

Roads to the Past: The Archaeology of Thornton le Street

Archaeological Community Excavation: Year 1 Interim Report



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Year 1 Interim Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Roads to the Past project is a Heritage Lottery-funded community archaeology and history project run by the Thornton le Street History Group, with a substantial portion of the fieldwork elements delivered as a partnership between the History Group and Solstice Heritage. The first season of archaeological fieldwork reported on here comprised the excavation of test pits and one trench by volunteers under professional archaeological supervision to investigate the area in and around the shrunken medieval village of Thornton le Street, North Yorkshire.

The features investigated comprised:

- *A medieval housing platform and what is considered to be a medieval and post-medieval road, with a shallow gully cut in between*
- *A post-medieval earthen bank flanking the road*
- *Twelve test pits split between the village of Thornton le Street, the grounds of a nearby post-medieval mill and a moated site c. 2.5 km to the south of the village.*

In terms of artefactual evidence, the findings from the test pits have added considerably to our understanding of the distribution of pieces from different periods within the village. The overwhelming majority of medieval ceramic sherds was recovered from Test Pit 1 to the rear of The Pines, a location which appears to be towards the rear of the medieval plots stretching back from the line of the road. In notable contrast to the test pit assemblages, the pottery recovered from Trench 1 was overwhelmingly post-medieval and later, and this is flagged as worthy of further investigation.

The main features excavated as part of the project were within Trench 1 and comprise an earlier line of the main road through Thornton le Street, an adjacent stone-cobble platform and a later bank partially overlying the earlier road. The cobbled platform at the eastern end of the trench was irregular in form, though with a relatively well-defined front edge adjacent to the (presumed) drainage gully. It is supposed that the platform was for some form of domestic or agricultural building, though the extent within the trench was limited, and no structural postholes or similar features were observed.

Perhaps the most significant interpretive output of the work in Trench 1 was identifying a previously unknown phase of roadway through the village. The earlier road line identified in the centre of the trench comprised a series of packed cobble and gravel layers, suggesting a considerable level of construction, use, re-use and repair. Given a spatial association with the earthwork causeway within the medieval village core to the north, it is suggested that the road in Trench 1 is at least medieval in date. The road will have continued in use through into the post-medieval period, and its diversion most likely occurred at the time when the road was moved to turn at right-angles heading south-west: an arrangement still current at the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping in the mid-19th century. Probably contemporary with the rearrangement of the road lines, a flanking earth bank was constructed, partially overlying the earlier road. This earthen bank, surviving in the western end of Trench 1, fell out of use and was truncated when the roads were again rearranged in the early 20th century.

The only test pit to reveal in situ remains was Test Pit 3, which included a sequence of modern made-ground and sand above a cobbled floor surface with an aggregate sublayer. The surface may have potentially been the floor of an outbuilding such as a stable or perhaps a courtyard. Although the size of the test pit prevented detailed investigation of the packed floor, it is a positive indication of the potential level and survival of contemporary remains in the adjacent Mill Field.

The Moat Site investigated as part of this project is broadly rectilinear, though with some irregularity to the overall form. The six test pits excavated yielded only a slight amount of information, though all of it is important for our understanding of a previously uninvestigated site. The hard-packed clay deposit in Test Pits 4 and 5 suggest the presence of a truncated interior bank to the moat, and the scattered fragments of diagnostic medieval ceramic and tile sherds suggest activity and settlement within the enclosure during this period.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

The *Roads to the Past* project is a Heritage Lottery-funded community archaeology and history project run by the Thornton le Street History Group, with a substantial portion of the fieldwork elements delivered as a partnership between the History Group and Solstice Heritage. The first season of archaeological fieldwork reported on here comprised the excavation of twelve test pits and one trench by volunteers under professional archaeological supervision to investigate the area in and around the shrunken medieval village of Thornton le Street, North Yorkshire.

The features investigated comprised:

- A medieval housing platform and what is considered to be a medieval and post-medieval road, with a shallow gully cut in between
- A post-medieval earthen bank flanking the road
- Twelve test pits split between the village of Thornton le Street, the grounds of a nearby post-medieval mill and a moated site c. 2.5 km to the south of the village.

The work was undertaken over the course of one weekend (8th-9th July 2017) and one week (27th August – 1st September 2017).

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

1.2.1 GEOLOGY

The village of Thornton le Street sits within the 'Vale of Mowbray' National Character Area (NCA). This area characterised by low-lying, gently undulating flood plains associated with the River Swale and its tributaries, the River Whiske and Cod Beck. It occupies the area of lowland between the North York Moors to the east and the Yorkshire Dales to the west, making it a main route running north to south throughout history, with the existing A1 following roughly the same line as that of the Roman Dere Street (NE 2015, 3, 5). It extends from Ripon and the Vale of York in the south to the Tees basin in the north.

The specific underlying geology of Thornton le Street comprises mudstone of the Redcar Mudstone Formation. The superficial deposits within the site are mapped as clay, sandy, and gravelly deposits of the Vale of York Formation as well as free-draining sand and gravel river terrace deposits (BGS 2017), which provide a naturally fertile landscape. The topographic character of the local area has played a key role in the settlement and activity that took place within the Vale of Mowbray since c. 12500 BP (before present), with the retreat of the last glaciers. This complex sequence of sand and gravel terraces, glacial till (boulder clay), and Holocene alluvium, cut through by the dominant rivers and tributaries, forms part of the deglaciated landscape seen today, which includes landforms such as moraines, eskers and drumlins, typical of this landscape. The accessible nature of the broad valleys combined with fertile land would have attracted settlers and human activity in the past, in particular prehistoric settlement.

The most prominent local topographic features are the Yorkshire Dales to the west, the North York Moors to the east, and the River Swale in the centre. Cod Beck, one of the tributaries of the River Swale, is situated immediately to the east of the village contributing to the combination of loamey and clayey soil with impeded drainage and floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater found there. The generally flat landscape of Thornton le Street and the surrounding area is in part due to its proximity to Cod Beck, which, having been a larger river during deglaciation, carried much of the meltwater from the Vale of York ice lobe into a lake (Bridgland *et al.* 2011, 51).

1.2.2 SITE LOCATION AND FORM

The village of Thornton le Street comprises a primarily linear settlement surrounded by fields, within the low-lying landscape characteristic of the Vale of Mowbray. The village itself is also situated immediately adjacent to Cod Beck, which extends from just above Osmotherley near the North York Moors running south through Thirsk, joining the River Swale at Topcliffe.



The moated site c. 2.5 km south of the village comprises the site of a former plantation situated on the high point of a slight natural ridge. The topography here is generally low-lying and flat, and the site is surrounded primarily by fields, although there are small areas of woodland to the north and east.

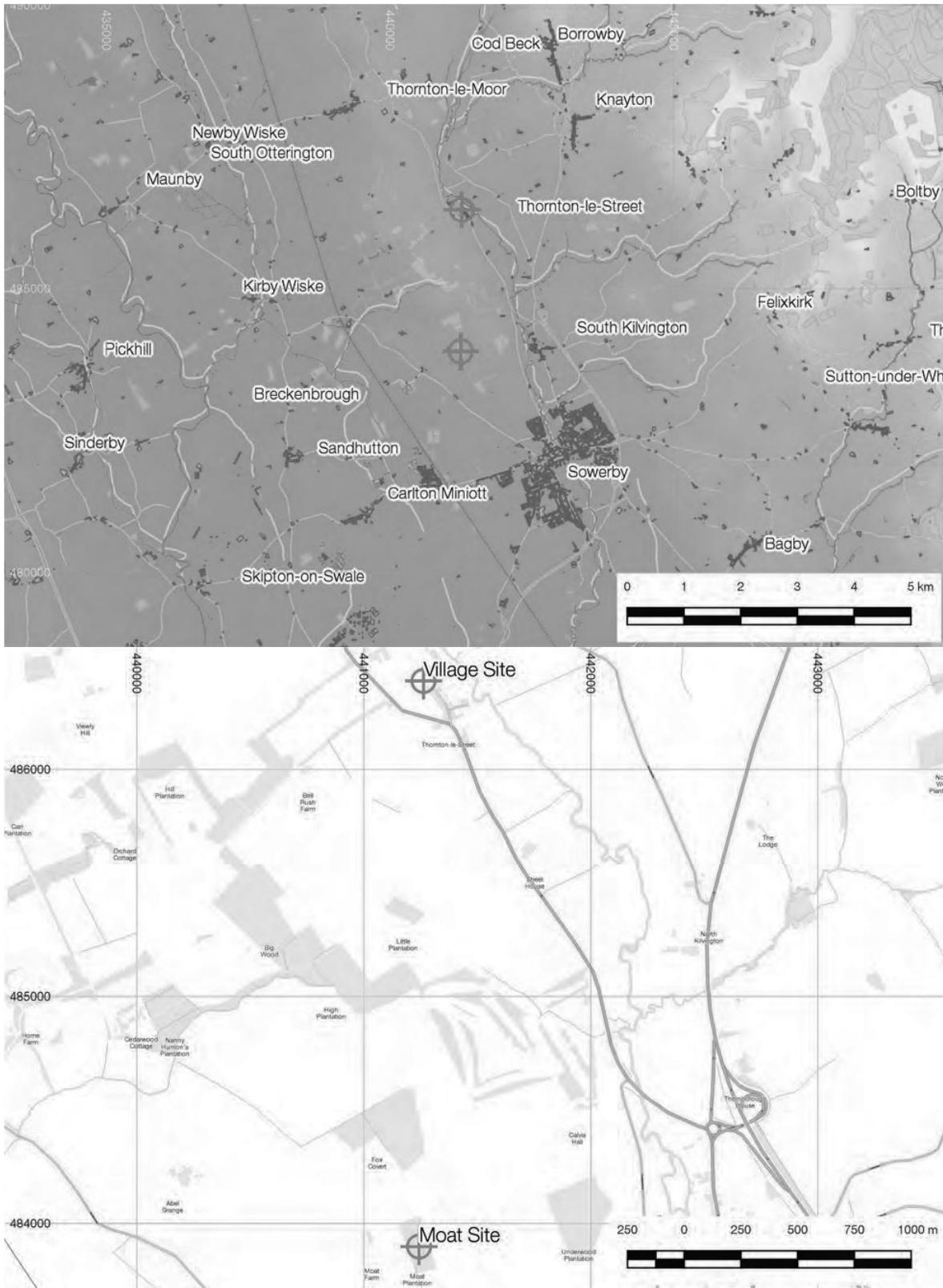
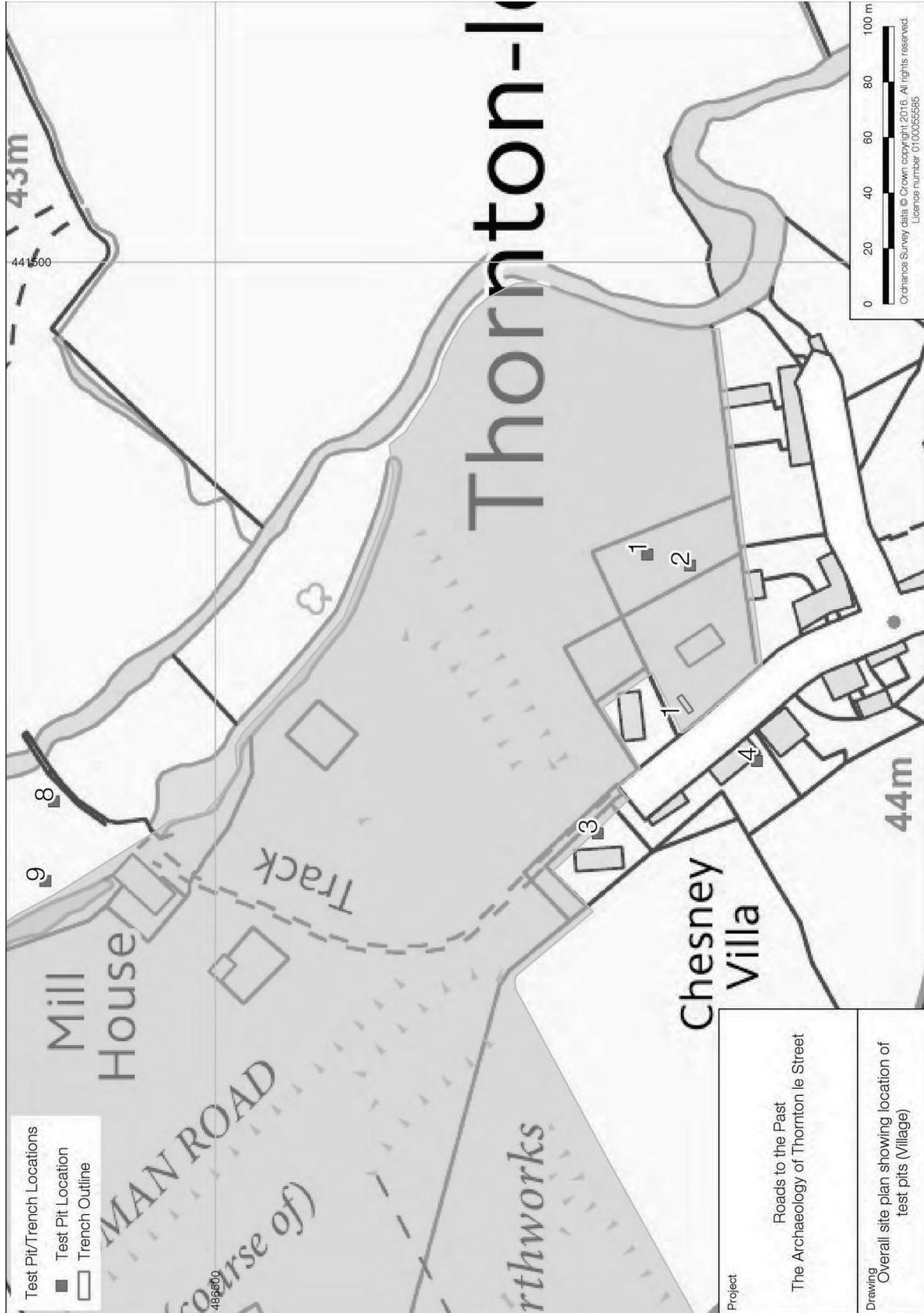


