

Pottery from West Mersea Test-Pits (2006)

Paul Blinkhorn

Pottery Types

Roman Greyware. This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery, and was made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. It was most common in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4th century.

Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns which were making this pottery type were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

German Stonewares. First made around AD1450, and still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze, with some having blue and purple painted decoration, and others moulded medallions ('prunts') with coat-of-arms or mythical scenes on them. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. c 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

Cistercian Ware: Made between AD1475 and 1700. So-called because it was first found during the excavation of Cistercian monasteries, but not made by monks. A number of different places are known to have been making this pottery, particularly in the north of England and the midlands. The pots are very thin and hard, as they were made in the first coal-fired pottery kilns, which reached much higher temperatures than the wood-fired types of the medieval period. Vessels usually tall, narrow cups with up to 8 handles, known as 'tygs'.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

Delft ware. The first white-glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland, which were amongst the first

to make it. Soft, cream coloured fabric with a thick white glaze, often with painted designs in blue, purple and yellow. First made in Britain in Norwich around AD1600, and soon after in London. Continued in use until the 19th century. The 17th century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19th century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

Staffordshire Slipware. AD1640-1750. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is dark brown trails which were sometimes brushed with a feather while wet. Chiefly made 'flat wares' such as plates and dishes, although small bowls and mugs etc are known.

Staffordshire Manganese Ware, late 17th – 18th century. Made from a fine, buff-coloured clay, with the pots usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze. A wide range of different types of pots were made, but mugs and chamber pots are particularly common.

White Salt-Glazed Stoneware (SGS). Delicate white pottery made between 1720 and 1780, usually for tea cups and mugs. Has a finely pimpled surface, like orange peel.

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

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

		Roman		Essex Grey		LMT		GRE		Delft		White SGS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
TP1	1													16	31	1500-1900
TP1	2	1	2									1	6	15	41	100-1900
TP1	3									1	2			10	17	1600-1900
TP1	4													11	77	1800-1900
TP1	5			1	1			1	5					3	11	1200-1900
TP1	6	1	2													100-400
TP1	7	1	3			2	6									100-1500
TP1	8					1	1									1400-1500

This test-pit produced a number of sherds of Roman pottery, as well as a fragment of Roman box-flue tile, which is very likely to be part of the central heating system of a Roman villa, and a clay tessera from a detailed panel of a mosaic floor. The site appears to have been abandoned by the end of the Roman period, and remained unoccupied until the medieval period. The main period of activity seems to date from around the 15th century until the present day. The Roman and medieval pottery is mixed up with later types though, suggesting that some of the Roman and medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging.

Test Pit 2

		German St		GRE		Delft		Staffs Slip		White SGS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
TP2	1			2	19							9	14	1550-1900
TP2	2			1	3							27	92	1550-1900
TP2	3			1	5					2	25	25	54	1550-1900
TP2	4			2	21			1	2			12	35	1550-1900
TP2	5			1	28			1	7			28	68	1550-1900
TP2	6	1	6	1	12							3	10	1550-1900
TP2	7					2	5	1	5			2	19	1600-1900
TP2	9			1	12									1550-1700

All the pottery from this test pit dates to the end of the medieval period onwards. It seems likely that people started living here in the middle of the 16th century, and the site has been occupied ever since.

Test Pit 3

		Grey		LMT		German St		Cistercian		GRE		Manganese		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
TP3	1													2	11	1800-1900
TP3	2									2	11	1	2	44	138	1550-1900
TP3	3			1	7					1	7			23	55	1400-1900
TP3	4	1	4			1	4			2	5			7	32	1200-1900
TP3	5	1	1	1	10									4	5	1200-1900
TP3	6			1	9			1	9							1400-1700
TP3	7													1	2	1800-1900
TP3	8					1	2									1600-1900

The pottery from this site indicates that people have been living here since the medieval period. There is a full range of all of the commonest pottery types from about 1200 onwards. The medieval pottery is all mixed up with later types though, suggesting that the medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging.

Test Pit 4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
TP4	2	2	9	1800-1900
TP4	3	3	12	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test pit dates to the 19th century. It shows that there was little human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 5

		Essex Grey		German St		GRE		Delft		Manganese		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
TP5	1											13	24	1800-1900
TP5	2			1	9			1	2			20	29	1500-1900
TP5	3	1	1			1	4					19	64	1200-1900
TP5	4					1	45					19	66	1550-1900
TP5	5	1	9									3	12	1200-1900
TP5	6									1	2			1690-1800
TP5	7											1	1	1800-1900
TP5	8					46	1366							1550-1700

The pottery from this site indicates that people have been living here since the medieval period. There is a full range of most of the commonest pottery types from about 1200 onwards. It is all mixed up with later types though, suggesting that the medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging. The deepest context produced the broken up remains of a large 16th century GRE jar. The vessel had a hole drilled in the base, and may have been used as a flower-pot. In the 16th century,

gardening was only really the preserve of the rich, as poorer people used their gardens to grow food or raise pigs or chickens. It would seem that whoever was living here in the 16th century is likely to have been of above-average wealth, as they did not need to grow their own food.

Test Pit 6

		Grey		LMT		German St		GRE		Staffs Slip		White SGS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
TP6	1													9	12	1800-1900
TP6	2							3	25	2	8	1	3	13	73	1550-1900
TP6	4	1	3	2	20	1	1	4	26	1	8	1	2	13	67	1200-1900

The pottery from this site indicates that people have been living here since the medieval period. There is a full range of most of the commonest pottery types from about 1200 onwards. It is all mixed up with later types though, suggesting that the medieval archaeology may have been destroyed by later digging.

Pottery from West Mersea Test-Pits (2007)

Paul Blinkhorn

Pottery Types

LBA: Late Bronze Age. Simple, hand-made pots with large amounts of flint mixed in with the clay. Date to around 1200 – 800 BC

IA: Iron Age. Similar to the Late Bronze Age pottery, but with less flint and more sand in the clay. Dates mainly from around 800-50BC.

Roman Greyware. This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery, and was made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. It was most common in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4th century.

Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns which were making this pottery type were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

Essex Red Ware. 13th – 14th century. Reddish pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Made at lots of different sites around Essex.

GS: German Stonewares. First made around AD1450, and still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze, with some having blue and purple painted decoration, and others moulded medallions ('prunts') with coat-of-arms or mythical scenes on them. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

Border Ware. Made near London, in Surrey and Hampshire, between 1550 and 1700. White, slightly sandy clay, lots of different types of pots such as cups, mugs, bowls and candlesticks, as well as many types of specialist cooking and eating vessels, usually with a bright green or yellow glaze.

