KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lympne Roman Project

A Community-Led Archaeological Research Excavation

On Land at Beacon Field, Lympne, Hythe, Kent

NGR TR 1261 3487

Site Code: LRP

OASIS-ID:

Author: Andy Ward, BA (hons), MA, PCIfA

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Prepared by: Andy Ward (Curator) on behalf of the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS)



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1. Non-Technical Summary

1.1 A community-led archaeological research excavation was carried out by the Studying History & Archaeology in Lympne (hereafter SHAL) on land at Beacon Field, Lympne (TR 1261 3487) (Hereafter The Site) across two seasons in 2023 and 2024. The excavation consisted of six trenches targeted on results from a previous geophysical survey carried out by Richard Taylor.[1] Over the course of the two fieldwork seasons members of SHAL, assisted by staff and members of the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) uncovered evidence of a Roman wall potentially relating to a Late Roman fortlet, a ditch with potential Iron Age origins and a later medieval to post-medieval Lime Kiln feature. Members of both SHAL and KAS gained valuable excavation skills through the course of the project. SHAL plan to return to the site in June 2026 to undertake further work subject to landowner permissions.

2. Introduction

2.1 The excavations at Beacon Field were conducted to understand the nature of Romano-British activity around Shepway Cross, building on earlier work which SHAL had undertaken in Lympne alongside amateur archaeologist Malcolm Davies. In 2022, SHAL conducted a community excavation assisted by the Kent Archaeological Society on land at Shepway Cross, Lympne[2]. This revealed a Romano-British Roadside settlement, potential industrial activity and what is believed to be a the route of a Roman Road from Lympne Hill to Canterbury. A single cremation burial containing a Samian Ware [1c] dish with barbotine decoration, a biconical beaker and a possible North Gaulish Beaker with associated hobnails was also recorded, before being left in-situ.[3]

2.2 An earlier programme of geophysical survey had been conducted as part of the Lympne Roman Settlement Project by Darnley Archaeological Services, commissioned by Studying History and Archaeology in Lympne (SHAL). This survey revealed a series of positive linear and curvilinear anomalies that were identified occupying much of the area surveyed, characteristic of a possible Iron Age enclosure to the south and a Roman 'ladder settlement' to the north. Associated linear boundaries were also identified.[4] An introduction to the background of the Lympne Roman Settlement Project set out by Guy Topham can be read in full on the Kent Archaeological Society Website as part of the report by Richard Taylor of the KAS/Darnley Archaeological Services.

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[1] Guy Topham et al (2020) *The Lympne Roman Settlement Geophysics Survey* KAS magazine, Issue 114 (Winter 2020). The Lympne Roman Settlement Geophysics Survey — Kent History & Archaeology [Accessed 24/04/2026]
[2] Taylor, Richard (2022) *Roman Settlement at Shepway Cross, Lympne,* KAS Magazine, Issue 119 (Winter 2022). Roman Settlement at Shepway Cross, Lympne — Kent History & Archaeology [Accessed 24/04/2026]
[3] *Ibid*
[4] Taylor, Richard (2020) *Geophysical Survey by Magnetometry, Land Near Shepway Cross, Lympne, Kent.* Darnley Archaeological Services. Report No. DAS 001.

2.3 SHAL commissioned the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) to produce a report covering the 2023 and 2024 research excavations conducted by SHAL with assistance provided by the KAS.

2.4 The excavations which are the subject of this report consisted of a one week excavation in the summer of 2023 and a longer, three-week excavation in the summer of 2024 on land at Beacon Field (NGR TR 1261 3487). The excavation in 2023 targeted geophysical anomalies identified during earlier work.[5] During 2023, a very substantial wall was discovered which became the primary focus of the excavation in 2024. A small working group of SHAL members began a new trench attempting to find another section of the wall to the south of the previous discovery 1st May 2024, meeting each Wednesday.

2.5 The excavations in 2023 were carried out by SHAL between 18th and 26th August. The excavations in 2024 were carried out between 12th and 30th August.

2.6 No applications or planning permission existed at the site, nor are any archaeological conditions imposed. However, a full report of the excavation findings will be published and forwarded for input on the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER).

2.7 The overarching aim of the fieldwork was to provide clarifying information on the site to contribute to future SHAL research, management, and presentation of the local history and archaeology. The research-focused archaeological project was designed to:

2.7.1 Identify the physical extent and character of the archaeological remains on the site targeted on geophysical survey results

2.7.2 Characterise the results of a non-invasive survey, helping to refine the chronology and phasing of the site with a programme of trenching.

2.7.3 Understand the site's archaeological and environmental conditions

2.7.4 Make recommendations, analysis and publication

2.8 This report was produced by Andy Ward, BA (Hons), MA, PCIfA. Andy is the Curator of the Kent Archaeological Society with extensive experience within the Heritage Sector. As Curator of the KAS, Andy has extensive experience in researching and identifying archaeological objects from all periods and provided SHAL advice and support throughout both seasons of excavations.

[5] Guy Topham et al (2020) *The Lympne Roman Settlement Geophysics Survey* KAS magazine, Issue 114 (Winter 2020). The Lympne Roman Settlement Geophysics Survey — Kent History & Archaeology [Accessed 24/04/2026]

3. Site Location and Description

3.1 The site of the excavation was located at the top of Beacon Field adjacent to a substantial wall hidden within an upstanding bank of rubble and soil, thought to be Roman in date and positioned on the edge of a cliff-like escarpment. The escarpment forms the parish boundary of Lympne.

3.2 The National Grid Reference centered on the site is TR 12615 34871. The site straddles the present day boundary between the parishes of Lympne and Hythe.

3.3 Beacon Field is in the administrative district of Folkstone & Hythe District Council, approximately 11km west of Folkstone, 3.5 km west of Hythe and 13km ESE of Ashford.

3.4 The British Geological Survey (BGS) online geological mapping tool was assessed to define the site's background geology.

3.5 No superficial geology is recorded on the BGS mapping tool. However, a Bedrock Geology of the Hythe Beds combining sandstone and limestone is recorded. The Hythe formation was formed in the Cretaceous period between 113 and 126.3 million years ago.[6]

3.6 The Kent Landscape Information System (KLIS) records solid geology of the Hythe Beds and the Group being that of Sandstone. This consists of Ragstone used extensively in the area as building material and for lime manufacturing. To the south of the site, towards Lympne Hill it records Atherfield Clay with a drift geology of Landslip.[7]

3.7 The land at Beacon Field is used as grazing land by its current landowner. It has historically remained under pasture and has not been ploughed in living memory. The land is marked as Arable on the 1841 Tithe Award and the 1936 First Land Utilisation Survey of Great Britain map shows that the more level part of the field was then arable, although not the scarp slope.

3.8 The Farmer William Hurley stated that considerable stone, brick and tile were removed from the field and deposited in the north west corner of the field where a large piece of floor tile was later found with mortar adhered to each side.[8]

[6] BGS Lexicon of Named Rock Units - Result Details [Accessed 21/04/2026]
[7] KLIS map [Accessed 18/05/2026]
[8] Topham, Guy *Pers comm (Written, 03/07/2026)*

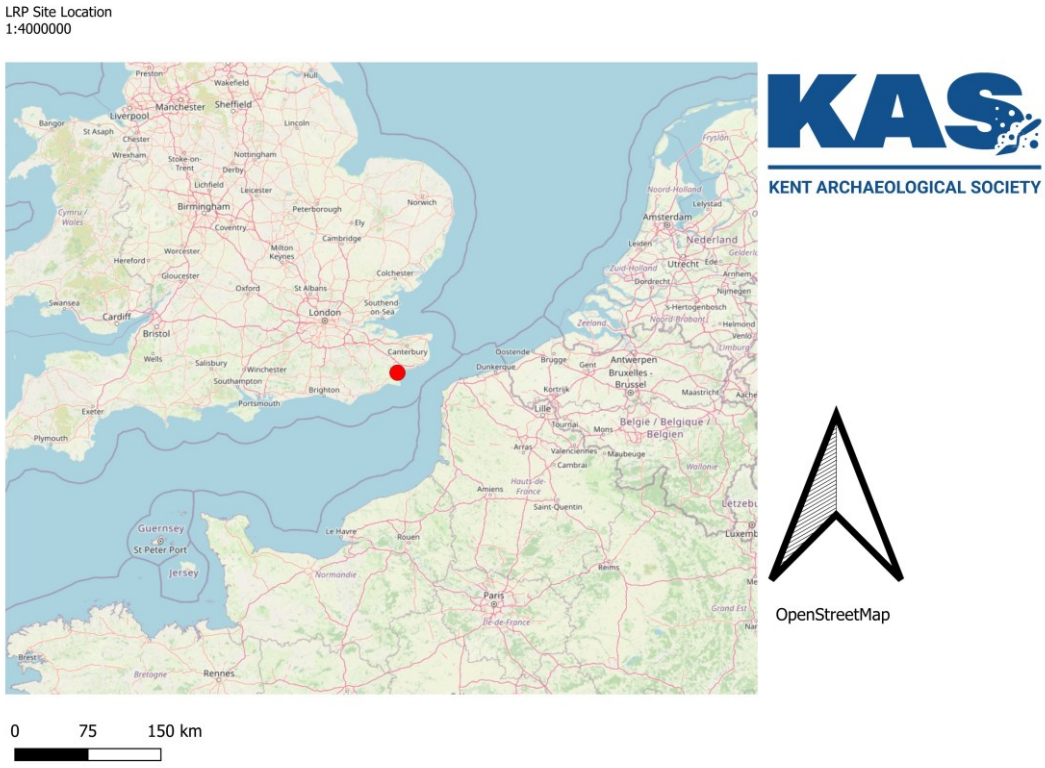


Figure 1 - Site Location 1:400000



Figure 2 - Site Location 1:250000

4. Previous Archaeological Work

4.1 The Studying History and Archaeology group was established in 2013 to undertake archaeological and historical research within the village of Lympne.

4.2 On the lower slope of a Cliff beneath Lympne Castle lays the substantial ruined remains of Stutfall Castle, Stutfall Castle is one of nine Saxon Shore Forts constructed in the 3rd and 4th centuries CE and argued to have been built in response to Saxon raids[9], although other theories also exist including that they were built to control existing Saxon settlers[10] or more recently that they controlled strategic ports important to the empire.[11] Nine Saxon Shore Forts are listed in a document known as the *Notitia Dignitatum*.[12] SHAL has undertaken work within Stutfall Castle alongside archaeologist Malcolm Davies. Stutfall Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is located c. 1000m South-West of the excavation site.

4.3 During the second century the *Classis Britannica* represents the only known military unit based in the South East, outside London and policing units at Dover, the *Strator Consularis*. A dedicated altar stone found at Stutfall Castle represents a likely link to the fleet at Lympne[13] and tiles with the initials CLBR have also been found. Elliott (2017) states that twenty-two examples were found by Charles Roach Smith in his excavations at Stutfall Castle with others found subsequently having potentially been lost.[14] However, Cunliffe (1980a) twenty-one stamped CLBR tiles; eleven from Roach Smith's excavation, at least two from Horsley's 19th century investigations and ten from Cunliffe's own programme of work.[15] The recent excavations carried out by SHAL have further added to the corpus of known CLBR stamped tiles.