Figure 1 Site Location





1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

1.3.1 PREHISTORY

The earliest people in the Vale of Mowbray moved through the landscape in the Mesolithic period or Middle Stone Age, which saw the recolonization of the post-glacial tundra. This would have generally consisted of settlers living a mobile hunter-gatherer subsistence lifestyle, although sedentism increased over the course of the next millennia. This recognition of Mesolithic ‘persistent places’ is providing a more nuanced picture of how the landscape was settled and used. A significant amount of flint assemblages has been discovered in this area, including those at Little Holtby comprising an assemblage of Early Mesolithic flint microliths and at Topcliffe near Thirsk, where a flint assemblage including large blades and shouldered points was recovered (Bridgland *et al.* 2011, 211-212). Such finds provide some evidence for greater mobility along the Swale throughout the Mesolithic and Early to Middle Neolithic than previously thought (Harding 2013, 188).

The Neolithic, or New Stone Age, began around 3900 BC with a fundamental cultural shift towards sedentary and agricultural subsistence accompanied by a distinctive cultural package which included the earliest ceramics and new lithic technology. This new worldview resulted in the modification and delineation of the environment in wholly new ways and in the creation of the first great monuments of prehistory. Although the majority of Early Neolithic activity in the lowlands of the Vale of Mowbray is characterised by scattered artefact assemblages, the great henges of Thornborough and the Devil’s Arrows, a series of standing stones in Boroughbridge, represent considerable Later Neolithic settlement and activity (Harding 2013). These large communal monuments and their counterparts throughout the region suggest the development of a centralised ‘society’ with its own complex systems of ritual and social interaction.

Through the Neolithic and into the Bronze Age which followed, human activity in the lowlands is poorly represented in the archaeological record when compared to more upland areas, such as the North York Moors and the Pennines. By the time of the introduction of metal-working to Britain from the continent in the mid- to late 3rd millennium BC, burial traditions had changed to encompass the raising of small broadly circular cairns over places where inhumations, and later cremations, were placed. Although scattered, evidence has been uncovered for the tradition of barrow burial and cremation practices in the lowlands despite the majority of such sites having been flattened by later agricultural practices.

From the later Bronze Age and Iron Age – a period covering the 1st millennium BC – the Vale of Mowbray was likely a heavily settled and farmed landscape, as there is aerial photographic evidence of field systems and associated settlements just to the south in the Vale of York (Roberts 2010). Large infrastructure projects, such as the widening of the A1 from Dishforth to Leeming, yielded substantial iron age remains along the route of what would later become Roman Dere Street (Ambrey *et al.* 2011). Nearer the Vale of Mowbray, a greater proportion of features are still at least partially extant in the present day, particularly in the uncultivated areas of the uplands which flank the Vale. Although still enigmatic, the stone-founded enclosures and roundhouses of late prehistoric settlement are perhaps the first type of archaeological site familiar to the modern observer, precursors to the farmsteads and smallholdings of historical periods. Examples of larger Iron Age monuments are scattered along the west and north ridges of the Hambleton Hills, most notably Roulston Scar (NHLE 1015502), one of the largest hillforts in Britain, which dates to approximately 400 BC (Historic England 2018). Along with the nearby Bolton Scar, these forts are associated with the Cleave Dyke, an Iron Age system of boundaries dividing the landscape, making them significant sites in terms of understanding the Iron Age landscape and its development over time (*ibid.*).

In East Yorkshire, significant evidence for Iron Age settlement has recently been uncovered during development works in the village of Pocklington, where over 75 barrows and a chariot burial have been excavated (Keys 2017). These square barrows, or covered ditched enclosures with a central grave, are traditionally found in East Yorkshire.

1.3.2 FIRST MILLENNIUM AD

The Romans first came to the North East with Petilius Cerialis’ military campaign in the early AD70s which overpowered Brigantian leadership. Throughout Britain, evidence for the native and rural populations of Roman Britain is scarce. The Vale of Mowbray itself, however, formed part of the major north-south route along Dere Street, following roughly the course of the modern A1. More pertinent to the investigations at Thornton le Street is the proposed route of Cade’s Road (RR80a), named after 18th-century antiquarian John Cade who expanded

on the initial observations of antiquarian John Warburton. The proposed route of the road began at Brough-on-Humber, running northwards and westwards through York before running northwards roughly along the route of the modern A19 through or near Thornton le Street and eventually north to Nerwcastle. There has been a long-standing history of research and archaeological investigation into firmly establishing the existence of the road and its spatial relationship to Thornton le Street. The presence of a linear causeway to the north and the suffix '-le Street' in the place name suggests there may indeed have been a route running through the village, although whether Roman or not is yet to be proven.

By the AD500s, this region formed part of the medieval Anglian kingdom of Deira. Through the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian periods of the mid-to late first millennium AD, Deira and the neighbouring kingdom of Bernicia became part of the kingdom of Northumbria, united and ruled under King Aethelfrith. The kingdom was eventually divided with the establishment of the Danelaw following the Viking invasions of the 9th century.

1.3.3 MEDIEVAL

The village itself, first mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Torentun*, developed greatly throughout the medieval period, with much of the remains of the medieval settlement in the modern village designated as a scheduled monument (NHLE 1018853). Included within the boundary of the monument are earthworks, buried remains of the medieval village, and some remains of the post-medieval mill. There is evidence for the settlement from the 11th century, although during the Harrying of the North by William the Conqueror's army, the village would likely have been devastated and supported a sparse population although, like many affected settlements in North Yorkshire, clearly recovered over time (Forbes 2018). By the 15th century, however, the village fell into decline, with only a few buildings surviving centred around the now Grade II-listed St Leonard's Church (NHLE 101315196) to the south-east of the village (Historic England 2018). The church itself dates to the 12th century and contains round-headed windows dating to the 14th century, as well as late Victorian stained glass on the east window (Pevsner 1966, 371).

Other notable features include the causeway running south-east to north-west, likely a post-medieval track leading from the village to the Old Hall, to the west of which are a series of ridge and furrow earthworks. Further ridge and furrow features and extensive areas of probable occupation have been identified after a geophysical survey in the south-east of the village (Brown 2017); however, this area has yet to be investigated further. Prominent landowners in the village include Earl Edwin during the Norman invasion, followed by the Bishop of Durham and later the de Wassand and de Wadesley families, before eventually coming to the possession of the Cathcart family in the 19th century.

1.3.4 POST-MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

Contrary to the decline which took place in the medieval period, the village of Thornton le Street developed and thrived in the post-medieval period. The road running through the village itself was moved, although its medieval roots were retained with the linear nature of development. First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping shows that in 1853, there was some residential development along the eastern side of the road to the west and north of St Leonard's Church and the associated vicarage. To the north-west of the settlement, beyond the causeway and 'old enclosures' marked on the mapping is the site of a corn mill. By 1892, the Ordnance Survey map shows that the vicarage has moved further north and there is now a village school shown, suggesting that there was demand for education given the increased population. It is worth noting that up to this point, most of the development is centred to the south near the church.

There is no discernible change in development until the latter half of the 20th century when, by 1975, there is a substantial amount of residential development throughout the village fronting onto the main road, in particular to the north, with further development to the east towards Cod Beck. Although modern, this linear development is likely a better representation of the original medieval settlement prior to its decline in the 15th century.



2. STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

2.1 TEST PIT 1 (VILLAGE)

Test Pit 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6 m. The seven spits documented consisted of a highly developed garden topsoil, medium to dark brown in colour, that gradually got more clayey as it approached the underlying substrate. Changes in the distribution of finds within each spit, however, were noted during excavation. These included slag/clinker, metal, glass, faunal remains, clay pipes, and most prevalent of all, ceramics. The largest assemblage of pottery from any of the test pits was recovered from Spits 1-6 of Trench 1, with a depth ranging from 0.1 m to 0.5 m. The majority of the assemblage comprised sherds of medieval Tees Valley A and B wares, although individual sherds of other types were also found. Slag/clinker were also found through these depths. Glass fragments and clay pipes were found in the upper layers of Spits 1 and 2 to a maximum depth of 0.2 m. Metal and faunal remains were found in Spits 3, 4, and 6 with a depth ranging from 0.3 to 0.5 m.

2.2 TEST PIT 2 (VILLAGE)

Test Pit 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8 m. Spits 1-4 consisted of a highly developed garden topsoil, uniformly medium brown in colour. This became consistently more clayey and compact in spits 5-7, which were mottled with yellow and red clay. There were a number of large cobbles within the deeper deposits, as well as a large stone compacted into the eastern side of the test pit. Finds primarily consisted of ceramic pottery sherds, although lithics, clay pipe, and glass were found in earlier spits and metal along with slag and clinker, as well as faunal remains in later spits.

2.3 TEST PIT 3 (VILLAGE)

Test Pit 3 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.02 m comprising a total of nine spits. Spits 1-3 consisted of a loamy clayey topsoil, uniformly compact in nature and medium brown in colour. Spits 4 and 5 consisted of a modern deposit of builder's sand dating to the construction of the house on the plot in the later 20th century. Beneath this sandy layer was a highly-developed soil found in spits 6 and 7, with two medieval pottery sherd finds in Spit 6. Spit 7A consisted of a cobbled floor surface, beneath which was a very compact, brown/grey aggregate layer, which also included a mixture of smaller cobbles (Spits 8 and 9). At the bottom of Spit 9, the natural clay substrate was uncovered. There was a very small distribution of finds within the test pit, primarily consisting of ceramic building material (CBM).



Figure 4 Test Pit 1



Figure 5 Test Pit 2, note large stone



Figure 6 Test Pit 3, cobbled surface



Figure 7 Test Pit 3



Project	Roads to the Past: The Archaeology of Thornton le Street
Drawing	Figure 8 Section of Test Pit 3

2.4 TEST PIT 4 (VILLAGE)

Test Pit 4 was a 30cm square excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38 m with a total of four spits. Spit 1 consisted of a layer of loose sand beneath an area of paved garden, which gradually became slightly firmer with a mixture of sand and clay in Spit 2, from which metal finds were recovered. Spits 3 and 4 consisted of a very firm medium brown clayey deposit with stone inclusions averaging 20 mm in size. Some faunal remains were recovered along with sherds of medieval and early modern pottery.

