

**Dig Burley**  
**Community Archaeology Festival**  
**2019**



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## Project summary

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## Executive Summary

Dig Burley was a community archaeology festival that took place from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 April 2019. It was a joint project between Burley Historical Society, Burley Parish Council and the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA), funded through the Heritage on My Doorstep and Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage projects that make up two of the 21 projects in the Our Past, Our Future National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The festival comprised a wide-scale test pit evaluation exercise that acted also as a pilot scheme, designed to test recording methodologies, logistics and the level of interest and community involvement that similar projects might attract.

Participants collectively excavated and recorded 43 test pits on private properties in and around Burley during the event. Participants were also given the opportunity to attend numerous training workshops, talks and exhibitions held during the event.

This project constitutes the first real wide scale investigation of the archaeological potential of the settlement of Burley. The results are a good reflection of the known history of the area with prehistoric flints indicative of Mesolithic and Bronze Age habitation and exploitation of the landscape long before the establishment of the Medieval Manor and gradual development of the settlement. Finds of Medieval pottery were mainly from test pits in the Burley Street area and some properties in this part of the settlement may have been inhabited for many centuries.

Following the event records and finds were assimilated into a collective project archive, which has been used to produce this report, which presents the final results of the project. The production of the report was a joint effort between James Brown, former NFNPA Community Archaeologist and Bournemouth University Archaeological Research Consultancy (BUARC).

Overall the project has been a success and its aim and objectives have all been met. It has been demonstrated that there is a large appetite for community driven archaeological projects that could, with appropriate planning and professional support, enhance our understanding of the history and development of rural communities in the region.

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## Abbreviations and Contractions

BUARC – Bournemouth University Archaeological Research Consultancy

CBM – Ceramic Building Material

GNSS – Global Navigation Satellite System

HER – Historic Environment Record

HQ – Headquarters

LPS – Landscape Partnership Scheme

NE, NW, SE, SW – compass directions

NFNPA – New Forest National Park Authority

OASIS - Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS

OPOF – Our Past Our Present Our Future scheme

WWII – World War 2

## Time Periods referred to in this report

Mesolithic – 10,000-4,000 BC

Late Mesolithic – 7,000-4,000

Late Neolithic – 3000-2400 BC

Early Bronze Age – 2400-1500 BC

Bronze Age – 2400-700 BC

Iron Age – 700 BC – AD 43  
Roman – 43 – 410  
Anglo-Norman – 1066-1250  
High Medieval – 1250-1350  
Late Medieval – 1350-1510



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Our Past, Our Future

- 1.1.1 The Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) scheme is a £4.4million Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) for the New Forest supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund. This five year scheme is being led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) alongside 10 other partners and aims to undertake 21 projects to restore lost habitats, develop Forest skills and inspire a new generation to champion and care for the New Forest.
- 1.1.2 The scheme comprises four themes of work, designed to better equip the New Forest to thrive through change and modern-day pressures. The four themes are:
- Restoring lost landscapes;
  - Developing Forest skills;
  - Discovering Forest heritage and inspiring a new generation, and;
  - Monitoring and evaluation.
- 1.1.3 Dig Burley has direct links to two projects that sit within the wider OPOF scheme: 1, Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage and 2, Heritage on My Doorstep. Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage aims to uncover and conserve hidden, unknown and decaying heritage sites and archaeological features throughout the New Forest. Heritage on my Doorstep aims to get people involved with, and inspired by, all aspects of their local heritage. This has seen a community archaeologist work with local communities offering training and support in sharing and expanding their own research. The focus of these projects is to help add to the archaeological knowledge and improve understanding within the protected landscape of the National Park where traditionally archaeological investigations can be limited.
- 1.1.4 Burley Historical Society is a relatively new group based in the village of Burley in the New Forest, Hampshire. In recent years there have been several individual and group projects which have researched the past of Burley village and its place within the New Forest. The focus of Burley Historical Society is to create a forum for sharing existing information and for encouraging more research. The Historical Society were approached to see if they would be interested in participating in a community test pitting excavation alongside other members of the community as a way to really engage with their local heritage and learn more about the history of Burley. Working with Burley Historical Society the NFNPA devised a programme of archaeological investigation and interpretation and created the Dig Burley Community Archaeology Project (Dig Burley).
- 1.1.5 The project was designed to be inclusive and involve as much community participation as possible to foster cohesion and help raise awareness of the history and wider heritage of the Burley area. It was hoped that the project would inspire further research and investigation and that Burley Historical Society would experience an increase in membership as an outcome of the project.
- 1.1.6 The main community test pitting event was preceded by a number of talks to the Burley Historical Society and Burley residents by the NFNPA Community Archaeologist.
- 1.1.7 In order to test and refine the resources and methodology for the test pitting, a trial test pit was excavated by the chair of the Burley Historical Society, David Etchells on 24th February 2019 using the prototype recording methods and guidance. Following this preliminary excavation, the prototype Dig Burley record booklet and guidance sheets were updated and finalised. A short report on the experience written by David and published on the Burley Historical Society website (<http://burleyhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/trial-test-pit-feb-2019.html>) also helped to promote the project and encourage participation.
- 1.1.8 The test pitting event occurred during the academic Easter break between Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 inclusive. Over this period a total of 43 test pits were excavated at 37 addresses ('sites') across the Burley area.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The primary aim of the project was to host a community driven archaeological event in line with the themes of both the Rediscovering and Conserving our Archaeological Heritage and Heritage on My Doorstep aspects of the wider Our Past Our Present Our Future Scheme that would attempt to learn more about the history of Burley by looking at buried physical evidence.
- 2.1.2 Specific project objectives could be defined as:
- Use test pitting methodology to undertake an assessment of the presence, date and character of archaeological remains within and around the village of Burley.
  - To provide records of sufficient quality to be used to understand activity at each site, to compare sites and create a wider spatial understanding of the results.
  - Create a project archive and a comprehensive report on results to encourage participant driven wider research.
  - Review aspects of this project that could be improved and define anything that should be taken into consideration during the design of future projects.

