

Archaeological test pit excavations in Daws Heath, Essex, 2013 - 2015

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1 Introduction

A total of 24 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated over a three-year period between 2013 and 2015 in the village of Daws Heath in south Essex, as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) and run by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) out of the University of Cambridge. Daws Heath is located c.6km west of Southend and c.9km east of Basildon, in an area which is generally very built up, the village today is sited in secluded wooded countryside less than 1km south of the busy A127. The settlement today is arranged in a large block mostly south of an east-west-orientated lane, dominated by a triangular arrangement of minor streets. Although quite large, the settlement retains a rural character to it.

There is little historical data on Daws Heath, with place names deriving from medieval records not alluding to habitation, including an association with Philip Dawe in 1285 and Wyburns (north of the junction between Dawes Heath Road and Bramble Road) recorded as *Wyberneswde* in 1253. Local histories record that until recently the area was largely given over to woodland industries such as charcoal burning, supplemented by smuggling from the nearby coast. Daws Heath lies within Thundersley parish, but gained a non-conformist chapel in the mid-19th century (founded by the Peculiar People movement), originally sited in Western Road but now rebuilt on Daws Heath Road. The First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" to one mile map shows the late 19th century settlement to be very much smaller than it is today. The triangular arrangement of roads is clearly present, but with just a dozen or so cottages strung very intermittently along these, supplemented by three larger discrete homesteads/farm complexes present at Great Wyburns (south of the present Tylerset Farm), Haresland and Bramblehall. Otherwise the area is one of small fields and woodland.

1.1 Access Cambridge Archaeology

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) (<http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/>) is an archaeological outreach organisation based in the Department of Archaeology 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.

Since 2015, ACA has been managed by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) and thus have been able to work more closely with the unit to deliver outreach programmes such as the community excavations at Peterborough Cathedral in 2016, community test pitting activities in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The ACA and CAU collaboration has also enabled the continuation of the education outreach projects that involve work with both primary and secondary school pupils.

1.2 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 schools years 9, 10 and 12.

On HEFA, participants spend two days running their own small (1m²) archaeological excavation within living villages, 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 currently occupied rural settlement (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 Methodology

The three years of test pitting in Daws Heath was organised by ACA in conjunction with AGES Archaeological and Historical Association. The excavation and records followed the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA), instruction handbook and recording booklet.

The test pit digging takes place over two days, which begins with an initial talk explaining the aims of the excavation, the procedures used in digging and recording the test pit and the correct and safe use of equipment. Participants are then divided into teams of three or four individuals, and each team is provided with a complete set of test pit excavation equipment, copies of the instruction handbook and a record booklet to enter excavation data into.

The test pits were all 1m² and the turf, if present, was removed in neat squares by hand. Each test pit was excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The horizontal surface of each context/spit was then drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation, a photograph taken and the colour of the soil recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart. A pro-forma recording system was used by participants to record their test pit excavation. This comprised a 16-page *Test Pit Record* booklet which was developed by ACA for use by people with no previous archaeological experience. Each pit and context is described and noted using the site code DHE/year, so DHE/13 for 2013, DHE/14 for 2014 and DHE/15 for 2015.

During the excavation, 100% of the spoil is sieved through a 10mm mesh (with the occasional exception of very heavy clay soils which have to be hand-searched). All artefacts are retained, cleaned and bagged by context. Cut and built features are planned at 1:10 and excavated sequentially with latest deposits removed first. Pottery and most other finds are identified promptly by archaeological experts on site who visit the test pits regularly providing advice and checking that the excavation is being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Test pits are excavated down to natural or the maximum safe depth of 1.2m, whichever is encountered first. A minority of test pits will stop on encountering a feature, (ancient or modern) which archaeological staff deem inadvisable or impossible to remove, and occasionally excavation may cease at a level above natural due to time constraints. On completion of each test pit excavation, all four sections are drawn at 1:10 along with the unexcavated base of the test pit prior to backfilling by hand and the turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

After the two days of excavation are completed, the archaeological records and finds (all of which are kept and cleaned on site) are retained by ACA at the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HER's, publication and ongoing research into the origins and development of rural settlement. 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). ACA retain all finds 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, but any requests to return finds to owners will be agreed.

3 Results from the test pitting in Daws Heath

The approximate locations of the 24 test pits excavated in Daws Heath between June 2013 and July 2015 can be seen in figure 1 below (please note that the test pits are not to scale). By year this breaks down to 12 pits excavated in 2013, 11 in 2014 and one test pit in 2015 and excavated as part of the University of Cambridge's HEFA programme. Members of AGES AHA also excavated some of the test pits, at the same time as the school groups.

The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order and by year. Most excavation was in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm.

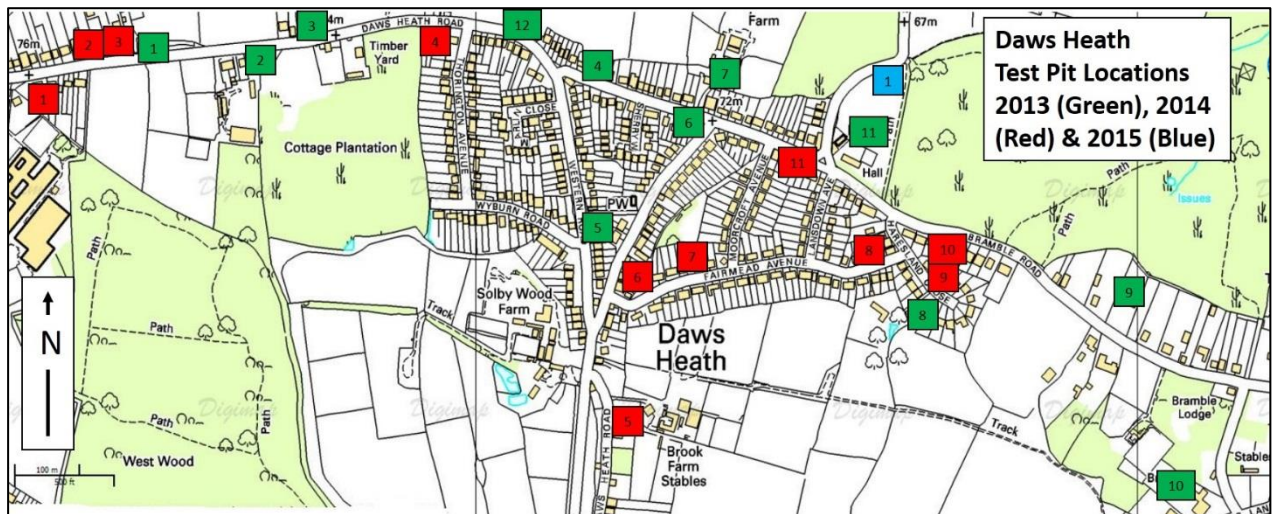


Figure 1: Location map of all the Daws Heath test pits. Green is 2013, red is 2014 and blue is 2015 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 10,000

2013 Test Pits (site code DHE/13)

The 2013 test pit excavations in Daws Heath were undertaken over the 5th and 6th of June, where a total of 12 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated by 41 Years 9 pupils from Southend High School for Boys, Southend High School for Girls, Cecil Jones College and Shoeburyness High School (school names correct at the time of participation) who dug 10 test pits and members of AGES AHA who dug two test pits. The test pits were excavated as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA), run by ACA and funded by Cambridge Admissions Office out of the University of Cambridge.

The excavations were directed by Carenza Lewis, with onsite supervision provided by Catherine Collins, Clemency Cooper and Paul Blinkhorn, who also analysed the pottery. The test pits were sited across the width of the village, the majority concentrated along the east-west road. The test pit locations were found by Terry Barclay and Lynda Manning of AGES AHA.

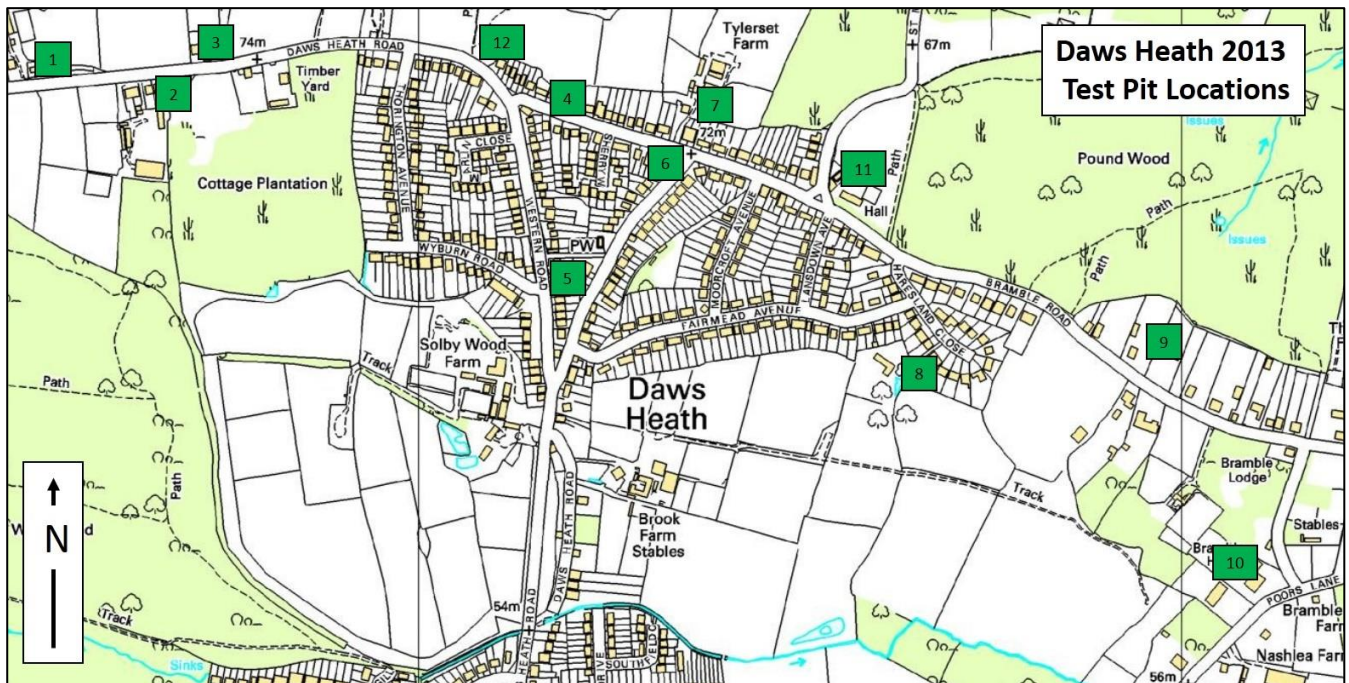


Figure 2: Daws Heath 2013 test pit location map (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 5,000

Test Pit one (DHE/13/1)

Test pit one was excavated between a hedge row and driveway to the east of a likely 19th century house and along the main road into the village from the west (Valley Cottage, 137 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 580544 188849).