WCS: Cologne Stoneware. Hard, grey pottery made in the Rhineland region of Germany from around 1600 onwards. Usually has lots of ornate moulded decoration, often with blue and purple painted details. Still made today, mainly as tourist souvenirs.

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

SS: Staffordshire Slipware. AD1640-1750. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is dark brown trails which were sometimes brushed with a feather while wet. Chiefly made 'flat wares' such as plates and dishes, although small bowls and mugs etc are known.

BG: Black-glazed Earthenwares. Late 17th century +. Basically a development of Red Earthenwares, with a similar range of forms, although with a black glaze which was coloured by the addition of iron filings.

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

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

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1			6	20	1800-1900
1	2			1	5	1800-1900
1	6	1	13	16	24	1550-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, although the single piece of Redware shows that there were people at the site in the later 16th century. The area may have been fields until the 19th century.

Test Pit 2

		SS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			2	4	1800-1900
2	2	2	4	12	43	1650-1900
2	4			1	6	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, although the single piece of Staffordshire Slipware shows that there were people at the site around the time of the Civil War, in the mid-late 17th century. The area may have been fields until the 19th century.

Test Pit 3

		LBA		Roman		Essex Red		LMT		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1									6	10	1800-1900
3	2							1	6	3	35	1500-1900
3	3									2	8	1800-1900
3	4									4	9	1800-1900
3	6	1	3	1	18	1	4					1000BC - 1200

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, although there is earlier material. The Bronze Age, Roman and medieval pottery, suggesting that there have been people at the site at various times for the past 3,000 years. The lowest context produced no pottery later than the 13th century.

Test Pit 4

TP	Context	Essex Red		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	2	2	4	32	55	1200-1900
4	3	1	5	3	3	1200-1900

This test pit produced a mixture of medieval and Victorian pottery. All the earlier material was mixed in with the later pottery, suggesting that they were disturbed by digging in the 19th century. The small amounts of medieval pottery and the small size of the sherds suggests that the area was fields at that time.

Test Pit 5

TP	Context	IA		Essex Grey		Essex Red		GS		GRE		WCS		BG		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1					1	4	1	3					1	43	7	20	1200-1900
5	2							1	5			1	2			18	64	1500-1900
5	3			1	2							1	11			7	60	1100-1900
5	4									1	5					8	24	1550-1900
5	5									1	4					4	11	1550-1900
5	6															2	11	1800-1900
5	7	1	4							2	37					2	4	500BC - 1900

This test-pit produced pottery from the Iron Age, showing that people were at the site around 500BC. The rest of the pottery is medieval and later, showing that people have been at the site from the 13th century to the present day. All the earlier pottery was found in Victorian contexts, which shows that the ground was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

Test Pit 6

TP	Context	LMT		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	2	1	10	40	114	1500-1900
6	3			29	64	1800-1900
6	4			3	7	1800-1900
6	5			1	1	1800-1900
6	6			1	5	1800-1900
6	7			3	3	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian apart from a single piece of 15th century type. The site may have been fields at that time, but was not really used by people until the 19th century.

Test Pit 7

		Essex Red		LMT		GRE		BW		WCS		MS		SS		ES		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	1																	2	14	1800-1900
7	3					1	1									1	12	18	64	1550-1900
7	4			1	9			1	2	1	3	1	23					8	24	1500-1900
7	5	2	2											2	7			5	9	1200-1900

The pottery from this test-pit was 13th century or later, but most of it was of Victorian date. It is possible that the site was fields before that time, but the fact that so many different types of pottery were found shows that there have been people here from around the 16th century onwards. All the earlier pottery was found in Victorian contexts, which shows that the ground was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

Test Pit 8

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
8	3	1	2	1800-1900

Only one sherd of pottery was found in this test-pit, and it is of 19th date. This suggests that the site was not really used by people until quite recently.

Test Pit 9

		IA		RB		Essex Grey		Essex Red		GS		WCS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1					1	4							5	9	1100-1900
9	2							2	9	1	8					1200-1600
9	3									1	2			1	2	1500-1900
9	4							1	2					3	19	1200-1900
9	5	1	7	1	6							1	2	1	16	500BC-1900

This test-pit produced pottery which suggests that there was two phases of human occupation at the site. The first was in the Iron Age and Roman periods, and the second from the 12th century onwards. There is not a lot of pottery, and the sherds are quite small, so the site may have been fields until the 19th century. All the earlier pottery was found in Victorian contexts, which shows that the ground was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

Test Pit 10

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1	1	7	1800-1900
10	2	2	13	1800-1900

This test-pit only produced only three sherds of pottery, all of which are Victorian.
This suggests that people have not used the site until quite recently.

Pottery from West Mersea Test-Pits (WME08)

Paul Blinkhorn

Pottery Types

BA: Bronze Age. Simple, hand-made pots with large amounts of flint mixed in with the clay. Dates to around 1200 – 800 BC

Grey: Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns which were making this pottery type were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

Red: Essex Red Ware. 13th – 14th century. Reddish pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Made at lots of different sites around Essex. Glazed jugs with painted white liquid clay ('slip') decoration are not unusual.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

GS: German Stonewares. First made around AD1350, and some types still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze, with some having blue and purple painted decoration, and others moulded medallions ('prunts') with coat-of-arms or mythical scenes on them. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

TGE: Delft ware. The first white-glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland, which were amongst the first to make this type of pottery in Europe. Soft, cream coloured fabric with a thick white glaze, often with painted designs in blue, purple and yellow. First made in Britain in Norwich around AD1600, and soon after in London. Continued in use until

the 19th century. The 17th century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19th century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were plain white, and humble vessels such as chamber pots and ointment jars. Such pottery was made for about 100 years before it was first made in Britain, particularly in Italy, Holland ('DTGE') and Spain ('STGE').

WCS: Cologne Stoneware. Hard, grey pottery made in the Rhineland region of Germany from around 1600 onwards. Usually has lots of ornate moulded decoration, often with blue and purple painted details. Still made today, mainly as tourist souvenirs.

