



The Ampleforth Big Dig

Community Archaeology Project

Assessment Report

Ben Swain

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Prepared on behalf of:
The local residents of Ampleforth village

and

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Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as an archaeological assessment report for the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA), the local residents of Ampleforth village who took part in the community archaeology project and DigVentures' global community. The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of results from the 2023 test pitting weekend, including an appraisal of the artefacts recovered and an evaluation of the public impact made by the project.

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Project summary

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Executive summary

This document details the results of a community archaeology project in Ampleforth village, Ryedale, North Yorkshire (NGR: SE 58297 78735) delivered as part of the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership. The 'Ampleforth Big Dig' comprised a community archaeology test pitting weekend involving residents and school children from in and around the village coming together to explore the archaeology in their own back gardens, unearthing the fascinating history of Ampleforth.

The Ampleforth Big Dig took place between Friday the 14th and Monday the 17th of July 2023 and comprised the excavation of 17 targeted test pits throughout the village. Participants were also able to engage with Finds Room activities, including receiving training in finds processing, cleaning, identification and drawing. Three local schools were involved in the dig activities, with students excavating test pits in their own school grounds and at Ampleforth Abbey.

This report presents results from the test pitting weekend and an assessment of artefacts retrieved from the interventions in the context of the project aims and objectives. It evaluates the public impact produced as a result of the project and provides informative conclusions regarding its contribution to knowledge of the history of Ampleforth village and the social benefit the project produced.

Results Summary

The results of research carried out as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig project have shown that the village's long story began with Prehistoric communities first utilising this landscape thousands of years ago and has continued through to the present day. Ampleforth as seen today developed in the medieval period and gradually expanded throughout the Post-Medieval period into its current form and character. The centre of the present day village likely formed the heart of the smaller medieval village, represented by the still-functioning 12th century Church of St. Hilda. As the centuries passed, the village expanded to the east and west, with a significant phase of regeneration or growth likely occurring in the 18th to 19th centuries. The Benedictine monastery and school situated to the east of the village developed during the early 19th century, prior to expanding into the significant regional landmark it is today. The modern Ampleforth Abbey was developing in the early 20th century. Only a few decades later, the village itself saw substantial growth in size and population with the construction of a housing scheme to the south of Back Lane.

Ampleforth is a village rich in history, visible both in the fabric of the buildings and the character of the village but also under the lawns and lost corners of local resident's back gardens. The project unearthed a wide range of artefacts spanning from as early as the 12th century up to modern day. Items of personal use such as music box gears and porcelain figurines speak to the personal nature of the items discovered from earlier Ampleforth residents. Daily tasks such as food preparation can be found in the pottery giving a glimpse of daily life in the village. The three snuff boxes show a more social side to Ampleforth and adds to the personal connection to the past. Ancient life is represented by the flint bladelet, casting light back to a time before the village of Ampleforth.

As a community focussed project, public engagement was integral to the research aims and success of the Ampleforth Big Dig. Local community members were offered a chance to explore their archaeology first hand. The project welcomed 19 adult participants and 60 school



students who were guided by the DigVentures archaeological team in excavating the test pits throughout the village. The project succeeded in attracting a new audience for archaeology, with 59% of participants having never taken part in an excavation before. The Ampleforth Big Dig offered excavation training and experience to children, teenagers and adults with evidence collected for 79% of participants. The project also succeeded in reaching its aim of reconnecting the community with their landscape and heritage with 92% of survey respondents saying they felt more connected to their community through participation in the project.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 DigVentures was appointed by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA, hereafter 'the client') to undertake a community-led archaeological test pitting programme in Ampleforth, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 58299 78732; see Figure 1). The project was undertaken as part of the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme, a project partly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Howardian Hills National Landscape. Led by the NYMNPA, the Ryevitalise Scheme aims to conserve, protect and interpret the cultural and natural landscape of the River Rye.

1.1.2 The Ryevitalise Scheme covers the upper Rye catchment area, encompassing the history, wildlife and landscapes of the River Rye and its tributaries. The scheme aims to restore the riparian and aquatic habitats of the catchment, as well as to reconnect local people by engaging them with their heritage within the scheme area, running until 2025.

1.1.3 The scheme area focuses on the western Rye and involves several projects aimed at:

- restoring and enhancing the riparian and aquatic habitats of the Rye and its tributaries, and the rare and threatened species that the river and wider landscape supports;
- improving water quality, addressing nutrient inputs and reducing diffuse pollution;
- creating a more natural functioning river, slowing the flow of water and connecting the river to its floodplain; and
- reconnecting people to the exceptional river landscape, promoting volunteering opportunities and encouraging people to protect their heritage.

1.1.4 As part of the Ryevitalise project, community archaeology investigations were proposed to look at the history of Ampleforth village, which falls within the Ryevitalise scheme catchment area. The project comprised of a community-led archaeological test pitting event across the village, aiming to discover and piece together the hidden history of early Ampleforth. This community test pitting project engaged the local community and enabled the Ryevitalise Scheme to understand the development of Ampleforth to better protect its heritage and history. The 'Big Dig' contributed in full to the fourth overarching objective of the Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership; to reconnect the local community to their landscape and to protect their heritage. Further details of the project's background, aims, objectives and methodologies can be found in the Project Design (Teale, 2023).

1.2 Ampleforth Big Dig

1.2.1 The overarching aim of the project was to conduct a community-led test pitting programme in Ampleforth village to aid understanding of its historical development, and to disseminate results to the public and local education establishments via presentations and workshops. The participative and inclusive nature of the test pitting weekend focused on reconnecting communities through volunteering opportunities that encouraged them to protect their local heritage.



- 1.2.2 The community test pitting excavations undertaken between 14th and 17th July 2023 built upon an existing body of knowledge gathered from the results of a desk-based assessment (Swain, 2023). They aimed to find evidence for the history of Ampleforth village within people's gardens and communal spaces to tell the story of the village's past. The Big Dig facilitated a community excavation of 17 test pits across Ampleforth, either in participant's gardens or in the grounds of local establishments such as St. Benedict's primary school and Ampleforth Abbey. The participants were supported by a team of community archaeologists who were on hand to help with tools, excavation and recording, as well as in the dedicated finds lab where finds washing and identification learning activities were available.
- 1.2.3 The results of the detailed desk-based assessment of the village's history (completed in June 2023) were shared with local residents as part of two public engagement events in June and early July 2023. These events showcased the exciting history of Ampleforth and laid the foundations for further research through the chance to sign-up for the community participative test pitting weekend where local residents were invited to join the project, receive free training in practical archaeology, and dig a test pit in their garden to look for further clues about the village's past.
- 1.2.4 This document details the results of the Big Dig project, outlining new insights gained into the fascinating history of Ampleforth village and evaluating the public impact of the project upon the local community, discussing how it contributed to achieving the projects aims and objectives as well as the overarching aims of the Ryevitalise project. It presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background of Ampleforth village, and describes the project's aims and objectives alongside the methodologies used to deliver the project. The results from the test pits themselves and the artefacts retrieved are discussed with an evaluation of the project's public impact. Finally, the results are reviewed against the context of the project's stated aims and objectives, drawing conclusions outlining what was achieved.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The village of Ampleforth is located on the southern boundary of the North York Moors National Park and the northern boundary of the Howardian Hills National Landscape in North Yorkshire (NGR SE 58299 78732; see Figure 1). The village sits midway down a valley side, within an undulating landscape, ranging from approximately 229m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) by Studford Ring to the north and falling down to around 75m aOD around the River Holbeck to the south. It is located around the east-west aligned minor road East End / West End to the south of the A170 in the very south-west corner of the North York Moors National Park, approximately 6km to the south-west of Helmsley. The village is surrounded by agricultural land and mixed woodland, and comprises a mixture of residential buildings, farms and local amenities.
- 2.1.2 The following discussion of the historical and archaeological background of Ampleforth village is summarised from the desk-based assessment (Swain 2023), which should be consulted for further detail.



2.2 Prehistoric (Pre 43AD)

- 2.2.1 An evaluation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) revealed 67 entries relating to the Prehistoric period (Figure 2); encompassing the Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. Of these entries, the vast majority (61) were observed as earthworks or cropmarks. Additionally, there were three burials, two find spots and one entry as a piece of documentary evidence. Almost all entries are located on the high ground along the top of the valley ridge to the North of Ampleforth village.
- 2.2.2 The two entries listed as Neolithic were both find spots (MNY1761 and MNY12226). However, no accompanying information exists within the HER describing their nature and their locations are listed as only approximate. There are 31 entries attributed to the Bronze Age and two of these are scheduled ancient monuments. These consist of the double dykes on Painters Rigg (HER entry 4172; Historic England list entry 1004175) and Studford Ring (HER entry 4164; Historic England list entry 1004913). Aside from these two monuments, the rest of the recorded Bronze Age landscape around the Ampleforth study area appears to be largely funerary in nature, with the majority of entries and listings consisting of barrows, barrow cemeteries and evidence of burials or cremations.
- 2.2.3 There are 30 listed HER entries attributed to the Iron Age and all of these relate to the scheduled ancient monument of Dropping Gill round cairns and square barrow cemetery (HER entries 54, 4140; Historic England list entry 1004085). The entries indicate the existence of at least 16 square barrows with a number of other potential candidates. However, a number of these may represent duplicate entries and another of these entries (HER 13575) was interpreted in the HER from documentary mapping evidence but its exact location is unknown and may also represent a duplicate.
- 2.2.4 Four entries were listed as Prehistoric in date but could not be further refined in chronology. All these features were listed as earthworks consisting of a barrow (MNY36887), a ditch (HER entry 4165), a large pit (HER entry 6371) and a field system (HER entry 1841).
- 2.2.5 Several Prehistoric monuments are labelled to the North of the village on the 1854 six-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map; including Studford Ring, the double dykes at Painters Rigg and numerous 'tumuli' at Dropping Gill (Figure 3). These almost certainly relate to the round cairns and square barrow cemetery known at this location (HER entries 54, 4140; Historic England list entry 1004085).
- 2.2.6 Evaluation of a DTM (Digital Terrain Model) generated from Environment Agency LiDAR at 1m resolution revealed archaeological features including Studford ring, the double dykes on Painters Rigg and a number of round cairns and square barrows visible to the North of the study area. The distribution of HER points, including the Prehistoric earthwork features situated on the high ground along the ridge to the North of the village, is highlighted in the colour elevation model with contour lines (Figure 4).

2.3 Roman (43AD – 410AD)

- 2.3.1 There were four HER entries directly attributed to the Roman period (Figure 5) and all were recorded as find spots, two of which (HER entries 592, 10438) contained no further information or descriptions of their nature and could not be exactly located. A third (HER entry 22967), consisted of a bronze plumb bob, statuette and knife handle discovered by a metal detectorist. This is the nationally significant Ryedale Hoard, discovered in May 2020 by metal detectorists in a field to the west of Ampleforth. The final find spot (HER entry 10438) comprises a number of pottery sherds recovered in 1936.
- 2.3.2 The 1911 25-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map locates a findspot of Roman pottery made in 1875 at a house to the Northern side of the main street. This could relate to one of the HER entries that indicated a findspot of Roman pottery in Ampleforth village (HER entry 10438) and is the only recorded findspot relating to the Roman period on historic mapping.

2.4 Medieval (410AD – 1485AD)

- 2.4.1 There are four entries directly attributed to the Medieval period in the HER databases (Figure 6). One of these is a documentary reference to the village of 'Ampreforde' in the Domesday book (HER entry 4174). Domesday book records Ampleforth as having two owners in 1086; the archbishop of York and Hugh son of Baldric. This may be because the area was split between two different early medieval administrative boundaries at the time of Domesday, although it is also possible that this is a discrepancy or a misinterpretation. It is entered as having a population of 7.7 households, placing it in the smallest 40% of all settlements recorded at Domesday (Open Domesday, 2024). The households attributed to Hugh son of Baldric contain 54 villagers tending ploughland and woodland with an annual income to the Lord of 12 pounds, up from 6 pounds in 1066. However, it is not clear if all of these villagers are based in Ampleforth or if some relate to other nearby settlements owned by Lord Hugh. Either way it seems that since 1066 the fortunes of the land improved significantly, suggesting that Ampleforth may have been a small but growing Medieval village at the time. By the 13th century, parts of Ampleforth belonged to the nearby Byland Abbey and was primarily exploited for sheep farming and the wool trade (English Heritage, 2024). Another Medieval relic of Ampleforth that survived until as recently as the late 19th century was the parish boundaries, forming three townships; Ampleforth St. Peter, Ampleforth Oswaldkirk and Ampleforth Birdforth.
- 2.4.2 The remaining HER entries are earthwork features consisting of a trackway (HER entry 4176), a Medieval hollow-way and terraces (HER entry 6588) and a Lynchet (HER entry MNY11437). Two other HER entries assume a 12th century origin for St. Hilda's church (MNY1769) and a 13th century origin for a watermill (MNY23748) at Mill Farm. These features almost certainly relate to the Medieval period and provide further insights into the trades and agricultural economies at Medieval Ampleforth.
- 2.4.3 The six-inch Ordnance survey of 1854 (published 1856) shows buildings with characteristically Medieval thin strips of land extending from the Northern and Southern side of the main East-West road through the village, with more expansive field systems beyond. Medieval features such as St. Hilda's church are marked, as well



as Mill Farm. Evaluation of the LiDAR DTM model also shows fields with ridge and furrow ploughing earthworks of likely Medieval origin to the south and east of the village.

2.5 Post-Medieval (1485AD to 18th century)

- 2.5.1 A total of 20 HER entries were attributed to the Post-Medieval period (Figures 7-8), ranging from the end of the Medieval period to the beginning of the 19th century. Six of these entries were agricultural earthwork features, such as ridge and furrow ploughing, that could not be refined more than Post-Medieval to 19th century in chronology.
- 2.5.2 Nine entries could only be determined as Post-Medieval in date and consist of features such as lime kilns, quarries, boundary stones, enclosures and hollow-ways. Four entries consist of extant structures surviving within the village itself, including 18th century cottages and a Manor house as well as Ampleforth school. One final entry exists for Ampleforth village as a whole, stated as having origins in the Medieval period but continuing in to the Modern era as the present village.
- 2.5.3 The six-inch Ordnance survey of 1854 (published 1856) names a number of buildings central to the village itself, including the post office, a 'National School,' the White Swan Inn and St. Hilda's church. The 'White Horse Inn' is labelled as a building at the western end of the village, whilst at the eastern end there are a group of buildings labelled as 'Poor Houses.' These could possibly be in reference to a local workhouse, or simply to houses in a poor state of repair. The 25-inch Ordnance survey of 1889-1891 (published in 1892) adds a number of additional structures including a Smithy, two Methodist chapels, a Vicarage and a second school whilst the the 25-inch 1911 Ordnance survey omits the old Medieval watermill, suggesting it has gone out of use by this time.
- 2.5.4 The historic centre of Ampleforth village is a conservation area and there are 16 Grade II listed buildings here (Figure 9). These range in nature from churches, cottages, schools and a bridge, with most dating between the 17th and 19th centuries. They are predominantly distributed along the East-West main road through the village, with three at Ampleforth Abbey. The small number of buildings that have been listed or entered into the HER do not give justice to the predominantly Post-Medieval character of Ampleforth's built heritage today. Most of the houses now located along the main street front through the centre of the village date to this time, indicating a significant period of regeneration and growth for the village.

2.6 Modern (19th century to present)

- 2.6.1 There are 16 HER entries attributed to the Modern period (Figures 10-11). Two of these entries represent documentary and historic mapping evidence for a 19th century blacksmith's shop (HER entry 5081) and a windmill (HER entry 7377) in the village. A 19th century limestone quarry (HER entry 19334) was entered as an earthwork feature, whilst the last four entries associated with the 19th century relate to buildings within the village such as cottages and barns. The remaining nine entries all relate to 20th century structures or earthwork features attributed to Second World War installations, such as Nissen huts, accommodation blocks and a Home Guard observation post.



2.6.2 One of the most significant modern additions to the village was the construction of Ampleforth Abbey in 1922 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The Abbey church is a Grade I listed building due to its architectural significance. Part of Ampleforth College, established in 1802, the complex continues to have a substantial impact upon modern Ampleforth as a local employer and attracts revenue through visitors and tourism.

2.6.3 Evidence of Ampleforth's continuing growth is visible in the form of a significant expansion of the village itself to the south and the east, with the construction of a new housing scheme to the south of St. Hilda's Walk in the latter part of the 20th century.

2.7 Historical narrative

2.7.1 There is continuous evidence of human activity from the Neolithic through to the modern day. Evidence for Prehistoric activity was prevalent towards the north of the village, with numerous earthwork and landscape features such as dykes, cairns, barrows and enclosure monuments set within a predominantly funerary landscape. Evaluation of LiDAR and 19th century historic mapping shows the concentration of such earthworks on the high ground above the village. This dominating view of the landscape would have meant that burial monuments such as barrows and cairns would have been visible for many miles around. Within Ampleforth itself, the majority of recorded evidence relating to the Prehistoric period consists of a few localised findspots. No significant evidence of Prehistoric settlement has been recovered so far in and around the immediate vicinity of Ampleforth village. Therefore, archaeological discoveries relating to this period as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig had the potential to develop an understanding of how Prehistoric communities were utilising the landscape below the valley slope.

2.7.2 Evidence of Roman activity in and around Ampleforth is very limited, with only four recorded finds spots. It is perhaps most likely that whilst the area around Ampleforth may not have been settled in the Roman period, it could have been used as a local trackway along the valley edge through the landscape. Items such as pottery may have been lost or discarded after use en-route. However, some areas, such as the location of the Ryedale hoard, may have been considered more special; whether for ritual deposition purposes or simply as somewhere believed to be a safe and secure location to store valuable items. With such limited evidence of Roman activity in and around Ampleforth village, the discovery of archaeological artefacts or features relating to this period as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig was considered unlikely, but held the potential to significantly improve our knowledge of how this landscape was utilised in the Roman period.

2.7.3 It would seem that medieval Ampleforth began life as a small rural farming settlement in the late 11th century, but one that was growing steadily with up to 54 villagers by 1086. By the end of the 12th century it had its own church and evidence of the agricultural economy of the time is visible in the landscape today as ridge and furrow ploughing earthworks, even beyond the present day boundary of the village. The characteristically Medieval land strips spread across the width of the village also suggest a growth in the village beyond the 7.7 households initially recorded in Domesday.



- 2.7.4 Land in the village was later granted to Byland Abbey, who primarily took an income from sheep and wool trading; providing an insight into the sort of agriculture taking place at Ampleforth in the medieval period. Additionally, the presence of a water mill at Mill Farm shows that arable crops were being grown and processed locally into flour. Archaeological excavations as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig had the potential to reveal more about the chronological development and growth of medieval Ampleforth, as well as the trades and economies that helped it to grow, through the date and functions of artefacts recovered.
- 2.7.5 There is extensive evidence for human activity in the study area from the Post-Medieval and Modern periods, particularly in the built heritage. The historic centre of the village remains more or less unchanged in map regression but it does expand in size, particularly to the south, most noticeably between the 1913 and 1952 Ordnance Survey maps.
- 2.7.6 The structures labelled on the 1854 Ordnance Survey mapping provide an interesting insight into the social context of 19th century Ampleforth. A 'National School' was set up in the centre of the village by the National Society of Promoting Religious Education, specifically with the aim of providing education to the children of the poor, whilst at the east of the village a series of 'Poor Houses' are labelled. This suggests that like many rural villages in Victorian England, struggling to adapt to the collapse of the cottage industry in the wake of the industrial revolution, there was an element of the population that could not fully provide for itself.
- 2.7.7 However, this is contrasted by the simultaneous growth and development of Ampleforth College just to the east; a Benedictine school that grew from strength to strength over the coming decades, eventually becoming a Roman Catholic boarding school for boys in 1900. This is evidenced further by the construction of additional ancillary buildings and features such as a cricket ground, pavilion and tramway at the college. Furthermore, the vast majority of houses surviving today on the main street through Ampleforth appear to date from the period of the 18th and 19th centuries, implying a phase of growth or regeneration at this time. This story of contrasting fortunes is perhaps a glimpse of the wider changes occurring throughout the country as a whole. Traditional rural crafts and trades from the 17th and 18th centuries were on the decline, being replaced by the industry of the larger cities, whilst agricultural workers supplying raw materials like wool to factories in these cities were still required.
- 2.7.8 The first half of the 20th century at Ampleforth saw little change within the village itself, although a number of Second World War installations survive in the vicinity. The latter part of the 20th century saw a massive growth in the size of the village with the addition of a large housing scheme to the south. Much of this can be attributed to the concurrent growth of Ampleforth College attracting more people to settle in the village. Archaeological excavations as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig had the potential to reveal more about the development and decline of these rural industries and the narrative behind the accompanying social context before the regeneration and redevelopment of the village alongside its growth in the 20th century.

3 PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project model

3.1.1 The overarching aim of the project was to conduct a community-led test pitting programme in Ampleforth village to aid understanding of its historical development, and to disseminate results to the public and local education establishments via presentations and workshops. The project was structured as a community-based research project and provided a range of physical and digital opportunities to participate in and/or watch the excavations. The project also included educational outreach to local schools and societies.

3.1.2 Specifically, the project requirements were to:

- Design a community archaeology project with input from Ryevitalise, Ampleforth Parish Council and other interested stakeholders,
- Engage the local community through in-person events, leaflet drops, posters and online publications, to sign up and take part in the Big Dig,
- Train participants through both in-person events and through an online mini-mooc (course) about how to dig and record a test pit,
- Host a dedicated 'Finds Lab' throughout the dig to help volunteers with finds washing and identification,
- Deliver outreach events with the local schools at St Hilda's CE Primary School, Ryedale School and St Benedict's R C Primary School,
- Disseminate the results of the test pitting event into a post-excavation report, and
- Host a final public event to share the results of the dig and distribute a booklet summarising the archaeology and history of Ampleforth village.

3.2 Project aims and objectives

Aim 1 – Characterise the historic development of the village, refining its chronology and phasing with a programme of desk-based research and archaeological test pitting.

- Q1: What was the historical evidence for the development of the village, and where could we identify the potential of areas for survival of archaeology?
- Q2: Could a chronological sequence and stratigraphic phasing for areas within the village be established through a programme of test pitting and recovery of archaeological evidence?
- Q3: Could we establish the landscape setting, use and character of the village over time, and understand how these shaped its location, design and development?



Aim 2 – Understand the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental conditions of the village.

3.2.1 This aim was achieved through an assessment of the archaeology recorded, including archaeological deposits and finds recovered as defined in Aim 1, using appropriate archaeological techniques to establish preservation and significance.

- Q4: What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the village?
- Q5: How well do deposits and artefacts survive, and how deeply are they buried?
- Q6: What was the range and spatial patterning of artefacts recovered from the archaeological test pits?
- Q7: Could any palaeoenvironmental data recovered from the test pits inform us about cultural activities that may have taken place at the site?
- Q8: Could we establish a chronological sequence for the development of the village, considering both cultural activities and landscape development?

Aim 3 – Making recommendations, analysis and publication

3.2.2 This aim required all data from Aims 1 and 2 to be collated, with an integrated analysis of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental resource at the site, making recommendations to conserve, enhance and interpret the heritage significance of the site.

- Q9: What could an integrated synthesis of the results of this work with previous studies of contemporary regional sites tell us about the site and its setting?
- Q10: Could we formulate recommendations for further archaeological and palaeoenvironmental analysis at the village based on Aims 1-2 and implement a programme to publish and disseminate the results?

Aim 4 – Public engagement and communication

3.2.3 This aim was integral to the success of the project and sat with equal importance alongside our research aims. The field school programme involved participation from volunteers, who were trained and mentored in the techniques of archaeological excavation. Our site team delivered an engagement programme throughout the dig, with both online and onsite activities to engage and inform the public about the archaeological discoveries. In summary, the project offered a range of opportunities for local community members and visitors to the area to get involved and learn more about the archaeology of Ampleforth.

3.2.4 The project culminated with a final public event to disseminate all of the findings to the participants, as well as to circulate a booklet to all dig participants and interested local residents detailing these findings and the history of Ampleforth village.

