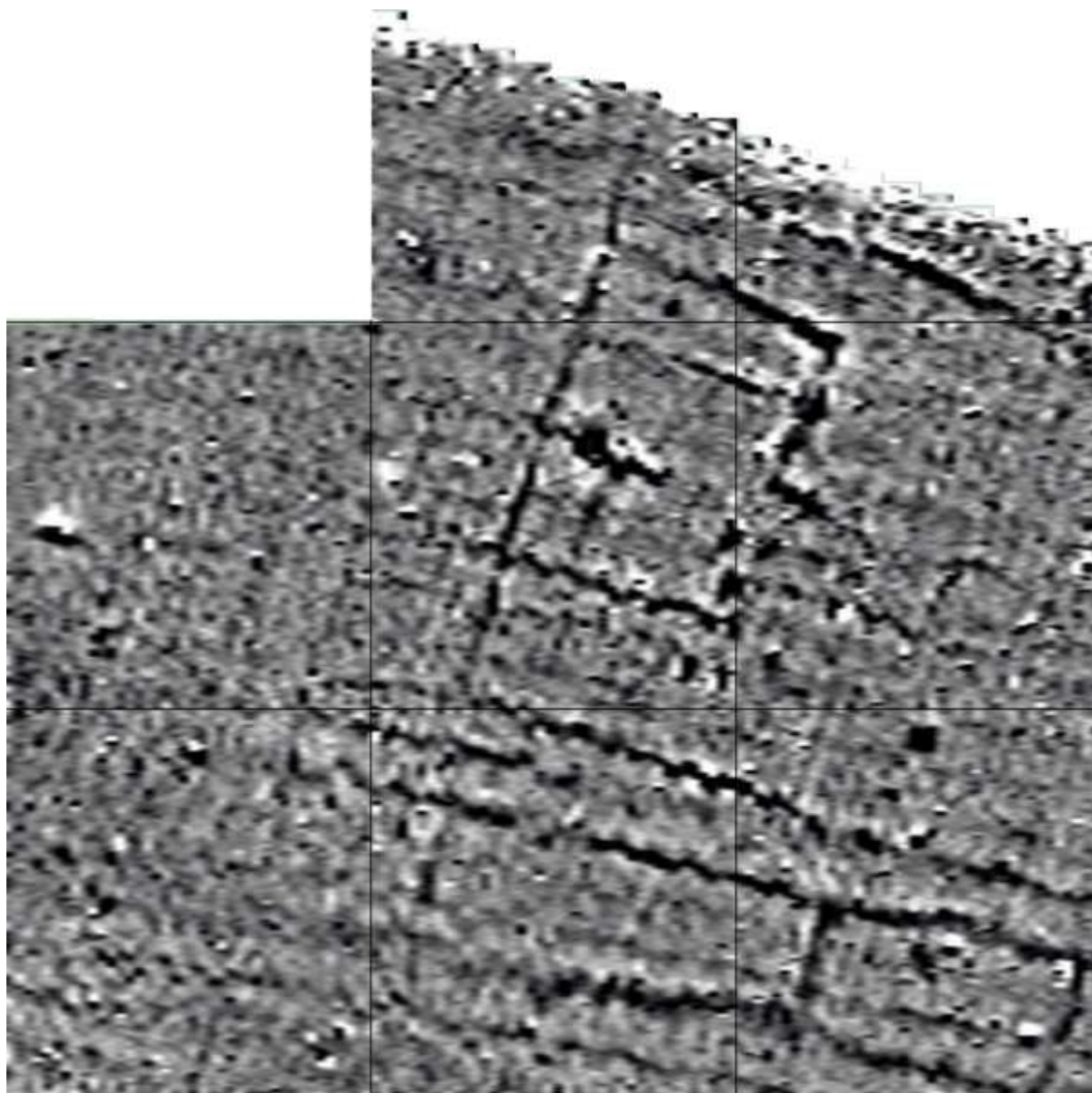
I would also still like to consider how we might enhance our reference collection by looking at swapping our excess pottery with other reference collections in different parts of the country that may have pottery that is scarce in our area. Is this something we might approach Oxford Archaeology about?

Recommendations / Considerations

- **Find Bag Identification** – In this dig we tended to concentrate on just one single trench which meant that the bags we produced fell into three main categories Trench 1, Trench 1 Centre, and Trench 1 West. But we dug the trench over the course of five weekends meaning that Trench 1 West kept moving West and that Trench 1 West on weekend 1 did not mean the same as Trench 1 West on weekend 5 so I think we need to be more careful with the bags e.g. maybe adding a date to each location so we can see the progress of the trench over time.
- **Location of a Building or Buildings** – We have still not found the longed-for building to prove that the site was lived on and, if so, in what period/s. Barwood Archaeology have suggested that there may be some further archaeology that could be identified through extra magnetometry of the site. Should we consider expanding the search area to include some of the next-door field?