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

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

TP	Context	BA		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1					1800-1900
1	2			2	21	1800-1900
1	3	1	6	1	2	1200BC-1900
1	4			2	7	1800-1900
1	5			3	3	1800-1900
1	7	1	3			1200-800BC

This test pit produced by far the oldest pottery, in the form of two sherds of Bronze Age material dating to between 1200 and 800BC. The last context produced only pot of this date, show that it was in it's original position, and that there was a prehistoric settlement at the site. The rest of the pottery was Victorian, showing that there was very little human activity at the site between then and the Bronze Age.

Test Pit 2

TP	Context	Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	
2	1	2	2	1800-1900
2	2	2	4	1800-1900
2	3	2	17	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 3

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2	1	15	1800-1900
3	3	1	2	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1	2	2	1800-1900
4	2	15	21	1800-1900
4	3	2	3	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 5

		TGE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1			16	50	1800-1900
5	2	1	3	4	23	1600-1900
5	3			24	124	1800-1900
5	4			4	5	1800-1900
5	5			2	6	1800-1900
5	6			2	2	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time, apart from one sherd which is likely to be of 17th century date.

Test Pit 6

		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	2	1	8			1550-1750
6	3			3	8	1800-1900
6	6			1	2	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time, apart from one sherd which is likely to be of 16th - 17th century date.

Test Pit 7

		Grey		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	25	1100-1350
7	4	1	18	1100-1350
7	5	1	7	1100-1350
7	7	1	9	1100-1350

All the pottery from this test-pit was medieval, and dates to between 1100 and 1350. There was no other pottery, suggesting that the site was abandoned around the time of the Black Death, and was then left deserted until very recently.

Test Pit 8

		GS		GRE		TGE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1							1	20	1800-1900
8	2							3	5	1800-1900
8	3			1	3			13	40	1800-1900
8	4							2	12	1800-1900
8	5					1	10	2	15	1600-1900
8	6	1	6					1	3	1500-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, but there was also earlier material, suggesting that people have been using the site since around AD1500.

Test Pit 9

		Grey		Red		LMT		GS		DTGE		STGE		TGE		WCS		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1					1	3											2	4	1400-1900
9	3			1	4							1	7					2	4	1200-1900
9	4			1	2	4	24							5	31					1200-1700
9	5	2	8			3	31	2	24	1	3					1	1			1200-1700
9	6	12	135			2	3													1200-1550

This test-pit produced a very interesting group of pottery which not only tells us about how long people have been living at the site, but also something about how they lived. The range of pottery shows that there have been people living here from around AD1200 until the present, but the pottery from the 1500s includes Dutch, Spanish and German wares. These are quite rare, and are mainly found in the houses of the richer members of society at that time, so whoever lived here in the 1500s was amongst the more well-off citizens of West Mersea.

Test Pit 10

		LMT		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	1	1	4	1400-1550

This test-pit produced only one piece of pottery, but it dates to around 1400-1550, showing that there were people here at that time.

Test Pit 11

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
11	1	3	21	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 12

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
12	1	2	46	1800-1900
12	2	3	57	1800-1900
12	3	3	21	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, meaning that there was very little human activity at the site before that time.

Pottery from West Mersea Test-Pits, Week 2 (WME08)

Paul Blinkhorn

Pottery Types

MIA: Middle Iron Age. Soft, grey-brown ware. Outside of vessels sometimes covered in vertical cut lines, giving it the named 'Scored Ware'. Found all over Eastern England between the 5th and 2nd centuries BC.

Roman Grey Ware. This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery, and was made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. It was most common in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4th century.

Roman Samian Ware. High quality red pottery made in central and southern France. Dish and bowls, often with moulded decoration, and usually found at richer Roman sites. 1st – 2nd century AD.

Roman Spanish Amphora. Thick, pale brown fabric with a sparkly surface due to large quantities of the mineral mica being naturally present in the clay. Pots are large, torpedo-shaped jars up to 2m high, and were used to transport wine, olive oil and a sauce made of fermented fish ('garum') throughout the Roman Empire. 2nd – 4th century.

Ipswich Ware. The first industrially produced pottery to be made after the end of the Roman period. Made in Ipswich, and fired in kilns, some of which have been excavated. Most pots were jars, but bowls also known, as are jugs. It is usually grey and quite smooth, although some pots have varying amounts of large sand grains in the clay. Very thick and heavy when compared to later Saxon pottery, probably because it was made by hand rather than thrown on a wheel. Dated AD720 – 850.

Grey: Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns which were making this pottery type were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

GS: German Stonewares. First made around AD1350, and some types still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze, with some having blue and purple painted decoration, and others moulded medallions ('prunts') with coat-of-arms or mythical scenes on them. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

BW: Border Ware. Made near London, in Surrey and Hampshire, between 1550 and 1700. White, slightly sandy clay, lots of different types of pots such as cups, mugs, bowls and candlesticks, as well as many types of specialist cooking and eating vessels, usually with a bright green or yellow glaze.

SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. Hard, white pottery with a white glaze with a texture like orange peel. Made between 1720 and 1780, pots usually table wares such as tea bowls, tankards and plates.

‘Victorian’. A wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800

RESULTS

Test Pit 14

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
14	1	1	3	1800-1900
14	2	1	2	1800-1900
14	3	2	4	1800-1900
14	4	12	17	1800-1900
14	5+	54	1248	1910-1930

All the pottery from this test-pit was 19th century or later. The lower contexts are all from the same feature, an 'ash-pit' which was used for disposing of household rubbish. Some of the types of pottery present suggest that it dates to around the time of the First World War.

Test Pit 15

		Roman Grey		SWSG		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
15	2					3	24	1800-1900
15	3	1	7	1	2	1	1	100-1900
15	4			1	3	3	8	1720-1900

This test-pit produced a single small sherd of Roman pottery, showing that there was activity there at that time, but the site was then abandoned until around the middle of the 18th century, and people have been living there ever since.

Test Pit 16

		Grey		GRE		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
16	1	1	6			2	12	1100-1900
16	2					7	14	1800-1900
16	3			1	3	4	13	1550-1900
16	4					2	8	1800-1900
16	5					3	25	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit dates to the 19th century, but two pieces of earlier wares were there as well. One was medieval, and shows that people were using the site in the 12th or 13th century, and the dates to the 16th century.

Test Pit 17

TP	Context	Ipswich		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
17	2			8	43	1800-1900
17	3			2	2	1800-1900
17	4			6	25	1800-1900
17	5	1	6			720-850

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, apart from a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery from context 5. This was the only pottery from this context, and so it is likely that it comes from an undisturbed soil layer of 8th or 9th century date.