3.2.5 Over the course of the project, our targets for engagement were;

- Host two public engagement meetings to encourage participation and sign-ups to the test pitting project,



- provide access and online support to our online course How to Test Pit for all of the Big Dig participants,
- train community volunteers in excavation and post excavation throughout the course of the project,
- engage children in a test pitting day at their school / schools,
- broadcast online content across multiple social media channels collated on our dig timeline, reaching a local and global audience,
- deliver a programme of public events, including Q&A sessions and expert led workshops,
- host a final public engagement event in the village and provide hard and digital copies of a booklet about the dig and its findings.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Public engagement events and training

- 4.1.1 DigVentures' communications team circulated information about the Ampleforth Big Dig to inform local residents of the project and to encourage people to take part through a number of mechanisms described below.
- 4.1.2 An event webpage and booking form was created through DigVentures' bespoke event management system, where all the information about the dig and events was displayed. Posters and leaflets were created to advertise the Ampleforth Big Dig, with details on how to sign up to take part (either online, via email, via telephone or at one of the in-person events). The leaflets were distributed to houses and businesses throughout the village and posters were displayed in public spaces and business premises. The event was also publicised in local newsletters and newspapers, as well as on social media platforms.
- 4.1.3 DigVentures' community archaeology team held two public engagement events in Ampleforth Village Hall to inform the local community about the Big Dig. The events took place on the evening of Thursday 25th May 2023, and the afternoon of Saturday the 1st July 2023, hosting 15 and 19 attendees respectively. By hosting the events on a mid-week evening and on a weekend, it was intended that as many members of the local community would be able to attend as possible. The public engagement events discussed the history of Ampleforth village, the background to the project, the findings of the desk-based assessment and introduced attendees to archaeological test pitting, with the aim of encouraging sign-ups for the community to take part in the Big Dig later in the year. Volunteers were able to sign up to take part via online registration or a paper sign-up form available at the event.
- 4.1.4 Once registered, participants were enrolled onto our 'How to Dig a Test Pit' course through our unique MOOC portal, where they were provided with all of the knowledge, documentation and tools to help them get ready for the test pitting community dig. Our team of community archaeologists were on hand to chat and help the volunteers through their learning process at all times, as well as the wider DigVentures community.



4.2 The Ampleforth Big Dig

- 4.2.1 The community test pitting event ran from Friday 14th of July to Monday 17th of July 2023. It commenced with volunteers being checked in at the village hall, where they received a briefing outlining the structure of the weekend, a reminder of how to dig and record a test pit, a health and safety risk assessment as well as receiving tools and paperwork to enable them to dig their test pits. A total of 17 test pits were excavated across the village and at Ampleforth Abbey involving 19 adult participants and 60 school children. The team were on hand throughout the weekend to advise and assist with the test pitting activities, and led community excavation in public or common areas at Ampleforth Abbey so that participants without a garden could take part.
- 4.2.2 Throughout the dig, a 'Finds Lab' was present in Ampleforth Village Hall, acting as the central hub for all things finds and dig related. Two specialist finds-focused community archaeologists were present running constant consultation, finds washing in a dedicated space at the village hall, bagging and labelling of finds with local participants and the provision of advice to all those taking part in the dig, across all days scheduled. The Finds Lab and Dig Hub were open throughout the day for anyone curious about the dig to visit, hear about the progress and discoveries whilst viewing the finds. This space also formed the meeting point at the end of each day for an end of day 'wrap up' briefing involving all dig participants and curious local residents, who could congregate and see the discoveries made across the village over the course of that day.
- 4.2.3 In addition to garden test pits excavated by Ampleforth village residents, local schools were involved on Friday the 14th and Monday the 17th of July. Children from St. Hilda's Church of England school and Ryedale School were involved in excavating test pits at Ampleforth Abbey whilst children from St. Benedict's Roman Catholic primary school were able to help excavate three test pits on the school's grounds.

4.3 Excavation

- 4.3.1 All work was completed to ClfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014). The excavation was carried out in accordance with DigVentures' company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual, *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1996).
- 4.3.2 All test pits were de-turfed, with topsoil and underlying deposits removed by hand. Any archaeological deposits exposed were hand-cleaned and excavated to determine their nature, character and date. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and a full list of all records is presented in Appendix A. Layers and fills are recorded with curved brackets (4001), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [4002]. Each feature is prefixed with the relevant with the letter F (ie Trench 6, F601+, Trench 7, F701+).
- 4.3.3 All recording was undertaken using a bespoke paper-based recording system, framed for the purposes of the Ampleforth Big Dig as the user-friendly 'Test Pit Recording Pack.' This pack included help cards and guidance for excavating and recording a test



pit, as well as custom made test pit recording sheets consisting of context descriptions, sketch plans, location descriptions, interpretations, finds recovered and photos taken with useful help and advice for filling in each section. Upon completion of the recording pack, this was handed back to the team of community archaeologists who checked the details before taking final record photographs of the finished test pit in advance of backfill.

4.4 Artefacts

4.4.1 All finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b). Archaeological material was handled and sorted following advice in Watkinson and Neal (2001). All artefacts from excavated contexts were washed, counted, weighed, and identified. Finds recovered were assessed and examined to provide an identification, date, and provenance of the material, and to also evaluate the significance of the assemblage.

4.4.2 The assessment of artefacts conforms to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014b, 2014c), as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).

4.5 Final public engagement activities

4.5.1 Upon completion of reporting and post-excavation assessment, our team of community archaeologists hosted a final in-person event for the local residents in Ampleforth to showcase the findings of the Big Dig. This pulled together the discoveries made from test pitting, including the finds, and set it in the context of desk-based research to tell the story of the village's history.

4.5.2 A specially produced dig booklet summarising the history and archaeology of Ampleforth was circulated at the event, with a digital version made available for those who are unable to attend in person.

4.6 Health and safety

4.6.1 All work was carried out following the creation of a Risk Assessment and Method Statement and in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (1996), and DigVentures Health and Safety Policy.



5 TEST PIT RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Seventeen test pits were excavated between the 14th and 17th July 2023 by local residents and school children of Ampleforth village in their gardens, the grounds of Ampleforth Abbey and of St. Benedicts primary school. The main purpose of the test pits was to provide a greater understanding of the historical development of Ampleforth, growing the collective enthusiasm in the local community to learn about and protect their heritage. This was achieved through providing opportunities for members of the local community to actively participate in archaeological skills training, volunteering to excavate a test pit and take part in finds processing.
- 5.1.2 The test pits were square in plan, each measuring 1m x 1m and located according to the availability of safely accessible land in the gardens of local resident's houses and the grounds of local establishments. Wherever possible within these constraints and with permission from landowner(s), test pits were positioned over areas of known or expected archaeological potential based upon the information gained from the desk-based assessment of Ampleforth village.
- 5.1.3 The remainder of this section is structured as a summary of the results from each test pit by property, starting with a description of its location and the known historical background of that area before providing the results from the test pit itself and the artefacts recovered. In doing so, a historical narrative is developed for each property that is built from the different sources of information assessed as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig project.
- 5.1.4 Figures 12-14 show the locations and distributions of test pits throughout the village and record photographs of each test pit are available in Figures 15-17. Detailed descriptions of every context are included in Appendix A, with a catalogue of all artefacts recovered available in Appendix B. Data tables recording the ceramic fabric types recovered from each context are available by test pit in Appendix D, along with a TPQ (Terminus-Post-Quem) date for each context; the date after which the context must have been formed. Test Pit 17 is not included in this summary because it was allocated to a participant who intended to excavate a test pit but was not able to do so.

5.2 Test Pit 1 – Coram Cottage (Figure 15; Table)

- 5.2.1 Test Pit 1 was located in the back garden of Coram cottage; a property adjacent to the village Post Office and shop on the northern side of the main East-West street through the village. Coram Cottage sits next to a now-demolished 19th century blacksmith's shop known to have existed very near this location from historical mapping (HER entry: 5081). One of the more obvious features of the properties on the northern side of the main street at the centre of Ampleforth is the characteristically Medieval land strips associated with them. At Coram cottage, the back garden is over 100m long and 8m wide; suggesting a Medieval origin for the properties and land plots in this part of the village, which appear to have been fossilised in the modern village. A test pit at Coram Cottage had significant potential to reveal new insights into Ampleforth's past from the Medieval through to the present day.



- 5.2.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 20m north of the cottage's rear wall next to a wooden lean-to structure and a Rowan tree west of the central garden path (NGR: SE 58299 78774). It was excavated to a final depth of 0.70m and two layers were identified within it. The earliest was a waste dumping layer (1002) at least 0.25m thick, likely formed through the discarding of waste from the 19th century blacksmith's shop. Finds recovered from this layer included ceramics, animal bone, glass, mortar and a high density of iron nails and metalworking slag in keeping with 19th century blacksmithing activities. This deposit was not fully excavated due to access constraints. Overlying this was gardensoil/topsoil (1001), measuring 0.45m in thickness and containing a similar range of finds.
- 5.2.3 The test pit produced 345 sherds of pottery weighing 893.5g. This was the largest portion of material from the entire ceramic assemblage, accounting for 47% of all refined earthenware material collected and 45% of the total assemblage. Fragments of eight broad fabric types were identified spanning from 12th -20th century.
- 5.2.4 Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were 31 fragments of Medieval pottery largely dominated by later Medieval transitional period wares, such as Tudor Green. A few earlier, undecorated sandy wares could potentially date as early as 11th century (Hayfield 1980), but this was not able to be established with such a fragmented sample from insecure contexts.
- 5.2.5 There were a great deal of 17th century slipware fragments from decorated vessels represented as well as stoneware and porcelain in lower numbers. Within this layer a sherd of Medieval Tudor Green glazed pottery (SF3) was recovered, along with a 19th century ceramic button (SF5), as well as up to three mid-20th century aluminium snuff boxes (SF7, SF8 and SF9). The snuff boxes were manufactured by Singleton & Cole Ltd, based in Birmingham, Leeds and Shrewsbury. They were established in 1886 and liquidated in 1932, though the brand continued. These boxes contained Super-Menthol snuff and were priced at three pence each. See Figure 28 for small finds photographs.
- 5.2.6 Test Pit 1 provided clear artefactual evidence of the 19th century blacksmithing activities known to have existed very near to this location as well as Medieval pottery sherds that support the hypothesis of the properties at the central part of the village originating during this period. The picture developing here is the division of land in the Medieval period into long thin strips that are still fossilised in the property boundaries today. As the village changed over time, blacksmithing became an important and necessary trade in Ampleforth and the land around Coram Cottage was re-developed in the 19th century to include a blacksmith's shop.
- 5.3 **Test Pit 2 – Daleside (Figure 15)**
- 5.3.1 Test Pit 2 was located in the back garden of Daleside; a property fronting the south side of the main East-West street through the village. Daleside is a Grade II listed cruck-framed building likely of 17th century origin that has seen substantial rebuilding in the 19th and 20th centuries (list entry: 1315769). A test pit at Daleside had the potential to reveal more about the 17th century origins of the property and subsequent re-developments.

- 5.3.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 4m south of the property's rear wall and 3.5m east of the garden's western boundary wall (NGR: SE 58392 78735). It was excavated to a final depth of 0.30m and a single layer of garden soil/topsoil (2001) was recorded before the natural geology (2002) was encountered. The finds recovered from the garden soil included mortar, glass, ceramics, plastic, brick, tile and clay tobacco pipe mostly interpreted as being 19th century or later in date. A lovely object made from animal bone was recovered in the topsoil (SF2, Figure 28), intricately carved end of a lace bobbin or toggle button.
- 5.3.3 A total of 70 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 182g. This material accounted for 9% of the total assemblage by count and 8% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were 11 fragments of Medieval pottery dominated by Tudor Green. There were a good deal of 17th century decorated vessels represented, as well as stoneware and porcelain in lower numbers.
- 5.3.4 It is likely that the 19th and 20th century rebuilding works are at least partly responsible for the source of artefacts recovered dating predominantly to this period. The recovery of a small number of Medieval and 17th century ceramics allude to the earlier origins of Daleside, but the shallow depth of the natural geology at this location, so central to the Medieval village, suggests that at some point the garden may have been levelled or landscaped. However, given the known 17th century origin of Daleside and the small size of the excavation area, it is very likely that more material dating from around this period or even earlier exists in and around this location.

5.4 Test Pit 3 – Ford End House (Figure 15)

- 5.4.1 Test pit 3 was located in the back garden of Ford End house, a Grade II listed property of likely 18th century origin (list entry: 1149570) fronting the south side of the main East-West street through the village at its western end. It is one of a cluster of four 18th to early 19th century Grade II listed properties at the western end of Ampleforth, implying the growth or re-development of this part of the village around that time. A test pit at Ford End house had the potential to reveal more about the 18th century origins of this property and the development of the western part of Ampleforth during this period.
- 5.4.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 50m to the south of the property's rear wall adjacent to a tree house and located over the remains of what is likely an old garden path protruding through the grass (NGR: SE 57962 78612). It was excavated to a depth of 0.10m and only the topsoil with garden path (3001) was observed capping the garden soil (3002) below. A number of finds interpreted as likely of a late 18th -19th century date or later; including mortar, glass, ceramics, iron nails, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe, were recovered from the topsoil (3001) and garden soil below the disused path (3002). The disused garden path protruding from topsoil (3001) was of a single course of medium sized stones with no bonding or foundations and it was observed continuing beyond the bounds of the test pit itself to the north and the south.
- 5.4.3 A total of 76 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 242g. This material accounted for 10% of the total assemblage by count and 11% by weight.



There were six fragments of Tudor Green pottery, a later Medieval ware. The rest of the assemblage was dominated by fragments of 18th-19th century refined earthenware vessels as well as porcelain.

- 5.4.4 The garden path and associated finds recovered from Test Pit 3 suggest that the garden itself may have been re-developed with the addition of a foot path at some point in the 19th or early 20th centuries. Finds were recovered from the period of the 18th century origin of Ford End house as well as later periods. The few isolated sherds of Medieval pottery recovered were considered residual and not enough to suggest Medieval origins for Ford End house, however this cannot be fully discounted given the small size of the excavation area. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation coupled with the shallow depth and small area of excavation in Test Pit 3.

5.5 Test Pit 4 – 17 Valley View

- 5.5.1 Test pit 4 was located in the back garden of 17 Valley View, a property built as part of a wider housing construction scheme to the south of the village in the latter half of the 20th century. Historical mapping reviewed as part of the desk-based assessment suggests that this land was most likely used for agriculture before the housing scheme was constructed. A test pit at this location had the potential to reveal more about changing use of land at Ampleforth over the centuries.
- 5.5.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 6m south of the property's rear wall and 1.5m away from the garden boundary fence, between a greenhouse and an oil tank (NGR: SE 58370 78329). It was excavated to a final depth of 0.22m and two layers were identified within it. The earliest layer encountered was a light greyish brown silty clay subsoil (4002) that was exposed and excavated to an arbitrary final depth of 0.05m due to time constraints. This material was capped by 0.17m of topsoil/garden soil (4001). Both deposits contained artefacts of a 20th century origin including glass and plastic consistent with disturbed ground likely from the construction of the property in the latter half of the 20th century.
- 5.5.3 A total of five sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 62.8g. This material accounted for 1.2% of the total assemblage by count and 2.8% by weight. Fabrics were limited to three types and were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from more recent constructed dwelling. There were two fragments of Medieval pottery in Tudor Green, a very common ware in the 15th-16th centuries. A few fragments of 17th century slip decorated vessels were recovered as well as a few sherds of 19th century refined earthen wares.
- 5.5.4 Whilst two Medieval sherds were recovered, these were considered residual and no evidence for the use of this land before the construction of the housing scheme was recovered from Test Pit 4. The shallow depth of the small excavation area likely did not reach below the level of the groundworks carried out as part of the housing construction scheme. Therefore, it is very possible that further evidence of Ampleforth's history exists below.



5.6 Test Pits 5,6,7 and 18 – Ampleforth Abbey grounds (Figures 15 & 17)

- 5.6.1 Test Pits 5,6,7 and 18 were located in the grounds of Ampleforth Abbey and were open for any community participants who did not have a place of their own to dig. Students from St. Hilda's Church of England school and Ryedale School also participated in excavating these test pits. Ampleforth Abbey itself is a Grade I listed building (list entry: 1315767) built in 1922 having been designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. It is part of a Roman Catholic Benedictine monastery and boarding school which opened in 1803.
- 5.6.2 The land at which the four test pits were located was positioned approximately 13m south of East Lane on an un-named grass pasture 200m to the south west of the Abbey buildings. All four test pits were located adjacent to each other in a line east to west, approximately three metres apart. A review of the historic mapping as part of the desk-based assessment shows that this location has been pasture since the founding of the Abbey. However, the field immediately to the east also showed signs of Medieval agricultural activity including a Lynchett (HER entry: MNY11437), whilst to the west a Bronze Age barrow has been recorded (HER entry: MNY36887). Test pits at this location had the potential to reveal more about the use of the land before the monastery and Abbey were constructed, ranging from the Prehistoric to the Medieval periods.
- 5.6.3 Test pit 5 was the western-most of the four adjacent test pits (NGR: SE 59594 78690). Topsoil (5001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.20m where the natural geology (5004) was encountered. The only feature observed was an ephemeral gully [5003] cut into the natural geology (5004), likely associated with a field drain for the pasture field. It was 0.40m in width, continued beyond the bounds of the test pit and was not fully excavated.
- 5.6.4 The only artefacts recovered from Test Pit 5 were retrieved from Topsoil (5001). These included ceramics, brick fragments, glass and plastic all dating from the 19th century or later, and a single piece of worked Prehistoric flint (SF1, Figure 28). Whilst the flint is residual, its presence in this location is not surprising given the density of known Prehistoric monuments on top of the valley edge to the north of the village and Ampleforth Abbey, as well as the recorded location of a nearby Bronze Age barrow just to the west of the site. Flint is not local to the geology of Ampleforth, with the nearest source being that which would be washed up in coastal areas to the east around Flamborough Head. This suggests transport, movement or trade through the area in Prehistoric times to enable to production of tools for cutting and scraping.
- 5.6.5 The only pottery found in TP5 was a single sherd found in Topsoil (5001). This one sherd of lead glazed coarse earthenware weighed 3g. This material accounted for 0.1% of the total assemblage by count and 0.1% by weight. This fabric was very common for a long stretch of time in the early post medieval period through the Victorian period. It was primarily used for utilitarian vessels for food storage or for everyday consumption.
- 5.6.6 Test pit 6 was the second from the east of the four adjacent test pits (NGR: SE 59602 78688). Topsoil (6001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.20m where the natural geology (6002) was encountered. No archaeological features were observed within



Test Pit 6. Artefacts recovered from Topsoil (6001) included brick fragments, mortar and animal bone likely of a 19th century date or later.

- 5.6.7 Only two sherds of pottery were found in TP6. This material weighed 5.7g and accounted for 0.2% of the total assemblage by count and 0.3% by weight. One sherd from the topsoil was of a Medieval fabric from the late transitional period in the 15th-16th century. The other fragment was of 18th-20th century refined white earthenware.
- 5.6.8 Test pit 7 was the eastern-most of the four adjacent test (NGR: SE 59609 78689). Topsoil (7001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.20m where the natural geology (7002) was encountered. No archaeological features were observed within Test Pit 7. Artefacts recovered from Topsoil (7001) included brick fragments likely of a 19th century date or later.
- 5.6.9 In Test Pit 7, only two sherds of pottery were found in Topsoil (7001). This material weighed 9.1g and accounted for 0.2% of the total assemblage by count and 0.4% by weight. One sherd from the topsoil was of a Medieval fabric from the late transitional period in the 15th-16th century. The other fragment was of 18th-20th century refined white earthenware.
- 5.6.10 Test pit 18 was the second from the west of the four adjacent test pits (NGR: SE 59597 78688). Topsoil (18001) was excavated to a depth of 0.20m where excavation ceased due to time constraints. Material was found in this topsoil was considered residual and included a single sherd of Medieval pottery in Tudor Green, weighing 2.5g. This material accounted for 0.1% of the total assemblage by count and 0.1% by weight. Additional artefacts recovered from Topsoil (18001) included glass and brick fragments dating to the 19th century.
- 5.6.11 The excavation of Test Pits 5,6,7 and 18 has provided a picture of the development of this land from agricultural use into a part of the Abbey grounds. The finds recovered, nearly all dating to the 19th and 20th centuries, fits the timeframe of this changing land use when it was developed by the monastery in the 19th century before the construction of the Abbey in the early 20th century. Perhaps most intriguing is the discovery of the flint artefact which, whilst residual, provides further evidence of the Prehistoric landscape around Ampleforth.

5.7 Test Pit 8 – The Vicarage (Figure 16)

- 5.7.1 Test pit 8 was located in the front garden of The Vicarage, a property set back to the south of the main East-West road at the centre of the village, immediately west of Ampleforth Village Hall and the 12th century church of St. Hilda. The Grade II listed church (list entry: 1149609, HER entry: MNY1769) sits at the heart of the village and represents the centre of Ampleforth's Medieval roots. The close proximity of the Vicarage to this location provided significant potential for archaeology and artefacts relating to the Medieval period to be recovered from a test pit here.
- 5.7.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 40m north of the front wall of the house and 10m west of the boundary wall with the village hall (NGR: SE 58255 78655). It was excavated to a final depth of 0.64m and two layers were identified within it.



- 5.7.3 Topsoil/garden soil (8001) was excavated to a depth of 0.30m where a rubble deposit (8002) was encountered. This mixed deposit of medium sized angular to sub angular sandstone pieces within a dark yellowish brown clayey silt was partially excavated to a final arbitrary depth of 0.34m due to time and access constraints. Artefacts recovered from both deposits included metalworking slag, iron nails, glass, brick fragments and clay tobacco pipe mostly of a 19th century date or later.
- 5.7.4 A total of 29 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 204g. This material accounted for 3.8% of the total assemblage by count and 9.2% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. Medieval pottery dominated the material recovered in this test pit, potentially indicating the disturbance of nearby Medieval deposits. There were 23 fragments of Medieval pottery largely of later Medieval transitional period wares, such as Tudor Green. There were also six sherds of 19th-20th century refined white earthenware recovered.
- 5.7.5 Given the location of Test Pit 8 at the Vicarage, very close to the 12th century church of St. Hilda and within the historic Medieval core of the village, it is unsurprising that Medieval artefacts were recovered from this location. It is also possible that the rubble deposit (8002), where a number of the Medieval pottery sherds were recovered, could represent the disturbed remains of a destroyed Medieval structure.
- 5.8 Test Pits 9, 10 and 11 – St. Benedict’s Primary School (Figure 16)**
- 5.8.1 Test Pits 9, 10 and 11 were located in the grounds of St. Benedict’s primary school and provided a chance for the school’s students to get involved in the Ampleforth Big Dig by excavating a test pit on the grassland behind their playground. The school building itself (HER entry: MNY1768) opened in 1962 and is located to the south-east of the village surrounded on three sides by pasture fields. These fields, including the open grassland within the school grounds where the test pits were located, show visible Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (HER entry: MNY1767). Locating the test pits over the ridge and furrow ploughing had the potential to reveal more about Medieval agricultural practices in and around Ampleforth.
- 5.8.2 Test pit 9, the western-most of the three adjacent test pits was positioned in the school playing field approximately 55m south of the school building’s rear wall (NGR: SE 58682 478573) over one of several suspected Medieval plough furrows visible as a shallow ridge and furrow earthwork. Topsoil (9001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.15m where subsoil (9002) was exposed, cleaned and left unexcavated.
- 5.8.3 Artefacts recovered from Test Pit 9 were retrieved from Topsoil (9001) and during cleaning of the subsoil (9002). These included ceramics, brick fragments, glass and clay tobacco pipe mostly dating from the 19th-20th century as well as a single piece of struck Prehistoric flint. Whilst the flint is residual, its presence is not surprising given the density of known Prehistoric monuments on top of the valley edge to the North of the village. It is also possible that Medieval ridge and furrow ploughing visible at the school playing field has redeposited Prehistoric artefacts from features in the vicinity of St. Benedict’s Primary school. Flint is not local to the geology of Ampleforth, with the nearest source being that which would be washed up in coastal areas to the east

around Flamborough Head. This suggests transport, movement or trade through the area in Prehistoric times to enable to production of tools for cutting and scraping.

- 5.8.4 A total of 12 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 19.2g. This material accounted for 1.6% of the total assemblage by count and 1% by weight. There were two fragments of Medieval pottery, Tudor Green. There were three fragments of 17th century slipware decorated vessels represented as well as one sherd of lead-glazed earthenware. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation.
- 5.8.5 Test pit 10, the central of the three adjacent test pits was positioned approximately four metres east of Test Pit 9 and 57m south of the school building's rear wall (NGR: SE 58686 78572) over one of several suspected Medieval plough ridges visible as a shallow ridge and furrow earthwork. Topsoil (10001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.18m where subsoil (10002) was exposed, cleaned and left unexcavated. Artefacts recovered from Test Pit 10 were retrieved from Topsoil (10001) and during cleaning of the subsoil (10002). These included ceramics, animal bone and an intact clay tobacco pipe bowl with maritime decoration and floral motif mould (SF6), likely dating from the 19th century to present.
- 5.8.6 A total of three sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 2g. This material accounted for 0.4% of the total assemblage by count and 0.1% by weight. This material was all 18th - 20th century refined white earthen wares. These were very popular for tea and other service wares in the Regency and Victorian period.
- 5.8.7 Test pit 11, the eastern-most of the three adjacent test pits was positioned approximately four metres east of Test Pit 10 and 58m south of the school building's rear wall (NGR: SE 58691 78571) over one of several suspected Medieval plough furrows visible as a shallow ridge and furrow earthwork. Topsoil (11001) was excavated to a final depth of at least 0.15m where excavation ceased due to time constraints.
- 5.8.8 A total of 10 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 15g. This material accounted for 1.3% of the total assemblage by count and 0.7% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were two fragments of Medieval pottery, Tudor Green. There were three fragments of refined earthen white wares as well as a small number of sherds of lead-glazed earthenware, porcelain and stoneware, all dating to the 18th -19th century. Additional artefacts recovered from Topsoil (11001) included glass, brick fragments and clay tobacco pipe likely dating from the 19th century to present.
- 5.8.9 The excavation of Test Pits 9,10 and 11 has demonstrated the development of this land from Medieval agriculture into a place of education as part of St. Benedict's primary school. The finds recovered, mostly dating to the 19th and 20th centuries, fits the timeframe of this changing land use when it was developed by the school in the mid-20th century. Similar to at Ampleforth Abbey, perhaps the most intriguing discovery is the flint artefact, providing an insight into the Prehistoric landscape around Ampleforth.



