Archaeological Trenching in Ufford, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, 2007

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(Front cover image: early stages of excavation – copyright ACA)
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1 Summary

This report presents the results of a small scale trench excavation within the garden of Ufford Farm and in the village of Ufford in north Cambridgeshire. The dig was organised as a follow up from the 2006 test pitting in the village as part of the University of Cambridge’s Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA), where part of a stone wall was found from the test pit sited in the back garden of Ufford Farm.

The 2007 excavation re-opened the 2006 test pit and was extended along the length of the wall available within the confines of the garden (trench 1). A large amount of 19th-20th century rubbish was found through the upper top and sub soil layers of the garden. The stone wall is thought to belong to an above average wealth medieval building, and potentially part of Uphall Manor. A second trench was also opened to the rear of the garden but no archaeology was recorded from that trench.
2 Introduction

A small scale archaeological excavation was undertaken over four days from the 10th to the 13th of July 2007 by 16 pupils from four local secondary schools, Stanground College, Longstands College, Peterborough High School and the St Ivo School. Two small trenches were opened in the rear garden of Ufford Farm, Main Street, in the village of Ufford, in north Cambridgeshire. The location of the trenches was decided on the basis of the results from previous test pit excavations in the village in 2005 and 2006 as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) run by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) who are based in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge.

Of the test pitting that was undertaken by ACA during 2006 in Ufford, test pit one (UFF/06/1) revealed a well-built wall, of which at least three courses were in tack. Two further test pits were then excavated within the same garden to identify the extent of the wall (UFF/06/8 and UFF/06/9), within the two days that were scheduled for the excavations. The 2007 trench excavations re-opened the previous test pits, to then extend the trench along the length of the wall that was able to be opened in the confines of the garden, sticking to the lawn area.

2.1 Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA)

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) (http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/) is an archaeological outreach organisation based in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology in the University of Cambridge which aims to enhance economic, social and personal well-being through active engagement with archaeology. It was set up in 2004 and specialises in providing opportunities for members of the public to take part in purposeful, research-orientated archaeological investigations including excavation. Educational events and courses range in length from a few hours to a week or more, and involve members of the public of all ages.

Thousands of members of the public have taken part in scores of programmes run by ACA, including teenagers involved in Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) test pit excavation programmes intended since 2005 to build academic skills, confidence and aspirations. More widely, ACA has involved thousands of members of the public of all ages and backgrounds, including those with special needs, in a wide range of archaeological activities including field-walking, excavation, analysis and reporting.

2.2 The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA)

The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme aims to raise the aspirations, enthusiasm and attainment of 14-17 year-olds with regard to higher education by making a valuable contribution to current academic research at the University of Cambridge. The three day learning-extension course has been run by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) since 2005, aimed at UK students in state school years 9, 10 and 12. HEFA was developed as a collaboration between ACA, Aimhigher and the Assessment Research Division at Cambridge Assessment.
On HEFA, participants spend two days running their own small (1m²) archaeological excavation within living villages, just like thousands did in TV’s Big Dig in 2003 and Michael Wood’s Great British Story in 2012, with the aim of applying and developing a wide range of learning skills, boosting their academic confidence and giving them a taste of life and learning at university level. They make new discoveries for and about themselves, and in the process contribute to the university’s CORS research into the development of rural communities and settlements in the past. The third day is spent in the University of Cambridge analysing the excavation results in discursive learning sessions which aim to engage and challenge participants, prepare them to produce a written analysis for assessment as well as provide an inspirational and positive experience of higher education. After the field academy, learners receive detailed individual feedback on their data collection, personal, learning and thinking skills developed during the fieldwork as well as their reporting and research skills exhibited in the written assignment, which will support applications to further and higher education.

2.3 Test-pit Excavation and Rural Settlement Studies

Rural settlement has long been a crucial area of research for medieval archaeology (Gerrard 2003; Lewis et al 2001, 5-21), notably since the pioneering work of W. G. Hoskins, Maurice Beresford and John Hurst in the 1940s and 1950s (Hoskins 1955; Beresford 1957; Beresford & Hurst 1971), but until recently attention was focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements which are today deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), overlain by domestic housing and related buildings of living secular communities – the villages, hamlets and small towns of today – were generally largely disregarded as targets for research-driven excavation. Very few regions have seen any systematic research-driven primary investigation aimed at CORS, and most of that which has taken place has not involved excavation, including those of a survey based nature (Roberts 1987; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). However, recent attempts to redress this bias in favour of the majority of medieval rural settlements which are still inhabited have opened up new areas for debate which are beginning to call into question established theories about the development of rural settlement in the historic period (Aston & Gerrard 1999; Jones & Page 2006). However, despite these recent advances, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation including excavation remains very small. In order to begin to resolve this problem, Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in more than 30 CORS, most in eastern England. This will help allow the evidence upon which knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the medieval rural settlement pattern of eastern England is based, to be more representative of the entire range of medieval settlements, not just on the minority of sites which are currently deserted (Lewis 2005, 2006; 2007a; 2007b, 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2013).
3 Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the excavations at Ufford are to advance the knowledge and understanding of the archaeology and historic development Ufford Farm, while also providing sixth-form students with the opportunity to acquire new skills and as well as boosting educational aspirations.

The archaeological aims of the excavation are:
- To identify the extent of the stone wall that was revealed during the test pit excavation in 2006, using both geophysical survey and excavation.
- To determine the condition, date and function of the stone wall, as well as any other archaeological deposits and features revealed during the excavation.
- To preserve by record any the stone wall as well as any other archaeological deposits and features revealed during the excavation.
- To establish the stratigraphic sequence of the wall and associated deposits and, as far as possible, the nature of the activities carried out at the site during its use.
- To determine, as far as possible, the origins, development, function, character, economy and status of the site.
- To place the findings of the aims above within the village and regional research contexts.