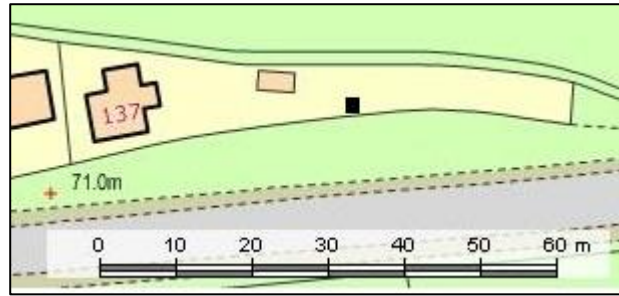


Figure 3: Location map of DHE/13/1

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/13/1 dates as 19th century ‘Victorian’ wares, although a single small sherd of English Stoneware was also recorded.

TP	Context	EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			6	9	1800-1900
1	2	1	2	34	39	1680-1900
1	4			39	64	1800-1900

Table 1: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/1

A possible small post hole was excavated along the southern edge of the test pit at 0.4m in depth and was found to be 0.15m in depth (figure 4). The presence of worked flints also recorded in the context above may suggest that this feature is prehistoric in date and potentially part of a larger structure, but further work would be needed here to confirm this. The rest of the finds and pottery suggest that there was little in the way of activity on site until the current house was built and the land has likely always been kept as open fields. The finds consist of tile, ceramic building material (CBM), a plastic drinks cap, concrete, a small paint brush, modern screws, a metal button, glass, modern black tile, a metal button, clay pipe, coal, iron nails, a metal bracket and a possible Bakelite cap.



Figure 4: The possible post hole excavated from DHE/13/1 © ACA

Test Pit two (DHE/13/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the enclosed side garden of a modern house set along the main road into the village from the west (164 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 580685 188835).

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.46m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

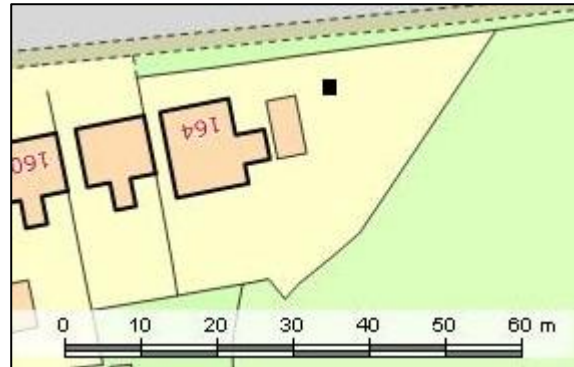


Figure 5: Location map of DHE/13/2

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/13/2 dates as 19th century ‘Victorian’ wares, although a single sherd of Mill Green Ware and two sherds of English Stoneware were also recorded.

TP	Context	MG		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1					5	36	1800-1900
2	2					1	1	1800-1900
2	3			2	17	20	115	1680-1900
2	4	1	4			5	37	1270-1900

Table 2: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/2

There was very little in the way of pre-19th century finds excavated from DHE/13/2, but the medieval and post medieval pottery excavated from the test pit do suggest that the site has likely always been kept as open fields until more recently. The finds excavated consist of brick, tile, CBM, glass, including a glass bottle stopper, degraded black leather boot fragments, equivalent to a modern size 7 (figure 6), a complete bottle and a 4oz Marmite jar (figure 7), a plastic plant tag was also found with concrete, central battery cores, tarmac, modern brick and tile, whelk shell and pieces of slag.



Figure 6: Shoe remains excavated from DHE/13/2, context 3 © ACA



Figure 7: Marmite jar excavated from DHE/13/2, context 5 © ACA

Test Pit three (DHE/13/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a converted chapel that was built in the 1890's, along the main road into the village from the west (The Old Chapel, 185 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 580735 188888).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 1m at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware were excavated from context two of DHE/13/3, but the rest of the pottery recorded dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares.



Figure 8: Location map of DHE/13/3

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	2	2	58	15	147	1550-1900
3	3			6	133	1800-1900
3	4			5	22	1800-1900
3	5			7	18	1800-1900
3	6			1	2	1800-1900
3	7			1	4	1800-1900

Table 3: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/3

The minimal pre-19th century finds that were excavated from DHE/13/3 suggest that the site was utilised as open fields, particularly from the 16th century onwards until the chapel was built in the late 19th century. The finds consist of slate, concrete, asbestos, modern nails, tile and CBM, a strip of lead, iron nails, fragments of modern sewer drain, a plastic plant tag, coal, glass, mortar, thick metal wire, CBM, tile and fragments of possible breeze block.

Test Pit four (DHE/13/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the open front garden of a modern house set along the main road in the north of the village (293 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581185 188797).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.57m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

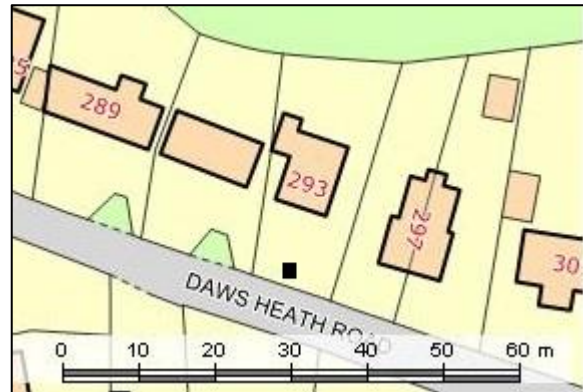


Figure 9: Location map of DHE/13/4

Single sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Late Medieval Ware, Staffordshire Slipware and English Stoneware were all excavated from the lower half of DHE/13/4. The majority of the pottery identified however dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares with a number of sherds found in every context.

TP	Context	EMW		LMT		SS		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	2									5	32	1800-1900
4	3									6	13	1800-1900
4	4					1	1			22	41	1650-1900
4	5	1	1							2	12	1100-1900
4	6			1	5			1	6	1	2	1400-1900

Table 4: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/4

This land was most likely kept as open fields from the medieval period and until the current house was built during the 20th century. The rise in finds dating from the 19th century onwards suggests that there was also an increase in activity at that time and consist of CBM, tile, mortar, glass, coal, melted plastic, concrete, slate, pieces of scrap metal, a slate pencil and possible slag on CBM.

Test Pit five (DHE/13/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set along the main north-south road through the village (57 Western Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581193 188565).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.6m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

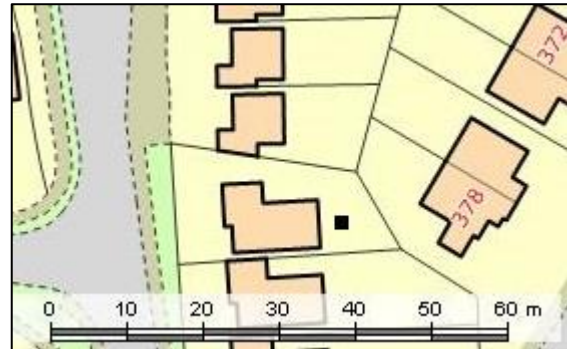


Figure 10: Location map of DHE/13/5

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/13/5 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares, although three sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware were also recorded from the lower half of the test pit.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1			1	1	1800-1900
5	2			12	26	1800-1900
5	3			4	13	1800-1900
5	4	1	1	27	73	1550-1900
5	5	2	42	5	6	1550-1900
5	6			1	1	1800-1900

Table 5: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/5

The few pre-19th century finds and pottery excavated from DHE/13/5 suggest that there was very little in the way of activity on site prior to that time and that the land was likely kept as open fields until more intense activity was noted from the 19th century. The finds consist of CBM, tile, mortar, melted plastic, glass, coal, concrete, CBM and slag together, slate, clay pipe and pieces of scrap metal.

Test Pit six (DHE/13/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set along the main road through the village to the north (Baytrees, 328 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581322 188710).

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/13/6 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares and was found through the upper half of the test pit only. A single sherd of English Stoneware was also recorded from context three.



Figure 11: Location map of DHE/13/6

TP	Context	EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1			3	6	1800-1900
6	2			17	73	1800-1900
6	3	1	10	5	8	1680-1900
6	4			2	2	1800-1900

Table 6: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/6

The majority of the both the finds and pottery excavated from DHE/13/6 date from the 19th century onwards when there was a definite increase of activity on site. Prior to that the land was likely open fields, particularly from the 17th century onwards. The finds recorded consist of tile, CBM, clay pip, possible fragments of breeze block, iron nails, glass, brick, modern tile, modern nails, metal wire, slate, concrete, coal, and a D shaped metal hoop, pieces of scrap metal and plastic.

Test Pit seven (DHE/13/7)

Test pit seven was excavated on a patch of rough grass opposite a 17th century farmhouse set back from the main road in the far north of the village (Tylersset Farm, Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581365 188792).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from DHE/13/7 dates from the 16th century and later as Border Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware and as 19th century 'Victorian' wares.



Figure 12: Location map of DHE/13/7

TP	Context	BW		GRE		DW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	2			1	10	1	4	5	8	1550-1900
7	3	1	1	2	5	1	1	13	32	1550-1900
7	4			1	27					1550-1600

Table 7: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/7

All the finds date to after the construction of the current house, suggesting that there was little to no activity on the land prior to that. The finds consist of a squashed thin plastic bowl, tile, CBM, glass, iron nails, coal, slate, clay pipe, fragments of plastic wrapping, mortar, concrete, modern tile and a strip of lead.

Test Pit eight (DHE/13/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set on an estate in the north east of the village (26 Haresland Close, Daws Heath. TQ 581666 188447).