5.9 Test Pit 12 – Nettle Meadow (Figure 16)

- 5.9.1 Test pit 12 was located in the front garden of Nettle Meadow, a property fronting the north side of the main East-West street through the village at the western end. Nettle Meadow lies immediately to the north-west of Ford End house, on the opposite side of the main street and adjacent to the cluster of four Grade II listed properties of 18th to 19th century date at this part of the village. Whilst Nettle Meadow is itself not listed, it could well form part of the re-development of the village around this time and a test pit here had the potential to reveal more about this chapter in Ampleforth's history.
- 5.9.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 10m to the south of the property's front wall and adjacent to the garden fence fronting the street (NGR: SE 57902 78710). Topsoil/garden soil (12001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.40m where a rubble deposit (12002) possibly relating to the drystone foundations of an old garden wall was cleaned and left in-situ.
- 5.9.3 Finds mostly dating from the 19th century to present, including an intact glass bottle (SF10), ceramics, fragments of brick and tile, iron nails, animal bone and shell were recovered from the topsoil/garden soil (12001) and from cleaning rubble deposit (12002) below. These artefacts fit well with the expected chronology of the redevelopment of the west end of Ampleforth village around this time.
- 5.9.4 A total of 75 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 217.6g. This material accounted for 9.7% of the total assemblage by count and 9.8% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were three fragments of later Medieval pottery, however the majority of the material was refined earthen white wares from the 18th-19th century. There were also a number of sherds of decorated 17th century tablewares, such as tin-glazed earthenware, slipwares and a few sherds of porcelain.
- 5.9.5 A single residual piece of worked flint was recovered from (12001). The presence of worked flint, though residual, at this location is unsurprising given the known density of Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Ampleforth. Flint is not local to the geology of Ampleforth, with the nearest source being that which would be washed up in coastal areas to the east around Flamborough Head. This suggests transport, movement or trade through the area in Prehistoric times to enable to production of tools for cutting and scraping.
- 5.9.6 The possible existence of a previously unknown drystone garden wall before the present wooden fence at the front street-facing boundary of Nettle Meadow shows the evolution of the property's frontage over time, providing insights into how the main street through Ampleforth may have looked in the past.

5.10 Test Pits 13 and 16 – Sycamore Cottage (Figures 16-17)

- 5.10.1 Test pits 13 and 16 were located in the back garden of Sycamore Cottage, a property fronting the northern side of the main East-West street central to Ampleforth village. Sycamore Cottage is directly opposite Marian House, a Grade II listed late 18th century property facing the southern side of the main street. It is also only a few plots to the west of Coram Cottage and the 19th century blacksmiths shop at that location.



One of the more obvious features of the properties on the northern side of the main street at this part of Ampleforth is the characteristically Medieval land strips, or burgage plots, associated with them. At Sycamore Cottage, the back garden is approximately 130m long and 8m wide; suggesting a Medieval origin for the properties and land plots in this part of the village, which appear to have been fossilised in this part of the modern village. Test pits at Sycamore Cottage had significant potential to reveal new insights into Ampleforth's past from the Medieval through to the present day.

- 5.10.2 Test Pit 13 was positioned at the very rear of this long, narrow strip of land part way up the valley edge at a significantly higher elevation than the property itself (NGR: SE 58233 78923). Topsoil (13001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.15m where the natural geology (13002) was encountered. No features were observed within Test Pit 13. A total of two sherds of 17th to 18th century slipware were recovered from this test pit, weighing 12.7g. This material accounted for 0.3% of the total assemblage by count and 0.6% by weight.
- 5.10.3 Due to the substantial elevation difference of the test pit on the steep valley edge from the property further below, it is likely that colluvial hillwash has moved any evidence associated with the use of the Medieval burgage plot downslope closer to the property itself.
- 5.10.4 Test pit 16 was positioned approximately 3m south of a summer house in the garden, much closer to Sycamore Cottage itself (NGR: SE 58214 78790). Topsoil (16001) was excavated to a depth of 0.30m where excavation ceased due to time constraints. Artefacts recovered from the Topsoil included glass, mortar, animal bone including a button made from animal bone (SF4), brick fragments, ceramics, shell and clay tobacco pipe mostly dating from the 19th century to present.
- 5.10.5 A total of 95 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 259.7g. This material accounted for 12.3% of the total assemblage by count and 11.7% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There was one single fragment of Medieval Tudor Green pottery. Nearly half of the material recovered from this test pit was of refined earthen white wares, but there were also a number of sherds of lead-glazed earthenware, porcelain and stoneware, also dating to the 18th -19th century. There were also a few sherds of decorative slipware and one sherd of tin-glazed earthenware dating to the 17th-18th century
- 5.10.6 Test pits at Sycamore Cottage revealed evidence of occupation at this location from the Medieval through to the present day. Most of the artefacts recovered were of 19th to 20th century date, in keeping with the modern occupation of Ampleforth. The recovery of a number of Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery sherds implies earlier origins for occupation at this property, likely during the Medieval period based on the character of the land strips here. The date range of finds recovered from Sycamore Cottage and Coram Cottage are very similar and suggest that this part of Ampleforth village had Medieval origins and saw a significant redevelopment in the 19th century.

5.11 Test Pit 14 – Little Cottage (Figure 17)

- 5.11.1 Test pit 14 was located in the back garden of Little Cottage, a property fronting the south side of the main East-West street through the western end of the village. It is flanked by two Grade II listed buildings of early 19th century origin (list entries 1149568 and 1315771), with a third of late 18th century origin at Cross House (list entry: 1149569) just to the west. Whilst Little Cottage is not itself listed, it is part of the same terrace as the two flanking properties on either side, implying it is likely of the same date or very similar. A test pit at Little Cottage had the potential to reveal more about the history of the property and its origins.
- 5.11.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 40m south of the property's rear wall between a garden shed and summer house (NGR: SE 58081 78659). Topsoil (14001) was excavated to a final depth of 0.18m where subsoil (14002) was exposed, cleaned and left unexcavated.
- 5.11.3 A total of 33 sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, weighing 78.5g. This material accounted for 4.3% of the total assemblage by count and 3.5% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were two fragments of later Medieval pottery, however the majority of the material was refined earthen white wares from the 18th-19th century. There were also a few sherds of 18th century wares, such as lead-glazed slipwares and a few sherds of porcelain and stoneware.
- 5.11.4 Additional artefacts recovered from Test Pit 14 were retrieved from Topsoil (14001) and during cleaning of the subsoil (14002). These included glass, iron nails, brick and tile fragments as well as a button likely dating from the 19th century and later, in keeping with the suspected date of the property.

5.12 Test Pit 15 – Lowlands Farm (Figure 17)

- 5.12.1 Test pit 15 was located in the back garden of Lowlands Farm, a property surrounded by arable and pasture fields to the southeast of St. Benedict's Primary school in the eastern end of the village. Lowlands Farm first appears on the Ordnance Survey six inch to the mile map of 1895 (surveyed 1889-1891) but does not appear on the previous 1856 edition (surveyed 1854), implying the property must have been constructed at some point in the second half of the 19th century. A test pit at Lowlands Farm had the potential to reveal more about the farm's origins and agricultural land use in this part of Ampleforth before its construction.
- 5.12.2 The test pit was positioned approximately 3m south of the property's rear wall below the western patio steps (NGR: SE 58934 78339). Topsoil (15001) was excavated to a depth of at least 0.25m where excavation ceased due to time constraints. A total of 5 sherds were recovered from this test pit, weighing 15.7g. This material accounted for 0.6% of the total assemblage by count and 0.7% by weight. The material included refined earthen white wares, one sherd of lead-glazed earthenware and a sherd of stoneware, all from the 19th century.
- 5.12.3 Other artefacts recovered from the Topsoil included brick fragments, mortar, animal bone, and iron nails dating from the 19th century to present. The range and date of



artefacts recovered from Test Pit 15 fit well with the chronology of Lowlands Farm being constructed in the latter half of the 19th century. The lack of any artefacts dating from before this time does not necessarily discount the potential for earlier occupation at this location, given the limited size and scope of the test pit. However, it is likely that this location was used as agricultural land prior to the farm building's construction, as labelled on the 1856 Ordnance Survey map.

6 FINDS

6.1 Ceramics

by Dr Stephanie N. Duensing

Introduction

- 6.1.1 Assessment was undertaken in December 2023, of a moderately sized assemblage of medieval and post medieval ceramic artefacts from excavations carried out by DigVentures at the Ampleforth Big Dig weekend in July 2023. This assessment conformed to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b, 2014c), as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).
- 6.1.2 This assessment aimed to identify, sort, spot date, and quantify the artefacts and describe their range. The information has been used to provide a preliminary assessment of the significance of the artefacts.
- 6.1.3 All artefacts collected in the field were recovered by hand. All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. The artefacts were examined by eye or under x20 magnification where appropriate. Fabrics were categorised and dated using published typologies for the Post Medieval material type produced by MOLA. This assessment level considered all 18th – 20th century refined white earthenwares as a single fabric type.
- 6.1.4 A catalogue of fabric codes and descriptions from the ceramic artefacts recovered during the Ampleforth Big Dig is available in Appendix C. Data tables recording the fabric types recovered from each context are available by test pit in Appendix D, along with a TPQ (Terminus-Post-Quem) date for each context. Fabrics consisted nearly entirely of earthenware, both coarse and refined wares, as well as a representation of both stoneware and porcelain in smaller proportions. Refined wares made up the majority of the assemblage, accounting for 60.1% by count and 37.8% by weight of the total material recovered. The fabrics recovered are described by using the MOLA Codes (<https://www.mola.org.uk/files/resource-downloads/MedievalAndPost-medievalPotteryCodes>).



Results

- 6.1.5 The assemblage totalled 770 artefacts weighing 2,225g. Finds came from 29 contexts, all topsoil or garden spoils. They could be dated by eye and are consistent with medieval to post-medieval dates. The recent material appears in moderate to good condition; likely due to a combination of the robust material as well as less post-depositional disturbance.

Description

- 6.1.6 Fabrics consisted nearly entirely of earthenware, both coarse and refined wares, as well as a representation of both stoneware and porcelain in smaller proportions. Refined wares made up the majority of the assemblage, accounting for 60.1% by count and 37.8% by weight of the total material recovered.

Test Pit 1

- 6.1.7 The material from TP 1 was recovered in the garden soil (1001) and a dumping deposit (1002). The test pit produced 345 sherds weighing 893.5g (see Table 3). This was the largest portion of material from this assemblage, accounting for 47% of all refined earthenware material collected and 45% of the total assemblage. Fragments of eight broad fabrics were identified spanning from 12th -20th century.
- 6.1.8 Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were 31 fragments of medieval pottery largely dominated by later medieval transitional period wares, such as Tudor Green. A few earlier, undecorated sandy wares could potentially date as early as 11th century (Hayfield 1980), but this was not able to be established with such a fragmented sample from insecure contexts. There were a great deal fragments of 17th century slipware decorated vessels represented as well as stoneware and porcelain in lower numbers.

Test Pit 2

- 6.1.9 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (2001) and subsoil (2002). A total of 70 sherds were recovered, weighing 182g (see Table 4). This material accounted for 9% of the total assemblage by count and 8% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were 11 fragments of medieval pottery dominated by Tudor Green. There were a good deal of 17th century decorated vessels represented, as well as stoneware and porcelain in lower numbers.

Test Pit 3

- 6.1.10 Material from this test pit was found in garden path (3001) and garden soil (3002). A total of 76 sherds were recovered, weighing 242g (see Table 5). This material accounted for 10% of the total assemblage by count and 11% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were six fragments of Tudor Green pottery, a later medieval ware. The rest of the assemblage was dominated by fragments of 18th century refined earthenware vessels as well as porcelain.



Test Pit 4

- 6.1.11 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (4001) and subsoil (4002). A total of five sherds were recovered, weighing 62.8g (see Table 6). This material accounted for 1.2% of the total assemblage by count and 2.8% by weight. Fabrics limited to three types and were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from more recent constructed dwelling. There were two fragments of medieval pottery in Tudor Green, a very common ware in the 15th-16th centuries. A few fragments of 17th century slip decorated vessels were recovered as well as a few sherds of 19th century refined earthen wares.

Test Pit 5

- 6.1.12 In Test Pit 5, only a single sherd was found in garden soil (5001). This one sherd of lead glazed coarse earthenware weighed 3g (see Table 7). This material accounted for 0.1% of the total assemblage by count and 0.1% by weight. This fabric was very common for a long stretch of time in the early post medieval period through the Victorian period. It was primarily used for utilitarian vessels for food storage or for everyday consumption.

Test Pit 6

- 6.1.13 In Test Pit 6, only two sherds were found in garden soil (6001). This material weighed 5.7g and accounted for 0.2% of the total assemblage by count and 0.3% by weight (see Table 8). One sherd from the garden soil was of a medieval fabric from the late transitional period in the 15th-16th century. The other fragment was of 18th - 20th century refined white earthenware.

Test Pit 7

- 6.1.14 In Test Pit 7, only two sherds were found in garden soil (7001). This material weighed 9.1g and accounted for 0.2% of the total assemblage by count and 0.4% by weight (see Table 9). One sherd from the garden soil was of a medieval fabric from the late transitional period in the 15th-16th century. The other fragment was of 18th - 20th century refined white earthenware.

Test Pit 8

- 6.1.15 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (8001) and rubble layer (8002). A total of 29 sherds were recovered, weighing 204g (see Table 10). This material accounted for 3.8% of the total assemblage by count and 9.2% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were 23 fragments of medieval pottery largely dominated by later medieval transitional period wares, such as Tudor Green. There were also six sherds of 19th - 20th century refined white earthenware recovered.

Test Pit 9

- 6.1.16 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (9001) and (9002). A total of 12 sherds were recovered, weighing 19.2g (see Table 11). This material accounted for



1.6% of the total assemblage by count and 1% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were two fragments of medieval pottery, Tudor Green. There were three fragments of 17th century slipware decorated vessels represented as well as one sherd of lead-glazed earthenware.

Test Pit 10

- 6.1.17 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (10001). A total of three sherds were recovered, weighing 2g (see Table 12). This material accounted for 0.4% of the total assemblage by count and 0.1% by weight. This material was all 18th - 20th century refined white earthenwares. These were very popular for tea and other service wares in the Regency and Victorian period.

Test Pit 11

- 6.1.18 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (11001). A total of 10 sherds were recovered, weighing 15g (see Table 13). This material accounted for 1.3% of the total assemblage by count and 0.7% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were two fragments of medieval pottery, Tudor Green. There were three fragments of refined earthen white wares as well as a small number of sherds of lead-glazed earthenware, porcelain and stoneware, all dating to the 18th -19th century.

Test Pit 12

- 6.1.19 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (12001) and (2002). A total of 75 sherds were recovered, weighing 217.6g (see Table 14). This material accounted for 9.7% of the total assemblage by count and 9.8% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were three fragments of later medieval pottery, however the majority of the material was refined earthen white wares from the 18th-19th century. There were also a number of sherds of decorated 17th century tablewares, such as tin-glazed earthenware, slipwares and a few sherds of porcelain.

Test Pit 13

- 6.1.20 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (13001). A total of two sherds of 17th to 18th century slipware were recovered, weighing 12.7g (see Table 15). This material accounted for 0.3% of the total assemblage by count and 0.6% by weight.

Test Pit 14

- 6.1.21 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (14001) and (14002). A total of 33 sherds were recovered, weighing 78.5g (see Table 16). This material accounted for 4.3% of the total assemblage by count and 3.5% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There were two fragments of later medieval pottery, however the majority of the material was refined earthen white wares from the 18th-19th century. There



were also a few sherds of 18th century wares, such as lead-glazed slipwares and a few sherds of porcelain and stoneware.

Test Pit 15

- 6.1.22 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (15001) (15002) and (15003). A total of 5 sherds were recovered, weighing 15.7g (see Table 17). This material accounted for 0.6% of the total assemblage by count and 0.7% by weight. The material included refined earthen white wares, one sherd of lead-glazed earthenware and a sherd of stoneware, all from the 19th century.

Test Pit 16

- 6.1.23 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (16001) (16002) and (16003). A total of 95 sherds of pottery were recovered, weighing 259.7g (see Table 18). This material accounted for 12.3% of the total assemblage by count and 11.7% by weight. Fabrics were mixed together, consistent with what would be expected from longstanding historical occupation. There was one single fragment of medieval pottery in Tudor Green. Nearly half of the material recovered from this test pit was of refined earthen white wares, but there were also a number of sherds of lead-glazed earthenware, porcelain and stoneware, also dating to the 18th -19th century. There were also a few sherds of decorative slipware and one sherd of tin-glazed earthenware dating to the 17th-18th century.

Test Pit 18

- 6.1.24 Material from this test pit was found in garden soil (18001). A single sherd of medieval pottery in Tudor Green was recovered, weighing 2.5g (see Table 19). This material accounted for 0.1% of the total assemblage by count and 0.1% by weight.

Conclusions and recommendations

- 6.1.25 Overall, the artefacts are consistent with a late Victorian date, but an early 20th century date cannot be ruled out due to the residual nature of the material. Finds from this assemblage were exclusively recovered from the garden soil and it is hard to offer certainties given the size and superficial nature of the fragments. However, we can say that the fragments were residual at the time of deposition, likely from waste linked to activities from the land management in the immediately surrounding area. Nearly all of the fabrics recovered are from utilitarian or service wares spanning from the 12th to 19th century, but all with terminus post quem (TPQ) of the post-medieval period, most from the late 19th century. With the exception of a few fragments coming from porcelain figurines, all typologies were linked with domestic food and drink service or preparation and storage.
- 6.1.26 There is relatively little that can be gleaned from an assemblage from secondary deposition in garden soils and redeposited layers. This assemblage is the result of redeposited material, likely utilised locally at one time rather than brought in from other locations, as sometimes seen in more rural, agricultural settings. The primary significance of this assemblage lies in what these materials embody as a whole for the longstanding occupation of the area and the nature of the activities represented, be

it cooking, serving or trading, which can be ascertained from the broader assemblage. Due to the superficial nature of the contexts and the horticultural activities from the late Victorian and 20th century, little more can be gleaned from this material. Further analysis of this sample is not likely to yield more information due to the late nature of the associated material and superficial nature of the contexts. The material should be retained by the land owner, should they wish, or discarded in line with regional best practice.

6.2 Tobacco Pipe

- 6.2.1 In total, there were 38 fragments in the assessment weighing a total of 76g (see Table 20). Exactly 50% of the fragments by count and 49% by weight were found in TP1 with the rest of the material being retrieved from 12 of the other test pits, each producing between 3% and 13% of the assemblage by count (1-12% by weight).
- 6.2.2 The fragments belonged to different clay pipes dating from the 17th to 19th century AD. These were all of a 18-19th century date based on associated dating from material in the same contexts. All of the fragments had low significance in terms of research aims of the site due to the superficial point of discovery.
- 6.2.3 Further work would be unlikely to add to the questions in the project design. The material does not require any special conservation and retained material can be safely stored in a stable environment.

6.3 Flint

- 6.3.1 There were a total of four struck flints weighing 5g recovered from three test pits, TP5, TP9 and TP12. Three were non-diagnostic debitage or waster pieces and one was a broken fragment of a bladelet. The latter was added to the Small Finds register and will be discussed in more detail in Section 6.8 below.

6.4 Glass

- 6.4.1 There was a combined total of 537 shards of glass weighing 1656.5g that were recovered from 12 of the test pits (see Table 21). Any material that was from a modern contexts and did not hold archaeological research potential was weighed and counted on site and redeposited back into the test pit.
- 6.4.2 Three items were the exception. One was a whole case medicine bottle which was also added to the Small Finds register and will be discussed in section 6.8. The last two were identified on site as possible stained glass, but upon specialist assessment were determined to be degraded post-medieval bottle glass.
- 6.4.3 Degraded glass (also called 'diseased glass') tends to appear at varying degrees of opacity, sometimes changing rapidly as it is exposed to oxygen after being in an anaerobic environment for a prolonged period of time. The condition is caused by a fault at the point of manufacture of the glass resulting in an inherent instability in the chemical composition of the original glass formula. It is often seen in poor quality glass items from 18-19th century or very early attempts at making glass as clear as possible.



6.5 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.5.1 In total, 1,394 fragments weighing 10,153g were recovered from 15 of the 17 excavated test pits. All of these were from contexts dating to the 18-19th century and were discarded back into the pits after being counted and weighed in situ.

6.6 Animal Bone

- 6.6.1 A total of 85 individual bone fragments were recovered from nine of the test pits, with a combined weight of 151g. Due to the superficial position of the remains, all being recovered in garden soils, further assessment was not appropriate and would not have been able to inform on date of deposition beyond the latest material found within a given context – in these instances that would be from the 19-20th century.
- 6.6.2 There were two bone objects which are the exception to this and they were issued Small Find numbers and will be discussed further in section 6.8.

6.7 Metal

- 6.7.1 A total of 354 metal objects were recovered from 13 of the test pits, weighing 4499.5g in all. The metal assemblage was dominated by corroded ferrous (iron) material, which constituted 95.8% by count and 95% by weight of the metal recovered. Additionally, three metal alloy snuff boxes (1001), two copper alloy objects and one brass shell casing (12002) were recovered. All came from topsoil or garden soil deposits dating to the 19th century or later.
- 6.7.2 Due to the modern nature of the assemblage only the three snuff boxes from TP1 (SF7, SF8, and SF9), an iron music box mechanism (1001) and a copper alloy coin (4001) were retained. The rest of the material was discarded on site after being weighed and counted, in accordance with best practice for modern features or non-archaeological significant deposits.
- 6.7.3 Approximately 5% of the assemblage was of non-descript metal or metal alloys, most of which were unidentifiable. Identifiable materials included shot gun bullet casings, a hook, and nails of modern provenance.
- 6.7.4 A brief description of the metalwork finds that were retained is given below. This excludes the snuff boxes which were added to the Small Finds register and will be discussed in section 6.8 below.
- 6.7.5 The iron mechanism is likely from a music box. It was recovered from TR1, in the topsoil (1001). It dates to between 19th and 20th century.
- 6.7.6 A 1953 copper alloy coin was found in TR4, from the topsoil (4001). It is a 2-shilling coin (also known as a florin) from Elizabeth II's reign.
- 6.7.7 Further work is not recommended. The material does not require any special conservation and retained material can be safely stored in a stable environment.



6.8 Small Finds

- 6.8.1 In total, there were 10 registered Small Finds that were identified as being notable either at the time of excavation or in post-excavation assessment. These finds have been catalogued and indexed within the wider assemblage (see Appendix 1) as well as listed in their own register (see Table 22).

Small Find 1

- 6.8.2 SF1 was a flint bladelet weighing 2g was found in TP5, in the topsoil (5001). Whilst it is not possible to further refine the date of this residual flint object or use it to definitively prove that Prehistoric communities were living here, they show that the activities of Prehistoric people were not confined to the high ground north of the village. These communities could also have been using the more sheltered valley below in some capacity; perhaps for living, hunting and eating as implied by the bi-products of flint tool production. Flint is not local to the geology of Ampleforth, with the nearest source being that which would be washed up in coastal areas to the east around Flamborough Head. This suggests transport, movement or trade through the area in Prehistoric times to enable to production of tools for cutting and scraping.

Small Find 2

- 6.8.3 SF2 was a hand-carved, bone lace bobbin weighing 1g, found in TP2, in the topsoil (2001). The earliest lace bobbins in the UK date to the late 17th century and tend to be plain in decorative styling. Lace making became more wide spread into the 18th and 19th centuries, and was often a source of income for women in the community. The larger scale lace industry was more well established in the Midlands and southern England, but lace making as a cottage industry was common throughout Britain in rural areas on a smaller scale (Spenceley 1973).
- 6.8.4 The lace market saw competition between machine- and handmade laces from the last half of the 18th century. Initially, machine-made laces were considerably less well made, and therefore cheaper than handmade ones. However, improvements to machinery meant that by 1860, machine made lace could successfully imitate virtually every form of handmade lace (Freedgood 2003).

