



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON LAND
AT FRIARS SCHOOL, GREAT CHART,
ASHFORD, KENT**

This report has been downloaded from www.kentarchaeology.org.uk the website of the Kent Archaeological Society (Registered Charity 223382), Maidstone Museum and Bentrif Art Gallery, St Faith's St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH, England.

The copyright owner has placed the report on the site for download for personal or academic use. Any other use must be cleared with the copyright owner.

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre,
96 Endwell Road, Brockley,
London SE4 2PD
tel: 020 7732 3925 fax: 020 7732 7896
email: info@pre-construct.com www.pre-construct.com

Archaeological Investigations on land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent

By Peter Boyer

with contributions by
Barry Bishop & Chris Jarrett

A programme of archaeological watching brief and excavation was undertaken on land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford between August and November 2008. Along with watching briefs on service trenches, three main excavation areas were opened up in locations where proposed school developments were to take place. Finds of prehistoric to recent date were recovered from across the two larger excavation areas, though these were mostly from indeterminate features of apparently natural origin, or were residual in later contexts. However, a small number of later prehistoric to early Romano-British features were present, including one containing evidence for Late Iron Age iron-working. A number of medieval features were also present and an area of iron-working of this period was identified. A few post-medieval features were identified in the largest excavation area but a complex sequence of post-medieval development was recorded in the third and smallest excavation area.

INTRODUCTION

In 2007 a planning application was submitted to Ashford Borough Council to develop areas of Friars School, a former rectory at Great Chart (Fig. 1). The development was to include the construction of further educational buildings, increased car-parking areas and changes to the site layout. Because of the nature and location of the development, an archaeological condition was attached to the planning consent. A brief issued by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCGKCC) stipulated that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during soil-stripping works as part of the initial phase of development. The watching brief commenced in August 2008 but it soon became clear that there were medieval

archaeological remains present, which would require more extensive excavation and recording than specified in the initial brief. The plans for the development were consulted and areas where extensive ground reduction would be likely to threaten the survival of potential archaeological deposits were identified. Consequently three such locations within the site were identified and these areas were subjected to archaeologically-controlled machine strip followed by full excavation (Fig. 2). An archaeological watching brief was also maintained on the excavation of service trenches within the development. As a result of the additional requirements, work continued on the site until November 2008, with remains from the prehistoric to recent periods being excavated and recorded.

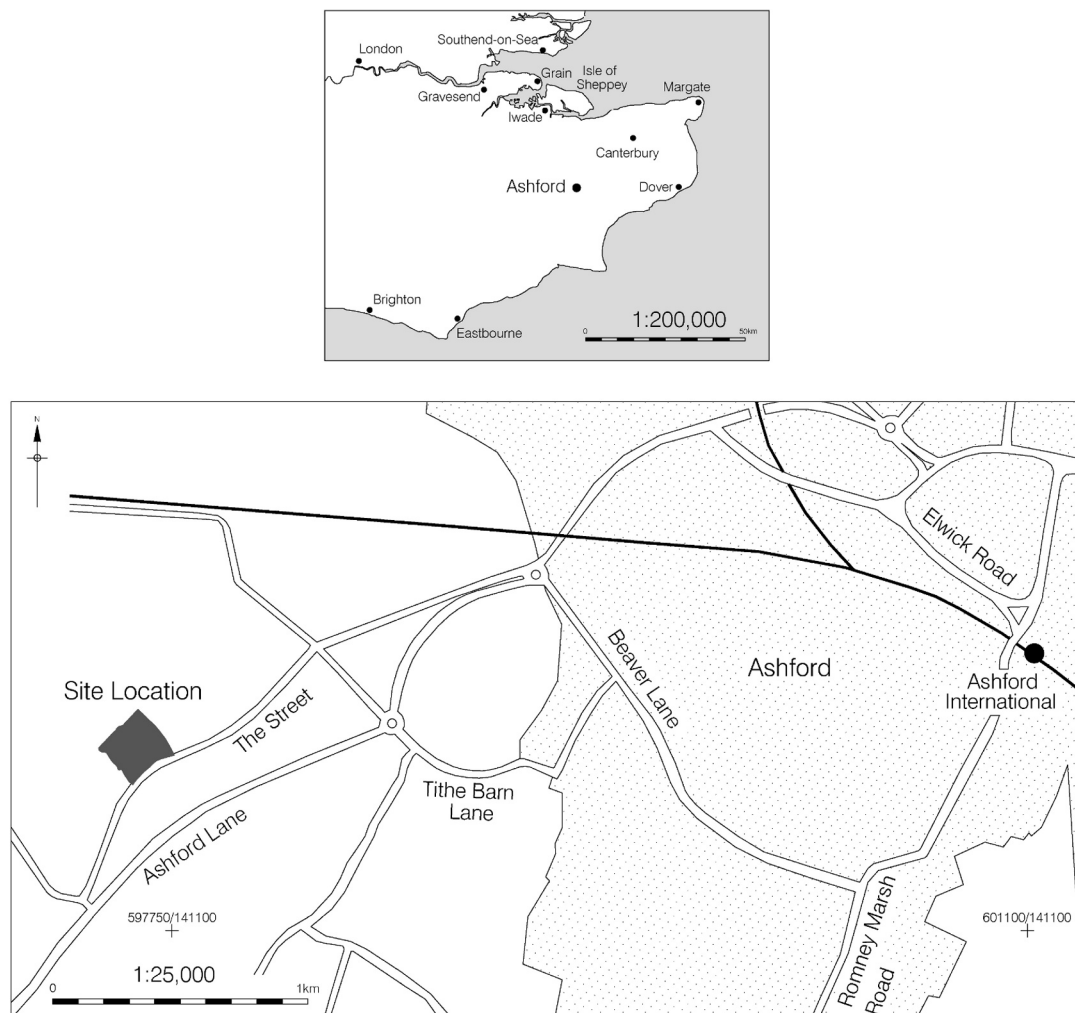


Figure 1: Site location

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is on gently rising ground that forms part of a low and discontinuous ridge extending from north-west to south-east and separating the headwaters of the Kentish or Great Stour to the north-east from the headwaters of the River Beult to the south-west. This ridge is formed by outliers of the Lower Cretaceous Lower Greensand Hythe Beds, rising above the surrounding Atherfield Clay. The Hythe Beds therefore form the bedrock beneath the site and in this part of Kent consist of 'rag and hassock' – alternating bands, about 0.6m in thickness, of sandy limestone (Kentish Rag) and brownish loamy sand ('hassock'). Kentish Rag was widely quarried in the past as a building stone and a quarry is described by McRae & Gooderham (1971) at Chilmington Green (TQ 981 411), c.0.8km to the south-south-east of the present site. No superficial deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey overlying the Lower Greensand in this area, so near surface horizons are likely to comprise the weathered debris of this formation.

The archaeological investigations revealed mottled light grey and light yellowish brown silty clay at upper elevations of between 56.29m OD and 52.82m OD in Area 1, sloping down from the north-west to the south-east. In Area 2, the surface of natural deposits sloped down slightly from 50.96m OD in the east to 50.28m OD in the west, and was exposed in Area 3 between 50.89m OD and 51.31m OD.

The site is located to the south of the village of Great Chart on a parcel of land, the current surface of which falls to the south-east and south-west from c.56.80m OD towards the northern corner of site down to the generally flat former cricket pitch at c.50.60m OD.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Great Chart is located to the west of the town of Ashford in an area which has been the subject of extensive development in recent years. Archaeological investigations,

often carried out in conjunction with development projects, have led to the discovery of extensive remains, especially those of prehistoric and Roman date, in this area of Kent.

There are few records of earlier prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Neolithic) activity in the local area and these are limited to a handful of findspots, though more material is reported from a little further afield. Two Lower Palaeolithic hand-axes are reported to have been found at Ashford though their exact provenance is unclear (Wymer 1999), a Lower Palaeolithic *bout coupé* hand-axe from Ashford is illustrated by Wenban-Smith (2007, fig. 3.26) and at Westhawk Farm some 2.5km south of the town a number of artefacts of this date were found during excavations in the late 1990s (Winton 2008). At Park Farm, Kingsnorth, a little over 2km south-west of Ashford, excavations revealed limited evidence of Upper Palaeolithic activity (Hicks 1993) and an Upper Palaeolithic blade point was recovered from Conningbrook Manor Pit at Kennington, south-east of the town (Wenban-Smith 2007, 63).

Ploughing during the 1930s to the south of Willesborough Church at the southern edge of Ashford unearthed a Mesolithic flint knife and a polished greenstone axe of Neolithic date. A Neolithic flint arrowhead was also found in 1946 on the surface of a ploughed field nearby at South Willesborough. Two worked flint flakes were found during an archaeological watching brief at Orbital Park, Sevington south-east of Ashford (Found 2005), whilst further Neolithic or possibly Bronze Age worked flints were found in the same area during an earlier excavation (OAU 1993).

At Park Farm, Kingsnorth, a flint assemblage comprising in excess of 10,000 artefacts was recovered from a 1% sample of the site. The vast majority of the finds were Mesolithic and the location probably represented a tool production site of the 7th millennium BC. Residual Mesolithic flints were recovered during archaeological investigations at Brisley Farm, south-east of the study site, and a possible Mesolithic site was also identified during an archaeological evaluation at Faversham Road, Kennington, to the north-east of Ashford (James 1997). A further small assemblage of Mesolithic flint was recovered during the excavations at Westhawk Farm (Barton 2008).

Fieldwalking and trial trenching at Park Farm, Kingsnorth (Plot 13), also revealed a prehistoric settlement dating mainly to the Late Neolithic period. Additionally a small number of flint artefacts demonstrating Neolithic technical traits were recovered during the excavations at Westhawk Farm (Lamdin-Whymark 2008).

Recent archaeological interventions in the Ashford area have begun to reveal evidence of a developed Bronze Age ritual and agricultural landscape of some complexity, interspersed with numerous small settlements and farmsteads. At Digg Farm, Potter's Corner, some 3km north-east of the study site, an Early Bronze Age fluted ogival dagger was found, which may have derived from a burial beneath a since ploughed-out barrow (Ashbee 2005, 128). Excavations at Westhawk Farm revealed a possible Bronze Age field system, though no dateable finds were recovered (Booth and Lawrence 2000; Booth *et al.* 2008, 25). Less than 2km to the south-east a single, small posthole of Bronze Age date was found during an evaluation at Park Farm South (Wragg 2002). At the neighbouring Park Farm East, two Bronze Age pits were identified. At Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, south-east of Ashford, extensive archaeological trenching revealed two well-defined areas of prehistoric habitation, including a probable farmstead, of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date (Bennett 1992; Rady 1992). Investigations in advance of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), west of Blind Lane, Sevington revealed ditches and a possible trackway of Middle to Late Bronze Age date (OAU 1999b; Glass 1999a; Hayden 2001).

On land south of Beechbrook Wood, a little more than 1km north of Great Chart village, investigations in advance of the CTRL revealed a cremation burial of Middle Bronze Age date (Glass 1999b; MoLAS 1999; Brady *et al.* 2006). Less than 2km to the north-west, Early Bronze Age features including pits and postholes were identified during an evaluation on land adjacent to Hothfield works site, Watery Lane, to the north of Hothfield village (Priestley-Bell 2000). A short distance away, at Tutt Hill, another evaluation identified a number of Late Bronze Age features, including pits and ditches. Late Iron Age material was also present (Murray 1999).

Numerous Iron Age sites are recorded in the Ashford area, in addition to those with Bronze Age origins, already discussed (above). At Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green, approximately 2km south-east of the study site, large-scale archaeological investigations revealed extensive Late Bronze Age field systems overlain by extensive and intensive Iron Age and early Romano-British settlement, including hearths, cremation burials and burning pits (Johnson 1999; Stevenson 2003a; ASE 2006). Two Late Iron Age 'warrior' burials were also unearthed during the course of the investigations (Stevenson and Johnson 2004). An excavation at South Willesborough, revealed a number of features of Middle to Late Iron Age date, including the urned cremation burial of an infant aged about six months old (Deeves 2002; 2007). A high status cremation burial of Iron Age date was also exposed during the excavations at Westhawk Farm (Booth *et al.* 2008, 27-34).

In the past twenty years or so Iron Age remains have been reported from a number of archaeological interventions in the Boys Hall Industrial Area (Orbital Industrial Park), Sevington, to the south-east of Ashford. An evaluation in 1990 revealed an Iron Age enclosure (Wilson 1990), and excavations in the same year revealed a ditched enclosure and farmstead to have been present (Philp 1991). Monitoring of development groundworks on land off Crowbridge Road, also at Orbital Park, recorded Iron Age ditches and pits as well as later features (Rady 2000). Another watching brief at Orbital Park recorded finds of Late Iron Age and medieval date, but no archaeological features (Linklater 1998) and excavations in 2001 revealed a possible Late Iron Age structure (Eastbury and Blackmore 2010).

Excavation on the site of the medieval Sevington Moat (see below), revealed a number of Late Iron Age and Roman features, suggesting there was a domestic settlement nearby (Russell 1993; Booth and Everson 1994). Investigations in advance of the excavation of the Boys Hall balancing pond as part of the CTRL works, revealed Late Iron Age ditches and a cremation cemetery (OAU 1999a; Glass 1999c; Hayden 2000). Monitoring of groundworks for the Ashford Eurotunnel terminal at Sevington, revealed two areas of Late Iron Age occupation (Bennett 1988), and in addition to the Bronze Age features identified during investigations west of Blind Lane, Sevington, Late Iron Age ditches were also recorded (OAU

1999b; Glass 1999a; Hayden 2001). To the north-west of the Boys Hall area, excavations revealed limited evidence of Middle Iron Age occupation to the west of Hunter Avenue (Boyer forthcoming).

The investigations at Park Farm East revealed extensive evidence of Mid-Late and Late Iron Age occupation. The evidence was interpreted as an Iron Age settlement comprising enclosure ditches and roundhouses, along with associated field systems (Wragg 2003; Powell 2012). Subsequent excavation revealed three broad phases of activity: a Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead; a Late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure system with evidence of industrial activity; and continuation of settlement into the early Roman period along with alteration of the enclosure (Wessex Archaeology 2004). Analysis of residues from within crucibles of Late Iron Age/early Roman date suggested that bronze smelting had been carried out on the site (Lucas and Paynter 2010). An archaeological evaluation at North School in Ashford recovered three worn pottery sherds of Late Iron Age/Roman date from a colluvial deposit (Parfitt and Corke 2005) and an evaluation at Kingsnorth Road, Ashford also revealed Late Iron Age/early Roman activity (Wragg 2006; ASE 2009). A possible Iron Age defended settlement was detected as a geophysical anomaly at Coleman's Kitchen Wood, less than 1.5km south of the study site (Wessex Archaeology 2010), though this may actually have been a former tree line.

A number of Iron Age sites have been recorded north-west of Ashford, upstream of the town in the valley of the Upper Great Stour and relatively close to the study site. An evaluation at Lodge Wood in advance of the CTRL recorded a number of Late Iron Age and Roman features, including pits and ditches (Parkinson 1999). At Hothfield Common limited excavation in 1942 revealed part of a Late Iron Age cremation cemetery (Brinson 1943), and the CTRL investigations south of Beechbrook Wood identified a Late Iron Age enclosure, surrounded by multiple ditches, along with associated pits, postholes and hearths (Glass 1999b; Brady *et al.* 2006; Champion 2007, 120).

Numerous findspots of Roman material have been recorded in Ashford and the surrounding landscape. A cremation burial within a large cinerary urn and

accompanied by a number of Samian vessels was found at Albert Road in the town in 1846. A watching brief at Millbank Road on the southern edge of Ashford recovered a quantity of residual Roman pottery, but only post-medieval features were identified (Hopkinson and Kenyon 1998). However, more substantial evidence for Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British settlement was found nearby at Millbank Place (Gollop 2003). What appears to have been quite a rich Roman burial was found at Potter's Corner, a little more than 3km north-east of the study site, whilst widening a road there in 1929. Extensive, non-intrusive archaeological investigations in the Chilmington Green area, south of the study site recovered a small assemblage of Roman pottery, suggesting there may have been a small settlement in the area (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

In addition to identifying an Iron Age enclosure, the 1990 evaluation at the Orbital Industrial Park, also recorded evidence of a small Roman settlement or farmstead (Wilson 1990). The 1990 excavations at the Park identified further elements of the farmstead and a number of Roman cremation burials (Philp 1991). In addition to the Iron Age features identified prior to the excavation of the Boys Hall balancing pond, Roman cremation burials and linear features were also recorded (OAU 1999a; Glass 1999c; Hayden 2000). The excavations west of Blind Lane, Sevington also revealed a number of Roman features, including possible boundary ditches (OAU 1999b; Glass 1999a; Hayden 2001). An excavation at Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, revealed a Roman enclosure and settlement, with buildings (Bennett 1992; Rady 1992; 1996).

One of the most important series of excavations in the Ashford area in recent years took place at Westhawk Farm, to the south of the town (Booth *et al.* 2008). The site was of particular interest as it lay close to the junction of two Roman roads (Margary Routes 130 and 131); one which linked London and Lympne and a second which ran through the Sussex and Kent Weald, through Canterbury to Richborough (Lawrie 2004). The excavations revealed what appears to have been a Roman small town. A north-east to south-west road was marked by ditches. To the north of the road regular plots were laid out perpendicular to it, with rectangular buildings and areas of metal working being identified. Circular structures were also present. South

of the road was a large open area which included a Roman shrine (Booth 2001). There was also evidence of intense metal working south of the road, at the eastern edge of excavations. A cemetery was located to the north of the town centre.

The extensive evaluation at Park Farm East recorded evidence of Roman field systems and a number of cremation burials (Wragg 2003; Powell 2012). The earlier evaluation at Plot 13 Park Farm had also identified pits and ditches of 2nd-century date (Hicks 1992) and an evaluation nearby at Bilham Farm identified a number of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British features (Stevenson 2003b). An evaluation in 2000 on land at Court Lodge Farm, Kingsnorth, recovered Roman and medieval finds from the topsoil, but no archaeological features (Allen 2000).