## 3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

### 3.1 Location, geology and topography

- 3.1.1 Burley is an area of historic landscape and settlement which has developed its unique character over the last one thousand years. The layout of the settlement and the historic landscape is due to the controlling influence of the Royal Forest and the continuing illegal encroachment by the Manor and the villagers (NFNPA, 2010).
- 3.1.2 Burley comprises a series of historic encroachments into the Forest. The northern area around Coach Hill and Vereley Farm is mainly agricultural land with areas of woodland and only a few dwellings which are mainly dispersed in a linear fashion along Coach Hill Lane. To the south of this area lies Burley Street which is a long linear settlement following Ringwood Road with a spur to the west up Randalls Lane towards Castle Hill. The main area of settlement at Burley is separated from Burley Street by agricultural land with a few dispersed dwellings, some of which are large houses within landscaped grounds. Burley itself is centred at The Cross, which is the junction of Ringwood Road, Pound Lane and Chapel Lane. It comprises linear developments along these roads, but with a number of modern estates off Pound Lane to the north. Chapel Lane leads to further areas of encroachments which include both farms and large houses in landscaped grounds. To the southeast is the large 14th century encroachment now known as Bisterne Close. Although this area was originally agricultural land, it now comprises a long linear development of dwellings one plot deep following the perimeter road (Ibid).
- 3.1.3 The Burley settlements lie on the crest of a ridge that overlooks a lower area of open Forest to the west. The highest point in the settlement is Castle Hill at just over 90 metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the land falls gently to the south and east with Burley and Bisterne Close being at a lower level. Beyond, to the south, the land continues to fall towards the stream valley (Ibid).

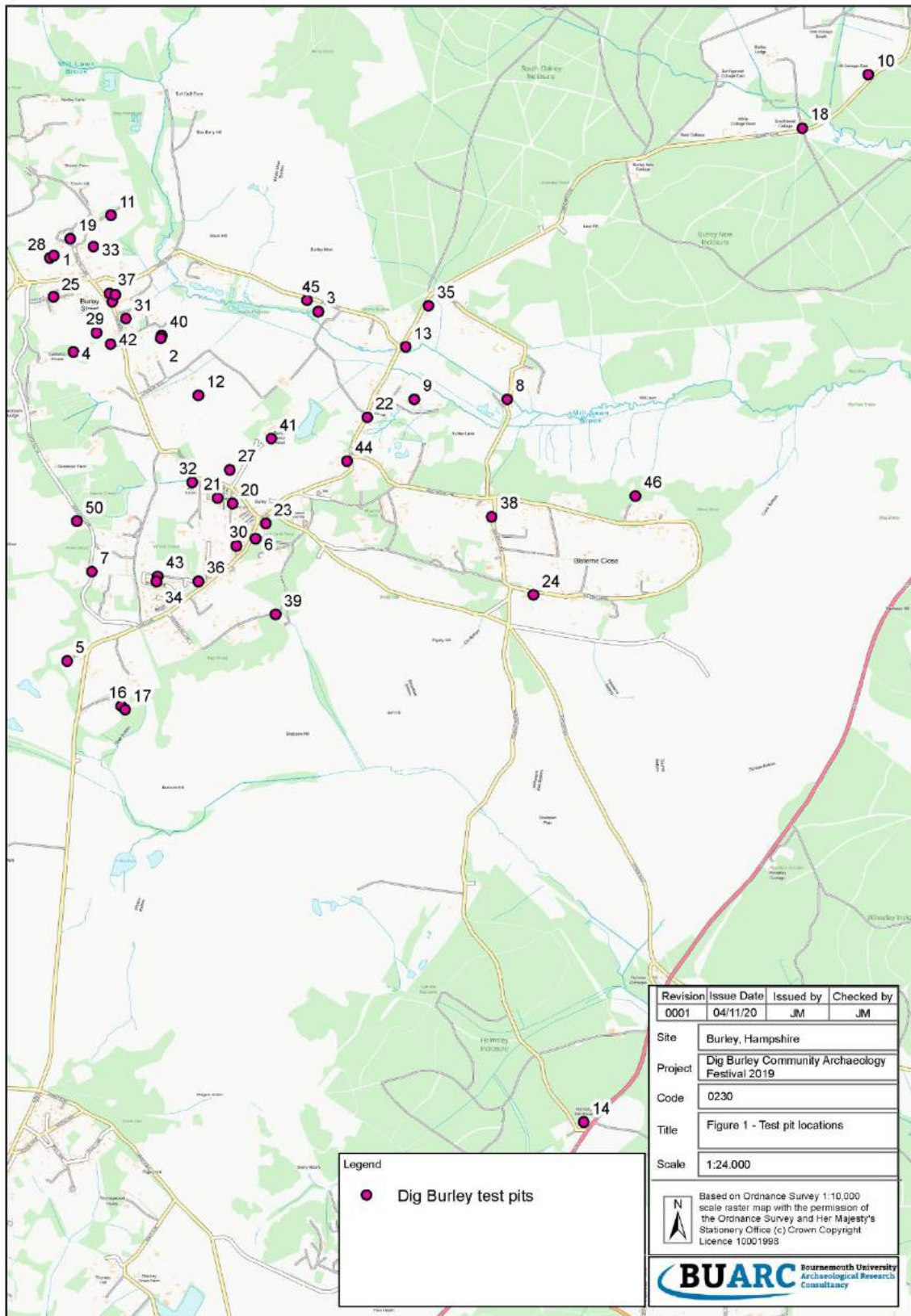


Figure 1 – Dig Burley Test Pit locations

3.1.4 Burley sits upon three distinct bedrock geologies, primarily Becton Sand Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 41 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Two areas of Headon Formation comprising clay, silt and sand; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 38 to 41 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period can be found to the south east and south west of the centre of Burley. Whilst a linear band of Chama Sand Formation; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 38 to 41 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period runs east west just to the north of the centre of Burley parallel to Beechwood Lane and Bisterne Close. These sediments are relatively soft deposits with every variation between pure sand and pure clay, much of it a mixture of both. This soft geology of clays, sands and gravels has been exploited through human history by various extractive industries from Roman Pottery Kilns to pre-World War II New Forest brick industries. The clays of these stratigraphic units typically produce boggy ground, which is one of the most important habitats in the New Forest due to the flora and fauna they support. The sands of these stratigraphic units tend to form hills with steep slopes; which is visible in Burley.

### **3.2 Burley Conservation Area**

3.2.1 The village of Burley sits within the larger parish of Burley and was designated a conservation area on 18 February 1981 and later revised 29 September 1999. The Conservation Area designation means the area has been recognised as having special historic and architectural interest worthy of preservation or enhancement and properties within it are subject to planning controls. The conservation area is surrounded on all sides by the New Forest which has a diversity of landscapes, natural beauty and amenity value.