4.4 Stutfall was extensively excavated by Charles Roach Smith in the 1850s. His discoveries recorded what he believed to be the original arrangement of the fort, and restored the ground-plan. He records the presence of building stones bearing the marks of carriages and apparent re-use from earlier structures. Tiles bearing the inscription of CLBSR and CLBR were found during his excavations. Seventy coins including earlier coins of Antoninus Pius, as well as Late Roman coins of Gallienus, Victorinus, The Tetrici, Claudius Gothicus, Probus, Maximian, Carausius and Allectus, Licinius, The Constantine family, Valens and Gratian.[16]

4.5 Roach-Smith's excavations revealed *inter alia* a greensand altar inscribed by Aufidius Pantera, prefect of the *Classis Britannica* dating to *c.* 135 CE and suggesting an earlier fort once occupied the site of Stutfall or lay somewhere close-by.[17]

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[9] Cottrell, Leonard (1971) *The Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore*., Department of the Environment: London. Pg 12
[10] *Ibid*
[11] Fields, Nic (2006) *Rome's Saxon Shore: Coastal Defences of Roman Britain AD 250 – 500*., Osprey Publishing Ltd: Peterborough. Pg 34.
[12] Roman Coastal Defences and the Saxon Shore | English Heritage [Accessed 23/06/2026]
[13] Martyn Allen, David Bird and Ben Croxford (2013) *South East Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the Roman Period*. [Accessed 11/05/2026]
[14] Elliott, Simon., Dr (2017) *Empire State: How the Roman Military Built an Empire*., Oxbow Books: Oxford., Pg 148.
[15] Cunliffe, Barry, Professor (1980a), *Excavations at the Roman Fort at Lympne, Kent 1976 – 78*., Britannia vol 11, 227-88.
[16] Roach-Smith, Charles F.S.A (1850), *The Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne, in Kent*, London: John Russell Smith
[17] Davies, Malcolm (2017), *The Findings of Various Archaeological Investigations at the Roman Naval Fort, Stutfall Castle, Lympne, 2014 – 2016,* Archaeologia Cantiana, cxxxviii, 165 – 178. The Findings of Various Archaeological Investigations at the Roman Naval Fort, Stutfall Castle, Lympne, 2014-2016 — Kent History & Archaeology [Accessed 21/05/2026]

4.6 Prof. Sir Barry Cunliffe undertook a series of excavations between 1976 and 1978 at the site of Stutfall Castle. Cunliffe undertook a full survey of the extant portions of the fort's walls and provides a detailed description of the previous excavations carried out since the 18th century. Four trenches were undertaken between 1976 – 1978, targeted on aspects of the existing fort and features recorded by Roach-Smith's earlier work. The report provides important information regarding the positioning of the Saxon Shore Fort at Stutfall and important information regarding the geological formation of Romney Marsh at Lympne. [18]

4.7 The original shape of Stutfall was recorded by a series of archaeological and geotechnical investigations undertaken by J.N. Hutchinson in the early 1980s. This work identified the main soil movements which had taken place after the fort had been abandoned. However, like earlier excavators, they were unable to confirm the presence of an earlier fort within the footprint.[19]

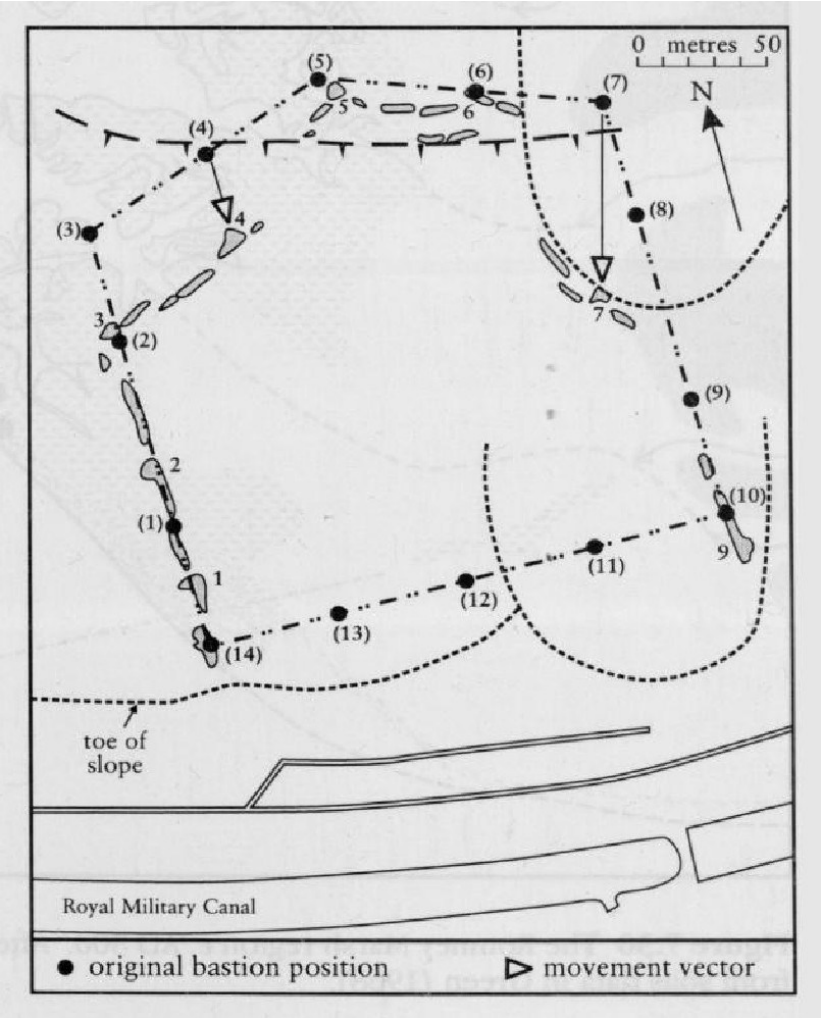


Figure 3 - Reconstructed plan of the Roman Fort (Stutfall Castle) showing the original shape and absolute position of the central parts of the northern walls and the inferred outline of the remainder. After Hutchinson et al. (1985).

[18] Cunliffe, Barry (1980), *Excavations at the Roman Fort at Lympne, Kent 1976 – 78.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/525682.
[19] Davies, M (2017), pg 167.

4.8 The exact shape and function of Stutfall is still very much debated amongst archaeologists and historians. While the irregular pentagon shape of the fort is discussed in Fields (2006)[20], Cunliffe (1980) proposed a regular plan having revealed its eastern gate (originally revealed by Roach Smith), the presence of the debated south wall (Roach Smith 1852, Horsley 1893-94) and its construction method.[21] The irregular pentagon shape was further supported by Hutchinson et al (1985).

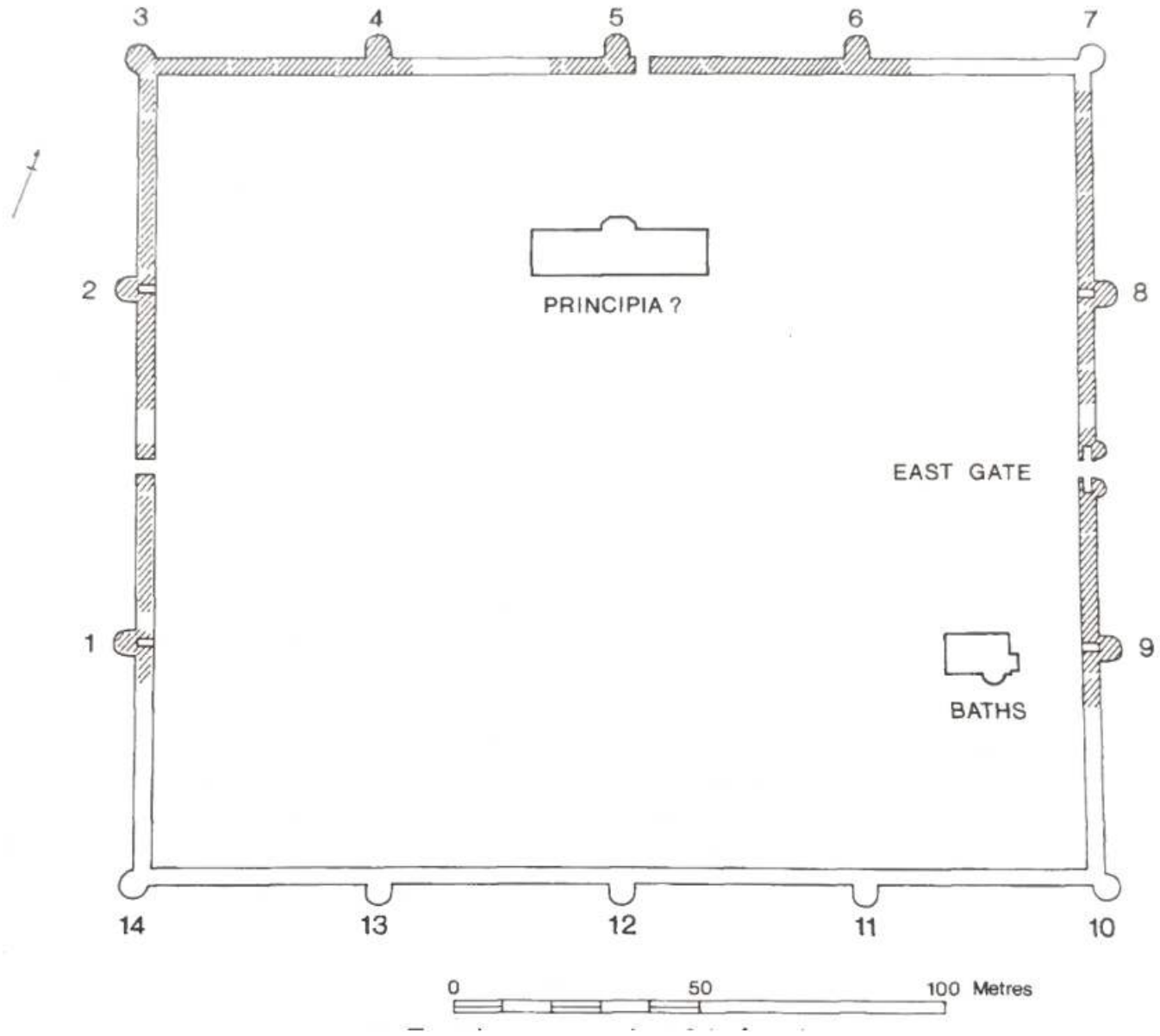


Figure 4 - Tentative Reconstruction of Stutfall Castle after Cunliffe (1980a), fig 19.

[20] Fields, Nic (2006) *Rome's Saxon Shore: Coastal Defences of Roman Britain AD 250 – 500.*, Osprey Publishing Ltd: Peterborough. Pg 34.
[21] Cunliffe, Barry (1980), *Excavations at the Roman Fort at Lympne, Kent 1976 – 78.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/525682.

4.9 The south side of Stutfall was initially thought to have been left unwalled by Roach Smith (1852, 17 and plan p.38).[22] This was thought to have served as direct access to the sea to allow for ship access directly to the fort.[23]

4.10 In the 1970s, the Ashford Archaeological Society led by Jim Bradshaw undertook a series of excavations and metal detecting surveys within the area of the Beacon Field excavation site (named LFII). This work began through the work of Wendy Cookson who, alongside Jim Bradshaw and Sam Moorhead among others, conducted various field surveys across the area which was given the reference name 'Supra Lemanem'; divided into LFIa and LFIb (excavated in 2022) and LFII (Beacon Field). Unfortunately, much of the material has now been lost having been given to the then landowner, and some artefacts were retained by Wendy Cookson. Dr Sam Moorhead has been working extensively to record what finds he has access to and recollections of the work.[24]



Figure 5 - Location of LFI and LFII, based on Sam Moorhead (2002)

[22] Cunliffe, Barry (1980), *Excavations at the Roman Fort at Lympne, Kent 1976 – 78.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/525682.
[23] Roach Smith (1852) in Cunliffe (1980) and Topham, Guy *Pers Comm* (written 03/07/2026)
[24] Dr Sam Moorhead *Pers Comm* (Written) 05 December 2022.

4.11 A Geophysical survey was conducted in 1992 as part of work ahead of the A259 Dymchurch to M20. Field 1 corresponds with the eastern edge of Beacon Field c. 300m east of the excavation site. Field 1 results suggest the corner of an enclosure formed by ditches. Pits may also be present. Roman finds are reported within the field including fragments of tile and small deposits of structural or domestic debris. The report suggests that if a substantial building or site was present it lay outside the survey area. Field 2 corresponds with the excavation carried out by SHAL at Shepway Cross. Roman finds were reported here including sherds and tile fragments. The geophysical survey carried out in 1992 recorded some anomalies suggestive of iron, but could have been caused by brick or similar material. A pipe or spread of modern debris was also detected. [25]

4.12 Amateur archaeologist Malcolm Davies carried out, with SHAL's assistance, a series of surveys in the search for the Roman roads approaching Stutfall. In 2014 Malcolm Davies approached SHAL and the University of Kent to conduct geophysical surveys in the vicinity of Stutfall Fort. The results of this survey suggested the presence of an as then unidentified building. Further resistivity surveys were conducted in the area of Shepway Cross (The Site), 1km north-east of Stutfall. The resistivity surveys were further complemented by a magnetometry landscape survey covering 16 hectares of geophysical data split across three areas.[26]

4.13 In 2018 SHAL undertook a small community excavation with Malcolm Davies within the footprint of the ruins at Stutfall. This work aimed to reveal buried evidence initially seen through a 2015 – 2016 magnetometry survey. A 5m x 1m trench, orientated east-west, aimed at uncovering the probable western wall of a proposed structure identified in the survey thought to be associated with the Roman Altar Stone found by Roach Smith in the 1850s. No confirmed Roman evidence was revealed by the excavation, but the presence of an undated building was revealed alongside Romano-British material and Victorian finds.[27]

4.14 In 2020 a series of magnetometry surveys were conducted by Richard Taylor alongside SHAL across land owned by the Hurley and Owen families. This survey revealed an apparent late Iron Age/Romano-British 'Ladder' Settlement based around a linear trackway, visible in all three parts of the survey area (Fig 6). A central trackway or thoroughfare surely the original Stone Street, several external linear and curvilinear features are visible in survey Areas 1 and 3. Survey Area 2, the target of the excavation, revealed potential Iron Age earthworks in the form of a possible fluted entranceway, truncated by the southern end of the 'Ladder Settlement', and a separate sizeable rectangular enclosure to the south. These were thought to be contemporary at the time of the survey.[28] The Roman Road identified by the project in 2022 did not run the full length down Stone Street, but instead ran from Lympne Hill through the roadside settlement on its way to Canterbury.