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Magnetometry Results



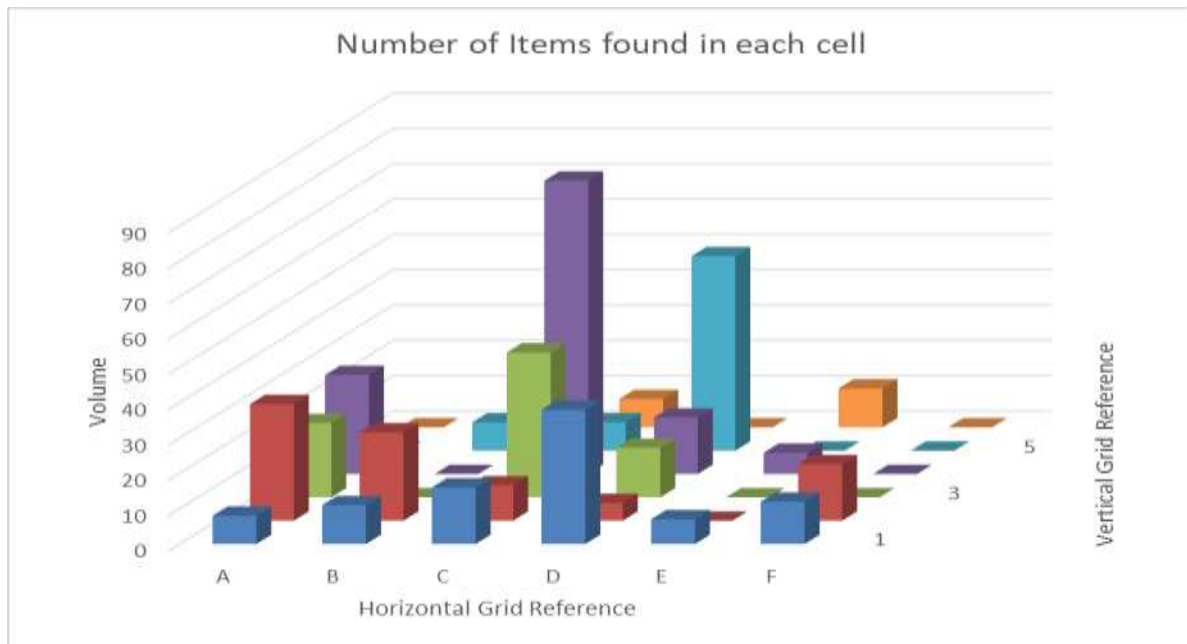


Appendix 2 – Finds Reports

Field Walking

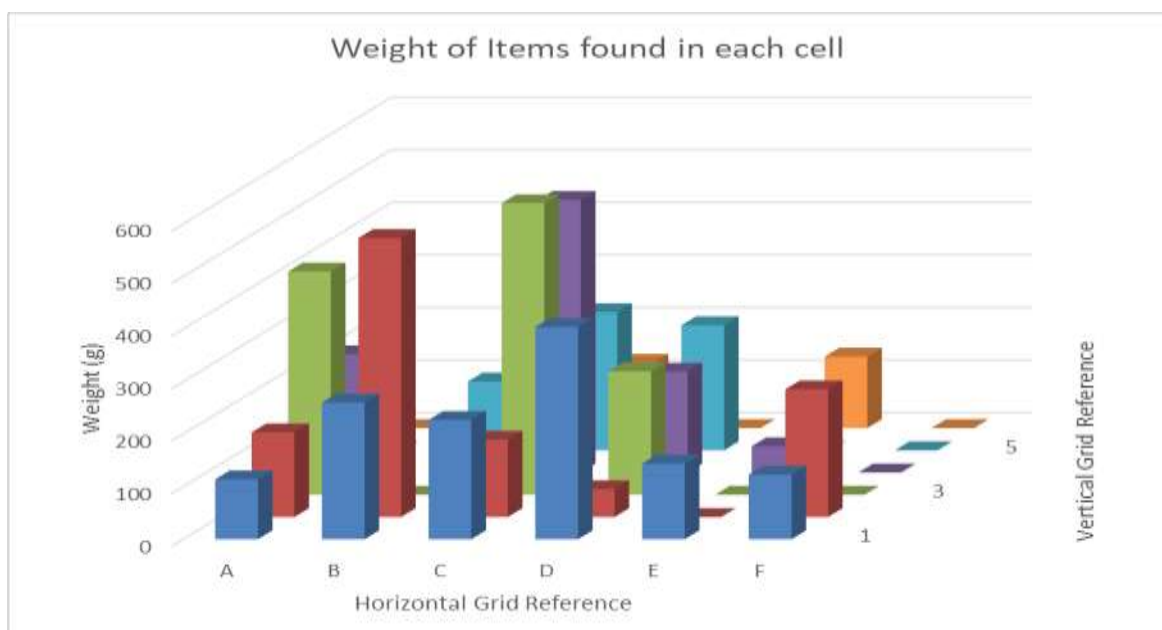
As mentioned above we had not really intended to conduct any field walking as we had only just completed a fieldwalking exercise on the same field in March of the same year so all activity was a bit of a bonus. Of the 36 grids set out 24 of them were walked. This resulted in 489 finds weighing a total of 5.661 Kg

The finds were distributed as follows



As can be seen most of the finds came from grids nearer the centre of the field with C4 producing the biggest number of finds.

In terms of weight



It is much flatter with several cells providing more than 0.4 kg of items.

Breaking the finds down into the different type of item, we find that Ceramic building materials comes out top closely followed by Iron Age / Roman pottery. In fact, the three main groups take up 97% of finds and 98% of their weight.

But of course, some of the other finds are just as important. E.g. Why did we find a small piece of coal on the surface? All three of the pieces of glass look very old, again how long have they been there? One of the pieces of metal is a rusty blade broken off from a knife or farm equipment

Field Walking Finds	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
Ceramic building materials (CBM)	205	41.92%	2873	50.75%
Iron Age / Roman Pottery	204	41.72%	1971	34.82%
Post Roman Pottery	65	13.29%	698	12.33%
Bone	4	0.82%	34	0.60%
Glass	3	0.61%	8	0.14%
Metal	2	0.41%	44	0.78%
Stone	2	0.41%	13	0.23%
Unknown Pottery	2	0.41%	16	0.28%
Coal	1	0.20%	3	0.05%
Shell	1	0.20%	1	0.02%

One of the stone items is a piece of clay pipe, and finally the shell is actually a fossil yet another devil toe nail found on the site.

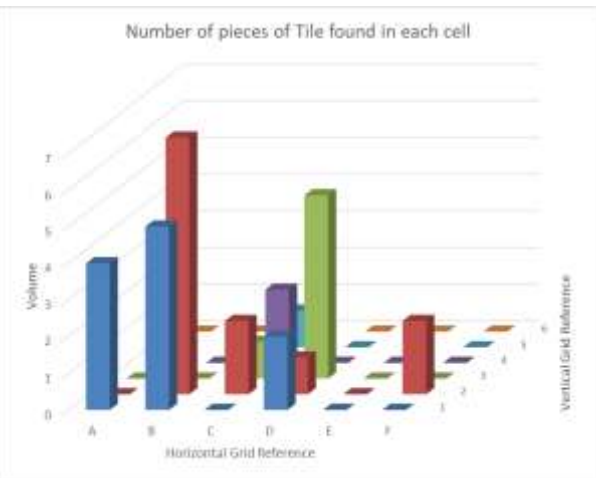
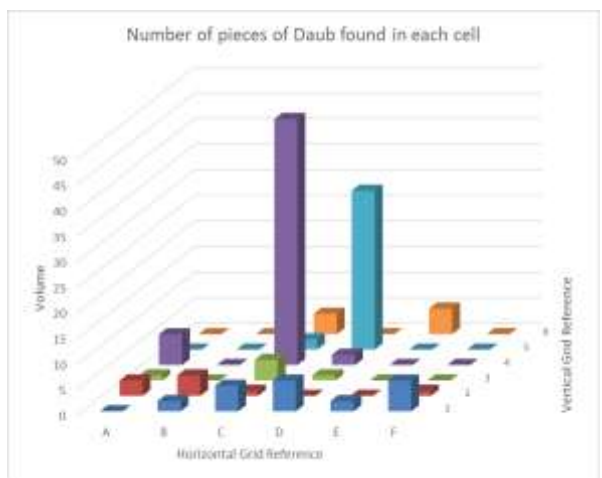
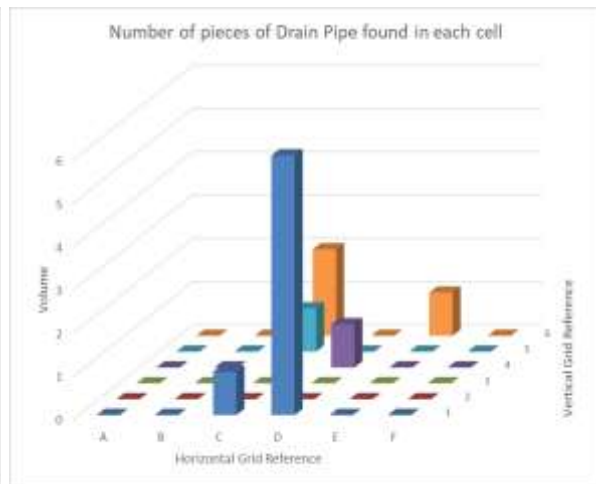
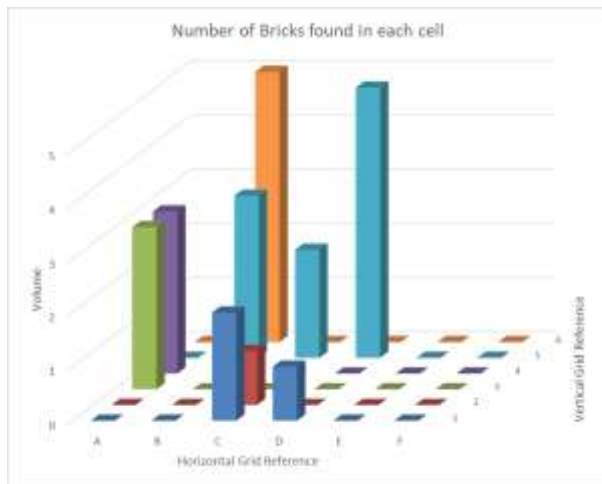
But let's concentrate on the big three firstly the Ceramic building materials. The fact that it came out top is extremely interesting over half of the total weight came from this category.