Closer to the study site, the excavation in advance of the CTRL, south of Beechbrook Wood, revealed a number of Roman features, including postholes, pits and ditches, within an enclosure (Glass 1999b; Stevens 1997; Brady *et al.* 2006). Even closer still, rebuilding of the Parish Church of Great Chart in the 15th century incorporated a number of Roman bricks into the fabric of the structure (Davis 1988, 1), suggesting there had been Roman building nearby. To the north-east of Ashford, evidence of Roman activity was also recorded during the evaluation at Faversham Road, Kennington (James 1997).

Great Chart is thought to have had its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period and was probably founded by the Jutes, although the existence of an early settlement has not been proved archaeologically. The earliest known documentary reference appears in a charter of AD 762 which includes the line “*in regione quae vocatur Cert.*” The charter relates to a water mill operating in *Cert* [Chart], more specifically it records that King Ethelberht II of Kent exchanged half of the use of the mill for some pasture in the weald with the monastery of St Peter and St Paul (later to become St Augustine's), which possibly owned Great Chart at the time. Produce from the mill went to the King's royal ‘vill’ at Wye and in exchange the miller and his heirs were given the right to ‘pannage their swine in the Weald forever’ (Hall 2000).

Up until Saxon times Great Chart lay in the area of the *Andredsweald* or great forest that covered large tracts of land across Kent and Sussex. *Cert*, in Old English, means rough common covered by bracken or low-lying bushes, or it could simply refer to a clearing and the early name possibly refers to a clearing in the forest. Medieval records refer to the parish as East or Mochel Chart to distinguish from the village of Little Chart that lies some 5km to the north-west (Davis 1988, 1). This was presumably another settlement originating as a clearing in the great forest. In a second charter dated AD 799, Great Chart is referred to as *Seleberhtes Cert*. The added prefix is believed to refer to either the collective name of the Jutish people settled here or more likely the name of their leader (Hall 2000).

In AD 776 the manor of Great Chart, the village, its lands and much of its produce were hurriedly sold, by Ethelberht's successor, King Egbert, to Archbishop Jænberht of Canterbury in order to raise finances for a Kentish army to rebel against King Offa of Mercia. The armies of Offa and Egbert met later that year at the Battle of Otford and although the outcome of the battle is not recorded and Egbert held Kent for a further nine years after the battle, Offa took Great Chart and its lands from Canterbury and divided them up among his followers. After the death of Offa in AD 796, his successor, Cenwulf, reinstated properties, including Great Chart, back to the ownership of Canterbury. However, the estate went to Christ Church rather than St Peter and St Paul's - according to the charter of AD 799. The prior of Christ Church is likely to have ruled and held court at the manor whilst much of the produce of the village would have gone to his monks (Hall 2000). Great Chart remained in the hands of Canterbury until the dissolution, when, along with many other church properties it was confiscated by Henry VIII. It was soon reinstated, however, to his new Protestant Dean and Chapter, in whose hands it remained until the 19th century (Hall 2000).

Great Chart appears to have expanded during the 9th century and it has been suggested that the village was much larger than it is today, with a second street running parallel with the modern main road (Hasted 1798). However the expansion was seriously curtailed towards the end of the century. In AD 892 a large Viking

army, perhaps numbering between 5,000 and 10,000 combatants, had crossed the English Channel and set up a camp at Appledore in Romney Marsh. Under their leader, *Haesten*, the force initially made a number of lightning raids using the *Andredsweald* as cover, before moving inland *en masse* to take on the forces of King Alfred, though after four years the Viking army dispersed. It is believed that one of the early lightning raids in AD 893 included an attack on Great Chart, with many of the occupants killed and the village razed to the ground. An ancient legend passed down by villagers says that after the devastation 'Ashford began to rise and grow out of the ruins' (Hall 2000). There is probably an element of truth in this statement, for although Great Chart survived the Viking raid, Ashford developed from the later Saxon period and soon came to overshadow its near neighbour.

The archaeological evidence for activity in the vicinity of the study site during the Anglo-Saxon period, indeed the Ashford area in general, is quite limited, though a Saxon silver *sceat* dated to AD 715–720 was recovered as a chance find at a location a little less than 1km south of the study site and is listed on the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER). A group of features interpreted as hearths were excavated at South Willesborough in 2001, and whilst producing no finds, charcoal from the fills gave radiocarbon dates of 5th to 7th centuries (though most likely 6th century) AD (Deeves 2007). A 6th-century buckle with associated beads and bronze fragments were also found in South Willesborough in the late 19th century, though the exact provenance is unclear. Sometime prior to 1856 a 7th-century burial was found in the Ashford area, accompanied by weapons and a glass claw beaker, though again the exact provenance is unclear. In a quarry beside Surrenden Park at Little Chart, some 5km north of the study site, the remains of at least three human skeletons were recovered in 1936. The associated finds suggested they were Anglo-Saxon in date (Cook 1936).

The manor of Great Chart was recorded in the Domesday Survey and its entry is broadly translated as follows:

"In Cert hundred, the archbishop himself holds Certh. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne there are two, and thirty six villeins, with eleven cottagers, having twenty-two carucates and a half. There are five

servants, and two mills of six shillings, and a salt pit of six-pence, and twenty seven acres of pasture, and wood for the pannage of one hundred hogs. In the time of King Edward the Confessor, and when he received it, it was worth twelve pounds, now twenty pounds, and yet it pays twenty seven pounds” (Hasted 1798).

No church is recorded in Great Chart at the time of the Domesday Survey, probably because the population of the village had been very slow to recover after the Viking raid, 200 years before. However, a church appears to have been constructed soon after the survey was completed as Norman Caen Stone was used in the construction of part of the structure that still stands today as the Church of St Mary The Virgin (Davis 1988, 2). The church was rebuilt in the 14th century and restored following a fire in the mid-15th century. Further repairs were carried out at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.

In the tenth year of Edward II’s reign (1317) the prior of Christ Church obtained a grant of free warren in all his demesne lands at Great Chart and in 1457, King Henry VI granted to the prior a weekly market and a yearly fair on Lady Day. Other than these records, little is known about the later medieval or earlier post-medieval development of Great Chart apart from the seizures of the Dissolution.

A number of medieval sites have been identified archaeologically in the landscape around Ashford. On the north side of the town, an ornamental boss of 15th-century date was found in the garden of 16 Dunkery Rise (Bradshaw 1971). Excavation at Parsonage Barn Farm Ashford (TR 013 434) located the site of a medieval moated farmstead. The moat was located on all sides, with a central causewayed entrance. Two possible internal buildings were identified and the limited finds evidence suggested a 13th- to 15th-century date, though there also appeared to have been a post-medieval industrial usage (Webster and Cherry 1980, 257–258). At Potters Corner a probable kiln site was identified in the 1950s and partly excavated. The pottery recovered suggested a 13th-century date (Grove and Warhurst 1952). An evaluation on the site of a proposed school some 1.5km south-east of the study site, and to the north of Brisley Farm, revealed a number of medieval features suggesting there was a small farmstead here (Griffin 2003), and the evaluation at the Hothfield

Works Site also recorded ditches of medieval date (Priestley-Bell 2000). The extensive investigations in the Chilmington Green area also suggested that the settlement there was more extensive during the medieval period than it is at present (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

A short distance to the north-east of Ashford, an excavation at Chapel Bridge, Conningbrook, located a medieval well. Excavation on the reputed site of Conningbrook Chapel, Kennington found the north, west and south sides of a rectangular building. The chapel had probably been demolished before 1700 (Webster and Cherry 1976, 182). A record of the surviving masonry had also been made in the 1920s, following what appeared to have been some unofficial excavations on the site (Elliston-Erwood 1952). An evaluation at Ball Lane, Kennington found a probable medieval quarry or pond, backfilled with clay and weathered pottery dating to c.1150–1200. Possibly associated with this, was a small platform made from green sandstone blocks and gravel. Pottery recovered from beneath this dated to the 13th century (Anderson 1995).

Excavation at Sevington Moat to the south-east of Ashford recorded a number of features relating to the moat, including part of a probable entrance road and a possible feeder channel (Russell 1993; Booth and Everson 1994). The 1990 evaluation at the Orbital Industrial Park recorded evidence of a medieval settlement (Wilson 1990). The CTRL investigations at Boys Hall balancing pond identified two large ditches and a contemporary cobbled surface, which were probably associated with the adjacent former medieval manor house or the attached post-medieval garden (OAU 1999a; Glass 1999c; Hayden 2000). An extensive evaluation at Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, found traces of two medieval structures. One was the possible remains of a 15th-century watermill on the north-east bank of the east Stour River, and the other a possible timber-framed building alongside the Sevington-Bilsington road. Pottery dated to c. 1175–1225 was recovered from probable field boundary ditches.

South of Ashford, a number of medieval features were identified during the extensive evaluation at Park Farm East. These mainly comprised elements of field systems

dating to the 13th/14th centuries, though contemporary pits were also identified (Wragg 2003; Powell 2012). A watching brief at Kingsnorth Manor, also on Park Farm, recorded and measured a moated site located here. An undated structure of loose Ragstone blocks was also recorded on the island surrounded by the moat (Ward 1995). The excavations at Brisley Farm identified a number of medieval features, including ditches and a possible trackway (Johnson 1999; Stevenson 2003a).

In addition to the sites identified and investigated archaeologically, there are also a number of moated sites in the vicinity of the study site, which probably had their origins in the medieval period: A little more than 300m south-west of the site is Moat Farm, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 12724) that comprises a water-filled moat surrounding a farmhouse, though the latter dates mainly to the 17th century; and a little more than 1km east of the site, Singleton Manor was also surrounded by a water-filled moat, though the current building dates from the mid-15th to late 16th centuries.

There are a few buildings of some antiquity still standing in Great Chart, including a house built in the churchyard, which appears to be of 15th-century date, although its origins are uncertain. It may have been a residence for the Rector, Curate, or of a Chantry Priest or may have been built as a rest house for travellers.

One of the earliest maps to show the study site in any detail is Timothy White's 'Map of Court Lodge Manor in Great Chart, Kent' dated 1637 and held at the Corporation of London's Guildhall Library as part of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers' archive. The map, which includes lands later acquired by the Haberdasher's Company, shows the area covered by the present school grounds as largely undeveloped, though the south-western sector of the site appears to be more heavily vegetated than elsewhere and there are two possible structures towards the south-east corner of the site.

The origin of the building that forms the centre of Friars School is not well known, though Sir Charles Igglesden, in his "Saunters through Kent with Pen and Pencil",

records that the house was built in 1818 by the Reverend Thomas Manners Sutton, who was Rector until 1852 (Igglesden 1900). However, the north wing appears to be of earlier construction, possibly dating to the early 18th century, and it seems likely that the 1818 construction mentioned by Igglesden refers to the addition of the south-west wing.

At the time the structure was listed in February 1967 it was described as follows:

'Two storeys stone rubble, with red brick window dressings and quoins. Glazing bars intact. The north wing has 4 windows and a hipped tiled roof. The south-west wing, which projects slightly, has 2 windows, a hipped slate roof, an unusual doorcase with enriched pilasters, projecting cornice and square fanlight and a brick chimney breast corbelled out above it in the first floor. The south-west wing is a later C19 addition.'

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1871 shows much of what are now the school grounds as open fields, with a central swathe occupied by the main building, surrounded by formally laid out gardens. There is an 'L-shaped' structure towards the south-east corner of the site shown as the 'Rectory' and a smaller structure a short distance to the north-east of the main building. By the time of the Second Edition 1897 Map, the main building is shown as the 'Rectory', though much of the site remained largely undeveloped, certainly in terms of structural development, until the middle of the 20th century.

Friars Preparatory School was founded by John Lendrum in 1949, initially with just five boys, but within three years, the number of pupils had risen to one hundred and twelve. The 1961 Ordnance Survey Map shows a north-west extension to the main building though it is still labelled as 'Rectory'. By 1971 however, the site is shown as 'Friars School' and the Ordnance Survey Map indicates that further structural developments had taken place, along with the laying out of playing fields to the north-east and south-west of the site and the construction of a tennis court, though the latter may already have been present but not labelled as such. The 1991 Ordnance Survey Map shows the site layout much as it was at the time of the archaeological investigations. In 2005, Friars Preparatory School merged with Ashford School under the United Church Schools Trust.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

The initial scope of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor soil-stripping in areas of proposed development, which began in the playing field area (former cricket pitch) towards the south-west of the site, where a new car-parking area was to be established. It was the discovery of medieval archaeological remains in this south-western area that prompted a re-evaluation of the archaeological methodology and led to the designation of three main areas for more intensive archaeological excavation and recording (Fig. 2):

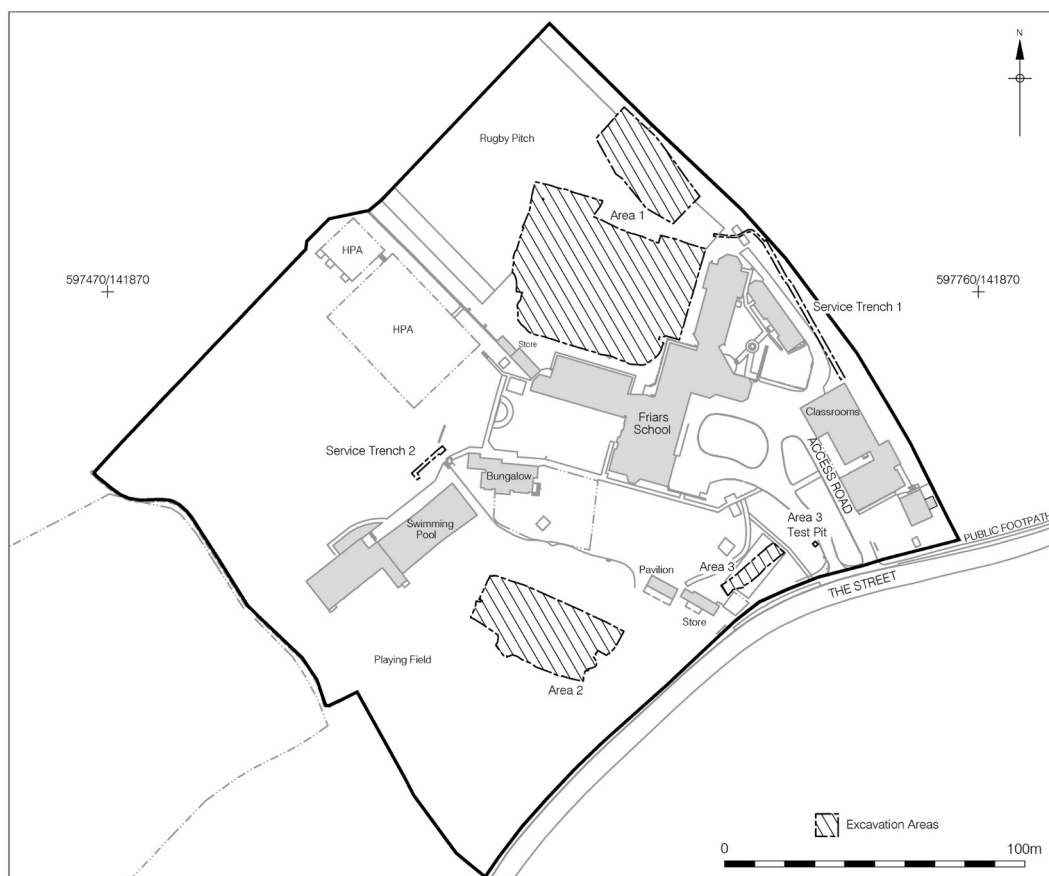


Figure 2: Trench Locations

Area 1 was positioned to the north of the main school building and measured approximately 55m by 40m (2544m²). It was in this part of the site that the new buildings were to be constructed. An additional area measuring c.15m by 40m (626 m²) and earmarked for use as a staff car park was also monitored during ground reduction. Stripping of much of this area did not penetrate deep enough to have a significant impact on extant archaeological remains. The archaeology in the main area was characterised by shallow, irregular features that produced finds of prehistoric pottery and struck flint, medieval pottery, and medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material. It is likely that many of the features excavated and recorded in this area were tree throws and formed by other natural processes.

Area 2 occupied part of the former cricket pitch towards the south of the school property and measured approximately 40m by 25m (943m²). The development in this area was to entail the construction of a car park with associated access and egress roads. The archaeology here, like that in Area 1, was characterised by shallow, irregular features though the dating of the pottery recovered suggested a higher proportion of medieval fabrics than the area to the north.

Area 3 was located over a former tennis court adjacent to the school entrance where the redevelopment was to provide a link road between the entrance and the new car park. The ground reduction was monitored and exposed archaeologically sensitive deposits at approximately 600mm beneath the present ground surface over an area measuring c.20m by 5m (107m²). HCGKCC required that the archaeologically sensitive deposits in this area were excavated and recorded to 300mm beneath the formation level, in order to minimise the impact of deposits left *in situ* during the redevelopment. A sequence of stratified post-medieval deposits and structures were revealed.

Additionally, an archaeological watching brief was maintained on the excavation of Service Trench 1, close to the north-eastern boundary of the site; Service Trench 2, towards the western side of the site; and Area 3 Test Pit, to the east of Area 3 (Fig. 2). Only natural layers and recent deposits were recorded in these latter areas, no significant archaeological remains having been present.

RESULTS

The archaeological investigations revealed extensive deposits and finds spanning the later prehistoric (later Mesolithic to Late Iron Age) to recent periods. The work in Areas 1 and 2 also revealed extensive areas of irregular features that are likely to have been formed by natural or human-assisted processes, such as channelling and deforestation (Figs. 9 & 10). These features became backfilled at various times and provided a significant proportion of the prehistoric to medieval finds recovered from the site. Given the irregular nature and often unclear formation processes associated with these features, they are generally only referred to in this report in terms of the finds recovered from their fills, rather than distinct entities linked to specific phases of activity on the site.

Interpretation of the exploitation of the site has been divided into four, very broad periods of activity; prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval, though clearly there may have been extended phases of activity within each period and also short-lived sub-phases, particularly during the post-medieval period. However, this over-simplified chronological discussion of the archaeological evidence is probably the most effective way to preserve clarity and structure within the report.