The educational aims of the excavation are:
- To provide up to 15 sixth-form students in state education with the opportunity to take part in a local archaeological excavation run by the University of Cambridge.
- To provide an opportunity for sixth-form students in state education to learn new archaeological skills and knowledge.
- To provide an opportunity for sixth-form students in state education to learn new transferable skills which will boost academic attainment.
4 Methodology

The excavation followed standard procedures for trial trench excavations as suggested by the standards set for field archaeology in the east of England (Gurney 2003). The location of both trenches was determined from the 2006 HEFA test pit excavations within the property undertaken by Access Cambridge Archaeology at the University of Cambridge.

- Trench one was sited close to the rear of the property in the middle of the back garden and measured 5m in length and 2m in width and was roughly ‘T’ shaped, the centre of which was positioned over UFF/06/1. It was orientated east-west. Trench 2 was sited in the west of the garden, closer to the barn, was orientated north-south and measured c.3m in length and 1m in width.
- All excavation was carried out by hand, including the de-turfing.
- 100% of bulk-removed spoil was sieved by hand through a 10mm mesh to ensure maximum retrieval of archaeological finds. The soil from the original test pit location of UFF/06/1 was not sieved as the one metre square would have already been sieved during the 2006 test pit excavation.
- A register was kept, detailing all photographs taken including feature/context number, direction of shot and date and time of day.
- Cut features, if encountered were excavated sequentially in the normal way.
- Masonry walls, if encountered, were carefully cleaned, planned and left in situ.
- At the end of the excavations, the trenches were hand backfilled and the turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

4.1.1 On-site finds identification and retention

- Non-metallic inorganic finds and bone (unless in very poor condition) were washed on site where possible, thoroughly dried and bagged separately for each context of the test pit or trench. Either on site or during post excavation the animal bone, pottery, burnt clay, flint and burnt stone are bagged separately, ready to be given to specialists.

4.1.2 On-site archaeological supervision

- Professional archaeologists from ACA are on hand for the duration of the excavations, with one supervisor specifically assigned to each trench, to direct the excavations and provide guidance for each of the volunteers.
- Pottery and most other finds are provisionally spot-dated/identified on-site by experts.

4.1.3 Trench closing and backfilling

- A member of the archaeological team inspected each trench before it was declared finished confirming whether or not natural has been reached.
After the excavations were completed the archaeological records and finds are retained by the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HER's, publication and on-going research into the origins and development of rural settlement. Finds are returned to owners after analysis is complete if they are requested; otherwise they are curated by the University of Cambridge.

4.1.4 Recording

- The trenches were recorded following a Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990); whereby numbers (fill) or [cut] were assigned to individual contexts and feature numbers F. to stratigraphic events. Sections and base plans were all drawn at 1:10, with a photographic archive consisting of digital images.
- The site code is UFF/07.

4.1.5 Finds processing and recording

Few excavations retain all the finds that are made if they are deemed to be of little or no research value. The upper levels of the trenches may produce significant quantities of modern material, not all of which will have research value.

Finds appropriate for recording, analysis, reporting, retention and curation

- All pottery has been retained.
- All faunal remains, worked and burnt stone have been retained
- All other finds from contexts pre-dating 1800 have been retained.
- All finds pre-dating 1900 have been retained

Finds appropriate for disposal after recording and reporting

- The following finds which are not considered to warrant any further analysis have been discarded after they have been photographed and their weight and number by type has been recorded: Slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, modern glass, modern metal objects (including nails), concrete, modern mortar, modern fabric, shoes and other modern items (including batteries and shotgun cartridges), naturally occurring animal shells, unworked flint and other unworked stone (including fossils).
- 20th century window and vessel glass has been discarded after sorting, counting and weighing.
- 19th and 20th century CBM have been discarded after counting and weighing. One sample of any hand-made, unusual or older type of CBM was kept with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Most fragments of 20th century metal whose use can be identified has been discarded and the same is true for any unidentifiable object of ferrous metal, aluminium or modern alloys from contexts containing other material of post-1900 AD date. Modern nails have also been discarded but handmade nails were retained.
- 20th century tile (floor, roof and wall) have been discarded after counting and weighing, with a sample of each type of pre-modern tile retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing. Any decorated examples have been retained unless these have been recovered in very large quantities.
in which case representative samples were retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.

- Modern wood was weighed and counted but was also discarded.

**Legal ownership of finds**

- Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857).
- Owners of private unscheduled land where excavations have taken place who enquire about the final destination of finds from excavation on their property will be informed that ACA prefers to retain these in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible.

**Curation of Archaeological Finds**

- All finds which are not discarded or returned to owners are retained and stored in conditions where they will not deteriorate. Most finds are stored in cool dry condition in sealed plastic finds bags, with small pierced holes to ventilate them. Pottery, bone and flint have been bagged separately from other finds.
- Finds which are more fragile, including ancient glass or metal objects, are stored in small boxes protected by padding and if necessary, acid free paper. Metal objects are curated with silica gel packets if necessary to prevent deterioration.
- All finds bags/boxes from the same context have been bagged/boxed together, and bags from all test pits excavated in the same settlement in the same year will be kept together. All the trench finds have also been stored together. All bags and boxes used for storage will be clearly marked in permanent marker with the site code (which includes settlement name code and year of excavation code), test pit number and context number.
5 Location

Ufford is a small nucleated village located c.10km north-west of Peterborough and c.8.5km south-east of Stamford in north Cambridgeshire and is centred on TF 094 040 (figure 1).

![Figure 1: Map of England with a close up insert of East Anglia and the village of Ufford highlighted in red](image)

Ufford is situated on the fen edge and is part of a cluster of similar sized villages, including Barnack, Bainton and Ashton, between the River Nene to the south and the River Welland to the north. A Roman road, King Street, orientated north-south, deviates from Ermine Street, from the north of Peterborough and continues to the east of Ufford to Bourn, also forming part of the parish boundary.