Ceramic building materials (CBM)	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
Daub	134	65.37%	1207	42.01%
Tiles (Roof and Floor)	32	15.61%	849	29.55%
Brick	25	12.20%	583	20.29%
Drain Pipe	12	5.85%	224	7.80%
Mortar	2	0.98%	10	0.35%

Top of this group was the amount of daub recovered, number wise it made up 65%, but the bigger pieces tend to be Tiles / Bricks and Pipes. We have still not managed to uncover a building so why are we finding so many items that can only have come from a structure.

To compound this mystery the smallest find it probably the most obvious – why are we finding mortar in D2 if there is no building.

So, taking this one step further can we see where the items were found? This may give us a better indication as to where any building might be.



The daub graph is very interesting showing large quantities in cells C4 and D5 but if we look at the magnetometry these cells are likely to be part of a pen based structure. The other option is that as the site is on a slope they have moved down that slope from where they were originally positioned. But it is interesting that they are close together.

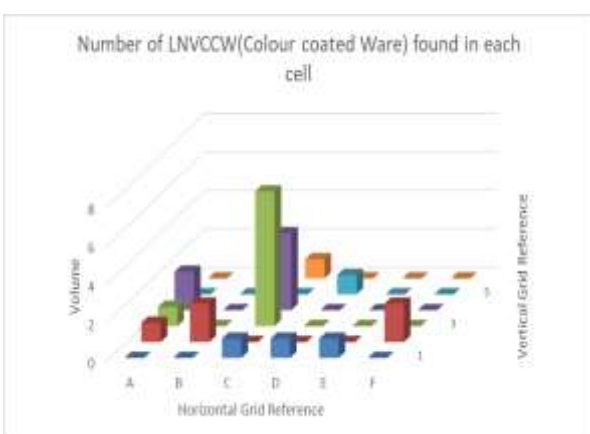
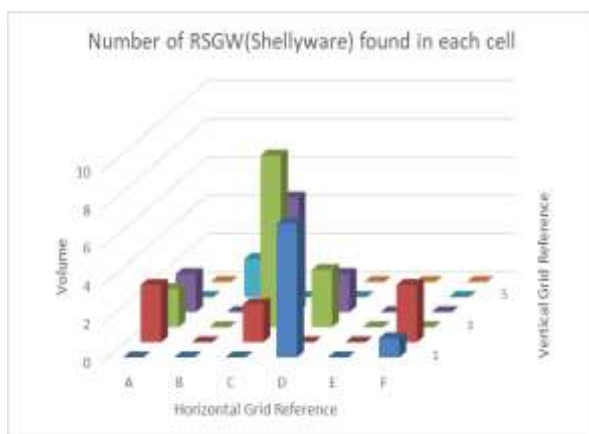
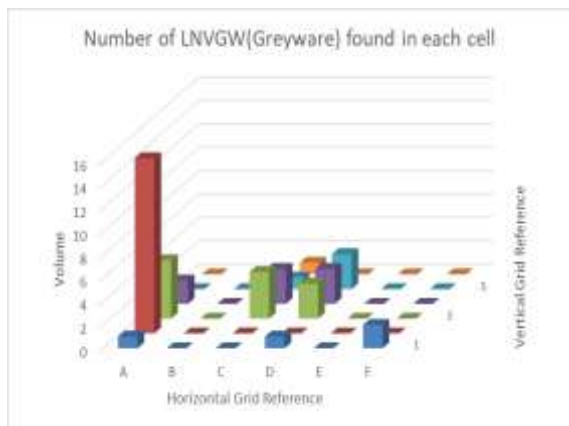
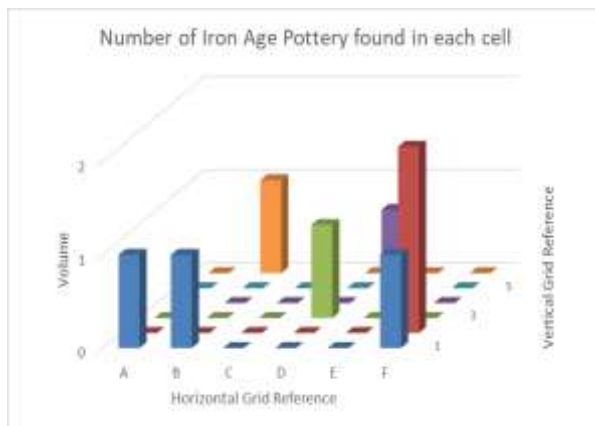
The bricks are more scattered but are on the left hand side of the grid whereas the pieces of drain pipe have been found down the middle of the field. Finally the pieces of tile are found on the northern end of the field. If we take it all together we might find it all contradictory but if we consider that the tile and brick are the heavier items and so will have moved less than the daub we could build the case for something in the North / East of the site that has over time moved down the slope.

When we study the CBM found back in March 2025 a large portion of it came from cell E3 so it is a bit of a surprise that we had not found anything until I realised that the cell E3 had not been searched so we need to bear in mind that these conclusions are affected by the fact that not all cells were searched.

Turning to Iron Age / Roman finds we see the usual suspects at the top of the table. Unfortunately Romano British has come out top leading us to the conclusion that either we are finding items that are not in our reference collection or we are becoming less prepared to put in the investigatory work.