Small Find 3

- 6.8.5 SF3 was a sherd of Tudor Green pottery weighing 9g found in TP1, in the topsoil (1001). Not much more can be gleaned from such a small fragment from superficial deposits. This pottery type is characterised by a fine, thin white pottery with a bright green glaze. Mainly seen as tablewares such as mugs, cups and drinking bowls, and also small jugs. It is common in towns, but rare in the countryside, where only the richer inhabitants probably used it, between 14th – 16th century.

Small Find 4 and Small Find 5

- 6.8.6 SF4 was a bone button weighing 2g, found in TP16, in gardensoil (16002). It is not possible to date, but is of a simple style and design. It would likely have been from a garment that was of utilitarian or functional use rather than ornamental.



- 6.8.7 SF5 was a ceramic button weighing 4g, found in TP1, in the topsoil (1001). Ceramic material was fashioned as buttons from at least the early 18th century, and continues until today. This button looks to carry a celtic cross motif, so possibly worn by someone associated with the monastery or church. It looks like a popular style worn in the late 19th century, often made out of black glass or enamel for more high status garments. This may indicate this was a more economical choice for a garment which was worn for adornment.

Small Find 6

- 6.8.8 SF6 was nearly full profile of a ceramic pipe bowl found in TP10, in the topsoil (10001). This was a nearly fully intact clay tobacco pipe bowl with a maritime decoration and floral motif mould, likely dating from the 19th century. Until the 18th century, clay pipes were mostly undecorated, but by the mid-18th century, clay pipe makers began to use molds with decorative designs. Often these were based on highly recognisable designs, such as the Royal Coat of Arms of the British monarchy, or other symbols of British identity, such as the lion sometimes with a Scottish unicorn depicted on opposite sides of the clay pipe bowls made in London between 1730-1770. This example, showing a ship and floral motif on alternate sides, is likely from the 19th century, at the height of the British maritime power.

Small Find 7, 8 and 9

- 6.8.9 SF7, SF8 and SF9 were all snuff boxes with a combined weight of 7g, found in TP1, in the topsoil (1001). These three mid-20th century aluminium snuff boxes were manufactured by Singleton & Cole Ltd, based in Birmingham, Leeds and Shrewsbury. They were established in 1886 and liquidated in 1932, though the brand continued. These boxes contained Super-Menthol snuff and were priced at three pence each.

Small Find 10

- 6.8.10 SF10 was a whole glass case bottle weighing 111g, found in TP12, in the gardensoil (12002). A "case bottle" is made using a snap-case machine, invented in the mid-19th century. They have a square cross section, widening from base to shoulder, with a short neck and indented base, and usually in dark green glass, although aqua and amber glass are seen later in their manufacture. They were apparently designed to fit easily into a compartmented crate, box, or case (Jones and Sullivan 1989).

Recommendations

- 6.8.11 It is unlikely that further work would efficiently add to the understanding of the site or further address the questions in the project design. Unless stated otherwise, the material does not require any special conservation and retained material can be safely stored in a stable environment.



7 PUBLIC IMPACT

Anna van Nostrand

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This section details a rapid assessment of the social impact for project participants of the Ampleforth Big Dig project, in particular the community test pitting event on 14-17 July 2023. DigVentures defines social impact as a measure of the positive and negative primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the programme, whether directly or indirectly, intended or unintended, over and above what would have happened in the absence of the project initiative. Results were analysed using a bespoke social impact methodology, drawing on DigVentures' Theory of Change and Standards of Evidence framework (Wilkins 2019a, 77; Wilkins 2019b, 30).

7.1.2 Public engagement was integral to the successful delivery of the project aims of the Ampleforth Big Dig. The project was designed to "[reconnect] the local community to their landscape and to protect the heritage of Ampleforth" (Teale, 2023, p11) and was delivered as part of the NLHF funded Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership.

7.2 Public programming

7.2.1 A carefully designed community test pitting event was programmed for 14 – 17 July 2023. Ampleforth locals of all ages could join for a single day or for all four days either digging a test pit or working on finds analysis and cleaning; a total of 19 local residents signed up to dig their own test pit. The archaeological excavation was dedicated to servicing a research brief with participation and training of venturers in the trench to National Occupational Standards.

7.2.2 The excavation was preceded by two events for locals at the Ampleforth village hall to introduce the project and collect information about potential locations for test pits:

- Introductory event 1 (15 May) – 15 attendees
- Introductory event 2 (1 July) – 19 attendees

7.2.3 But any evaluation of social impact needs to go beyond a list of output numbers of participants and visitors (Gould 2016). DigVentures has developed a bespoke evaluation methodology for measuring the social impact of public archaeology programmes and this is discussed in specific relation to the Ampleforth Big Dig further below.

7.2.4 The Ampleforth Big Dig audience comprised both experienced and first-time participants, who joined the project by signing up during the in-person introductory events, with all opportunities delivered free of charge. DigVentures have developed a methodology for measuring the social impact of archaeology programmes for participants, pictured as a Theory of Change detailing outputs, outcomes and impacts (Figure 18). In this framework, social impact can be conceived as the difference that activities make to people's lives over and above what would have happened in the absence of that initiative. Outputs are a measurable unit of product or service, such as a community excavation; outcomes are an observable change for individuals or



communities, such as acquiring skills or knowledge. Impact is therefore the effect on outcomes attributable to the output, measured against two metrics: scale, or breadth of people reached; and depth, or the importance of this impact on their lives.

7.2.5 The credibility of a Theory of Change rests on the level of certainty that organisational activities are the cause of this change. For this certainty to be achieved, the correct data must be collected to isolate the impact to the intervention. The DV Theory of Change is therefore linked to a Standards of Evidence framework (Figure 19) designed to articulate and highlight the causal links between activity and change. These tools are then used to create a bespoke, project specific evaluation table linking activities, outputs, outcomes and evidence base.

7.2.6 In support of this overarching methodology, a data collection strategy was undertaken for all excavation participants. They were asked to fill in a survey about their experience after their participation in the project (79% completion rate or 15 in total). For analysis, the age and professional background of participants were classified using categories obtained from the Office for National Statistics. At this stage, the report only focuses on output numbers and socio-economic distribution of participants. The final evaluation report will include a more in-depth analysis. The outputs numbers are discussed in turn below.

7.3 Social impact – excavation participants

7.3.1 To ensure that the widest range of people were able to get involved in archaeology, locals were invited to actively participate in the excavation for as many days as they liked to get a taste of how archaeological test pitting is carried out, all of which followed DigVentures' ClfA-endorsed Field School curriculum.

7.3.2 Participants who provided their occupation represented a variety of full and part-time occupations (27%, or 4 in total) and retirees (40%, or 6 in total). The remainder were students either of compulsory educational age or attending university (20% or 3 in total), and full-time parents, carers, or homemakers (13%, or 2 in total). The age of participants ranged from children under 16 to people over 75. Figure 20 illustrates that all age groups between under 16 and over 75 were represented, with a spike in participants aged between 65 and 74.

7.3.3 The local schools: St Benedict's Roman Catholic Primary School, Ryedale School and St. Hilda's Church of England Primary also got involved with 60 of their students participating in digging test pits on the St. Benedict's school grounds and at Ampleforth abbey.

7.3.4 This illustrates that the free community excavation allowed participation by a range of people and professions, and the opportunity was also taken up by younger participants, which is an improvement on existing community archaeology provision compared with the typically retired, over 65 local civic society groups (Wilkins 2020, 33).

7.3.5 Participants joined the project from the surrounding local area, with many of them literally working in their own back yards. By offering an excavation within a village, the project was able to attract a new audience for archaeology, with 42% (n=8) of



respondents stating that they had never participated in or visited an archaeological excavation, and 16% (n=3) saying that they had visited an excavation but had never taken part in one (see Figure 20). Participants were also asked if they felt more connected to their community after the Ampleforth Big Dig, of those who responded, 92% (n=12) with the final respondent saying that they had always felt very connected. Photos of dig participants getting involved in excavating test pits and discovering artefacts are available in Figures 21 and 22.

7.3.6 After their experience, participants were asked if they had learned anything new about archaeology or their village through participation in the project. This is a selection of their responses:

- "It [Archaeology] is even more methodical than I'd realised."
- "[I learned] how interesting back gardens can be."
- "How carefully test pits are marked out and that you clear one layer before moving down to the next. What great teachers the archaeologists are."
- "I learned how much history there is in this village."
- "I learnt about the contexts in my garden and was surprised to get medieval pot so soon!"

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The overarching aim of the Ampleforth Big Dig was to conduct a community-led test pitting programme in Ampleforth village to aid understanding of its historical development. This was achieved through a test-pitting weekend in the village where residents and school children were invited to excavate a test pit in their own back gardens, school grounds or on communal ground at Ampleforth Abbey. Opportunities were provided for local people to come along to participate in several public engagement events and learn about the extensive history of the village and how they could get involved with contributing to the story of Ampleforth's history.

8.1.2 A total of 17 test pits were excavated across the village between the 14th and 17th July 2023 in local resident's gardens, Ampleforth Abbey and St. Benedict's Primary School. The following discussion of the test-pitting results and evaluation of the project's public impact, draws appropriate conclusions in reference to the project's aims and objectives.

8.2 Historic development of Ampleforth

8.2.1 The origins of human occupation in the area that is today known as Ampleforth began in the Prehistoric period. There is a rich Prehistoric funerary landscape on the high ground just to the north of Ampleforth village consisting of barrow cemeteries, dykes, enclosures and numerous findspots, all of which implied that test pitting in the village itself could well produce further evidence of Prehistoric people utilising this landscape. Evidence of Prehistoric activity within the boundaries of the village itself is extremely limited and any artefacts recovered as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig had the potential to reveal new information about life at this time.



- 8.2.2 Three of the test pits excavated as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig produced Prehistoric flint artefacts; most likely waste flakes from the tool production process. One artefact, SF1, was a fragment of a possible bladelet. Whilst it is not possible to further refine the date of these residual flint flakes or use them to definitively prove that Prehistoric communities were living here, they show that the activities of Prehistoric people were not confined to the high ground north of the village. These communities could also have been using the more sheltered valley below in some capacity; perhaps for living, hunting and eating as implied by the bi-products of flint tool production. Flint is not local to the geology of Ampleforth, with the nearest source being that which would be washed up in coastal areas to the east around Flamborough Head. This suggests transport, movement or trade through the area in Prehistoric times to enable to production of tools for cutting and scraping.
- 8.2.3 The distribution of known Prehistoric monuments and records in the Ampleforth area can be seen as they compare to Test Pits 5, 9 and 12 where the flint flakes were located (Figure 23). These finds will now add to the known record of Prehistoric activity in the area. What is clear from this distribution is that whilst most records are concentrated to the north of the village where the more obvious earthwork monuments such as Studford Ring and the Dropping Gill barrow cemetery survive, there is a very even distribution of Prehistoric findspots throughout the village itself. The implication of this is that there could well have been Prehistoric activity throughout the valley area where the village lies today where the earliest residents of Ampleforth lived.
- 8.2.4 By contrast, evidence of Roman Ampleforth is much scarcer. No Roman artefacts were recovered from the test pits excavated during the Ampleforth Big Dig and only seven Roman findspots and potential earthworks have ever been recorded in the area. However, the few historic environment records that do exist relating to the Roman period are intriguing. Most notable is the Ryedale hoard, discovered in a field to the west of Ampleforth and consisting of four bronze artefacts dating to the late 2nd century AD. There are also a number of other records relating to findspots of Roman pottery in and around the village (Figure 24).
- 8.2.5 Whilst there appears to be no direct evidence of Roman people settling in and around Ampleforth, the area could have been used for other purposes such as a routeway through the landscape along the more sheltered valley base where objects were lost, buried or discarded after use en route. Some areas, such as the location of the Ryedale hoard, may have been considered more special; whether for ritual deposition purposes or simply as somewhere believed to be a safe and secure location to store valuable items. Either way, it seems that whilst the area around Ampleforth may not have been settled by Roman communities, it was certainly known about and utilised in some capacity by people at this time.
- 8.2.6 The medieval period marks the point at which we can trace the origins of the present village, its layout and character. The village of 'Ampreforde' is first mentioned in the Domesday book along with 7.7 households representing up to 54 villagers. This implies that there must have been a small settlement established here by the late 11th century. The land produced 12 pounds annually to the Lord in 1086, up from 6 pounds in 1066, suggesting growth in the region. The 12th century church of St. Hilda represents the most obvious surviving medieval structure still present and in use at the

heart of the village today. Other surviving features in the landscape suggestive of the medieval period include the characteristic land strips still fossilised in the present day property boundaries in the centre of the village. Medieval ridge and furrow ploughing earthworks are also visible immediately to the south and east of the village. All of these factors combined suggested a high likelihood of test pits in the village producing artefacts relating to medieval Ampleforth.

- 8.2.7 The distribution of historic environment records relating to the Medieval period can be seen alongside test pits where ceramics dating to this period were recovered (Figure 25). What is immediately obvious is that most test pits throughout the village produced Medieval ceramics, with 87 fragments recovered in total. However, test pits located at the centre of the village near its Medieval core produced the vast majority of these fragments, with those located further than 200m from the 12th century church of St. Hilda typically producing considerably fewer Medieval ceramics. Most of these ceramics were late transitional wares, such as Tudor Green, suggesting the height of Medieval Ampleforth may have been towards the late Medieval period. This does not discount the possibility of earlier Medieval occupation existing in those locations, due to the limited size and depth of the excavated test pits. It is also intriguing that test pits of a very similar size and depth that were located in the village centre produced a much higher proportion of artefacts from this period compared to those further out. This perhaps provides an indication that at the end of the Medieval period, the village was growing, but not yet at the size it would become during the Post-Medieval period and later.
- 8.2.8 The Ampleforth Big Dig produced results that suggest its origins in the Medieval period began at the very centre of the present-day village, likely in close proximity to the location of the 12th century church of St. Hilda, which would have been at its heart. This ties in with the location of Medieval earthworks, such as land strips and ridge and furrow ploughing, concentrated in a similar location at the very centre of the present village. Medieval Ampleforth is likely to have been a smaller settlement at the time of its foundation compared with today, with the village growing steadily over the following centuries into its present size and layout.
- 8.2.9 Post-Medieval Ampleforth was a time of significant change for the village. Much of what can be seen today has its origins in the 18th to 19th centuries, particularly along the main street-front through the village. Most of the listed buildings originate from this period, including those at Ford End House, Daleside and either side of Little Cottage as well as a number of others spread throughout the length of the main road through the village. The founding of Ampleforth monastery and school in the early 19th century also shows significant investment in the local area culturally as well as for infrastructure.
- 8.2.10 Almost all of the test pits excavated as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig produced artefacts relating to the Post-Medieval period, particularly from the 19th century, including pottery and clay tobacco pipe. Figure 26 demonstrates the widespread distribution of Post-Medieval artefacts recovered from test pits throughout the village, in significant contrast to the more isolated spreads from earlier in Ampleforth's past. This evidence, alongside the predominantly Post Medieval character of the village's

architecture, suggests that in the centuries immediately following the Medieval period, Ampleforth underwent significant growth and regeneration.

- 8.2.11 At first glance, this period of regeneration implies that the village must have been thriving at this time, receiving investment in rebuilding and repair works as well as growth and expansion. However, a review of the available historic documentary sources (Section 2) indicates a contrasting social context between those who lived in 'Poor Houses' and attended the National School for poor children, compared with the construction of the much grander Ampleforth College boy's school in the early 19th century. The village was undoubtedly growing, but not everyone reaped the benefits.
- 8.2.12 Modern Ampleforth continues to thrive with further evidence for growth and expansion, including from the test pits excavated as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig (Figure 27). Most of the southern part of the village beyond Back Lane was constructed in the latter part of the 20th century as evidenced from significant additions to Ordnance Survey mapping after 1958 and the Modern nature of the artefacts recovered from test pits here. To the north of the village, a number of World War Two installations are recorded as HER entries; including observation posts, storage tanks, accommodation huts and roads. Ampleforth Abbey was also constructed in 1922, becoming a major local feature of nationally recognised cultural significance, gaining Grade I listed status in 1985. The Abbey has become an important source of local and regional interest for the village as well as employment, whilst attracting both pupils and families to the area too.
- 8.2.13 The village continues to grow, both in size and character as evidenced by the substantial range of artefacts recovered from test pits as part of the Ampleforth Big Dig. Even Modern finds are still showing the developing story of Ampleforth in its current chapter and will add to the future record of the village's history.

8.3 Public impact

- 8.3.1 As a community focussed project, public engagement was integral to the research aims and success of the Ampleforth Big Dig. Local community members were offered a chance to explore the archaeology first hand. The project welcomed 19 participants and 60 school students who were guided by the DigVentures archaeological team in the test pits throughout the village. The project succeeded in attracting a new audience for archaeology, with 59% of participants having never taken part in an excavation before.
- 8.3.2 The project attracted a diverse community of people from the local area. The Ampleforth Big Dig offered excavation training and experience to children, teenagers, and adults and evidence was collected for 79% of participants. Training activities were also independently accredited through ClfA. The project also succeeded in reaching its aim of reconnecting the community with their landscape and heritage with 92% of survey respondents saying they felt more connected to their community through participation in the project. The insights gained from this evaluation demonstrate a clear social benefit in targeted local projects with a demand for opportunities to participate in community heritage projects, and further evaluation will analyse the deeper motivations and impact of the public engagement programme.



9 DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

9.1 Dissemination and reporting

9.1.1 Rapid dissemination of the results to, and involvement of, stakeholders of the project was vital throughout. This took place through multiple channels, addressing a multitude of established and new audiences. Dissemination included:

- Daily news updates on all major DigVentures and NYMNPA, Howardian Hills National Landscape and Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), amplified through third-party coverage on social media,
- Digital archive of the excavation data,
- Wide circulation the excavation report and links to the OASIS record: Oasis ID: digventu1-514327

9.1.2 In addition, this report provides an evaluation of the archaeological deposits and finds with discussion and interpretation linking directly to the evidence presented (such as context descriptions and finds assessment). The report also presents qualitative and quantitative public impact evaluation data collected from dig participants and visitors to the site, linked to our Theory of Change. A stable and comprehensive project archive was prepared and deposited with the NYMNPA and Howardian Hills National Landscape for inclusion in their respective HER databases as well as deposition of the digital archive with the ADS.

9.2 Project archive

9.2.1 The physical archive was assessed in accordance with the York Museums Trust Archaeological Archive Policy and in line with DigVentures guidelines as outlined in our project design (Teale 2023).

9.2.2 In accordance with specialist recommendations, all ceramic, glass, plastic, metalwork and industrial waste artefacts of a Post-Medieval and Modern 19th to 21st century date will be returned to the landowners of properties where a test pit was excavated or discarded upon their preference. Animal bone will also be returned to landowners or discarded due to its recovery from highly disturbed topsoil/garden soil deposits.

9.2.3 Upon project closure, the remaining artefactual assemblage will be returned to the residents where not suitable for deposition with the Yorkshire Museums Trust in line with their Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy (2012) and with ClfA Standards and guidance (2020). All reports produced by the project will be disseminated through the regional North Yorkshire HER and attached to the OASIS record of the site.

9.2.4 The project's digital archive will be deposited with the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA), Howardian Hills National Landscape and North Yorkshire HER databases and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), meeting the standards outlined in the respective HER digital data deposition policies, ADS guides for good practice, ClfA standards and guidance for archaeological archives and the Dig Digital toolkit for managing digital data (ClfA, 2019). In summary, the digital archive was consolidated ready for deposition with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as follows:



- The Selection Strategy has been reviewed and updated as part of this Evaluation report.
- Selection has been informed by the Project Design, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results.
- The project results provided new research data which is to be included in the Historic Environment Record and OASIS. This will contribute to knowledge of the historic development of Ampleforth village, aiding the future management of the archaeological and heritage resource.
- The data archive was ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata.

9.2.5 The digital archive will be deposited with the North Yorkshire, NYMNPA and Howardian Hills National Landscape HER databases and the ADS; which is a certified repository with CoreTrustSeal.

9.2.6 Copyright on all reports submitted resides with DigVentures, although a third party in-perpetuity license will automatically be given for reproduction of the works by the originator, subject to agreement in writing with the NYMNPA.

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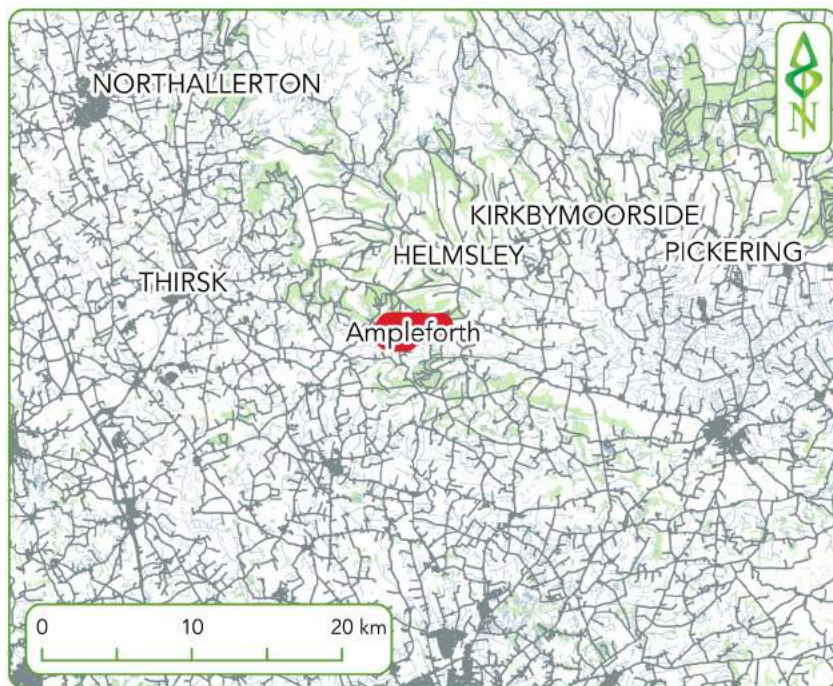


Figure 1. Site location

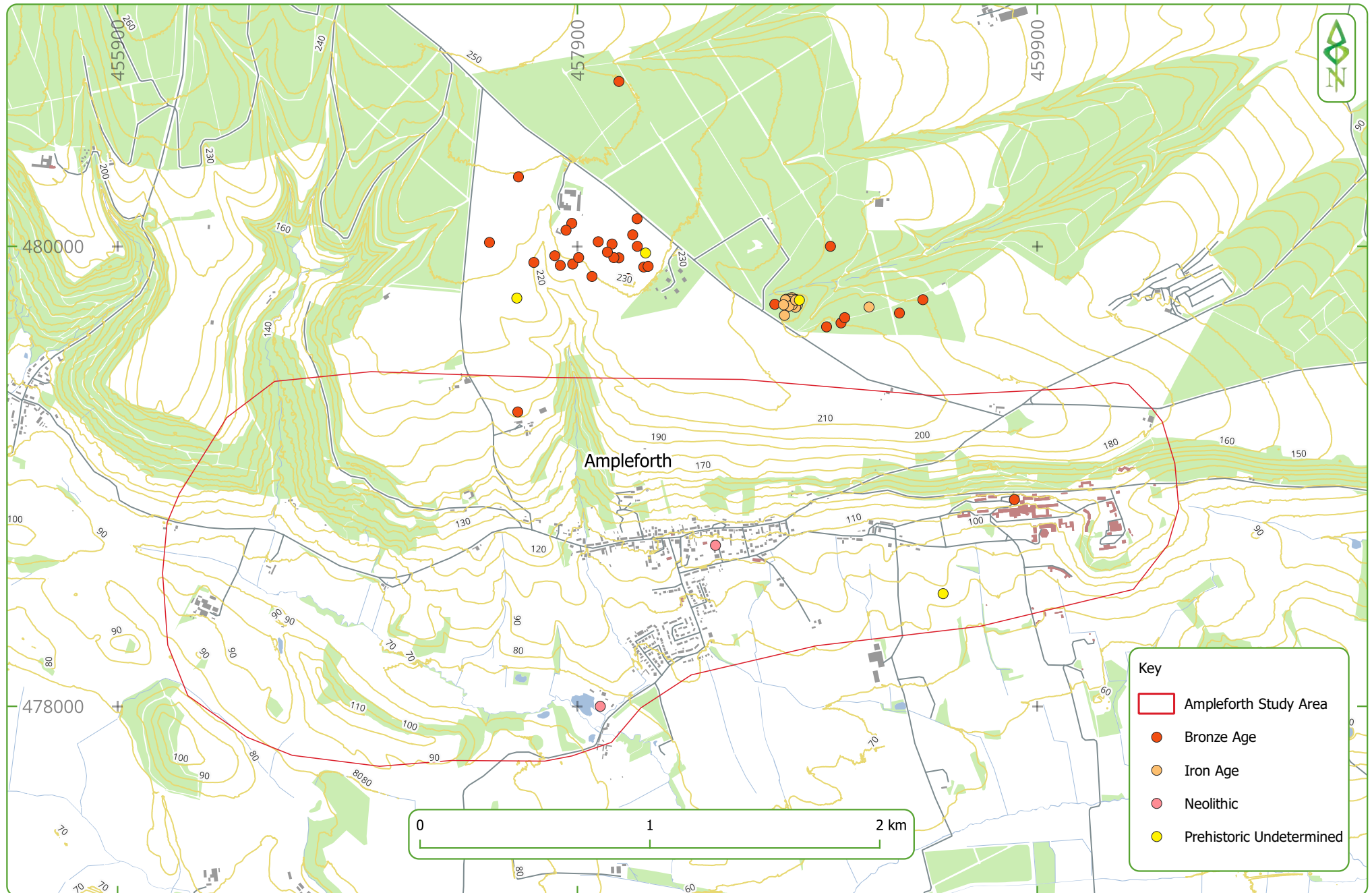


Figure 2. Prehistoric HER entries in and around the Ampleforth study area.