Ufford is a small village with only one pub – The White Hart, which also offers accommodation. There is also the church of St Andrews and a village hall, both of which are sited opposite each other in the south of the village. The nearby market town of both Stamford and Market Deeping, as well as the city of Peterborough, all provide a wealth of local amenities. The population of Ufford was recorded as 225 in the 2001 census

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(Accessed February 2017)
The long, thin, linear layout of Ufford stems from the geological formation that it was built upon, as the alternating layers of both limestone and clay produced a successive line of springs, which then influenced its layout. The abundance of local limestone was also utilised as the main building material in the village as well as timber with Collyweston slate roofs or thatch until the mid-19th century, when Welsh slate and other ‘outside’ sources became available with the coming of the railways.

With the older properties in the village, there is not a single style of building, although as a general rule the buildings are mainly quite simple and functional with little or no ornamentation or bays. These traditional methods lasted until the 1960’s and 1970’s.

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when more modern housing plans were widely adopted, although thankfully this only lasted until the 1990’s were more traditional building methods were re-introduced\(^3\). Ufford Farm can be seen in both figures 2 and 3 in the north of the village and within the conservation area (below).

![Map of Ufford](image)

**Figure 3:** The extent of the Ufford conservation area (shaded) © Crown Copyright/database right 2017. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

The extent of the Ufford conservation area was designated in 1975 and covers the original extent of the village, including all of Main Street to Ufford Farm in the north and Newport Barns and The Old Rectory in the south, as well as Walcot Road to the cricket ground and the field behind Ufford Hall.

6 Geology and Topography

The Tinwell-Marholm fault crosses the northern end of Ufford village and extends from Marholm in the east to Bainton in the north, creating the steepness of the Welland Valley Side and brings together the Blisworth Limestone to the south of the parish and the Blisworth clays to the north with Welland river gravel terraces. The outcrop of limestone forms Ufford Hill at c.46m OD, atop which stands St Andrews Church. The rest of the parish sits between 48m OD in the far south to 19m OD in the north of the parish. The site at Ufford Farm lies in the northern extent of Ufford at 21.4m OD.

7 Archaeological and Historical Background

In its wider setting Ufford is situated on an area of higher ground between the River Welland to the north and the River Nene to the south, with the edge of the fens just to the east of Peterborough. A lot of prehistoric activity is known from all of these areas, with known important sites at Maxey, Elton and Bainton, all of which are just north or north-east of Ufford, as well as of course the site at Flag Fen to the east of Peterborough. The archaeology of this landscape includes monuments, burials and settlements, suggesting that this part of northern Cambridgeshire was a desirable place to live in prehistory. Unfortunately, there is very little evidence of any form of activity with the parish of Ufford, as recorded on the HER. The single prehistoric find was recorded as a Bronze Age quoit-headed pin, which would have been used to fasten clothing and are mainly restricted to southern England, including East Anglia.

Cropmarks of both enclosures and boundaries have also been recorded in the parish, but remain unexcavated to a tentative date of either prehistoric or Roman has been applied to them.

Romano-British activity that has been identified on the HER for Ufford is again limited, with only a few spot finds recorded, and no evidence of a settlement. Roman activity and settlement in the fens and fen edge are however quite extensive with known Roman roads extending from the Roman town of Durobrivae that was sited on the southern bank of the River Nene, between Water Newton to the west and Peterborough to the east, just to the south of Ufford. The old Roman road of King Street lies just to the east of the parish and heads north from Durobrivae, crossing the River Welland at West Deeping, whilst another Roman road, Ermine Street heads north-west, to the west of the parish, to cross the River Welland at Stamford.

The Car Dyke, a huge feat of engineering undertaken during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, was a large ditch dug not only to help drain the land around the western fen edge, but was also likely utilised as a transport canal system, although logistically it seems unlikely that this was probable along its entire extent. The route of the Car Dyke is known around the village of Peakirk, a couple of villages over to the east from Ufford, which sits in the apex of a bend in the dyke, from then it continues around Peterborough then further south to Waterbeach on the River Cam.

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northern extent or the Car Dyke is just from the south of Lincoln at Washingborough on the River Witham (Lewis et al 2013).

The few finds that have been recorded in the parish have been logged as ‘Roman occupation debris’. The bowl of a silver spoon was however also identified in a field to the south of the church. From the test pitting also undertaken by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) in 2005 and 2006, fragments of Roman pottery have been recorded from five test pits, mainly to the south and east of the church, although one sherd was excavated in the far north of the village at Ufford Farm.

The name of Ufford likely stems from a small Saxon settlement here during the 7th century, known as Uffewurda or Uffa’s Farm (Gosling 2000), but the settlement remained small, potentially as just a couple of farmsteads as there is no mention of Ufford in the Domesday Book on 1086. The focus of Saxon occupation in the area was at the three large nearby towns Stamford, which had a flourishing trade in pottery manufacture, known as Stamford Ware, Market Deeping and Peterborough with its great abbey, all of which have Saxon origins.

The test pitting again undertaken by ACA has yielded Late Saxon pottery from five test pits, three of these at Ufford Farm and two sited around the church. This suggests that there was still a settlement present during the later Saxon period, although there is no substantial archaeological or historical evidence to prove this.

The earliest part of the construction of St Andrews church has been dated mainly to the 14th century, although the chancel dates from the late 13th century and was also likely built around an earlier wooden chancel of similar dimensions (Serjeantson & Adkins 1906). There were many 15th century additions, including the tower, the south porch and the font and there were also alterations and improvements during the 19th century (see appendix 13.1). The church was built on one of the highest areas of land in the village, but close to its south-western extent on the edge of an escarpment. The earliest reference to a priest in the village was between 1145 and 1153 as ‘Sir Gilbert, clerk of Ufford’ (Gosling 2000) and as none of the current building dates to earlier than the 13th century, it is highly probable that a wooden church was present during the early post conquest years of the high medieval period.