Iron Age / Roman Pottery	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
Romano British	51	25.00%	373	18.92%
LNVGW (Greyware)	44	21.57%	340	17.25%
RSGW (Shellyware)	42	20.59%	451	22.88%
LNVCW (Colour coated Ware)	24	11.76%	213	10.81%
Creamware	18	8.82%	219	11.11%
Iron Age	8	3.92%	150	7.61%
Northants White Ware	7	3.43%	66	3.35%
Sandy White Ware	5	2.45%	124	6.29%
Samian	3	1.47%	24	1.22%
Local Grog Whiteware	2	0.98%	11	0.56%

As for the distribution of the finds the key groups all show distinctive patterns The Iron Age Items are found around the edge of the site possibly having been pushed there through the years of ploughing, on average they weigh around 20g per item. The Lower Nene Valley Greyware is predominantly in row A, on average these finds are smaller at around 0.75g per item.

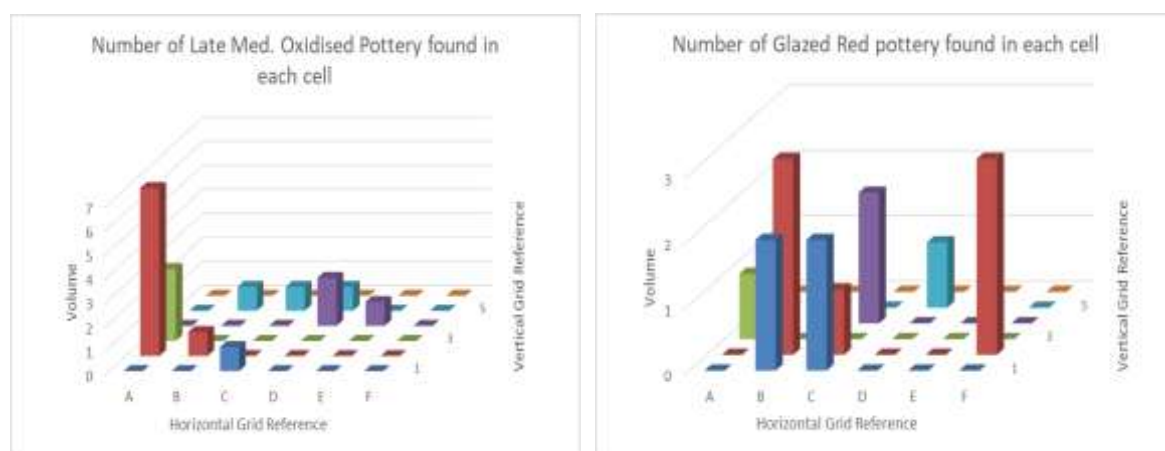


Whereas the Lower Nene Valley Colour coatedware and the Roman Sandy Grey Ware (Shellyware) are much more focussed towards the centre of the site the average weight for each of these groups being around 10g per item

Finally moving on to the Post Roman Pottery, this proved to be a bit of a surprise, with Late Med. Oxidised items coming out on top. This pottery comes from around 1300-1500 and although we have found it before on Denford Meadow it has never been the biggest find. Glazed Red could be from the same period indicating medieval activity on the same site.

Post Roman Pottery	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
Late Med. Oxidised	18	27.69%	135	19.34%
Glazed Red	15	23.08%	264	37.82%
Lyveden A	8	12.31%	97	13.90%
Lyveden B	4	6.15%	37	5.30%
Midland Purple	3	4.62%	33	4.73%
Late Med. Reduced	3	4.62%	30	4.30%
Iron Glazed	2	3.08%	35	5.01%
St. Neots	2	3.08%	13	1.86%
Lyveden D	2	3.08%	11	1.58%
Sandy Coarseware	2	3.08%	9	1.29%
Victorian	2	3.08%	9	1.29%
Staffs. Manganese	2	3.08%	5	0.72%
Stamford	1	1.54%	18	2.58%
Staffs. Slipware	1	1.54%	2	0.29%

Although the number of Post Roman items is much smaller, they still represent 13% of the finds and when we look at where these two pottery types were found



We find that the majority of the Late Med. Oxidised finds come from two cells A2 and A3. As they are at the edge of the field it could be people carrying items across the field following a path on the edge and dropping them or yet again ploughing has moved them. The Red Glazed is much more evenly spread.

Digging Trenches

Although we opened four trenches we really only focussed on trench 1, as can be seen we recovered a huge number of items from that single trench and very little from anywhere else. Basically we did not really have the resources to open any of the other trenches and this shows in the results.

Trench Summary	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
Trench 1	1521	85.79%	15325	91.69%
Trench 2	180	10.15%	1167	6.98%
Trench 3	2	0.11%	11	0.07%
Trench 4	66	3.72%	168	1.01%
Metal Detection	4	0.23%	43	0.26%

So, let's start with the two smallest results in trench 3 we did not find anything. The two items mentioned in the above table were found using a metal detector over the open trench and represent two nails that were found in it. The four items found under the title metal detection are when the Oundle School girls practiced using it over the site and once again they were nails.

Trench 4 finds mainly consisted of daub (61 pieces weighing 108 grams) this in itself may not seem that much but it could prove very important. The pit in trench 4 from which these items were recovered was 30cm deep, as mentioned earlier the biggest amount of daub found by the field walking came from cells C4 and D5 so the fact that trench 4 which was close to these cells was also producing a lot of daub may mean that we should be looking for any building in this area.

The other trench 4 finds were 4 pieces of Iron Ore and an Oyster shell both of which point to nearby habitation.

Before moving onto the main part of the dig we shall deal with the items found in trench 2

Trench 2	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	93	51.67%	847	72.58%
Bone	64	35.56%	217	18.59%
Ceramic building materials (CBM)	9	5.00%	24	2.06%
Metal	6	3.33%	17	1.46%
Stone	4	2.22%	23	1.97%
Post Roman Pottery Identification	2	1.11%	19	1.63%
Teeth	2	1.11%	20	1.71%

The fact that almost all of the items were defined as either Iron Age Roman or fragments of bone firmly places this trench in the Roman era. Only 2 pieces of Lyveden D pottery were found from the post Roman era. The teeth consisted of a piglet's tooth and a large molar. Added to this we had three pieces of flint and a Belemnite which may have indicated something even older classified under the banner of Stone. The six metal items consisted of 4 nails and 2 pieces of slag and the CBM was mainly daub (7 pieces) with 2 pieces of pumice.

All in all, a very clean trench with clearly defined Roman roots.