Figure 3. 1854 Six-inch to the mile first edition Ordnance Survey map, sheet 105; Yorkshire, showing area to the North of Ampleforth. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

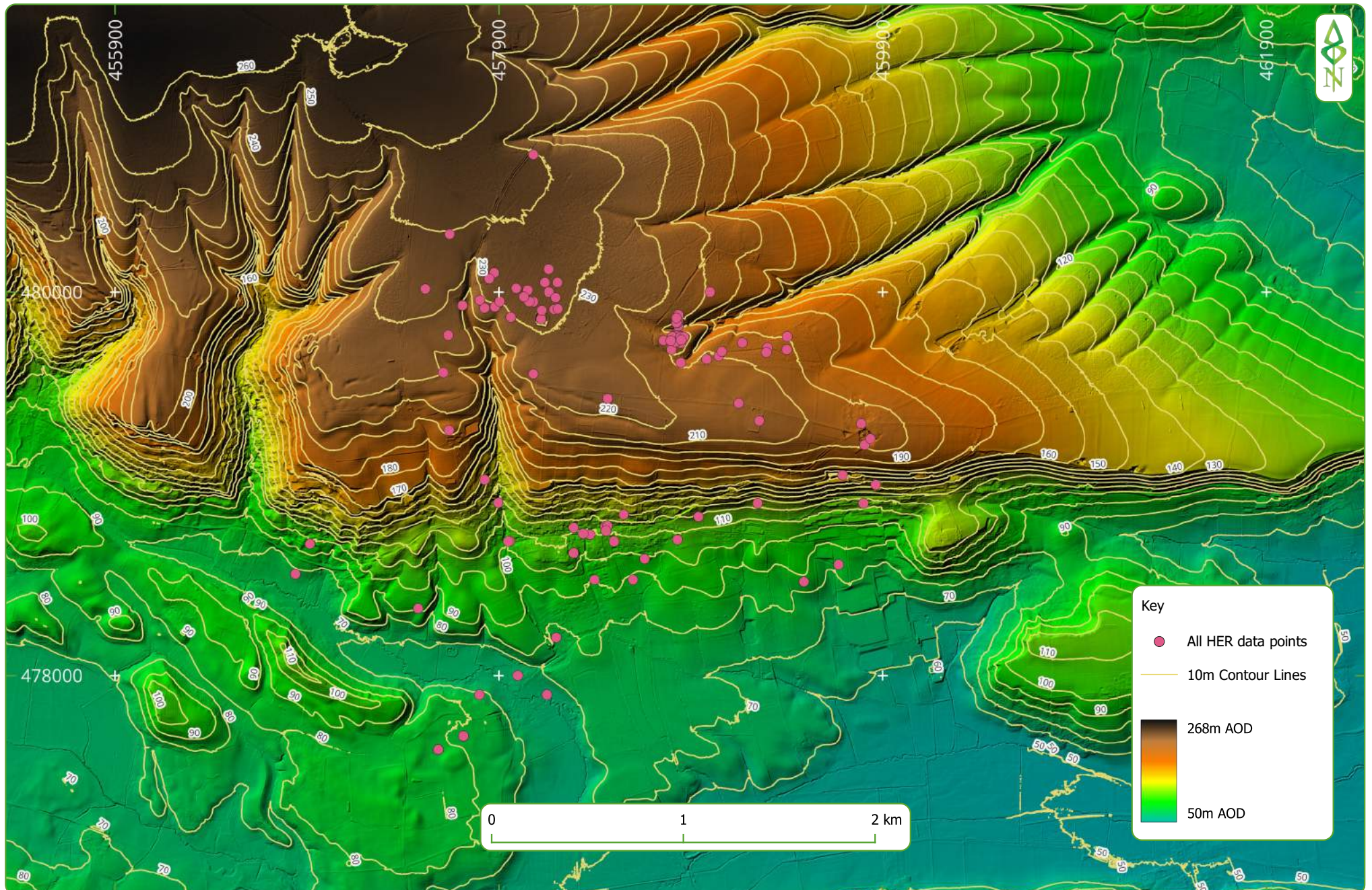


Figure 4. LiDAR 1m DTM with colour elevation scale and all HER data points.

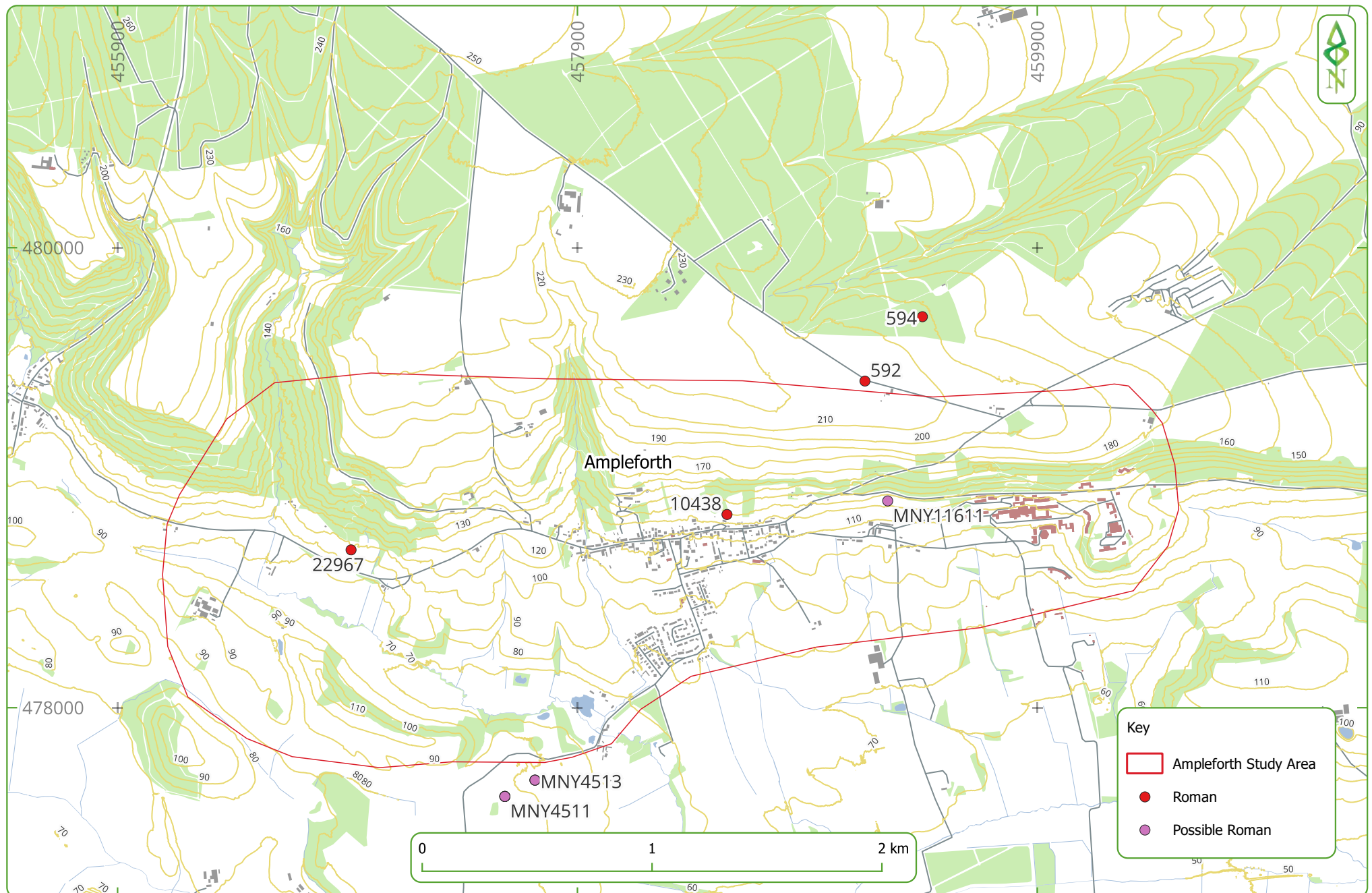


Figure 5 Roman HER entries in and around the Ampleforth study area.

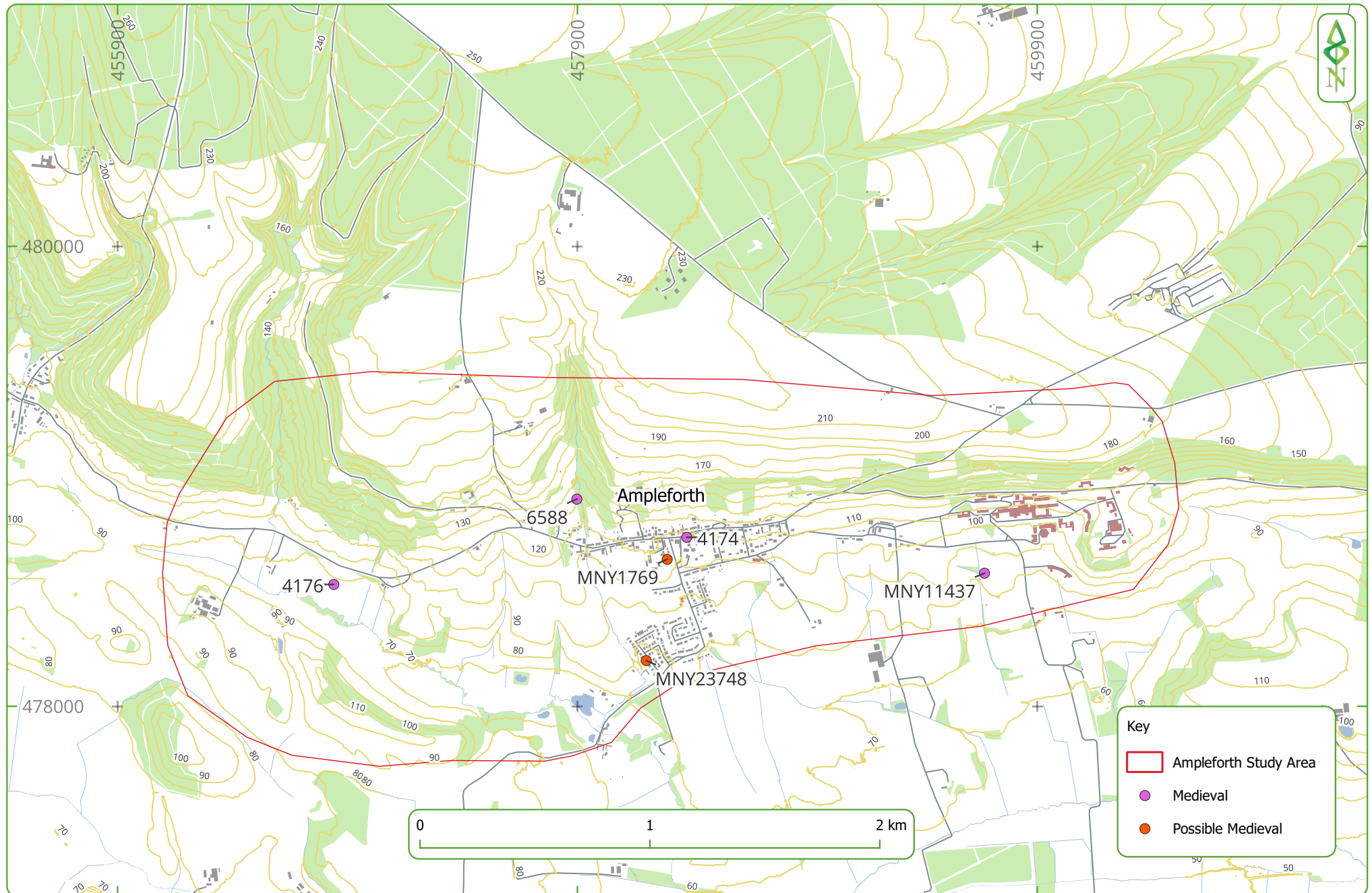


Figure 6. Medieval HER entries in the Ampleforth study area.

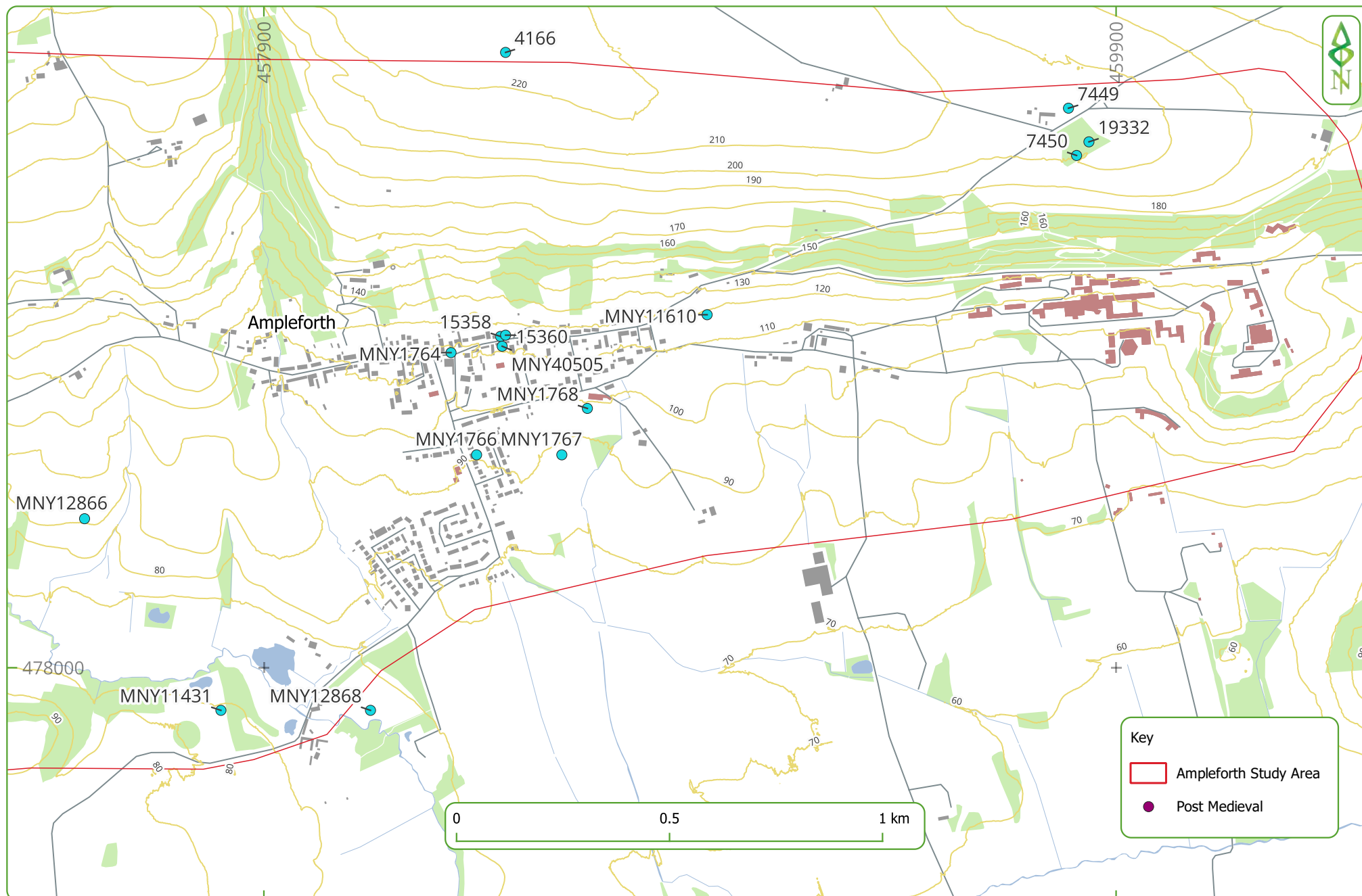


Figure 7. Post Medieval HER entries in the Ampleforth study area.

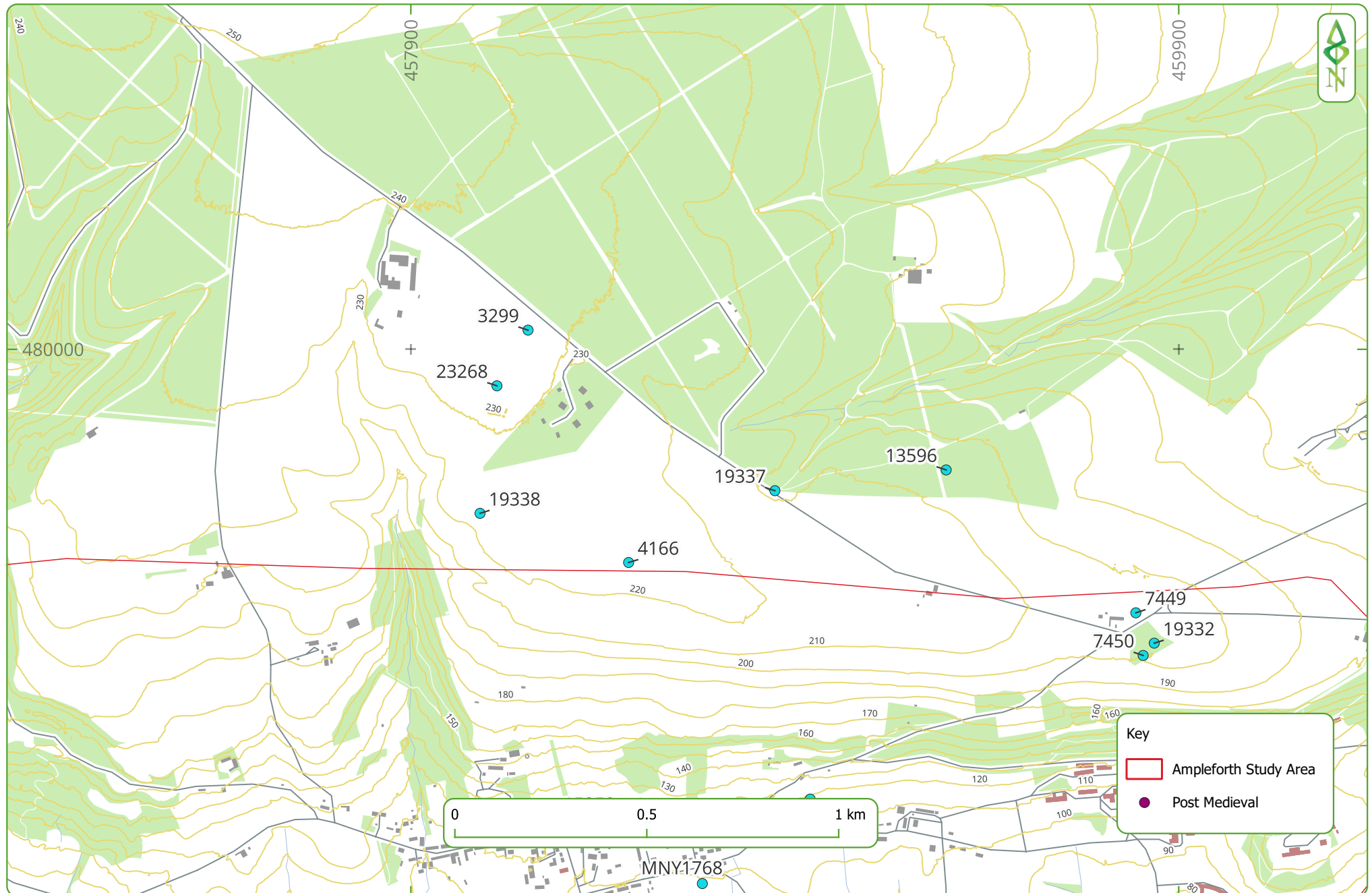


Figure 8. Post Medieval HER entries to the North of the Ampleforth study area.

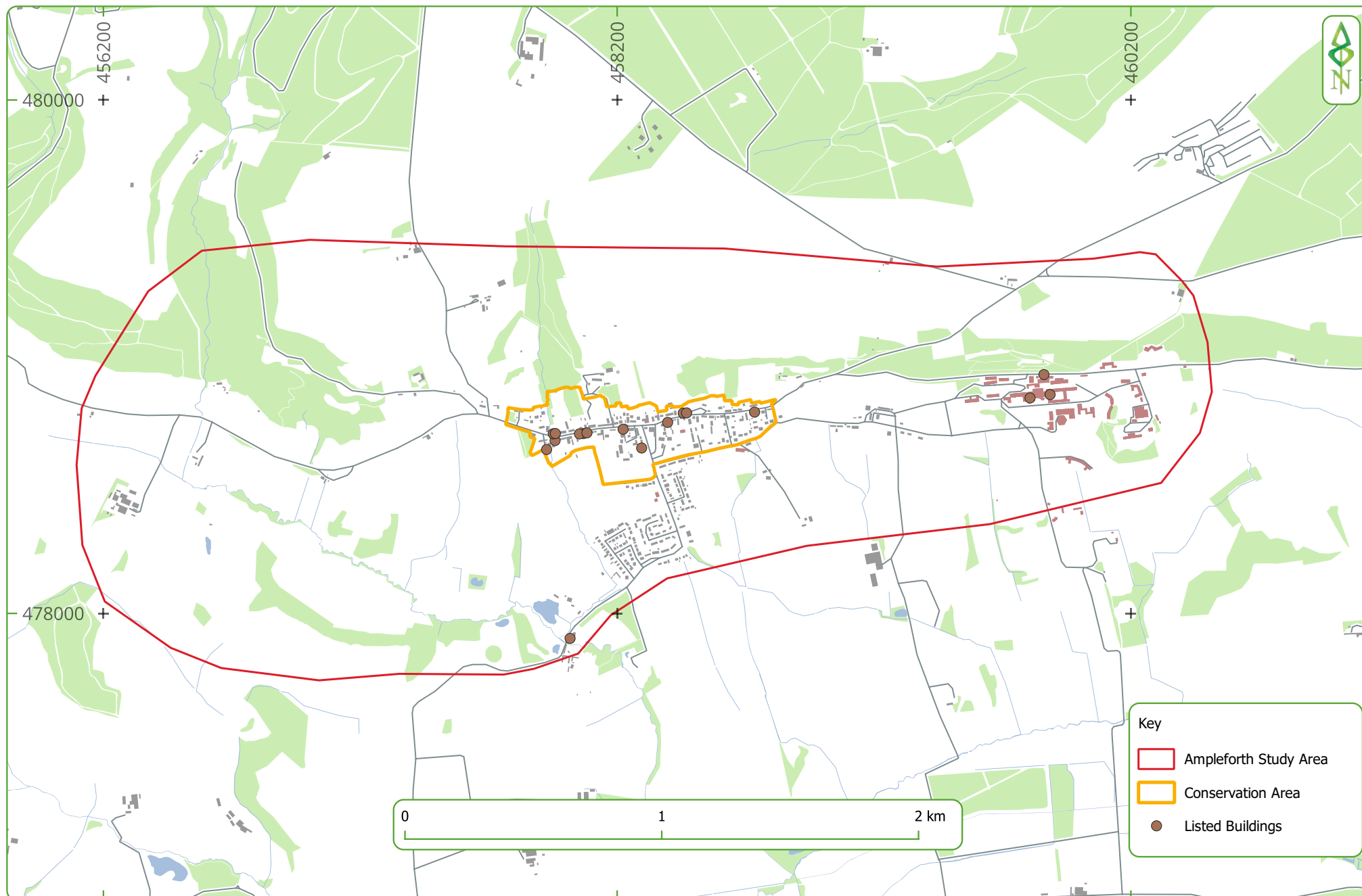


Figure 9. Conservation area and Historic England listed buildings in the Ampleforth Study Area.