[25] Bartlett, A.D.H (1992) *A259 Dymchurch to M20 (Junction 11): Report on Geophysical Survey*. Report No. 1992/75.
[26] Topham, Guy et al (2020), *The Lympne Roman Settlement Geophysics Results*., Kent Archaeological Society Magazine, Vol 114, pg 24 – 25.
[27] Davies, M and Taylor, R (2018)., *SHAL Excavation at Stutfall Fort*, Kent Archaeological Society Magazine, Vol 109, pg 30 – 31.
[28] Taylor, R (2020), pg 13.



Figure 6 - Geophysical Survey Results as per Taylor (2020); red circle identifies Excavation Site

4.15 In August 2022 a small community excavation was carried out at Shepway Cross revealing a probable roadside settlement and a cremation burial dating to the mid-2nd century CE. The site was located to the north of the present excavation under discussion in this report. Three trenches were located targeting geophysical anomalies from the earlier surveys carried out by SHAL. Trench 1 was located over a strong, rectangular magnetic anomaly which revealed during the excavation a wall, two in-situ floor tiles, a post hole and several Romano-British pottery sherds, coins and lead and iron slag. It is thought this may represent a small industrial area or workshop.

4.16 Trench 2 was sited over a quiet area thought to be within an enclosure. This area was thought to hold the potential for burials. The machine-cut trench revealed a Samian [lc] dish dating from 145 – 185 CE and forming part of a three-vessel cremation burial, including in-situ hobnails. The burial was left in-situ following recording.

4.17 Trench 3, placed within the eastern field of the site, produced several Romano-British finds from a variety of contexts. Around 60 coins, the majority from the early fourth century and a variety of box flue tile fragments with different combing patterns present. No building was discovered. A small sondage was excavated on the final day of the project revealing a small linear ditch containing three coins dating to the fourth century and a quantity of animal bone. It was postulated that the excavation revealed a *vicus* serving a fortification situated in the southern field, across Aldington Road (The Site). Both sites were thought to date from around the second century and in use well into the fourth century.[29]

5. Aims and Objectives

5.1 The excavations in 2023 set out to uncover whether Beacon Field had Romano-British evidence linked to the probable *vicus* revealed at Shepway Cross on the opposite side of the road. It was also hoped that the work would reveal links to Stutfall Castle and a possible earlier Roman fort overlooking the sea. It was thought that the site may reveal evidence of a Beacon/Pharos' thought to signal the *Classis Britannica* Fort in Boulogne.

5.2 The excavation in 2024 sought to further clarify the archaeological remains uncovered at Beacon Field in the previous year and better understand their relationship to the substantial wall and its potential origin as a Roman fortification. Trenches for both excavations were set out across targets from the earlier geophysical survey.

5.3 The following Research Questions were defined by the project team in 2023 and 2024:

5.3.1 **R1-2023 Is there a defensive structure located at Beacon Field associated with the nearby Romano-British *vicus*?**

5.3.2 **R2-2023 Is there earlier activity in Beacon field prior to the known Second World War activity?**

5.3.3 **R3-2023 Would activity from other historic periods be revealed during the community excavation?**

5.3.4 **R4-2023 Is there evidence for a beacon or signal station at Beacon Field suggested by topography and place name evidence?**

5.3.5 **R1-2024 Is there a reason behind the high-contrast revealed in earlier resistivity results?**

5.3.6 **R2-2024 What evidence is there for interaction between the large ditch revealed in 2023 and the major, potentially defensive, wall?**

5.3.7 **R3-2024 Is there evidence of a structured interior within the postulated fort?**

[29] Taylor, R (2020), *Roman Settlement at Shepway Cross, Lympne*, Kent Archaeological Society Magazine, Vol 119, Pg 45 – 47.

5.4 The excavations expected the following outcomes:

5.4.1 **OB1 –** Reveal dating evidence for the construction of the major wall, thought to relate to a Roman fortlet

5.4.2 **OB2 –** Investigate the origin and phasing of the geophysical anomalies previously identified by magnetometry and resistivity.

5.4.3 **OB3 –** Substantiate the thought that Beacon Field contained a Roman fortlet, served by the *vicus* on land at Shepway Cross.

5.4.4 **OB4 –** Identify evidence for a Roman Signal Station positioned with line of sight to Boulogne and associated with the *Classis Britannica.*

6. Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1 A full HER search was requested from the Kent Historic Environment Record[30] on the 13th April 2026 with the data being received on 20th April 2026. Thanks are extended to Dr Rose Broadley of the HER for swift provision of the data.

6.2 The HER data contained the following records:

6.2.1 129 Monument Records representing non-designated heritage assets including findspots, features, above and below ground monuments

6.2.2 19 Event Records representing both intrusive and non-intrusive archaeological investigations within the 1km study area centered on the site.

6.2.3 Shapefiles representing Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Conservation Area (CA), Protected Military Remains (PMRs), Archaeological Reports (AR), Historic Landscape Character (HLC), and Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) shapefiles.

6.3 The Archaeological Notification Areas (ANAs) dataset is intended as a method of informing Local Planning Authorities as to when they need to consult Kent County Council on planning applications with a potential archaeological impact. They are only relevant for archaeological potential (including the archaeological potential of built structures), and do not indicate the other potential impacts on the built heritage, the settings of monuments or buildings, or historic landscapes. They entirely replace the Areas of Archaeological Potential dataset in areas with ANAs, although AAPs are still in use in areas where ANAs are not yet available.

6.4 A summary of the recorded known archaeological and historical background relevant to the Beacon Field site is provided below, divided by period.

[30] The Historic Environment Record (HER) is an extensive collection of information relating to Kent's heritage. The database contains information about 100,000 archaeological discoveries, portable antiquities, historic buildings and landscapes, as well as information about archaeological fieldwork and library resources. The HER also contains more than 10,000 archaeological reports as well as aerial photographs and maps.

6.5 Undated

6.5.1 A small number of undated or broadly dated records are also present within the study area. These include possible ditches and an enclosure within the excavation area which may indicate former agricultural or settlement activity of uncertain date, together with an undated wellhead associated with Lympne Castle. Artefactual finds of uncertain chronology include copper-alloy metalworking debris potentially dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period, an undated lead weight, and a lead steelyard weight of possible Roman date. Collectively, these records demonstrate additional, though poorly defined, phases of activity within the wider landscape.

6.6 Prehistoric

6.6.1 Only limited evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded within 1km of the Site, comprising four HER entries. These include a dense concentration of worked flint located approximately 780m north-east of the Site, indicative of broader prehistoric activity in the area (TR 13 NW 47). A Mesolithic tranchet axe (MKE4284), referenced as being held by Maidstone Museum[31], was recovered approximately 600m west of the Site, while a Bronze Age copper-alloy awl (MKE113636), recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme as KENT-E93BF5, was found approximately 750m north-north-west of the Site.

6.7 Iron Age

6.7.1 Evidence for Iron Age activity within the study area is limited but includes several artefactual finds. Three Iron Age coins (MK43591) were recovered approximately 645m west of the Site, while a complete copper-alloy object (MKE120561), interpreted as a component of a larger composite object dating to the late Iron Age, was found approximately 280m north of the Site. The latter was recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme under reference KENT-652710. Comparison with other items on the PAS database (BERK-B0F1B7)[32] and (LANCUM-E7297)[33] suggest the object may have formed part of a pin of middle to late Iron Age date (300 BCE – 43 CE).

6.8 Roman

6.8.1 The Roman period in Britain begins in 43 CE with the invasion ordered by the Emperor Claudius and ends c. 410 CE with the Emperor Honorius declaring that Britain must 'look to their own'.[34] Early Roman influence had come into Britain and specifically Kent through trade between the Iron Age Cantiaci and the Roman Empire and the early incursions by Julius Caesar in 55 & 54 BCE.[35]

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[31] A check of Maidstone Museum has confirmed the axehead is not held there and may be lost or was once only on loan.
[32] Record ID: BERK-B0F1B7 - IRON AGE pin [Accessed 29/0/2026]
[33] Record ID: LANCUM-E72971 - IRON AGE brooch [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[34] Bromhead, N. Edward and Ibsen, Maia-Laura (2022) '*The Geotechnical setting of the forts of the Saxon Shore in SE England: A Record Lasting Nearly 2 Millennia* in Geotechnical Engineering for the Preservation of Monuments and Historic Sites III – Lancellotta, Viggiani, Flora, De Silva & Mele (Eds) CRS Press: Taylor and Francis. ISBN 978-1-003-30886-7. Pg 509 – 520.
[35] *Ibid*

6.8.2 Numerous Roman-period records are recorded within the 1km study area, indicating sustained Romano-British activity in the wider landscape. Two dispersed scatters of Roman material were identified approximately 350–450m north of the Site, comprising pottery, ceramic building material and coins; the proximity of which may suggest the presence of a Romano-British building within 500m of the Site. Additional Romano-British pottery and coins have been recovered from fields crossed by Stone Street approximately 210m north-north-west of the Site, while further pottery and tile fragments were recovered between the Royal Military Canal and nearby woodland approximately 850m south-west of the Site. In total, 36 individual Roman finds have been recorded within the study area, primarily through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Although some material dates to the 1st century CE, the majority dates from the 2nd to 4th centuries CE.

6.8.3 Three Roman Villas are noted within the area of Lympne; Otterpool (first identified in 2017[36]), Marwood Farm (identified and studied in 2013[37], and Burch's Rough (identified and investigated in the 1970s.[38]

6.9 Early Medieval

6.9.1 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon and early medieval activity within the study area is comparatively extensive and includes both settlement-related material and high-status artefactual finds. Two Anglo-Saxon vases were reportedly recovered approximately 147m west of the Site adjacent to the continuation of Stone Street, with a related HER entry suggesting the possible presence of burials or an inhumation cemetery in this location. Further evidence includes isolated finds of 9th–11th century pottery from locations south and south-east of the Site, alongside a range of early medieval artefacts recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Corpus of Early Medieval Coin Finds. These include a garnet brooch, several silver pennies of Offa of Mercia and Edward the Elder, an Anglo-Saxon gold shilling (thrymsa), additional Anglo-Saxon silver pennies, and a possible imitation penny of Otto III. Additional early medieval metalwork includes an incomplete copper-alloy strap end and a copper-alloy five-lobed sword pommel cap dating between the 10th and early 12th centuries. Collectively, this material suggests sustained Anglo-Saxon and early medieval activity within the wider landscape, potentially associated with settlement, communication routes and burial activity focused on Stone Street and the southern edge of the escarpment overlooking Romney Marsh.

6.9.2 The location of the Saxon mint at Lympne which was in operation from the reign of Edward the Martyr (975 – 978 CE) to the short cross issue of Cnut (1029 – 1036 CE) is uncertain, and further compounded by the changes to the estuary of the Limen River

[36] Trott, Naomi and Bishop, Lara (2018)., *Otterpool Park, Environmental Statement Appendix 9.8 – Otterpool Roman Villa Statement of Significance.*
[37] TR 03 SE 7 - Romano-British buildings, Aldington - Historic Environment Record [accessed 17/07/2026]
[38] TR 03 NE 24 - Romano-British building S of Burch's Rough, Aldington - Historic Environment Record [Accessed 17/07/2026]

since the late Saxon period. A number of sites have been put forward including Stutfall Castle, Sandtun, West Hythe, and Lympne village itself.[39]



Figure 7 - KENT4837

6.10 Medieval

6.10.1 Medieval activity within the study area is represented by settlement evidence, buried land surfaces and a range of artefactual finds. The most significant record is the deserted medieval settlement of West Hythe (TR 13 SW 23), occupied between the 11th and 16th centuries. Further evidence of medieval occupation is provided by a buried medieval land surface recorded at Wayfield House, West Hythe. Artefactual finds from the wider area include an Anglo-Norman silver penny dating to the late 11th century, several medieval silver coins spanning the 13th to early 16th centuries, a copper-alloy buckle, strap end and ring, together with a medieval lead weight. Collectively, the evidence indicates continued medieval occupation and activity within the vicinity of the Site, likely associated with settlement, agricultural activity, and movement along local routeways. A nearby Medieval industrial site *Sandtun* is confidently identified at TR 122338) in West Hythe, once the area of Sampton immediately beneath and south-east of Stutfall Castle.[40] In this same work is mentioned the area of *Hudan Fleot "Huda's Fleet"* which once occupied the area of the Roman anchorage at Stutfall.[41]

6.10.2 Additional medieval settlement and high-status occupation evidence is present within the wider study area. Lympne Castle, originating in the 13th century, but with possible earlier origins, and subsequently altered and expanded, is recorded as a fortified house and castle complex incorporating associated features including revetments, terraced

[39] TR 13 SW 188 - Early Medieval mint at Lympne (Limn)e - Historic Environment Record [Accessed 21/07/2026]
[40] Brooks, Nicholas (1998) Romney Marsh in the early Middle Ages. *Romney Marsh: evolution, occupation, reclamation,.* 90 – 104.
[41] *Ibid*

gardens, service buildings and ancillary structures.[42] Further medieval domestic occupation is represented by Lympne Hall, a post-medieval timber-framed house with medieval origins, and a medieval house located north-west of Lympne Castle at Castle Close.