Breaking down the Iron Age Roman finds we get the following distribution

Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage
LNVGW (Greyware)	28	30.11%	309	36.48%
RSGW (Shellyware)	24	25.81%	279	32.94%
LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware)	15	16.13%	146	17.24%
Romano British	13	13.98%	63	7.44%
Creamware	11	11.83%	42	4.96%
Local Black Fumed	2	2.15%	8	0.94%

Therefore, not only did we have a very clean trench but it also contained the standard pottery finds we tend to make in our villages. And to just add a little bit extra to these finds they were mainly rims and bases from broken pots suggesting that this pit was used for domestic waste. Looking at the alignment of the pit within trench 2 it could easily be aligned with the much larger trench1 although the magnetometry suggests a gap between the two.

We will end our analysis by looking at the substantial number of finds recovered from Trench 1.

Trench 1 - Segments	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage	Ave Wgt
Trench 1 - West	855	56.21%	7214	47.07%	8.44
Trench 1	491	32.28%	5795	37.81%	11.80
Trench 1 - Centre	175	11.51%	2316	15.11%	13.23

What these results show is that with such a rich trench that we keep extending we kind of lose touch of exactly where in the trench the item was found, at the end of the day, we will transfer the finds from a finds tray to a bag and label the bag. But as we keep moving west, we do not have different segments perhaps we should start adding the day number to the bag so we can see the progression through the trench. In the above scenario did we start labelling the bags as Trench 1 then start using other elements or does Trench 1 cover the entire trench. This is definitely something we need to consider with any future digs.

But in the meantime, we will have to go with what we have and analyse the three segments

Trench 1 - West	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage	Ave Wgt
Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	522	61.05%	4659	64.58%	8.93
Bone	166	19.42%	918	12.73%	5.53
Ceramic building materials (CBM)	77	9.01%	367	5.09%	4.77
Metal	24	2.81%	335	4.64%	13.96
Post Roman Pottery Identification	20	2.34%	149	2.07%	7.45
Teeth	19	2.22%	89	1.23%	4.68
Stone	17	1.99%	670	9.29%	39.41
Shell	10	1.17%	27	0.37%	2.70

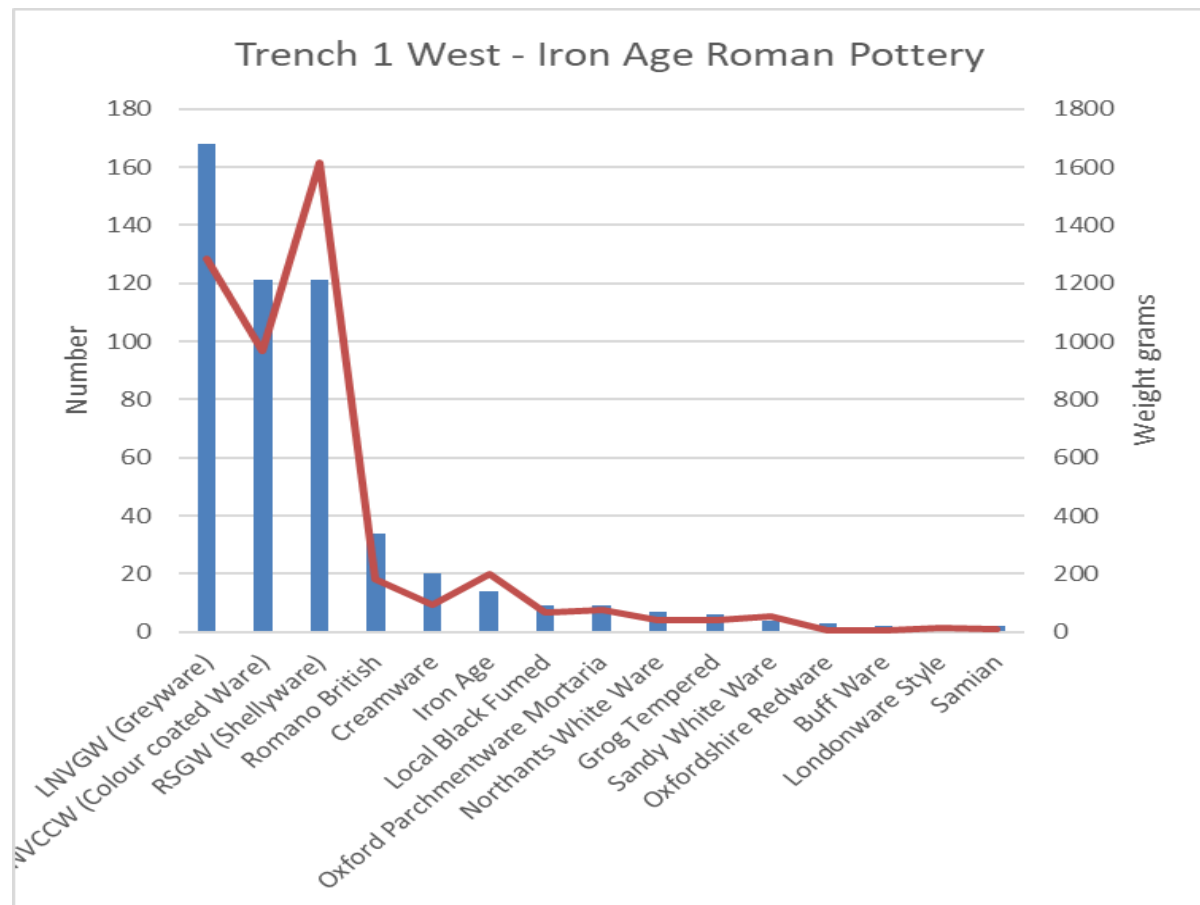
By far the largest number of finds came from the western end of the trench almost 90% of the finds being Iron Age / Roman, Bones or CBM meaning that it was very clear that this was a Roman site.

The shells consisted of Oyster, Snails and fossils (Devils Toe Nails and Belemnites). The teeth all came from unknown animals and the stones were a mixture of tiles and iron ore.

The metal items mainly consisted of nails (the largest of which weighed 139 grams and may have been what caused the white mark in the magnetometry) but there was also a rusty blade from a knife.

The CBM was all daub and the bones from unknown animals except for an antler which weighed 112 grams.