The Prehistoric Evidence (Phase 1)

By Barry Bishop

Evidence of activity from the Late Mesolithic to Iron Age was recovered extensively across Area 1 and to a lesser extent in parts of Area 2 (Figs. 3 & 4). However the bulk of evidence comes from the finds assemblage rather than archaeological features and it is on this assemblage, specifically the lithic artefacts, that interpretation of prehistoric activity on the site must be predominantly based. The lithic assemblage was analysed in detail during the site post-excavation assessment (Bishop 2011) and whilst it is not necessary to repeat the procedures involved here

the general findings of the analysis are included as this data forms the bulk of the available information concerning the prehistoric exploitation of the site prior to the Late Iron Age.

The lithic assemblage was clearly chronologically mixed and represented activity on the site from at least the later Mesolithic through to the later Bronze Age. The most notable Mesolithic pieces included a tranchet axe/adze and a micro-burin. The axe/adze was recovered as an unstratified find following the machine stripping of Area 1. It is asymmetric in profile and made from a white cherty flint, which may have been present as a cherty inclusion within a translucent black nodule. It was roughly flaked but has a characteristic tranchet sharpening blow that shows little evidence for use, and has a tapering butt that is slightly more finely formed. The micro-burin was recovered from the upper fill of pit [15], a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British feature located close to the north-west corner of Area 1 (see below and Fig. 5). It is 6mm wide and is a proximal example with a right hand notch. These are usually regarded as by-products arising from the manufacture of microliths, its narrow width suggesting a later Mesolithic date.

More extensive Mesolithic or Early Neolithic activity is demonstrated by the number of blades present. These formed 7.7% of the overall assemblage with blade-like flakes forming a further 3.4%. Four of the cores had also clearly produced blades. They all had double striking platforms, two of these opposed (Clark *et al.* 1960, type B1) and the other two had platforms at right angles (Clark *et al.* 1960, type B3).

The bulk of the assemblage consisted of variably shaped thick flakes with wide striking platforms, these being typical of Neolithic and Bronze Age industries. In a small proportion of the assemblage these characteristics were pronounced, the flakes being very thick, and having very wide and obtuse striking platforms. These latter types are comparable to Martingell's (1991) 'squat' flakes and would be more typical of later Bronze Age or even Iron Age industries (e.g. Brown 1991; Herne 1991; Young and Humphrey 1999). Six of the cores may also be of a similar, later Bronze Age date. These included two irregularly shaped and minimally reduced examples, two that had been irregularly reduced using large flakes and four that may

have been primarily intended as core tools. Other flakes had been struck from recorticated cores or flakes that must have significantly pre-dated the flakes, indicating some re-use of much earlier material.

The retouched pieces also indicate flint-working occurring at the site over a long period. Two arrowhead fragments were recovered; the first example was from the fill of a large, irregular linear feature (Group [217]), probably formed by channel incision, located towards the north-western corner of Area 1 and was probably an oblique transverse type of Later Neolithic characteristics (Green 1980) whilst that from medieval pit [111] located towards the north-east corner of Area 1 was most likely a leaf-shaped type dateable to the Early Neolithic. Other diagnostic implements include thumbnail scrapers from pit [111] and an irregular feature [56] located at the south-western corner of Area 1, that are typical of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age types. In addition to these, a large number of flakes exhibited edge damage consistent with use or light retouching but their general condition precluded positive identification of such.

Overall the assemblage of chipped-stone artefacts indicates lithic-using activity at the site extending over a considerable period, from at least the Mesolithic and through to the Bronze Age and perhaps later. Knapping waste and the high proportion of retouched implements indicate that both core reduction and tool use and discard were occurring.

Although none of the pieces could be directly associated with any of the features recorded on the site, a number of the irregular-shaped, apparently naturally-formed features present in Area 1 (Fig. 3) contained no other dating and could have been prehistoric in origin. These include features [172] and [84], located at the northern edge of the area, the former producing a single core and the latter producing six lithic artefacts, including a core; and features [95] and [144], located to the south-east, which produced one and three flakes respectively. Additionally the only finds recovered from a small feature [61] located towards the south-western corner of the area, were a flint flake and a conchoidal chunk.

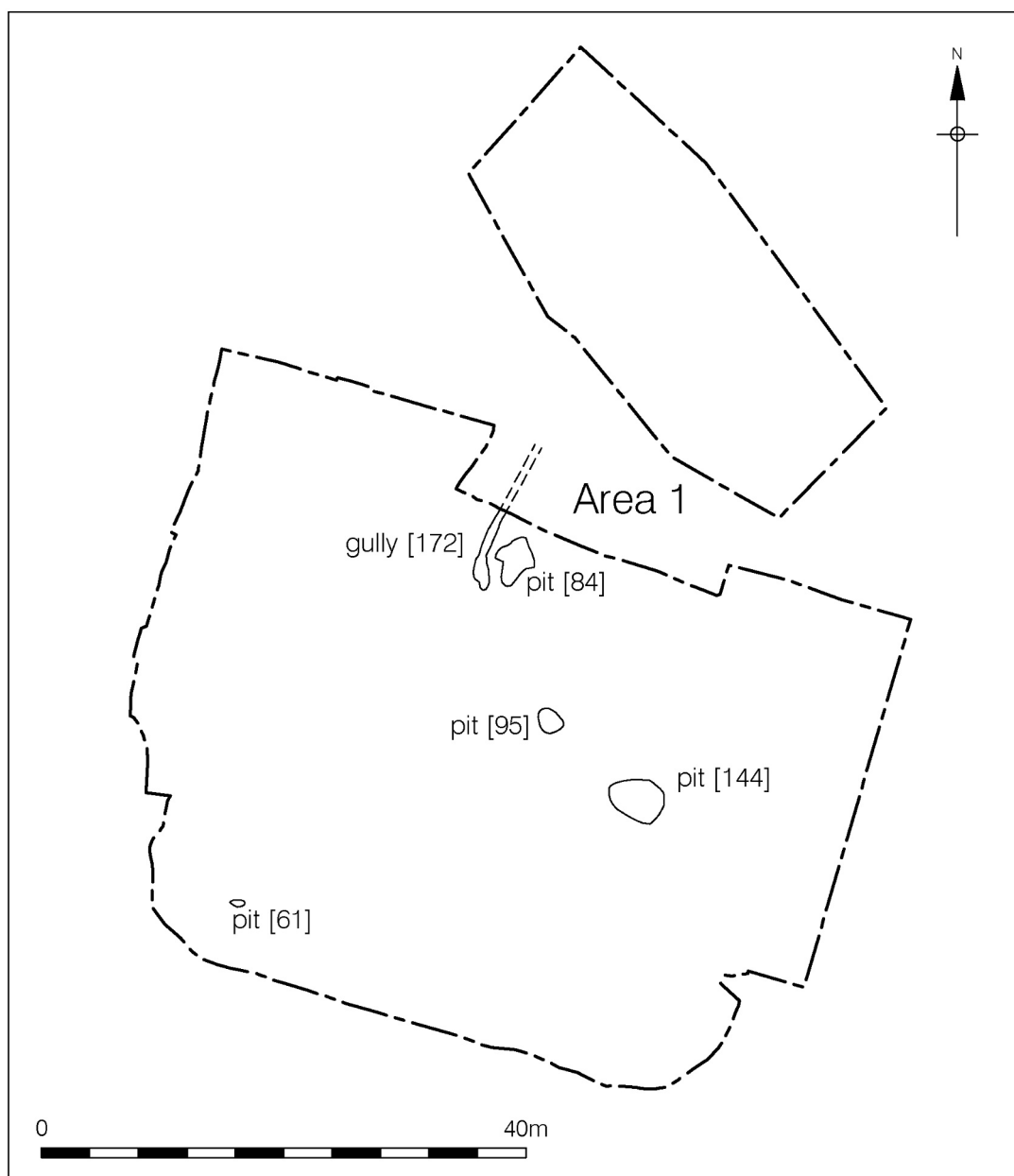


Figure 3: Area 1, Phase 1 - Prehistoric

Fragments of two linear features [329] and [341], located at the southern edge of Area 2 (Fig. 4), may have been the remnants of boundary or drainage features and possibly of prehistoric origin. However, as no dateable finds were recovered, these could also have been of a later date.

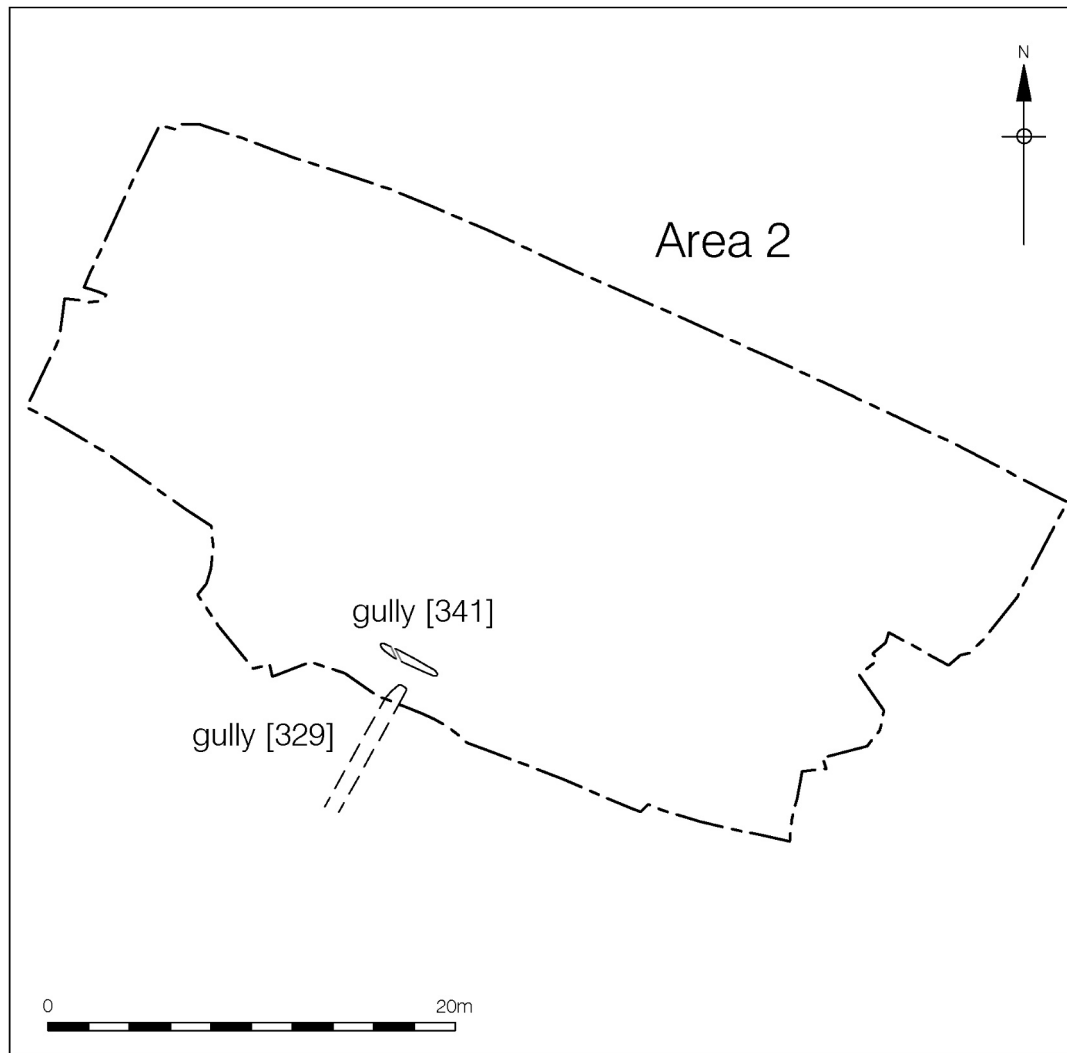


Figure 4: Area 2, Phase 1 - Prehistoric

Activity in the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Period (Phase 2)

Evidence for this phase of activity was perhaps not as extensive as for the prehistoric periods and again the bulk of the finds were recovered residually from later contexts or from the myriad irregular semi-natural features. However, two features located towards the north-western corner of Area 1 appeared to be dateable to this period (Fig. 5), and possibly elements of an area of activity that extended further to the north and west. Pit [15] at the western edge of the area was somewhat irregular in plan, measuring at least 2m by 2.90m and was up to 0.73m deep. As a feature it was quite unremarkable and it was suggested by the excavator as a possible clay extraction pit, however, it contained an interesting backfilling sequence and finds of note were recovered.

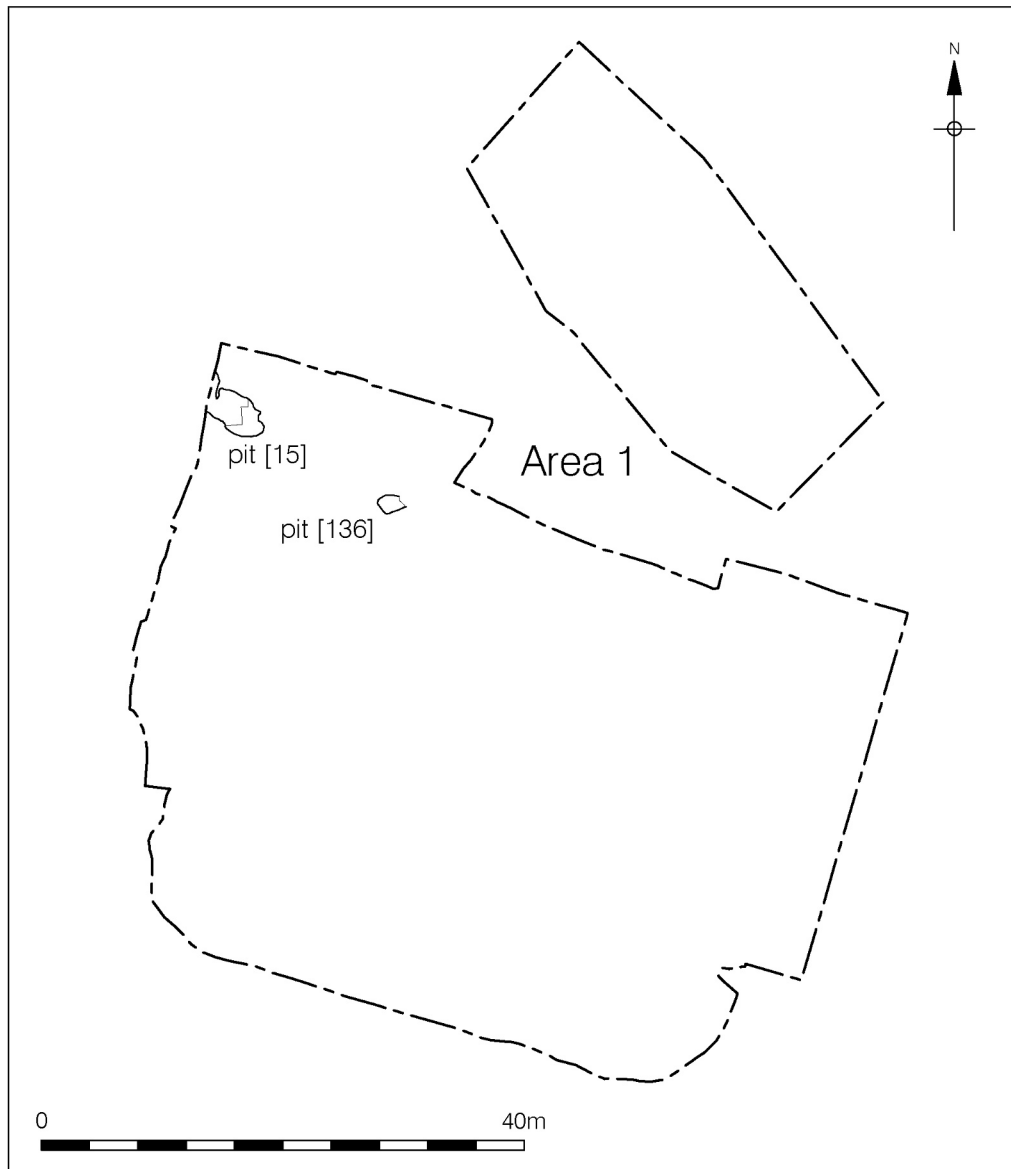


Figure 5: Area 1, Phase 2 - Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

The primary fill [14] comprised up to 0.30m of light to mid bluish-grey silty clay and included pottery of Late Iron Age to early Romano-British date. Three other sherds tentatively identified as later, contained a grog and chalk temper and may also have been of this date (Jarrett 2011, 83). In addition to the pottery, one of the largest pieces of iron-working slag from the whole site was also recovered from this deposit, which was analysed in some detail for the post-excavation assessment of the site (Keys 2011). This recognisable fragment was from a slag block of small size and probably the product of a one-off smelt. It is important as it adds to a growing body of evidence for small-scale Late Iron Age iron smelting in this area of Kent.

Lying above deposit [14] was a further 0.30m of a soft mixed clay [134], comprising mostly reworked natural deposits and interpreted as evidence of deliberate backfilling, though it contained no finds. The infilling sequence was capped by up to 0.19m of yellowish, mid brownish silty clay [13], which included the largest assemblage of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery on the site. The jar forms from the assemblage suggested a post- rather than pre-conquest date for the material (Rayner 2011, 79).

Located a little less than 14m east-south-east of pit [15] was another somewhat irregular pit [136] (Fig. 5), which measured 1.78m north-east to south-west by 1.35m north-west to south-east, but was just 0.12m deep. The single fill [135] comprised a firm, mid brownish grey silty clay and contained a small assemblage of pottery broadly dated 50 BC–AD 70 and no later finds. Although the original function and morphology of this pit was very different to that of [15] and its finds assemblage was much smaller, this has also been assigned a Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date.

Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from a further nineteen features spread across Areas 1 and 2, as well as from colluvial deposits and subsoil in both areas. However 74.27% of the assemblage by weight was recovered from features in the north-west half of Area 1. If the unstratified material recovered after machining in this area, which was all recovered from the western 20m, is added, the figure increases to 86.88% by weight of the total assemblage. This appears to support the suggestion that there was a focus of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British activity towards the north-west corner of Area 1 and beyond this to the north and west. No material of this date was recovered from the south-east of Area 1 and that recovered from Area 2 could have derived from downslope migration of colluvial deposits.

Medieval Occupation and Industry (Phase 3)

Whilst a significant proportion of medieval finds were recovered from the semi-natural, irregular features, a number of archaeological features in Areas 1 and 2

have been assigned to this period and suggest some level of agricultural and/or domestic activity at this time, in addition to strong evidence for industrial exploitation towards the north-east of Area 2.

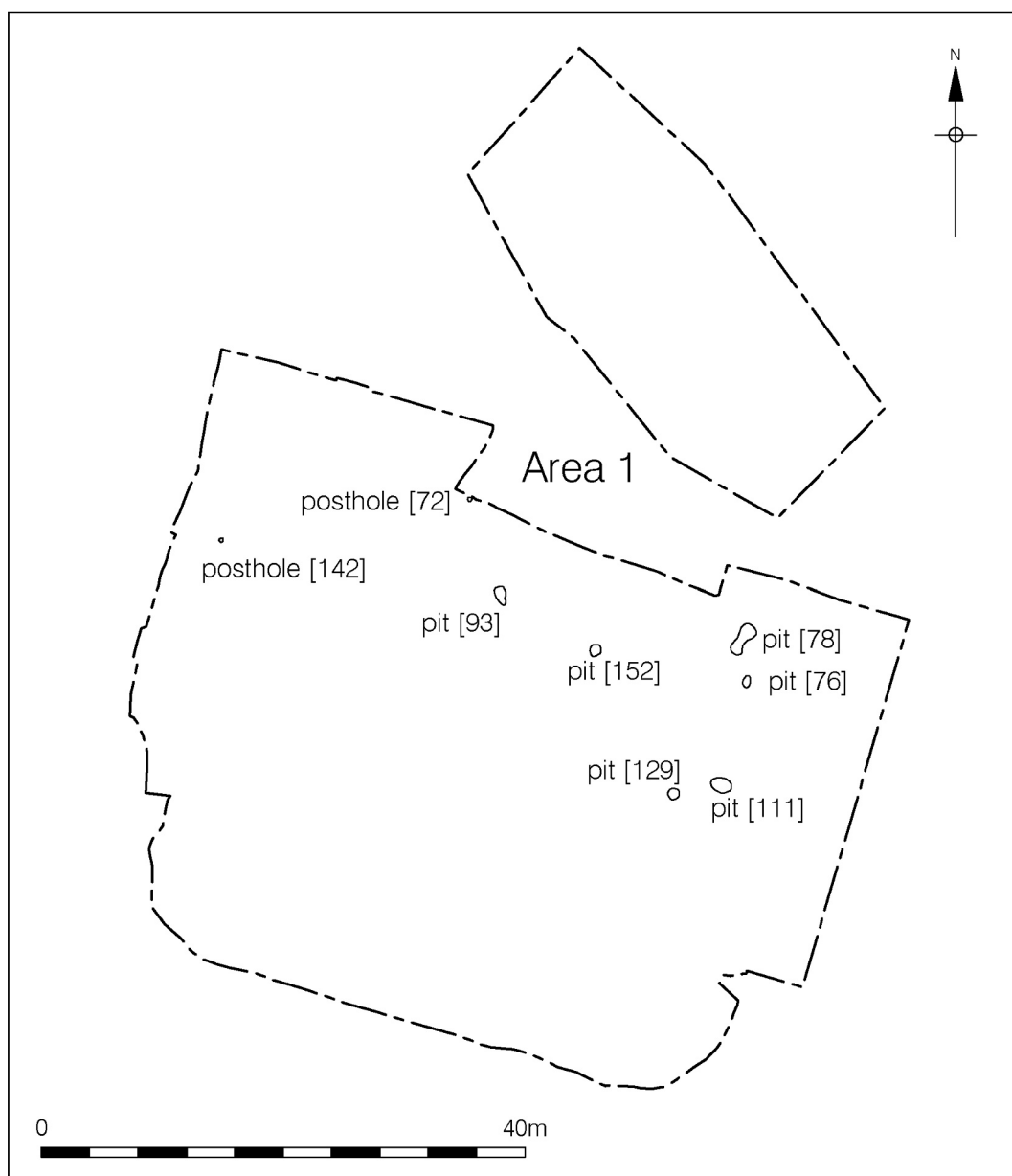


Figure 6: Area 1, Phase 3 - Medieval

Although numerous features across Area 1 produced small assemblages of medieval pottery, most of these were the apparent semi-naturally derived features, whose form, function and specific date was difficult to determine. However a small number of 'pits', all located towards the north-east corner of the main area, do appear to have been 'real' medieval features (Fig. 6). The westernmost of these, pit [93], formed an irregular oval in plan and measured 1.58m by 0.92m. However, a smaller, circular depression within the eastern half of the feature suggested that it may have been a robbed-out posthole. The backfill [92] produced a single sherd of pottery broadly dated to 1075–1250. Less than 8m to the south-east was oval pit [152], which measured 1.12m by 0.88m and was 0.32m deep. The only find recovered was a single flint flake but the feature did appear to be associated with [93] and others to the east.

Pit [78], located c. 9m north-east of [152], formed a slightly irregular, elongated oval in plan, measuring 1.34m by 0.96m and may have been another robbed-out posthole. Within the backfill [77] was a small assemblage of pottery broadly dated to 1175–1400, along with a single flint flake fragment and the largest assemblage of animal bone from the site. Each of the major mammalian domesticates was represented in the latter assemblage with a bias towards sheep/goat, the bones present perhaps suggesting processing waste (Rielly 2011, 107). Some 4.5m to the south-east was a smaller oval feature [76], which may have been an associated robbed-out posthole, though no finds were present to confirm its date.

Two further medieval features were located some distance to the south. The larger of these, pit [111], was oval in plan measuring 1.68m by 1.30m but just 0.22m deep. In addition to a small lithic assemblage, including the pieces discussed above, three abraded sherds of pottery, broadly dated as medieval were recovered. A short distance to the west was pit [129], which was sub-circular in plan, measuring between 0.94m and 0.96m in diameter and just 0.21m deep. This may have been the base of a ploughed-out posthole and contained a single broken flint blade along with a small assemblage of pottery suggesting a date range of 1050–1225.

Although forming no clear spatial pattern and containing slightly differently dated finds assemblages, these six features appear to have formed a minor focus of medieval activity, possibly including one or more structures, though largely ephemeral in nature. Two postholes [72] and [142] located towards the north-west of Area 1 may also have been contemporary features, the latter producing two sherds of pottery dated 1175–1300. However, no further clear features were identified in this area.

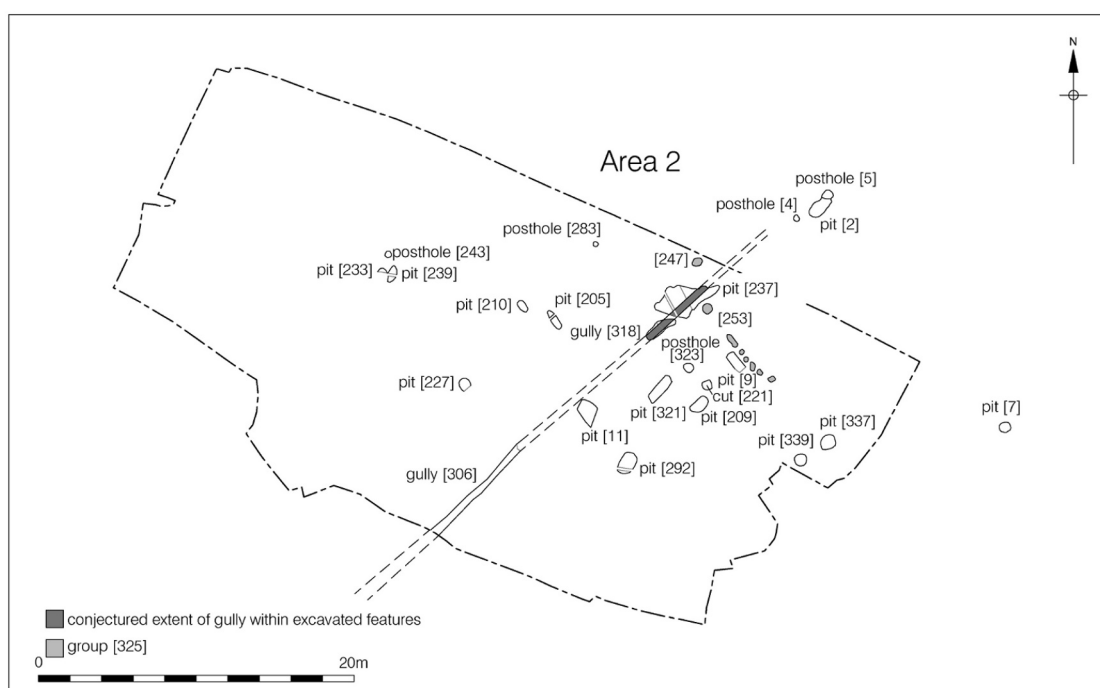


Figure 7: Area 2, Phase 3 - Medieval

The evidence for medieval activity in Area 2 was far more substantial than for Area 1 and although finds were recovered from further, shallow and poorly-defined ‘natural’ features, groups of features suggesting a focus of activity in the north-eastern part of the area and beyond were recorded (Fig. 7). The clearest group of features was an ‘arc’ of eight postholes (Group [325]), aligned approximately south-east to north-west, extending beyond the northern edge of the area, and possibly forming a fenced enclosure around an area to the north. The two largest postholes in the group [247] and [253] both included sherds of medieval pottery, broadly dated as

1175–1300 and 1175–1400. A further posthole [7] lying west of Area 2 in an area covered by the initial watching brief could conceivably have been a further element of the possible enclosure, extending the alignment of postholes some distance eastwards. Immediately to the south of the posthole group and apparently aligned parallel with it, was a rectangular pit [9], measuring 1.47m by 0.52m and 0.22m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. The firm clay backfill [8] produced a small pottery assemblage dated 1175–1400 and a smithing hearth bottom, suggesting iron-working in the near vicinity.

Apparently cutting through the line of postholes between [247] and [253] was a somewhat irregular feature [237] on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment. It was suggested by the excavator that the original form of the feature would have been more regular and linear, possibly forming a gully that drained material away from the enclosed area, downslope to the south-west. Such a feature would form an approximate alignment with further linear features [318] and [306] to the south-west, and it is thus suggested that all three elements would originally have formed a continuous drainage channel. One of the largest medieval pottery assemblages from the site was recovered from [237] (see Jarrett, below) and has been dated to 1175–1250. The other two drainage elements also contained medieval pottery; a small assemblage from [318] being dated to 1175–1300, and a single sherd from [306] being dated to 1175–1400. This consistency of dating surely suggests a contemporaneity between the apparent enclosure and possible drainage channel.

A number of further features to the south of the enclosure, particularly to the east of the drainage channel may also have been contemporary. Two postholes [323] and [221] a short distance south of the enclosure may have held posts that formed part of an associated structure as may slightly larger features [337] and [339] to the east, the latter of these producing a small pottery assemblage dated to 1150–1225. Elongated features [321] and [209] to the south of postholes [323] and [321] may have been further robbed-out postholes and therefore associated with the same

possible structure. Two pits [11] and [292] to the south produced pottery assemblages dated to 1175–1225 and 1175–1300 respectively and also appear to have been contemporary features.

A number of features to the west of the possible drainage channel appear to have been further postholes and robbed-out postholes and although forming no clear spatial patterns, may have been associated with a number of contemporary structures, though the westernmost of these features [243] contained a single sherd of later medieval pottery.

To the north of Area 2 and therefore within the area of the postulated enclosure, a small group of features was recorded during the initial watching brief. Pit [2] was an elongated feature measuring 1.34m north to south by 0.52m east to west and up to 0.52m deep. At the north was apparent posthole [5], measuring up to 0.60m in diameter and with a depth of 0.35m. The combined fill of these features [1] contained the largest single assemblage of medieval pottery from a feature on the site (see Jarrett, below), which has been dated to 1075–1225. Importantly an assemblage of iron-working waste was also recovered from this deposit, including vitrified hearth lining, cinder, fuel ash slag and two smithing hearth bottoms. Whilst the features may not have been directly associated with iron-working it appears that related processes were carried out in the very near vicinity and it seems likely that the possible enclosure provided a focus for metal-working during the 12th to early 13th centuries.

Post-Medieval Activity, Areas 1 and 2 (Phase 4)

Fewer finds though a similar number of features from this period were identified from Area 1 compared to the previous, medieval, phase whilst in Area 2 this period was very poorly represented. Apart from a series of land drains, a broad swathe of variable post-medieval features was visible crossing Area 1 from south-west to north-east (Fig. 8). Irregular linear feature [50] extending north-eastwards from the south-west corner may have been a naturally formed gully but it may also have been an early attempt at land drainage. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill [49], along with a small assemblage of ceramic building

material (CBM), broadly dated to 1450–1900, (Hayward 2011) suggesting a (possibly early) post-medieval date. A short distance to the east a small, shallow pit or possibly the base of a posthole [185] also contained a single fragment of post-medieval CBM. Six metres to the north-east of feature [50] and possibly continuing the same alignment was an apparent pit [48], 2.48m long, 1.74m wide and 0.22m deep. This also contained a CBM assemblage broadly dated AD 1450 – 1900.

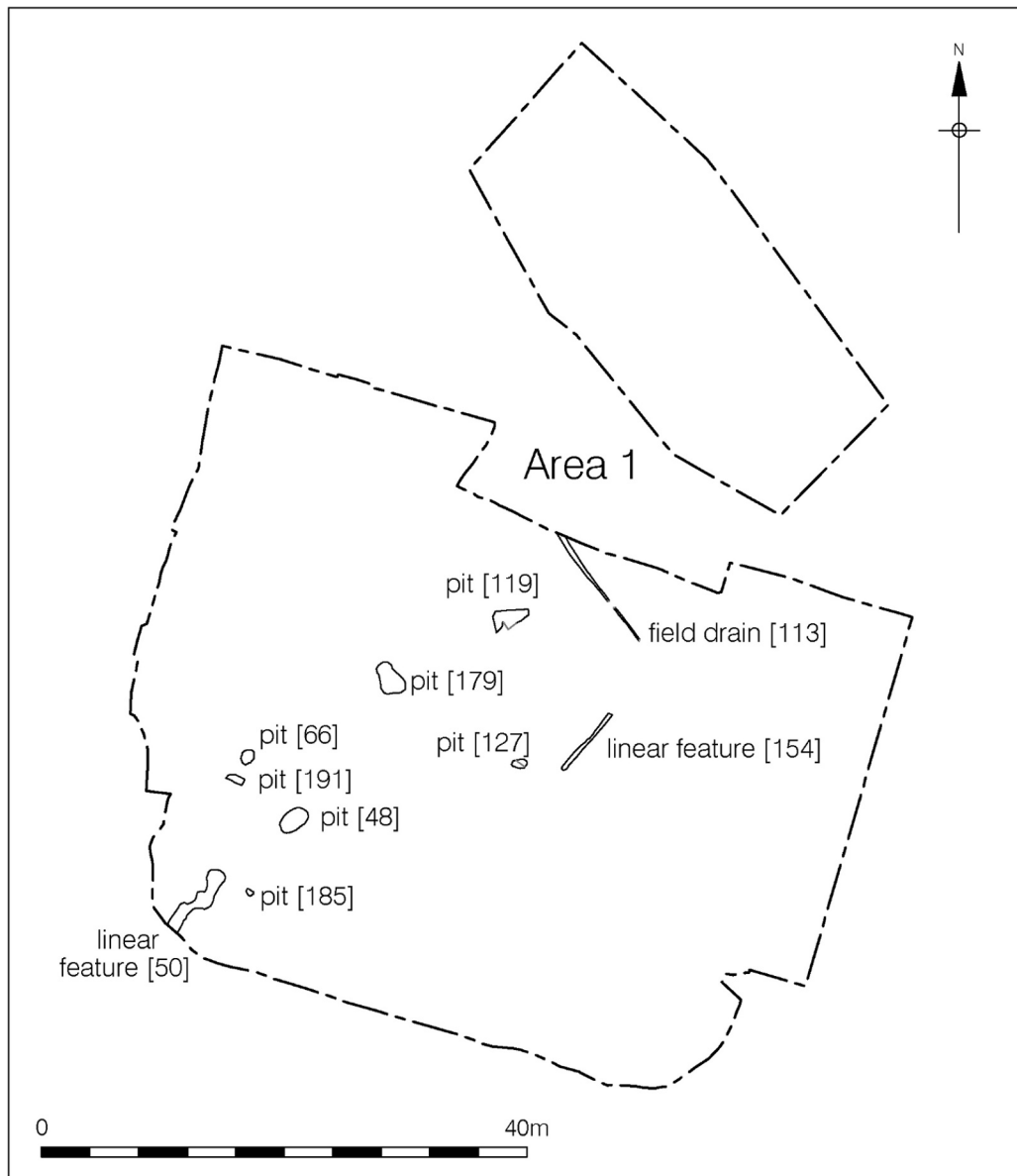


Figure 8: Area 1, Phase 4 - Post-Medieval

A short distance to the north of [48] two further features were apparently of post-medieval date: Pit [191] was a shallow, east to west aligned rectangular feature, 1.55m long, 0.60m wide and 0.27m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Its function was unclear, though it contained a single sherd of post-medieval red earthenware and an assemblage of broadly-dated post-medieval CBM. Sub-circular pit [66] immediately to the north measured between 1.30m and 1.00m in diameter and was just 0.17m deep. Its regularity of form suggested an archaeological rather than natural feature such as a tree bole and it contained an assemblage of broadly-dated post-medieval CBM, though its function too was unclear.