The manor of Torpel was one of the largest in the Peterborough soke and extended over the villages of Ufford, Bainton, Ashton, Maxey, Barnack and Helpston as well as further north in Lincolnshire and was granted to Roger de Torpel by Henry I in the early 12th century. The manor was likely sited on land between the villages of Ashton to the north-west and Helpston to the east and close to the site of ‘Torpel castle’ at Lawn wood, Ashton that was likely a substantial hunting lodge dating from the 14th century. A list of the de Torpel family (mostly called Roger) and heirs can be found in more detail in the VCH for Northampton. The buildings were almost certainly in ruins by the later 17th century when they were purchased by Sir Thomas Trollope, with the building stones utilised in the nearby villages for other constructions (Gosling 2000).

A manor house, just to the north-west of Ufford Farm in the north of the village of Ufford, was known as Downhall and not actually described as a manor until the later

8 http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/ufford.html (Accessed February 2013)
9 http://www.stamford.co.uk/tourism/history.shtml (Accessed February 2013)
16th century, but was still part of the Torpel lands (Ibid). Much like Ufford Hall today, which is a large early 18th century hall house set in the centre of the village, there are references to earlier medieval hall houses, sometimes referred to as manor houses. The location of Uphall manor is today unknown, as there is no reference to it until 1504 and there have been some suggestions that the Ufford Hall was built upon the same land, although there is so far, no evidence for this (Ibid).

It is probable that only land owners, with some wealth, would have been able to construct their houses out of stone, as an indication of status. The average village homes would have been timber framed with wattle and daub, with the main focus likely around the church (Gosling 2000).

No finds dating to the medieval period have been recorded on the HER for Ufford, but the test pitting undertaken by ACA in 2005 and 2006 has yielded both high and later medieval pottery from four of the test pits centred around the church and also four of the five that were sited at Ufford Farm13.

The village expanded into the post medieval period, although still remained small; the population rose to c.200 people by the 19th century14. The majority of the cottages now would have been made from stone, although still following a simple rectangular plan and mostly thatched. Wealthier properties would have been tiled15. The focus of settlement was still around the church, but also along Main Street (potentially for the first time) up to Ufford Farm in the north.

The main economy of the area continued to be agriculture, although the Enclosure Act of 1796 meant great changes in the village. The common grazing rights in Ufford were abolished and the three great fields of the village, Low Field, High Field and Church Field were all divided and subsequently enclosed by walls or hedgerows. The public roads were also specifically marked out for the first time and in the village were bounded either by fences or ditches, whilst also being maintained (Gosling 2000).

Change came again during the industrial revolution when many farms were closed and the population in the village steadily declined. Ufford remained this way until the mid-20th century, until the post war housing boom, which also saw mains sewage, tarmac roads and street lighting16. Ufford in the 21st century is mainly a commuter village, with the majority of the population working outside the village in the nearby large towns, as well as further afield given the good transport links nearby17. The Peterborough to Birmingham railway, which went through Stamford, just to the north of Ufford, was opened in 1846 by Midland Railway. There was briefly a station in the village of Bainton, north of Ufford, but this was closed in the summer of 185618.

The test pitting undertaken by ACA has yielded evidence for post medieval pottery from 13 test pits through the length of the village, again supporting the notion that there was growth and expansion in Ufford, particularly from the 16th century19.

15 (Ibid)
16 (Ibid)
Ufford Farm (the site of the excavation) is recorded as Poplar Farmhouse in the register of listed buildings (see appendix 13.1) and is a grade II listed late 18th century two-storey cottage, set at right angles to the main road and has gabled ends with a collyweston stone roof. There is an additional wing at the rear with a gabled end and external stone stairs and there is also an oven on the end wall with a stone roof. The date on the barn states 1771.

Prior to the ACA test pit excavations in the village in 2005, there had been no formal previous archaeological work recorded in the parish of Ufford, with five pits, out of the total of 23 excavated through the village, opened at Ufford Farm. The test pits at Ufford Farm yielded pottery evidence for Roman, Late Saxon, high medieval, late medieval, post medieval and Victorian activity on site.

8 Results

Trench one was sited close to the rear of Ufford Farm on its western side and centred over the original test pit from 2006, whilst trench two was situated further west away from the house, towards the barn (see figure 4). The stone wall that was originally identified through the test pitting in 2006 was identified running the length of the trench one with also a second, previously unknown, wall at right angles to the south. A probable garderobe or well and linear ditches were also identified with a number of finds also recovered through the top and sub soils of both trenches. Trench 2 was sited in the west of the garden, closer to the barn, was orientated north-south ad measured c.3m in length and 1m in width. All the features and contexts will be discussed by trench, in numerical order below.
Figure 4: The location of Ufford Farm and the two trenches in the garden
8.1 Trench 1

Trench one was located as the primary focus of the excavation over the test pit UFF/06/1, to determine the extent of the stone wall F.6. The trench was orientated east-west with further extensions on both the northern and southern sides to make it roughly ‘T’ shaped and measured 5m in length to between 2m in width at its eastern end and 5m in width in the west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m in the east and 0.4m deep in the west of the trench. A sondage was excavated mid-trench to determine the depth of the clay natural which was reached at 0.6m.

The top soil (1), (3) and (9) measured between 0.19m and 0.3m in depth, and consists of a dark brown/black sandy silt garden soil. A large mix of finds were excavated (the full list can be seen in appendix 13.4). The pottery also recovered from the top soil consists of Early/Middle Saxon hand-built ware, Late Saxon Stamford Ware, medieval Potterspury Ware, Shelly Coarseware, Oolitic ware, Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ Ware, Lyveden/Stanion ‘B’ Ware, later medieval Bourne ‘D’ Ware, Midland Purple Ware and German Stonewares, with post medieval Red Earthenware and Manganese Glazed Earthenware and a selection of 19th and 20th century wares.