2.5 TEST PIT 5 (MOAT)

Test Pit 5 was sited in the western corner of the moated enclosure and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7 m in seven spits. Spit 1 consisted of a friable brown topsoil. Spits 2 – 5 consisted of a very compact red-brown redeposited clay - potentially representing the remnants of a bank around the circuit of the moat interior. Below this, Spits 6 and 7 consisted of a uniformly compact yellow layer comprising an even mix of sand and clay with more stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

2.6 TEST PIT 6 (MOAT)

Test Pit 6 was excavated in the southern corner of the enclosure and had an observable stratigraphy of five spits to a maximum depth of 0.59 m, though the nature of the underlying deposits meant that the deeper spits were only excavated as a sondage in part of the test pit. Spit 1 consisted of a very compact dark brown layer of silty clay with small stone inclusions, beneath which Spits 2 and 3 were also silty clay but more reddish-brown in colour. Spits 4 and 5 consisted of a very hard and compacted silty clay layer, redder in colour and with noticeably fewer stones. This potentially represents the same internal banking as that identified in the lower spits of Test Pit 5. No finds were recovered from this test pit.



Figure 9 Test Pit 4



Figure 10 Test Pit 5



Figure 11 Test Pit 6

2.7 TEST PIT 7 (MOAT)

Test Pit 7 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4 m in a total of four spits. Spit 1 consisted of a dark brown clayey layer with medium compaction, whereas the soil became more compact in Spit 2 but remained brown in colour with some mottled red. Spits 2 and 4 consisted of a pinkish-brown clayey layer which was highly compacted and in parts, mottled with yellow and grey. Finds included a number of bone fragments in Spit 1, some metal and pottery sherds, most notably a handle fragment from a medieval Brandsby-type ware jug, from Spit 2 which is roughly contemporary in date to the Tees Valley B wares prevalent in the other test pits.

2.8 TEST PIT 8 (MILL)

Test Pit 8 was one of two within the grounds of the post-medieval mill and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8 m in a total of eight spits. The deposits encountered consisted of a roughly uniform mixture of compact silt and clay, reddish-brown in colour, gradually becoming firmer and redder with stone inclusions towards the deeper spits. By Spit 8, however, the compaction became slightly less firm and more friable without stones. No finds were recovered from this test pit. This is most likely the result of the alluviation, or deposition of sediment, near Cod Beck.

2.9 TEST PIT 9 (MILL)

Test Pit 9 was excavated in seven spits to a maximum depth of 0.71 m. Spit 1 consisted of a very loose sandy brown topsoil which developed into a sandy topsoil; deposit, slightly yellower in colour, in Spits 2-4. Spit 5 consisted of a yellow and orange sandy clay layer with slightly firmer compaction. This then developed into a uniformly compact medium brown/grey clayey layer with some areas of loose sand in Spits 6 and 7. The most prevalent find type was CBM (broken brick), although some lithics and medieval pottery sherds were found in the upper spits, with glass and animal bone recovered from the lower spits.

2.10 TEST PIT 10 (MOAT)

Test Pit 10 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.24 m in only two spits. Spit 1 consisted of a dark brown soil, comprising elements of a rotted tree and peat deposits, which was very friable. Spit 2 consisted of an initial layer of desiccated clay soil beneath which a well-compacted deposit, more orange in colour, was identified. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

2.11 TEST PIT 11 (MOAT)

Test Pit 11 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2 m in two spits. Both spits were uniform in composition, colour, and compaction consisting of a mid-brown friable mixture of clay, silt, and sand before reaching a solid clay surface. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

2.12 TEST PIT 12 (MOAT)

Test Pit 12 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3 m in three spits. Spit 1 consisted of a friable dark brown topsoil. Spits 2 and 3 consisted of a uniformly dark brown layer of silty clay with medium compaction. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

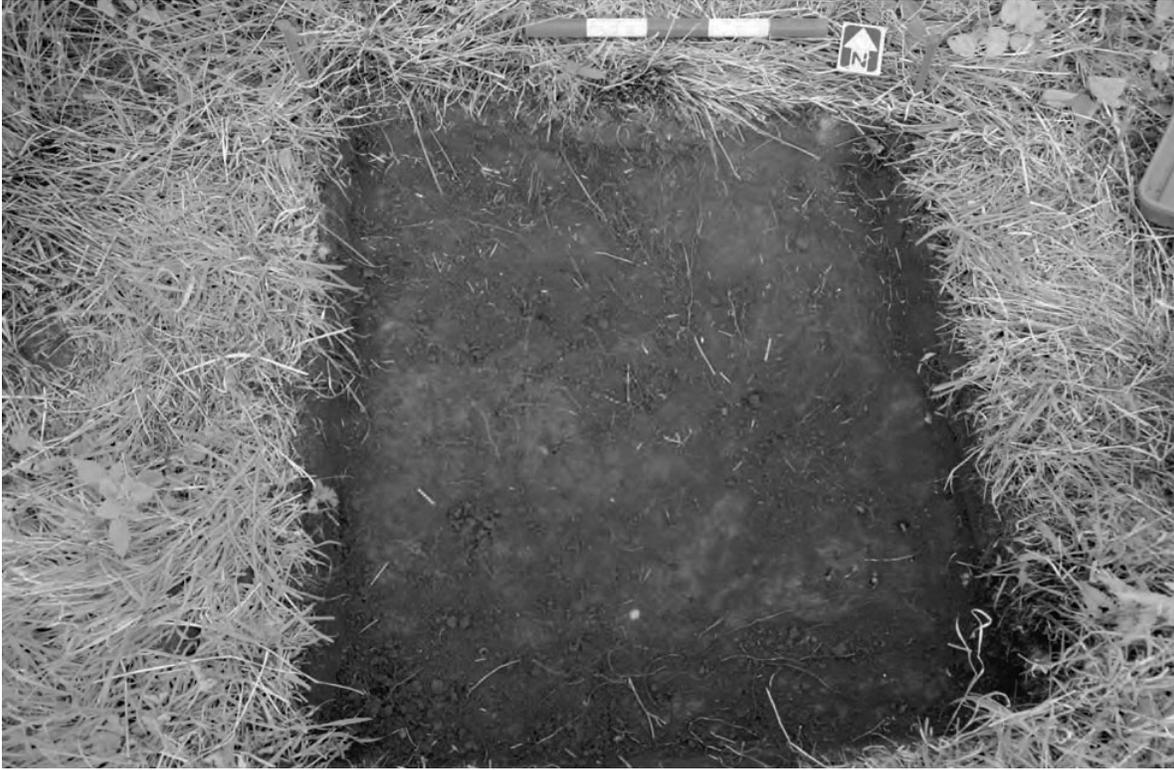


Figure 12 Test Pit 7



Figure 13 Test Pit 8



Figure 14 Test Pit 10



Figure 15 Test Pit 11

2.13 TRENCH 1 (VILLAGE)

Trench 1 was opened to encompass a section of lawn with a noticeable banked earthwork immediately adjacent to the main road in the village. The natural topography of the site here comprised a slightly raised lawn to the east and an earth bank to the west.

The turf and topsoil deposit (001) comprised a broadly homogenous thin, silty loamy soil, dark grey in colour with a maximum depth of 0.12 m. Beneath the turf and topsoil, a banked deposit of very compact, fine silt, light brown in colour, was uncovered at the western end of the trench (002). At the eastern side of this layer, large cobbles and rounded pebbles which derived from the road surface beneath (005) were noted. The eroded upper surface of the bank material (012) sat beneath the topsoil (001), and the lower portion of the bank sat over a layer of accumulated soil (004). This partially sealed soil comprised a clayish silt, orange/brown in colour, which overlay the road surface (005), flanking road gully (006) and later intrusion into the road (011). At the western side of the earthen bank (adjacent to the line of the later road) was a shallow ditch cut into the western face of the bank (010), which was itself filled by natural silt (009) covered by topsoil (001). The overall sequence amply demonstrated that the bank was a later addition associated with the line of the modern road and partially overlying the 'original', or at least earlier, road.

The principle feature identified within Trench 1 was the cobbled road surface (005) comprising three layers of larger cobbles on top of a surface with smaller cobbles and pebbles underneath, suggesting a long period of use, re-use and repair. It is situated immediately adjacent to a gully cutting at its eastern side (006) and a linear intrusion cutting through it at the western side (011). At the eastern end of the trench, flanking the cobbled road surface but outside the 'drainage' gully, a platform of large cobbles was noted (003). This has been interpreted as a designed and planned platform for a road-fronting house or other structure, though no evidence of structural postholes or similar was found.

Both the road surface (005) and the platform (003) are situated directly underneath the layer of accumulated soil (004) and over a pebbly yellow clay foundation deposit (007). Beneath this foundation deposit (007) lay a fine mottled natural clay substrate, with occasional inclusions of small rounded stones (008).

There was a considerable and varied finds assemblage recovered, almost entirely from the topsoil deposit and therefore representing material which has been re-worked within agricultural and later garden soils over at least several centuries. Notable finds or categories of finds recovered included: coarse stone artefacts, including a triangular fragment potentially from a late medieval rotary stone; metal artefacts, including nails, bolts, as well as slag and clinker waste; glass artefacts, comprising sherds typical of domestic wares; and clay tobacco pipe fragments of a broadly early (c. 17th-century) date. The stone and metal artefacts in particular are likely to be the remnants of cottage industry within the settlement, including grain milling, metalwork grinding, and small-scale smelting and smithing of day-to-day metal artefacts. The only coin artefact of the entire excavation was also recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1, comprising a George II farthing dating to the 1740s or 1750s. An assemblage of faunal remains primarily comprising domesticated taxa, including sheep/goat, pig, and cattle, as well as a tooth likely belonging to a dog, was also recovered from the trench, including a nearly complete sheep cranium found in the topsoil (001) above the later bank at the western end of the trench.





Figure 16 Trench 1, note the house platform (003) and cobbled road surface (005) with the gully (006) in between

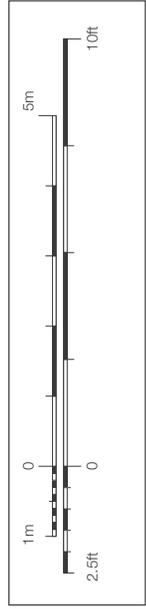
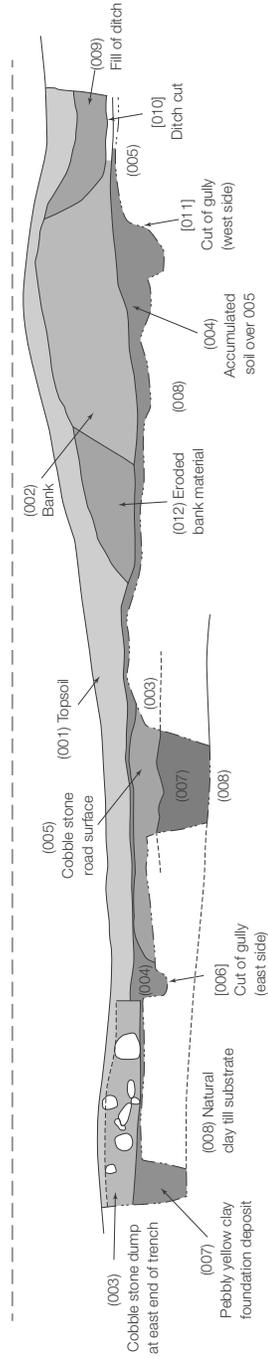
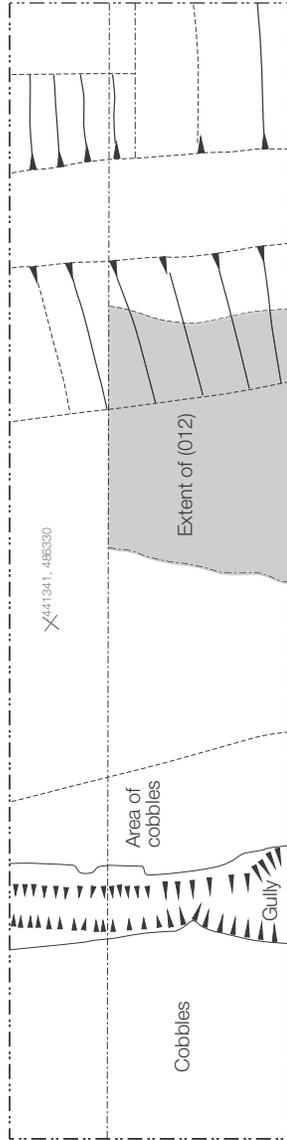


Figure 17 Close-up of gully between road (right) and house platform (left)



Figure 18 Earthwork bank (002)

X/411345, 486332



Project
 Roads to the Past: The Archaeology of Thornton le Street
 Archaeological Community Excavation
 Drawing
 Figure 19
 Plan and section of Trench 1



3. SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT: CERAMIC ARTEFACTS

Chris Cumberpatch

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The pottery assemblage was examined between the 22nd January and 6th February 2018. Material from one trench (Trench 1) and eight test pits was recorded, and the data are presented in Appendix 3. In addition to spit numbers (test pits) and context numbers (Trench 1), each item had been allocated a find number (SFN). The pottery was recorded by trench or test pit (Tables 4-12), while ceramic building material (CBM), fragments of stone and other items are listed in Tables 13-14.