Test pit eight was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A range of both medieval and post medieval wares were excavated from DHE/13/8, and have been identified as Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Late Medieval Ware, Martincamp Flask, German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware and as 19th century 'Victorian' wares.

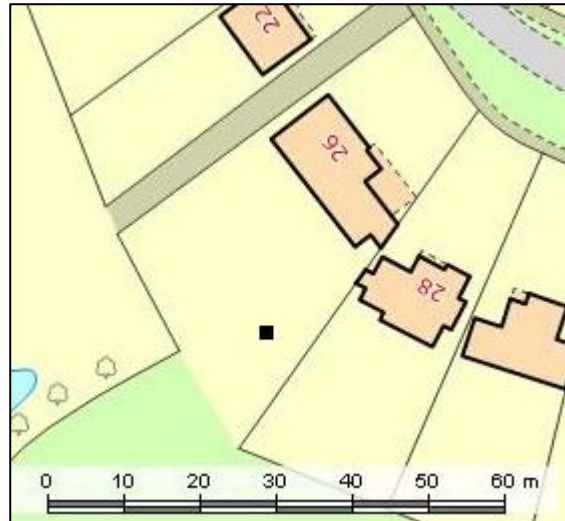


Figure 13: Location map of DHE/13/8

TP	Context	EMW		LMT		MCF		GS		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1			1	7									1400-1550
8	2			2	13	1	14					8	9	1400-1900
8	3									1	5	2	7	1550-1900
8	4	1	1					1	1			3	4	1100-1900

Table 8: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/8

Given the range of 15th century and later pottery types that were excavated from DHE/13/8, it seems likely that there was occupation on site from that time and through the 16th century, after which it was abandoned until the current houses were built. The single sherd of medieval pottery also found suggests that the site was also probably open fields at that time also. The finds recorded consist of tile, CBM, possible breeze block fragments, coal, glass, oyster shell, iron nails and a possible turning screw with a handle.

Test Pit nine (DHE/13/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the large enclosed rear garden of a modern house and next to the garages, set back from the main road in the far northeast of the village (Bramble Cottage, 175 Bramble Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581992 188501).

Test pit nine was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Single sherds of both Glazed Red Earthenware and 19th century 'Victorian' pottery were both recorded from the upper contexts of DHE/13/9.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	2	1	10			1550-1600
9	3			1	7	1800-1900

Table 9: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/9

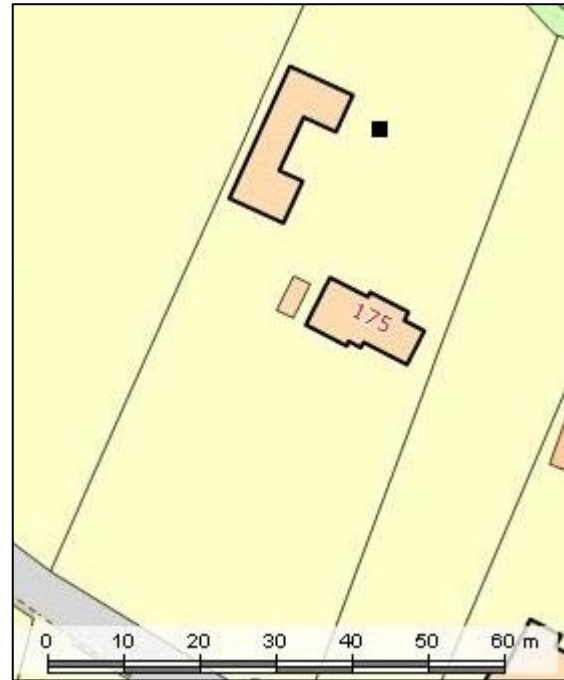


Figure 14: Location map of DHE/13/9

The few finds and pottery that were found to date prior to the construction of the current house suggest that the land was utilised originally as open fields, particularly from the 16th century onwards. Some later disturbances have been noted in relation to the construction and subsequent occupation of the property and the mix of finds found through the upper five contexts of the test pit consist of slate, CBM, tile, iron nails, aluminium plant tags, glass, coal, and a metal bracket, foil, modern CBM and a plastic clothes peg fragment.

Test Pit 10 (DHE/13/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set in the far east of the village (Bramble Hall, Poors Lane North, Daws Heath. TQ 582078 188187).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, with a sondage in the southern corner of the test pit excavated to 0.85m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/13/10 dates as 19th century ‘Victorian’ wares, although a single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware was also recorded.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	2			4	6	1800-1900
10	3			2	5	1800-1900
10	4	1	20			1550-1600
10	5			2	5	1800-1900

Table 10: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/10

The current house at DHE/13/10 was built on the site of a previous Victorian house, but the most recent construction had created a lot of disturbance around the site of the test pit, as significant amounts of large pebbles and plastic sheeting were both found from 0.5m in depth, potentially to stabilise some of the ground after construction. Other finds also recorded consist of CBM, coal, a metal rod, slate, glass and brick. Prior to the construction of the Victorian house, the land was also most likely utilised as open fields, particularly from the 16th century onwards.

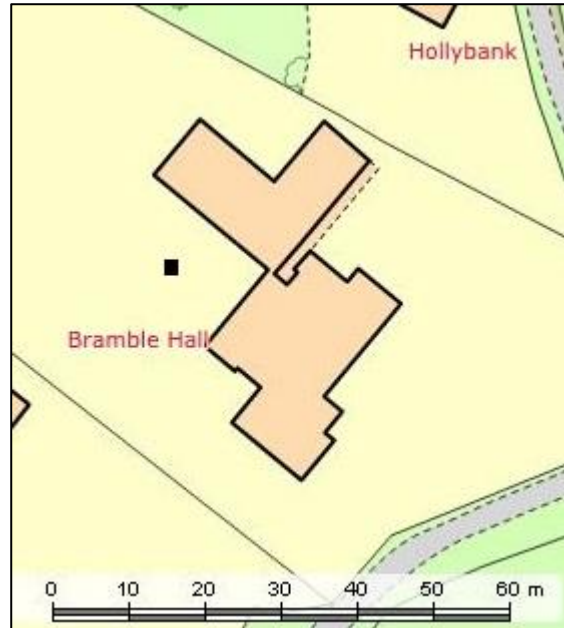


Figure 15: Location map of DHE/13/10

Test Pit 11 (DHE/13/11)

Test pit 11 was excavated in the southern end of a large grassed field immediately north of St Michael and All Angels Church in the northeast of the village (Field behind St Michael and All Angels Church, corner of Bramble Road and St Michael's Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581594 188734).

Test pit 11 was excavated to a depth of between 0.44m and 0.6m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from DHE/13/11 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares.

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
11	1	4	4	1800-1900
11	2	5	18	1800-1900
11	3	1	1	1800-1900

Table 11: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/11

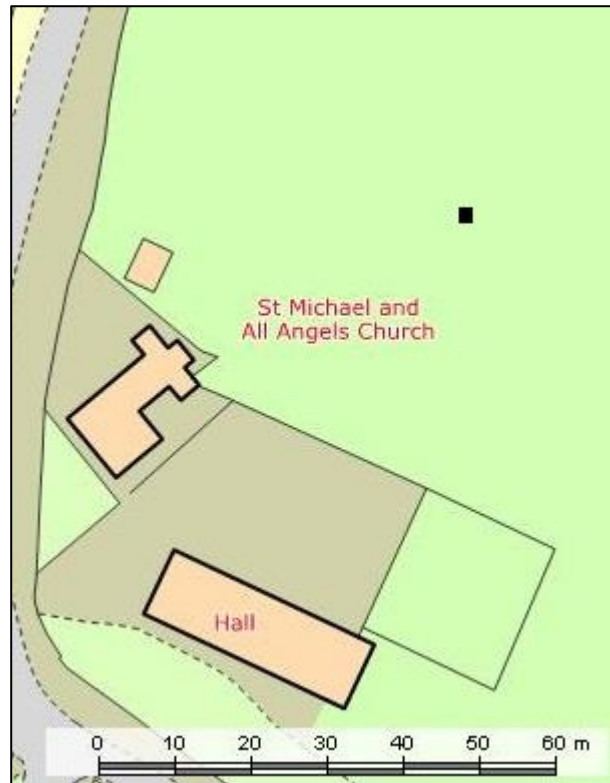


Figure 16: Location map of DHE/13/11

Very few finds and pottery were excavated from DHE/13/11 suggesting that there has been very little in the way of activity until the 19th century and after, prior to which it was likely just left as open fields adjacent to Pound Wood. The finds consist of coal, slate, concrete, CBM, glass and a fragment of Perspex.

Test Pit 12 (DHE/13/12)

Test pit 12 was excavated in the southern corner of a grassed field owned by the Essex Wildlife Trust in the north of the village (Field to east of Little Havens, Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 581100 188874).

Test pit 12 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A range of pottery types were excavated from DHE/13/12, consisting of Mill Green Ware, Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Manganese Ware, English Stoneware and as 19th century 'Victorian' wares.

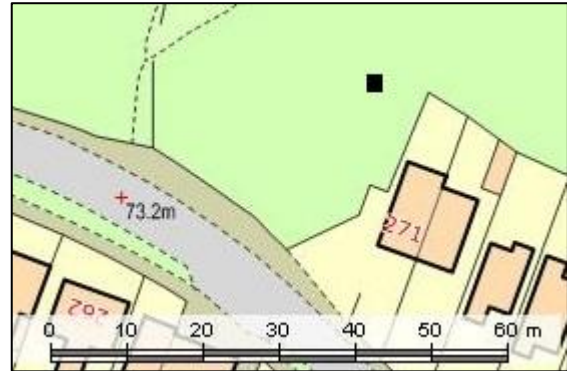


Figure 17: Location map of DHE/13/12

TP	Context	MG		LMT		GRE		SMW		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
12	1											1	2	1800-1900
12	2	1	11	1	2							1	2	1270-1900
12	3					2	12	1	1			1	3	1550-1900
12	4					5	19			2	11			1550-1750

Table 12: The pottery excavated from DHE/13/12

The pottery results suggest that the site has been in use from the 16th century onwards, with also perhaps more limited use from the 13th century, although the area has likely always remained as open fields. A large mix of building rubble and modern finds were also found through the upper contexts of the test pit especially, consisting of modern brick, CBM and tile along with glass, plates of metal, concrete, coal, slate, tarmac, asbestos, tile, CBM, brick, a metal turning joint and a modern screw.