3.2.2 The Burley Conservation Area is divided into 12 character areas (Listed below & Figure 2):

- Burley village centre
- Modern housing development
- Pound Lane and scattered residential and agricultural development
- Scattered Forest edge encroachment
- Bisterne Close and Forest encroachments to the west
- Burley Lawn and common edge encroachment
- Burley Manor and Park
- Castle Hill Lane and Honey Lane
- Dispersed settlement and agricultural land
- Forest Road, Mill Lane and scattered edge of Forest development
- Burley Street
- Coach Hill Lane and Vereley

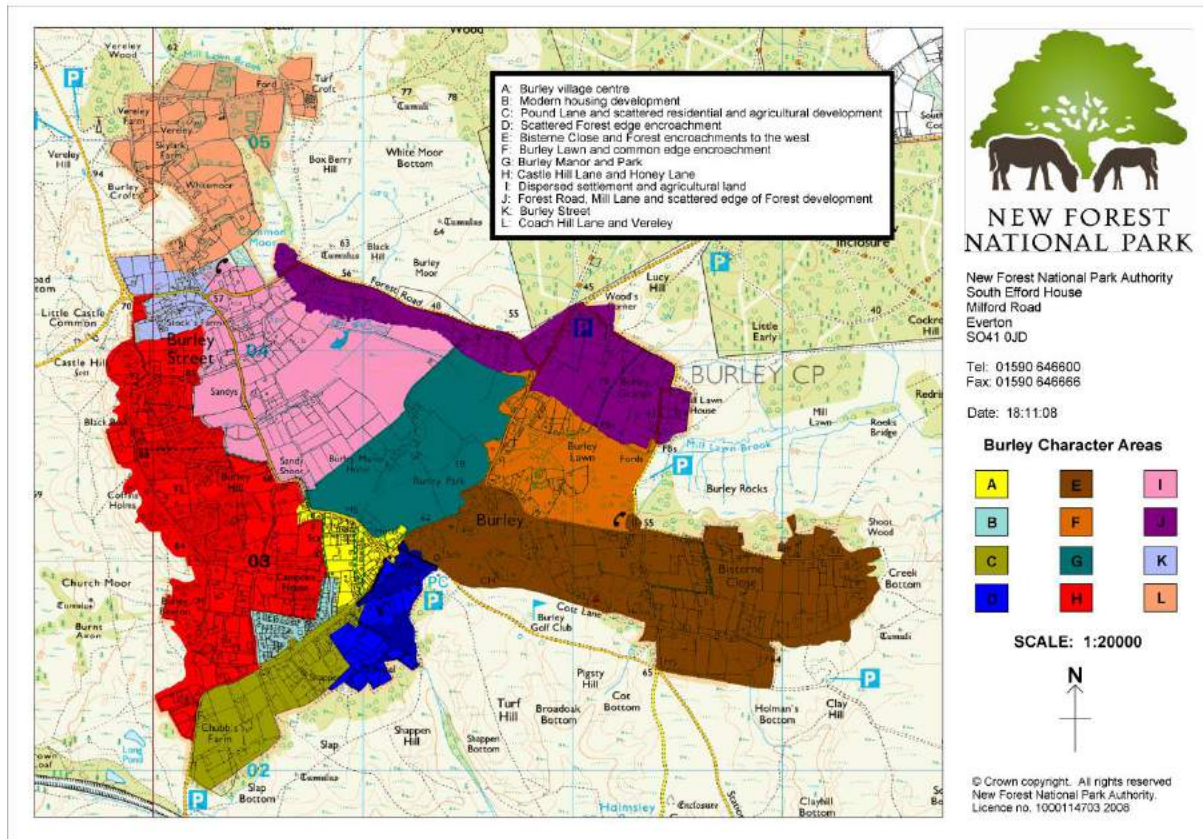


Figure 2 - Burley Character Areas. Credit: NFNPA

### 3.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.3.1 The Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records 159 monuments within 3km of The Cross at the centre of Burley, ranging from prehistoric mounds and barrows through to WWII concrete rifle ranges. The monuments are shown on Figure 3 and listed in Appendix A.
- 3.3.2 Known sites that pre-date the Bronze Age are not widely represented in the area but there are two findspots: A Mesolithic tranchet axe has been found at Holmsley, and two Neolithic polished axes were found at Frogmore House in 1954.
- 3.3.3 The Hampshire HER, Historic England Scheduling and National Mapping work undertaken by the NFNPA all detail a number of confirmed and potential Bronze Age Barrows and burnt mounds surrounding Burley on the open Crown Lands. One of the scheduled Bell Barrows (1012530), located just south of Creek Bottom at the eastern end of Bisterne Close was partially excavated in 1949. The excavation revealed three rectangular stone cists that contained cremation burials beneath the mound surface. Some photographs and plans from this excavation can be found in the New Forest Heritage Centre.
- 3.3.4 The highest point in Burley is Castle Hill, at just over 90 metres aOD. Castle Hill is a roughly circular univallate Iron Age hillfort (Scheduled List monument number 1017889), which encloses an area of about 2ha. Despite gravel digging within the monument during the 19th century, the rampart bank still survives as an earthwork around most of the circumference of the hillfort.
- 3.3.5 The settlement of Burley developed from its medieval origins as a Royal Manor and much of its territory was gained by encroachment onto Crown lands. The 17th century was a period of consolidation for the Manor and the settlement as whole. It saw the rise of prosperous tenant farmers at one end of the scale and the spread of impoverished small holders, on the marginal common edge, at the other. The population of the settlement continued to increase during the 18th century with many more small paddocks and enclosures being created around the settlement.

This culminated in 1801 in an enquiry by the New Forest Commissioners, when leases were granted legalising most of the encroachments. This gave the settlement its current form and during the 19th and early 20th centuries many new dwellings were constructed. It was at this time that the small nucleated commercial centre developed around The Cross. During the latter part of the 20th century the population increased due to the establishment of the small housing estates and the continued 'planting' of large detached houses in landscaped grounds. Today the area consists of a mixture of buildings of varying ages and styles, including cob and thatch roofed cottages of the 18th and early 19th centuries and small brick built, tile and slate roofed two storey houses of the later 19th century (NFNPA, 2010).

- 3.3.6 Also surviving in the area are historic boundary banks and major trees, ditches and hedges. These illustrate many centuries of land usage and are fundamental features of the historic landscape along with the many narrow gravel tracks bisecting the conservation area (Ibid).
- 3.3.7 The test pit locations have been overlain on a series of historic maps that form part of the NFNPA's geo-database. Figures 4 show the test pits on Drivers' Map (Second Edition, 1814), which was the first detailed map of the new Forest. It was commissioned by the Royal Commission in 1789 and is based upon surveys undertaken in 1786/87. Figures 5 - 7 show the test pits on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1860, 1890 and 1910 respectively.