The sub soil, (2) south of the wall and (4) north of the wall consists of mid-orangey brown silty clay, between 0.3m and 0.4m in depth. A larger mix of finds were recovered from (2), compared to (4), the full list of which can be seen in appendix 13.4. The pottery from (2) consists of Late Saxon Stamford Ware, medieval Oolitic ware, Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ Ware, Developed Stamford Ware, later medieval Bourne ‘D’ Ware, Tudor Green Wares, Cistercian Ware and German Stonewares with post medieval Midland Purple Ware, Red Earthenware and Manganese Glazed Earthenware. A small number of 19th and 20th century wares were also recovered. The pottery excavated from (4) was less than that from (2) and consists of Late Saxon Stamford Ware, with medieval Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ Ware and Potterspury Ware.
F.1 consisted of shallow stone wall foundations of potentially two courses at right angles to the main wall (F.6) and was orientated north-south. It also appeared to start to turn in an east-west direction in the far south western corner of trench one. The two walls did not join in the trench but they are potentially contemporary. The trench cut [6] was 0.65m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.19m in depth with vertical sides to a flat base. It was filled with a mid-orange/brown silty clay with small gravel inclusions (5) and fragments of worked limestone (18). The finds consist of fragments of painted plaster, iron nails, coal, CBM fragments, a strip of aluminium and small lumps of concrete. A single sherd of 12th century Ely Ware was also recorded.

A single linear feature was identified at the eastern end of trench one. It was given different context and feature numbers for the excavated slots each side of the wall F.6, although it is the same feature. The ditch (F.2/F.4) orientated north-south, measured a maximum of 0.53m in width and 0.4m in depth with steep sides to a flat base [8]/[14] and continued beyond the extent of the 2m slot excavated and recorded in the trench, with no indication that it was about to turn. It was filled with a mid-orangey/brown silty clay (7)/(13) that also contained late 10th to early 11th century pottery of both Stamford Ware and Oolitic ware, animal bone and fragments of local limestone.

F.3 was a shallow east-west linear gully, running parallel to the main wall feature (F.6) and measuring 0.37m in width and 0.07m in depth with gently sloping sides to a rounded base [11]. It had two brown fills, one dark the other lighter (10)/(12) with animal bone only found. Single sherds of Stamford Ware, Shelly Coarseware and Ely ware were also recorded, likely all dating to the 12th century.

In the north western end of the trench, a square stone-lined feature was also identified (F.5). It measured 0.85m in width and 0.95m in length [19] and abutted the northern side of the wall (F.6), which formed its southern edge. The limestone utilised in its construction (17) suggests that much of the stone had been worked and shaped for use in the well, or had perhaps been taken from other buildings. Time constraints meant that it was only excavated to a depth of c.0.4m, revealing four courses of stonework. It was filled with a compact black silty clay fill (16) with a large amount of modern rubbish in the upper backfill that was not kept.

The main wall structure (F.6) that was the focus of the excavation was aligned east-west and was identified through the length of the trench measuring 5.79m with a maximum width of 0.65m. The wall consists of at least three courses (15), and was constructed from local limestone. Two large fragments of tile were also excavated. A few of the limestone blocks appear to have been reused, as their shaped appearance suggests that they were originally utilised in the construction of another building. The alignment is on a different axis to the existing 18th century house and farm buildings on the site.
Figure 6: Sections through trench 1
8.2 Trench 2

Trench two was positioned to determine if the wall (F.6), located in trench one continued eastwards towards the barn. It was orientated north-south and measured 2.95m by 1m in width. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m at the north end and 0.3m at the southern end.

The top soil (1) was dark brown/black sandy silt between 0.3m and 0.45m deep. A few finds were only recorded, with some pieces of animal bone; the full list of which can be seen in appendix 13.4. The sub soil (2) was mid orangey brown silty clay, 0.35m in depth. Clay pipe and animal bone were only recorded from this layer.

Figure 7: Trench 2 plan and section
No archaeology was identified within trench two, other than a later 19th century ash pit in the interface between the top and sub soil. This measured 0.45m in width with a total depth of 0.25m and also continued beyond the width of the trench. Time constraints of the dig meant that natural was also not identified in trench two.
9 Discussion

The earliest evidence of activity on sites comes from a single sherd of Early/Middle Saxon pottery in the top soil and is the only sherd of Early/Middle Saxon pottery that has so far been found from the village. This could mean that the original location of Uffewurda of ‘Uffa’s Farm’ could have been focused around the present day Ufford Farm in the north of the village.

The presence of a Late Anglo Saxon ditch (F.2/F.4), suggesting a date of the late 10th century does imply that there was a continuation of activity on site from the Early/Middle Saxon period. Although its entire length is unknown, it could have been in use as a small field boundary, or enclosure paddock and the limited pottery and animal bone assemblages also recovered may suggest that it was not located near a focus of primary occupation, beyond the confines of the excavation.

The majority of the non-modern finds from trench one date to the medieval period, with the presence of a wall (F.6) dominating the trench. This wall has substantial, well preserved foundations and is constructed from local limestone, some of which appears reused. It is larger and more extensive than the other wall foundations identified in the trench (F.1), and suggests that F.6 is an external wall to a building, or perhaps a boundary wall enclosing a house and gardens. The recovery of two fragments of probable floor tile supports the notion that this wall was related to an earlier structure which is on a different alignment to the current house and farm and set further back from the current road, although of course the position of the road could have changed over time. The total extent of the wall is unfortunately unknown, and thus its exact function is therefore uncertain. The Grimston and Lyveden ‘B’ Ware pottery excavated during the 2006 test pit excavations and the results from the excavations here, suggests that the wall dates to between AD1200 – 1400 and the presence of Stamford Ware may also potentially suggests this feature was a continuation of the activity identified here during the late Saxon period.