This just leaves the pottery, there were only 20 pieces of post roman pottery found, 10 of these were Shelly Coarseware then three types with two items and four pots with just a single item so I have not investigated it any further. On the other hand, we had 522 Iron Age/ Roman pottery pieces that were distributed as follows

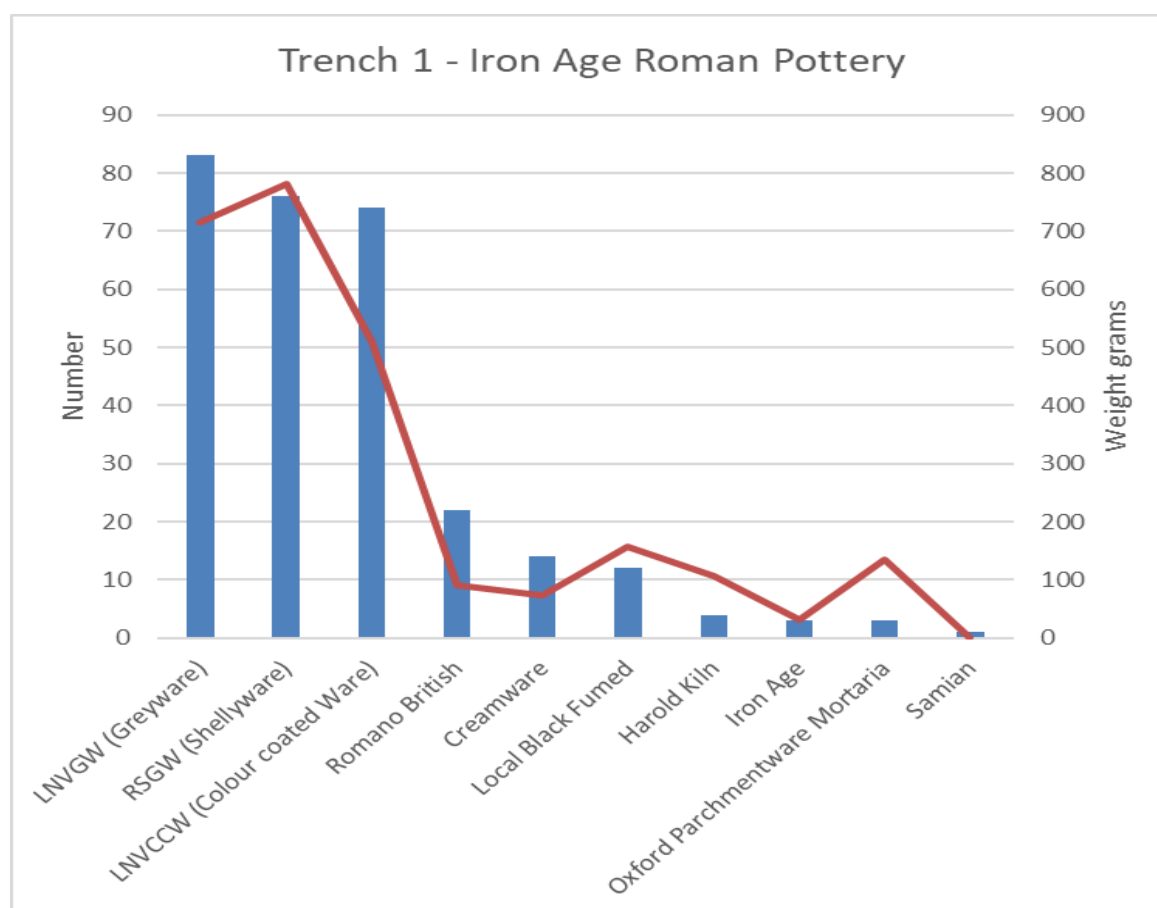


The majority of finds fall into the usual three categories Lower Nene Valley Greyware / Colour Coated Ware and Shellyware after that we have several other types of pottery at low levels.

The second largest finds were assigned to Trench 1 so may have come from anywhere within the trench. Once again most of the finds were Iron Age / Roman

Trench 1	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage	Ave Wgt
Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	292	59.47%	2605	44.95%	8.92
Bone	147	29.94%	711	12.27%	4.84
Ceramic building materials (CBM)	27	5.50%	73	1.26%	2.70
Metal	10	2.04%	77	1.33%	7.70
Teeth	7	1.43%	59	1.02%	8.43
Post Roman Pottery Identification	5	1.02%	56	0.97%	11.20
Stone	3	0.61%	2214	38.21%	738.00

With the same distribution that we have seen across both our Roman sites in Covington and Keyston. The three pottery types LNVGW(Greyware) RSGW(Shellyware) and LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware) tend to vie for the top slot with Greyware normally coming out on top but to be honest there is very little difference between these three-types suggesting that all three were standard pottery and use interchangeably.



As for the bones that we found they came from an assortment of animals and there was no predominance of any particular animal. Two of the items in these bags are covered in the bone section of the key finds.

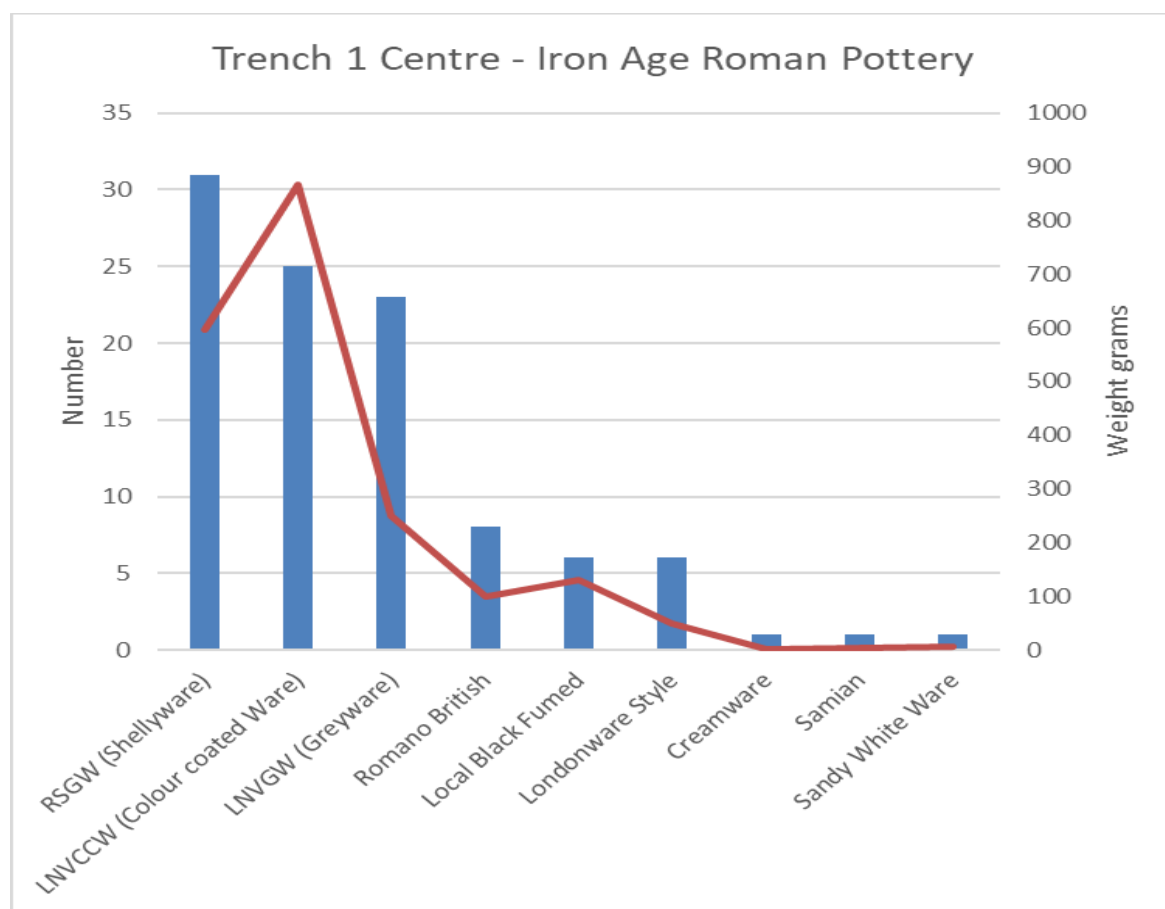
The CBM was all daub and the metal items found were mainly nails, and as with the bones the teeth came from a variety of animals. The three stone items can also be found in the key finds section as they were the cut floor tiles.