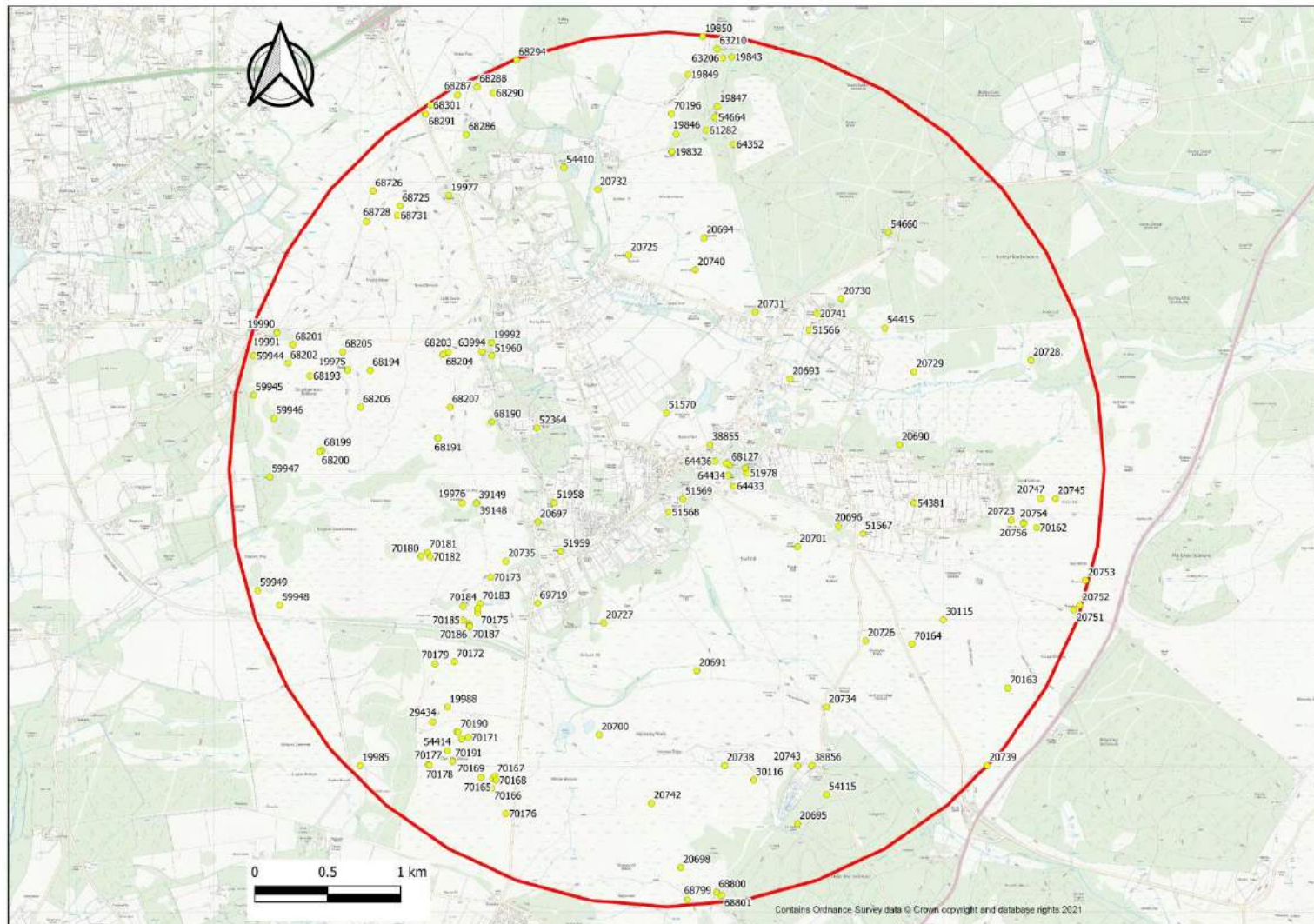


Figure 3 - Hampshire HER records within 3km of centre of Burley. Credit Hampshire HER (NFNPA created figure).





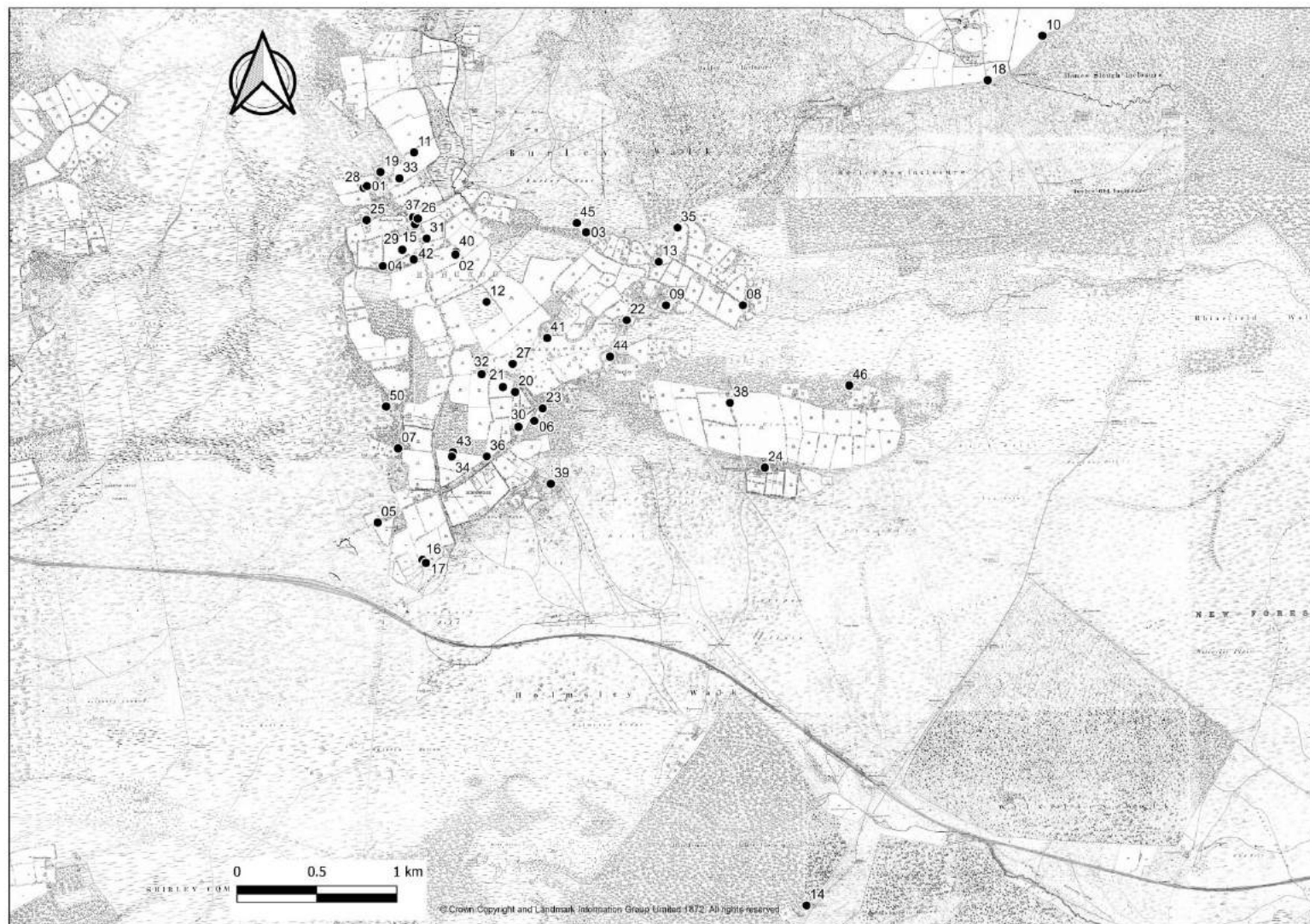


Figure 5 - Dig Burley Testpits locations shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1872 (NFNPA created Figure).