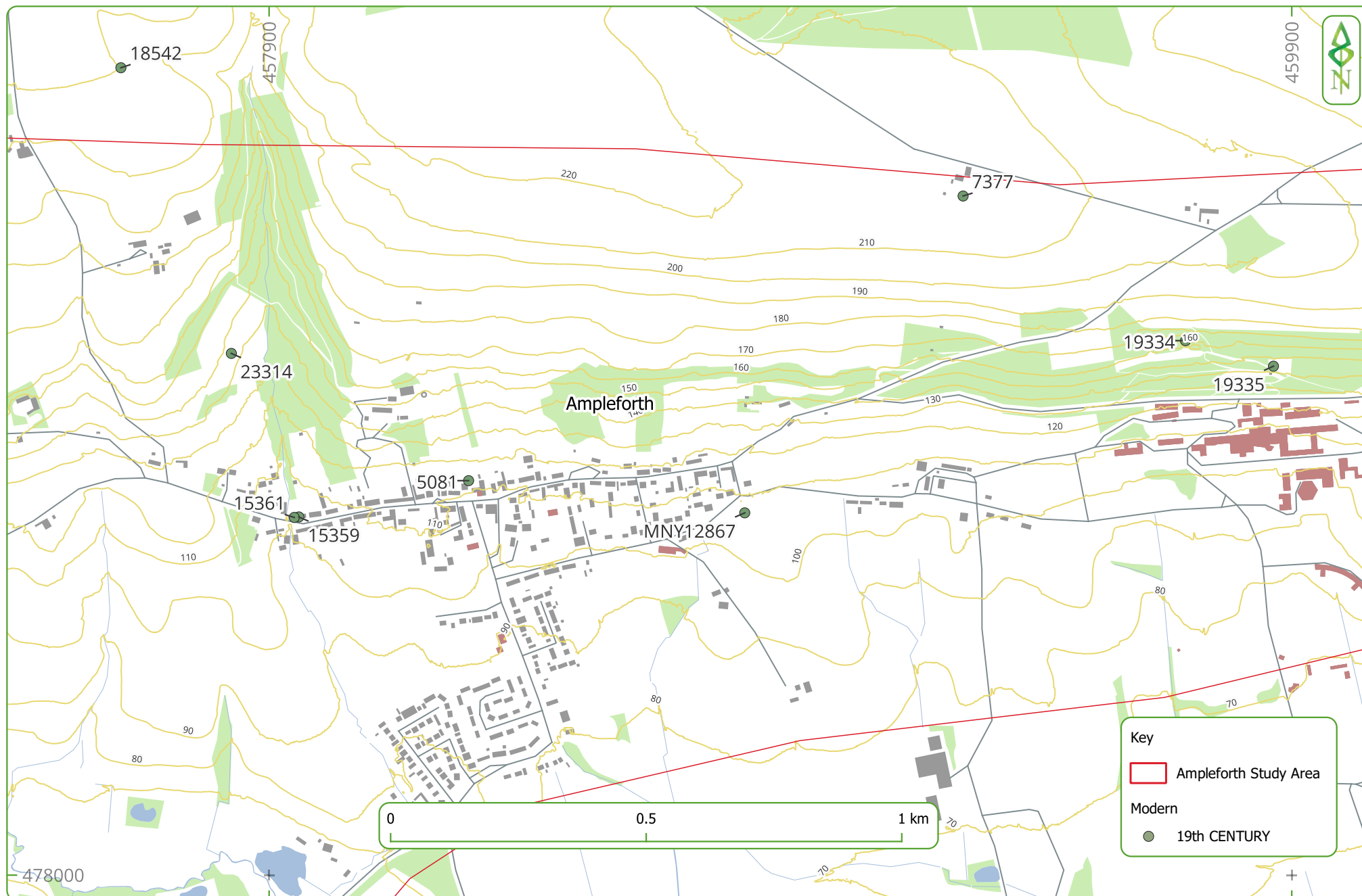


Figure 10. Modern HER entries in the Ampleforth study area.

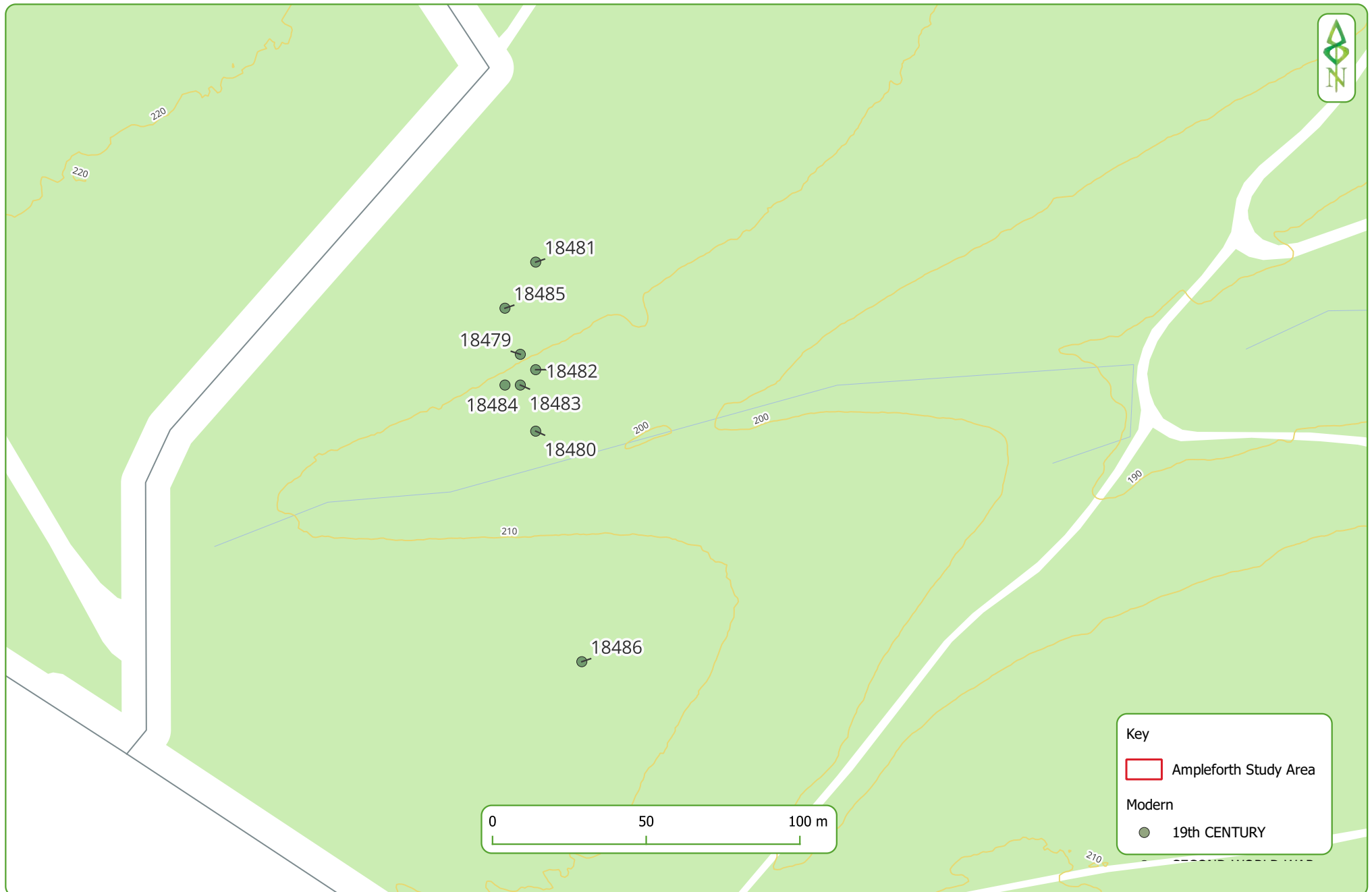


Figure 11. Modern HER entries to the North of the Ampleforth study area.

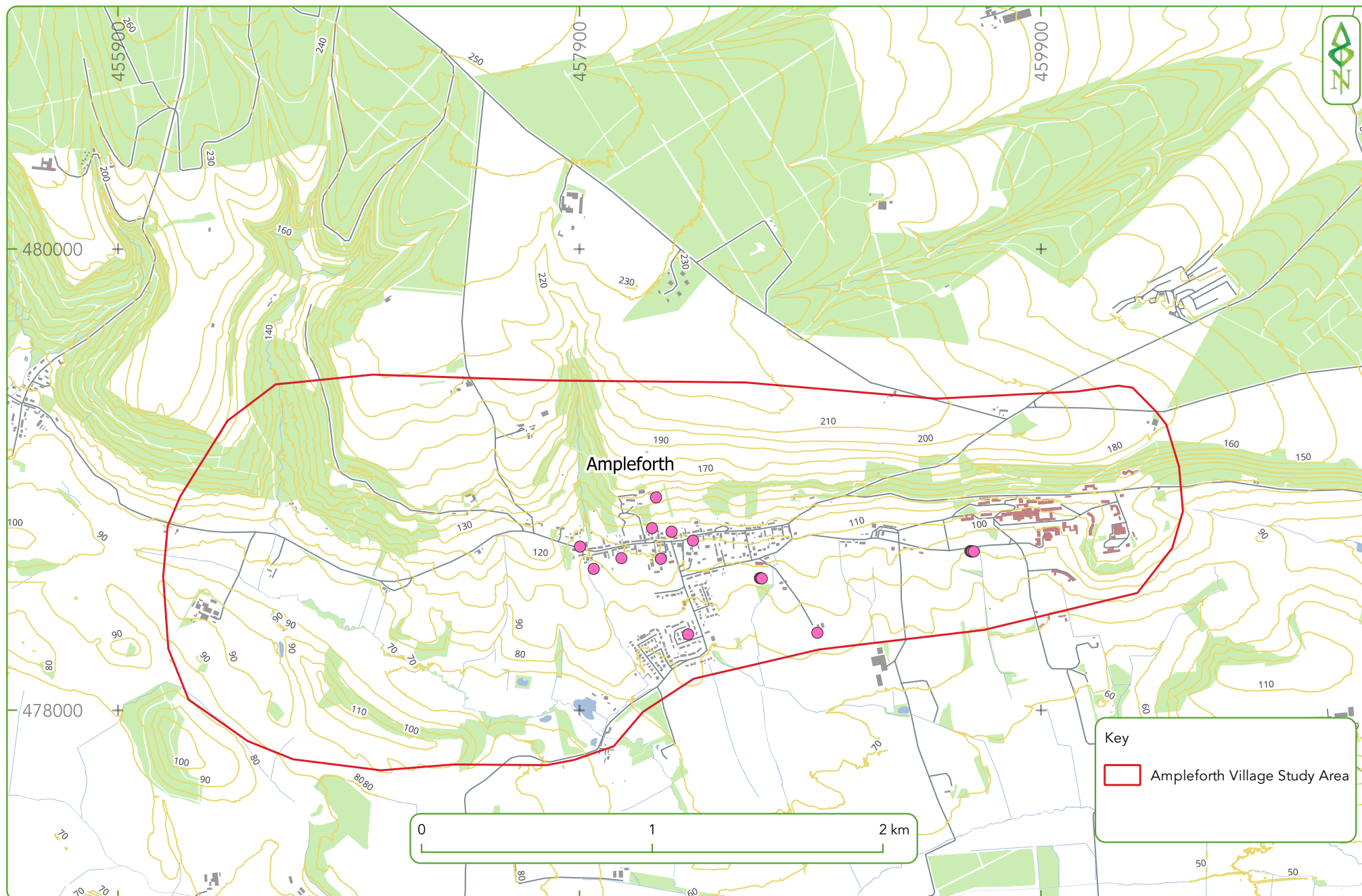


Figure 12. Distribution of Test Pits throughout Ampleforth village.



Figure 13. Test Pit numbers and locations - Part 1



Figure 14. Test Pit numbers and locations - Part 2



Test Pit 1 (Coram Cottage) - West facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 2 (Daleside) - West facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 3 (Ford End House) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 5 (Ampleforth Abbey) - West facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 6 (Ampleforth Abbey) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 7 (Ampleforth Abbey) - North facing shot, 1m scale

Figure 15. Test Pit record photographs - Part 1



Test Pit 8 (The Vicarage) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 9 (St. Benedict's School) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 10 (St. Benedict's School) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 11 (St. Benedict's School) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 12 (Nettlw Meadow) - South facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 13 (Sycamore Cottage) - North facing shot, 1m scale

Figure 16. Test Pit record photographs - Part 2



Test Pit 14 (Little Cottage) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 15 (Lowlands Farm) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 16 (Sycamore Cottage) - North facing shot, 1m scale



Test Pit 18 (Ampleforth Abbey) - North facing shot, 1m scale

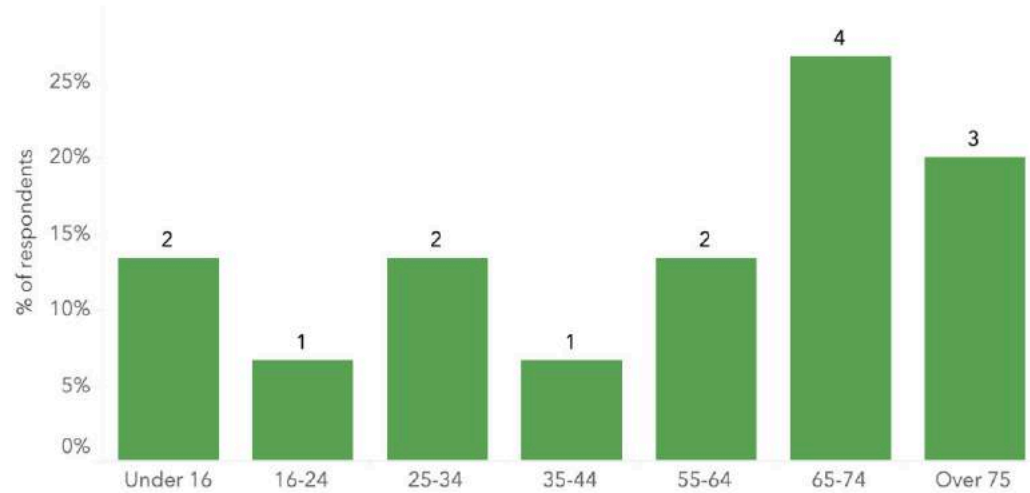


Figure 18: OUR THEORY of CHANGE - Measuring impact for both intrinsic outcome for archaeology and instrumental benefits for people and communities

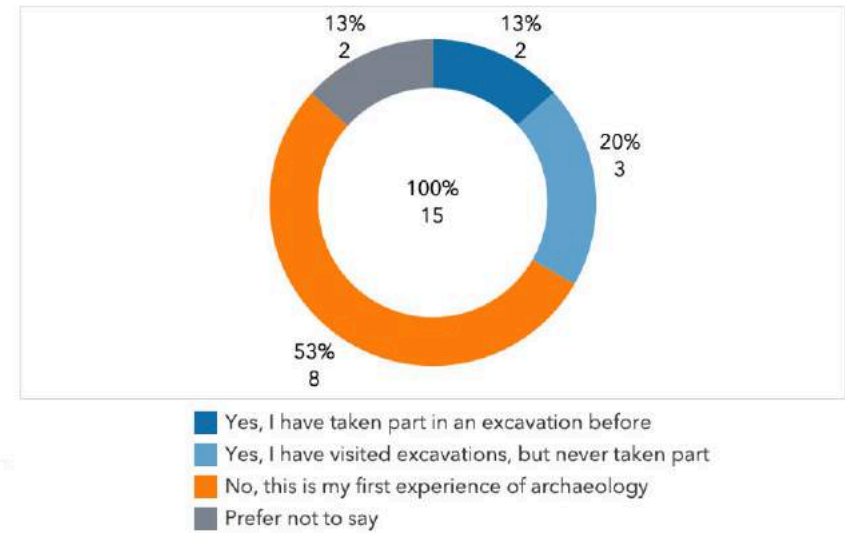
	EXPECTATION	SUGGESTED METHOD	OUTCOMES FOR HERITAGE	OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE	OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES
Level One	Providing an academically rigorous framework, whilst ensuring that impact measurement is appropriate to the stage of development of a variety of different products, services and programmes. A low threshold, appropriate to very early stage innovations, which may still be at the idea stage. Involving little more than a clear articulation of why the intervention is needed, what it will aim to achieve why this is better than what currently happens. Project owners will be able to give an account of impact, providing a logical reason why their intervention could have an impact and why that would be an improvement on the current situation.	Steps needed to ensure correct evidence is collected to determine whether or not a venture is making a positive difference A clear rationale to show why the product/service could have an impact, and why that would be an improvement on the current situation. Articulated as a theory of change and logic model, linking activities, outputs, outcomes to hypothesized impact.	Intrinsic benefits relating to the research dividend and evidence baseline required for successful management of archaeological sites and landscapes A fully illustrated Project Design, signed off by statutory stakeholder, outlining key archaeological research questions, roles, procedures, stages and outputs.	Instrumental benefits for participants and platform users, enabling the voluntary sector to scale in a sustainable and ethically responsible fashion A training or activity plan, linking activities to outputs, outcomes and impact, and an explanation of how the outcome could be measured.	Wider social impacts received by those who may not be direct participants, but benefit through increased amenity value, tourism and local distinctiveness. A training, activity, audience development and/or heritage resource management plan, linking activities to outputs, outcomes and impact, and an explanation of how the outcome could be measured.
Level Two	At Level 2 projects will be gathering data that shows some change amongst those receiving or using the intervention. At this stage, data can begin to show that there is a change in the measure of the outcome among the recipients of the product or service, but this may not be sufficient to provide evidence of direct causality.	Pre and post–survey evaluation; cohort/panel study; and regular interval surveying.	Assessment Report; Management Report, base-lined against previous investigations	Evaluation survey for participants to quantify demographics, socio-economic characteristics and spatial data, followed up with a pre and post-survey qualitative evaluation using a separate questionnaire methodology to determine any changes as a consequence of taking part	Evaluation survey for site visitors to quantify audience demographics, socio-economic characteristics and spatial data, followed up with a qualitative study using a separate questionnaire methodology to determine any changes that took place as a consequence of the visit
Level Three	At Level 3 projects will be able to demonstrate that they are causing the hypothesized impact, by showing less impact amongst those who don’t receive the product/ service.	Robust methods using a control group, or evaluating a random selection of participants, begin to isolate the impact of the product/ service. All products/services at Level 3 will be well documented, with necessary skills, training (and other delivery requirements) outlined clearly, to enable effective replication in alternative places, situation, contexts etc.	Analytical report, synthesizing specialist reports with previous work locally, regionally and nationally, to determine significance, importance and potential of the site.	Meta-analysis of evaluation results with those derived from projects delivering similar community-based activities, including archaeological/ heritage and other unrelated arts/ citizen science projects.	Meta-analysis of evaluation results with those derived from projects delivering similar community-based activities - including both archaeological/heritage and other unrelated arts/citizen science projects.
Level Four	At Level 4 projects can explain why and how the intervention is having the impact observed and evidenced so far, supported by an independent evaluation to validate the findings. This will also assess the extent to which the intervention can deliver impact at a reasonable cost, and whether it can be replicated and purchased in multiple locations.	Robust independent evaluation that investigates and validates the nature of the impact; this might include endorsement via commercial standards or industry kitemarks, underpinned by a documented standardisation of delivery and processes, data on costs of production and acceptable price point for customers.	Quality assured by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) under the Registered Organisation scheme, and involving independent site inspections and documentary audit.	External audit of quality of training programmes and activities by CIfA, The Archaeological Training Forum, Register of Professional Archaeologists, Skills Passport and National Occupational Standards.	External audit of community programming and impact by specialist consultancy, undertaken independently of project team.
Level Five	At Level 5, projects will be able to demonstrate that the intervention could be operated up by someone else, somewhere else and scaled up, whilst continuing to have positive and direct impact on the outcome, and whilst remaining a financially viable proposition. For a service, this will establish whether it can be delivered by different staff in different locations.	Evidence will be derived from multiple evaluations of the product/ service in different settings (at least two evaluations; one of which will be independent) to demonstrate that the product/service can be used in different settings (which could be in different settings geographically and/or with different types of product/service users). Appropriate methods at this level will include multiple replication evaluations; future scenario analysis; or fidelity evaluation.	An excavation manual, underpinned by a broader operations manual and ‘culture deck’, detailing how the DigVentures project model should be applied in differing contexts.	A syllabus and training manual, underpinned by a broader operations manual and outline spectrum of engagement, detailing the participant’s journey from digital supporter to experienced field digger.	An audience engagement and communications plan, underpinned by a broader operations manual and tailored ‘culture deck’, detailing how the intervention should be applied with clear and measurable benchmarks.

Figure 19. Standards of Evidence framework.

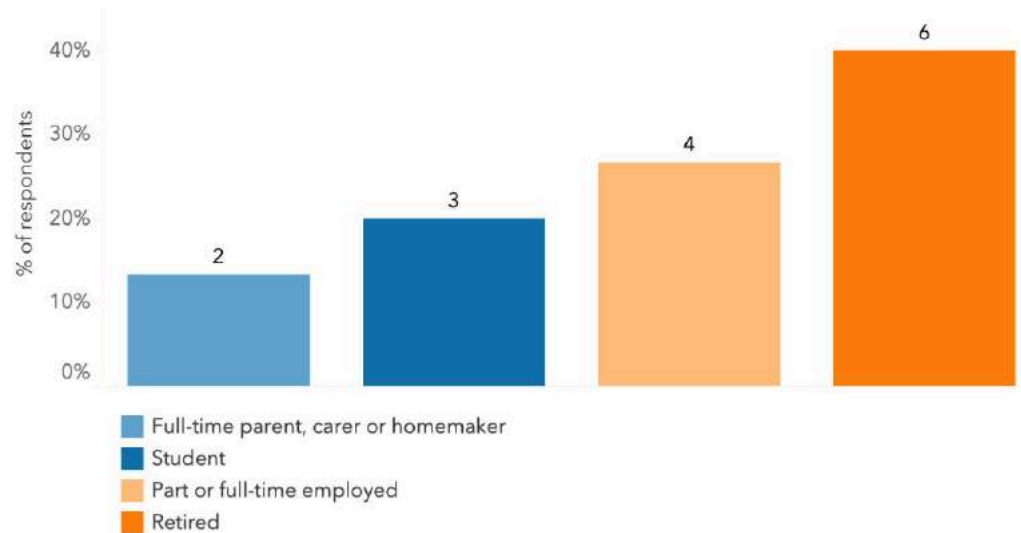
Which is your age category?



Have you ever visited or participated in an excavation?



Which is your occupation?



Which are your preferred pronouns?

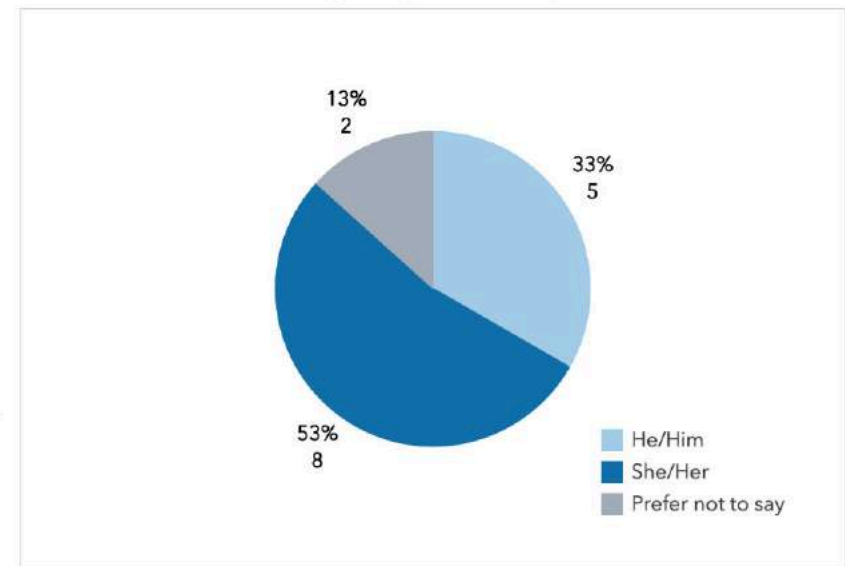


Figure 20. Participant demographics.