3.2 POTTERY

The pottery assemblage fell into two distinct parts. The material from Trench 1 was predominantly of recent date (c. 1840 – c. 1950) with just four sherds of medieval pottery, one sherd of post-medieval (c. 1450 – c. 1720) pottery and four sherds of early modern (c. 1720 – c. 1840) pottery. In contrast, the pottery from the test pits was of almost exclusively medieval date, a very unusual situation, quite different from that found in comparable village surveys and test-pitting programmes where early modern and recent material is normally common.

The medieval pottery was classified using the most recent discussion of the pottery of the area (Didsbury 2010) and other relevant publications (Mainman and Jenner 2013; Wrathmell 1987; 1990). The majority of the pottery was of Tees Valley ware type, with both type A and type B well represented alongside smaller quantities of the buff-slipped variant of type B, type B/C (formerly type C). The distinction between Tees Valley ware A and the earlier Buff Gritty wares (Didsbury 2010, 223) can be difficult to define, particularly as the Buff Gritty wares seem to continue into the 13th century, alongside the buff-coloured, but slightly finer, Tees Valley ware A. For present purposes (and pending further work on the Tees Valley ware industry; Cumberpatch 2016), only sherds with a significant proportion of quartz grains measuring over 1 mm along the long axis were classified as of Buff Gritty ware type with the finer sherds classified as Tees Valley ware A. The distinction between the two types (chronological, typological and in terms of the fabrics) requires further work before the relationships can be clarified. The majority of the Tees Valley ware A vessels were thin-walled and hard-fired. They typically contained common to abundant quantities of fine quartz grains, sometimes with smaller quantities of red and/or white rock fragments, as described in the data tables. Some bore patches or small spots of clear to pale green glaze, often splashed. The date range of splashed glaze varies across the country, and while it seems to predate the mid/late 13th century in Yorkshire, it may continue slightly later in the north-east.

The Tees Valley B wares are distinguished by their orange to red colour, apparently the result of the use of clays with a higher iron content than those used for the A wares and other local and regional buff-coloured wares. The use of buff-coloured slip, the defining feature of the Tees Valley B/C ware, has been suggested to be a technique which may have its origin in northern France (*Vince pers comm*) although its use to conceal the red colour of local pottery would seem to imply that buff-coloured vessels were popular, locally, in their own right and more popular than pale red to orange wares. This is consistent with a clear regional preference for vessels of this colour across Yorkshire and the north-east. It has been suggested (Cumberpatch 1997) that colour was an important factor in the decisions made by potters in response to consumer preferences and this may be one explanation for the use of slip when unsuitable (iron-rich) clays were encountered.

Very little pottery of other types were identified in the assemblages. The handle of a Brandsby type ware jug (Mainman and Jenner 2013, 1230) was identified in Test Pit 7, but other regional types were notable by their absence. A number of sherds were assigned generic or descriptive names (Sandy ware, Oxidised Sandy ware, Brown Sandy ware, Reduced Sandy ware, Gritty ware). These wares were probably of local or regional manufacture but could not be matched with any specific named ware type. They have been dated on the basis of their individual characteristics.

Later medieval wares (late 13th to mid-15th century) were present in small quantities across the test pits. The commonest were sherds in Late Reduced ware (also known as Reduced Greenware), a type of pottery found across north Yorkshire and the north-east and which was probably made at a number of potteries although to date few have been excavated and even fewer published. The widely dispersed nature of its manufacture and uncertainties around the chronology make the significance of variation in the fabrics difficult to assess and, while the type



is easy to recognise at the general level, it is characterised by a considerable degree of minor variation. A small number of sherds were classified as Late Medieval Sandy ware and should be regarded as outlying variants of the larger Late Reduced ware category.

Post-medieval pottery (c. 1450 – c. 1720) was scarce. A small, heavily abraded sherd of Tin Glazed Earthenware was identified in Test Pit 1 and a small sherd of 17th century Blackware was present in Test Pit 2. Even Trench 1, which produced a much later assemblage of pottery than did the test pits (discussed below), contained just one sherd of Blackware. Earlier post-medieval wares, notably Cistercian ware, were entirely absent, an unusual situation which cannot be explained on the basis of the pottery data alone.

Early modern pottery (c. 1720 – c. 1840) was also scarce with a small number of sherds of Mottled ware and Late Blackware from Trench 1 and a small sherd of Blackware from Test Pit 2. These wares are both classified as vernacular tablewares; manufactured locally using readily available resources in small country potteries (Cumberpatch 2014). Such wares are generally accompanied by factory-made formal tablewares (White Salt Glazed Stoneware, Creamware and Pearlware) but in this case such wares were notable by their absence.

Pottery of recent date (c. 1840 – c. 1950) dominated the assemblage from Trench 1 but was unusually scarce in the test pits, being limited to one sherd of Slip Banded Cane Coloured ware from Test Pit 4 (Spit 2, SFN584). The range of wares from Trench 1 was unusual in one respect; the virtual absence of the normal range of utilitarian wares (Brown Glazed Coarseware and Yellow Glazed Coarseware; the latter represented by just one sherd; SFN37) which are usually a major feature of 18th to early 20th century assemblages. In contrast retail wares, kitchen and tablewares were all well represented in the assemblage.

Retail wares included jars, bottles and flagons. Such wares were represented in Trench 1 by jars in refined earthenware (SFN 4 and 27) and stoneware (SFN 35) fabrics while the bottles were typically stoneware (SFN 17&22, 32). A number of body sherds could not be assigned to specific forms (SFN 29 and 30). None of the jars bore printed labels but the forms were typical of jam and marmalade jars and would probably have carried paper labels.

Kitchenwares consisted principally of Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware and other stonewares most probably from stewpots and other cooking vessels. Such vessels were manufactured in large quantities in the 19th century in response to the rapid spread of the coal-fired cooking range which required robust, heat-resistant cooking vessels for use in the oven.

The tablewares included a range of Bone China, Whiteware (plain and transfer printed) and Colour Glazed wares. The number of sherds of Colour Glazed ware probably exaggerates the number of vessel represented as it seems likely that most of the sherds came from a single vessel (SFN 38 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, 241, 260).

Transfer printed Whitewares included fragments of a tureen lid (SFN 40, 48, 50 and possibly 47) decorated with a Willow border. Willow was also the pattern on a plate (SFN 714). Plain Whitewares included sherds from plates, cups and unidentified hollow wares. Sherds of Bone China included plate fragments and an unidentified hollow ware vessel.

Two sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware (SFN 13 and 528) were probably from flowerpots.

3.3 OTHER FINDS

Tables 13 and 14 list other types of material included with the pottery. In the case of Trench 1 (Table 14) these included two pieces of roof tile and a fragment of brick with one piece of salt glazed sewer pipe. The latter came into use from 1850 although the laying of mains sewers in some villages was not completed until the early/mid 1960s. Local information regarding the installation of mains sewerage is likely to be the most accurate way to date this fragment.

The test pits contained a small quantity of probable brick fragments together with a single sherd of medieval floor tile (Test Pit 12, Spit 2, SFN 526).



3.4 DISCUSSION

3.4.1 TRENCH 1

As noted above, the assemblage from Trench 1 was predominantly of 19th to early 20th century date with a very small residual component of medieval and later pottery (Table 4). The majority of the sherds, including most of the early material, were recovered from context 1, the topsoil. The exceptions were sherds of Whiteware from the Gully and an unstratified context and a small (2 gram) sherd of Buff Gritty ware from context 4 (SFN 590). While the latter sherd may date the layer overlying the cobbled road surface, its small size (2 grams) and the possibility of movement through bioturbation should not be overlooked.

3.4.2 TEST PIT 1 VILLAGE

Test Pit 1 produced the largest assemblage of pottery from any of the test pits with material recovered from Spits 2 to 6 inclusive (Table 5). With the exception of a very small, heavily abraded sherd of Tin Glazed Earthenware (SFN 572) from Spit 2, the assemblage was of medieval date and consisted predominantly of Tees Valley A and B wares with individual sherds of Buff Gritty ware, Gritty ware, Late Medieval Sandy ware, Late Reduced ware and other types. The quantities of pottery varied between spits but the overall composition of the individual groups was broadly similar and no chronological distinction between the spits could be identified. The majority of sherds were unidentifiable to vessel form although jugs and jars or cooking pots (CP) were represented by rim sherds while some of the bases bore signs of sooting or burning, suggesting that they were from cooking pots.

3.4.3 TEST PIT 2 VILLAGE

As in Test Pit 1, pottery was absent from Spit 1 but was recovered from Spits 2 to 5. The assemblage was approximately half the size of that from Test Pit 1 (Table 6) but was similar in composition with Tees Valley wares A, B and B/C all well represented although with a slightly higher proportion of later medieval wares. Later material was limited to a single sherd of 17th century Blackware (SFN 322). Identifiable vessels were even rarer than in Test Pit 1 with just one sherd (SFN 320) from the neck of a Tees Valley A ware jug.

Test Pit 2 was also notable for the concentration of ceramic building material in Spits 2 and 3, something that was not replicated elsewhere (Table 13). This material remains undated.

3.4.4 TEST PIT 3 VILLAGE

Test Pit 3 produced just two sherds of pottery, both of medieval date, one of which was heavily abraded (Table 7). Although no definite conclusions can be drawn from such a small assemblage, it is consistent with the evidence from other the test pits in indicating an unusual absence of later material and, by extension, also of later activity.

3.4.5 TEST PIT 4 VILLAGE

Spits 2, 3 and 4 in Test Pit 4 (Pine View) produced a small assemblage of pottery which, unusually, included a sherd of 19th century date (SFN 584). The data are summarised in Table 8. The remainder of the assemblage consisted of body sherds in Tees Valley wares A and B with one sherd of Reduced Sandy ware from Spit 4. None of the sherds were identifiable to vessel types.

3.4.6 TEST PIT 5 MOAT

Test Pit 5 produced just two sherds of pottery, both from Spit 4 (Table 9). Both were body sherds in Tees Valley B ware. Neither were identifiable to specific vessel forms.

3.4.7 TEST PIT 7 MOAT

Test Pit 7 produced three sherds of pottery from Spits 1 and 2 (Table 10). The group was unusual in that Tees Valley wares were absent and the two sherds from Spit 1 could not be identified to specific types. One of the sherds showed an unusual pattern of abrasion, perhaps indicating that it had been initially deposited in a water course. The other was decorated with a buff slip coating on the outer surface, suggesting that the practice of using slip was not confined to the Tees Valley ware potters. The Brandsby-type ware sherd from Spit 2 (SFN 137) was the only sherd of this type identified in the assemblage and was broadly contemporary in date with the Tees Valley B wares found widely in the other test pits.



3.4.8 TEST PIT 9 MILL

Only one sherd of pottery was recovered from Test Pit 9 (Table 11). This was small body sherd in Tees Valley ware B/C from Spit 2.

3.4.9 TEST PIT 12 MOAT

Test Pit 12 contained four small sherds of pottery (Table 12), one of them perhaps the rim of a jug. All types of Tees Valley ware were represented and all of the sherds were small (2 grams or less) and at least one was heavily abraded. The test pit also produced a piece of a glazed floor tile of medieval date, the only such fragment from any of the pits (Table 13).