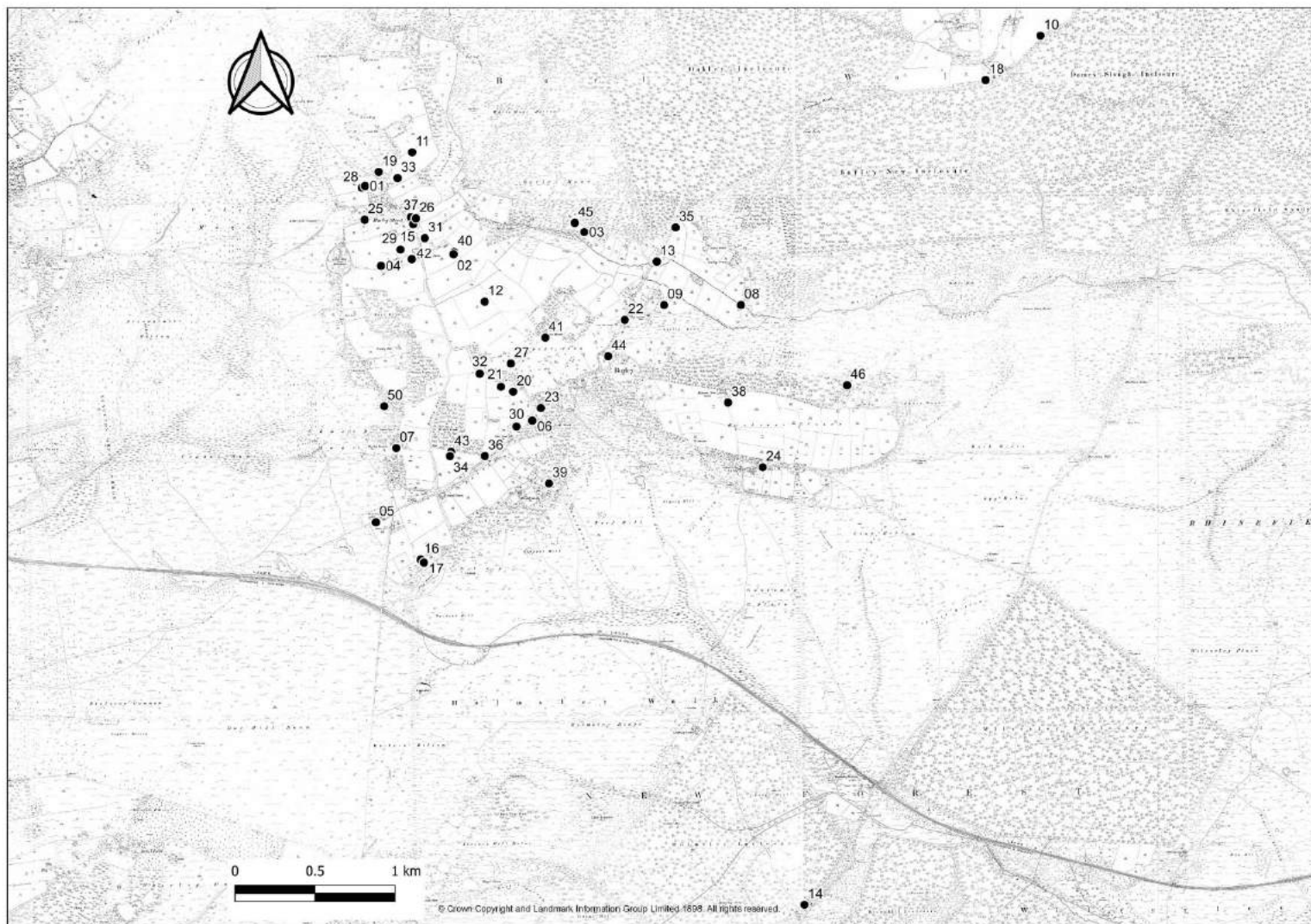


Figure 6 - Dig Burley Test pit locations shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1898 (NFNPA created Figure).