2014 Test Pits (site code DHE/14)

The 2014 test pit excavations in Daws Heath were undertaken over the 4th and 5th of June, where a total of 11 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated by 40 Years 9 pupils from Southend High School for Boys, Southend High School for Girls, Cecil Jones College, Shoeburyness High School and Westcliff High School for Boys (school names correct at the time of participation). The 2014 excavations brought the total so far dug in Daws Heath to 23, 10 test pits in this year were excavated by the school participants and one pit was dug by AGES AHA members. The test pits were excavated as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA), run by ACA and funded by Cambridge Admissions Office out of the University of Cambridge.

The excavations were directed by Carenza Lewis, with onsite supervision provided by Catherine Collins, Clemency Cooper and Paul Blinkhorn, who also analysed the pottery. The test pits were sited in gaps from the previous year's test pitting, including a cluster located in the far west of the village and for the first time in part of the 'triangular' part of the village to the east. The test pit locations were found by Terry Barclay and Lynda Manning of AGES AHA.

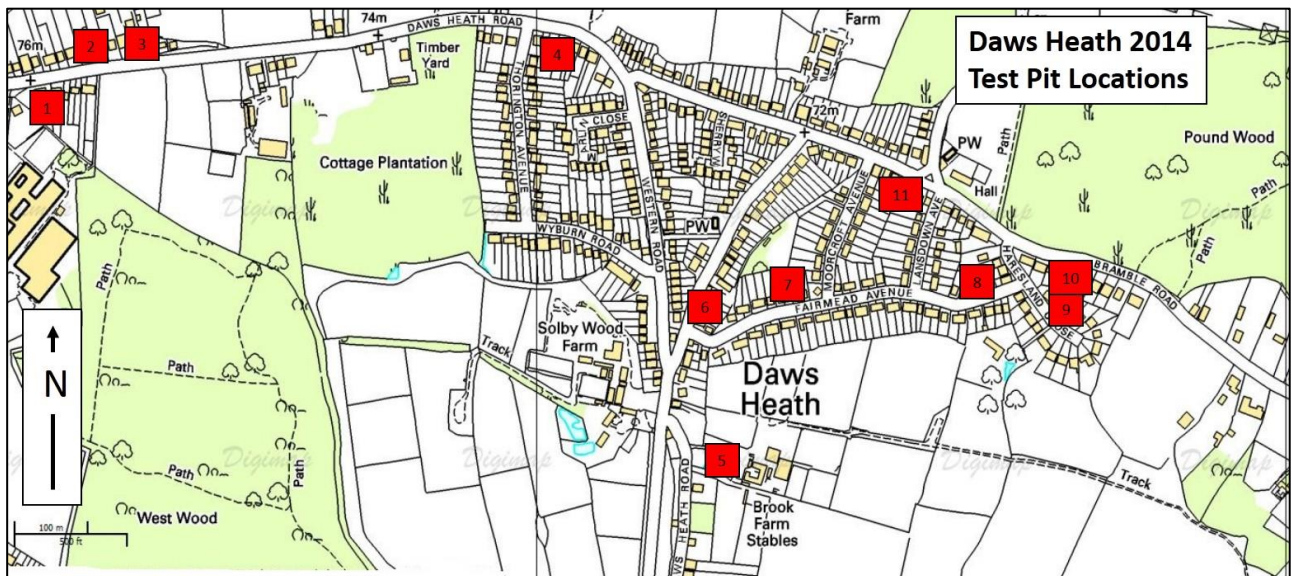


Figure 18: Daws Heath 2014 test pit location map (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 10,000

Test Pit one (DHE/14/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the long enclosed rear garden of a Grade II listed 18th-19th century cottage set along the main road into Daws Heath to the west of the village (Hillside Cottage, 98 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 80339 88763)

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from DHE/14/1 dates to the 16th century and later as Glazed Red Earthenware and Chinese Porcelain. The vast majority of the pottery though has been dated as 19th century 'Victorian' wares.



Figure 19: Location map of DHE/14/1

TP	Context	GRE		CP		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1					7	28	1800-1900
1	2	1	6			7	34	1550-1900
1	3	1	44			11	27	1550-1900
1	4					11	23	1800-1900
1	5			1	9	2	2	1750-1900
1	6					1	1	1800-1900

Table 13: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/1

The finds and pottery excavated from DHE/14/1 that pre-date the current house are limited, which suggest that the site may have been utilised as open fields until the current house was built in the later 18th century. This post medieval activity does however seem to be an expansion from the core of the village to the east, as identified through the test pitting strategy. The mix of more recent finds also suggest that the garden has been disturbed as the finds were found through the test pit with the 19th century and later pottery. The finds consist of tile, fragments of possible breeze block, glass, coal, and slate, CBM, mortar, rubber, iron nails, metal wire, part of a yoghurt pot, a plastic plant tag, concrete, pieces of scrap metal, a metal picture hook and a small metal hoop. Probable worked flint was also recorded from DHE/14/1 and may be of a later prehistoric date, although analysis of the lithics are needed to confirm this.

Test Pit two (DHE/14/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the enclosed front garden of a likely early 20th century house set along the main road into Daws Heath from the west (South View, 117 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 80416 88833)

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of Early Medieval Sandy Ware was found mixed in DHE/14/2 with five sherds of 19th century 'Victorian' pottery.

TP	Context	EMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1			1	2	1800-1900
2	2	1	9	4	8	1100-1900

Table 14: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/2

The small amount of medieval pottery that was excavated from DHE/14/2 as well as DHE/14/3 just to the east suggest that this area along the main road may have been peripheral to occupation at that time or that the area may only have been utilised as open fields. The only medieval pottery so far recorded through the test pitting strategy has been found along the western length of Daws Heath Road, which does suggest that there may have been a small settlement in this area during the high medieval period. After the 14th century the land was likely abandoned as there is very little in the way of activity until the current house was built in the 20th century and open fields were probably flanking the road. The few finds that were recovered consist of slate, coal, an iron nail and CBM.

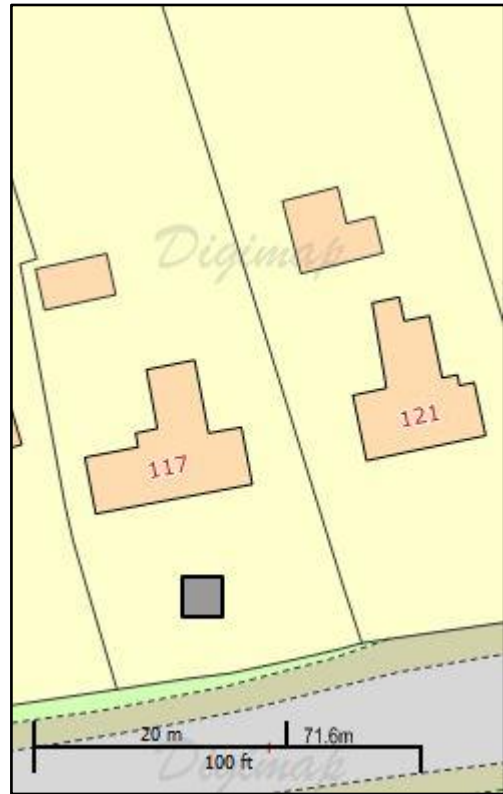


Figure 20: Location map of DHE/14/2

Test Pit three (DHE/14/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the front garden of a modern bungalow on the main road into Daws Heath from the west (127 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 80465 88842).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/14/3 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares and was found from the upper half of the test pit. An additional three sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware were also recorded from the lower half of the test pit.

TP	Context	EMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	2			5	27	1800-1900
3	3			5	38	1800-1900
3	4	1	4			1100-1250
3	5	2	5			1100-1250

Table 15: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/3

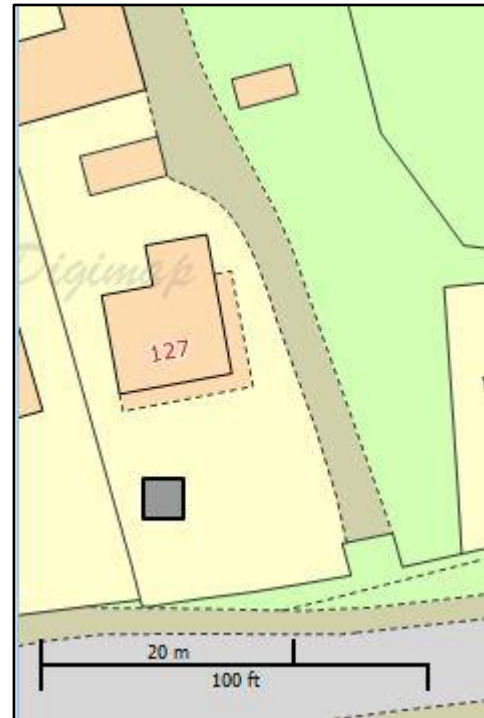


Figure 21: Location map of DHE/14/3

Much like the results from DHE/14/2 just to the west, the medieval pottery that was recorded from DHE/14/3 suggests that there may have been activity in the area at that time, either close to the a small settlement or perhaps as open fields. This site was again also abandoned after the 14th century and it seems likely that there were open fields either side of the road until the current house was built. A small number of finds were also mixed through the test pit and consist of coal, slag, CBM, pieces of scrap metal, mortar, tile, iron nails, a D shaped metal hoop, cockle shell, glass and a flint with mortar attached to it.

Test Pit four (DHE/14/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of an early 21st century house along the main road into Daws Heath from the west (High Hopes, 232 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 80945 88842).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/14/4 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares, although an additional two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware were also recorded from the upper contexts of the test pit.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1	1	3	6	17	1800-1900
4	2			6	31	1800-1900
4	3	1	3	3	27	1550-1900

Table 16: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/4

Given the small amount of both finds and pottery that were excavated from DHE/14/4 it is likely that the site along the road into Daws Heath was potentially kept as open fields, particularly from the 16th century onwards. The finds also recorded consist of coal, slate, a decorated glass bottle, fragments of glass, tile, CBM, a strip of metal, plastic wire covering and mortar, all of which likely date from when the original bungalow on the plot stood from the mid-20th century.