The smaller wall (F.1), the foundations of which were also excavated in the western end of trench one, were less substantial than F.6. Generally, the limestone used was smaller and it also appeared to have been more extensively robbed out. F.1 sits at right angles to F.6 and may be an internal wall, due to its size and the fact that it starts to turn, enclosing an area between F.1 and F.6. The gap between the walls was most probably an entrance as there was no evidence that the robber trench continues north to meet with F.6. This also suggests that if there is a structure present, the inside of the building would most probably be to the south of trench one.

A single sherd of Ely Ware from the foundations of F.1 potentially dates the wall construction to the 12th century, and a presumptive date could be assigned to F.1 as early medieval if the two walls are in fact contemporary. The presence of numerous fragments of painted plaster also supports the evidence that F.1 was an internal dividing wall and part of a larger structure. A single sherd of Tudor Green Ware pottery was also found from the sub soil, which is an unusual find for a rural site, so it could be suggested that this building was occupied by people of higher than average status. The pottery results do state however that there is a lack of typical later medieval pottery types to support this notion of high status, so it is possible the site went into decline at that time. The better quality post medieval wares were also not excavated from the site, so its seems likely that this decline continued into the post medieval period, until the site was eventually abandoned and building stone reused elsewhere. The lack of finer post medieval wares likely also relates to the current
house, Ufford Farm, as it was built in the 18th century and the pottery recorded from the garden suggests that the house was owned by people of ordinary status.

The shallow gully ditch, F.3, may also be contemporary with the main wall F.6, as they run on a parallel east-west direction through the trench. F.3 however did not appear to continue through the length of the trench but the mainly 12th century pottery that was identified from the ditch is likely contemporary with the walls, although of course this may have been when the feature was going out of use. Further excavations would be needed to determine if this small boundary ditch or marker had earlier origins, as it may be contemporary with the Late Saxon ditch (F.2/F.4) to which it sits a right angles to.

The square stone lined feature (F.5) in the north western end of trench one appears to post-date the main wall F.6, as it utilises the wall in the southern side of its construction. The worked limestone which comprised the upper courses of F.5, were very similar to those used in the construction of the main wall. This suggests either a close date of construction for both features or that they were added during later developments of the site, given the abundance of limestone available as a building material in the village. Due to time constraints, only the very upper levels of the feature were excavated, from which only modern artefacts were also recovered, the function of the feature is uncertain. A well is one possibility, although the majority of examples of medieval wells excavated have been circular in shape and are sited away from the house. The construction of the upper courses visible in the trench were also quite loose and there was no evidence for an inner lining, suggesting that it would not be very efficient at holding water. Another, more likely option is that of a garderobe, as these were situated on the outside of buildings and the north side of the wall here is potentially the external of the building. Further excavations are needed however to determine its full function.

Natural was not reached in trench two due to time constraints, although it was excavated to a greater depth than that at which medieval and earlier strata were noted in trench one. There was less activity here, suggesting that the main wall. F.6 had either stopped or turned before reaching the area where trench two was located. The greater depth of top soil in this part of the garden, also suggests that the area immediately around trench two was utilized as gardens, probably for the original property. It remained as gardens with further landscaping likely evident in relation to the current house from the 18th century onwards, which was also deep enough to disturb the sub soil and the underlying features. The Victorian ash pit in trench two appears to have been the main area for domestic rubbish disposal at that time, and may also part explain the greater depth of top soil that was noted there.
10 Conclusion

A higher level of disturbance was noted on site, due to its location within a settlement area and the large amounts of 19th and 20th century rubbish that was deposited over the garden. This has disturbed the archaeology and the majority of pre 19th century pottery excavated was recovered from unstratified layers in the top and sub soils.

The alignment of the wall F.6 excavated in the trench is on a different alignment to that of the current house on the property, so it definitely predates the current farm house. The pottery suggests that the wall was built no later than AD 1400, so it is highly likely that the wall identified during the 2007 excavations is that of an above average wealth medieval building, potentially even a manor house, given the addition of a garderobe on the outside of the building and the high status pottery identified. It is possible that this wall represents the unknown location of Uphall manor, although further work would be needed on site to confirm this.

11 Acknowledgements

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13 Appendices

13.1 Pottery Report – Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 469 sherds with a total weight of 6,178g. It comprised mainly post-Roman material, with a range of pottery types which suggest that there was virtually unbroken activity at the site from the late 10th century to the present. A sherd of residual early/middle Saxon material was also present.

Fabrics

The following were noted:

F2: Early/Middle Saxon hand-built ware, AD450 – 850. Dark grey fabric with moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm. 1 sherd, 4g.

F205: Stamford Ware (Kilmurry 1980). c AD900-1200. Wheel-thrown. White, pink, buff or grey fabric, usually with sparse to dense quartz up to 0.5mm, occasional black or red ironstone up to 1mm. Often glazed with yellow, pale or sage green glaze. 18 sherds, 59g.

F209: Oolitic ware. ?L10th – L12thC. Moderate to dense limestone oolitic limestone fragments up to 0.5mm. Vessels with similar forms and fabrics have been noted in Peterborough (Spoerry and Hinman 1998). A kiln producing medieval pottery with an oolitic fabric is known from Colne in Cambridgeshire (Healey et al 1998), and wasters with fabric with a similar oolitic component have been noted at Ely in Cambridgeshire (ibid.), but the forms of the products of those industries appear different from these oolitic wares. 3 sherds, 31g.