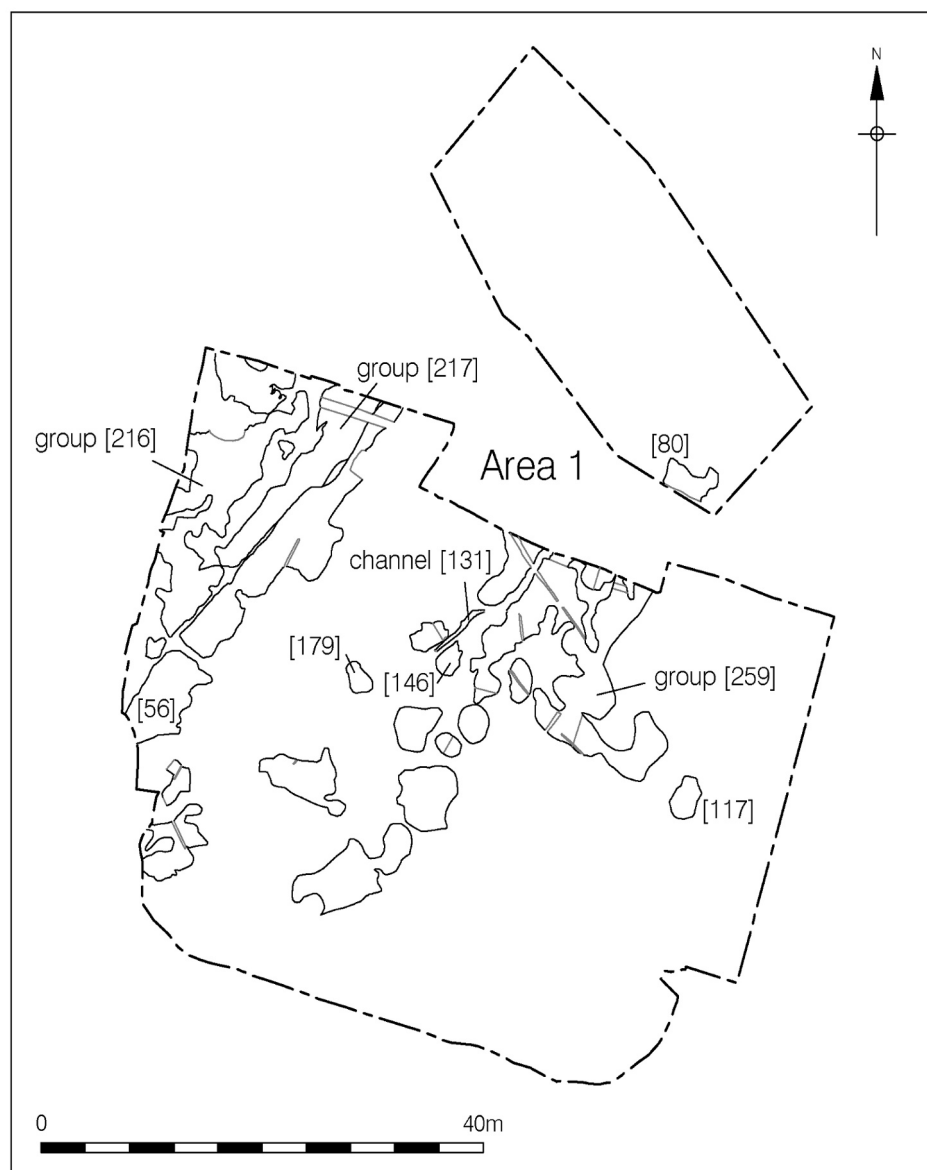


Figure 9: Area 1, Other Features

Approximately 12m to the north-east, large, irregular pit [179] also appears to have been formed by human agency rather than natural processes. It contained a single sherd of early post-medieval pottery and may have been a small quarry pit, though its shallow depth may preclude this. A further irregular pit [119] lay 8.5m to the north-east and may also have been a small quarry pit. However, the excavator suggested that it may originally have extended further to the south-west and could have been part of a drainage feature also represented by [50] and possibly [48]. A single fragment of post-medieval CBM was recovered from the backfill [118], along with two prehistoric struck flints and a small sherd of grog-tempered pottery.

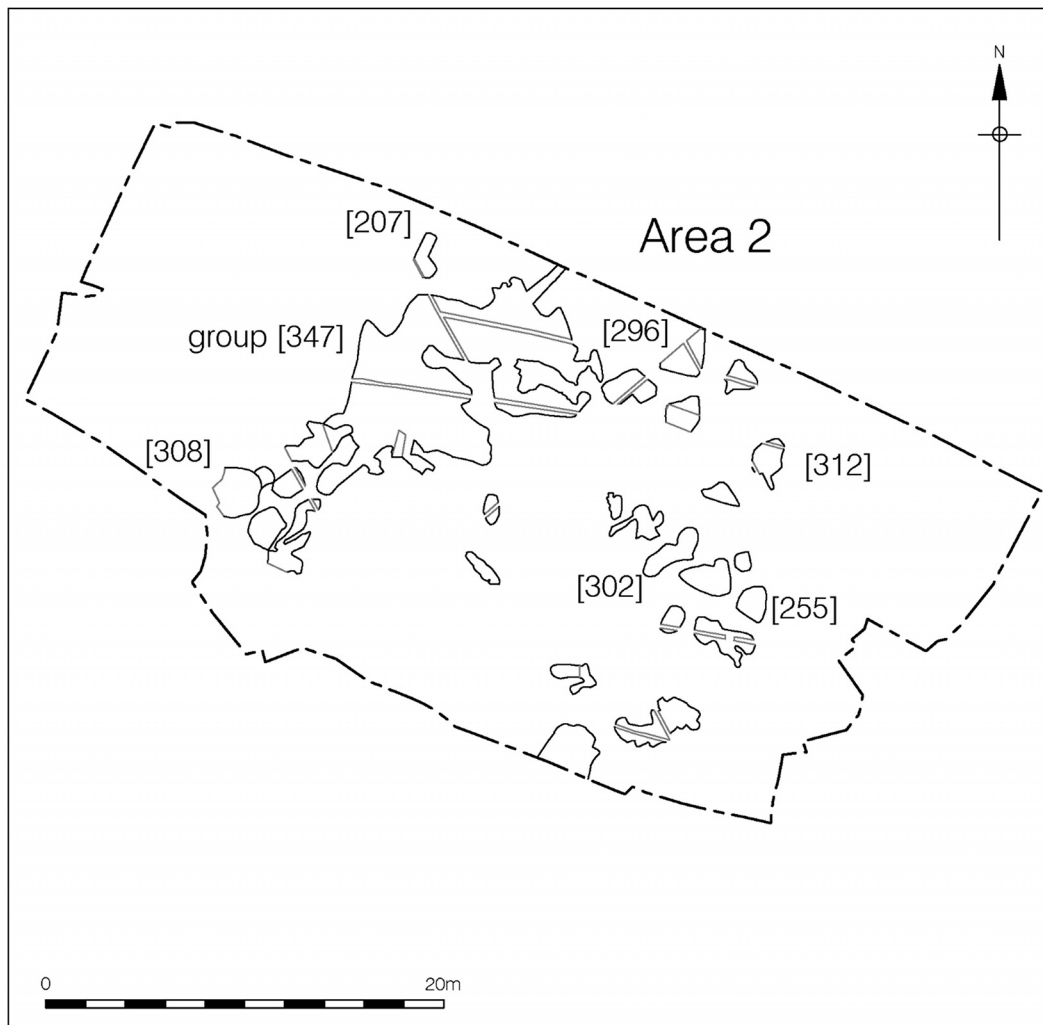


Figure 10: Area 2 - Other Features

A final post-medieval feature in Area 1 was a small, shallow pit [127] located to the south-east of features [179] and [119]. Its function could not be ascertained but it contained a small assemblage of post-medieval CBM.

With the exception of the recent land drains, post-medieval activity in Area 1 appears to have been mostly ephemeral, possibly associated with earlier land drainage and maybe also small-scale extractive processes. In Area 2 though, evidence of a post-medieval presence was negligible – not a single ‘real’ archaeological feature of this period was identified and the only post-medieval finds came from the poorly-defined ‘semi-natural’ features (Figs. 9 & 10) and the subsoil overlying these.

Post-Medieval Activity, Area 3 (Phases 4a – 4k)

The archaeological investigations in Area 3 revealed a very different chronological sequence to those suggested for Areas 1 and 2. The deposits here were exclusively post-medieval in date and related to a complex sequence of structural developments within this area of the site. Because of the complexity the post-medieval activity has been divided into eleven sub-phases, 4a – 4k.

The earliest phase of activity (4a) concerned the building of a small structure towards the north-eastern end of the trench. This survived as two fragments of wall footing [410] and [441] (Fig. 11). The wall was constructed from roughly-hewn Kentish Ragstone blocks, laid irregularly and not indicating any type of formalised coursing, but bonded with a light chalky mortar. The surviving wall fragments were up to 0.56m wide, though had probably originally been up to 0.90m wide, and survived to a height of at least 0.20m. The two fragments suggested a curved structure that extended well beyond the south-eastern edge of the trench, conjecture of the alignment perhaps suggesting a circular structure in excess of 7m in diameter. There was no indication of what the structure may have been, though a dovecote is one possibility. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from either wall fragment, though an early post-medieval date is suggested.



Figure 11: Area 3, Phase 4a

A second phase of post-medieval activity (4b) in this area saw the deposition of a layer of mid yellowish grey silty clay [433]/[436] that partly overlay wall [441] and was recorded at various locations across the area. This material produced CBM assemblages broadly dateable to 1700–1900, an 18th-century date of deposition being likely for this deposit. A third phase of activity (4c) saw wall [410] being partly robbed when a large pit [440] was dug through it (Fig. 12). CBM broadly dateable to 1700–1900 was also recovered from the backfill of this feature. A further pit [411] on the north-western edge of the area may also have been a robbing feature that had removed elements of an unknown structure that extended further to the north-west.



Figure 12: Area 3, Phase 4c

The following phase (4d) saw the excavation of a large, north-north-east to south-south-west aligned ditch [414] that turned to the east as [422] and cut through wall [441] (Fig. 13). The backfilling deposits within the ditch produced 16th-century pottery and CBM broadly dated to 1630–1850 and 1480–1900, though the function was unclear. A small pit [406], a short distance to the north was also dated to this sub-phase. A number of features were cut into the backfilled ditch in the subsequent phase (4e), including postholes [391] and [432] and linear feature [450] that

extended beyond the edge of the excavation area to the south-east (Fig. 14). A further pit [445] extended into the excavation area from the north-west. Its function was unclear and it contained CBM broadly dated to 1450–1900. The features cut into the backfilled ditch were subsequently sealed by a layer of silty clay and ragstone [401]/[417]/[418].

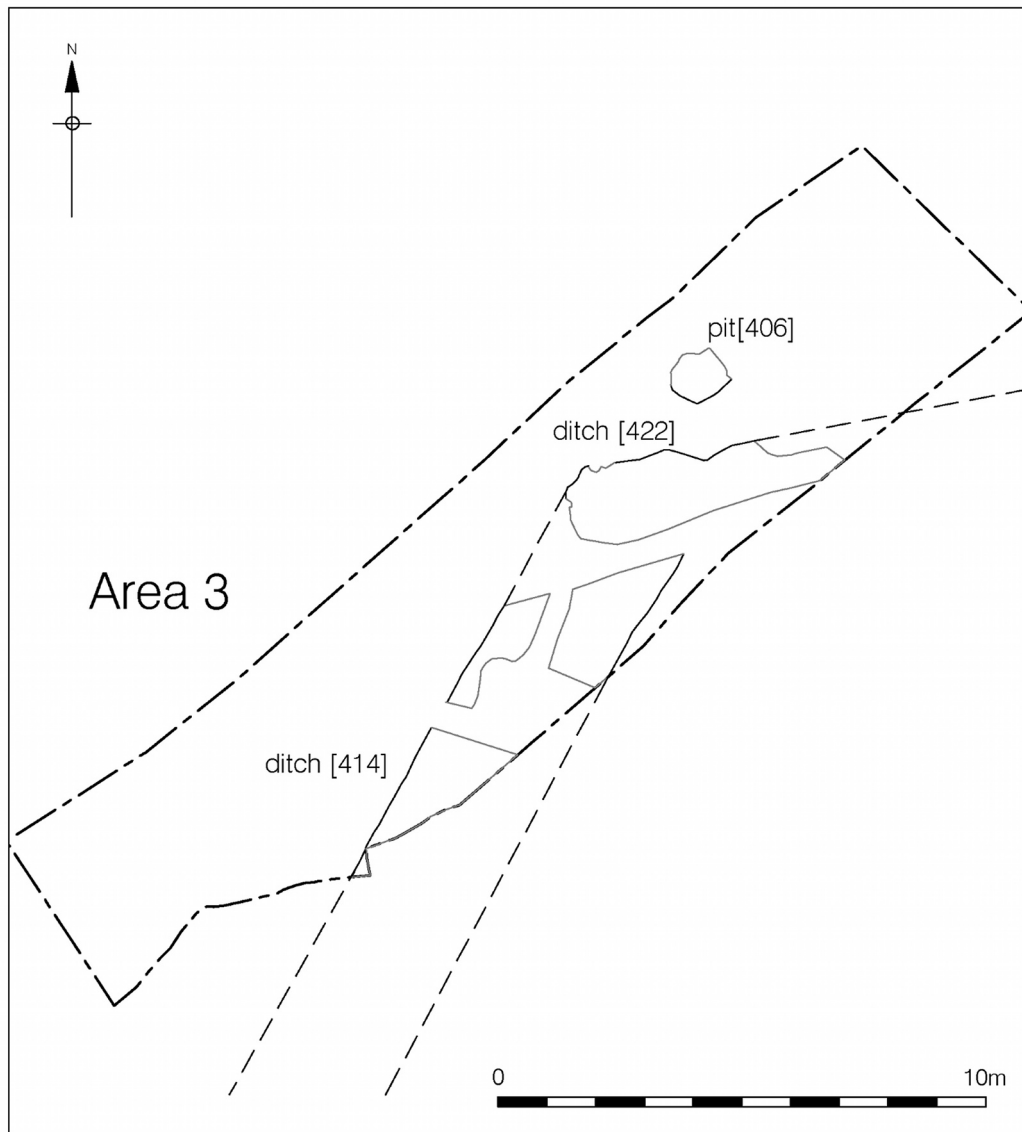


Figure 13: Area 3, Phase 4d

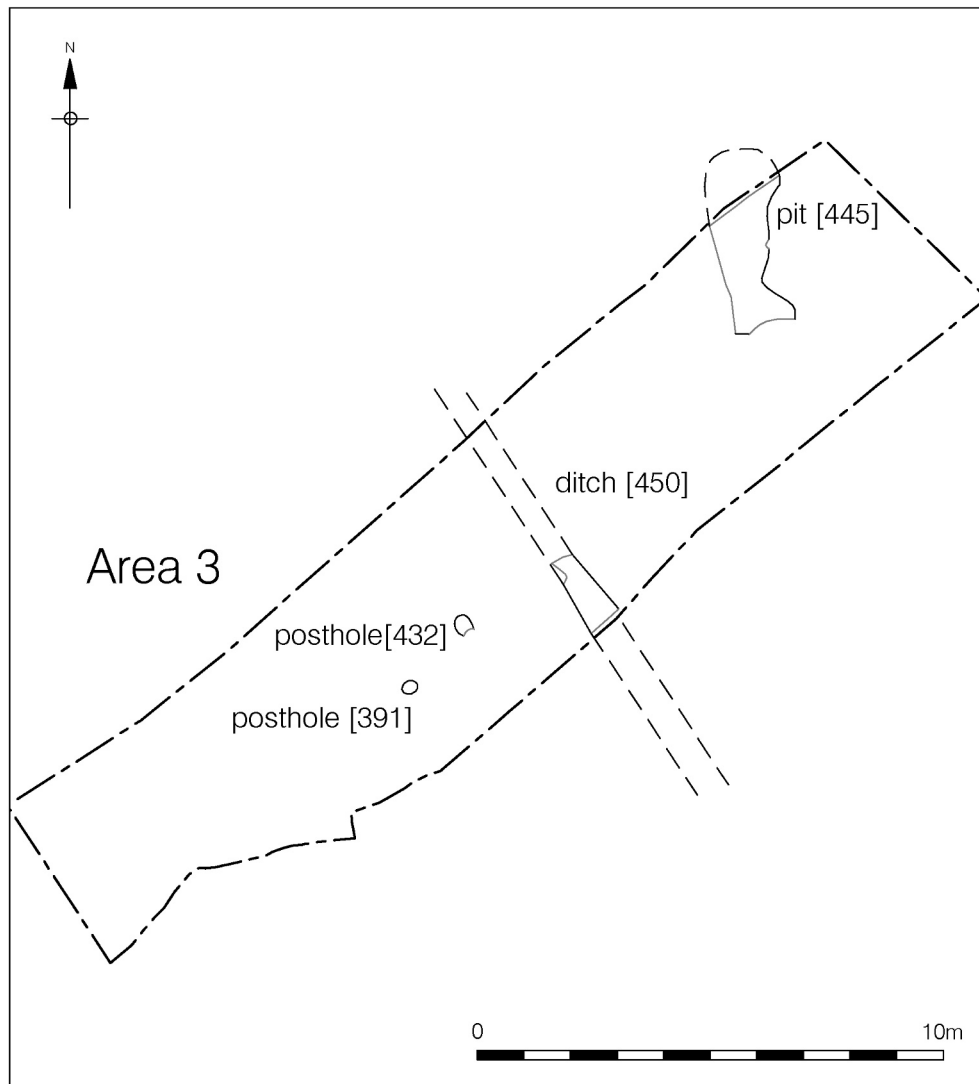


Figure 14: Area 3, Phase 4e

The next phase (4f) saw the construction of a wall footing along a north-east to south-west alignment previously marked by postholes [391] and [432]. The wall survived as three fragments [376], [377] and [386] (Figs. 15 & 16), with a timber post at the southern end of [386] suggesting a possible entrance between this and [377] to the south. The wall was constructed from roughly-hewn Kentish Ragstone blocks, irregularly laid and bonded with a coarse, yellowish-brown, sandy mortar. It was up to 0.60m wide and survived to a height of at least 0.31m. Fragments of CBM were also recovered from each of the wall elements but could only be dated as broadly post-medieval. To the north-west of wall fragment [376] was a floor

surface [374]/[375] comprising ragstone and CBM fragments set in a beaten silty clay matrix, suggesting this area was internal to the structure. This suggestion was supported by ditch [404] that ran along the other side of the wall and was probably for external drainage. It appears that the remaining wall and floor fragments represented an 18th-century structure, probably associated with what is now the main school building though performing an, as yet, unknown function. Ditch [424] to the north east of the structure also appears to have been contemporary and may have been a further external drainage element. Made ground deposits laid against the wall appear to have represented a subsequent minor phase (4g) of activity.

