

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

Results from Test Pit 29, Topcliffe Mill, 36 North End

Pottery

This test-pit produced exceptionally large quantities of pottery. The prehistoric pottery includes a group from context 10 with no later pottery, showing that people occupied the site at that time. The site was then abandoned until the Saxo-Norman or medieval period, but the site then seems to have been deserted before the end of the 15th century, and never occupied again. The sherds of Surrey White Ware are worthy of comment, as such material is a very rare find in the area, and this is the only test-pit which produced it, suggesting that the occupants of the site had trade contacts which were not exploited by other occupants of the settlement.

Context	BA		SN		STAM		EMW		HED		HG		SWW		LMT		Date Range
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1									1	1g	3	18g	1	3g	4	11g	1150-1550
2							3	13g	3	4g	25	129g	6	27g			1100-1400
3							10	60g	11	30g	26	137g					1100-1400
4					1	2g	10	76g	4	16g	13	117g					1000-1400
5							4	28g	3	12g	7	26g					1100-1400
6							3	14g	2	3g	8	48g					1100-1400
7							2	20g			3	18g					1100-1200
8							1	9g			1	5g					1100-1200
9	4	13g	2	7g													1200BC-1100
10	1	4g															1200-800BC

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]
Cow	.	.	4	5	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
Sheep/ goat	1	3	3	5	11	3	1	.	1	.	.
Pig	.	1	2	1	2	.	.	1	.	.	.
Horse	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
Teal	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	1	5	9	12	14	5	1	1	2	.	.
Cattle-sized	.	3	.	2	.	3	2	2	.	.	.
Sheep-sized	1	6	13	4	11	2	5	7	5	4	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bird n.f.i.	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
Fish n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Total	3	15	23	20	26	12	9	10	7	4	1

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

Flint

The flint 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)
2				1				1		
4				2				2		
6						1		1	2	9.2
7								0	1	3.3
8				2	1			3		

Other Finds

Context	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C.1	brick =6g, brick (ancient?) =257g				shell x5 =9g	
C. 2			metal x2 =13g	charcoal =<1g	shell (mainly oyster) x28 =88g, daub =14g	
C. 3			metal arrow head =24g, nail =2g		shell {1 whelk, rest oyster} x56 =290g	
C. 4					shell {12 mussel, 16 oyster} x28 =64g	
C. 5				charcoal =<1g	shellx6 =8g, flint aggregate =176g	
C. 6			slag =23g	burnt stone and burnt daub x2 =30g	burnt wattle and daub x9 =92g, shell {7 snail and 1 oyster} x8 =25g	
C. 7				stones x8 =47g	shell {oyster and garden} x? =7g	
C. 8			metal =30g	coal x4 =6g	shell x5 =3g	
C. 9				clinker x2 =10g, charcoal =<1g		
C. 10				charcoal x4 =?	shell =?	
C. 11					shell =?	

More information on the arrow head is available in an appendix of the full report.

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