Anthony and Hilary digging Test Pit 2 at Daleside



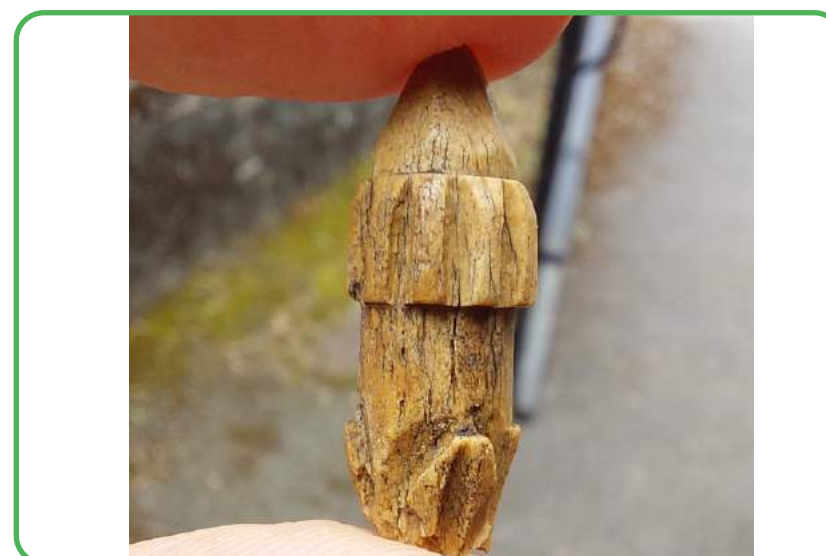
New discoveries at Coram Cottage



Florry finds a bone button



Silvia put her artistic skills to good use by drawing the snuff box



Intricately carved bone bobbin-head



George finds some Medieval pottery



The finds room is growing



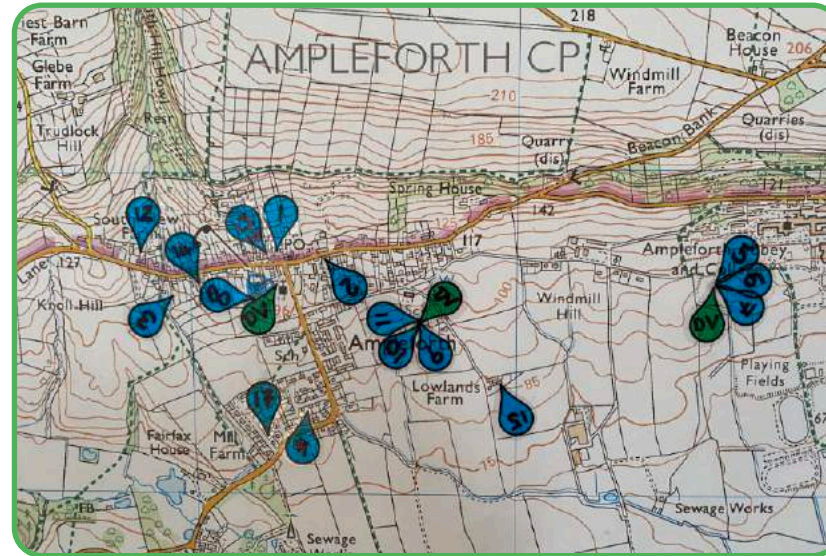
Finds washing underway in the village hall



A very proud dig crew at Coram Cottage



The test pit at Nettle Meadow progressing well



Test pits plotted on the village map



A very happy team at the end of a great dig weekend

Figure 22. Photos of finds and participants of the Ampleforth Big Dig.

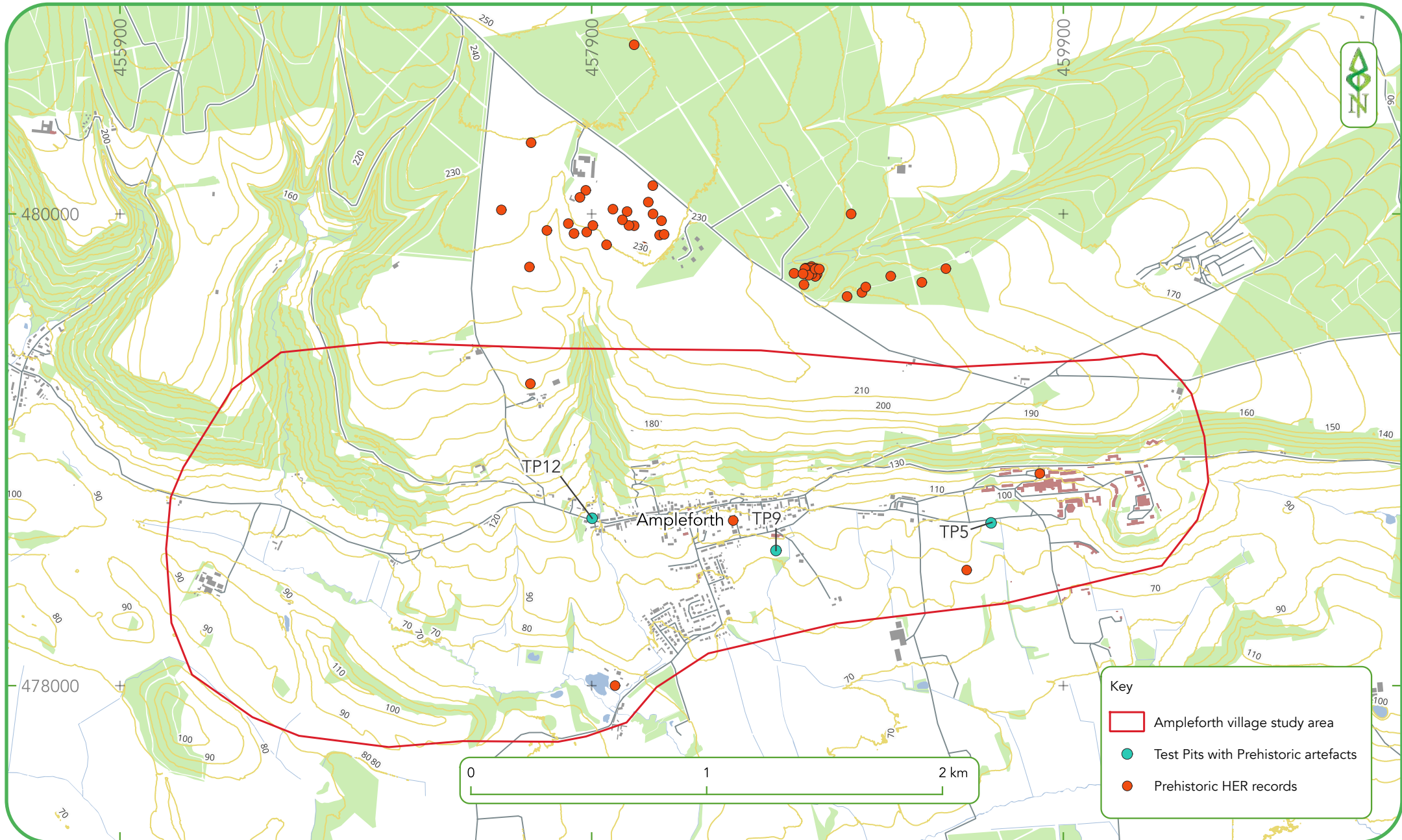


Figure 23. Prehistoric Ampleforth.

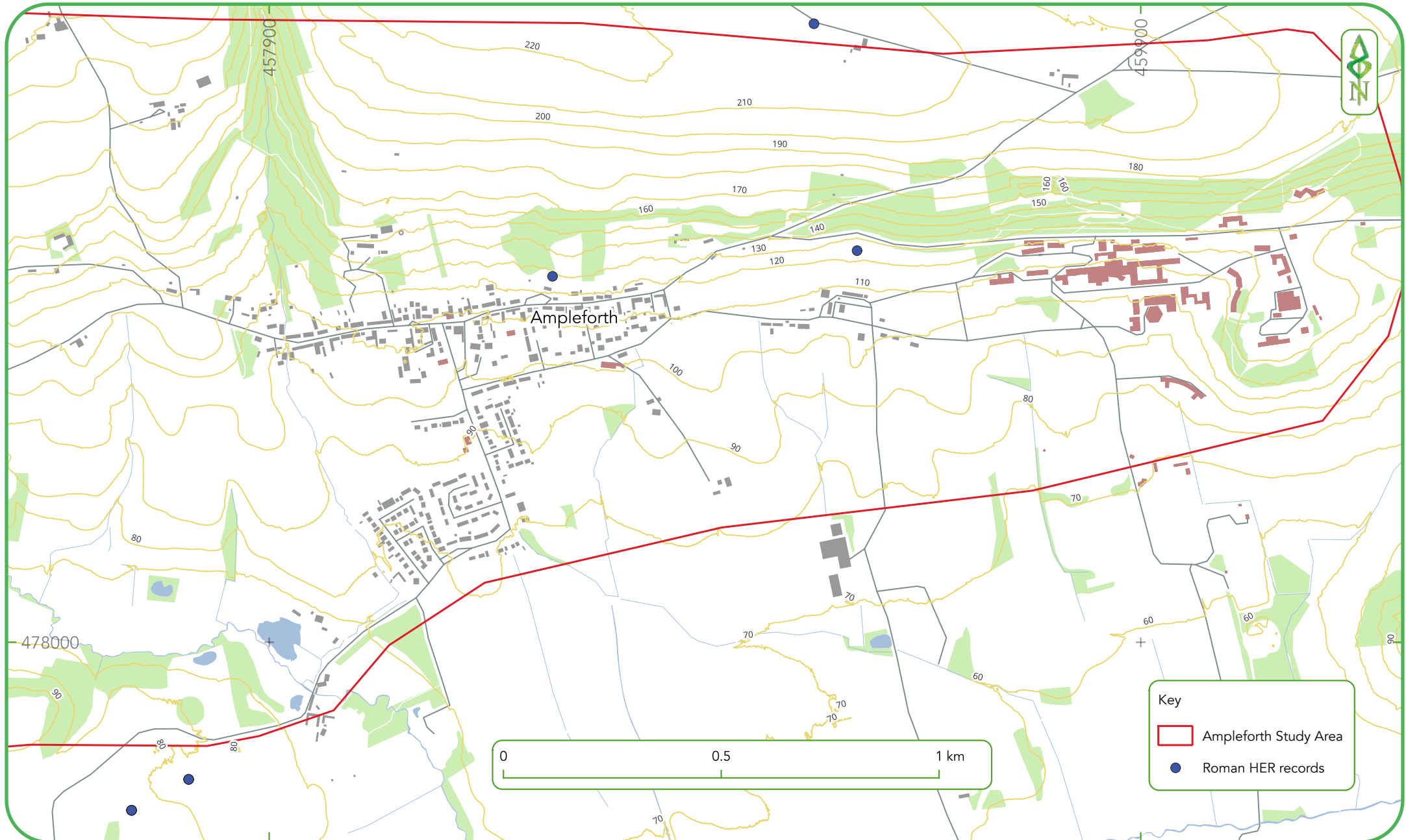


Figure 24. Roman Ampleforth.

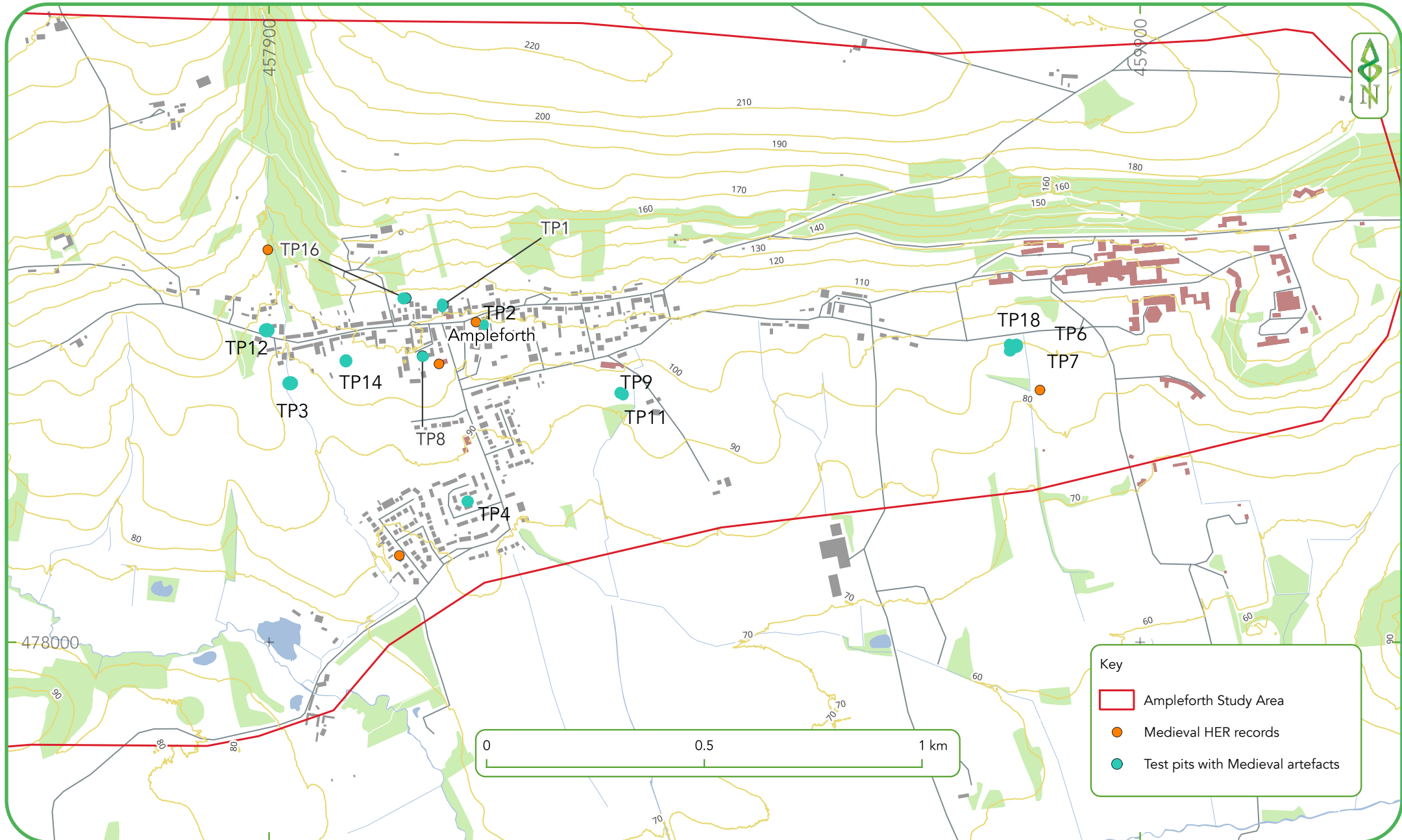


Figure 25. Medieval Ampleforth.

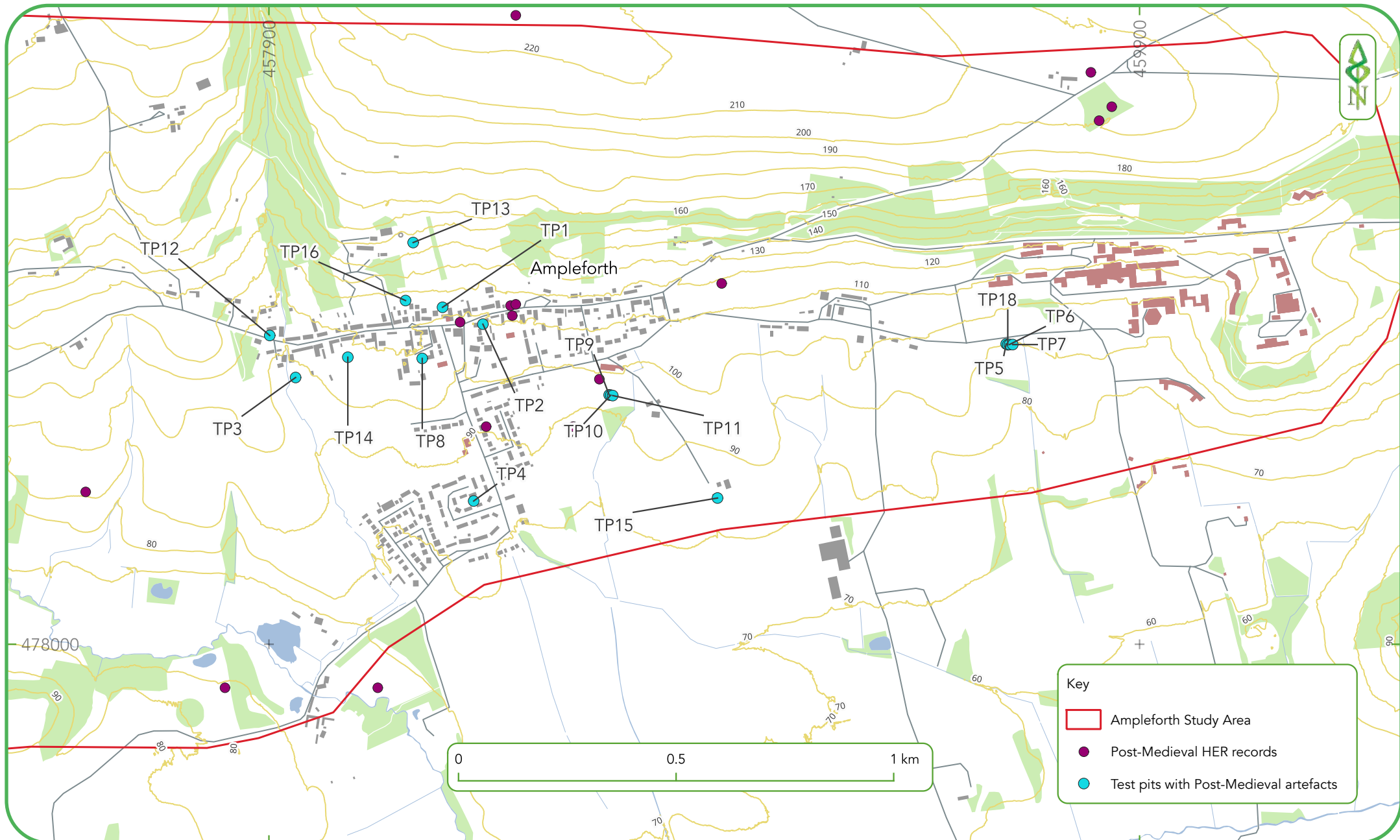


Figure 26. Post-Medieval Ampleforth.

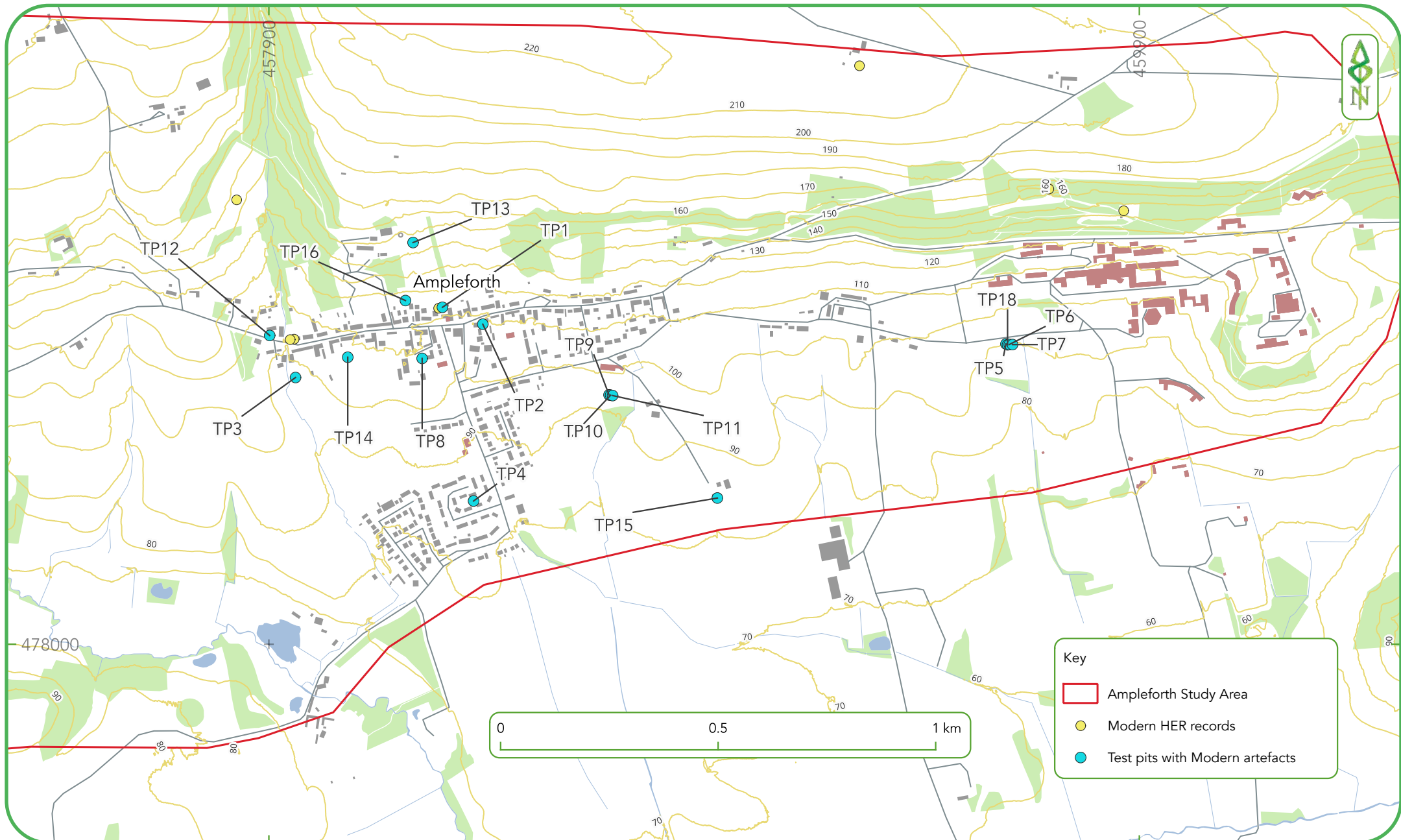


Figure 27. Modern Ampleforth.