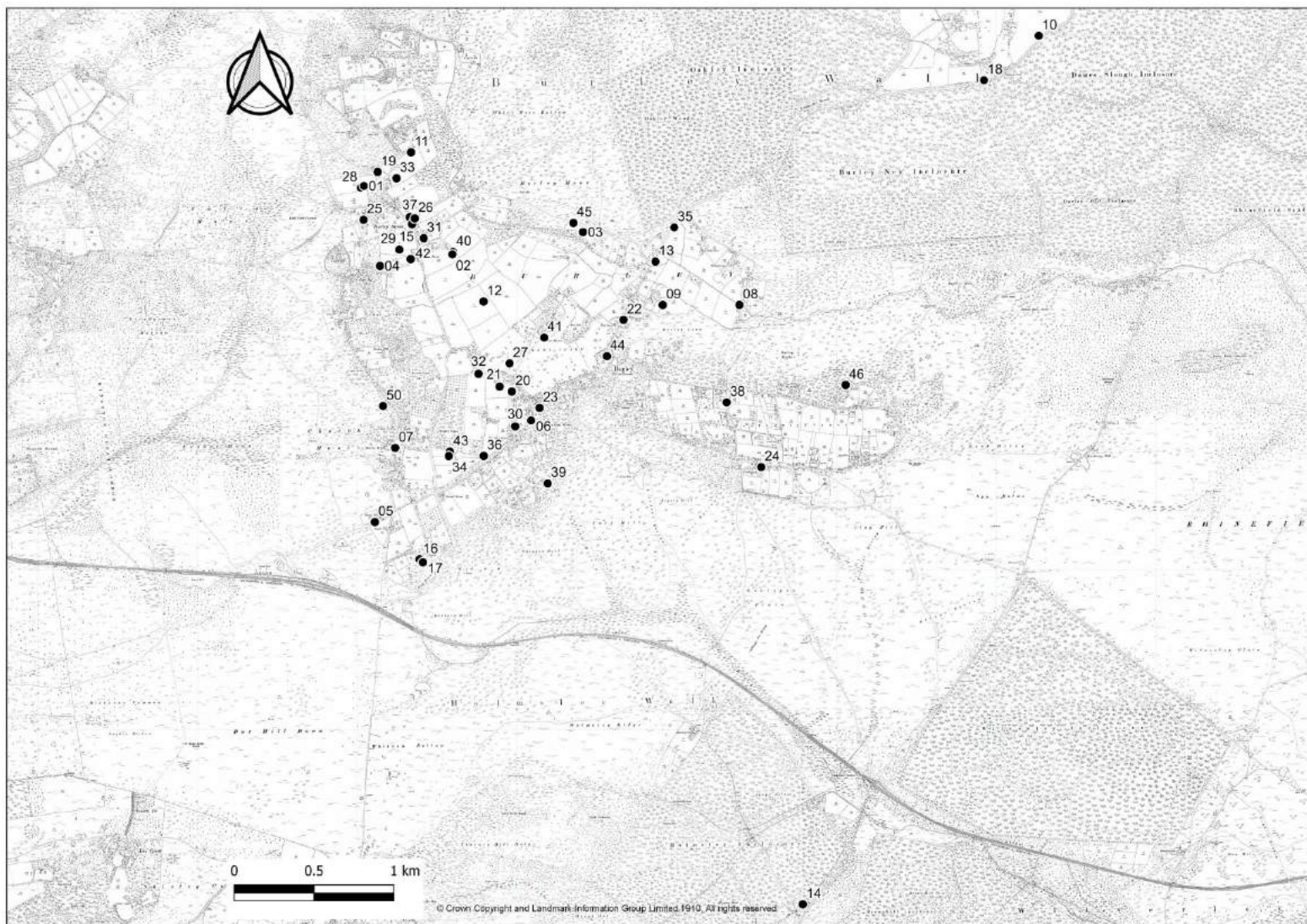


Figure 7 - Dig Burley Test pit locations shown on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1910 (NFNPA created Figure).

## 4 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

### 4.1 Conception

- 4.1.1 The challenge with Dig Burley as a pilot project was to engage the village community and create a suite of resources that could be used again in future by Burley or other New Forest communities. The approach to Dig Burley was heavily influenced by the findings of the Community Archaeology Resource Review (Oxford Archaeology, 2019). This was another project undertaken as part of the Our Past, Our Future LPS with Oxford Archaeology being commissioned to identify and review guidance resources readily accessible to volunteers and community groups undertaking their own archaeological investigations. This review highlighted examples of recent successful community test pitting projects such as Dunster 'Dig Village' and Hoxne 'All Our Stories'.
- 4.1.2 After initial discussions with the Burley Historical Society and Burley Parish Council several public evening events were promoted locally and run to introduce the project idea and answer questions from the local residents. At these early events residents were asked to register interest and then they were updated as plans progressed. This face to face contact was widened by advertising in the parish magazine, leaflet drops and posters around the village. This was very successful in generating a local interest in the project, resulting in the subsequent meetings becoming very busy and well attended. The initial target date for the event was within the 2018 autumn half term, but this was postponed to Easter 2019 to give the team more time to publicise the event and produce the resources.
- 4.1.3 A suite of resources were created for Dig Burley, which were heavily influenced by resources used by similar projects such as the 'Dig Village' and 'All Our Stories' projects and The Leicestershire Fieldworkers strategies, as well as the findings of the Community Archaeology Resource Review (Oxford Archaeology, 2019). Resources that were available to participants included:
- Guide Book – A project specific comprehensive information guide.
  - Test Pit Template – This could be unfolded and pegged out to demarcate a 1m<sup>2</sup> area for excavation.
  - Recording Booklet – To be filled in spit by spit to provide an individual archaeological record of each test pit.
  - Photography Sheet – To register all photographs taken of a test pit.
  - Photography Card – A wipe clean board to record and display key information in photographs.
  - Scale Card – A credit card size scale to be used in photographs of finds.
- 4.1.4 All of these resources were packaged together in a finds tray along with some pegs to pin out the template, pens, pencils, find bags and a cover sheet which participants would be encouraged to display outside their property if they were taking part and happy for people to visit during the event.
- 4.1.5 During the build-up the participants were talked through the resources and a few last-minute amendments were made to them. The basic resources were tested prior to the launch of Dig Burley by the chair of the Burley Historical Society who undertook a trial test pit over the weekend of the 23 -25 February 2019 (Referred to as Test pit 1 in this document). This initial test pit was reported on via the Burley Historical Society webpage and was useful for evaluating the time and effort required to complete the digging and recording process.
- 4.1.6 The vision was to host a heavily supported four-day event allowing participants plenty of time to excavate, record and attend the additional talks and events.
- 4.1.7 With the help of Burley Historical Society, a centrally located hall was booked for the duration of the event to act as headquarters (HQ). This was used as the main meeting place for registration, daily briefings, training events, volunteer help, finds processing, side exhibitions and refreshment. The four days chosen for Dig Burley were Thursday 11th April – Sunday 14th April, and all

participants were required to visit the HQ to sign on with their address and contact details before they received their Dig Burley packs and the contact number for the NFNPA archaeologists. The hope was that by starting on a Thursday there would be a steady stream of registrations during the event providing a good opportunity to chat with the participants about the test pitting procedure and archive requirements. However, due to the good weather and the level of local interest, registration was quickly swamped when the doors opened on Thursday morning. This did lead to some problems that lasted throughout the four days, which are discussed in more detail in Section 8. Participants could sign up and take part at any point up until lunchtime of the 3rd day. In the end some people did sign up later than this and continued independently beyond the end of the Dig Burley main event using the resources to help them. These participants were encouraged to report any finds and results back to Burley Historical Society for incorporation into the project archive.

- 4.1.8 After registration and collection of resource packs, participants were offered volunteer assistance from the volunteer pool at HQ to help them with their excavation. After making a start on their test pits the participants were encouraged to return to discuss their findings with the dedicated event archaeologists or to process their finds. All participants were encouraged as a minimum to attend the morning briefings held each day and the late afternoon check-ins.
- 4.1.9 Over the four days National Park archaeologists also visited as many of the test pit sites as they could, to provide support and answer any questions and encourage participation in the wider event by encouraging people to visit and support each other.
- 4.1.10 The archaeologists also tried to visit each test pit when it was completed for official sign off of the records and to make sure their locations were recorded with a GNSS before they were backfilled.

