

A (very) Brief Bit of Archaeology
Trimley St Martin

Within the past few years, it has become a requirement for any land the is to be developed, to be surveyed archaeologically.

The first area that I am aware of, was for the reservoir near Hams Farm (behind Kirton Road School if you like). Where Roman, Saxon and Medieval bits were found.



Reservoir, Hams Farm

2018/9 a survey was carried out from Trimley St Mary to Ipswich, before power cables could be laid from the offshore wind farm off Clacton.

Near Morston Hall, a Neolithic site was discovered, a 20metre diameter 'ring ditch' dating back to about 6,000 BC (the neoliths were the first farmers). A couple of finds, a piece of pottery, and a flint 'tool' I am still trying to convince myself, that at least part of this site is within our parish boundary.



Neolithic pottery and flint tool



Neolithic 20 metre diameter 'ring ditch' (burial mound?)

This survey also found a Saxon/ Medieval fire pit (beside the farm gate at Grimston crossing)



Saxon/Medieval fire pit, Grimston Crossing

Near to the footpath from Grimston Lane to Thorpe Lane, Post holes were found suggesting a very old building.

Further towards the Alston Lane turning, a pit with a large amount of oyster shells, oysters were cheaper in medieval times, possibly even free from the River Orwell?
Four pits, thought to be 3 wells, (excavating was limited to 2metres depth, health and safety rules) and a gravel pit, also a medieval rubbish pit, with pottery, and animal bones.



Oyster shells



Rubbish Pit, pottery and animal bones



Possible well



Laying Power Cables, Grimston Lane

Further on towards Trimley St Mary, under the new bridleway a burned out Iron Age hut.



Burned out Iron Age dwelling

The large field from Howlett Way to Church Lane, was the first to be investigated, following a building application. 70 large trenches were dug, the only 'finds', beside Church Lane, a minute piece of Victorian pottery and a similar sized piece of charcoal. (In the small plot of land behind the Post Office, they did find a medieval bowl, and , a long dead horse!



Some of the 70 trenches



Holes where Medieval bowl was found

2018 , The ' Lilacs' site was explored, mostly Victorian finds, but close to Mill Close a Bronze Age burials, including an urn and a flint arrow head were found.



A trench where Victorian pottery etc was found



Bronze Age burial urn



The Lilacs, first buildings

2020 It was the turn of The 'Poppy Field' site, again, just a few pieces of medieval pottery, found close to the white wooden house.



Another trench (The light 'sandy' section, is probably a 'modern' pipe trench ?)



Another trench (mostly 'Red crag')



Poppy Field, first buildings

2020 the Reeve Lodge, field, again very little was found, apart from a 'pit', possibly a food storage pit, in the corner close to the children's play area, and some Iron Age and Roman stuff, close to the building.



Digging Trenches (not a trowel insight)



And ,another trench ! (Sandy botton)

The one thing in common to all these sites, is that ancient to Medieval field boundaries were found, suggesting that Trimley St Martin has been farmed for possibly 8,000 years

RB. 17/1/2022