F319: Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ Ware (McCarthy 1979). c. AD1150-?1400. Handmade/Wheel finished. Moderate to dense, ill-sorted shelly limestone platelets up to 3mm, sparse to moderate red ironstone up to 10mm, occasional quartz, ooliths, black ironstone. Produced at numerous kilns in the villages of Lyveden and Stanion in north-east Northants. 7 sherds, 47g.

F320: Lyveden/Stanion ‘B’ Ware (Steane and Bryant 1975). c. AD1225-1400. Coil-built, wheel finished. Well-sorted moderate to dense limestone ooliths c 0.5mm, although rare examples up to 2mm. Sparse to moderate red ironstone up to 10mm, although usually smaller. Rare shelly limestone, quartz, flint up to 20mm. Production as the ‘A’ ware, although mainly jugs, often with yellow slip stripes and/or stamped pads, external dull olive-green glaze. A few jars bowls and aquamaniles are known. Vessels usually quite crude, with coil-joins visible on interior of body. Neck and rims are wheel finished, sometimes to a quality which suggests throwing. Large colour variation, usually grey fabric with dark grey or brown, buff or orange surfaces. 1 sherd, 1g.

F329: Potterspury Ware: ?AD1250/75-?1600 (McCarthy and Brooks 1988). Wheel-thrown. Many kilns known in eponymous village, not yet possible to relate fabrics to manufactories. Fabric usually buff with grey core, although brick-red fabric with buff or grey core also known. Glazed patchily on exterior of jugs and interior of base of bowls, usually glossy green. Bowls often have incised wavy line, jugs finger-
grooved on shoulder. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, rare black or red ironstone and calcareous inclusions. 2 sherds, 6g.

F330: **Shelly Coarseware**, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). Products of numerous known and very probably many unknown kilns on the Jurassic limestone of west Northants/east Bedfordshire. Pale buff through virtually all colours to black, moderate to dense shelly limestone fragments up to 3mm, and any amount of ironstone, quartz and flint. Full range of medieval vessel types, especially jars and bowls, and 'Top Hat' jars. 2 sherds, 6g.

F331: **Developed Stamford ware**, AD1150-1200 (Kilmurry 1980). Wheel-thrown, hard, very fine white fabric, sparse sub-angular quartz c. 0.1mm. Very rich, glossy copper green glaze, vessels often decorated with incised combing or thumbed applied strips. Primarily jugs. 1 sherd, 2g.

F360: **Ely Ware**, 12th -15th century (Hall 2001): Generic name for a quartz sand and calcareous tempered group of pottery fabrics mainly manufactured in Ely, but also with a second possible source in the Hunts, Fenland. Jars, bowls and jugs dominate the assemblage. Earlier vessels hand-built and turntable finished, later vessels finer and usually wheel-thrown. Wide distribution through northern and western East Anglia. 2 sherds, 6g.

F340: **Bourne ‘D’ Ware**: c. 1450-1637 (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409). Production as the 'A' ware. Fairly hard, smooth, brick-red fabric, often with a grey core. Some vessels have sparse calcitic inclusions up to 2mm. Full range of late medieval to early post-medieval vessel forms, jugs, pancheons, cisterns etc. Vessels often have a thin, patchy exterior white slip, over which a clear glaze had been applied. 7 sherds, 121g.

F403: **Tudor Green Wares**. Green-glazed whitewares produced at several centres in the south of England, such as Farnborough Hill, Hants (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 450; Pearce and Vince 1988). c AD1380-1500. 1 sherd, 3g.

F404: **Cistercian Ware**: c. AD1470-1550. Hard, smooth fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Few visible inclusions, except for occasional quartz grains. Range of vessel forms somewhat specialized, and usually very thin-walled (c. 2mm). Rare white slip decoration. Manufactured at a number of centres, including Potterspury in Northamptonshire (Mayes 1968) and, during the 16th and 17th centuries, at Ely (Hall 2001, 7). 2 sherds, 12g.

F405. **German Stonewares**. AD1480+. A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at numerous sites in the Rhineland and beyond (Gaimster 1997). 3 sherds, 12g.


F425: **Red Earthenware**, 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 14 sherds, 122g.

F426: **Manganese Glazed Earthenware**, late 17th – 18th century. Range of large, heavy utilitarian vessels, mainly pancheons, with a lustrous, mottled brown internal glaze. 25 sherds, 197g.
F1000: **Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares.** Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc. 378 sherds, 5516g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of medieval fabric types is typical of sites in the region, comprising mainly local wares from manufactories in Cambridgeshire, northern Northamptonshire and south Lincolnshire. Some of the late medieval and early post-medieval wares are from more distant sources, but all are fairly common finds in the area.

**Chronology and Site Status**

Each context-specific assemblage was given a ceramic phase-date (CP), as shown in Table 1. It shows that the vast majority of the pottery was stratified in deposits dating to the 19th century or later. However, the pottery occurrence by fabric type per ceramic phase (Table 2) shows that large quantities of medieval and earlier material occurred in the modern strata, and that there has been significant disturbance of earlier deposits, presumably due to the construction of the present buildings on the site, and also more recent gardening and landscaping activity. The data in Table 2 does not include that from context 20, the Victorian ash-pit in Trench 2, as the large quantities of pottery present in that feature (169 sherds, 4817g) would mask the patterns of the pottery deposition in Trench 1.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CP</th>
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<td>1100-1150</td>
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<tr>
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<td>15</td>
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Table 1: Ceramic phase dating scheme and pottery occurrence per phase

The data in Table 2 show that a large part of the 19th century assemblage, 18.6%, comprised medieval wares. Perhaps more significantly, of the 415g of medieval and earlier pottery that occurred in trench 1, 306g (73.7%) occurred in features of 19th century or later date, showing that the strata of that date had been extensively disturbed.