## **4.2 Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 The guidance booklet provided to the participants, provided step by step instructions for excavating and recording their test pits. The first task, which was selecting a suitable site and marking out the footprint of the test pit on the ground was made easier by the supply of fold-out template in the resource packs, which could be pegged down to define a 1m<sup>2</sup> area to dig within. Participants were taken through the process of de-turfing (if required) and systematic excavation in controlled spit depths of 10cm. At the end of each 10cm depth the excavators were asked to photograph and fill in their record books. Participants were encouraged to get their test pits signed off along with their record books and photograph forms before backfilling.
- 4.2.2 Finds trays and bags were made available to all as part of the Dig Burley resource packs. Excavators were encouraged to keep all finds and record them in the relevant pages of their record books. Participants were encouraged to bring their finds back to the HQ for communal identification and processing under the guidance of archaeologists as an additional training and engagement activity. Following the main Dig Burley event, a large amount of finds cleaning, filtering and recording was required before any material was sent to specialists. Additional finds sessions were organised with the Burley Historical Society and these took place on 23 July and 6 August 2019.

## **4.3 Talks & Events**

- 4.3.1 It was the intention of the organisers of Dig Burley that the project should be more than just participants digging holes in their gardens, and should also engage the community with wider archaeological concepts as well as their local heritage. As part of Dig Burley a number of talks and events were organised to compliment the excavations. This involved specialist sessions with hands on activities and some specially invited guest speakers.
- 4.3.2 On Friday 12th April, during the Dig Burley event Burley Manor hosted a free evening talk featuring special guest speaker; Tim Taylor the creator and Series Producer of Time Team. The event was open to anyone who wished to attend and provided a great opportunity to celebrate the project and the archaeology of Burley. Tim talked about his time on Time Team, but also about local community group led research into neighbourhoods and its value. A lot of attendees left inspired to dig their test pits and hopefully take up the baton of additional research. Tim spoke passionately

about a list of 66 research topics that communities should all consider before even beginning to break the ground in the form of test pits. We had only covered of about a ¼ of them before starting Dig Burley, but we are hopeful that Tim's talk and the Dig Burley event encouraged more people to join the Burley Historical Society and take them on as research tasks.

#### **4.4 Workshops**

- 4.4.1 A number of workshops were held on Saturday 13th April to provide the opportunity for participants to handle and learn more about the most common types of archaeological finds which they might encounter in their test pits. Workshops were open to all participants, residents and visitors.
- 4.4.2 Flint: Workshop One was hosted by Dr Kath Walker from the New Forest Heritage Centre with a presentation, hands on activities and some identification of some of the Dig Burley finds.
- 4.4.3 Pottery: Workshop Two was hosted by Andy Russel from the Southampton Archaeology Unit. This was a 30 min led session followed by a 30 min open session at the end to discuss finds from Dig Burley or pottery that people had found in their gardens at other times.
- 4.4.4 Bones: Workshop Three was hosted by Anastasia Vasileiadou from the Southampton Archaeology Unit. This was a 30 min led session followed by a 30 min open session at the end to discuss finds from Dig Burley, handle a human skeleton and other animal bones and test your bone identification skills with a quiz.
- 4.4.5 Final talk and cream tea: On the last day a cream tea celebration event was hosted in the HQ to thank people for their hard work over the four days. This encouraged people to bring back their find's trays and records books, but also allowed us to present a picture presentation of photos over the four days and provided another opportunity for all the participants to chat and reminisce about Dig Burley and where they might go next.

#### **4.5 Reporting and Publication**

- 4.5.1 On completion of the fieldwork and the assimilation of records and artefact into a project archive, NFNPA in collaboration with BUARC, has compiled this report as an account of the project and its results. There are currently no plans for further publication of the project results beyond this report.

### **5 ARCHIVE**

- 5.1.1 The archive constitutes the full extent of pro-forma and digital data, including photos submitted to NFNPA at the end of the fieldwork and ultimately to BUARC to conclude this report. BUARC did not have access to the finds but was provided with a finds database and the specialist reports, presented in Section 6.
- 5.1.2 All of the Dig Burley finds have been returned to participants via the Burley Historical Society with an invitation to donate them to a central Dig Burley finds archive that might be housed at any future Burley Heritage Centre and used for future village education and interpretation.
- 5.1.3 The pro forma archive and a digital copy of it will be held by NFNPA and made accessible to Burley Historical Society upon request.
- 5.1.4 An online OASIS form for the project has been completed by and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit>). The report will also be uploaded to New Forest Knowledge website and submitted to Hampshire HER.

### **6 RESULTS**

- 6.1.1 This section presents the results of each test pit in numerical order. Two test pits were dug at six of the registered addresses (Sandhills, Ladywell House, Burbush House, Warnes Lane, Burley Cottage and The Wards). Four test pits (12, 14, 32, 50) could not be linked to any records in the

project archive, but these positions were mapped using GNSS and are shown on Figure 2. It is assumed that records for these test pits were either retained by the participants or not created. Test pit numbers 47 – 49 were not used.

- 6.1.2 As the project was undertaken with a focus on spit excavation instead of stratigraphic excavation descriptions are extremely generalised and where necessary resolve any contradictions between the written records and what was shown in the photographs. There was huge variation between the quality and detail of the records an attempt has also been made to present the results in a consistent manner. If they were available from the archive one or two representative photographs have also been included.
- 6.1.3 Only basic descriptions of finds are provided although 'significant' finds are emphasised. The finds database, which forms part of the archive and provides greater detail has been re-formatted and is presented as Appendix B.

## 6.2 Test Pit 1 'Sandhills'

6.2.1 Test Pits 1 was the pilot test pit that was dug and reported on before the main Dig Burley event. During the event Test Pit 28 was excavated at the same address. Test Pit 1 was located in a field south-west of Sandhills House, 13m west of the paddock boundary fence and 16m south of the northern boundary fence. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-11 from top to base) to a depth of 110cm. The spit descriptions in Table 1, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark grey medium sand with small stone inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Dark grey medium sand with small stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Mid grey coarse sand with small stone inclusions.
4	30 - 40	Dark grey medium sand with small stone inclusions.
5	40 - 50	Mid grey medium sand with small stone inclusions.
6	50 - 60	Mid grey medium sand with small stone inclusions.
7	60 - 70	Mid grey medium sand with stone inclusions.
8	70 - 80	Mid grey clayey silt with stone inclusions.
9	80 - 90	Mid grey clayey silt with stone inclusions.
10	90 - 100	Mid grey gravel.
11	100 - 110	Mid grey gravel.

Table 1: Test Pit 1 spit descriptions.