Test Pit 18

TP	Context	Roman Grey		Samian		Ipswich		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
18	2	1	4					2	14	100-1900
18	3							10	34	1800-1900
18	4	4	12							100-400
18	5	1	12			1	24			100-850
18	6	4	9	2	2	1	23			100-850

This test-pit produced a small amount of Victorian pottery, but otherwise, all the finds were Roman or Anglo-Saxon. Context 4, 5, and 6 did not produce any pottery later than the Anglo-Saxon period, and shows that there were people living at the site at that time. The large amount of Roman pottery present shows that people were also living here in Roman times, but the Roman layers were disturbed by the Anglo-Saxons. The site appears to have been abandoned between the 9th century and the 19th century.

Test Pit 19

TP	Context	MIA		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
19	1					1	2	1800-1900
19	2			1	2	2	3	1550-1900
19	3					1	1	1800-1900
19	4	4	15					500-200BC

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, apart from a small amount of Iron Age pottery from context 4. No other pottery was present in this context, so it would appear that there was prehistoric settlement at the site. It was then abandoned until the 19th century.

Test Pit 20

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
20	1	4	13	1800-1900
20	3	3	3	1800-1900
20	5	1	1	1800-1900

All the pottery from this site was Victorian, so there was probably no human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 21

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
20	1	2	4	1800-1900
20	2	6	25	1800-1900

All the pottery from this site was Victorian, so there was probably no human activity at the site before that time.

Test Pit 22

		GS		BW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
22	1	1	6			1	1	1500-1900
22	2					3	10	1800-1900
22	3	1	7	1	3	8	19	1500-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, but there is also earlier material, suggesting that people have been living at the site from around AD1500 onwards.

Pottery from West Mersea Test-Pits (WME09)

Pottery Types

BA: Bronze Age. Simple, hand-made pots with large amounts of flint mixed in with the clay. Dates to around 1200 – 800 BC

MIA: Middle Iron Age. Soft, grey-brown ware. Outside of vessels sometimes covered in vertical cut lines, giving it the named ‘Scored Ware’. Found all over Eastern England between the 5th and 2nd centuries BC.

RG: Roman Grey Ware. This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery, and was made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. It was most common in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4th century.

Grey: Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns which were making this pottery type were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

Red: Essex Red Ware. 13th – 14th century. Reddish pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Made at lots of different sites around Essex. Glazed jugs with painted white liquid clay (‘slip’) decoration are not unusual.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay (‘slip’). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

GS: German Stonewares. First made around AD1350, and some types still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze, with some having blue and purple painted decoration, and others moulded medallions (‘prunts’) with coat-of-arms or mythical scenes on them. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London (‘port books’) show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

BW: Border Ware. Made near London, in Surrey and Hampshire, between 1550 and 1700. White, slightly sandy clay, lots of different types of pots such as cups, mugs, bowls and candlesticks, as well as many types of specialist cooking and eating vessels, usually with a bright green or yellow glaze.

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

SS: Staffordshire Slipware. Made between about AD1640 and 1750. This was the first pottery to be made in moulds in Britain since Roman times. The clay fabric is usually a pale buff colour, and the main product was flat dishes and plates, but cups were also made. These are usually decorated with thin brown stripes and a yellow glaze, or yellow stripes and a brown glaze.

SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. Hard, white pottery with a white glaze with a texture like orange peel. Made between 1720 and 1780, pots usually table wares such as tea bowls, tankards and plates.

CR: Creamware. This was the first pottery to be made which resembles modern 'china'. It was invented by Wedgwood, who made it famous by making dinner surfaces for some of the royal families of Europe. Made between 1740 and 1880, it was a pale cream-coloured ware with a clear glaze, and softer than bone china. There were lots of different types of pots which we would still recognise today: cups, saucers, plates, soup bowls etc. In the 19th century, it was considered to be poor quality as better types of pottery were being made, so it was often painted with multi-coloured designs to try and make it more popular.

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

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

		Grey		Red		LMT		GS		GRE		BW		PSW		SS		CR		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1																			6	13	1800-1900
1	2			1	5					1	1	1	7			1	2			16	34	1200-1900
1	3							1	1									2	2	22	36	1550-1900
1	4							1	2					1	1					9	21	1550-1900
1	5	1	4			1	8			2	75			1	3					6	8	1100-1900

This test-pit produced a wide range of pottery which shows that people have been living on the site continuously since the early medieval period.

Test Pit 2

		Grey		Red		GRE		SS		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	2			1	6					1	3	2	2	1200-1900
2	3			1	2	1	7	1	2					1200-1700
2	4									1	1			1750-1800
2	5	2	5											1100-1200

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people have been at the site more or less continuously since the early medieval period, although there is no late medieval pottery, and the fact that only a few sherds of each type were found means that it may have been fields rather than where people lived.

Test Pit 3

		IA		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2			2	13	1800-1900
3	3			2	10	1800-1900
3	4	1	4			500-100BC
3	6			1	4	1800-1900

This site seems to have been occupied during prehistoric times, but was then abandoned until the 19th century.

Test Pit 4

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	4	3	7	1800-1900

The pottery from this site shows that it was not used before the 19th century.

Test Pit 5

		RG		GRE		CR		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	2			1	1			3	7	1550-1900
5	3							2	8	1800-1900
5	4							1	7	1800-1900
5	5					1	1			1750-1800
5	6	1	1							AD50-400

This site was used by people in Roman times, but was then abandoned until after the end of the medieval period. It produced very little pottery dating to before the 19th century, so may have been fields before then.

Test Pit 6

		LMT		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
6	3			1	1	1	1	1550-1900
6	4	1	5					1475-1550

This test-pit produced a couple of sherds of pottery dating to around the end of the medieval period, and just one piece of Victorian. It was probably used as fields during all that time.

Test Pit 7

		LMT		GS		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	3	1	7	1475-1600

This test-pit produced a one sherd of pottery dating to the late medieval period, and just one piece of Victorian. It was probably used as fields during all that time.

Test Pit 8

		PSW		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
8	3	1	19	1700-1800

This site only produced one piece of pottery, and it dates to the 17th century. This shows that the site has never been used very much by people, other than perhaps as fields.