3.5 CONCLUSIONS

The most distinctive feature of the test pits was the virtual absence of post-medieval and later material from all and the contrast represented by the assemblage from Trench 1 which consisted almost entirely of such wares. This has implications for the understanding to the development of the village and the activities in the vicinity of the test pits which were, presumably, of a nature which did not include the deposition of pottery. This unusual situation cannot be explained by the pottery evidence alone and requires further research in order to resolve it.

The virtual absence of significant regional types, notably Brandsby-type ware and Staxton/Potter-Brompton type wares is notable and presumably relates to the marketing areas of the various potteries and perhaps the local manufacture of Tees Valley type wares. As the site lies at the southern end of the distribution of the type (Didsbury 2010, Figure 8.10), this may have implications for our understanding of its production and distribution and in this regard Didsbury's comment on his distribution map is of considerable interest:

'... the distribution appears superficially odd with the three major assemblages (Hartlepool, Yarm and the Hospital of St Giles, Brompton Bridge) all occurring towards the extreme edges of the known marketing area'. (2010, 227)

Despite the focus on production and the identification of potteries which has dominated medieval pottery studies over the last thirty years or more, the question of the circulation and marketing of pottery has not been addressed to the same degree. This is, in part perhaps because the mapping of distribution zones is something that requires synthesis and the collation of data from sites across a geographical area, something that is normally impossible in the context of developer-funded sites as it falls into the category of 'research' rather than reporting.

4. SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT: OTHER SMALL FINDS

Jim Brightman and Amy Talbot

All individual artefacts were cleaned (depending on condition and suitability to various cleaning methods), bagged and assigned individual small find numbers. The bags were marked with site code, small find number, context number, trench number and general artefact type. Each artefact was examined on a clean working surface in natural light by both eye and using a x10 and x20 magnification eye lens. Metrical data relevant to the artefact type in question were captured using digital calipers with plastic tines, accurate to 1/10 mm. Weight was measured with a digital balance accurate to 0.1g. Each artefact was logged into a spreadsheet as it was examined.

Where contexts are referred to in terms of provenance for artefacts, the context number is given in bold type. When specific artefacts are referred to, the relevant small find number is given in brackets and preceded by the context number. Where finds from several contexts are referred to, a semicolon separates each context.

4.1 COARSE STONE ARTEFACTS

Two large coarse stones were recovered and assessed. The first (**001**, 594) is a triangular fragment, potentially from a late medieval rotary stone, and comprising a large circular stone with a circular hole carved through the middle, most likely used for grain milling or potentially metalwork grinding. The artefact is a rough stone with no apparent identification marks as to specific use; it is broken across the centre hole and was probably used for small-scale cottage industry. As there are no breakage marks noted or burning evidence, it is assumed that this piece was discarded after use.

A very thin stone (631), possibly representing part of a set of grinding stones or a stones surface of some kind, was recovered from Test Pit 4, Spit 4. It is a very flat, smooth stone with a narrow thickness of 15.9 mm, in comparison to the possible rotary quern fragment described above, which has a thickness of 47 mm. If it is part of a very thin disc quern, then these were most often used for corn milling; however, due to lack of identification marks on the artefact, it is hard to precisely ascribe the former use. There is some evidence of burning on the interior edge, suggesting it could have broken and discarded after being burnt. There are two small circular indents measuring 8.3 mm diameter in one surface, which may have been decoration or a product of its original use.

4.2 METAL ARTEFACTS

A total of 22 pieces of ferrous metalwork were recovered and assessed. Of these, 18 were fragments of nails, bolts or indeterminate thick wire, all heavily corroded and most with significant accretions. Such pieces are typical of this kind of artefact up to the widespread adoption of mass-produced smaller fixings in the 20th century. Nine of the nails/bolts were recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1, and two were from the make-up of the bank (**002**) overlying the road surface at the west end of the trench. The remaining nails and bolts were relatively well distributed across the test pits. The remaining four pieces of ferrous metalwork comprised a possible small knife blade (261), some kind of staple (57) and a potential buckle (505), possibly related to agricultural tack, all from the topsoil (**001**) in Trench 1. The final piece was a small horseshoe fragment recovered from the lower levels (Spit 7) of Test Pit 9 near the mill.

Seven non-ferrous metal artefacts were recovered and assessed. Three pieces were lead, including a possible nail (331) from the upper levels of Test Pit 2, a lead-alloy valve cap (58) of some kind and probable modern date from the topsoil in Trench 1 (**001**), and an amorphous piece of twisted and folded lead sheet (004, 632). A small brass or copper button was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1, along with two small brass gears, presumably from a clock or other clockwork mechanism. Unfortunately, no dating was possible for these interesting little fragments. The final non-ferrous artefact is the only coin artefact recovered during the excavations: a George II farthing probably dating to the 1740s or 1750s (173), also recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1 (**001**).

In terms of metalworking or other possible industrial processes, a total of nine pieces of mixed slag and clinker waste was recovered and assessed. Of these, five were fragments of ferrous slag waste probable deriving from cottage industries based with the settlement, and three were unidentifiable fragments of clinker comprising potential coke and charcoal. The notable find from this collection is a medium-sized hearth base or accretion (513) with a diameter of 100.8 mm, recovered from the topsoil (**001**) of Trench 1. This is believed to be a medieval



hearth bottom accretion, smelted using a bloomery method, identified due to elements of 'bloom' noted on the base and the uneven shape in the interior of the hearth. There are no further identifiable marks or evidence of smithing on the artefact due to the crude shape, and the ferrous waste recovered from the surrounding test pits show no indication of what could have been produced. The mixed slag and clinker waste material was found in Test Pits, 1, 2, 3 and 9 and is likely to have been the result of small-scale smelting and smithing within the settlement to create day-to-day metal artefacts.

4.3 GLASS ARTEFACTS

A total of 42 pieces of glass was recovered and assessed, with all but five recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1 (001). The assemblage almost entirely comprised body sherds from jars, bottles and indeterminate vessels in a colour range (dark olive to colourless) typical of domestic wares. From the larger pieces within the assemblage, it was possible to identify a minimum of nine discrete vessels represented, all recovered from within the topsoil of Trench 1 (001). Where mould lines and manufacturing techniques were identifiable, the vast majority of the pieces appear to be machine-moulded or injected and therefore date to the 20th century. Moulded script was present on one of the vessels: a composite comprising four separate sherds all found within the topsoil of Trench 1. The vessel appears to be a mineral water bottle bottled by Redfearn Bros of Barnsley (and later York) and therefore dating it to between 1862 and 1967 (Grace's Guide 2013). Much of the company logo and stamp is missing, unfortunately, but fragments can be made out: '...GH & Co' representing part of the company name; '...AL...ER' on separate lines in the centre suggesting the words 'Mineral Water'; and finally, '...LLERTON' around the bottom of the stamp, suggesting the home base of the company may be Northallerton. A search of available sources suggests the bottle is related to Bell Goldsborough & Co. Ltd of the Friarage Mineral Water Works, Northallerton, though no complete reference examples or further details could be found. Given the form of the vessel, it is probably a codd bottle or similar dating to the late 19th century.

4.4 CLAY PIPE

A total of nine pieces of clay tobacco pipes was recovered and assessed, comprising one bowl fragment and eight stem pieces. Six of the pieces came from Trench 1, with five recovered from the topsoil (001) and one from the makeup of the later bank (002) overlying the road surface. One piece came from the upper levels of Test Pit 2 to the rear of The Pines, and two pieces were recovered from the upper levels of Test Pit 8 near the mill. It seems likely that all fragments of clay pipe recovered relate to chance loss or discard in areas close to settlement.

The single bowl fragment comprised approximately 75% of a narrow bowl with a bottered rim and heel in two separate pieces (001, 415). The thickness of the walls, angle of the bowl relative to the stem and rim treatment suggest a late 17th-century date (see Higgins 2017). The stem pieces ranged from 19.6 to 45.5 mm in surviving length and had bore diameters ranging from 2.6 to 3.5 mm (7/64"-9/64"). The majority of the pieces were made from fine ball clay, with little indication of use of any local clay source.

Overall, although the assemblage is small, the character of the bowl fragment and the generally wide bore diameter of the stem fragments indicates an earlier general date, encompassing the late 16th to 18th rather than the 19th or early 20th centuries. Given the size of the assemblage, however, interpretations must be considered tentative.

4.5 SHOT AND AMMUNITION

Three pieces of ammunition were recovered and assessed. The only single-piece shot found was a small possible stone shot, made in a non-local dark igneous material and ground to a close approximation of spherical (159). It was recovered from Spit 5 of Test Pit 1, excavated within the rear allotment of one of the medieval earthwork 'properties'. If this piece is indeed 'made' shot, then it tells us little unfortunately, as stone shot has a currency of use from the advent of black powder weapons right through to the 19th century and its use for hunting with a stone bow (Paterson 1990).

Two brass heads from a standard centrefire shotgun cartridges (12-bore and 16-bore) were recovered from Spit 3 in Test Pit 12 at the moated site at Moat Farm. Both pieces date to after the adoption of centrefire ammunition c. 1870 (Centrefire Cartridge 2010), with head stamps providing a little more detail. The first is marked as 'ELEY LONDON NO. 12' with the logo of Eley Brothers also present, which dates the piece to prior to the renaming of the company in 1920 (Grace's Guide 2017). The second piece is much more corroded but bears fragments of the Eley Kynoch name and the ICI logo, dating it to between 1928 (*ibid.*) and 1960, when paper cartridge casings were replaced by plastic.

5. SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT: FAUNAL REMAINS

Tiffany Snowden

5.1 INTRODUCTION

A large assemblage of faunal remains was recovered and subject to detailed categorisation and assessment. The assemblage primarily comprised fragments dating from the medieval to post-medieval period, most likely representing domestic refuse.

5.2 DISTRIBUTION

The material derived from:

- Trench 1: topsoil (001) containing 11 finds; make up of the bank at the western end of the trench (002) containing 28 finds; accumulated soil over 005 (004) containing 20 finds; cobble stone road surface (005) containing seven finds.
- Test Pit 1 containing 4 finds
- Test Pit 2 containing one find
- Test Pit 3 containing two finds
- Test Pit 4 containing four finds
- Test Pit 5 containing one find
- Test Pit 7 containing 10 finds
- Test Pit 8 containing eight finds

There were also a number of small unidentifiable fragments which, for the purposes of this report, have not been examined further comprising: 49 fragments from Trench 1; five fragments from Test Pit 1; six fragments from Test Pit 4; three fragments from Test Pit 7; and three fragments from Test Pit 8.

5.3 METHOD

Fragments were cleaned (depending on condition and suitability to various cleaning methods), bagged, and assigned individual small finds numbers. The bags were marked with the site code, small find number, context number, trench number and artefact type. Each fragment was examined on a clean working surface. Where possible, given the variable condition of preservation and size of the individual fragments within the assemblage, the animal bone was assigned to a species and element with any taphonomic information including butchery, gnawing marks or burning described. For the purposes of this assessment, unidentifiable fragments which have been counted were assigned to the categories of small-mammal size (rodent/rabbit/etc), medium-mammal size (sheep/goat/pig) or large mammal-size (cattle/horse). The identifiable fragments of the species represented are detailed in Table 1 and Table 2 below. More detailed tabulated assemblage information can be found in Appendix 4.

5.4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.4.1 TRENCH 1

Species Representation

The assemblage primarily comprised domesticated taxa. Where identifiable, the vast majority (50%) of the pieces are most likely to be from medium-sized mammals, probably sheep/goat (*ovis/capra*), followed by five pieces (31.25%) which are most likely to be pig (*sus*). Three of the pieces (18.75%) can be classed as being from large mammals, most likely cattle (*bos*). In addition, one of the fragments recovered from Trench 1 has been identified as probably being from a dog (*canis*). A further number of bone and tooth fragments were recovered, however the species was considered to be indeterminate and they have been assigned to categories of small, medium, or large-sized mammals below.