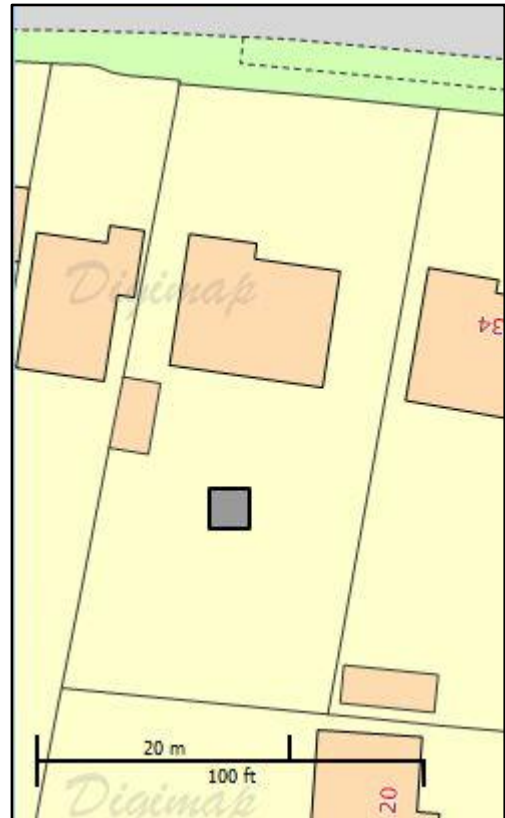


Figure 22: Location map of DHE/14/4

Test Pit five (DHE/14/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the long enclosed front garden of a modern house set back from the lane immediately south of the main village (Brook Farm, 441 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 81216 88330)

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

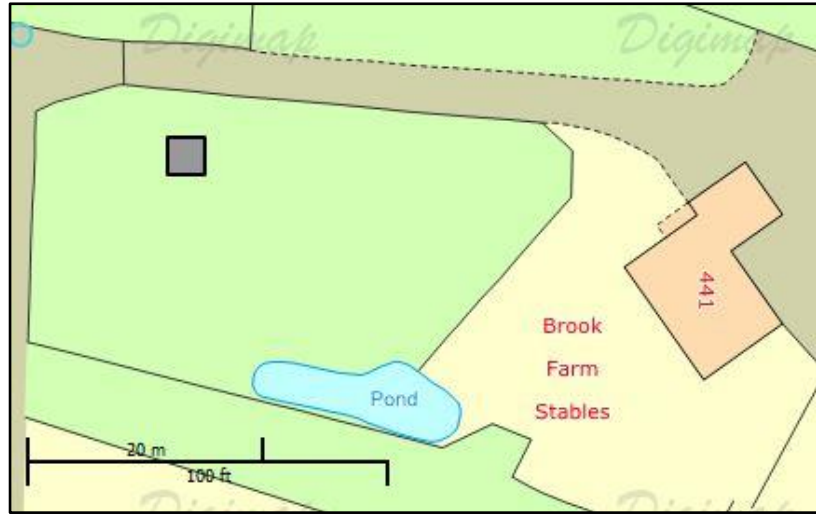


Figure 23: Location map of DHE/14/5

All the pottery excavated from DHE/14/5 dates to the 16th century and later with sherds of both Glazed Red Earthenware and English Stoneware identified with a number of 19th century 'Victorian' wares.

TP	Context	GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2	1	56	1	3	8	20	1550-1900
5	3					3	8	1800-1900

Table 17: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/5

There was a limited expansion of the village to the south, based on the results from the test pitting strategy, and the land at Brook Farm has likely always been open gardens or fields. There may have been cottages fronting the road to the west of the test pit during the 19th century, particularly as that was once the main thoroughfare through the village. The few finds recorded consist of modern brick, CBM, tile, coal, asbestos, glass, strips of corroded metal, and fragments of possible burnt wood, blue twine, slate, iron nails, and concrete tile.

Test Pit six (DHE/14/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a likely late 19th – early 20th century cottage set close to the village centre of the triangle of roads (389 Daws Heath Road, Daws Heath. TQ 81238 88504)

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from DHE/14/6 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares with a single additional sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware also recorded.



Figure 24: Location map of DHE/14/6

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1			1	1	1800-1900
6	2			8	72	1800-1900
6	3	1	4	29	37	1550-1900
6	4			11	42	1800-1900
6	5			7	11	1800-1900

Table 18: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/6

There was probably little to no activity on site prior to the construction of the current house during the later 19th – early 20th century, from when the vast majority of the finds and pottery date to. The finds consist of CBM, fragments of melted plastic, slate, mortar, a slate pencil, coal, plastic wire covering, a plant tag, glass, iron nails and pieces of scrap metal.

Test Pit seven (DHE/14/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set to the south of the village (23 Fairmead Avenue, Daws Heath. TQ 81331 88539).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.41m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

19th century ‘Victorian’ wares only pottery was excavated from DHE/14/7.

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
7	1	5	13	1800-1900
7	2	6	14	1800-1900
7	3	8	15	1800-1900
7	4	3	7	1800-1900

Table 19: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/7

Despite the quite central location of the test pit just east of the core of the original village, there was no evidence for activity on site prior to the 19th century. All the finds date from when the land was likely utilised as open fields or when the current housing estate was built during the mid-20th century. The finds consist of CBM, pieces of plastic, glass, mortar, clay pipe, a plant tag, part of a small glass pipette fragment, two metal buttons, iron nails, coal, metal hoops, modern tile, a white plastic ‘bung’, burnt foil wrapping and a possible clay bead (figures 26 and 27).

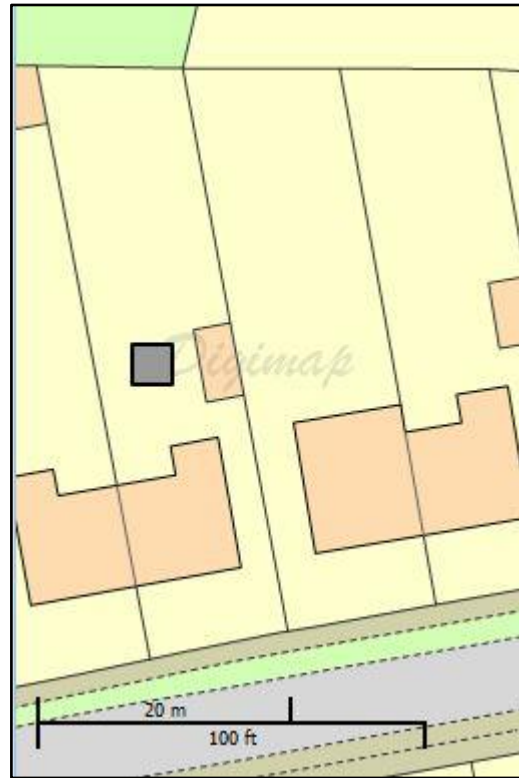


Figure 25: Location map of DHE/14/7



Figure 26: The clay bead excavated from DHE/14/7, context 5 (top view) © ACA (scale in cm)



Figure 27: The clay bead excavated from DHE/14/7, context 5 (bottom view) © ACA (scale in cm)

Test Pit eight (DHE/14/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the enclosed side garden of a modern house set in the south of the village (51 Fairmead Avenue, Daws Heath. TQ 81586 88545)

Test pit eight was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware was recorded from DHE/14/8 but was also mixed in with a large number of 19th century 'Victorian' wares.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1			5	36	1800-1900
8	2	1	5	13	106	1550-1900
8	3			1	6	1800-1900

Table 20: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/8

The finds and pottery that were excavated from DHE/14/8 suggest that the site had limited activity prior to the 19th century, when it was always likely kept as open fields. The few finds that were also recorded also are mainly more recent in date and relate to the construction and habitation of the current house. These consist of strips of painted lino, CBM, glazed modern bathroom/kitchen tile, slate, glass, iron nails, scrunched foil, and pieces of scrap iron, tile and modern painted wood fragments.

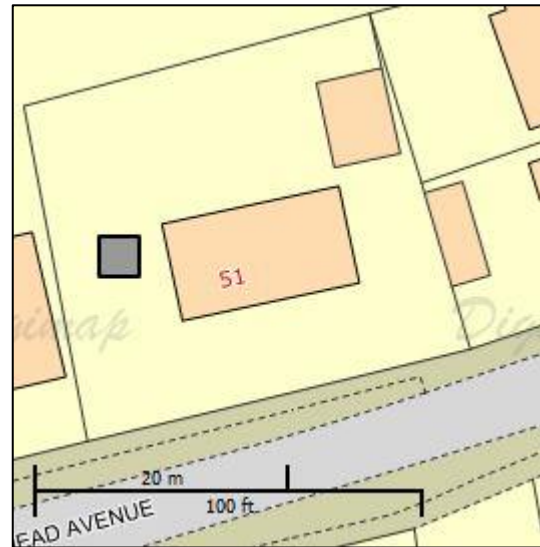


Figure 28: Location map of DHE/14/8

Test Pit nine (DHE/14/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set in the far southeast of the village (11 Haresland Close, Daws Heath. TQ 81718 88522)

Test pit nine was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Two sherds of 19th century ‘Victorian’ wares were only recorded from DHE/14/9.

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
9	1	1	1	1800-1900
9	2	1	1	1800-1900

Table 21: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/9

A large cast iron pipe was recorded diagonally across the test pit in an east-west orientation that was also visible from 0.2m in depth, so the majority of the excavation had already previously been disturbed (figure 30). Excavations did continue round the pipe and the very few finds and pottery that were excavated from the pit suggest that the site has always been open fields, with very little use until the current housing estate was built during the later 20th century. The finds consist of a spring from a clothes peg, iron nails, a one penny coin dated 1981, melted glass and fragments of glass.