6.10.3 The parish church of St Stephen, positioned beside Lympne Castle was constructed by at least the late 11th century CE, being mentioned by Archbishop Lanfrac in the Exchequer Domesday Book [and thus must predate his death in 1089][43] with further work dating to the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries. It was restored in circa 1859.[44]

6.10.4 Together, these records reflect the continued importance of Lympne as a focus of medieval settlement and elite occupation within the local landscape. The Parish Church of St Stephen is located c. 930m south-west of Beacon Field, built in the late 11th century (MKE32480).

6.11 Post Medieval

6.11.1 Post-medieval and modern activity within the study area is characterised by continued settlement expansion, agricultural development and ecclesiastical activity centred on Lympne and its surrounding farmsteads. Surviving domestic buildings include Little Berwick, a timber-framed house of 17th-century origin, Berwick House, and The Sanctuary Farmhouse, alongside several recorded farmsteads at Berwick Manor Farm, Oathill and elsewhere within Lympne parish. Religious and commemorative features include the ruins of St Mary's Church at West Hythe and a series of 18th- and 19th-century funerary monuments associated with the Church of St Stephen, Lympne. Broader post-medieval infrastructure is represented by a 16th-century beacon site near the site, a National School, Station House guardhouse, a pump house and the site of an oast house. Artefactual evidence from the period includes copper-alloy buckles, furniture fittings, mounts and a lead weight. Collectively, these records reflect the continued agricultural, domestic, and institutional development of the landscape from the post-medieval period into the modern era. The now disused, Napoleonic era defensive Royal Military Canal (TQ92 NW 8) is located c. 650 south of the site, running east-west beneath The Roughs. Built between 1804 and 1809 in response to the threat of invasion.

6.12 Modern

6.12.1 Modern-period records within the study area are dominated by military and defensive features associated with the Second World War and the strategic importance of nearby Lympne Airfield and the Kent coast. These include the remains of aircraft hangars, a machine-gun testing range and an ammunition store at Lympne Airfield, together with multiple pillboxes, a roadblock and a gun emplacement forming part of wider wartime defensive infrastructure. Additional military-related records include a Chain Home Low

[42] Lympne Castle, Lympne - 1101773 | Historic England [Accessed 21/07/2026]
[43] Livett, M. Greville (1931) *Lympne Church: An Analytical Study* in *Archaeologia Cantiana* vol XLIII, pg 220 – 239.
[44] Church of St Stephen, Lympne - 1101780 | Historic England [Accessed 21/07/2026]

radar station and the crash site of a Supermarine Spitfire I dating to 1940. Other 20th-century records include the Shepway Cross war memorial erected in 1923, the temporary use of Lympne Castle as a hospital during the First World War, and the interwar construction of 'Long Barrow' House. Collectively, these records reflect the military significance of the area during the 20th century, particularly during the Second World War.

6.12.2 A single Second World War pillbox is recorded 370m east of the excavation site, highlighting the strategic advantage the site carried during the 20th century and likely in proceeding historic periods. An acoustic research station built to identify and track enemy aircraft was constructed at Hythe, over 1km south-east from the site in 1922, located at NGR 613621 134459. It consists of a concrete bowl-shaped mirror 30ft in diameter and is formed as part of a series of sound mirrors covering 18 miles of coastline.[45] A Fortress Observation Post was mounted on the roof of Lympne Castle during the 2nd World War.[46]

7. Historic Map Regression

7.1 Historic Map Regression was undertaken using available sources from the National Library of Scotland.

7.2 The Bartholomew half inch map dating from 1897 – 1907 CE shows the area of the excavation site south of Aldington Road and East of Lympne Hill.

[45] Conservation Management, Wessex Archaeology (2006) *Concrete Sound Mirror, Cinque Ports Training Area, Hythe*: Archaeological Recording., Wessex Report No. 59340.02

[46] *Pillbox Study Group communication* (Verbal communication). SKE52253

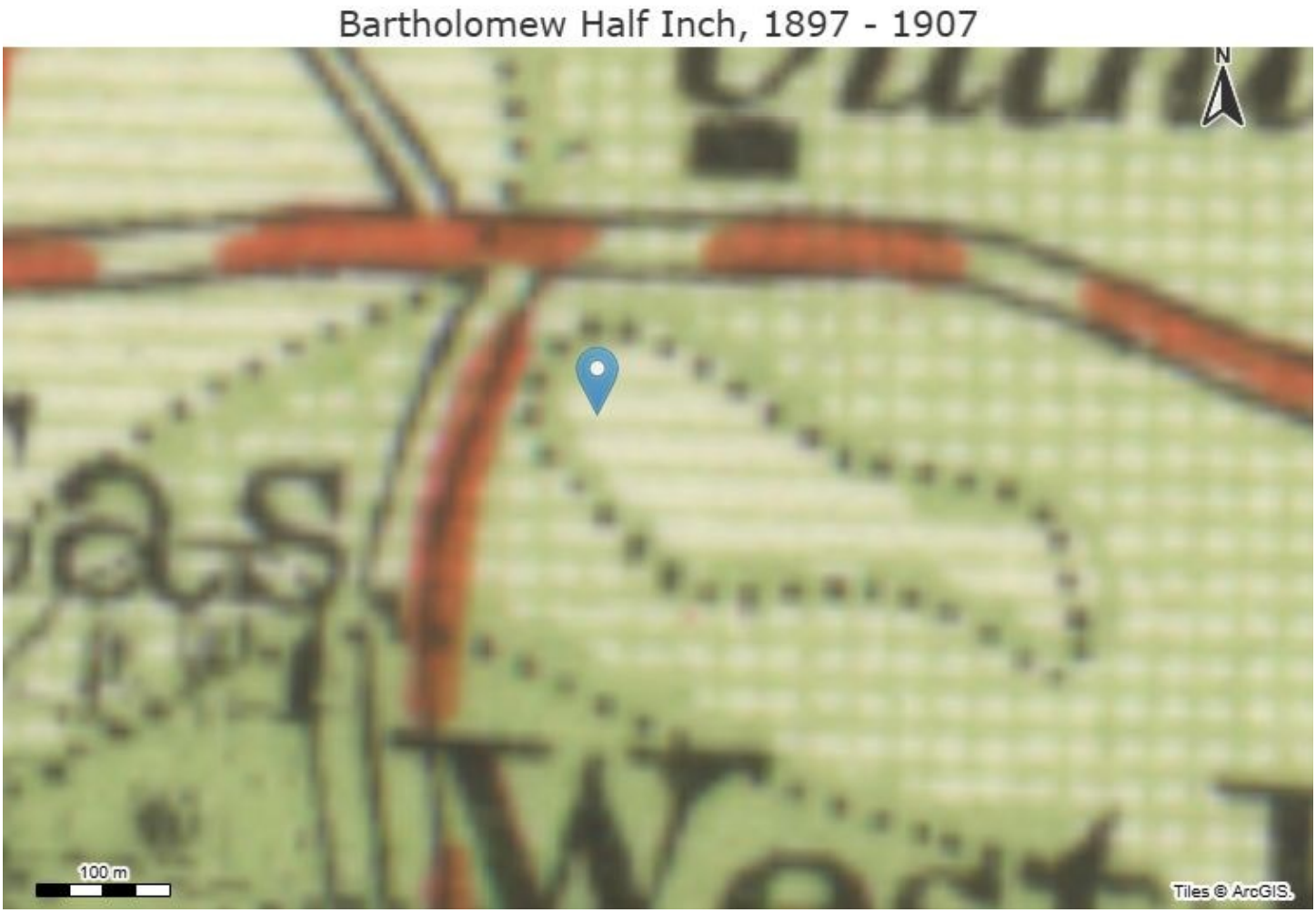


Figure 8 - Bartholomew Half Inch; reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland

7.3 The Geology One Inch map dating from the 1860s – 1940s shows the area of the site marked with green vertical lines representing the Hythe Beds. The area is marked as Shipway Cross rather than the modern Shepway Cross.



Figure 9 - Geology One Inch; reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland

7.4 Shipway may relate to Lympne's role as a port and haven. Charles Roach-Smith in reporting the words of Leland writes:

7.4.1 "Lympne Hille, or Lyme, was sumtyme a famose haven, and good for shyppes that might cum to the foote of the hille. The place is yet cawled Shypwey and old haven."[47]

7.5 The site of Shepway Cross is reported to be the location at which a common court of the Cinque Ports met since the mid-12th century. Established by at least 1150 the *Kings High Court of Shepway* was a royal primarily intended to bring the Portsmen of the Cinque Port region under the control of the King's representative, the Lord Warden. The court dealt with both civil and criminal cases as well as administrative functions.[48]

7.6 The Ordnance Survey (OS) 10 Mile Geological map dated to 1955 but published in 1957 shows a band of Lower Greensand (H^2) across the site location. To the north is a band of H3; Upper

[47] Roach-Smith, Charles F.S.A (1850), *The Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne, in Kent*, London: John Russell Smith
[48] The Courts – Cinque Ports [Accessed 30/06/2026]

Greensand and Gault Clay with sporadic outcrops of Lenham & St Erith Beds represented in yellow throughout the wider chalk escarpment.

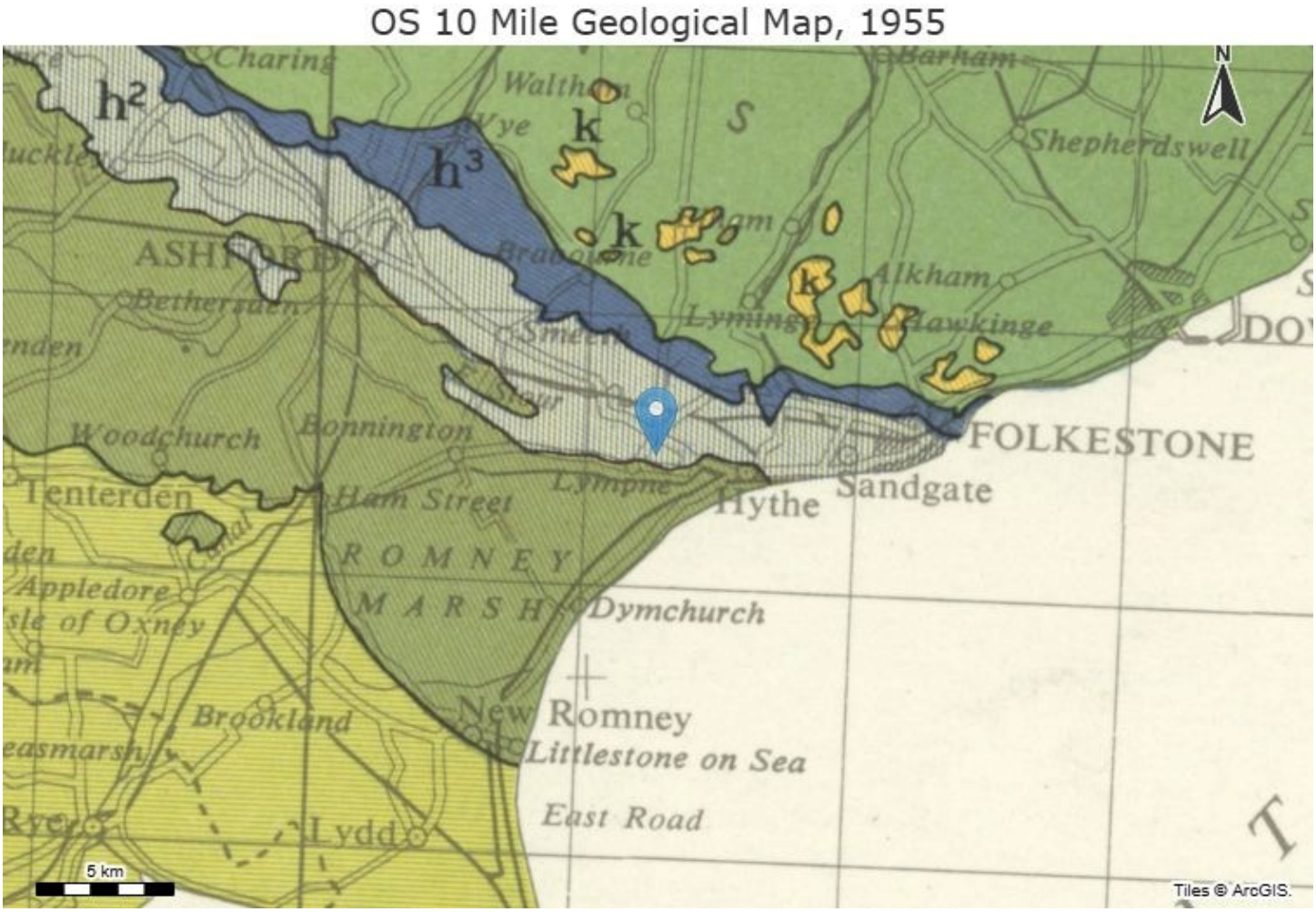


Figure 10 - OS 10 Mile Geological Map; reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland

7.7 By the OS 25 inch map dated between 1892 and 1914, a spring is marked to the north-west of the excavation site. Springs hold particular importance to Iron Age and Romano-British beliefs and were often a source of votive depositions as well as an important element in the foundation of settlements.[49] Two footpaths are shown to the west of Lympne Hill, west of the excavation site with the spring located at its top.