Test Pit 9

		BA		RG		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		SS		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	1											2	29					16	54	1550-1900
9	2																	18	40	1750-1900
9	3					1	3											18	31	1100-1900
9	4	1	6	1	6							1	11	1	1			23	42	1200BC-1900
9	5									1	1					1	1	23	66	1550-1900
9	6							1	24									1	2	1475-1900

This test-pit produced a lot of pottery which covers a very long period of time. It shows that people were here in the Bronze Age and in Roman times, and then moved back to the site in the early part of the medieval period, and have been here ever since.

Test Pit 10

		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
10	3	1	3	1	5	1720-1900

This test-pit did not produce any pottery dating to before the early 18th century, and shows that people did not use the site before that time. The fact that very little pottery generally was found suggests that the site has never been lived on until very recently, probably when the existing house was built.

Pottery from West Mersea Test-Pits (WME10)

Pottery Types

BA: Bronze Age. Simple, hand-made pots with large amounts of flint mixed in with the clay. Dates to around 1200 – 800 BC

RB: Roman Grey Ware. Roman pottery, made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. 1st - 4th century.

Grey: Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns which were making this pottery type were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

GS: German Stonewares. First made around AD1350, and some types still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze, with some having blue and purple painted decoration, and others moulded medallions ('prunts') with coat-of-arms or mythical scenes on them. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

TGE: Delft ware. The first white-glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland, which were amongst the first to make this type of pottery in Europe. Soft, cream coloured fabric with a thick white glaze, often with painted designs in blue, purple and yellow. First made in Britain in Norwich around AD1600, and soon after in London. Continued in use until the 19th century. The 17th century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19th century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was

considered very cheap and the main types of pot were plain white, and humble vessels such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

SS: Staffordshire Slipware. Made between about AD1640 and 1750. This was the first pottery to be made in moulds in Britain since Roman times. The clay fabric is usually a pale buff colour, and the main product was flat dishes and plates, but cups were also made. These are usually decorated with thin brown stripes and a yellow glaze, or yellow stripes and a brown glaze.

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

SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. Hard, white pottery with a white glaze with a texture like orange peel. Made between 1720 and 1780, pots usually table wares such as tea bowls, tankards and plates.

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

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

		RB		GS		GRE		SS		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
1	1					1	5	1	8			10	16	1550-1900
1	2	2	7									26	42	100-1900
1	3					2	12					46	70	1550-1900
1	4					1	4			1	4	25	44	1550-1900
1	5			1	5			1	2			28	60	1550-1900
1	6											2	5	1800-1900

This test-pit produced two sherds of Roman pottery, showing that people were using the site at that time. There is then no more pottery until at least 1550, with most of it dating to the Victorian era, so it is unlikely people were living here in the medieval period.

Test Pit 2

		RB		GS		GRE		TGE		EST		SWSG		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
2	1			1	20	3	7					3	10	19	65	1550-1900
2	2	1	12									3	3	32	122	100-1900
2	3	1	25			1	4	1	3	2	5	1	1	21	38	100-1900
2	4									1	1			7	19	1720-1900
2	5													1	6	1800-1900

This test-pit produced two quite large pieces of ~Roman pottery, showing that people were using the site at that time. There was no medieval pottery, so the site was probably not used during that time, but there is quite a lot of post-medieval material, especially from around 1600 onwards.

Test Pit 3

		Grey		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	1			1	5	1800-1900
3	2	1	1	11	30	1100-1900
3	3			10	21	1800-1900
3	4			3	14	1800-1900
3	5	1	10	2	4	1100-1900
3	6			1	3	1800-1900
3	7			1	5	1800-1900

Nearly all the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, but there was also two pieces of medieval wares, showing that people were here at that time.

Test Pit 4

		RB		Grey		LMT		GS		GRE		TGE		EST		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1							1	4							4	11	1500-1900
4	2					1	4									4	14	1400-1900
4	3			2	4					1	5	1	2			3	10	1100-1900
4	4			2	10									1	6	4	5	1100-1900
4	5			10	54											1	4	1100-1900
4	6	1	7	6	37													100-1200
4	7			2	11													1100-1200

This test-pit produced a lot of medieval pottery, all of which seems to date to the 12th century. There are smaller quantities dating from around AD1400 onwards, so the site has probably been used more or less continuously since the 12th century. There is also a small piece of Roman pottery, so people were also using the site at that time, although it seems to have been abandoned throughout the Saxon period.

Test Pit 5

		BA		RB		LMT		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1			1	2					100-200
5	2	1	4			1	4			1500BC-1500
5	3	1	3					1	1	1500BC-1900

This test-pit did not produce much pottery, but that which was found is mostly very old. The Bronze Age pottery is a very rare find, and shows that people were using the site over 3000 years ago. The piece of Roman pottery indicates that the site was also in use at that time, but it appears to have been fields since then until very recently.

Test Pit 6

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1	2	11	1800-1900
6	2	2	14	1800-1900
6	3	1	2	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, and shows that the site was not used by people before that time.

Test Pit 7

		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
7	3	2	15	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, and shows that the site was not used by people before that time.

Test Pit 8

		SS		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
8	1			12	71	1800-1900
8	2			8	45	1800-1900
8	3			2	25	1800-1900
8	5	1	10			1650-1750

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, apart from a single sherd that dates to around the time of the Civil War, and shows that the site was not used by people before that time.

Test Pit 9

		GRE		VIC		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
9	2			1	4	1800-1900
9	3	1	6	2	5	1550-1900
9	4	1	4			1550-1600

This test-pit did not produce much pottery but that which was found shows that the site was used from around the 16th century.

Test Pit 10

		RB		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
10	2	1	1	100-200
10	3	2	70	100-200

All the pottery from this test-pit was Roman, and suggests very strongly that there is a settlement of that date close by. The lack of any other sorts of pot show that it was not used from Roman times until the modern houses were built.