The range of pottery types present show that there was some activity at the site in the early-middle Saxon period (c AD450-850), as evidenced by the single residual sherd of that date, but the main period of occupation appears to have started in the late Saxon period, probably the late 10th or earlier 11th century. The majority of the stratified Stamford ware is glazed, a technique which the potters of the tradition did not really utilize before the late 10th century (Kilmurry 1980, Fig. 28). The Oolitic ware (fabric 209), a sherd of which was stratified in context [13], probably has a
similar start-date, based on the evidence from the excavations from West Cotton in Northants (Blinkhorn 2010). Certainly, the lack of common early medieval wares from that feature suggest very strongly that it is of pre-Conquest date.

<table>
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<th></th>
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<th>CP5</th>
<th>CP9</th>
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Table 2: Pottery occurrence per phase by fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage, by weight in g, Trench 1 contexts only

The rest of the assemblage, although largely redeposited, suggests very strongly that there is virtually unbroken activity at the site from that time, albeit at a low level. Certainly all the major medieval wares which normally occur in the region are present, including, perhaps somewhat unusually for a rural site a sherd of ‘Tudor Green’ pottery from the manufactories on the Surrey/Hampshire border (Pearce and Vince 1988). This suggests that the site may have been of higher than normal status in the later medieval period, and supports the suggestion that Ufford Farm was the site of Uphall Manor, although the more developed vessel types of the late medieval period which tend to occur at such sites are absent. This may however be due to the vagaries of archaeological sampling, and further excavations and a larger pottery assemblage have the potential to clarify the picture.

The post-medieval assemblage is, 18th and 19th century material apart, somewhat sparse. Certainly, the better quality pottery types of the 17th century, such as Tin-Glazed Earthenware (TGE), Staffordshire Slipware and Trailed Slipwares are entirely absent, suggesting that there was either an hiatus in activity at that time, or that the site was of somewhat ordinary status. However, the HEFA test-pitting in the village has produced very little pottery of definite 17th century date generally. Of the higher-quality wares listed above, only one sherd is known from the whole village, a small sherd of TGE from UFF/06/7, so it is possible that the village saw a period of economic decline at that time.
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Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type
### 13.2 Other Finds – Catherine Collins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench 1</th>
<th>Ceramic (excluding pottery)</th>
<th>Glass</th>
<th>Metal &amp; metal-working</th>
<th>Stone</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. 1</td>
<td>CBM x6 = 250g, clay pipe stem x3 = 74g, clay pipe bowl fragments x2 = 11g, reddish glaze tile x1 = 24g, green bottle glass x2 = 24g, green bottle glass x2 = 4g, blue bottle glass x2 = 3g, iron nails x39 = 259g, scrap iron x2 = 104g, metal screw cap lid (Martell Cognac) = 1g, coin (date unknown) = 7g, coal x9 = 13g, stone tile x3 = 161g</td>
<td>orange glass bottle neck &amp; rim = 23g, clear window glass x3 = 142g, clear glass bottle neck x2 = 42g, clear container glass x9 = 24g</td>
<td>slate x3 = 11g, fragments of shotgun cartridges x2 = 8g, silver milk bottle tops x4 = &lt;1g, oyster shell x2 = &lt;1g, concrete x3 = 73g, light blue bread tags x1 = 1g, battery = 65g, plastic tag = &lt;1g</td>
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<td>C. 2</td>
<td>glass pipe stem x1 = 2g, CBM fragments x9 = 45g</td>
<td>clear window glass x5 = 12g, clear container glass x1 = 4g</td>
<td>iron nails x9 = 41g</td>
<td>coal x5 = 10g, stone tile x6 = 171g</td>
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<td>C. 2 Spit 2</td>
<td>CBM x3 = 17g</td>
<td>clear window glass x2 = 3g, green bottle glass x1 = 3g</td>
<td>iron nails x7 = 36g, part of a horse shoe = 24g</td>
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<td>C. 3</td>
<td>clay pipe stem x2 = 7g, CBM x6 = 37g, tile = 10g</td>
<td>clear window glass x7 = 15g, blue container glass x1 = 5g, orange bottle glass x1 = 5g</td>
<td>iron nails x6 = 36g</td>
<td>coal x10 = 14g</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. 4</td>
<td>CBM x1 = 19g</td>
<td>scrap iron x1 = 5g</td>
<td>coal x4 = 6g</td>
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<td>C. 4 Spit 3</td>
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<td>scrap iron x3 = 232g</td>
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<td>F.1, C.5</td>
<td>CBM x1 = 14g</td>
<td>strip of aluminium = 24g, iron nails x1 = 10g</td>
<td>coal x2 = 4g</td>
<td>painted plaster x56 = 365g, grey plaster x35 = 105g, concrete x2 = 56g</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F.2, C.7</td>
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<td>Stone tile? x1 = 143g, limestone x1 = 17g</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. 9</td>
<td>clear window glass x1 = 1g</td>
<td>scrap iron x1 = 20g</td>
<td>stone tile x1 = 142g</td>
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<td>C. 15</td>
<td>tile x2 = 818g</td>
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**Table 4: All the finds excavated from trench 1**

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<th>Trench 2</th>
<th>Ceramic (excluding pottery)</th>
<th>Glass</th>
<th>Metal &amp; metal-working</th>
<th>Stone</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. 1</td>
<td>clay pipe stem x4 = 7g, CBM x3 = 23g</td>
<td>clear container glass x8 = 34g, clear window glass x20 = 29g, green bottle glass x2 = 5g</td>
<td>scrap iron x1 = 46g, iron nails x18 = 188g, metal wire x3 = 10g, metal spur = 71g</td>
<td>metal can ring pull = &lt;1g</td>
<td>oyster shell x1 = 3g, painted plaster = 21g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. 2</td>
<td>clay pipe stem x1 = 1g</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5: All the finds excavated from trench 2**