[49] Thomas, Zoé Elise. "Sacred springs and places public: water, architecture, and Roman imperialism in Gaul." PhD diss., 2025.



Figure 11 - OS 25 Inch; reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland

7.8 The OS One Inch 1st edition Old Series map, dating from 1798 – 1878 depicts the area of the excavation above the area known locally as The Roughs; formed primarily from landslips, quarrying and quarrying waste.[50] Only two named buildings are recorded, that of Beacon House (demolished by the landowners, the Hardy's) depicted within a sub-triangular plot of land to the west of the site and Hole Hill; three buildings in an L-shaped plot to the north east of the site. A small sheepfold is marked on the western side of the parish boundary.

7.9 The 1885 – 1900 Outline OS One Inch map shows the area of the excavation labelled as Shepway, different to the earlier Shipway. To the north is the farmstead marked as Oathill. The Roughs is delineated by the parish boundary between Lympne and Hythe along the 300m OD line.

7.10 No significant change is marked on the OS Once Inch, 1885 – 1903 Hill map, but it does highlight the steepness of the cliff line beneath the excavation site. The Beacon House now shown to the west of the excavation site is not the same as that marked on the OS 25 inch which was demolished. This second Beacon House is positioned at Stone Street.[51]

[50] Topham, Guy *Pers Comm (Written).*
[51] *Ibid*



Figure 12 - OS One Inch 1st Edition / Old Series; reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland



Figure 13 - OS One Inch (Hills); reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland



Figure 14 - OS One Inch (Outline); reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland



Figure 15 - OS Six Inch; reproduced with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland

7.11 The OS Six Inch, 1888 – 1915 map shows far more detail than the previous maps available from the National Library of Scotland. The area is once again marked as Shipway Cross. The spring is again shown on the western side of Lympne Hill. Further to the west a Quarry is marked west of Beacon House. It is unclear what material was quarried from the site, however the underlaying bedrock geology being that of the Hythe Beds suggests Kentish Ragstone is likely the most suitable candidate. A geological survey carried out in 1956 identified 10 ft of strata in the disused quarry located in the triangle of roads west of Shipway [Shepway] Cross (marked on figure 15). These strata comprised seven ragstone beds 5 inches to 2ft 6 inches thick with intervening hassocks up to 9 inches each. All of the ragstones were fine grained and not notably sandy. [52] This quarry, located

[52] SMART, J G O, BISSON, G, and WORSSAM, B C. 1966. Geology of the Country around Canterbury and Folkestone. *Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain*, Sheets 289, 305 and 306 (England and Wales), page 76

off Berwick Lane is now known locally as the Trim Trail and was filled with inert material before Octavian Drive and Ridgeway Housing estates were constructed atop it.[53]

8. Crop Marks

8.1 Crop Marks are the result of changes in soil depth caused by buried archaeological features and the impact of human activity upon the land. Features such as ditches, pits, grave cuts, provide a greater depth of growth for crops visible as dark linears in aerial photography, while buried structures such as walls can restrict growth in the soil causing dry parch marks in particularly dry conditions.[54]

8.2 Only a single cropmark is listed in the HER data provided by the Kent Historic Environment Record.

8.3 A series of cropmarks are however visible on Google Earth Pro and have been investigated as part of this report.

8.4 On the December 1990 Google Earth image, at the edge of The Roughs, c. 300m east of the site is an L-shaped rectangular enclosure cropmark. This was also seen on the geophysical survey results.



[53] Topham, G *Pers Comm (Written)*
[54] How Cropmarks of Archaeological Sites are Formed. | Historic England [Accessed 18/05/2026]

Figure 16 - December 1990 Google Earth Image

8.5 The March 2021 Google Earth image shows a circular cropmark roughly 25m in diameter. It is located c. 200m east of the excavation site. Circular cropmarks can be representative of Prehistoric features such as barrows, Roman features such as Pharosi, but also more modern structures such as grain feeders and WW2 gun emplacements.



Figure 17 - March 2021 Google Earth Image

8.6 The May 2024 Google Earth image shows a possible rectangular crop mark c. 260m east of the excavation site. It appears to have parallel lines along both edges, but it is possibly a feature of Google Earth.



Figure 18 - May 2024 Google Earth Image



Figure 19 - July 2025 Google Earth Image

8.7 Two linear, possible rectangular crop marks are visible on the July 2025 Google Earth Image. These are located 310m east of the excavation site. Unfortunately they sat outside the area of the earlier geophysical survey.

8.8 No cropmarks are recorded on Historic England's Aerial Imaging Mapping Explorer. However, the Kent Archaeological Society's Archaeological Features mapping found on the KAS website does record cropmarks and magnetometry survey results for the area of Beacon Field and the roadside settlement located to the north of Aldington Road.

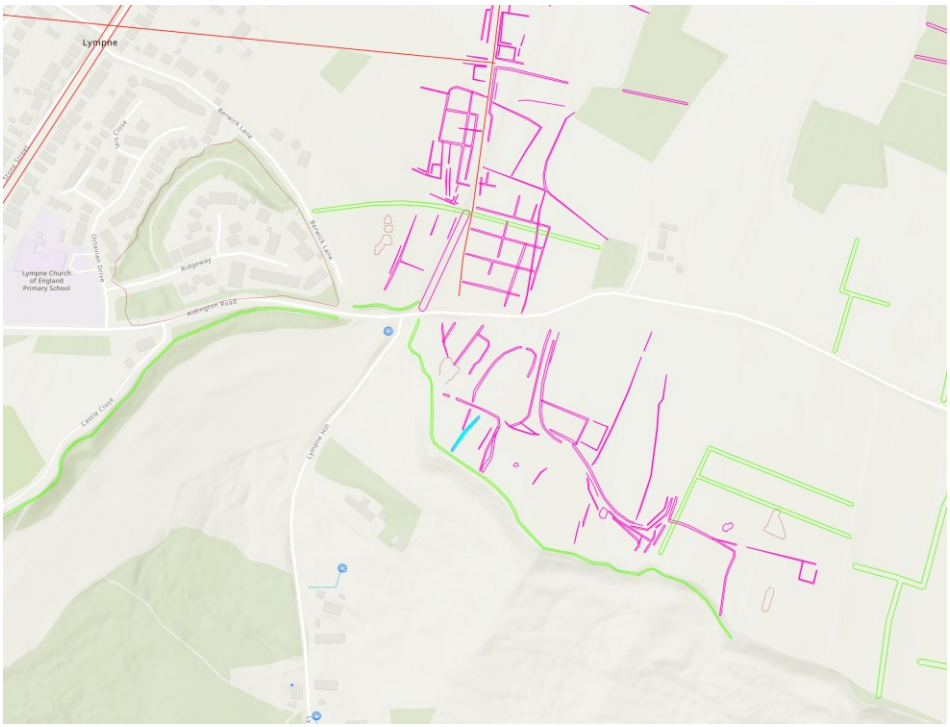


Figure 20 - Kent Archaeological Society Archaeological Features Mapping (copyright KAS 2026).

9. Methodology

9.1 2023 Methodology

9.2 All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the principles and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), including the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*, and with reference to guidance issued by Historic England.

9.3 The excavation was undertaken as a community-led research project and was supervised by suitably experienced archaeological staff. All participants received instruction in excavation, recording, and health and safety procedures prior to and during fieldwork.

9.4 Three trenches were excavated within the Site. Trenches 1 and 2 were machine-opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket operating under continuous archaeological supervision. The digger was provided free of charge by Keaveney through the organisation of Walker Construction.

9.5 Trench 3, nearest the escarpment, was opened entirely by hand.

9.6 Machining was undertaken in shallow controlled spits and ceased at the upper surface of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

9.7 Trench 3 was positioned at the escarpment to investigate the possibility of a large, well built wall suggestive of a defensive structure recorded in a note written in the 18th century.

9.8 SHAL volunteer Janet Powel in searching one of the older burial record books came across a note from Richard Jackson, who had reportedly purchased the book in 1618.

9.9 The note, written in the front of the book, included a handwritten note which stated:

9.9.1 *In digging for materials (to mend the high-ways) on the left hand by the Beacon quarry going down Limne Hill along the cliff, there was discovered the foundations, of some very strong walls of a castle or some other fortification but no remains of any Buildings above ground have been seen as far as I can be informed, there has been no talk of any such building in any mans memory till this was discovered by labourers digging with mattocks about the year 1730---I was surprised to see such walls, when there had been no kind of talk about them.*[55]

9.10 Following further research a clearer reference was found to this mention in Kent Archaeological Review Vol 9. (1967) stating that the note is made in Register No. 1 (1617-1755); quoted by Rev. C. E. Woodruff *An Inventory of Parish Registers and other Records in the Diocese of Canterbury*, 1922.

[55] Powell, Janet *Pers Comm* (written) 19th November 2019.

9.11 Each trench was accurately recorded and tied into the National Grid using a Leica GS18T RTK NetRover GPS.

9.12 Following initial exposure, all three trenches were excavated manually. Archaeological deposits, features, and interfaces were cleaned, defined, and excavated by hand using appropriate tools to establish the character, extent, date, and state of preservation of the remains.

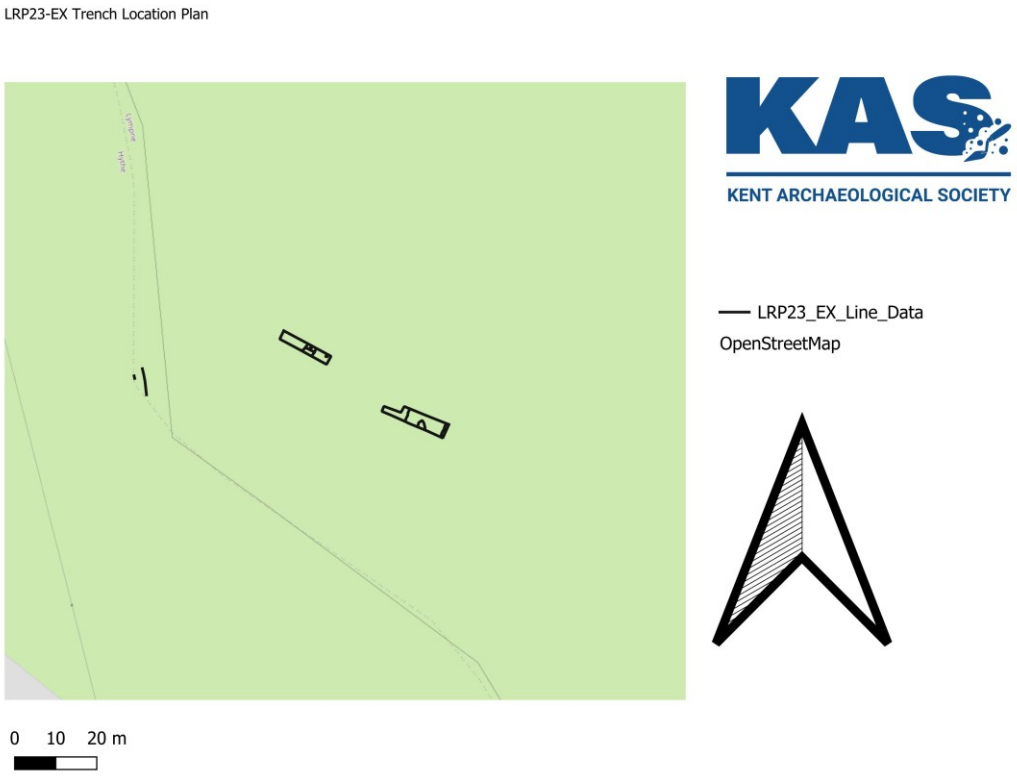


Figure 21 - LRP23-EX Location Plan

9.13 Excavation of archaeological features was conducted on a sample basis sufficient to determine their form, function, and stratigraphic relationships, unless otherwise required by the significance or complexity of the remains. Linear features were normally half-sectioned, while discrete features were typically excavated by a minimum of 50%.

9.14 A single context recording system was employed throughout the excavation. All archaeological deposits, cuts, fills, and structural elements were assigned unique context numbers and recorded on standardised pro forma context sheets.

9.15 Plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales, normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 or 1:20 for sections, and included trench locations, feature relationships, and levels relative to Ordnance Datum where appropriate.

9.16 A full photographic record was maintained comprising digital colour photographs of trenches, features, working shots, and representative excavation stages. Photographs

included scales, north arrows where appropriate, and context identification.

9.17 Artefacts recovered during excavation were retained and processed in accordance with current professional standards. Finds were collected by context, bagged, and labelled on site. Any artefacts deemed to be of particular significance were subject to appropriate specialist advice and storage procedures.

9.18 Where human remains were encountered, work in the affected area was to cease pending consultation with the Ministry of Justice and in accordance with applicable legislation and professional guidance.