6.2.2 The soil descriptions are very similar across all of the spits and distinguishing between contexts is difficult. It can be assumed that the spits 1-4 span the same soil deposit, most likely representing topsoil with a thickness of approximately 40cm. Beneath this was a grey sand deposit that was approximately 30cm thick, spanning spits 5-7, which was probably subsoil. At a depth of 70cm a small test slot was excavated to investigate the extent of the deposits and it appears that natural gravel was encountered at an approximate depth of 90cm.

6.2.3 A mixed assortment of finds was recovered from spits 2, 3 and 4. CBM, pottery, bone and metal objects were recorded (See Appendix B Finds Catalogue and Pottery Assessment in Section 7).

6.2.4 The stratigraphy recorded at this test pit location is representative of former heathland that has been incorporated into farmland and ploughed at various times. The finds can be attributed to the practice of manuring and the presence of a piece of High Medieval jug in the assemblage implies this area was agricultural land within the manorial estate by the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 1 – Test pit 1 at an early stage of excavation.



### 6.3 Test Pit 2 'Ladywell House'

6.3.1 Two test pits, recorded as 2 and 40 were excavated at the Ladywell House address. Test Pit 2 was located in a paddock to the rear of the house and approximately 33m south of the garage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 50cm. The spit descriptions in Table 2, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Brown sandy clay.
2	10 – 20	Yellow/brown clayey sand with small stone and charcoal inclusions.
3	20 – 30	Pale yellow/brown coarse sand with medium stone and charcoal inclusions.
4	30 – 40	Pale yellow/orange sandy loam with medium stone inclusions and charcoal flecks
5	40 – 50	Pale orange/brown sandy loam with medium stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.

Table 2: Test Pit 2 spit descriptions.

6.3.2 The Test Pit 2 records suggest that spits 1-5 spanned three soil deposits. The topsoil surface deposit was approximately 20cm thick. Topsoil covered an approximately 30cm thick pale yellow sand (subsoil) layer which the photographs show was a more grey-brown colour towards the base.

6.3.3 Finds from this test pit include Verwood pottery and ceramic building material that occurred in low quantities throughout the subsoil (Appendix B). The recovery of CBM from the lowest spit implies significant soil accumulation has occurred during the occupation of this area.



Plate 2 – Test pit 2 during excavation.

## 6.4 Test Pit 3 'The Wards'

6.4.1 Test Pits 3 and 45 were located at The Wards address. Test Pit 3 was the first to be excavated and this was placed in an area of flat grass lawn, 25m south-west of the main gate entrance at the rear of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-3 from top to base) to a depth of 45cm. The spit descriptions in Table 3, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark brown to black loam (clayey silt), with small stone and charcoal inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Dark brown to black loam with small stone and medium charcoal inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Dark brown to black clayey silt with charcoal flecks.

Table 3: Test Pit 3 spit descriptions.

6.4.2 The records for Test Pit 03 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a singular soil deposit. A small 30x30cm test slot was tested to investigate the depth of this deposit. The bottom of it was reached and the top of the natural geology encountered at a depth of approximately 45cm below ground surface.

6.4.3 This test pit demonstrates that the topsoil is thick and nutrient rich in this area and this would have been favoured for agriculture in the past.



Plate 3 – Test pit 3 during excavation.

## 6.5 Test Pit 4 'Castle Top Bungalow'

6.5.1 The test pit was located on the south side of a field to the rear of the Castle Top Bungalow property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-2 from top to base) to a depth of 20cm. The spit descriptions in Table 4, below are taken from the record booklet.

6.5.2 The records for this test pit are limited and suggest that spits 1-2 spanned a single topsoil deposit and that the bottom of this layer was not reached.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Mid bluish brown silty clay and gravel.
2	10 - 20	Pale greyish brown silty clay, less gravel but more clay, with charcoal inclusions. Not bedrock layer.

Table 4: Test Pit 4 spit descriptions.



Plate 4 – Test Pit 4 during excavation.

**6.6 Test Pit 5 'Atkin's Plot'**

6.6.1 The test pit was located in an area of lawn in a field south-west of the Atkin's property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 50cm. The spit descriptions in Table 5, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Black.
2	10 - 20	No description.
3	20 - 30	No description.
4	30 - 40	No description.
5	40 -50	No description.

Table 5: Test Pit 5 spit descriptions.

6.6.2 The records for Test Pit 5 are limited. The photographs show the five spits spanned the same topsoil thick topsoil layer and the top of a grey coloured, possible natural deposit was exposed in the base of the test pit.



Plate 5 – Test Pit 5 under excavation.



Plate 6 – General view of finished Test pit 5.

## 6.7 Test Pit 6 'Little Brenchley'

6.7.1 Test Pit 6 was located in an area of lawn 6m north of the house. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 45cm. The spit descriptions in Table 6, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	-	Dark brown clayey silt.
2	-	No description.
3	-	No description.
4	43 – 45	Dark brown/ orange brown clayey silt.
5	45	No description.

Table 6: Test Pit 6 spit descriptions.

6.7.2 The records for Test pit 6 are limited and the depths of each spit were not recorded. It can be assumed that spits 1-3 spanned a singular soil deposit which was 43 cm thick.

6.7.3 Beneath topsoil there was a clayey silt layer with an approximate thickness of 2cm, however, this is most likely the interface between the topsoil and natural geology. The natural occurred at a depth of approximately 45cm below ground surface in some areas. There is a possible depression or linear feature at the bottom of this test pit; however, the presence of aluminium foil suggested that this feature was modern and it was not fully excavated.

6.7.4 Numerous CBM, pottery and glass finds were recovered from the topsoil (Appendix B). The finds were modern and domestic in nature and consistent with the garden setting of the test pit.



Plate 7 – Test pit 06 under excavation.

## 6.8 Test Pit 7 'Broombank'

6.8.1 The test pit was located in an area of flat grass lawn south of the path to the front of Broombank House, 4.4m east of Castle Lane, 1.2m west of the well. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-4 from top to base) to a depth of 40cm. The spit descriptions in Table 7, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Mid brown sandy silt with small-large stone inclusions and small charcoal flecks.
2	10 - 20	Mid brown sandy silt.
3	20 - 30	Mottled mid-pale yellow - brown/orange sandy silt with small-medium stone inclusions and small charcoal flecks.
4	30 - 40	Pale yellow/orange sandy silt.

Table 7: Test Pit 7 spit descriptions.

6.8.2 The records for Test Pit 7 show that spits 1-2 spanned a topsoil deposit that was 20cm thick. Beneath this was a 20cm thick lighter sandy silt subsoil layer. Underlying natural was exposed at a depth of 40cm below ground surface.

6.8.3 These deposits describe a normal soil profile for this area. The lack of finds suggests very little re-working of these deposits through gardening or agricultural activity.



Plate 8 – Test pit 7 under excavation.