Element Representation

Of the fragments where an identification of skeletal element could be at least tentatively made, the majority were partial long bones, principally from sheep/goat (*ovis/capra*), with a smaller number attributed to both pig (*sus*) and cattle (*bos*). A number of other elements were recovered, including a nearly complete sheep cranium, two mandible fragments, four fragments from the probable scapula of most likely medium-sized mammals, and two possible clavicles. Finally, the assemblage also contained a total of ten teeth, two from sheep/goat, three from cattle, one from pig, and most interestingly, one belonging to a dog (*canis*). The remaining three tooth fragments were indeterminable due to their variable size and preservation condition but are all considered to be from a medium-sized mammal.

Butchery, Gnawing, and Burning

No finds of bones exhibiting clear signs of butchery were recovered. One piece from the assemblage, recovered from the layer of accumulated soil over the cobble stone road surface (004), displayed clear signs of burning. Probable gnawing marks were also found on a single piece from the assemblage, recovered from the make up of the bank at the western end of the trench (002), which suggests a different type of deposition in this part of the trench.

Species/Context	001	002	004	005
Cattle			(3)	
Sheep/Goat	(3)	(1)	(3)	(1)
Pig		(5)		
Dog		(1)		
Small-mammal size				
Medium-mammal size	9	21	13	6
Large-mammal size				

Table 1 Number of Identified Skeletal Parks (NISP) by species and context (Trench 1)

5.4.2 TEST PITS

Test Pit 1

The assemblage in Test Pit 1 primarily comprised four pieces of domesticated taxa. Where identifiable, a single piece was identified as a tooth, most likely belonging to a pig (*sus*). A further three bone fragments were recovered, however the species was considered to be indeterminate and have all been assigned to the category of medium-sized mammal.

Test Pit 2

A single piece was recovered from Test Pit 2, comprising an indeterminate bone fragment considered to be from a medium-sized mammal.

Test Pit 3

Two pieces were recovered from Test Pit 3, both of which were fragments from an indeterminate long bone, one from a medium-sized mammal and the other of unidentified taxa.

Test Pit 4

The assemblage recovered from Test Pit 4 comprised six pieces of domesticated taxa. Where identifiable, two of the pieces, both of which are indeterminate teeth, are most likely to be from medium-sized mammals, probably sheep/goat (*ovis/capra*). Two of the pieces were identified as fragments from an indeterminate long bone, one belonging to a small-sized mammal and the other to a medium-sized mammal. Two possible fragments of a scapula were also recovered, one likely belonging to a small-sized mammal and the other of unidentified taxa.

Test Pit 5

A single piece was recovered from Test Pit 5, comprising an indeterminate bone considered to be from a medium-sized mammal, most likely sheep/goat.

Test Pit 7

Test Pit 7 yielded the largest assemblage of all the test pits, comprising a total of 12 pieces of primarily domesticated taxa. Where identifiable, two of the pieces are most likely to be from medium-sized mammals, probably pig (*sus*). The remaining 10 pieces can be classed as being from medium-sized mammals, most likely sheep/goat. Of those limited fragments where an identification of skeletal element could be at least tentatively made, the majority were identified as being from partial flat bones and long bones, including a probable sheep radius. The two bone fragments probably belonging to a pig were classed as a fragment from a probable mandible and a partial ventral vertebra.

Test Pit 8

The assemblage in Test Pit 8 comprised eight pieces, primarily fragments of indeterminate long bone belonging to a medium-sized mammal, with only one assigned to a small-sized mammal. A further two fragments from a probable skull and an indeterminate fragment of a medium-sized mammal were also recovered.

Species/Context	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5	TP7	TP8
Cattle							
Sheep/Goat				(2)			
Pig	(1)					(2)	
Small-mammal size				2			1
Medium-mammal size	3	1	1	1	1	10	7
Large-mammal size							
Unidentified			1	1			

Table 2 Number of Identified Skeletal Parts (NISP) by species and context (Test Pits)

5.4.3 CONCLUSIONS

The assemblage comprised domesticated taxa. The overall preservation of the remains was fair to poor hindering both more specific taxonomic identification and the determinability of taphonomic information. Despite these limitations, the remains of sheep, cattle, pig, and possibly dog were identified. The discernible species and historic land use of the site as primarily agricultural in the medieval and post-medieval periods suggest that the assemblage represents domestic refuse, most likely dating to the late-medieval/ early post-medieval period. The presence of burning in the form of charring, particularly those fragments found in Test Pit 5 and the cobbled stone road surface in Trench 1 (005) further supports this and identifies the variation in deposition of the fragments, as there was no evidence for burning on remains from elsewhere in the trench or in the other test pits. Furthermore, a small number of fragments recovered from Test Pit 3, Test Pit 8, and the make-up of the bank at the western end of Trench 1 (002) showed evidence of gnawing marks and some fragmentation of the bone due to root disturbance.



6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 VILLAGE

The test pits and trench within the village, as expected, yielded considerable archaeological evidence relating to both the medieval and post-medieval periods. In terms of artefactual evidence, the findings from the test pits have added considerably to our understanding of the distribution of pieces from different periods within the village. The overwhelming majority of medieval ceramic sherds was recovered from Test Pit 1 to the rear of The Pines, a location which appears to be towards the rear of the medieval plots stretching back from the line of the road. Small to medium assemblages were also, however, excavated from Test Pit 2 (also in the rear garden of The Pines, though in this case within the line of a possible trackway rather than in a property enclosure), and Test Pit 4 (on the opposite side of the main road to The Pines. In notable contrast to the test pit assemblages (and as highlighted within the ceramics assessment above), the pottery recovered from Trench 1 was overwhelmingly post-medieval and later.

The main features excavated as part of the project were within Trench 1 and comprise an earlier line of the main road through Thornton le Street, an adjacent stone-cobble platform and a later bank partially overlying the earlier road. The earliest anthropogenic deposit observed was a spread of clay forming a base to both the road and platform, suggesting a level of contemporaneity between the two structures. The cobbled platform at the eastern end of the trench was irregular in form, though with a relatively well-defined front edge adjacent to the (presumed) drainage gully. It is supposed that the platform was for some form of domestic or agricultural building, though the extent within the trench was limited, and no structural postholes or similar features were observed.

Perhaps the most significant interpretive output of the work in Trench 1 was identifying a previously unknown phase of roadway through the village. The initial supposition and reason for locating the trench where it was, was that the earthwork bank represented a flanking bank as part of an earlier phase of a road on the same line as the modern route through the village. This was shown to be the case, but it actually represented the latter phases of a more complex sequence. The earlier road line identified in the centre of the trench comprised a series of packed cobble and gravel layers, suggesting a considerable level of construction, use, re-use and repair. A direct line can be traced from the earthwork causeway in the adjacent Mill Field to the remains in Trench 1, which is the precise point at which this road turns slightly to head south and meet the line of the modern road. Given the association with the earthwork remains of the medieval village core to the north, it can be safely assumed that the road in Trench 1 is at least medieval in date; this would also partially account for a relatively lower percentage of medieval ceramics recovered, as the land would never have been medieval agricultural land, subject to the spreading of midden material. The road will have continued in use through into the post-medieval period, and its diversion most likely occurred at the time when the road was moved to turn at right-angles heading south-west: an arrangement still current at the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping in the mid-19th century.

Probably contemporary with the rearrangement of the road lines, a flanking earth bank was constructed, partially overlying the earlier road and thrown up from both sides using stones from the road surface. This earthen bank, surviving in the western end of Trench 1, fell out of use and was truncated when the roads were again rearranged in the early 20th century.

The only test pit to reveal *in situ* remains was Test Pit 3, which included a sequence of modern made-ground and sand above a cobbled floor surface with an aggregate sublayer. The surface may have potentially been the floor of an outbuilding such as a stable or perhaps a courtyard. Although the size of the test pit prevented detailed investigation of the packed floor, it is a positive indication of the potential level and survival of contemporary remains in the adjacent Mill Field.

6.2 MOAT SITE

There are around 6000 moated sites in England, generally comprising wide ditches, broadly rectilinear in plan and sometimes filled with water enclosing an area of dry ground. Although some were undoubtedly used for defence, most moated sites were home to prestigious domestic or religious buildings, forming a manorial or spiritual focus for the local area. The Moat Site investigated as part of this project is broadly rectilinear, though with some irregularity to the overall form. The six test pits excavated yielded only a slight amount of informa-

tion, though all of it is important for our understanding of a previously uninvestigated site. The hard-packed clay deposit in Test Pits 4 and 5 suggest the presence of a truncated interior bank to the moat, and the scattered fragments of diagnostic medieval ceramic and tile sherds suggest activity and settlement within the enclosure during this period. Further investigation should yield considerable more.



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APPENDIX 1 - CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Make up of bank at western end of trench
003	Cobble stone dump at east end of trench
004	Accumulated soil over 005
005	Cobble stone road surface
006	Cut of gully at eastern side of road
007	Pebbly yellow clay foundation deposit
008	Natural clay till substrate
009	Fill of ditch at western end of trench
010	Cut of ditch at western end of trench
011	Cut of linear intrusion into 005
012	Eroded bank material

Table 3 Trench 1 Context Summary

APPENDIX 2 - SITE MATRIX

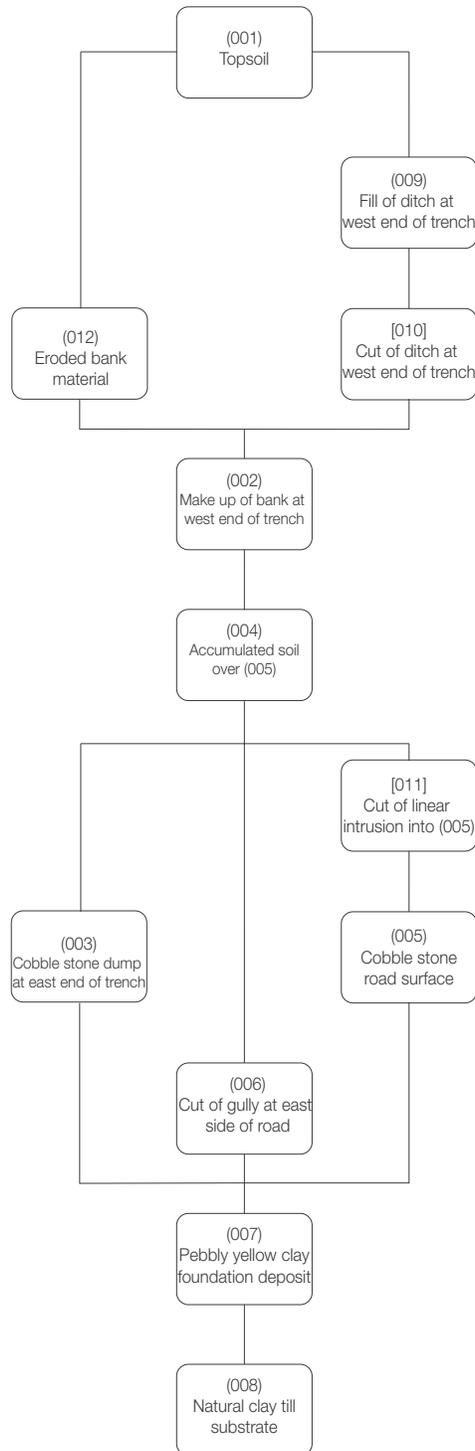


Figure 20 Trench 1 matrix

APPENDIX 3 - CERAMIC ARTEFACTS DATA



Trench	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Tr 1	1	1	Bone China	Footring base	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	3	Bone China	BS	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	4	Whiteware	Rim	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	5	Bone China	Footring base	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	6	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	7	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	BS	Dark brown int & ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	8	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	BS	Dark brown int & ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	9	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	10	Whiteware	Rim	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	11	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	BS	Groove above band of rouletting	LC18th– C19th
Tr 1	1	12	Transfer-printed Whiteware	BS	U/ID TP design on one side	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	13	Unglazed Red Earthenware	BS	U/Dec (surfaces missing)	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	16	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	BS	Brown int & ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	18	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	19	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	20	Porcelain	BS	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	22	Mottled ware type	BS	Thick dark brown glaze int & ext	C18th
Tr 1	1	23	Whiteware	Rim	Green finish ext; beaded rim	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	24	Late Blackware	Rim	Black glaze int & ext	C18th
Tr 1	1	25	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	26	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	27	Whiteware	Rim	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	27	Whiteware	Rim	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	28	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	29	Stoneware	BS	Buff stoneware	C19th
Tr 1	1	30	Stoneware	BS	Buff stoneware	C19th
Tr 1	1	31	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	32	Stoneware	BS/Shoulder	Pale grey stoneware	C19th
Tr 1	1	33	Whiteware	BS	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	34	Stoneware	BS	Salt glaze ext; yellow lead glaze int	C19th