Figure 28. Selected small finds

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Table 1. Context descriptions

Context Descriptions		Dimensions:	1 x 1m					
		Orientation:	N/A					
		Reason for Test Pits:	Recovery of finds for identification and their distribution throughout the village, informing the chronological development of the village					
Test Pit No.	Context	Description	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	
1	1001	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with medium sub angular stone inclusions	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil mixed with waste form the old blacksmith's forge	1.00	1.00	0.45	
1	1002	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with medium sized sub angular stone inclusions	Layer	Waste dumping layer likely associated with the blacksmiths forge	1.00	1.00	0.25+	
2	2001	Friable, dark brown clayey silt with 5% angular to sub angular poorly sorted stone inclusions	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil	1.00	1.00	0.30	
2	2002	Moderately compact, Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with 20% angular to sub angular poorly sorted stone inclusions	Layer	Natural	1.00	1.00	unexcavated	
3	3001	Moderately loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent large sub angular stone pieces	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil with the stones of a possible old garden path poking through	1.00	1.00	0.10	



Context Descriptions		Dimensions:	1 x 1m				
		Orientation:	N/A				
		Reason for Test Pits:	Recovery of finds for identification and their distribution throughout the village, informing the chronological development of the village				
Test Pit No.	Context	Description	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
3	3002	Moderately loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Layer	garden soil below stone path (3001), unexcavated - exposed only	1.00	1.00	unexcavated
4	4001	Moderately compact dark greyish brown sandy clay with moderately frequent small pieces of charcoal and rounded pebbles	Layer	Garden soil with mixed rubbish/waste	1.00	1.00	0.17
4	4002	Moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Same as 4003	Layer	garden subsoil	1.00	1.00	0.05+
4	4003	Moderately compacted light greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Same as 4002	Layer	garden subsoil	1.00	1.00	0.05+
5	5001	Moderately loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional angular stones	Layer	Topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.20
5	5002	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with 70% moderately sorted angular to sub angular stone inclusions	Fill	Likely the fill of a small ephemeral drainage gully - unexcavated	1.00	0.40	unexcavated
5	5003	Linear E-W aligned cut of a possible small ephemeral drainage gully	Cut	Cut of a likely small ephemeral gully - unexcavated	1.00	0.40	unexcavated
5	5004	Very compacted mid orangey brown clay with occasional sandstone inclusions	Layer	Natural	1.00	1.00	unexcavated



Context Descriptions		Dimensions:	1 x 1m				
		Orientation:	N/A				
		Reason for Test Pits:	Recovery of finds for identification and their distribution throughout the village, informing the chronological development of the village				
Test Pit No.	Context	Description	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
6	6001	Moderately loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional angular sandstone pieces	Layer	Topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.20
6	6002	Very compacted mid orangey brown clay with occasional sandstone inclusions	Layer	Natural	1.00	1.00	unexcavated
7	7001	Moderately loose mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional angular stones	Layer	Topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.20
7	7002	Very compacted mid orangey brown clay with occasional sandstone inclusions	Layer	Natural	1.00	1.00	unexcavated
8	8001	Moderately loose dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular stone inclusions	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil	1.00	1.00	0.30
8	8002	Moderately compact dark yellowish brown clayey silt with moderately frequent medium sized angular to sub angular sandstone inclusions	Layer	Mixed rubble layer beneath topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.34
9	9001	Moderately loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional angular stones	Layer	Topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.15
9	9002	Moderately compact mid to dark orangey grey sandy clay	Layer	Subsoil	1.00	1.00	unexcavated
10	10001	Moderately loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional angular stones	Layer	Topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.18



Context Descriptions		Dimensions:	1 x 1m					
		Orientation:	N/A					
		Reason for Test Pits:	Recovery of finds for identification and their distribution throughout the village, informing the chronological development of the village					
Test Pit No.	Context	Description	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	
10	10002	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay	Layer	Subsoil - possible build up of ridge from ridge and furrow ploughing	1.00	1.00	unexcavated	
11	11001	Moderately loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular stones	Layer	Topsoil - not fully excavated	1.00	1.00	0.15+	
12	12001	Loose very dark brown silty loam with occasional small sandstone pieces and charcoal flecks	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil	1.00	1.00	0.40	
12	12002	Compacted dark greyish brown silt with very frequent medium sized angular stone pieces	Layer	Isolated linear area of stones exposed to the SW of the test pit. Possible old garden wall foundation or patch of collapsed rubble	0.44+	0.38+	unexcavated	
13	13001	Friable, dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional pieces of small angular to sub angular stone pieces	Layer	Topsoil	1.00	1.00	0.15	
13	13002	Moderately compact light yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone pieces	Layer	Natural subsoil	1.00	1.00	unexcavated	



Context Descriptions		Dimensions:	1 x 1m					
		Orientation:	N/A					
		Reason for Test Pits:	Recovery of finds for identification and their distribution throughout the village, informing the chronological development of the village					
Test Pit No.	Context	Description	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	
14	14001	Loose very dark brown silty clay with 10-15% small to medium sized sub rounded stone inclusions	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil	1.00	1.00	0.18	
14	14002	Moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sized angular stone pieces	Layer	Subsoil - unexcavated	1.00	1.00	unexcavated	
15	15001	Compacted very dark brown silty clay with small to medium sized angular stones	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil - not fully excavated	1.00	1.00	0.25+	
15	15002	Compacted very dark brown silty clay with small to medium sized angular stones	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil - not fully excavated. Same as 15001	1.00	1.00	0.25+	
15	15003	Compacted very dark brown silty clay with small to medium sized angular stones	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil - not fully excavated. Same as 15001	1.00	1.00	0.25+	
16	16001	Loose very dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small charcoal pieces and flecks	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil - not fully excavated	1.00	1.00	0.30+	
16	16002	Loose very dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small charcoal pieces and flecks	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil - not fully excavated. Same as 16001	1.00	1.00	0.30+	
16	16003	Loose very dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small charcoal pieces and flecks	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil - not fully excavated. Same as 16001	1.00	1.00	0.30+	
18	18001	Moderately loose mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small angular stones	Layer	Topsoil - not fully excavated	1.00	1.00	0.20+	



Appendix B: Finds Catalogue

Table 2: Finds catalogue

Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
1	1001		Animal Bone	17	26	Deselected
1	1001		CBM	503	5118	Deselected
1	1001		Clay Tobacco Pipe	10	14	Assessed
1	1001		Ferrous object	29	237	Deselected
1	1001		Ferrous object	106	886	Deselected
1	1001		Glass	204	478	Deselected
1	1001	7, 8, 9	Metal	3	7	Assessed
1	1001		Mortar	44	178	Deselected
1	1001	5	Pot	1	4	Assessed
1	1001	3	Pot	1	9	Assessed
1	1001		Pot	16	67	Assessed
1	1001		Pot	237	499	Assessed
1	1002		Animal Bone	29	40	Deselected
1	1002		CBM	216	819	Deselected
1	1002		Clay Tobacco Pipe	5	8	Assessed
1	1002		Copper alloy	1	1	Deselected
1	1002		Ferrous object	103	1863	Deselected
1	1002		Ferrous object	18	253	Deselected
1	1002		Glass	47	96	Deselected
1	1002		Glass	1	28	Assessed
1	1002		Mortar	4	12	Deselected
1	1002		Pot	82	222	Assessed



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
1	1002		Pot	11	121	Assessed
2	2001	2	Animal Bone	1	1	Assessed
2	2001		Animal Bone	2	8	Deselected
2	2001		CBM	125	249	Deselected
2	2001		Clay Tobacco Pipe	4	5	Assessed
2	2001		Glass	32	25	Deselected
2	2001		Metal	7	176	Deselected
2	2001		Mortar	1	8	Deselected
2	2001		Plastic	1	1	Deselected
2	2001		Pot	63	134	Assessed
2	2001		Pot	15	74	Assessed
3	3001		CBM	63	185	Deselected
3	3001		Ferrous object	1	0.5	Deselected
3	3001		Glass	24	58	Deselected
3	3001		Mortar	9	11	Deselected
3	3001		Pot	3	10	Assessed
3	3001		Pot	25	34	Assessed
3	3002		Animal Bone	6	14	Deselected
3	3002		CBM	25	517	Deselected
3	3002		Clay Tobacco Pipe	2	10	Assessed
3	3002		Ferrous object	14	70	Deselected
3	3002		Ferrous object	5	156	Deselected
3	3002		Glass	62	193	Deselected
3	3002		Mortar	25	67	Deselected



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
3	3002		Pot	1	27	Assessed
3	3002		Pot	49	190	Assessed
3	3002		Shell	1	6	Deselected
4	4001		CBM	12	30	Deselected
4	4001		Ferrous object	6	27	Deselected
4	4001		Ferrous object	3	39	Deselected
4	4001		Glass	2	7	Deselected
4	4001		Graphite	1	2	Deselected
4	4001		Metal	1	11	Assessed
4	4001		Plastic	3	1	Deselected
4	4001		Pot	4	8	Assessed
4	4002		Animal Bone	1	3	Deselected
4	4002		CBM	18	155	Deselected
4	4002		Ferrous object	4	43	Deselected
4	4002		Glass	4	25	Deselected
4	4002		Pot	4	59	Assessed
4	4003		CBM	5	12	Deselected
4	4003		Ferrous object	1	7	Deselected
4	4003		Glass	1	3	Deselected
4	4003		Pot	4	18	Assessed
5	5001	1	Flint	1	2	Assessed
5	5001		CBM	4	6	Deselected
5	5001		Ferrous object	1	3	Deselected
5	5001		Glass	4	5	Deselected



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
5	5001		Plastic	1	1	Deselected
5	5001		Pot	1	3	Assessed
5	5001		Slag	2	6	Deselected
6	6001		Animal Bone	1	1	Deselected
6	6001		CBM	6	57	Deselected
6	6001		Mortar	1	9	Deselected
6	6001		Pot	2	5	Assessed
7	7001		CBM	6	6	Deselected
7	7001		Pot	2	9	Assessed
8	8001		CBM	89	573	Deselected
8	8001		Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	1	Assessed
8	8001		Ferrous object	1	6	Deselected
8	8001		Ferrous object	3	27	Deselected
8	8001		Glass	9	9	Deselected
8	8001		Pot	5	8	Assessed
8	8001		Pot	12	128	Assessed
8	8001		Slag	4	11	Deselected
8	8002		CBM	11	54	Deselected
8	8002		Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	2	Assessed
8	8002		Pot	1	1	Assessed
8	8002		Pot	10	73	Assessed
9	9001		CBM	8	4	Deselected
9	9001		Pot	10	17	Assessed
9	9002		Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	0.5	Assessed



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
9	9002		Ferrous object	2	13	Deselected
9	9002		Flint	2	2	Assessed
9	9002		Glass	2	8	Deselected
9	9002		Pot	2	2	Assessed
10	9002		CBM	8	7	Deselected
10	10001	6	Clay Tobacco Pipe	3	15	Assessed
10	10001		Pot	3	1	Assessed
10	10002		Animal Bone	1	1	Deselected
11	11001		CBM	23	36	Deselected
11	11001		Clay Tobacco Pipe	4	9	Assessed
11	11001		Ferrous object	4	14	Deselected
11	11001		Glass	5	23	Deselected
11	11001		Pot	14	18	Assessed
12	12001		Animal Bone	1	1	Deselected
12	12001		CBM	7	39	Deselected
12	12001		Flint	1	1	Assessed
12	12001		Glass	7	12	Deselected
12	12001		Pot	2	31	Assessed
12	12001		Pot	22	45	Assessed
12	12002		Animal Bone	3	19	Deselected
12	12002		CBM	9	522	Deselected
12	12002		Ferrous object	1	4	Deselected
12	12002		Ferrous object	7	241	Deselected
12	12002		Glass	32	375	Deselected



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
12	12002	10	Glass	1	111	Assessed
12	12002		Metal	2	28	Deselected
12	12002		Pot	52	155	Assessed
12	12002		Pot	2	14	Assessed
12	12002		Shell	1	5	Deselected
13	13001		Pot	2	13	Assessed
14	14001		CBM	39	145	Deselected
14	14001		Ferrous object	2	20	Deselected
14	14001		Ferrous object	3	57	Deselected
14	14001		Glass	15	33	Deselected
14	14001		Metal	1	2	Deselected
14	14001		Pot	2	13	Assessed
14	14001		Pot	24	59	Assessed
14	14002		Plastic	1	1	Deselected
14	14002		CBM	12	129	Deselected
14	14002		Glass	2	3	Deselected
14	14002		Pot	7	8	Assessed
15	15001		CBM	7	22	Deselected
15	15001		Ferrous object	1	5	Deselected
15	15001		Mortar	1	34	Deselected
15	15001		Pot	2	5	Assessed
15	15002		Animal Bone	1	1	Deselected
15	15002		CBM	11	85	Deselected
15	15002		Ferrous object	2	5	Deselected



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
15	15002		Pot	2	3	Assessed
15	15003		Animal Bone	3	5	Deselected
15	15003		Pot	2	8	Assessed
16	16001		Animal Bone	1	1	Deselected
16	16001		CBM	32	207	Deselected
16	16001		Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	1	Assessed
16	16001		Ferrous object	2	174	Deselected
16	16001		Ferrous object	2	8	Deselected
16	16001		Glass	9	16	Deselected
16	16001		Mortar	1	1	Deselected
16	16001		Pot	8	36	Assessed
16	16002	4	Animal Bone	1	2	Assessed
16	16002		Animal Bone	17	28	Deselected
16	16002		CBM	91	979	Deselected
16	16002		Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	5	Assessed
16	16002		Ferrous object	2	19	Deselected
16	16002		Ferrous object	14	94	Deselected
16	16002		Glass	49	124	Deselected
16	16002		Mortar	7	44	Deselected
16	16002		Pot	1	2	Assessed
16	16002		Pot	58	173	Assessed
16	16002		Shell	1	1	Deselected
16	16003		CBM	62	196	Deselected
16	16003		Glass	22	23	Deselected



Test Pit No.	Context No.	SF No.	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Status
16	16003		Mortar	9	123	Deselected
16	16003		Pot	29	60	Assessed
16	16003		Shell	6	28	Deselected
18	18001		CBM	2	1	Deselected
18	18001		Ferrous object	1	3	Deselected
18	18001		Glass	2	0.5	Deselected
18	18001		Pot	1	3	Assessed

Appendix C: Ceramic Fabric Codes and Descriptions.

Medieval

EMS – Sandy ware – Hard grey-brown fabric with a plentiful quartz temper, and made into cooking pots but bowls and occasionally jugs are also known. Manufactured 12th – early 15th century.

GRIM – Grimston ware – Grimston ware is a dark blue-grey, medium sandy fabric, occasionally oxidised on one or both surfaces, with occasional coarse ferrous inclusions. Most of the products which travelled some distance from the source, in north-west Norfolk, were green-glazed. These jugs were decorated with applied pellets and strips on the body, and applied bearded faces and arms on the neck and rim. Most are dated to the 13th – 14th centuries.

TUDG – Tudor Green – Very fine, thin white pottery with a bright green glaze. Mainly tablewares such as mugs, cups and drinking bowls, and also small jugs. Common in towns, but rare in the countryside, where only the richer inhabitants probably used it. Manufactured between 14th – 16th century.

Post-Medieval

BONE – English Bone China – Very hard, thin and light white pottery, usually with blue painted decoration. Made to emulate the the more expensive imported variety from China, first successfully and widely reproduced in Britain in the 18th and 19th century, and continues today.

BUCK – Buckley type ware – A hard brick-red to purplish earthenware paste made by combining red and yellowish clays. Vessels are usually thick, often with ribbed exteriors, and generally glazed with a thick black lead glaze. Mid-17th – 19th centuries. Black lead-glazed wares made from mixed red and yellow clays were being produced in Wales and England, particularly near the rivers Dee and Mersey, by the mid-17th century, with production continuing into the 20th century. Vessels range from tablewares such as cups, tygs, bowls, and pitchers to large storage vessels, butterpots, milkpans, and even some cooking pots.

ENGS – 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 widespread in the 18th and 19th century, particularly for larger beer jugs and ginger beer bottles.

PMBL – Post-Medieval Blackware – Date of manufacture between 16th-17th century, developed from the medieval English black-glazed pottery type known as Cistercian ware, so called because it was first discovered on Cistercian monastic sites. Blackware was produced in the North of England, the Midlands, and East Anglica, and it is difficult to attribute individual vessels to their place of manufacture. Fabrics are fine, dense, and hard, typically dark reddish-orange to brown. Lead glazes are used to cover the entire vessel except for the external base. Most commonly seen as drinking vessels, occasionally seen as milk pans and chamber pots.

STSL – Staffordshire-type Slipware. Typically, a thin, buff-bodied earthenware coated with white and dark slips and decorated with trailed, combed, or marbled designs. Generally, the white slip covers more of the visible surface than the dark slip. A clear lead glaze gives these vessels a yellowish "background" color. However, sometimes the visible proportion of light



and dark slips is reversed, producing a brown vessel with yellow decorations. This ware has also traditionally been called Staffordshire-type slipped earthenware, but the term North Midlands-type more accurately reflects the broader geographic range of production of these wares. North Midlands -type slipware comes in a wide variety of utilitarian and ornamental forms. Among these are cups, tygs, mugs, posset pots, puzzle jugs, bowls, drug jars, honey pots, teapots, jugs, sweetmeat dishes, baking dishes, decorative dishes and plates, candlesticks, chamber pots, miniature cradles that were given to newlyweds, statues, and money boxes (Noël Hume 1970; Grigsby 1993; Lewis 1999). Press-molded combed dishes were the most common Staffordshire product after 1740 (Grigsby 1993:52). Flat forms were often coggled or crimped to form "piecrust" impressions around the rim (Noël Hume 1970:137). Although Staffordshire and the surrounding Midlands counties produced large quantities of slipware in the 17th and 18th centuries, other English centers, such as Bristol, Donyatt, and Yorkshire, made wares virtually indistinguishable from those of Staffordshire (Noël Hume 1970:134, 2001: 83; Grigsby 1993:39, 52, 60). For this reason, the term "Staffordshire-type" is used here.

STMO – Staffordshire mottled brown-glazed – 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.

SWSG – 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.

TGW – English Tin Glazed Earthenware (Delft Ware) – Manufactured between 17th – 19th century. Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Has a thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration and made into a range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases.

REFR – Refined 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 until early 20th century.

REFW – Refined White Earthenwares (and creamwares) – Hard cream and white fabrics with underglazed transfer prints made into a wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls (often with blue decoration). Manufactured from mid-18th century, some varieties still manufactured today.



Appendix D: Specialist Data Tables

Table 3. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 1.

WARE	Context	1001	1002	Totals
BONE	No	18	2	20
	Wt (g)	26.8	1.7	28.5
BUCK	No	0	1	1
	Wt (g)	0	1.6	1.6
EMS	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	6.8	0	6.8
EMS	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	4.5	0	4.5
ENGS	No	4	2	6
	Wt (g)	33.5	14.1	47.6
GRIM	No	4	0	4
	Wt (g)	16.2	0	16.2
PMBL	No	9	0	9
	Wt (g)	12.9	0	12.9
PMR	No	11	4	15
	Wt (g)	11.8	16.7	28.5
PMR	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	4	0	4
REFR	No	8	0	8
	Wt (g)	27.2	0	27.2
REFW	No	161	48	209
	Wt (g)	269.9	65.3	335.2
STMO	No	6	6	12
	Wt (g)	6.4	5.2	11.6
STSL	No	1	9	10
	Wt (g)	10	70.5	80.5
STSL	No	10	0	10
	Wt (g)	53.5	0	53.5
SWSG	No	8	0	8
	Wt (g)	34.2	0	34.2
TP	No	4	0	4
	Wt (g)	15.8	0	15.8
TGW	No	0	1	1
	Wt (g)	0	1	1
TUDG	No	4	1	5
	Wt (g)	29.6	9	38.6
TUDG	No	0	18	18
	Wt (g)	0	145.3	145.3
	TPQ	18C	18C	



Table 4. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 2.

WARE	Context	2001	2002	Totals
BONE	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	0.8	0	0.8
BUCK	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	1.3	0	1.3
ENGS	No	4	0	4
	Wt (g)	5	0	5
ENGS	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	12.7	0	12.7
REFR	No	4	0	4
	Wt (g)	10	0	10
REFR	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	3.9	0	3.9
REFW	No	39	0	39
	Wt (g)	54.6	0	54.6
STSL	No	4	0	4
	Wt (g)	10	0	10
TGW	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	1.3	0	1.3
TUDG	No	5	6	11
	Wt (g)	33.7	45.5	79.2
unk	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	3.2	0	3.2
	TPQ	18C	16C	

Table 5. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 3.

WARE	Context	3001	3002	Totals
BONE	No	1	7	8
	Wt (g)	9.5	34.7	44.2
REFW	No	18	38	56
	Wt (g)	14	120	134
STSL	No	5	0	5
	Wt (g)	4.6	0	4.6
TUDG	No	4	1	5
	Wt (g)	16.2	2.1	18.3
TUDG	No	0	2	2
	Wt (g)	0	40.8	40.8
	TPQ	18C	18C	

Table 6. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 4.

WARE	Context	4001	4002	4003	Totals
REFW	No	3	0	1	4
	Wt (g)	4.8	0	1.6	6.4
STSL	No	1	2	0	3
	Wt (g)	3.2	4.9	0	8.1
TUDG	No	0	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	48.3	0	48.3
	TPQ	18C	16C	18C	

Table 7. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 5.

WARE	Context	5001	Totals
PMR	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	3	3
	TPQ	17C	

Table 8. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 6.

WARE	Context	6001	Totals
REFW	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	1.7	1.7
TUDG	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	4	4
	TPQ	18C	

Table 9. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 7.

WARE	Context	7001	Totals
REFW	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	5.4	5.4
TUDG	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	3.7	3.7
	TPQ	18C	

Table 10. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 8.

WARE	Context	8001	8002	Totals
REFW	No	3	1	4
	Wt (g)	2.9	1	3.9
REFW	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	3.4	0	3.4
TUDG	No	12	11	23
	Wt (g)	123.8	73	196.8
	TPQ	18C	18C	

Table 11. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 9.

WARE	Context	9001	9002	Totals
PMR	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	2	0	2
REFW	No	5	1	6
	Wt (g)	8.3	0.3	8.6
STSL	No	2	1	3
	Wt (g)	1.4	2	3.4
TUDG	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	5.2	0	5.2
	TPQ	18C	18C	

Table 12. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 10.

WARE	Context	10001	Totals
REFW	No	3	3
	Wt (g)	2.1	2.1
	TPQ	18C	

Table 13. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 11.

WARE	Context	11001	Totals
BONE	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	0.3	0.3
ENGS	No	2	2
	Wt (g)	6	6
PMR	No	2	2
	Wt (g)	0.9	0.9
REFW	No	3	3
	Wt (g)	2.1	2.1
TUDG	No	2	2
	Wt (g)	5.6	5.6
	TPQ	18C	



Table 14. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 12.

WARE	Context	12001	12002	Totals
BONE	No	1	5	6
	Wt (g)	0.6	9	9.6
PMR	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	2.8	0	2.8
REFR	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	0.5	0	0.5
REFW	No	14	41	55
	Wt (g)	31.7	88.7	120.4
STMO	No	0	1	1
	Wt (g)	0	2.7	2.7
STSL	No	2	2	4
	Wt (g)	31	6	37
STSL	No	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	3	0	3
TGW	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	2.6	0	2.6
TUDG	No	0	2	2
	Wt (g)	0	39	39
	TPQ	18C	18C	

Table 15. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 13.

WARE	Context	13001	Totals
STSL	No	2	2
	Wt (g)	12.7	12.7
	TPQ	16C	

Table 16. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 14.

WARE	Context	14001	14002	Totals
BONE	No	3	0	3
	Wt (g)	2	0	2
ENGS	No	2	1	3
	Wt (g)	22.4	1.8	24.2
REFW	No	14	6	20
	Wt (g)	26.6	6.4	33
STMO	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	3.1	0	3.1
STSL	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	3.2	0	3.2
TUDG	No	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	13	0	13
	TPQ	18C	18C	



Table 17. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 15.

WARE	Context	15001	15002	15003	Totals
ENGS	No	0	0	1	1
	Wt (g)	0	0	8	8
PMR	No	1	0	0	1
	Wt (g)	3.3	0	0	3.3
REFW	No	1	2	0	3
	Wt (g)	1.9	2.5	0	4.4
	TPQ	18C	18C	18C	

Table 18. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 16.

WARE	Context	16001	16002	16003	Totals
BONE	No	2	8	3	13
	Wt (g)	6.9	14.4	4.7	26
ENGS	No	0	8	3	11
	Wt (g)	0	68.1	21.7	89.8
PMR	No	0	5	5	10
	Wt (g)	0	6.7	8.6	15.3
REFW	No	6	24	12	42
	Wt (g)	27.7	40.2	15.7	83.6
STMO	No	0	7	3	10
	Wt (g)	0	35.2	1.7	36.9
STSL	No	0	6	1	7
	Wt (g)	0	3.8	1	4.8
TGW	No	0	0	1	1
	Wt (g)	0	0	1.3	1.3
TUDG	No	0	1	0	1
	Wt (g)	0	2	0	2
	TPQ	18C	18C	18C	

Table 19. Pottery fabrics and TPQ dates by context - Test Pit 18.

WARE	Context	18001	Totals
TUDG	No	1	1
	Wt (g)	2.5	2.5
	TPQ	14C	

Table 20. Tobacco Pipe dates by context.

Context	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)	% (Qt)	% (Wt)	ED	LD	Comments
1001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	9	22.79	24%	30%	1620	1800	Bowl
1001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	1.92	5%	3%	1650	1800	6/64
1001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	3	4.59	8%	6%	1680	1800	5/64
1002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	3.88	5%	5%	1620	1680	8/64
1002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	1.78	3%	2%	1680	1800	5/64
1002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	2.47	5%	3%	1620	1800	Bowl
2001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	2.2	3%	3%	1620	1800	Bowl
2001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	3	2.61	8%	3%	1680	1800	5/64
3002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	3.57	3%	5%	1620	1680	8/64
3002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	2.9	3%	4%	1680	1800	5/64
8001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	1.83	3%	2%	1680	1800	5/64
8002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	1.54	3%	2%	1680	1800	5/64
9002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	0.74	3%	1%	1710	1800	4/64
10001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	7.61	3%	10%	1780	1900	Bowl, SF6
10001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	1.73	5%	2%	1780	1900	5/64, SF6
11001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	0.16	3%	0%	1620	1800	Bowl
11001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	2.53	3%	3%	1650	1800	6/64
11001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	2	5.24	5%	7%	1680	1800	5/64
11001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	0.81	3%	1%	1710	1800	4/64
16001	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	0.69	3%	1%	1620	1680	8/64
16002	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	4.43	3%	6%	1620	1710	7/64
Totals			38	76.02					

Table 21. Glass assessment of retained material, date range by context.

Context	Colour	Count	Weight (g)	ED	LD	Comments
1002	olive	2	28.88	1800	1900	wine/bottle, diseased
1002	aqua	3	1.95	1800	1900	vessel, diseased
4002	aqua	1	1.85	1800	1900	vessel, diseased
8002	olive	1	0.7	1800	1900	flat, diseased
12002	brown	1	13.45	1800	1900	wine/bottle
16003	colourless	2	0.46	1800	1900	flat/window

Table 22. Register of Small Finds.

SF no.	TP	Context	Material	Type	Period	Qt	Wt (g)	Description
1	5	5001	Flint	Object	Prehistoric	1	2	broken bladlet
2	2	2001	Animal Bone	Object	Post Medieval	1	1	bone bobbin
3	1	1001	Pot	Vessel	Post Medieval	1	9	Example of Tudor Green
4	16	16002	Animal Bone	Button	Post Medieval	1	2	bone button
5	1	1001	Pot	Button	Post Medieval	1	4	Ceramic lead glazed button
6	10	10001	Pot	Tobacco Pipe	Post Medieval	3	15	Pipebowl with ships and floral motif
7	1	1001	Metal	Object	Modern	1	1.5	Snuff box SF7
8	1	1001	Metal	Object	Modern	1	3.5	Snuff box SF8
9	1	1001	Metal	Object	Modern	1	1.5	Snuff box SF9
10	12	12002	Glass	Bottle	Modern	1	111	20 th Century