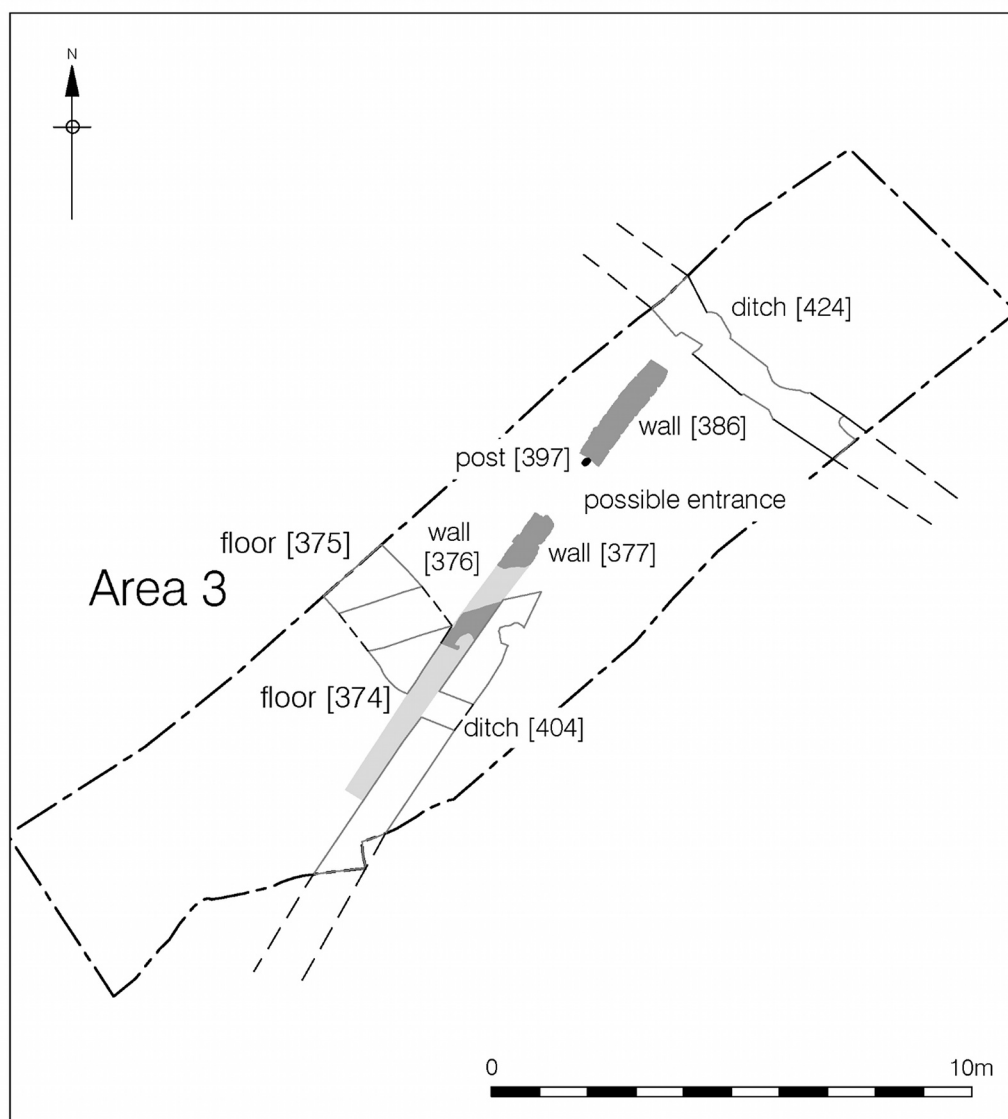


Figure 15: Area 3, Phase 4f



Figure 16: Walls [376], [377] and [386] looking south

Another subsequent phase (4h) saw the construction of brick- and stone-lined drains to the south-east and east of the structure. Three elements of the drainage survived as [393], [364] and [380] (Fig. 17). The former of these was stone-built and pottery dated 1725-1780 was recovered from its fill. Drain [364] was constructed from well-made moulded stock bricks of 18th-century date, whereas drain [380] was stone-lined but 19th-century pottery was recovered from its infilling. It appears that the brick and stone drainage network may have been a replacement for the earlier earth-cut features.

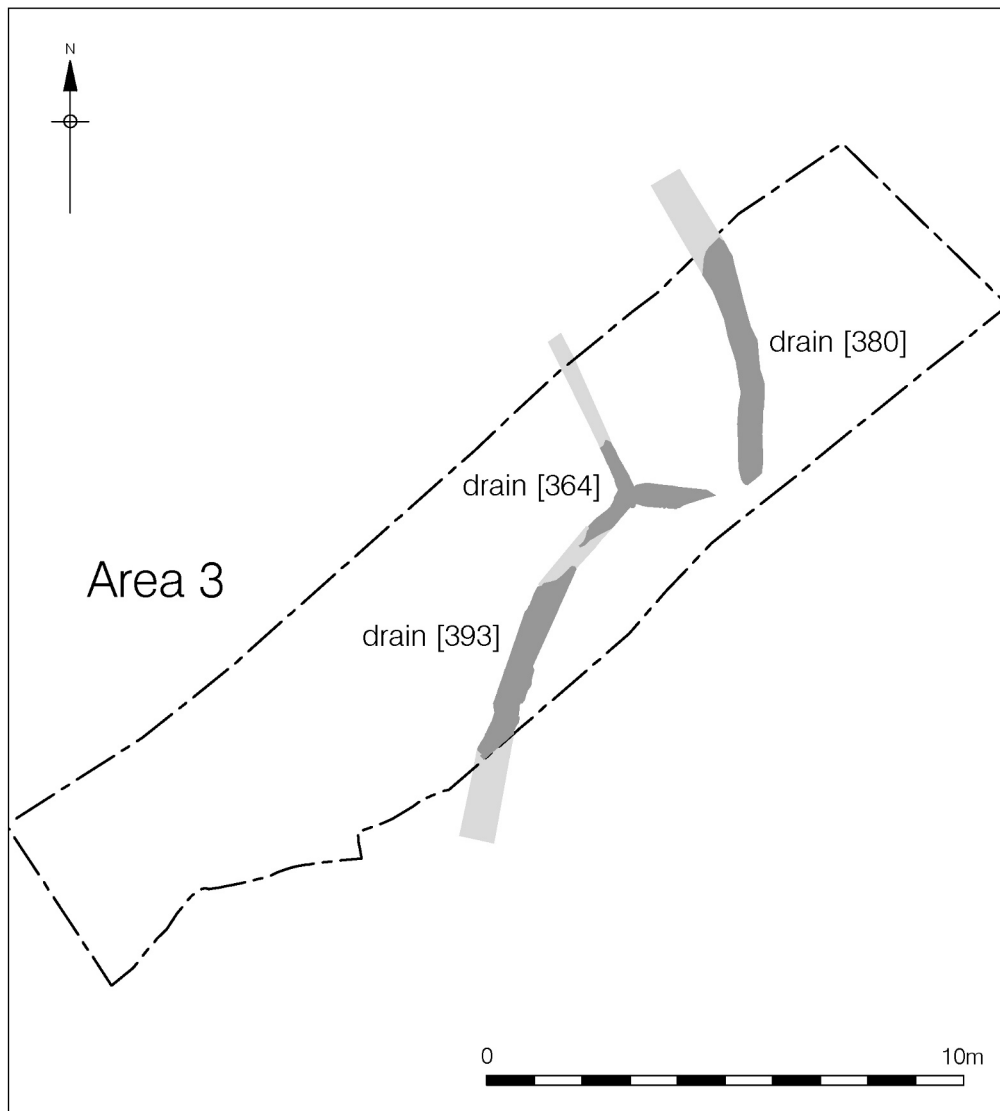


Figure 17: Area 3, Phase 4h

The structure subsequently went out of use and much of the external wall to the south was robbed out in a later phase (4i) though much of the mortar was redeposited in the robber cut [370] (Fig. 18). A second possible robber cut [385] may have been evidence for the robbing of an internal wall. The dismantling of the structure probably took place in the first half of the 19th century, certainly before the production of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (which shows no evidence of a structure at this location), and the building materials may have been re-used in extension work to the rectory building.

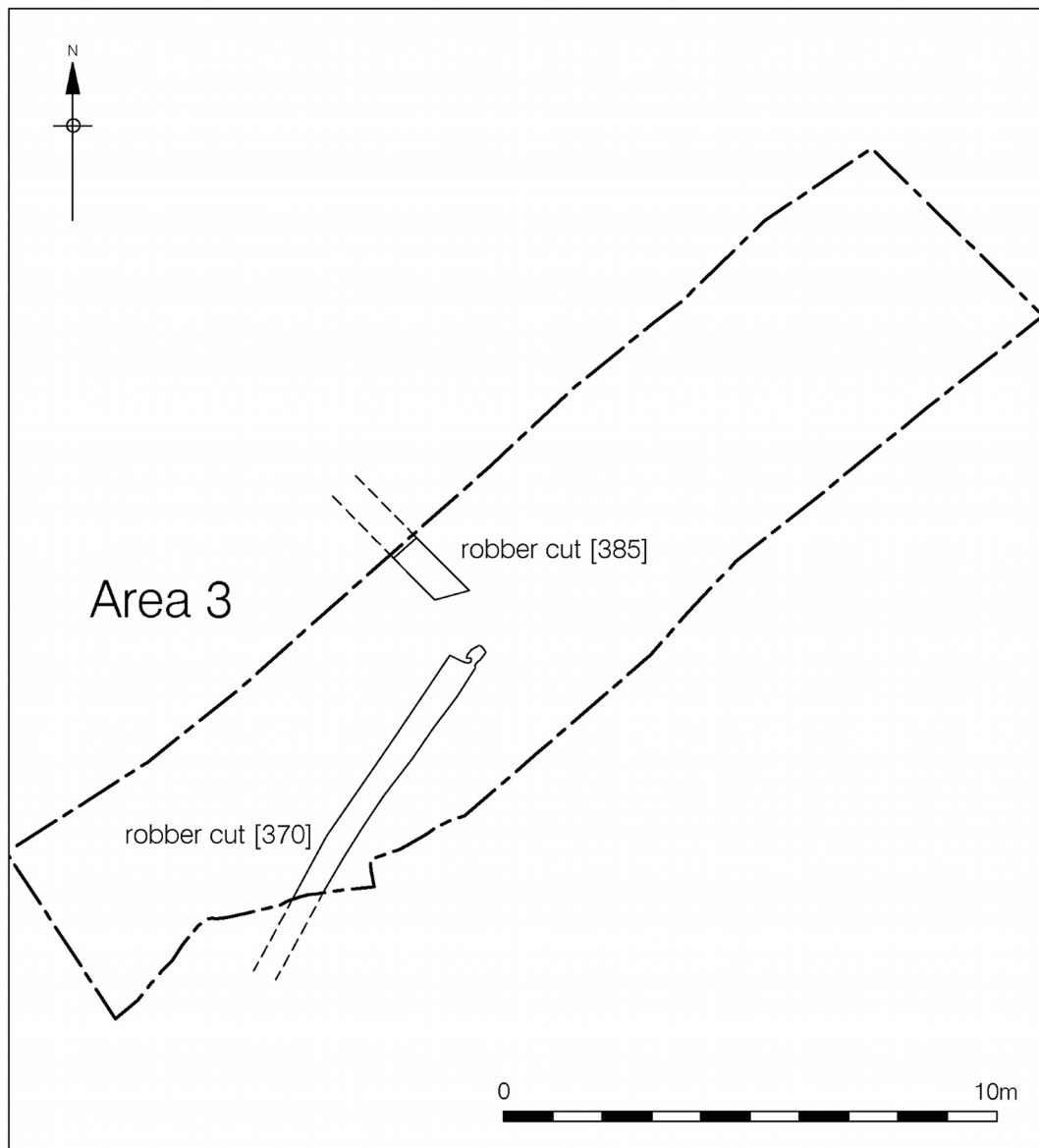


Figure 18: Area 3, Phase 4i

A penultimate phase (4j) of activity in the area was marked by the excavation of a number of pits (Fig. 19). These produced pottery and CBM of broadly post-medieval date but their actual function was unclear. A final phase (4k) of activity in the area saw the laying down of a number of recent made-ground deposits.

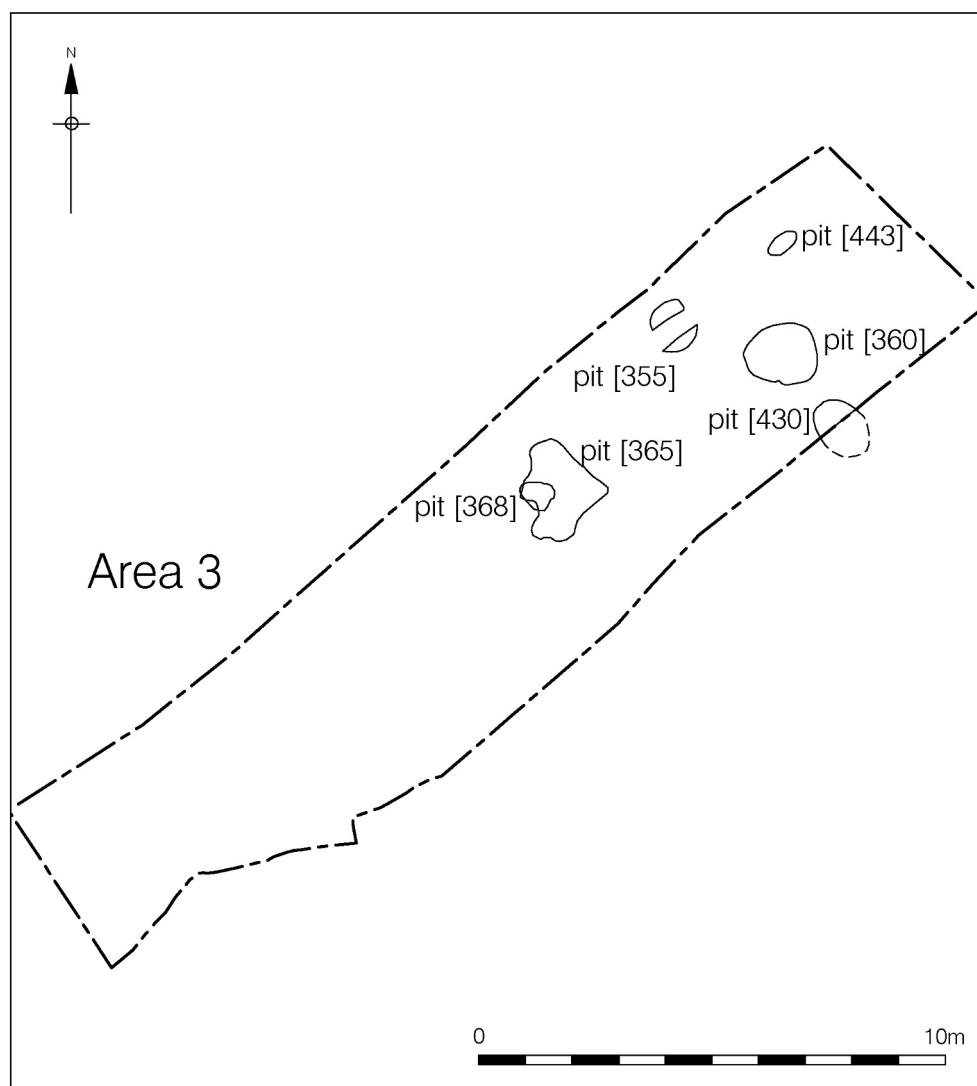


Figure 19: Area 3, Phase 4j

THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

The excavation produced a total of 388 sherds of post-Roman pottery of which fourteen were unstratified. The assemblage contained a high incidence of abraded sherds amongst the medieval pottery indicating the material had been redeposited on a number of occasions and had been subjected to intensive ploughing activity. Many of the sherds were too small or in such a bad condition that it was not possible to identify them to pottery type. Despite this, a number of deposits did produce

pottery in a condition indicating secondary deposition, and although no vessels had complete profiles, some forms could be identified. The date of the pottery is mostly 12th-13th century, with 16th-19th-century wares also present.

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and minimum number of vessels (MNVs) and classified according to standard Canterbury Archaeological Trust fabric codes and its quantification and distribution is shown in Table 1 in the Appendix. The pottery is discussed by phase:

Medieval (Phase 3)

There were 266 sherds of pottery in this phase representing some 153 MNVs. The earliest deposits contained only undiagnostic sherds of early medieval shelly ware (EM2: Cotter 2002), dated 1050-1225 and these were solely recovered in small quantities from features [25] (Group 216), [93] and [121] (Group 259) and the possible pit [129], all in Area 1.