West Mersea 2006-10

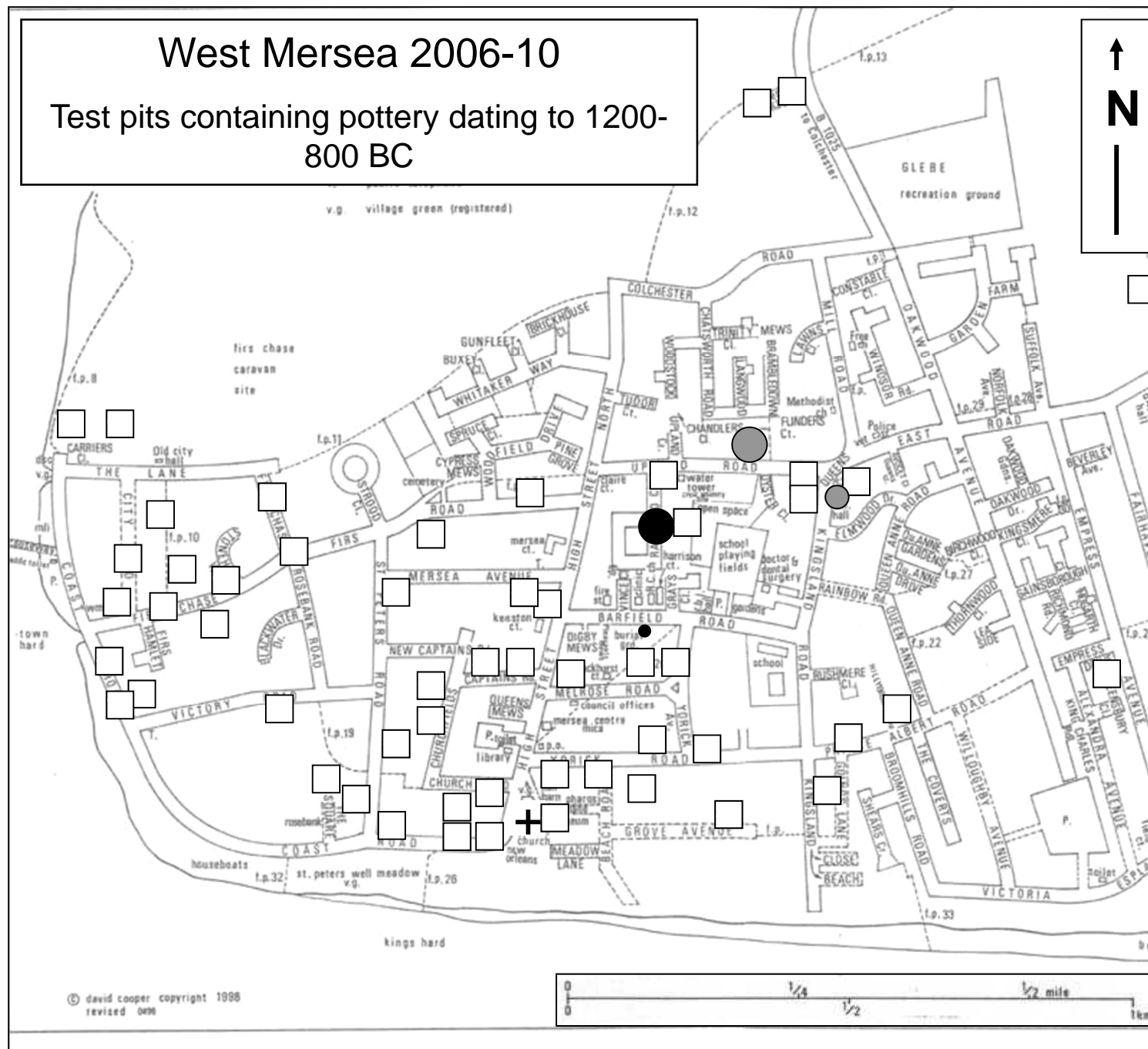
Test pits containing pottery dating to 1200-800 BC

Disturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Undisturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more



West Mersea 2006-10

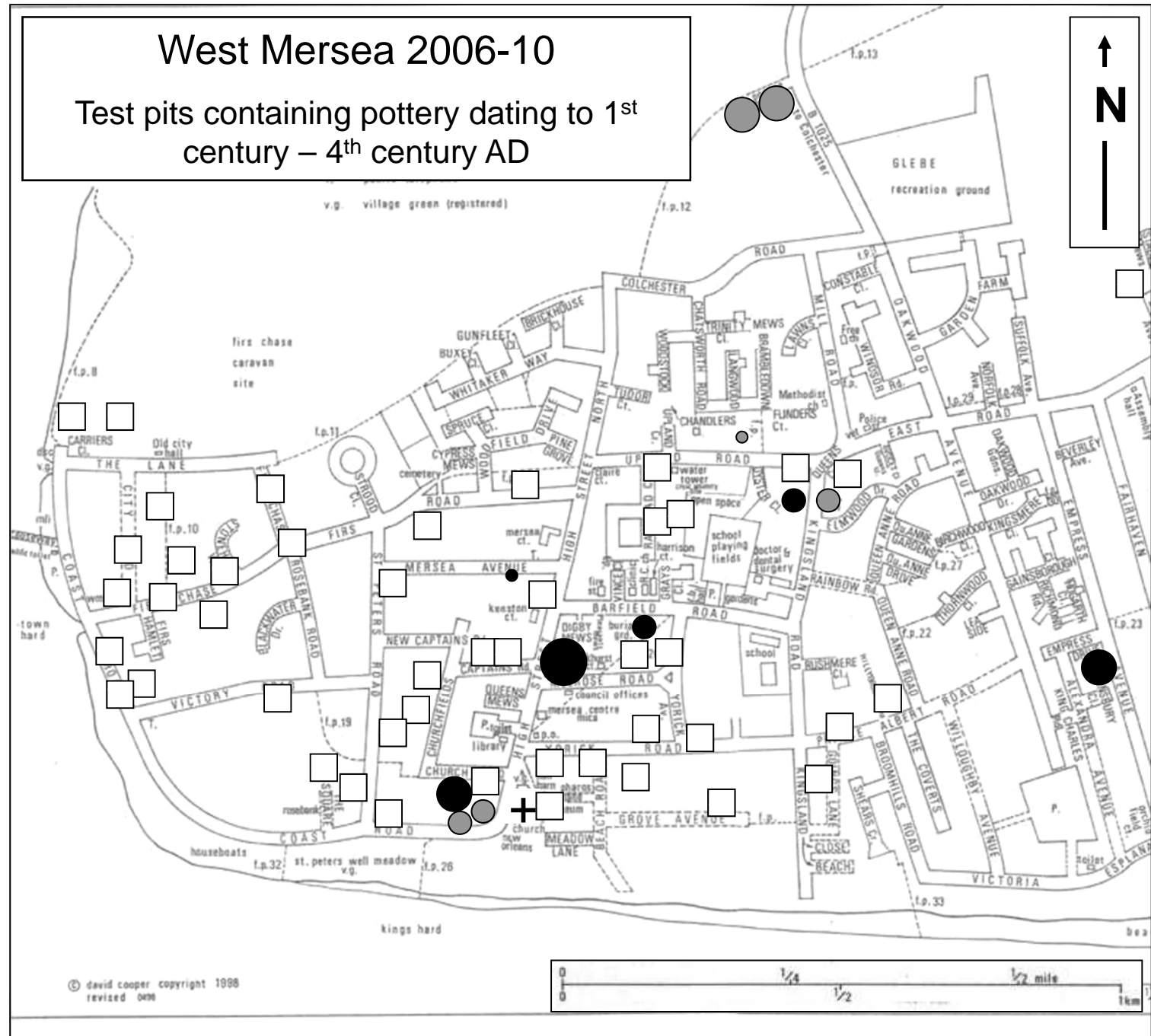
Test pits containing pottery dating to 1st century – 4th century AD

Disturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Undisturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more



West Mersea 2006-10

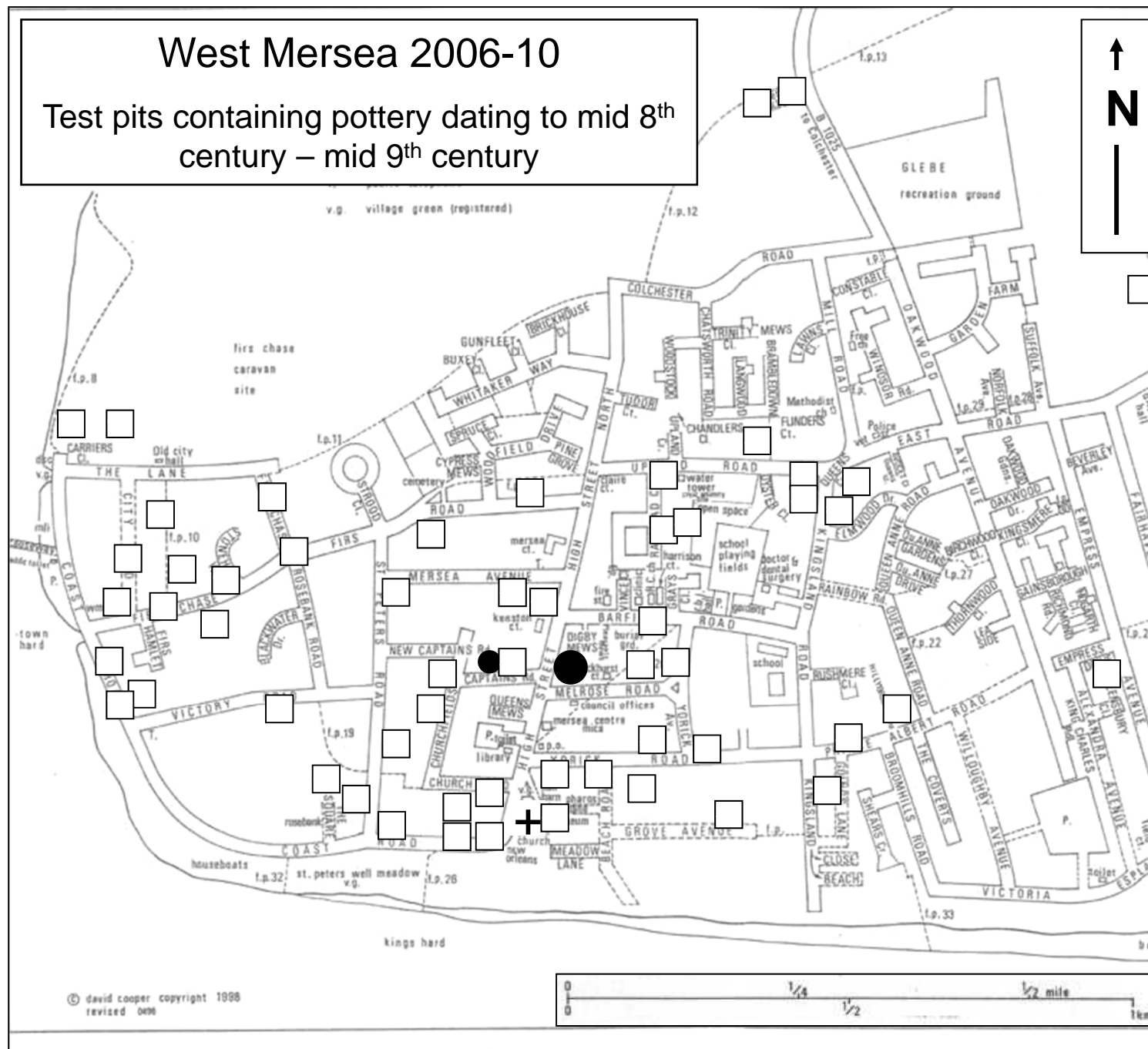
Test pits containing pottery dating to mid 8th century – mid 9th century

Disturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Undisturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more