9.19 Any finds qualifying as potential Treasure under the Treasure Act 1996, and its subsequent amendments were to be reported to the local coroner's office through the Kent Finds Liaison Officer and Kent Archaeological Society Curator. All metal detectorists and volunteers working on site had signed an agreement waiving their rights to any reward under the Treasure Act 1996.

9.1 2024 Methodology

9.2 The excavation in 2024 followed the same methodology set out in 2023.

9.3 A working party of SHAL members and local volunteers was formed to begin cleaning and excavation of the substantial wall revealed in 2023.

9.4 Only hand excavation was carried out on the days the working party met. Finds were retained in line with guidance provided by the KAS curator.

9.5 Four further trenches were proposed for the excavation in 2024. Area 6 was positioned along the line of the east-west orientated ditch seen in the geophysical survey results. Area 7 was placed south of the end of the double-ditched feature examined in 2023. Area 5 was positioned south of the upstanding wall trench examined in 2023. Area 5 was formed of three rectangular trenches, two descending down the berm present at the edge of the escarpment. Finally, area 4 was proposed to continue examination of the wall found during 2023's work.

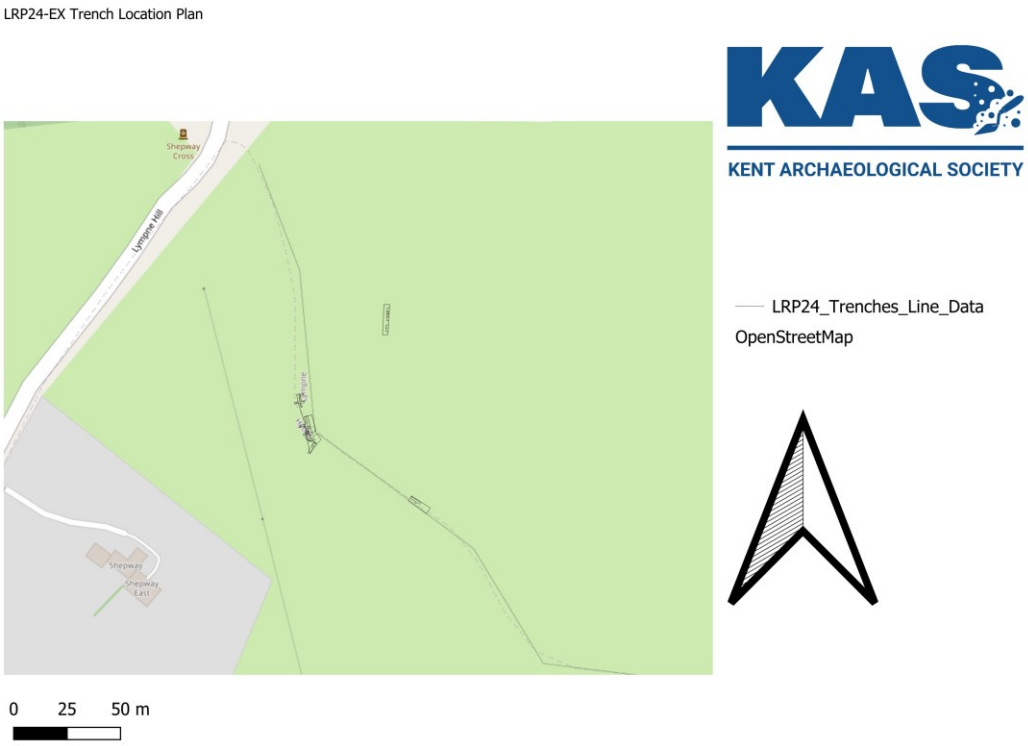


Figure 22 - LRP24-EX Location Plan

9.6 A single context recorded system was employed throughout the excavation. All archaeological deposits, cuts, fills, and structural elements were assigned unique context numbers and were recorded on standardized pro-forma context sheets.

9.7 Unfortunately, only a small number of the records were provided to the author in preparation of this report. Any gaps or errors recorded are the result of missing material.

10 Results

10.1 Introduction

10.2 Archaeological investigations over two seasons on land at Beacon Field comprised the excavation of thirteen trenches. Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 7 were opened by machine under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1m toothless ditching bucket. All other trenches were excavated entirely by hand. All archaeological deposits and features were subsequently excavated manually.

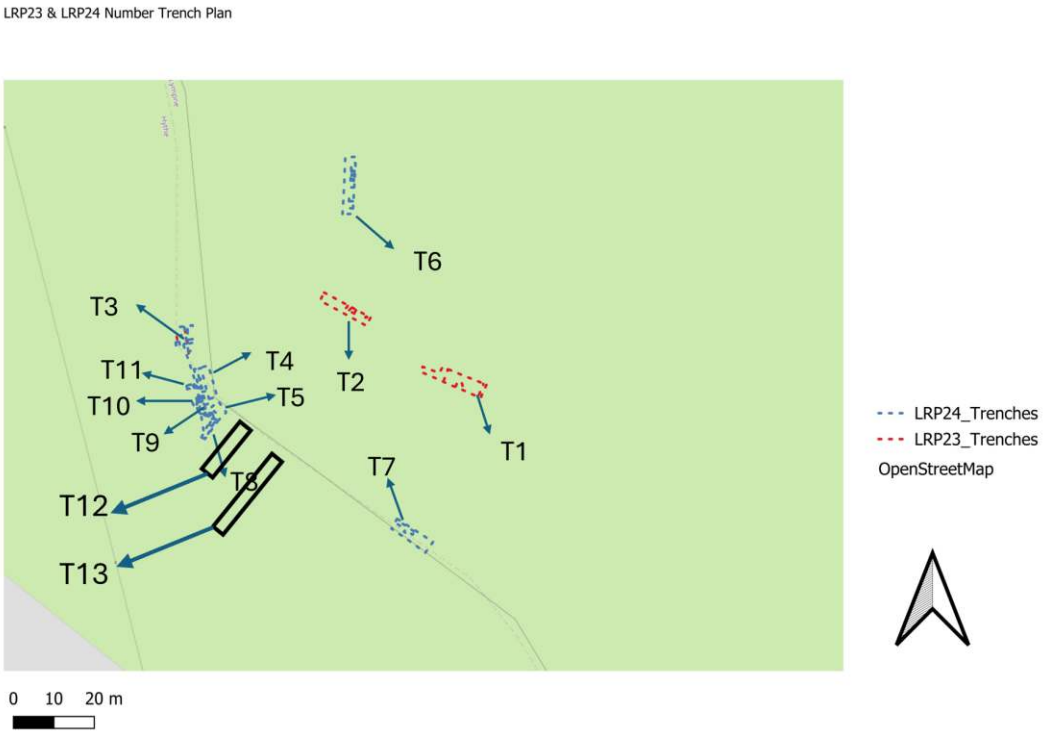


Figure 23 - Labelled Trench Plan for 2023 and 2024 (T12 and T13 provisionally recorded based on memory)

10.3 The following section presents the combined results of both excavation seasons by trench and contextual sequence.

10.4 Trench 1 (2023)

10.4.1 Trench 1 was orientated south-east-north-west positioned over the geophysical anomaly thought to be a double ditched feature.[56]

[56] Taylor, Richard (2023), *Lympne: Britannia's Forgotten Gateway*, Presentation given to Studying History & Archaeology in Lympne

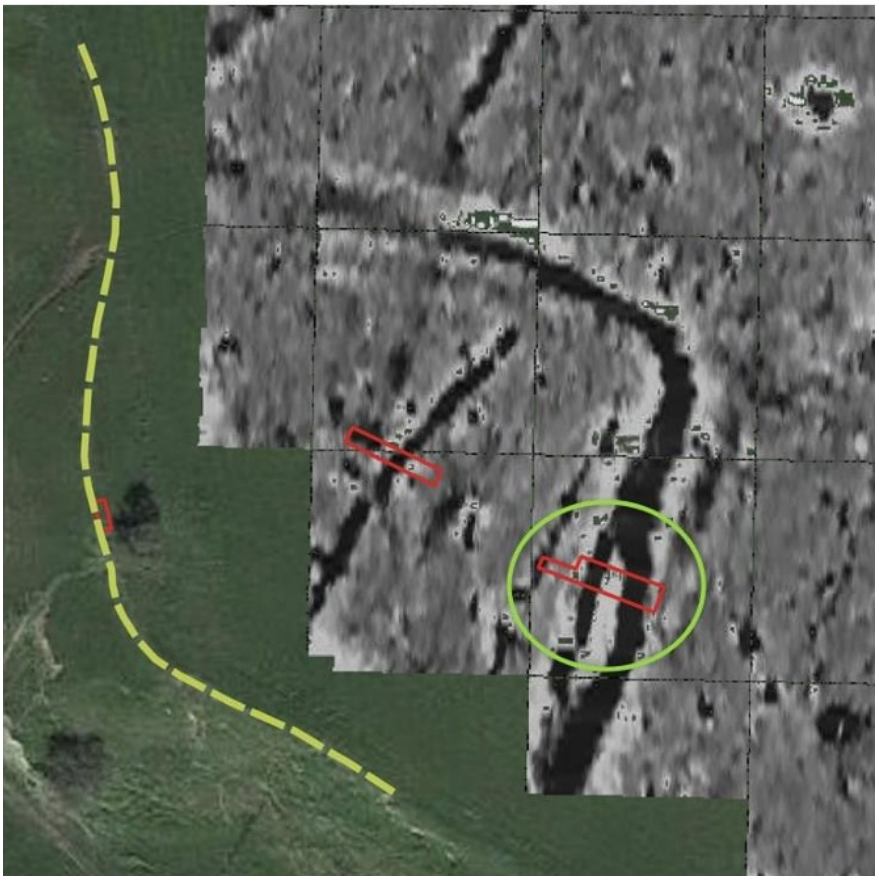


Figure 24 - Trench 1 (2023) as per Taylor 2023

10.4.2 Fifteen contexts were recorded through the excavation of Trench 1 described in table 1 below.

10.4.3 The excavation of Trench 1 revealed a possible double-ditch defensive feature constructed c. 270 – 290 CE based on the available coin evidence. The outer ditch revealed traces of a large ragstone blocks in a semi-circular shape, possibly a defensive structure but further examination is required. A large "curtain" wall comprising ragstone blocks [1011] is recorded in the context table, but no section, plan or photograph clearly showing this feature is recorded.

10.4.4 Residual Iron Age pottery was also recovered from within the ditch feature. This pottery may represent Iron Age activity in the Beacon Field area.

10.4.5 Trench 1 recorded finds in contexts (1001), (1002), (1003), (1005); combining pottery, building material and animal bone. Shell, coins and metalwork were recovered in contexts (1003) and (1005).

Context No.	Feature Group	Descriptions
1001	Layer	Humic Topsoil
1002	Layer	Subsoil containing ragstone fragments
1003	Layer	Dark Sandy ditch fill contains ragstone fragments; E of 1004
1004	Layer	Fragmented Ragstone – natural; possible hard standing
1005	Layer	Dark sandy ditch fill containing ragstone fragments; west of 1004
1006	Cut	Cut of ditch; E of 1004
1007	Cut	Cut of ditch; W of 1004
1008	Layer	Orange-Brown sandy clay; E of 1004
1009	Layer	Dark silty lower ditch fill of [1007]
1010	Layer	Dark silty lower ditch fill of [1006]
1011	Structure	Likely curtain wall composed of shaped ragstone blocks and small ragstone pieces, gravel and mortar as interior infill.
1012	Layer	Spread of ragstone rubble; N of 1004
1013	Cut	Cut of rectangular post-hole
1014	Layer	Dark silty fill of [1013]
1015	Layer	Thin ragstone seam? Natural? Equates to 1004