As there were only 5 pieces of post roman pottery found it was not worthy of a graph – they consisted of two pieces of Lyveden A, one piece of Lyveden D, one piece of German Stoneware and one piece of Midland Purple.

The last set of bags were defined as Trench 1 – Centre. Yet again they were predominantly Iron Age / Roman.

Trench 1 - Centre	Number	Percentage	Weight	Percentage	Ave Wgt
Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	102	58.29%	2003	86.49%	19.64
Bone	40	22.86%	108	4.66%	2.70
Ceramic building materials (CBM)	14	8.00%	16	0.69%	1.14
Metal	10	5.71%	20	0.86%	2.00
Teeth	4	2.29%	119	5.14%	29.75
Post Roman Pottery Identification	3	1.71%	37	1.60%	12.33
Shell	2	1.14%	13	0.56%	6.50

Once again most of the finds are made up of the three main groups we get from this area. This time RSGW (Shellyware) came out on top but I would not read too much into that as a few pieces here and there can make a difference to the outcome.



Although we found 40 bones, they were dominated by a single leg bone that weighed 34grams and had a number of butchery marks on it. Two of the items classified as bones were Belemnites or squid like cephalopod. These fossils probably should have been included under the heading of stone.

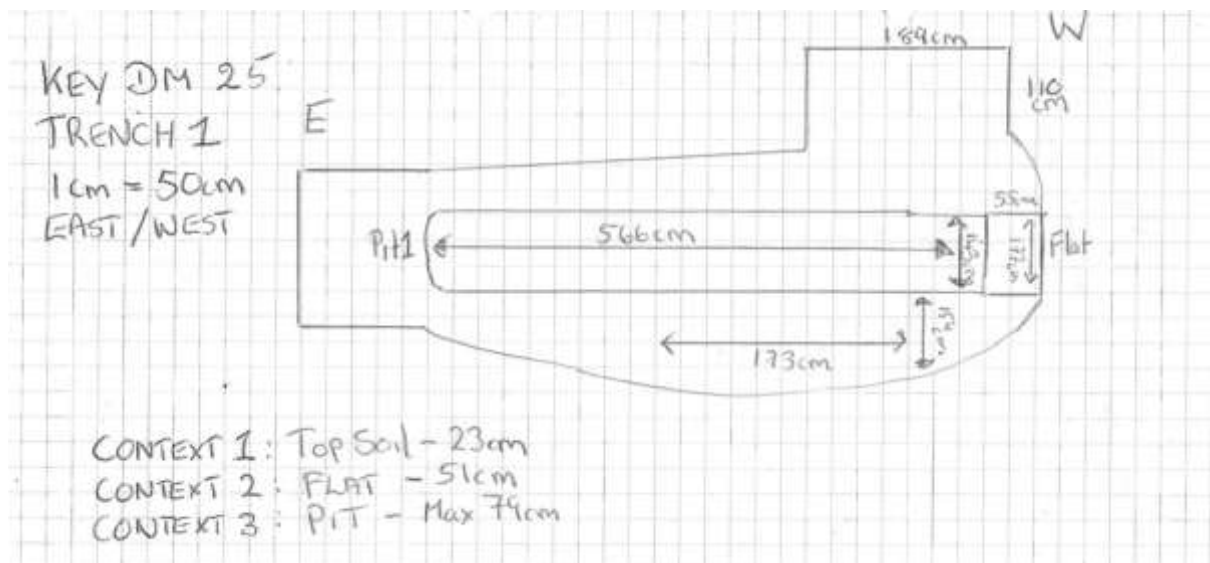
The CBM consisted of just daub. The metal finds were mainly slag with a couple of nails but nothing too exciting, and the four teeth came from unidentified animals. There were also two shelled creatures found one belonged to a snail the other an Oyster shell.

Post roman pottery was again minimal with only three items being identified. Two pieces of late medieval oxidised (1 a flat rim the other had a small ridge) and one piece of sandy Coarseware.

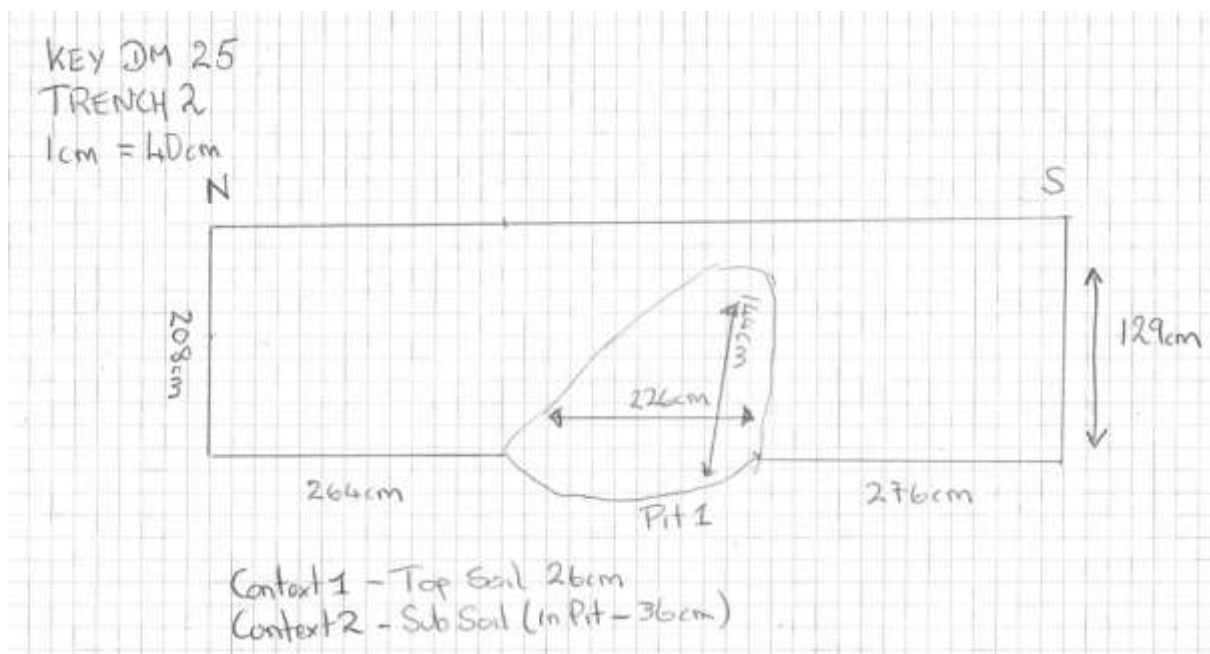
Everywhere we look in this field we seem to find a substantial amount of evidence as to habitation during the Roman period. The lack of Post Roman finds is also interesting suggesting that once the site had been abandoned after the Roman period no further habitation took place.