Pit [2] in Area 2 produced a total of 42 sherds of pottery representing 12 MNVs. There are single sherds of Canterbury-type sandy with sparse chalk ware (EM1A: Cotter 2006, 133–140) and a jar with a very deep, everted rim with a flat top, beaded inside and out, is in a coarse quartz sand with shell and flint-tempered ware (EM30A). Sixteen sherds from three other vessels are also present in this fabric. A probable East Sussex flint and shell - tempered with sparse quartz fabric (EM32: Cotter 2006, 166) is recorded as sixteen sherds from two vessels, one of which is a jar with a rounded, thickened rim and a deep neck. Two sherds are also noted in a coarser version of the latter fabric: EM33. Twelve sherds were noted in coarse sandy ware (EM45: Cotter 2006, 167-7) and include two jars, one of which survived as a deep-necked vessel with a simple, rounded, but flat topped rim with an internal bead. The pottery types found in pit [2] indicate deposition in the period 1075–1175. Feature [312] in Area 2 has been dated to 1150–1225 as it produced a basal sherd of a sandy crucible fabric (EM.M2A) with an internal glassy fabric. Pit [339], also in Area 2, contained two sherds from different crucibles, each with internal glassy deposits and in the same fabric.

Pit [237] in Area 2 produced a group of 32 sherds representing some nine vessels and was dated AD 1175–1250. Two sherds from a single vessel are noted in Canterbury-type sandy ware (EM1: Cotter 2006, 133-140) and three sherds, from two vessels, were found as non-local fine sandy with flint and sparse shell ware (EM29: Cotter 2006, 161-5). The largest quantity of pottery in this feature was noted as Ashford/Wealden sandy ware (M40B: Cotter 2006, 171–173) with 27 sherds representing six MNVs. The diagnostic forms were a bowl with a thickened and beveled rim and a rounded jar with a thickened, flat topped rim. Tree throw [207] produced three sherds of pottery in fabrics EM30 and M40B, besides the coarser version of the latter: M40A; Ashford/Wealden sandy with sparse chalk/shell ware.

A large number of features were dated 1175–1300 as they contained solely Ashford-type (Potter's Corner) shelly-sandy ware (EM.M5) or this was the latest pottery type present with EM1, sandy ware with sparse to moderate flint-temper (EM46) or Ashford/Wealden sandy ware (M40B). These features mostly produced undiagnostic, small sherds of often abraded pottery. Two EM.M5 jar rims were noted in feature [302] in Area 2, with one expanded and the other triangular in profile.

Pit [78], features [52] (Group 216), [146] and [180] (Group 216) in Area 1, along with pit [9], gully [306], feature [255] and tree throw [308] in Area 2 produced solely sherds of Ashford/Wealden sandy ware (M40B0). A cooking pot jar rim was noted in pit [9] with a beaded flat top rim and short neck. A jug also came from the same feature and included a rim thickened internally and evidence for possible applied decoration. The rod handle of another jug was recorded in feature [180]. Feature [80] in Area 1 produced a single sherd of Ashford/Wealden fine sandy ware (M40CS) dated 1224–1400.

A sherd of late medieval Wealden pink-buff sandy ware with flint, chalk and iron oxide (M10F) was noted in posthole [243] in Area 2. Intrusive post-medieval pottery types were found in the sub-soil layer [343] in the same Area.

Post-Medieval (Phase 4)

A total of 93 sherds of pottery, representing 58 vessels was noted in this phase, with several features producing residual wares. The main characteristics of the post-medieval wares are red earthenwares from a variety of Kent and south-east England sources.

Large feature [56] in Area 1 produced five sherds of pottery, including two sherds of residual Ashford/Wealden pasty, chalk-flecked ware (M40C: Cotter 2006, 173–174), while the latest pottery type is represented by two sherds from a jug in Medway hard silty-sandy ware with chalk (LM34B) dating the context to the period 1450–1550.

Ditch [414] and ragstone-and-clay layer [417], both in Area 3, produced single sherds of Medway (?Maidstone) chalk-tempered fine sandy ware (LM37), indicating deposition between 1525 and 1575. Channel [131] in Area 1 produced sherds in an unidentified hard-fired fabric (M100) with little or no sand and chalk and shell inclusions (similar to the LM34/PM64 high-fired fabrics), along with a small sherd of partially reduced Wealden/Hareplain hard fine sandy ware (LM17A). This deposit is dated by the pottery to the period 1525–1600.

Sherds of a German Frechen stoneware jug were noted in layers [371], [372] and [373] in Area 3 (sub-phase 4j) and included a large medallion with a *passant* lion dated to the early 17th century, together with a sherd from a closed form in (LM17B). Additionally the slightly thickened and everted rim of a jar in Hareplain/Biddenden sandy ware (LM18A) with an internal dull metallic glaze was also recorded.

Layer [358], also in Area 3, produced three sherds of pottery, two of which were small residual sherds, but a sherd of Wealden fine pink-buff earthenware (PM2.3) is present in the form of a chamber pot with a flat rim. These types of chamber pots appear around c.1640 and continue into the early 18th century (Pearce 1992, 99).

A number of the post-medieval deposits (features [117] and [191] in Area 1, feature [296] in Area 2 and subsoil layer [357] in Area 3) were dated by sherds of generic post-medieval red earthenwares (PM1) to between 1550 and 1800 though no forms

could be identified confidently. A residual frilled base of a drinking jug in German Raeren stoneware (LM7) found in robber trench [385] in Area 3 was, however, of note. A sherd of Wealden or Surrey/Hants fine pink-buff earthenware (PM2.4) was solely found in robber trench [440] in the same Area.

Drain [393], also in Area 3, produced mostly 18th-century pottery types as single sherds of London stoneware (PM25) and the rim of a plate in Staffordshire -type white stoneware, while two sherds of a rounded jug in earlier German Frechen stoneware were also noted.

A small body sherd of plain, later Creamware (LPM11A) solely came from field drain [170] in Area 1, whilst ditch [404] in Area 3 produced five sherds of pottery, each representing an individual pottery type. Non-diagnostic forms are as LM17B, LM18A and LM37, while the thumbled base of a jug is represented in Wealden orange-buff sandy ware (LM37), with the latest ware being the base of a possible chamber pot in Midlands/North East England black iron-glazed red earthenware (LPM21), dated to the period 1775–1900. Modern made-ground in the same Area produced the base sherd of a vessel in residual Rye sandy with sparse flint and shell/chalk ware (LM17R) and occurred with a sherd of late post-medieval redware (LPM1B), dated 1775 to 1900. A sherd of 19th-century High Halden iron-streaked glazed red earthenware (LPM1A) was solely found in pit [365] and stone drain [380] produced a single sherd of 'Ironstone' ware (LPM14).

Finally, a base sherd of PM1 was found in feature [191] in Area 1 and a sherd of Wealden pink-buff pasty ware with marl streaks/pellets (PM2.9) was found in feature [179], also in Area 1.

Discussion

Creating a ceramic phasing for the site is difficult as there are no stratigraphic relationships between the groups of medieval pottery. It is therefore presumed that the early medieval pottery sequence starts with shell-tempered wares (EM2) in the period c.1050–1100. From c.1075–1175 the limited evidence from pit [2] suggests

that a range of mostly coarse-tempered wares were used: EM1, EM30A, EM32, EM33 and EM45 with rounded jars present defined by simple rims and deep necks.

From c.1175 new pottery types, using the wheel in their manufacture, dominate the groups and sources may include wares from the excavated production site at Potters Corner, 2 miles (3km) to the north of the site. There only wasters were identified (no kiln structures) dated to the 13th century and were noted in the form of jars, bowls and jugs (Grove and Warhurst 1952). The pottery types associated with the production centre are Ashford-type shelly-sandy ware (EM.M5), 1175–1300, a more developed refined version of that fabric: M40A, dated 1175–1350 and the sand-tempered ware M40B, dated 1170–1400, Other production centres of these wares are believed to have existed in the Ashford and Wealden area (Cotter 2006, 168–173). The absence of stratified groups of pottery on the Great Chart site does not allow for the refinement of the dating of these wares, although it would appear that as Cotter (2006, 168) suggests, EM.M5 was replaced in the 13th century by M40A and that the sandy ware M40B had the longest period of production, *i.e.* there are groups of pottery that contain only one or the other of these wares, while other groups contain both wares and were therefore contemporary and those are probably more likely to date to the 13th century. The poor survival of identifiable medieval forms on the site does not allow for an accurate impression of what the Ashford/Wealden wares were supplying to site: a wheel thrown jar was present in EM.M5, while a wider range of forms were noted in M40B: a bowl, jars and jugs. Small quantities of other types of pottery, Tyler Hill ware (M1) as one unstratified jug sherd, North or West Kent sandy ware (M38A), M40BR and M40CS, were also reaching the site in the 13th and 14th centuries, if not a little earlier (from the end of the 12th century).

Of particular interest is the occurrence on the site of three sherds of early medieval/medieval crucible fragments containing glass-working residues. There is no other evidence for glass working on the site, such as furnaces, cullet and production waste, the exception being 3g of a glassy fuel ash slag found in medieval pit [209] in Area 2 and close to the features containing the crucible fragments. The fuel ash slag could have resulted from numerous processes involving a high

temperature and not necessarily from glass working (L. Keys, *pers. comm.*) and pit [209] was indeed located close to the postulated area of iron-working. Therefore the crucibles have to be viewed at present as anomalies, as glass making in medieval Kent is as yet undocumented, until the temporary works at the Knole Estate were set up by glass makers from the Weald, supplying window glass for the manor house in the 1570s and 1580s (Willmott 2005, 79).

The near absence of late medieval pottery on the site indicates very little activity from c.1350/1400–1500. The 16th-17th-century pottery types are mostly characterised by red earthenwares and in the 16th century by mainly high-fired Kentish wares: LM15, LM17A/B/R, LM18A/B, LM32 and LM37, derived from a number of sources such as the Medway valley, Hareplain or Biddenden, the Weald and possibly Rye. Forms could rarely be indentified, but included a jar and jugs. The 17th- and 18th-century red earthenwares were also derived from a wide range of sources that included Wealden-type wares and the forms were even more difficult to identify, although a chamber pot was present. The only imported wares noted on the site are German stoneware jugs as 16th-century Raeren stoneware and 1550–1700 dated Frechen stoneware, both probably distributed from London. The 18th-century ceramics present on the site were also stonewares - from London and probably Staffordshire. These wares demonstrate, like the 19th-century ceramics the increasing national trend of pottery being supplied more from non-local production centres and less of a reliance on Kent-made pottery.

DISCUSSION

The findings from the site, although restricted by the nature of local formation processes and an archaeological record often lacking sufficient clarity, have produced evidence of a number of phases of human activity, ranging in date from possibly as early as the Late Mesolithic to the 20th century, with some of this evidence providing important new data concerning past utilization of environs of the Great Chart and Ashford areas.

It is clear that much of the site, particularly the upslope northern areas, was utilized, albeit intermittently, throughout much of later prehistory from the Late Mesolithic to

the Iron Age. What is much less clear is the nature of the various activities that took place. The lithic evidence has shown that there was some type of human presence in the Late Mesolithic, Early and Late Neolithic, Bronze Age and possibly Early Iron Age, but a lack of clearly-defined or dated prehistoric features has meant that it has been extremely difficult to quantify human activities at specific periods during the prehistoric past. Indeed, all too frequently lithic artefacts of different date were recovered from the same poorly-defined features or layers.

It is likely that activity during the later Mesolithic and possibly also, the earlier Neolithic, was little more than ephemeral and evidence from the earlier phase at least represents little more than deposits left by essentially mobile populations. Populations during the remainder of the Neolithic and through to the Iron Age are likely to have been increasingly more settled and whilst the volume of lithic material suggests a strong likelihood of occupation of the site during these periods, the elusiveness of clear features of specific dates has meant that it is not possible to comment much beyond stating that there was a definite presence on the site throughout later prehistory. In this respect the data merely adds to the growing and more clearly understood body of evidence relating to the prehistoric development of the Ashford area.

The evidence for activity during the later Iron Age and early Romano-British periods is also masked by the poor clarity of the archaeological record, however, at least two features of this date have been identified and simple spatial analysis of the location of finds has permitted the identification of the likely focus of occupation. The small assemblage of finds has also allowed a limited insight into the possible nature of at least one activity in the vicinity of the site. The features identified as being of this date were both located towards the north-west of Area 1. This was also the area of the site where the greatest concentrations of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British finds were identified. The evidence suggests that a site of this date was probably located a short distance to the north and/or west, with the two features identified, likely to have been at the margins of a possible settlement. The identification of iron-working evidence from one of the two dated features suggests that there was some industrial activity taking part within or on the margins of the settlement. The probable

settlement and iron-working foci both add to an understanding of the growing body of evidence for these activities in the periods either side of the Roman conquest in this part of Kent. The nearest contemporary, or slightly later evidence for metal-working is probably the intense iron-working activity identified at Westhawk Farm (Booth *et al.* 2008), though further Roman metal-working has been identified a little further afield, such as at a small Roman stone building of third-century date excavated at Charing, some 8km north of the study site (Detsicas 1975), and at first- to third-century sites at Wye, some 9km to the north-east (Bradshaw 1970a).

By the medieval period the focus of human activity on the school site had shifted downslope and to the south. More substantial evidence for activity during this broad period was forthcoming in Area 2, close to the road into Great Chart, than had been for earlier periods. Whilst much of the finds evidence came from poorly-defined features and deposits, concentrations of features were identified in the north-eastern sector of the Area and beyond. These not only indicated a human presence and possibly settlement, but also provided strong evidence for metal-working on the site, a factor rarely evident on other sites in the vicinity at this time, though at Impkins Farm, Westwell, some 6km to the north, substantial quantities of iron slag and cinder were found in three areas. Subsequent trial excavation concluded that this had been a medieval smelting site (Bradshaw 1970b). Archaeological investigations at Mersham, to the south-east of Ashford uncovered a number of features to the south of the Church of St John The Baptist, which also provided evidence of medieval iron-working (CAT 2000; Helm and Munby 2006). The features were dated to 1050–1200 (refined to 1050–1175), suggesting that the industrial activity here was closely contemporaneous with that at Friars School. In the same part of Area 2 as the metal-working evidence, limited but potentially very important evidence for broadly contemporary glass-working has also raised the possibility of this type of activity being carried out much earlier than had hitherto been understood in Kent.

The evidence for (pre-modern) post-medieval activity in Areas 1 and 2 was quite unremarkable and mostly limited to ephemeral features associated with agricultural activity. However, the investigations in Area 3 to the south-east of the former rectory building and close to the main road past the site, revealed a complex sequence of

developments and structures that were previously unknown. Although the earliest structures had been largely destroyed by later activity, it appears that there were buildings in this area as early as the 17th century and it has been postulated that one such structure may have been a dovecote. The apparent structures illustrated in White's 1637 map are tantalizingly close to the evidence recorded in Area 3, and it is possible, given the likely inaccuracies of the map produced at a small scale, that the earliest remains recorded during the archaeological investigations were associated with structures shown on the early map. The structures in this area all appear to have been removed by the middle of the 19th century but they were all probably elements associated with the little-understood early development of the rectory site.

Overall, although the bulk of the archaeological record has been difficult to interpret because of a number of factors that have masked the clarity of features and finds distributions, the investigations at Friars School have added to the growing body of evidence for past human activity in the Ashford area: The prehistoric assemblages have identified another area where there was activity during various periods in the prehistoric past; the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British evidence has identified a further focus of activity in the area during the years either side of the Roman conquest and a further metal-working site of this date has also been identified; the medieval assemblage has added an important strand to a small body of evidence for settlement, and more importantly, metal-working in the Ashford area at this time, as well as providing a tantalizing hint for early Kentish glass-working in the vicinity; and finally the somewhat restricted post-medieval evidence has indicated the presence of previously poorly-defined structures in the vicinity of the former rectory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank The United Church Schools Trust for funding the excavation and Gill Macquarie (Synergy LLP) for commissioning PCA to undertake the work on their behalf. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers (Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council) for her help and advice during the watching brief and excavation, Roger Hills and Mick Faloyo (Baxall Construction) and Paul (Hague Construction).

The author would like to thank Peter Moore for project management, Jon Butler for post-excavation management and support, Guy Seddon and Jim Heathcote for carrying out the initial work on site and Stuart Holden for supervising the excavations. Thanks are extended to all members of the post-excavation assessment team who have contributed to the project: Louise Rayner, prehistoric and early Roman pottery; Chris Jarrett, post-Roman pottery and clay tobacco pipe; Kevin Hayward, ceramic building materials; Barry Bishop, lithics; Rebecca Lythe, shellfish, Kevin Rielly, animal bone; Lynne Keys, iron slag; Märit Gaimster, small finds; John Shepherd, glass; QUEST, environmental analysis. Also many thanks to Jennifer Simonson for her work on the illustrations in the post-excavation assessment and this report; to Nathalie Barrett and Aiden Turner for surveying; to Strephon Duckering for photography; to Rob Nicholson and his team for finds processing; to Lisa Lonsdale for technical support. Finally, thanks to all those who worked on the site, whose contribution is greatly appreciated: Tristan Adfield, Emily Bates, Iain Bright, Patrick Cavanagh, Pawel Galant, Ireneo Grosso, Matt Harrison, Richard Humphrey, Will Johnston, Stephen Keightley, Kelly Madigan, Graeme McArthur, John Payne, Chris Rees, and Sophie White.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, T., 2000. *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Court Lodge Farm, Kingsnorth, near Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2000/187.

Anderson, I., 1994. *Archaeological Evaluation, Ball Lane, Kennington 1994*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 1994/3.

ASE, 2006. *Brisley Farm, Ashford*. Archaeology South-East website
<http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk/04-projects/Kent/Brisley-Farm/index.htm>

- ASE, 2009. *Archaeological Investigation of Land at Missenden, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford: Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design for Publication*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.
- Ashbee, P., 2005. *Kent in Prehistoric Times*. Stroud: Tempus.
- Barton, R. N. E., 2008. Mesolithic Flint in P. Booth, A-M. Bingham and S. Lawrence, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, 23–24.
- Bennett, P., 1988. Archaeology and the Channel Tunnel. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 106, 2, 4.
- Bennett, P., 1992. Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, Ashford. Interim Report. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 110, 375–376.
- Bishop, B. J., 2011. Appendix 2: Lithics, in S. Holden, *Land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent: Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report, 74–78.
- Booth, P., 2001. The Roman Shrine at Westhawk Farm, Ashford: A Preliminary Account. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 121, 1–23.
- Booth, P., Bingham, A.-M. & Lawrence, S., 2008. *The Roman Roadside Settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: Excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2.
- Booth, P. and Everson, P., 1994. Earthwork Survey and Excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington, Ashford. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 411–434.
- Booth, P. and Lawrence, S., 2000. Westhawk Farm. *Current Archaeology* 168 (Vol. XIV No. 12), 478–481.