Table 1 – Trench 1 (2023) Context Details

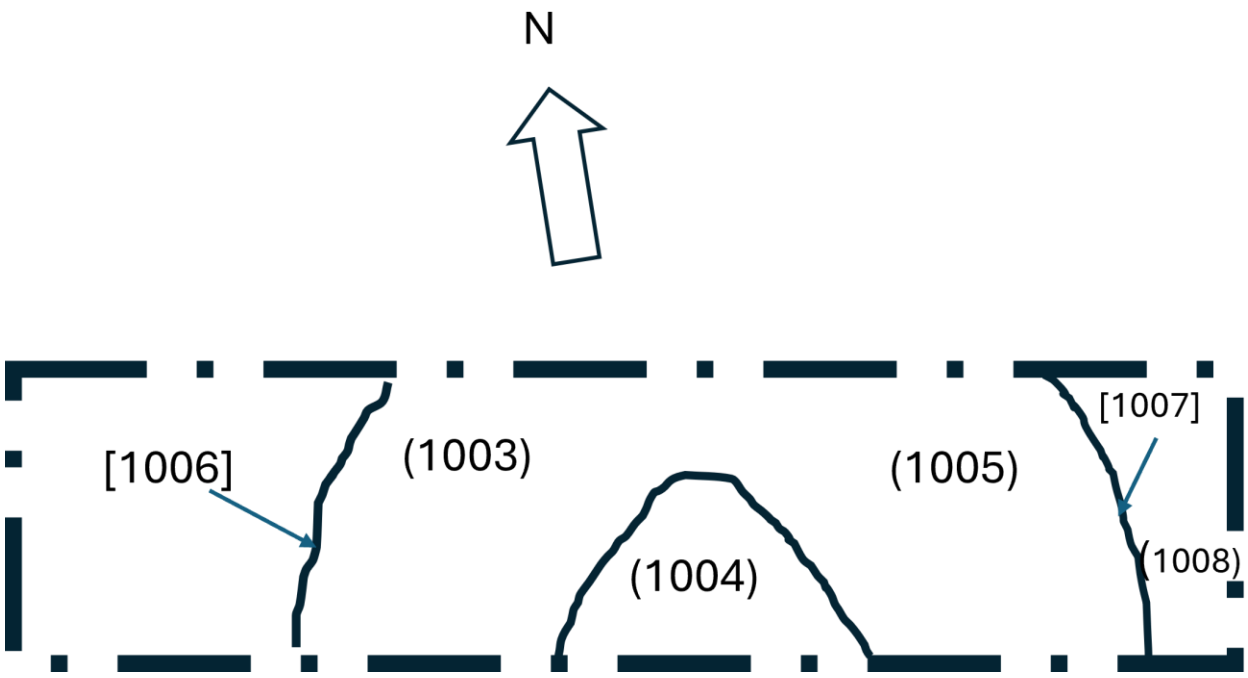


Figure 25 – Trench 1 (2023) Sketch Plan



Figure 26 - Trench 1 (2023) looking West

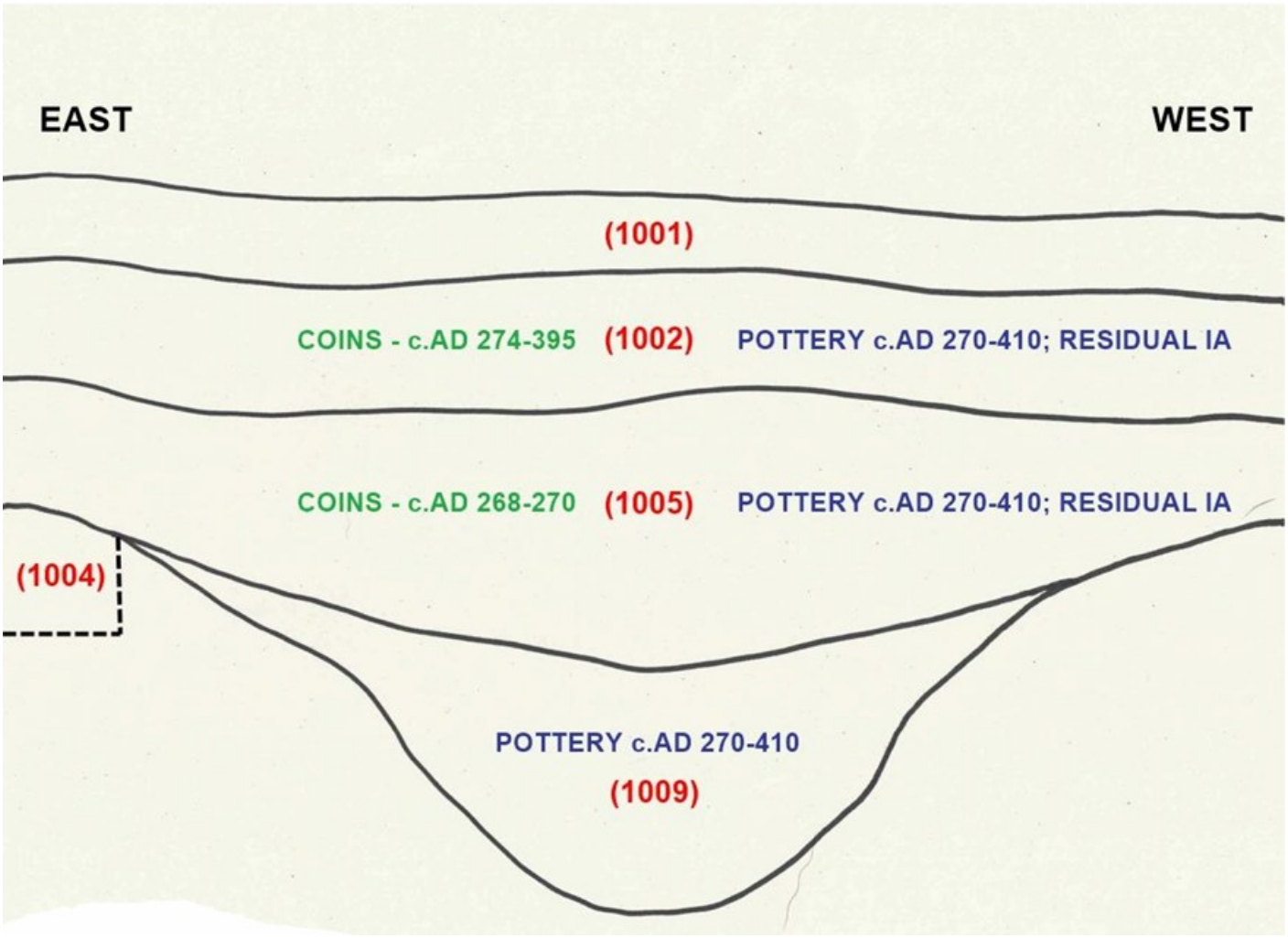


Figure 27 - Trench 1 (2023) Section drawing

10.5 Trench 2 (2023)

10.5.1 Trench 2 was orientated south-east-north-west across a single geophysical anomaly; interpreted as an internal ditch within the proposed fortlet's curtain walls. It was initially thought to pre-date the Roman fortification.

10.5.2 Pottery and coinage indicates a contemporary construction date of c. 270 – 290 CE with a later backfilling episode taking place during the late Roman period.

10.5.3 Currently this features function remains unknown and should be subject to further investigation.

10.5.4 Ten contexts were excavated within trench 2. A full description of each context is given in Table 2 below.

Context No.	Feature Group	Description
2001	Layer	Topsoil
2002	Layer	Subsoil with occasional ragstone pieces
2003	Layer	Light brown sandy material – natural
2004	Layer	Dark Sandy ditch fill of [2005] – Upper Fille
2005	Cut	Cut of ditch
2006	Layer	Fill of Posthole [2007]
2007	Cut	Cut of Posthole
2008	Layer	Lower fill of [2005]; mid light brown sandy soil with ragstone pieces; backfill
2009	Layer	Ragstone
2010	Layer	Light brown sandy matrix with ragstone pieces; upper fill

Table 2 - Trench 2 (2023) Context Details

10.5.5 Pottery and coins were found in the topsoil of Trench 2, with coins predominantly recovered through the work of SHAL metal detectorist Neil Green.

10.5.6 The subsoil contained no finds but did comprise 25% compacted ragstone fragments, possibly a tread surface or a consequence of later levelling and backfilling.

10.5.7 A lens of light brown sand (2003) was recorded at the western end of trench 2 but contained no finds. It was suggested this may be surviving natural.

10.5.8 Pottery dating between c. 270 – 400 CE was recovered from ditch [2005] with (2004) representing the upper fill of this feature. Plenty of animal bone was also recovered.

10.5.9 Ditch [2005] was orientated North-South through the trench.

10.5.10 A posthole [2007] was recorded in the eastern corner of Trench 2 and was filled by (2006) comprising a dark brown friable sandy silt. Building material and coins were both recovered from the feature including a reused fragment of Ceramic tile bearing the inscription CLB[R]. The CLB[R] tile, currently unassigned to a Brodribb type likely dates between c. 150 – 250 CE. Cunliffe writes that there is no evidence for stamped tiles prior to the early 2nd century CE or after the mid-third century CE.[57] This find suggested the backfill of the ditch and posthole used material from an earlier *Classis Britannica* site in the vicinity of Beacon Field, possibly the same earlier site thought to have provided material for Stutfall Castle.

[57] Brodribb, G. (1969). Stamped Tiles of The 'Classis Britannica'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections 107*. Vol 107, pp. 102-125. https://doi.org/10.5284/1086077.