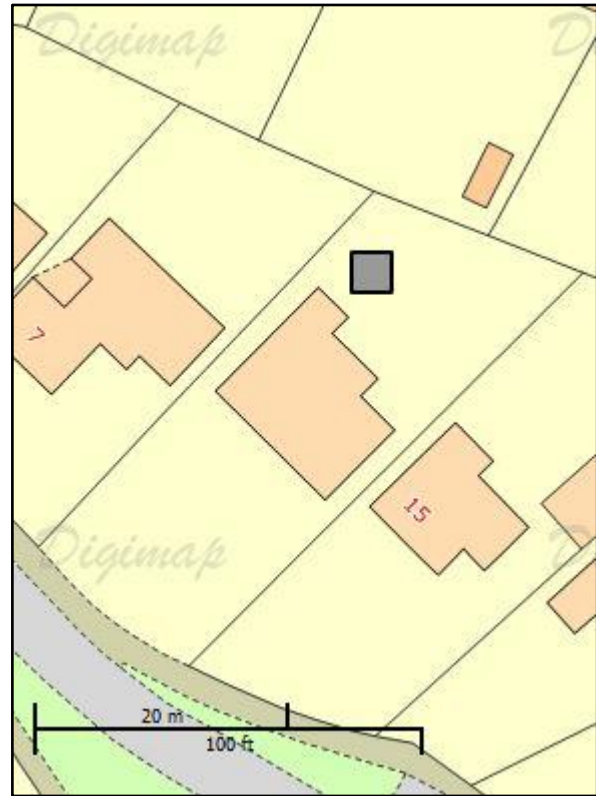


Figure 29: Location map of DHE/14/9



Figure 30: DHE/14/9 under excavation © ACA

Test Pit 10 (DHE/14/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house set along the main road out of the village to the east (100 Bramble Road, Daws Heath. TQ 81723 88535)

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A number of sherds of 19th century 'Victorian' wares were only recorded from DHE/14/10.

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
10	1	3	7	1800-1900
10	2	4	19	1800-1900
10	3	5	12	1800-1900
10	4	1	2	1800-1900

Table 22: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/10

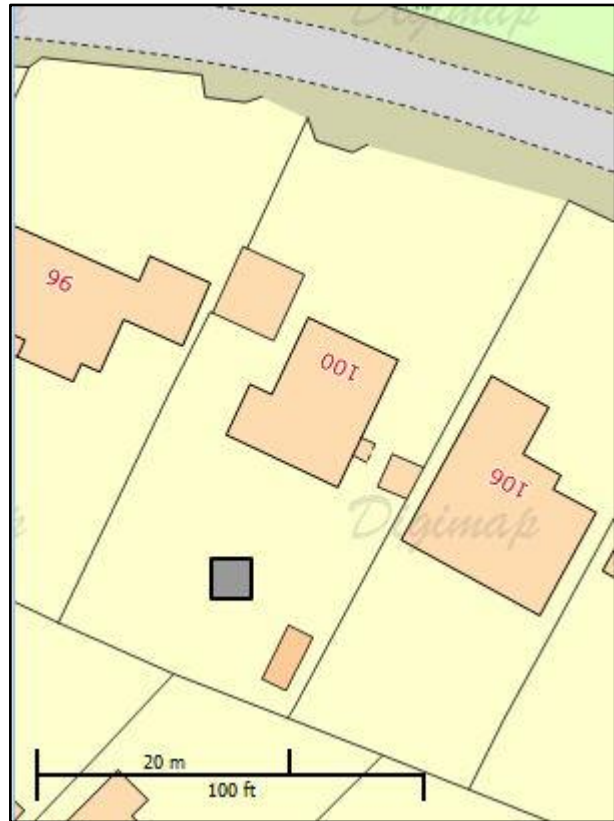


Figure 31: Location map of DHE/14/10

It is unlikely that there was any activity on site prior to the 19th century, when the land may have been part of a garden or field. A small mix of finds were also recovered with the pottery and consist of glass, CBM, coal, tile, flower pot, a possible soft partially melted metal, iron nails, melted plastic and slag.

Test Pit 11 (DHE/14/11)

Test pit 11 was excavated in the open front garden of a modern house fronting the road in the north of the village and opposite St Michaels Church (34 Bramble Road, Daws Heath. TQ 81497 88678)

Test pit 11 was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints and the presence of the water table, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A large number of 19th century 'Victorian' wares were only recorded from DHE/14/11.

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
11	1	5	6	1800-1900
11	2	24	57	1800-1900
11	3	34	64	1800-1900
11	4	38	73	1800-1900
11	5	8	11	1800-1900
11	6	1	4	1800-1900

Table 23: The pottery excavated from DHE/14/11



Figure 32: Location map of DHE/14/11

The large amount of 19th century and later pottery and finds suggest that there was only activity after this time, the land may have been close to or part of an earlier dwelling before the large scale building in the 20th century. The finds consist of a metal rod, fragments of modern glazed bathroom/kitchen tile, CBM, coal, oyster shell, mortar, fragments of plastic, asphalt, concrete, glass, clay pipe, brick, iron nails, scrunched foil, plastic wrappers, polystyrene, tile and an iron bolt.

2015 Test Pits (site code DHE/15)

A single test pit was excavated in July 2015 by members of AGES Archaeology and History community group on the field to the north of St Michaels and All Angels Church. This brought the total excavated in Daws Heath to 24 and followed the ACA test pitting strategy and recording system.

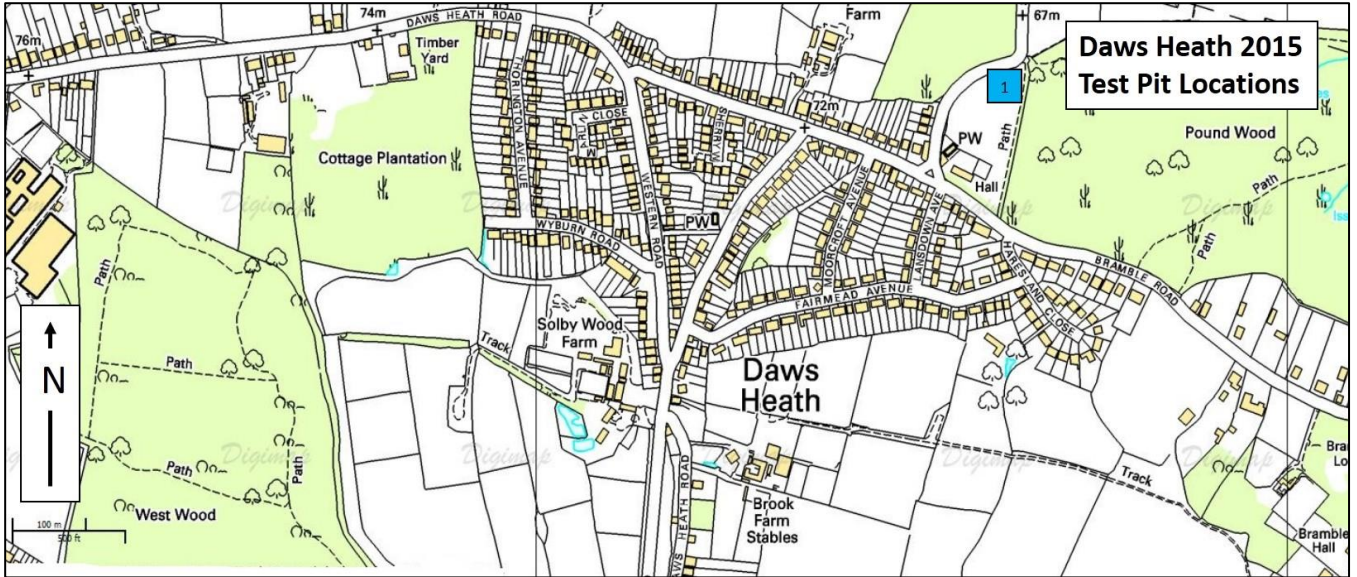


Figure 33: Daws Heath 2015 test pit location map (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 10,000

Test Pit one (DHE/15/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the open grassed area to the north of St Michaels and All Angels Church in the north of the village (St Michaels Field, north of St Michael and All Angels Church, Bramble Road, Daws Heath. TQ 81632 88802).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.3m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the pottery excavate from DHE/15/1 dates as 19th century 'Victorian' wares, although a single sherd of Roman pottery was also identified in context two.

TP	Cntxt	RB		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			6	3	1800-1900
1	2	1	1	6	3	100-1900

Table 24: The pottery excavated from DHE/15/1



Figure 34: Location map of DHE/15/1

The single sherd of Roman pottery is the first of that date to be excavated from any of the test pits and may be a part of a spread of activity from the south and the Romano-British finds that were recorded from the ACA test pitting in Hadleigh, which are also situated close to the Roman fortlet. Further work would perhaps be needed in this area to support this notion. The rest of the activity on site dates from the 19th century onwards, the few finds recorded were perhaps from manuring when this site was ploughed and consist of coal, CBM, glass, a brick fragment and clay pipe with four pieces of burnt stone and three possible worked flints. These are likely to date as later prehistoric and suggest that there was activity on site at that time, perhaps part of a wider settlement.

4 Conclusions

The 24 archaeological test pits that were excavated in Daws Heath between 2013 and 2015 have yielded archaeological evidence for settlement in the parish dating from the Roman period through to the modern day. All the test pit results have also added to the 'bigger picture' of the development of Daws Heath, as well as providing new insight into the level of archaeological remains that are still present under the village.

Many of the Daws Heath test pits produced worked flint, especially along the northern side of the present settlement, and although these are yet to be analysed by an expert, they are likely to be of a later prehistoric date, perhaps Neolithic or Bronze Age and suggests long-standing low-intensity use of the area. Notably, a worked flint flake from DHE/13/1 had been retouched along its ventral/concave side and was recovered from the top of a well-defined post hole. This suggests a structure of some sort was present here again in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

The earliest pottery evidence from the Daws Heath test pitting consisted of a single sherd of Romano-British pottery that was identified from DHE/15/1. Although only a small sherd was found from this test pit, it does hint at the presence of Romano-British activity in the area; although it may have been peripheral to settlement and may have been open fields to a nearby rural farmstead. No evidence was found for any Anglo-Saxon activity in the village and this area was likely only sparsely settled into the medieval period. Six test pits yielded only eight sherds of high medieval pottery, the vast majority of which are situated along Daws Heath Road in the northwest of the village. It is likely that there were scattered farmsteads at this time and three of these test pits are relatively close to those sites whose names are recorded in medieval documents (Wyburns and Haresland). It was these three test pits (DHE/13/12, DHE/13/4 and DHE/13/8) that also actually only recorded evidence for later medieval activity, suggesting that Daws Heath was affected by the various socio-economic factors of the 14th century, including the Black Death.