Trench	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Tr 1	1	35	Stoneware	Base	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	36	Whiteware	Ring foot base	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	37	Yellow Glazed Coarseware	Base	White slip int under clear glaze	C19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	38	Colour Glazed ware	Lid-seated rim	Blue band ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	40	Transfer-printed Whiteware	Rim	Willow border	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	42	Whiteware	Base	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	43	Colour Glazed ware	Ring foot base	Blue band ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	44	Colour Glazed ware	BS	Blue band ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	45	Colour Glazed ware	BS	Blue band ext	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	46	Transfer-printed Whiteware	BS	Willow border	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	47	Colour Glazed ware	BS	Blue band ext & white bands ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	47	Transfer-printed Whiteware	BS	Willow border	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	48	Transfer-printed Whiteware	Rim	Willow border	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	49	Colour Glazed ware	BS	Blue & white bands ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	50	Transfer-printed Whiteware	Rim	Willow border	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	59	Tees Valley A type ware	BS	Dark green glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
Tr 1	1	60	Mottled ware type	BS	Thick dark brown glaze int & ext	C18th
Tr 1	1	128	Whiteware	Handle	Blue line on spine of handle	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	241	Colour Glazed ware	BS	White slip band & part of a blue band	C19th
Tr 1	1	258	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	BS	Brown glaze int & ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	260	Colour Glazed ware	BS	Blue band ext	C19th
Tr 1	1	271	Blackware	BS & handle	Black glaze int & ext	C17th
Tr 1	1	420	Buff Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec	Medieval
Tr 1	1	422	Oxidised Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec (surfaces missing)	Medieval
Tr 1	1	481	Late Blackware	BS	Black glaze int & ext	C18th
Tr 1	1	528	Unglazed Red Earthenware	Base	U/Dec	C19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	714	Transfer-printed Whiteware	Footring base	Willow	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	1	17&21	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	BS/shoulder	Brown salt glaze ext	C19th
Tr 1	4	590	Buff Gritty ware	BS	U/Dec	C12th– C13th
Tr 1	Gully	180	Whiteware	Rim	U/Dec	MC19th– EC20th
Tr 1	U/S	715	Whiteware	Rim	U/Dec	LC19th– EC20th

Table 4 Trench 1



Test Pit	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
1	2	572	Tin Glazed Earthenware	BS	Blue-white glaze int & ext w/ a thin blue line on one side	MC16th- MC18th
1	2	573	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th- C14th
1	3	48	Tees Valley A ware type	BS	Rilled profile	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	413	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	417	Tees Valley A ware	Rim	Patchy dark green glaze int & ext	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	439	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	440	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Patchy clear glaze ext	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	441	Tees Valley B ware type	BS/Flake	U/Dec (heavily abraded)	LC13th- C14th
1	3	442	Tees Valley B ware/C	BS	Traces of buff slip int & ext	LC13th- C14th
1	3	443	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	444	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th- C14th
1	3	445	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	446	Buff Gritty ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	447	Tees Valley B ware type	BS	U/Dec	LC13th- C14th
1	3	449	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	450	Tees Valley B ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec	LC13th- C14th
1	3	451	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	452	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	453	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Spots of pale green splashed glaze ext	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	454	Buff Gritty ware	BS	U/Dec	M/LC12th- E/MC13th
1	3	455	Tees Valley B ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec (very heavily abraded)	LC13th- C14th
1	3	456	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Patchy pale green splashed glaze ext	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	457	Tees Valley B ware/C	BS	Thin buff slip ext on a sandy oxidised body	LC13th- C14th
1	3	458	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	459	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	460	Tees Valley A ware	Rim	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th
1	3	461	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th- EC14th



Test Pit	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
1	3	462	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	464	Tees Valley A ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	465	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Clear glaze int only	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	466	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	468	Tees Valley A ware	Base	Pale yellow-green splashed glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	469	Tees Valley A ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	470	Oxidised Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec (very heavily abraded)	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	471	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	473	Tees Valley B ware/C	Rim	Thin buff slip ext on a fine sandy oxidised body	LC13th– C14th
1	3	474	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Bright green glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	475	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Thin patchy clear glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	476	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	3	477	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	478	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	3	479	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	3	480	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec (heavily abraded)	LC13th– C14th
1	3	595	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
1	3		Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	91	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	92	Tees Valley B ware/C	Rim	Buff slip ext w/ green glaze on int angle of rim	LC13th– C14th
1	4	93	Tees Valley A ware	BS	A small spot of glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	94	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	96	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	97	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	98	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	4	99	Tees Valley B ware type	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	4	100	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th



Test Pit	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
1	4	101	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Rilled profile	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	102	Tees Valley B ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec (abraded)	LC13th– C14th
1	4	103	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Patch of green-brown glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	104	Tees Valley B ware/C	BS	Traces of buff slip int; heavily abraded	LC13th– C14th
1	4	105	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Spots of clear splash-glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	106	Tees Valley A ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	107	Gritty ware	BS	U/Dec	LC12th– C13th
1	4	108	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Small spot of clear splash glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	109	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Patchy green glaze ext; splashed?	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	111	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	113	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	114	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	4	115	Tees Valley B ware	Base	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	4	116	Tees Valley A ware	Flake	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	117	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Patches of pale green splashed glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	118	Tees Valley A ware	Rim	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	119	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Thin buff margin ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	120	Tees Valley A ware	BS/handle	Patchy green glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	121	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	4	122	Tees Valley B type ware	Rim	U/Dec (external surface removed)	LC13th– C14th
1	4	123	Tees Valley A ware type	BS	Spots of dark splashed glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	124	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec (abraded)	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	125	Tees Valley A ware	Base	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	4	126	Buff Gritty ware	Base	Spots of clear/pale green splashed glaze on underside	M/LC12th– E/MC13th
1	5	160	Tees Valley type ware	BS	Patch of dark overfired glaze int	EC13th– C14th
1	5	161	Late Medieval Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec	C14th– C15th
1	5	163	Tees Valley A ware type	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th

Test Pit	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
1	5	164	Tees Valley B ware type	BS	Spots of clear splash glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
1	5	165	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	5	169	Sandy ware?	Fragment	U/Dec	Medieval
1	5	170	Tees Valley A ware type	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	5	171	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	279	Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec	C13th– C14th
1	6	280	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	281	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	283	Buff Gritty ware	BS	U/Dec	LC12th– C13th
1	6	284	Tees Valley A ware type	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	285	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	286	Sandy ware	BS	Dull green glaze int	Medieval
1	6	287	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	288	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	289	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	290	Tees Valley A ware	Base	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	291	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec (heavily abraded)	LC13th– C14th
1	6	292	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Spot of yellow splash glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	293	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Ridge ext under green glaze	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	294	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	295	Tees Valley A ware type	Base	Yellow-green splash glaze int only	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	296	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
1	6	297	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	298	Fired clay?	Fragment	U/Dec (very heavily abraded)	Medieval
1	6	299	Tees Valley B ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	6	300	Tees Valley B ware?	Fragment	Trace of green glaze on one side	LC13th– C14th
1	6	302	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	304	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
1	6	305	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Small spots of splash glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	308	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th



Test Pit	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
1	6	309	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Flaky green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
1	6	310	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Spots of clear/pale green splashed glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	312	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	313	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Rilled profile	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	314	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Spot of brown splash glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
1	6	315	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th

Table 5 Test Pit 1

Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
2	2	318	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	2	320	Tees Valley A ware	BS/Neck	Raised ridge; mottled pale green glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	2	321	Late Medieval Sandy ware	BS	Traces of yellow-green glaze ext (heavily abraded)	C14th– C15th
2	2	322	Blackware	Rim	Black glaze int & ext	C17th
2	2	324	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec (very heavily abraded)	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	2	326	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Clear glaze on int surface, light buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
2	2	332	Late Reduced ware	BS	Green glaze ext	C14th– C15th
2	2	335	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	2	338	Brown Sandy ware	BS	Rilled profile	C12th– C13th
2	2	339	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Mottled clear/green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
2	2	347	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Clear / pale green glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	2	348	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Mottled green glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	3	375	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	3	378	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip layer ext	LC13th– C14th
2	3	379	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	3	380	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Dull green/brown glaze on a light buff slip ext surface	LC13th– C14th
2	3	381	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
2	3	382	Late Medieval Sandy ware	BS	Friable brown glaze ext	C14th– C15th
2	3	383	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip int	LC13th– C14th
2	3	384	Oxidised Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec	C13th– C15th
2	3	385	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
2	3	386	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
2	3	388	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	3	389	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	3	390	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip layer ext	LC13th– C14th
2	3	391	Late Medieval Sandy ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec (external surface missing)	C14th– C15th
2	3	392	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th



Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
2	3	393	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Mottled green glaze ext on a thin buff slip layer	LC13th– C14th
2	3	394	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip layer ext	LC13th– C14th
2	3	395	Humberware?	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C15th
2	3	396	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
2	3	397	Late Reduced ware	BS	Green glaze ext	C14th– C15th
2	3	398	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
2	3	400	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
2	3	414	Late Reduced ware	BS	Pale green glaze ext	C14th– C15th
2	4	588	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	4	589	Late Reduced ware	BS	Green glaze ext	C14th– C15th
2	5	349	Tees Valley B ware type	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
2	5	350	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
2	5	351	Late Reduced ware	Flake	U/Dec (no surfaces surviving)	C14th– C15th
2	5	354	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	355	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	356	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Clear glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
2	5	357	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	360	Tees Valley B ware	BS/Flake	Brown glaze on surviving surface	LC13th– C14th
2	5	361	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	362	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	363	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Mottled green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
2	5	364	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th
2	5	365	Tees Valley B ware type	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
2	5	368	Late Reduced ware	BS	Dull green glaze ext	C14th– C15th
2	5	369	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	370	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
2	5	371	Gritty ware	BS	U/Dec	C12th– C13th
2	5	372	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Green-brown glaze ext	LC13th– C14th





Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
2	5	560	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Clear glaze ext; flaked	LC13th– C14th
2	5	561	Tees Valley B/C ware	BS	Thin buff slip layer ext	LC13th– C14th
2	5	562	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Dark green glaze ext	LC13th– C14th

Table 6 Test Pit 2

Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
3	2	587	Reduced Sandy ware	BS	Green glaze ext	C13th– C14th
3	4	597	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec (heavily abraded)	LC13th– C14th

Table 7 Test Pit 3

Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
4	2	581	Tees Valley B ware type	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	2	582	Tees Valley A ware	BS	Small spots of splash glaze ext	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	2	583	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
4	2	584	Slip Banded Cane Coloured ware	BS	White slip lines ext	C19th
4	2	585	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
4	3	551	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
4	3	555	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	3	557	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	4	619	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	4	620	Tees Valley A ware	BS/Flake	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	4	621	Tees Valley A ware	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th
4	4	625	Reduced Sandy ware	BS	U/Dec	C13th– C14th

Table 8 Test Pit 4

Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
5	4	591	Tees Valley B ware	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
5	4	592	Tees Valley B ware	BS	Spots of dark glaze ext	LC13th– C14th

Table 9 Test Pit 5

Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
7	1	139	Sandy ware	Base?	Blistered, discoloured glaze int; flaky	Medieval
7	1	143	Sandy ware	BS	Thin buff slip ext	C13th– C14th
7	2	137	Brandsby type ware	Strap handle	Patchy mottled green glaze ext	E/MC13th– C14th

Table 10 Test Pit 7

Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
9	2	511	Tees Valley ware B/C	BS	Thin white buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th

Table 11 Test Pit 9

Trench	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
12	1	520	Tees Valley ware B/C	Rim?	Thin buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
12	1	521	Tees Valley ware B/C	BS	Thin buff slip ext	LC13th– C14th
12	2	527	Tees Valley ware B	BS	U/Dec	LC13th– C14th
12	3	519	Tees Valley ware A	BS	U/Dec	E/MC13th– EC14th