West Mersea 2006-10

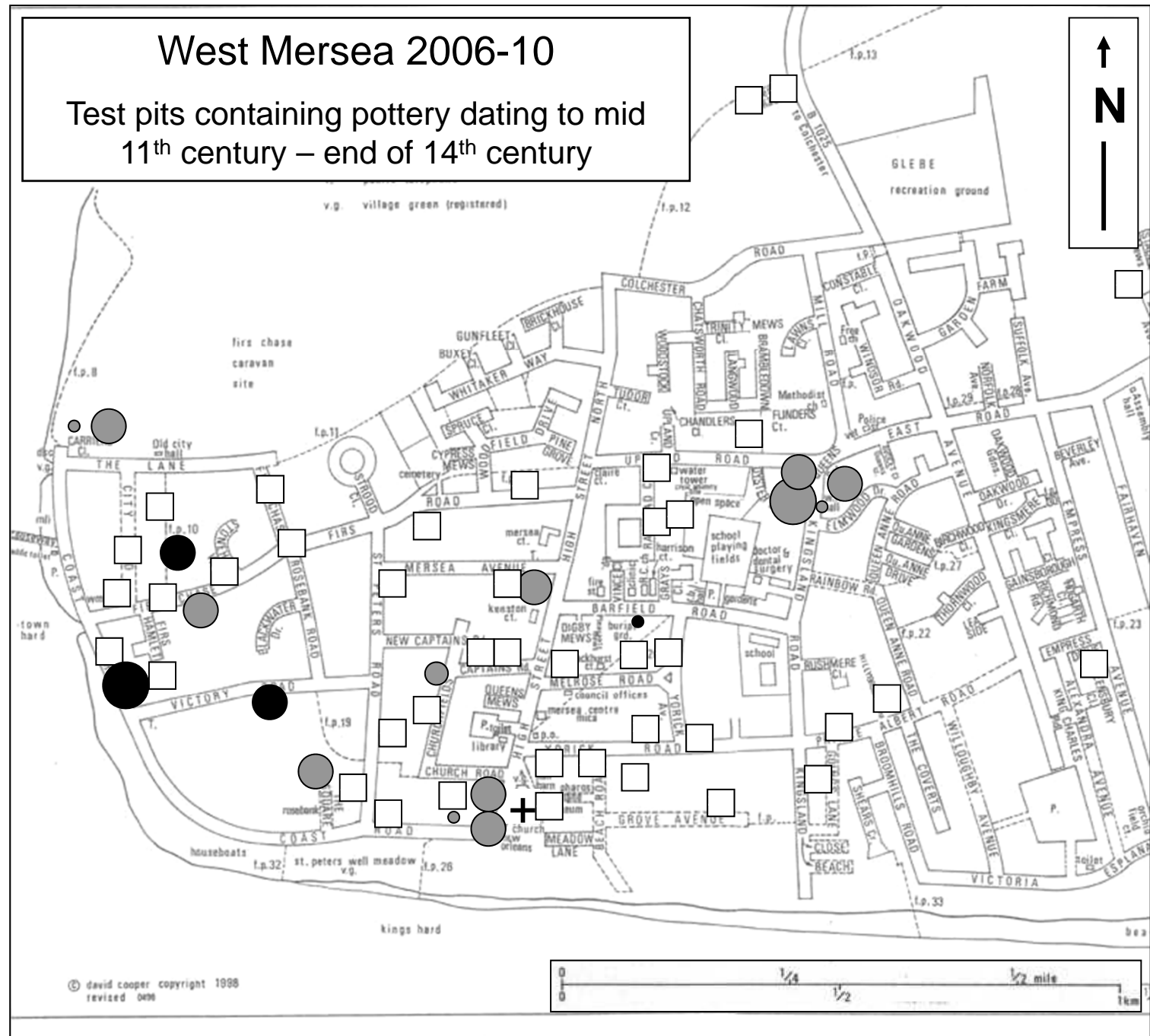
Test pits containing pottery dating to mid 11th century – end of 14th century

Disturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Undisturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more



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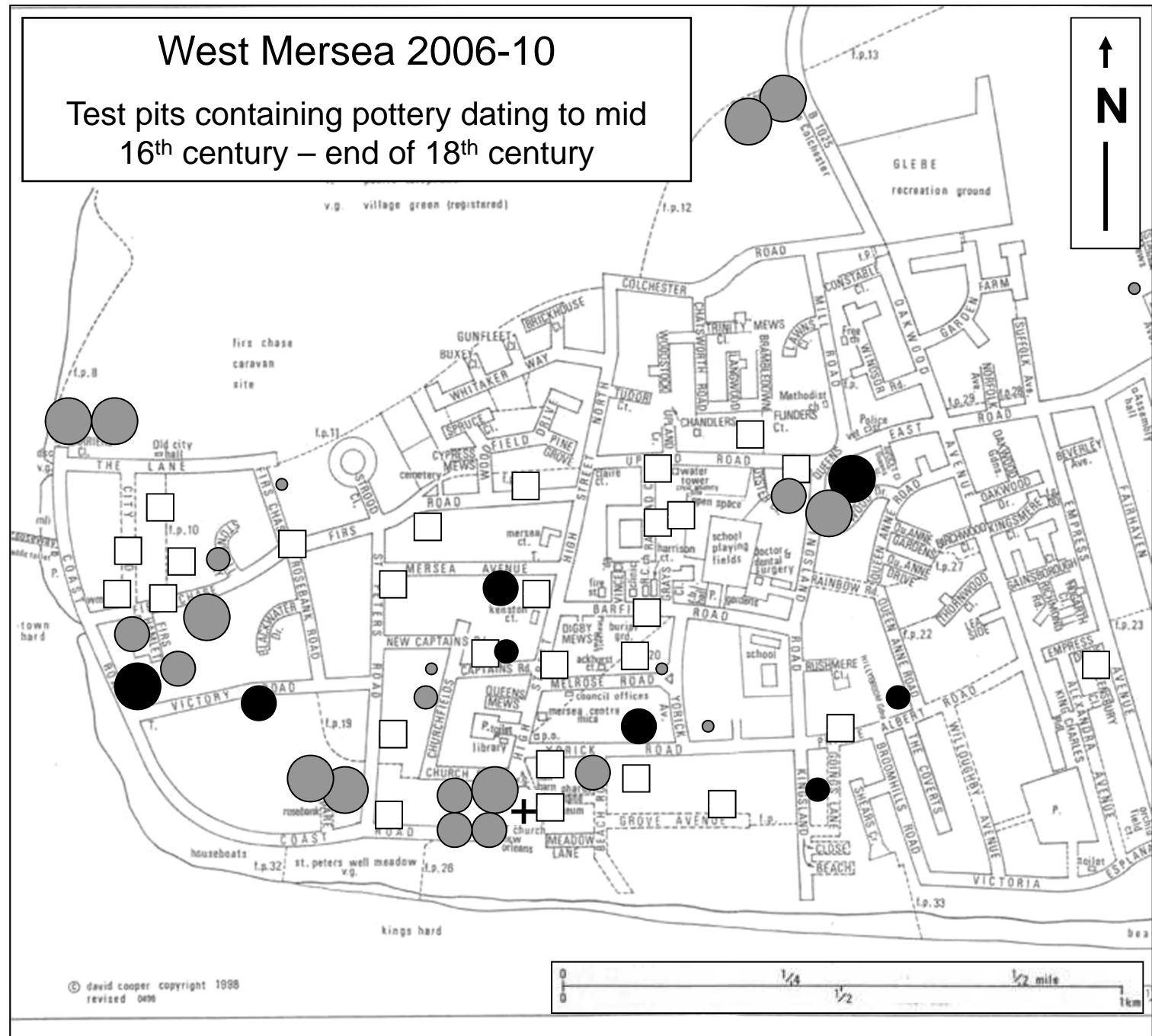
Test pits containing pottery dating to mid 16th century – end of 18th century

Disturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Undisturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more



West Mersea 2006-10

Test pits containing pottery dating to the 19th century

Disturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Undisturbed levels

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