The village recovered into the post medieval and the larger concentrations of pottery were recorded at the farmsteads that can be seen on the first OS maps of the village into the 19th century, but were still sparsely laid out. The rest of Daws Heath was open fields and the post medieval and later finds excavated from the test pitting strategy likely relate to manuring activities, until 20th century infilling has created the layout of the village as seen today.

5 Maps

Much of the value of the test pit data from currently occupied rural settlements are derived from a holistic consideration across the entire settlement. Maps showing a range of the data from the test pit excavations in Daws Heath between 2013 and 2015 are included below.

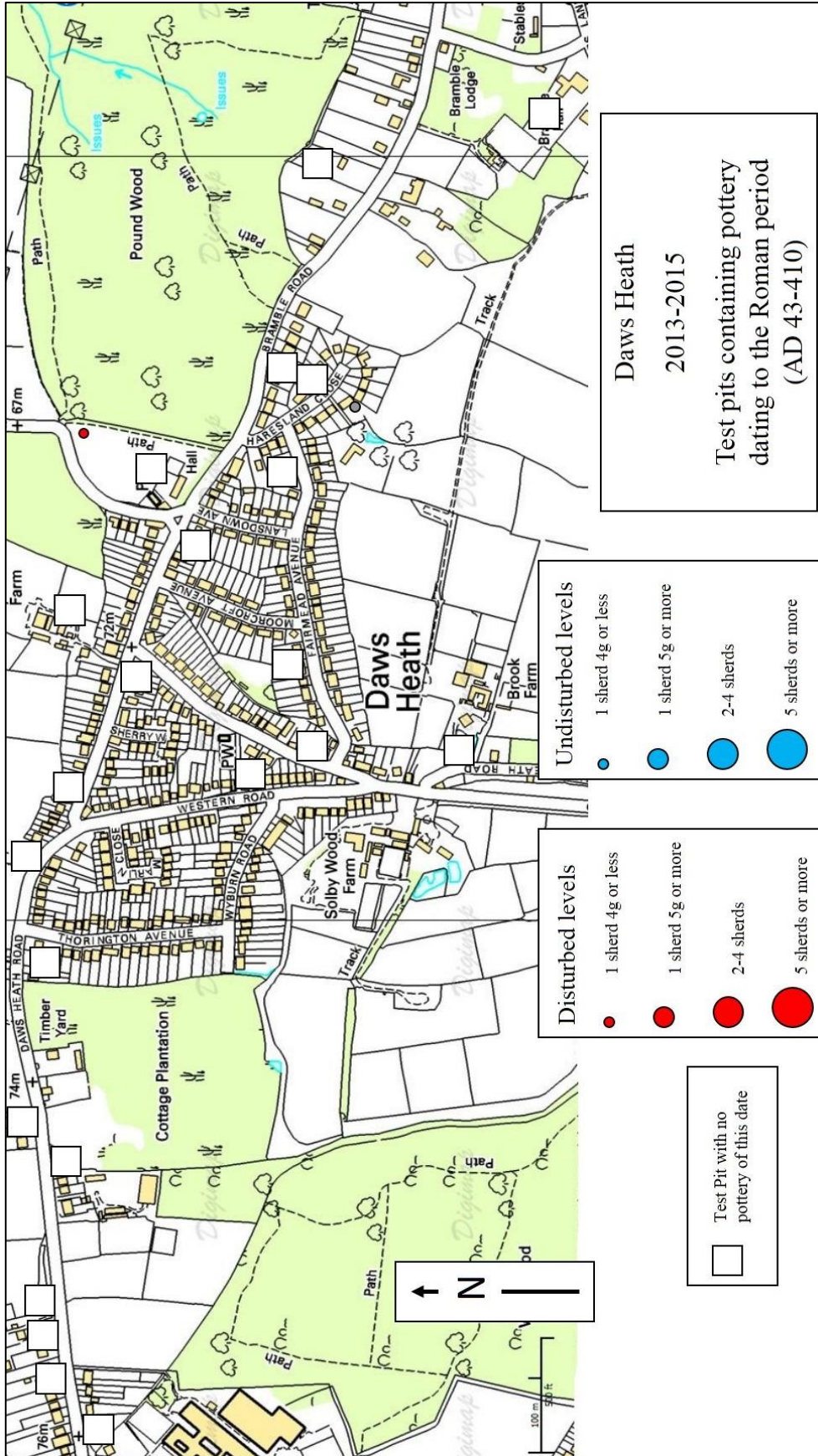


Figure 35: Distribution of the Roman pottery excavated from the Daws Heath test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 5,000

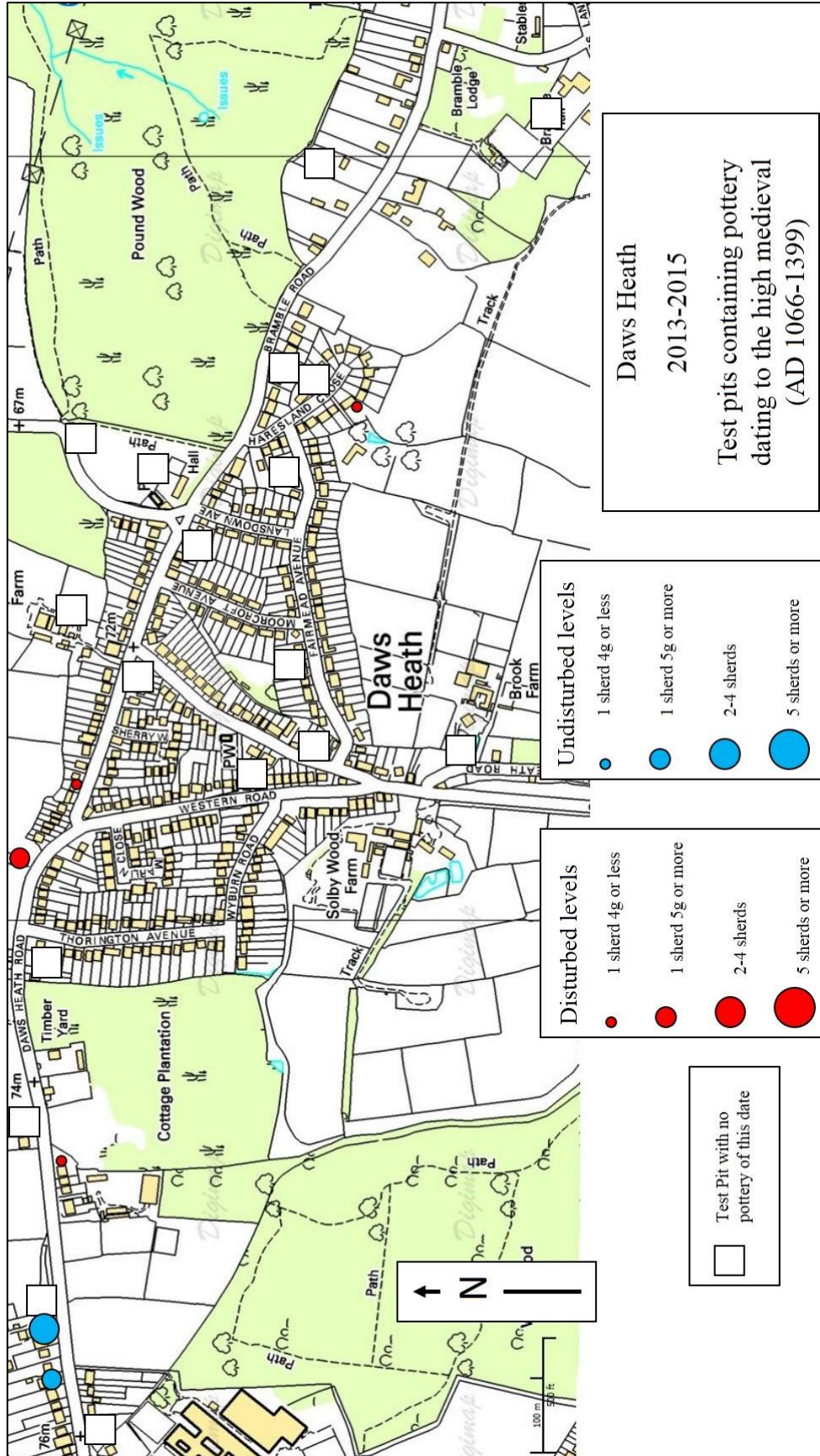


Figure 36: Distribution of the High Medieval pottery excavated from the Daws Heath test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 5,000