Table 12 Test Pit 12



Test Pit	Spit	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
1	3	472	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
1	4	95	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
1	4	110	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
1	4	112	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
1	6	282	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
1	6	306	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
1	6	311	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	2	317	Burnt stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	2	323	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	2	325	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	2	327	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	2	328	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
2	2	329	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	2	334	Burnt stone	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
2	3	373	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	3	374	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
2	3	376	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
2	3	399	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
2	3	401	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
2	3	402	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
2	5	352	Stone	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
12	2	526	Floor tile	Fragment	Thin green glaze on one side	Medieval

Table 13 Other finds (Test Pits)

Trench	Context	SFN	Type	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Tr 1	1	14	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
Tr 1	1	27	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
Tr 1	1	242	Stone	Fragment	N/A	Undated
Tr 1	1	259	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Undated
Tr 1	1	543	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Recent
Tr 1	1	545	Ceramic Building Material	Fragment	U/Dec	Recent
Tr 1	1	549	Sewer pipe	Fragment	N/A	1850+

Table 14 Other finds (Trench 1)

APPENDIX 4 - TABULATED FAUNAL REMAINS ASSEMBLAGE INFORMATION



Find No.	Context	Material	Taxon	Element	Wt.	Butchery	Burning	Roots/Gnawing
131	001	Bone	M mammal	Vertebra	3.60g	-	-	-
132	001	Bone	M mammal	Skull	1.70g	-	-	-
233	001	Bone	M mammal	Skull	2.60g	-	-	-
245	001	Bone	M mammal (Sheep/goat)	Cranium	302.10g	-	-	-
270	001	Bone	M mammal	Skull fragment (indet.)	1.50g	-	-	-
272	001	Bone	M mammal	Long bone (indet.)	3.20g	-	-	-
273	001	Tooth	M mammal	Indet.	9.70g	-	-	-
274	001	Bone	M mammal	Long bone (indet.)	8.70g	-	-	-
275	001	Tooth	M mammal (Sheep/goat)	Indet.	8g	-	-	-
276	001	Bone	M mammal (Sheep/goat)	Radius	15.40g	-	-	-
278	001	Bone	M mammal	Vertebra	11.70g	-	-	-
668	002	Bone	M mammal	Tibia	10.80g	-	-	-
669	002	Tooth	M mammal	Indet.	7.90g	-	-	-
670	002	Bone	M mammal	Flat bone (indet.)	5.50g	-	-	-
672	002	Tooth	M mammal (Pig)	Distal	7.60g	-	-	-
673	002	Bone	M Mammal (Pig)	Radius	43.80g	-	-	-
674	002	Bone	M Mammal	Flat bone (indet.)	2.70g	-	-	-
675	002	Bone	M Mammal	Scapula	4.50g	-	-	-
676	002	Bone	M Mammal (Sheep/goat)	Radius	6g	-	-	-
677	002	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	8.40g	-	-	-
678	002	Bone	M Mammal	Poss. clavicle	10.40g	-	-	Poss.
679	002	Bone	M Mammal (Pig)	Femur	37.80g	-	-	-
680	002	Tooth	S Mammal (Dog)	Upper mesial canine	1.30g	-	-	-
681	002	Bone	M Mammal	Scapula	7g	-	-	-
682	002	Bone	M Mammal	Radius	12.30g	-	-	-
683	002	Bone	M Mammal	Mandible	4.20g	-	-	-
685	002	Bone	M Mammal	Scapula	11.20g	-	-	-
686	002	Bone	M Mammal (Pig)	Radius	39.20g	-	-	-
687	002	Bone	M Mammal	Mandible	2.70g	-	-	-
688	002	Bone	M Mammal	Mandible	6.40g	-	-	-



Find No.	Context	Material	Taxon	Element	Wt.	Butchery	Burning	Roots/Gnawing
691	002	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	6g	-	-	-
692	002	Bone	M Mammal (Pig)	Long bone (indet.)	34g	-	-	-
694	002	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	13.60g	-	-	-
695	002	Bone	M Mammal	Flat bone (indet.)	4.50g	-	-	-
697	002	Bone	M Mammal	Indet.	5.30g	-	-	-
698	002	Bone	M Mammal	Flat bone (indet.)	4g	-	-	-
699	002	Tooth	M Mammal	Indet.	0.80g	-	-	-
702	002	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	5.70g	-	-	-
703	002	Tooth	M Mammal	Indet.	2.80g	-	-	-
185	004	Bone	M Mammal	Indet.	4g	-	-	-
188	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	4.10g	-	-	-
189	004	Tooth	L Mammal (Cattle)	Distal	10.50g	-	-	-
192	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	24.50g	-	-	-
194	004	Tooth	L Mammal (Cattle)	Mesial molar	19.30g	-	-	-
195	004	Tooth	M Mammal (Sheep/goat)	Distal molar	10.90g	-	-	-
197	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	12.90g	-	-	-
200	004	Tooth	L Mammal (Cattle)	Distal molar	16g	-	-	-
201	004	Bone	M Mammal (Sheep/goat)	Humerus	5.10g	-	-	-
202	004	Bone	M Mammal	Indet.	1.30g	-	Yes	-
203	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	5.10g	-	-	-
643	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	4.30g	-	-	Poss.
645	004	Bone	M Mammal	Scapula	7.50g	-	-	-
646	004	Bone	M Mammal (Sheep/goat)	Indet.	7.40g	-	-	-
647	004	Bone	M Mammal	Humerus	15-g	-	-	-
648	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	7.50g	-	-	-
649	004	Bone	M Mammal	Clavicle	5.80g	-	-	-
650	004	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	15.50g	-	-	-
653	004	Bone	M Mammal	Rib	3.70g	-	-	-
654	004	Bone	M Mammal	Scapula	5g	-	-	-
658	005	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	10.70g	-	-	-



Find No.	Context	Material	Taxon	Element	Wt.	Butchery	Burning	Roots/Gnawing
660	005	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	11.80g	-	-	-
661	005	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	16.10g	-	-	-
662	005	Bone	M Mammal	Radius	106.50g	-	-	-
663	005	Bone	M Mammal (Sheep/goat)	Femur	115.30g	-	-	Poss.
664	005	Bone	M Mammal	Radius	20.10g	-	-	-
665	005	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	14.6g	-	-	-

Table 15 Tabulated Assemblage Information (Trench 1)

Find No.	Test Pit	Material	Taxon	Element	Wt.	Butchery	Burning	Roots/Gnawing
434	1	Tooth		Indet.	3.40g	-	-	-
436	1	Bone		Indet.	2.70g	-	-	-
437	1	Bone		Indet.	1g	-	-	-
438	1	Bone		Indet.	1g	-	-	-
344	2	Bone		Indet.	0.40g	-	Yes	-
566	3	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	3.10g	-	-	Yes
567	3	Bone		Long Bone (indet.)	8.50g	-	-	Yes
552	4	Tooth		Indet.	26.40g	-	-	-
556	4	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	2.40g	-	-	-
622	4	Tooth		Indet.	4.50g	-	-	-
623	4	Bone		Poss. scapula	2.10g	-	-	-
628	4	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	3.60g	-	-	-
629	4	Bone		Scapula	3.g	-	-	-
593	5	Bone		Indet.	1.00g	Yes	-	-
144	7	Bone		Indet.	6.50g	-	-	-
145	7	Bone		Flat bone (indet.)	7.80g	-	-	-
147	7	Bone		Indet.	29.g	-	-	-
148	7	Bone		Mandible	19.70g	-	-	-
149	7	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	7.g	-	-	-
150	7	Bone		Flat bone (indet.)	10.10g	-	-	-
151	7	Bone		Flat bone (indet.)	6.g	-	-	-
152	7	Bone		Indet.	5.30g	-	-	-
153	7	Bone		Indet.	3.90g	-	-	-
155	7	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	21.g	-	-	-
157	7	Bone		Ventral vertebra	75.60g	-	-	-
176	7	Bone		Radius	19.50g	-	-	-
218	8	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	3.60g	-	-	-
220	8	Bone		Skull	4.g	-	-	-
221	8	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	15.70g	-	Yes	-
222	8	Bone		Long bone (indet.)	7.30g	-	-	-



Find No.	Test Pit	Material	Taxon	Element	Wt.	Butchery	Burning	Roots/Gnawing
223	8	Bone	M Mammal	Poss. mandible/skull	4.80g	-	-	-
224	8	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	11.70g	-	-	-
225	8	Bone	M Mammal	Indet.	2.g	-	-	Yes
226	8	Bone	M Mammal	Long bone (indet.)	4.60g	-	-	Yes

Table 16 Tabulated Assemblage Information (Test Pits)



APPENDIX 5 - METHODOLOGY

AIMS

The aims of the project were:

- To obtain evidence of an apparently well-preserved medieval settlement site;
- To encourage more people to engage with heritage particularly within the local community;
- To ensure those participating both learn more about heritage and develop new skills for the investigation of heritage;
- To ensure that the heritage of Thornton le Street will be better understood, explained, managed, and recorded;
- To encourage the conservation of Thornton le Street for the benefit of current and future generations.
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CfA) (2014a), the *CfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014b), and the *Regional Statement of Good Practice*.

EXCAVATION

All de-turfing and excavation of the overburden was undertaken by hand, with all turfs removed and stacked to prevent degradation prior to reinstatement at the end of the excavation. All excavation was undertaken with hand tools suitable to the nature of the deposit in question and in accordance with standard stratigraphic principles to allow use of single context planning and recording.

All individual features were cleaned, delimited and excavated by hand prior to recording. Written recording was based on *pro forma* sheets creating a primary written record and was accompanied by a site diary giving a summary of each day's work including overall interpretive observations. The drawn record comprised plan and section/profile/elevation illustrations of all features at a suitable scale depending on the complexity and significance of the remains. The drawn and written records were accompanied and augmented by a full photographic record compiled in digital format using a Canon EOS1200D DSLR (18-megapixel sensor), mounted on a tripod where appropriate.

SMALL FINDS

All small finds were to be initially retained and bagged by context for assessment at the post-fieldwork stage. Should an unexpected quantity of material be uncovered that was deemed to be of little significance then this was to be noted but not retained. Small finds were to be handled, packed and stored in accordance with the guidelines in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

In the event that finds of 'treasure' were uncovered then the local Coroner was to be informed and the correct procedures were to be followed as outlined under the Treasure Act 1996. In the event of human remains being uncovered, including evidence of cremations, these were to be initially left *in situ*, protected and covered from view. Should removal of the remains be deemed necessary then a licence was to be obtained from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) prior to excavation proceeding. Exhumation of human remains would then proceed in accordance with the MoJ licence and all health and safety regulations and guidance.

SCIENTIFIC AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING STRATEGY

Given the uncertainty of the presence or level of palaeoenvironmental remains likely to be encountered as part of the monitoring, the general aim of the scientific and palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy was: 'to provide information on the nature of human activity and the past environment in the immediate area, in relation to the archaeological deposits uncovered during the project'.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All work was undertaken in a safe manner in compliance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*. A full risk assessment was undertaken in advance of the commencement of work, a copy of which was carried for the duration of the fieldwork. Solstice Heritage LLP has a full Safety, Health and Environment Policy.



SMALL FINDS PROCESSING

All finds were to be processed and catalogued in line with standard guidance documents including *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998) and the *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (ClfA 2014c).

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

After processing, artefacts and ecofacts were to be quantified and assessed to provide an overview of their potential to meet the aims and objectives of the project. This was to be undertaken by a relevant specialist and include a statement on the potential and requirement for further analysis.

REPORT

Following completion of fieldwork and any immediate assessment required, all information has been synthesised in a project report (this document).

CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in the text, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined as follows:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 million – 12,000 BP (Before present)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10000 – 4000 BC
- Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4000 – 2400 BC
- Chalcolithic/Beaker Period: (2400 – 2000 BC)
- Bronze Age: 2000 – 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC – AD 70
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 70 – 410
- Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1900
 - » Tudor: AD 1485 – 1603
 - » Stuart: AD 1603 – 1714
 - » Georgian: AD 1714 – 1837
- Industrial: 1750 – 1900
 - » Victorian: AD 1837 – 1901
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

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