

Understanding Our Past: Exploring the Hidden History of Meldreth
Archaeological Test Pit Project, 2013

Results from Test Pit 28, 38 North End

Pottery

This test-pit produced exceptionally large quantities of pottery, as summarised in the table below. The group of prehistoric pottery is very large, and fragments of burnt bone were also noted, suggesting that there was once an urned cremation on the site, although it was probably disturbed and is now dispersed. The Late Saxon assemblage is also very large, and contexts 13 and 14 produced no later pottery, showing that people were living at the site before the Norman Conquest. Occupation continued into the medieval period, but the site then seems to have been deserted before the end of the 12th century, and never occupied again.

Context	BA		RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HG		VIC		Date Range
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1					1	3g									1	1g	900-1900
2	1	2g			1	4g											1200BC-1100
3					1	1g	1	1g			1	5g	4	16g			900-1200
4					4	38g							2	9g			900-1200
5					2	3g			1	3g	3	30g	2	9g			900-1200
6	2	4g			2	6g							3	14g			1200BC-1200
7	2	8g			3	8g			1	5g	2	14g	5	14g			1200BC-1200
8	1	1g			9	22g			3	5g			14	71g			1200BC-1200
9	4	8g			13	24g			5	28g	7	18g	9	64g			1200BC-1200
10	3	9g	1	17g	13	21g	2	5g	7	39g	3	7g	14	48g			1200BC-1200
11	2	5g			29	94g					2	22g	6	31g			1200BC-1200
12	4	8g			22	36g			2	10g			7	85g			1200BC-1200
13					18	51g											900-1100
14	4	18g			14	82g											900-1100

For an explanation of the abbreviations shown above, together with more information on the types of pottery found, please see our [glossary](#) or the full [pottery report](#).

Bone

An analysis of the bones found in this pit is provided in the table below. The complete [bone report](#) is also available.

Taxon	Context													
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]
Cow	1	.	2	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	1
Sheep/ goat	.	2	3	2	.	2	.	3	3	4	5	5	4	2
Pig	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	3	2
Horse	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dog	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
<i>Galliformes</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Domestic goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Squirrel	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hedgehog	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Vole sp.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	2	3	8	3	.	2	3	4	6	7	6	5	7	11
Cattle-sized	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	1	1	2	1	1	5	8
Sheep-sized	.	10	6	6	4	11	8	7	13	12	16	8	5	7
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.
Total	2	13	16	10	7	13	11	13	20	21	24	14	17	26

The abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Flint

Information on the flints found in this test pit is summarised in the table below. For additional information, please see the general [flint report](#).

Context	chip	irregular waste	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	retouched flake	total worked	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
1				1				1		
2				1				1		
3				1				1		
9					1			1		

Other Finds

Context	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2			small metal tack =3g	stone x9 =25g		
C. 3					brick and stone x23 =182g, shell x2 =<1g	
C. 4	brick x2 =97g		metal tack =6g	stone x4 =50g	shell x2 =5g, burnt material =3g	
C. 5			old metal nail =16g		masonry x12 =252g	
C. 6				stone x2 =5g	shell {oyster shellx1 and snail shell x8} x9 =19g	
C. 7				stone x3 =63g	shell {14 snail, 1 mussel} x15 =43g, building material x4 =74g, mortar x5 =11g	
C. 8	brick x3 =10g		slag =5g		mortar x3 =13g, shell x29=60g	
C. 9				stone x5 =10g, charcoal x3 =5g	shell {2 oyster, 9 snail} x11 =27g	
C. 10			slag =8g	clinker =4g	shell x6 =9g	
C. 11				charcoal =<1g	shell {2 mussel, 2 oyster, 6 snail} x10 =19g	
C. 12				charcoal x15 =5g	shell {2 snail, 1 mussel, 1 oyster, 1 ammonite} x5 =6g	
C. 13				charcoal x14 =11g	flat spiral tiny shells x82=22g	
C. 14				charcoal x16 =5g	shell {3 oyster, 7 flat snails, 1 land snail} x11 =16g	

Further [finds reports and maps](#) are available elsewhere on the site.