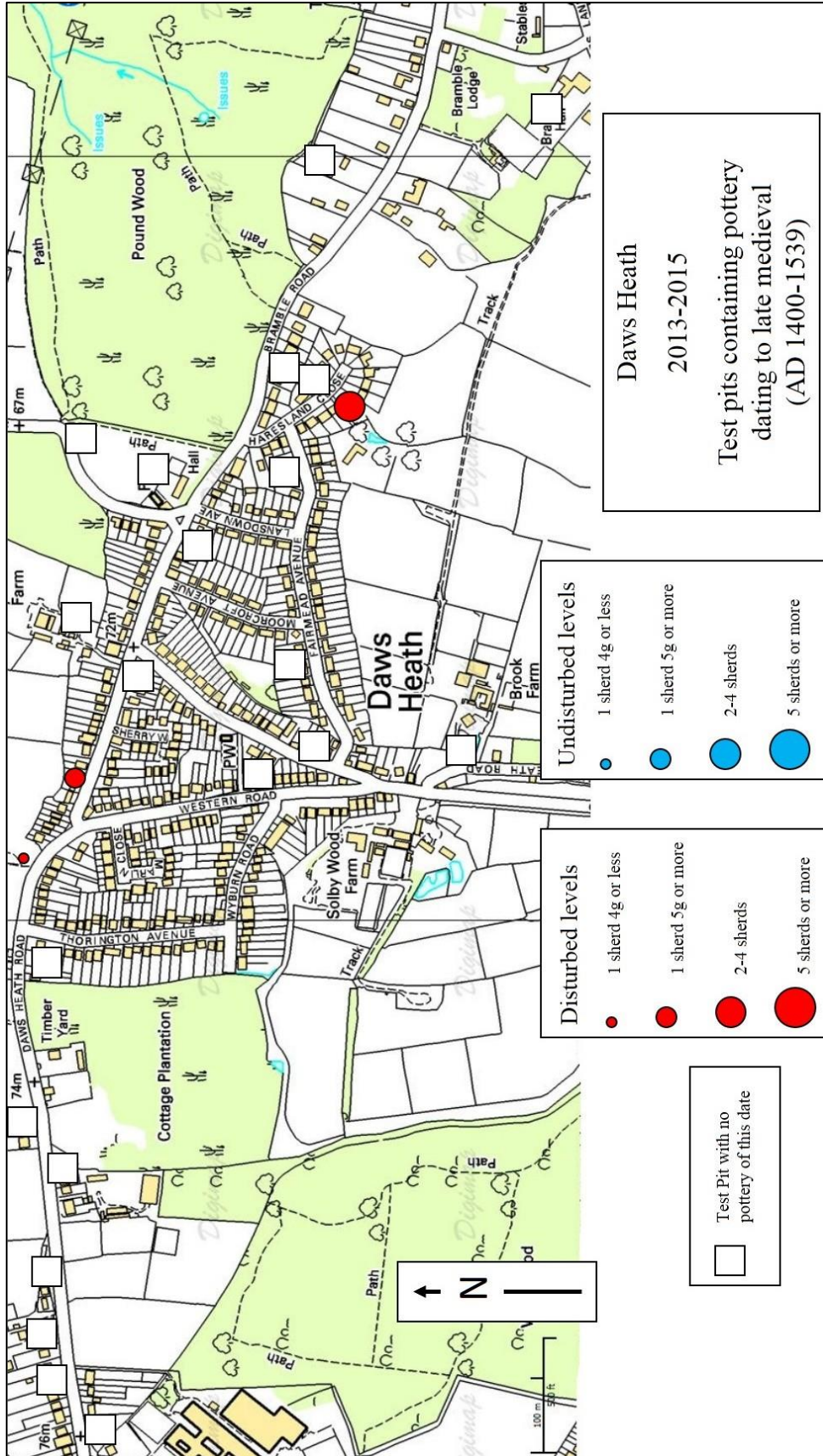


Figure 37: Distribution of the Late Medieval pottery excavated from the Daws Heath test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 5,000

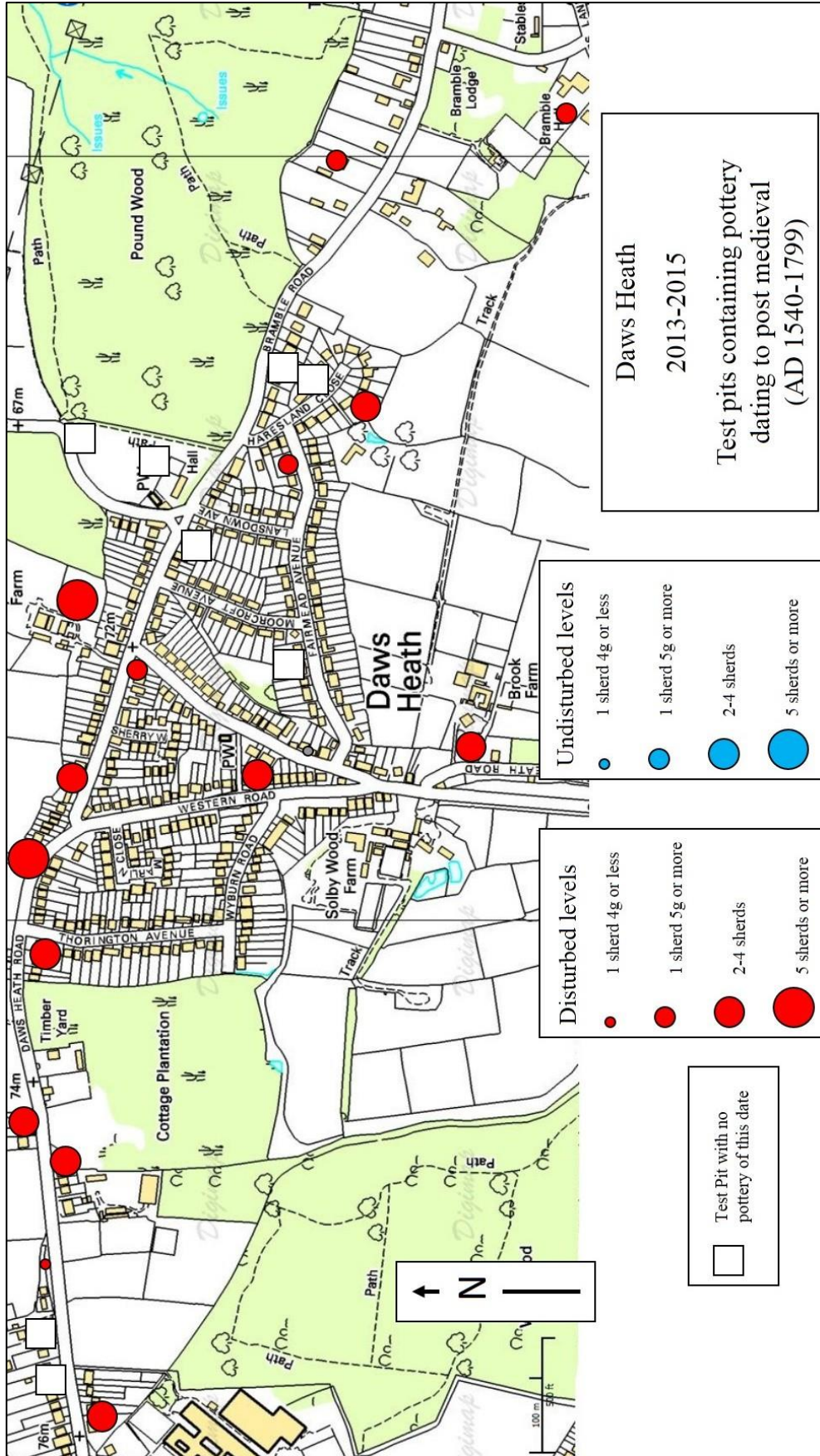


Figure 38: Distribution of the Post Medieval pottery excavated from the Daws Heath test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 5,000

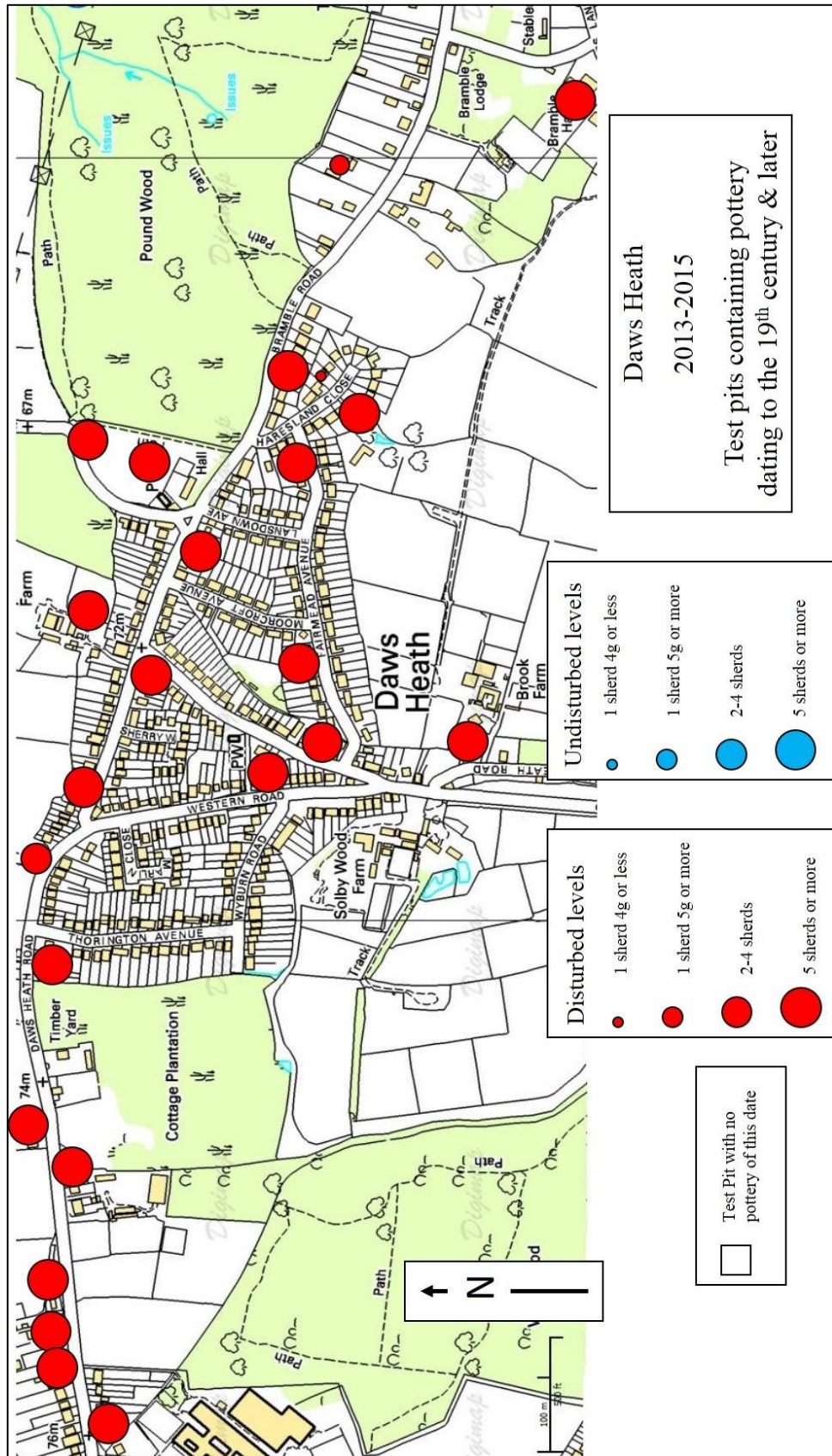


Figure 39: Distribution of the 19th century pottery excavated from the Daws Heath test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2019. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service 1: 5,000