Appendix 3 – Section Drawings

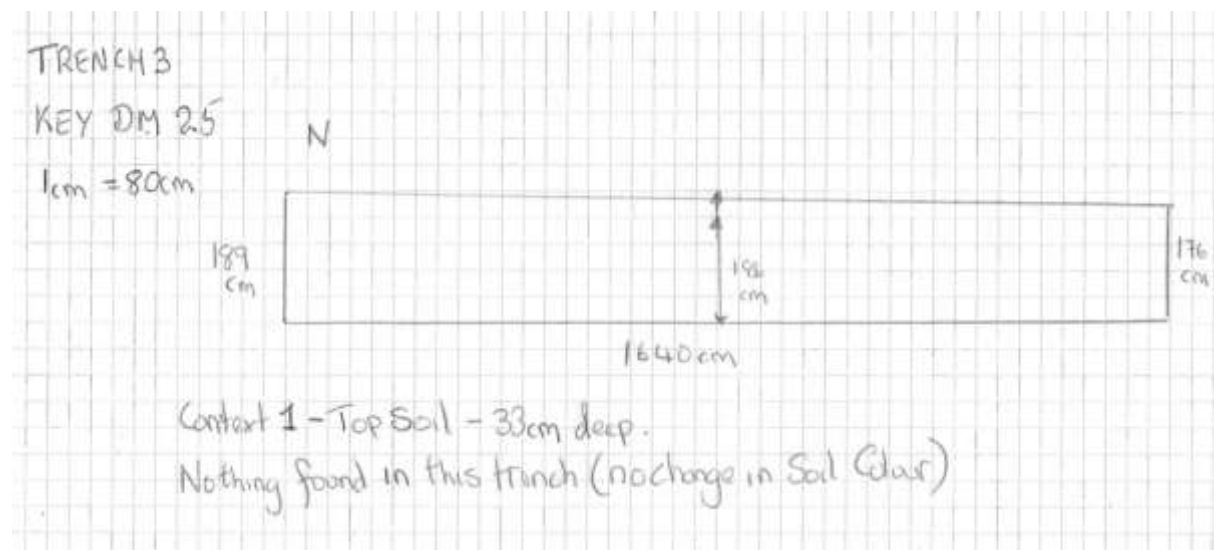
Trench 1



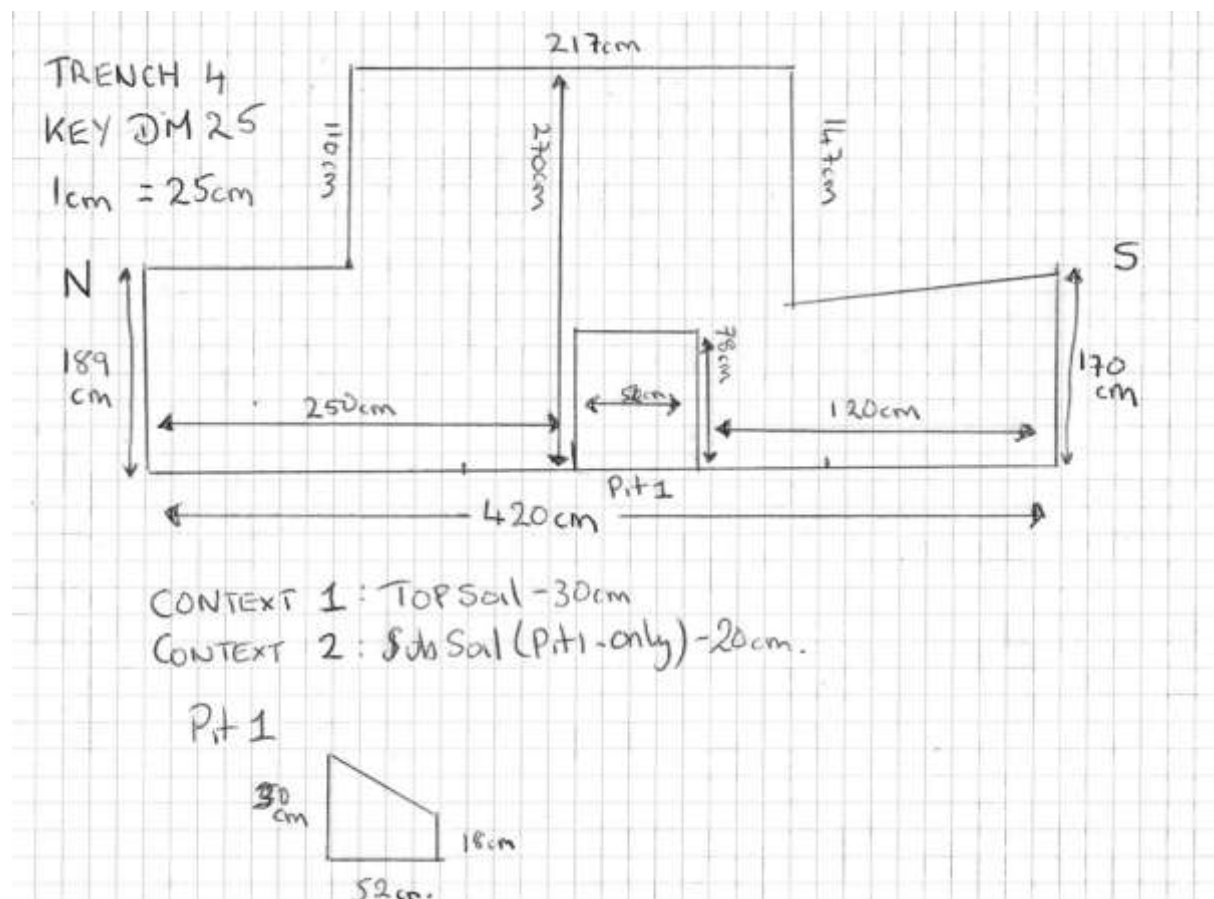
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Appendix 4 – Trench Photographs



Trench 1 – Looking East



Trench 1 – Looking North



Trench 1 – Looking West



Trench 1 – Western End (straight cut)



Trench 2 – Looking North



Trench 2 – Looking South



Trench 2 – Looking West (view of pit)



Trench 3 – Looking North



Trench 3 – Looking South



Trench 4 – Looking North



Trench 4 – Looking South



Trench 4 – Looking West



Trench 4 - Pit