- Boyer, P., forthcoming. *Archaeological Investigations on Land Adjacent to Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Kent Papers Series.
- Bradshaw, J., 1970a. Wye. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 85, 177–178.
- Bradshaw, J., 1970b. Westwell. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 85, 179–180.
- Bradshaw, J., 1971. Ashford. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 86, 237.
- Brady, K., Barclay, A. and Fitzpatrick, A., 2006. *The prehistoric and Roman landscape at Beechbrook Wood, Westwell, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Brinson, J. G. S., 1943. Two Burial Groups of Belgic Age, Hothfield Common, Near Ashford. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 56, 41–47.
- Brown, A., 1991. Structured Deposition and Technological Change among the Flaked Stone Artefacts from Cranbourne Chase in J. Barrett, R. Bradley and M. Hall (eds.), *Papers on the Prehistoric Archaeology of Cranbourne Chase*. Oxbow Monograph 11, 101–133.
- CAT, 2000. Mersham Metal-Working Site. *Current Archaeology* 168 (Vol. XIV, No. 12), 466.
- Champion, T., 2007. Prehistoric Kent, in J. H. Williams (ed.) *The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press/Kent County Council, 67–133.
- Clark, J. G. D., Higgs, E.S. and Longworth, I. H., 1960. Excavations at the Neolithic Site at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk (1954, 1957 and 1958). *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 26, 202–245.

- Cook, N., 1936. Anglo-Saxon. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 48, 235.
- Cotter, J., 2002. Medieval shellywares in Kent: a summary of recent research. *Canterbury's Archaeology* 1999–2000, 56–60.
- Cotter, J., 2006. The pottery, in K. Parfitt, B. Corke & J. Cotter, *Townwall Street, Dover Excavations 1996*. The Archaeology of Canterbury New Series Volume III. Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 121–254.
- Davis, A. J., 1988. *The Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Great Chart. A History and Guide*, unpublished guide booklet.
- Deeves, S., 2002. *Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at South Willesborough, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report.
- Deeves, S., 2007. Excavation of an Iron Age and Saxon Site at South Willesborough, Ashford. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 127, 237–247.
- Detsicas, A. P., 1975. A Romano-British Building at Charing. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 91, 107–110.
- Eastbury, E. and Blackmore, L., 2010. Excavations at Boys Hall Road, Willesborough, Ashford. Museum of London Archaeology. *Kent Archaeological Society eArchaeological Reports* <http://www.kentarchaeology.ac/archrep/willesborough01.pdf>
- Elliston-Erwood, F. C., 1952. Plans of, and Brief Architectural Notes on, Kent Churches. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 65, 140–149.
- Found, B., 2005. *An archaeological Watching brief at 'Site J2', adjacent to Boys Hall Moat, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2005/53.

- Glass, H. J., 1999a. Archaeology of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (West of Blind Lane, Sevington (TR 0403 3900)). *Archaeologia Cantiana* 119, 217–218.
- Glass, H. J., 1999b. Archaeology of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (South of Beechbrook Wood (TQ 9850 4540)). *Archaeologia Cantiana* 119, 217.
- Glass, H. J., 1999c. Archaeology of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Boys Hall Balancing Pond, Ashford (TR 0310 4007)). *Archaeologia Cantiana* 119, 217.
- Gollop, A., 2003. *Archaeological Evaluation of land at Millbank Reception Centre, Millbank Place, Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2003/113.
- Green, H. S., 1980. *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles: a detailed study of material from England and Wales with comparanda from Scotland and Ireland: Part I*. British Archaeological Reports (British Series) 75.
- Griffin, N., 2003. *An Archaeological Evaluation at the Site of the Proposed Ashford Singleton Church of England (Aided)/Methodist primary School, Singleton, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.
- Grove, L. R. A. and Warhurst, A., 1952. A thirteenth-century kiln site at Ashford. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 65, 183–187.
- Hall, D., 2000. *The Great Chart Millennium sign and the early history of the village*. <http://gtchart.tripod.com/greatchart>
- Hasted, E., 1798. *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 7*, 497–514.
- Hayden, C., 2000. *Boys Hall Balancing Pond Post Excavation Assessment Report*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).

- Hayden, C., 2001. *West of Blind Lane, Sevington, Kent ARC BLN 98. Detailed Archaeological Works Assessment Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Hayward, K., 2011. Appendix 6: Building Material in S. Holden, *Land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent: Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report, 90–97.
- Helm, R. and Munby, J. 2006 *Medieval ironworking evidence at Mersham, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Heritage Conservation Group, 2008. *Specification for an Archaeological Investigation at the site of Friars School, Ashford Road, Great Chart*. Kent County Council.
- Herne, A., 1991. The Flint Assemblage in I. Longworth, A. Herne, G. Varndell and S. Needham, *Excavations at Grimes Graves Norfolk 1972–1976. Fascicule 3. Shaft X: Bronze Age flint, chalk and metal working*. Dorchester: British Museum Press, 21–93
- Hicks, M., 1992. *Archaeological Assessment, Park Farm, Ashford, TR011395, Land Parcel 13*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 1992/10.
- Hicks M., 1993. Park Farm, Ashford. *Canterbury's Archaeology 1992–1993*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust 17th Annual Report, 41–42.
- Hopkinson, D. and Kenyon, D., 1998. *Millbank Road, Ashford, Kent: Watching Brief Report*. AOC Archaeology Ltd. unpublished report.
- James, R., 1997. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Faversham Road, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.

- Jarrett, C., 2011. Appendix 4: Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery in S. Holden, *Land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent: Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report, 82–88.
- Johnson, C., 1999. *Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent: Phase I: Interim Statement*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.
- Keys, L., 2011. Appendix 9: Iron Slag and Other High-Temperature Debris in S. Holden, *Land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent: Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report, 102–105.
- Lamdin-Whymark, H., 2008. Neolithic and Bronze Age Flint in P. Booth, A-M. Bingham and S. Lawrence, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998-9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, 24–25.
- Lawrie, L., 2004. *Ashford. A History and Celebration*. Salisbury: Frith Book Company Ltd.
- Linklater, A., 1998. *Ashford Orbital Park: archaeological watching brief*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust unpublished report.
- Lucas, V. A. L. and Paynter, S., 2010. *Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent: Analysis of crucibles from the Iron Age Settlement*. Portsmouth: English Heritage Research Department Report Series no. 30-2010.
- Martingell, H., 1990. The East Anglian Peculiar? The 'Squat' Flake. *Lithics* 11, 40–43.
- McRae, S. G. & Gooderham, P. T., 1971. Field Meeting near Ashford and Canterbury, Kent. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* 82, 359–364.

- MoLAS, 1999. *South of Beechbrook Wood ARC BWD 98. Archaeological Excavation Interim Report*. London: Museum of London Archaeological Services (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Murray, P., 1999. *Tutt Hill, Westwell, Kent: archaeological evaluation report*. Oxford Archaeological Unit unpublished report.
- OAU, 1993. *Excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington*. Oxford Archaeological Unit unpublished report.
- OAU, 1999a. *Boys Hall Balancing Pond, Sevington, Kent ARC BHB 99. Strip Map and Sample Archaeological Works Interim Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- OAU, 1999b. *West of Blind Lane, Sevington, Kent ARC BLN 98. Detailed Archaeological Works Interim Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Parfitt, K. and Corke, B., 2005. *The North School, Ashford, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2005/8.
- Parkinson, A., 1999. *Lodge Wood, Ashford, Kent: archaeological evaluation report/ environmental statement: Route Window No. 31*. Oxford Archaeological Unit unpublished report.
- Pearce, J., 1992. *Border Wares, Post-Medieval Pottery in London, 1500–1700. Vol. 1*. London: HMSO.
- Philp, B., 1991. Excavations on the Orbital Park Site – Ashford. *Kent Archaeological Review* 104, 74–77.
- Powell, A. 2012. *Excavations South-East of Park Farm, Ashford, Kent*.
www.kentarchaeology.ac

- Priestley-Bell, G., 2000. *An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Hothfield Works Site, Watery Lane, Westwell, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East Report No. 1196.
- Rady J., 1992. Waterbrook Farm, Ashford. *Canterbury's Archaeology 1991–1992*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust 16th Annual Report, 32–34.
- Rady J., 1996. Waterbrook Farm, Ashford. *Canterbury's Archaeology 1994–1995*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 38–39.
- Rady, J., 2000. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Crowbridge Road, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2000/9.
- Rayner, L., 2011. Appendix 3: Prehistoric and Roman Pottery in S. Holden, *Land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent: Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report, 79–81.
- Rielly, K., 2011. Appendix 10: Animal Bone in S. Holden, *Land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent: Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report, 106–108.
- Russell, M., 1993. *Archaeological Excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington, Ashford, Kent*. Oxford Archaeological Unit unpublished report.
- Stevens, S., 1997. *South of Beechbrook Wood ARC BWD97. An Archaeological Evaluation*. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Stevenson, J., 2003a. *An Archaeological Evaluation of Phases 6 & 7 at Brisley Farm (Charterfields), Chilmington Green, Ashford*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.
- Stevenson, J., 2003b. *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Bilham Farm, Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.

- Stevenson, J. and Johnson, C., 2004. Brisley Farm, The last Iron Age warriors of Kent?. *Current Archaeology* 191, 490–496.
- Ward, A., 1995. *A Watching Brief at Park Farm Moated Site, Kingsnorth, Nr Ashford*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, unpublished report.
- Webster, L. and Cherry, J., 1976. Medieval Britain in 1975. *Medieval Archaeology* 20, 158–201.
- Webster, L. and Cherry, J., 1980. Medieval Britain in 1979. *Medieval Archaeology* 24, 218–264.
- Wenban-Smith, F., 2007. The Palaeolithic archaeology of Kent, in J. H. Williams (ed.) *The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press/Kent County Council, 25–65.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2004. *Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent: Post-excavation assessment report and updated project design*. Wessex Archaeology unpublished report.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2010. *Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent: A programme of Archaeological Evaluation Comprising a Fieldwalking and Gradiometer Survey*. Wessex Archaeology unpublished report.
- White, T., 1637. Map of Court Lodge Manor in Great Chart.
- Wilmott, H., 2005. *A history of English glass making AD 43–1800*. Stroud: Tempus.
- Wilson, J., 1990. *Orbital Industrial Park, Boys Hall, Ashford, Kent. An Archaeological Evaluation*. Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit Report No. 1990/22.
- Winton, V., 2008. Palaeolithic Finds, in P. Booth, A-M. Bingham and S. Lawrence, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, 17–23.

Wragg, E., 2002. *Park Farm South, Ashford, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. unpublished report.

Wragg, E., 2003. *An Archaeological Evaluation: Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent*. CgMs Consulting unpublished report.

Wragg, E., 2006. *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Missenden, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report.

Wymer J., 1999. *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*. Wessex Archaeology/English Heritage.

Young, R. and Humphrey, J., 1999. Flint Use in England after the Bronze Age: time for a re-evaluation? *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 65, 231–242.

APPENDIX

Table 1: Quantification of pottery types in Phases 3 and 4 by sherd count (SC) and minimum number of vessels (MNVs)

Pottery type	Code	Date	Phase								Total			
			3 SC	% SC	3 MNV's	% MNV's	4 SC	% SC	4 MNV's	% MNV's	SC	% SC	MNV's	% MNV's
Crucible: sandy. Ashford-type (Potter's Corner)	EM.M2 A	1150 - 1225	1	0.4	1	0.7	2	2	2	3.1	3	0.8	3	1.4
shelly-sandy ware. Canterbury - type sandy.	EM.M5	1175 - 1300	44	16.9	38	25.9	1	11	1	17.2	55	15.3	49	23.2
Canterbury - type sandy with sparse chalk.	EM1	1050 - 1175	22	8.5	21	14.3	2	2	2	3.1	24	6.7	23	10.9
Early medieval shelly ware (little/no sand)	EM1A	1050 - 1225	1	0.4	1	0.7	1	1	1	1.6	2	0.6	2	0.9
Early medieval shelly-sandy ware	EM2	1050 - 1225	6	2.3	5	3.4					6	1.7	5	2.4
Non - local fine sandy with flint and sparse shell.	EM3	1075 - 1250	3	1.2	3	2.0					3	0.8	3	1.4
Non - local coarse quartz sand with shell and flint - temper.	EM29	1125 - 1250	3	1.2	2	1.4					3	0.8	2	0.9
Non - local coarse quartz sand with shell and flint - temper variant with organic inclusions.	EM30	1050-1200	1	0.4	1	0.7	1	1	1	1.6	2	0.6	2	0.9
Prob. East Sussex flint and shell - tempered with sparse quartz.	EM30A	-	17	6.5	4	2.7	3	3	3	4.7	20	5.6	7	3.3
Prob. East Sussex shell and flint - tempered coarse sandy ware.	EM32	1050 - 1250	17	6.5	3	2.0					17	4.7	3	1.4
Ashford/Wealden sandy ware.	EM33	1075 - 1250	2	0.8	2	1.4					2	0.6	2	0.9
Non - local coarse sandy ware.	EM40B	1170 - 12/50	2	0.8	2	1.4					2	0.6	2	0.9
Non - local sandy ware with sparse - moderate flint - temper.	EM45		12	4.6	3	2.0					12	3.3	3	1.4
Wealden pink - buff sandy ware with flint, chalk and iron oxide.	EM46		7	2.7	7	4.8					7	1.9	7	3.3
N. or W. Kent sandy.	M10F	?1350 - 1525	1	0.4	1	0.7					1	0.3	1	0.5
Ashford/Wealden sandy with sparse chalk/shell.	M38A	1150 - 1400					1	1			1	0.3		0.0
Ashford/Wealden sandy ware.	M40A	1175 - ?1350+	1	0.4	1	0.7	5	5	4	6.3	6	1.7	5	2.4
Ashford/Wealden or Rye sandy ware.	M40B	?1175 - 1400.	52	20.0	23	15.6	3	3	2	3.1	55	15.3	25	11.8
	M40BR	?1175 - 1400	2	0.8	2	1.4					2	0.6	2	0.9

Table 1 continued

Ashford/Wealden pasty ware: chalk- flecked.	M40C	?1225/50 - 1400					2	2	1	1.6	2	0.6	1	0.5
Ashford/Wealden fine sandy ware.	M40CS	?1225/50 - 1400	1	0.4	1	0.7					1	0.3	1	0.5
Misc. Unidentified: English.	M100		14	5.4	4	2.7	7	7	3	4.7	21	5.8	7	3.3
German Raeren stoneware.	LM9	1475 - 1550.					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Wealden fine buff sandy.	LM15	?1450 - 1550.	1	0.4	1	0.7					1	0.3	1	0.5
Wealden/Hareplai n hard fine sandy: partially reduced.	LM17A	1525 - 1600.					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Wealden/Hareplai n hard fine sandy: oxidized.	LM17B	1525 - 1600.					2	2	2	3.1	2	0.6	2	0.9
Rye sandy with sparse flint and shell/chalk.	LM17R	?1450 - 1550/75. 1450/75 - 1525/50+					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Hareplain/Biddend en sandy.	LM18A	. 1450/75 - 1525/50+					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Hareplain/Biddend en hard sandy.	LM18B	. ?1375 - 1550.				0.0	1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Wealden orange - buff sandy ware	LM32	1550.	1	0.4	1	0.7	1	1	1	1.6	2	0.6	2	0.9
Medway hard silty - sandy ware with chalk.	LM34B	1450 - 1525/50.					2	2	1	1.6	2	0.6	1	0.5
Medway (?Maidstone) chalk - tempered fine sandy ware.	LM37	1525 - 1550/75.					3	3	3	4.7	3	0.8	3	1.4
Misc. Unidentified: ?English.	LM100						1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Post-medieval red earthenwares.	PM1	1550 - 1800.					5	5	5	7.8	5	1.4	5	2.4
Wealden fine pink - buff earthenware.	PM2.3	1525 - 1750.					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Wealden or Surrey/Hants fine pink - buff earthenware.	PM2.4	1550 - 1900.	1	0.4	1	0.7	1	1	1	1.6	2	0.6	2	0.9
Wealden orange- pink fine sandy ware.	PM2.7	1525 - 1825.					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Wealden pink - buff pasty ware with marl streaks/pellets.	PM2.9	?1550 - 1625	3	1.2	3	2.0					3	0.8	3	1.4
German Frechen stoneware.	PM5	1525 - 1750.					4	4	3	4.7	4	1.1	3	1.4
London stoneware: bi- toned with an iron slip.	PM25	1675 - 1825. 1700 - 1780/180					1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
London stoneware Staffordshire - type white stoneware.	PM25	0	1	0.4	1	0.7					1	0.3	1	0.5
	PM26	1725 - 1780. 1775 - 1825.	1	0.4	1	0.7	1	1	1	1.6	2	0.6	2	1.0
Later Creamware Pearl Ware: blue feathered/shell edged.	LPM11						1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
	LPM12 D	1780 - 1825.	1	0.4	1	0.7		0			1	0.3	1	0.5

Table 1 continued

Staffs. "Ironstone"															
- type white earthenware.	LPM14	1825 - 1850/75.						1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Red earthenware with iron - streaked glaze (?High Halden).	LPM1A	1800 - 1900.						1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Other late PM1/LPM1 - types.	LPM1B	c. 1775+.						1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
Fine red earthenware.	LPM2	1825 - 1900+.	3	1.2	2	1.4						3	0.8	2	0.9
Midlands/N.E. England black iron - glazed red earthenware.	LPM21	1775 - 1900.						1	1	1	1.6	1	0.3	1	0.5
				15.				2					18.		
Unidentified			39	0	11	7.5	8	28	3	4.7	67	7	14	6.6	
			26		14		9	10	6				21	10	
Total			0	100	7	100	9	0	4	100	359	100	1	0	