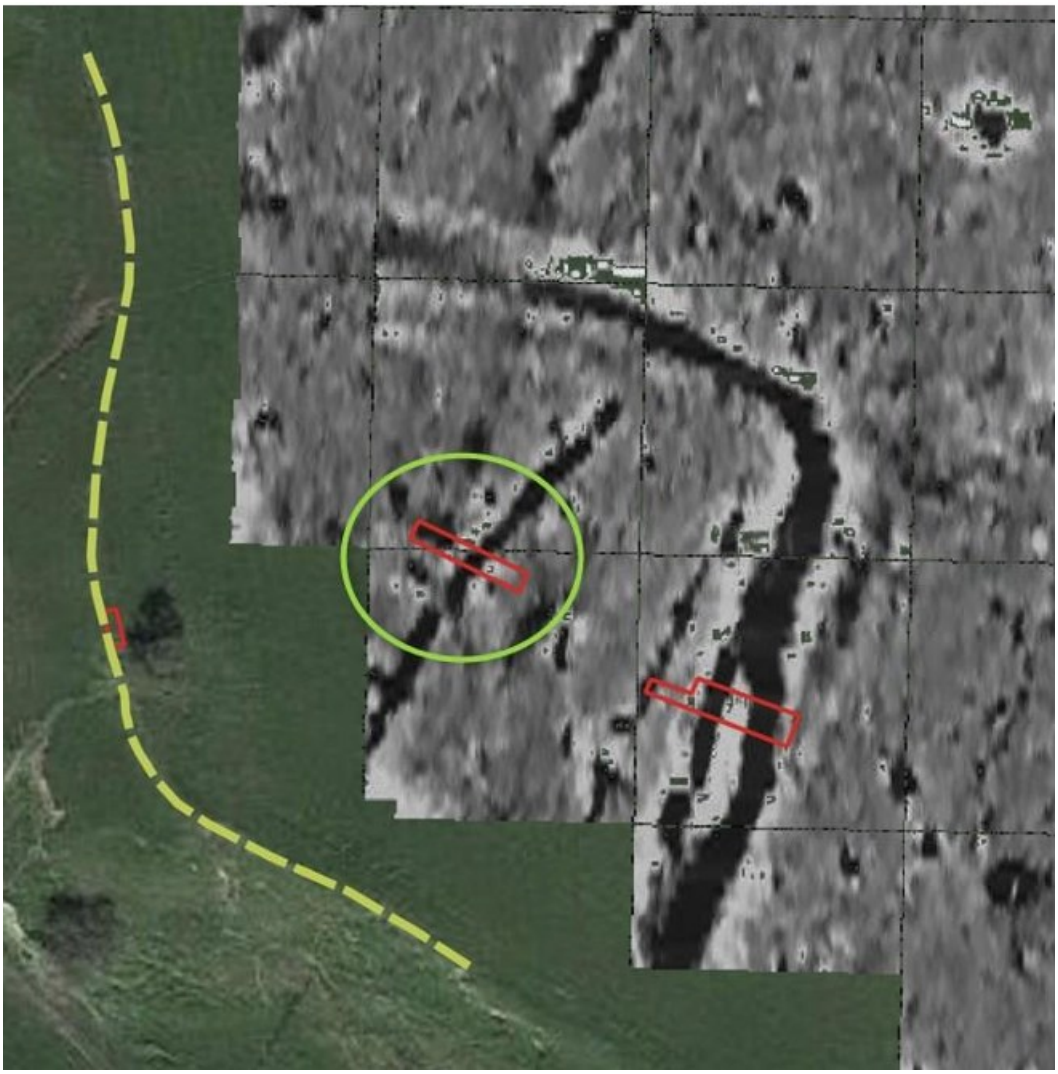


Figure 28 - trench 2 (2023) Site Location

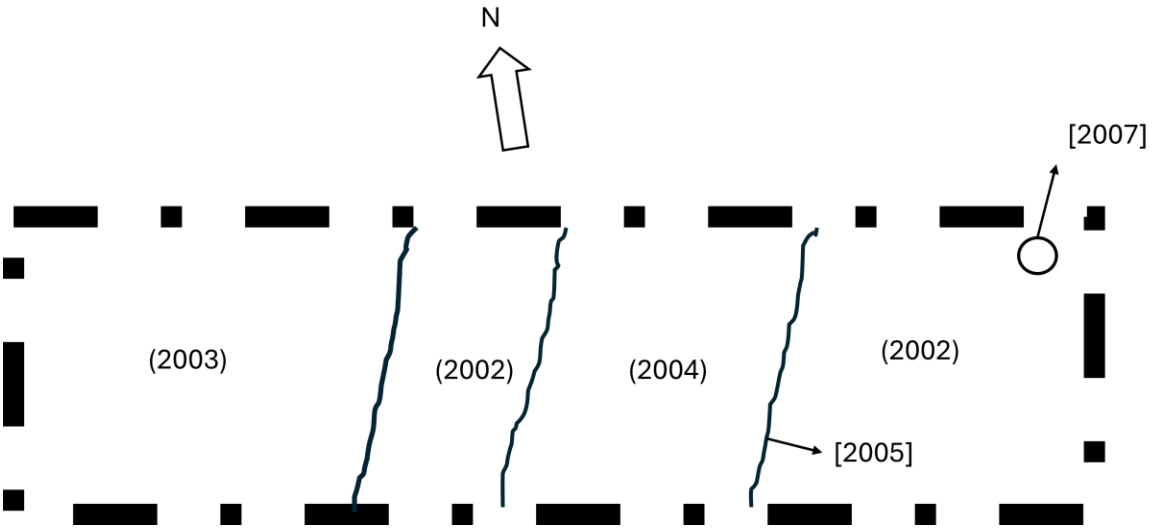


Figure 29 - Trench 2 (2023) Sketch Plan

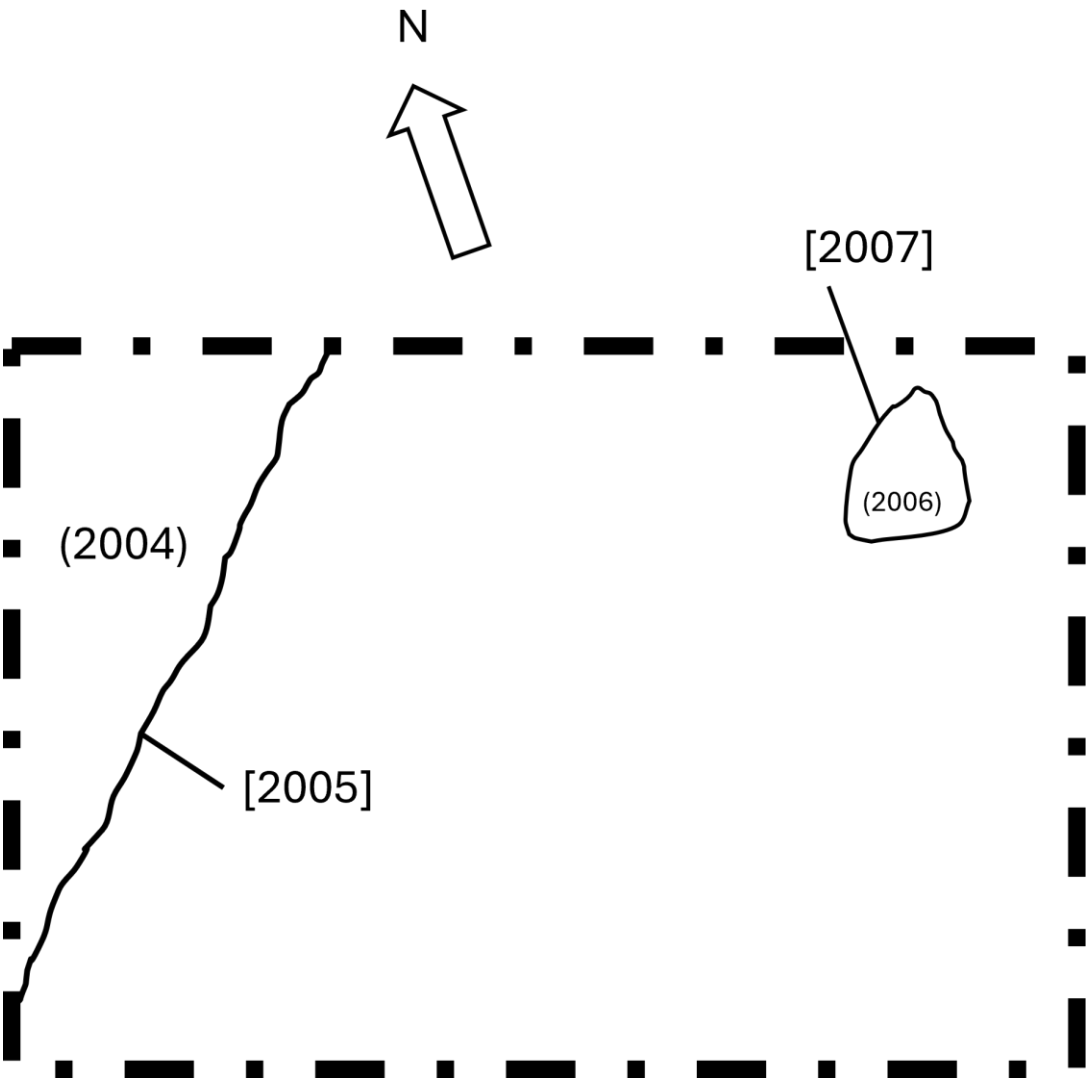


Figure 30 - Trench 2 Eastern end with Posthole [2007]

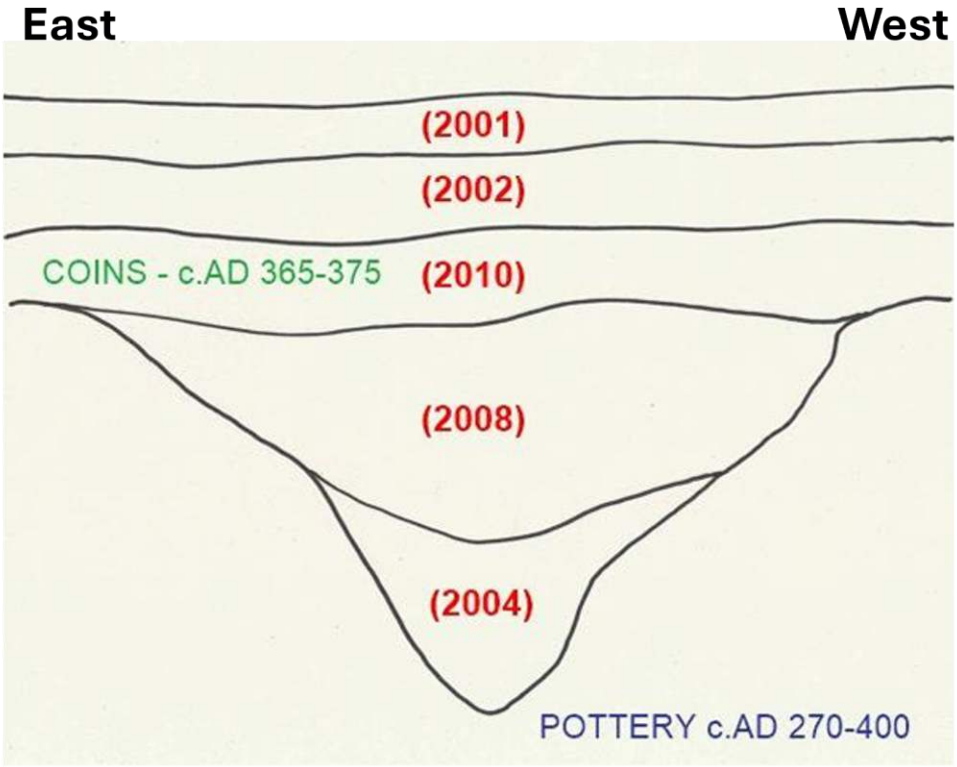


Figure 31 - Trench 2 (2023) Section Drawing

10.6 Trench 3 (2023)

10.6.1 Trench 3 of the 2023 excavation was positioned to target an earth berm or bank along the escarpment visible in Beacon Field. It was thought that this earthwork may related to an earlier account from the 18th century of quarrymen finding the remains of a large, well-built stone wall.

10.6.2 A linear trench was placed perpendicular to the berm to assess whether any remains of the structure were extant and whether the berm itself was of Roman date or of a later period.

10.6.3 Unfortunately, at the time of writing the context information, section drawings and plan drawings related to this trench were unlocatable. The following notes have been gleaned from notes taken

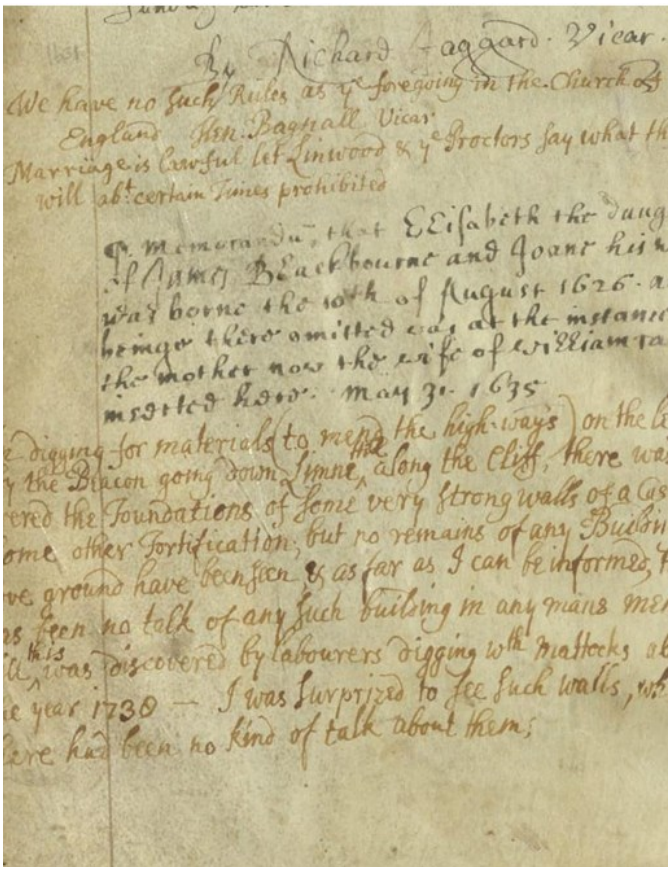


Figure 32 - Register No. 1 (1617-1755); quoted by Rev. C. E. Woodruff *An Inventory of Parish Registers and other Records in the Diocese of Canterbury*, 1922; Photo courtesy of Janet Powell

during the 2024 excavation by Keith & Tina Parfitt when parts of the trench were re-excavated.

10.6.4 Further details from Trench 3 were extracted from a presentation by Richard Taylor given to SHAL.

10.6.5 A small trench was initially opened east-west revealing, according to the illustration included in Richard Taylor's presentation (Fig 25), five contexts which are detailed below.

10.6.6 Descriptions of each context were taken from David Holman who had been provided minimal details in order to undertake assessment of the Romano-British coins.

10.6.7 (3001) represents the topsoil forming the gently curving bank present across the suggested curtain wall. Hand excavation of this north facing section revealed ragstone placed across the top of a well-built wall. Pottery dating from c. 330 – 400 CE was recovered from this context.

10.6.8 It is suspected that this bank represents the old Medieval parish boundary, seen on historic maps, and constructed over the Roman wall where the two meet. This will be research target for 2026's excavations.[58]

10.6.9 (3002) represented the upper archaeological layer from the north section cut against the curtain wall's interior. This context may possibly represent a late Romano-British rubbish tip. From within this context and that found immediately beneath (3003) a secondary deposition of human skeletal remains comprising five individuals were recovered (full report found in Appendix XX). Coins dating between c. 274 – 290 CE and pottery dating from c. 270 – 400 CE were also recovered.

10.6.10 (3003) represented the lower archaeological layer from the north section cut against the curtain wall's interior. This context may represent a continuation of the proposed late Romano-British rubbish tip. Alongside the fragmentary human skeletal remains recovered from (3003), further coins dating between c. 270 – 400 CE were retrieved.

10.6.11 Context (3004) comprised a powdery mortar layer, possibly the top of a floor/tread surface on the interior of the curtain wall. Although not shown in the section, it may instead represent the wall construction layer.

10.6.12 The wall itself [3005] is a well-built ragstone wall measuring 1.5m wide, which it is proposed comprises part of a 60m x 70m rectangular enclosure visible in the geophysical survey results. Coin evidence provided the strongest data for the dating of the wall; A pit (F.4022) running underneath the wall and thus predating it, produced three radiates, all dated between 260 and 286. One is illegible, and both the others are of Tetricus I (271-274). Further evidence showing that the wall must be later than this came in the form of a radiate of Victorinus (269-271), found in a soil layer beneath a rock which lay below the line of the enclosure wall at a point where it had been entirely removed by stone robbing. This coin, showing some signs of wear, is the only coin found which has been pierced, and it should not go un-noted that this, along with the location, shows the potential for it to have been a deliberately placed offering ahead of the construction of the wall. Further potential evidence of the date of the wall is provided by three coins with mortar adhering to their surfaces, all of which are radiates, the latest being one of Carausius dated c.287-290. Although this

[58] Parfitt, Keith *Pers Comm* (written)

may be coincidence rather than tangible proof of the date of the wall, it may be significant that no later coins display this feature. A full assessment of the Romano-British coinage from the excavations in Lympne between 2022 and 2024 can be read as Appendix XX.

10.6.13 A fence post is recorded on the section sketch plan, however its depth through the Roman layers is not recorded nor any dating evidence. It is reportedly modern in date. Further excavations are planned for June 2026 and it is hoped to excavate a further section north of [3005]. It is hoped that this will refine the stratigraphic information previously recorded and find the return of the wall forming the enclosure and allow SHAL to further elucidate information representative of Trench 3.

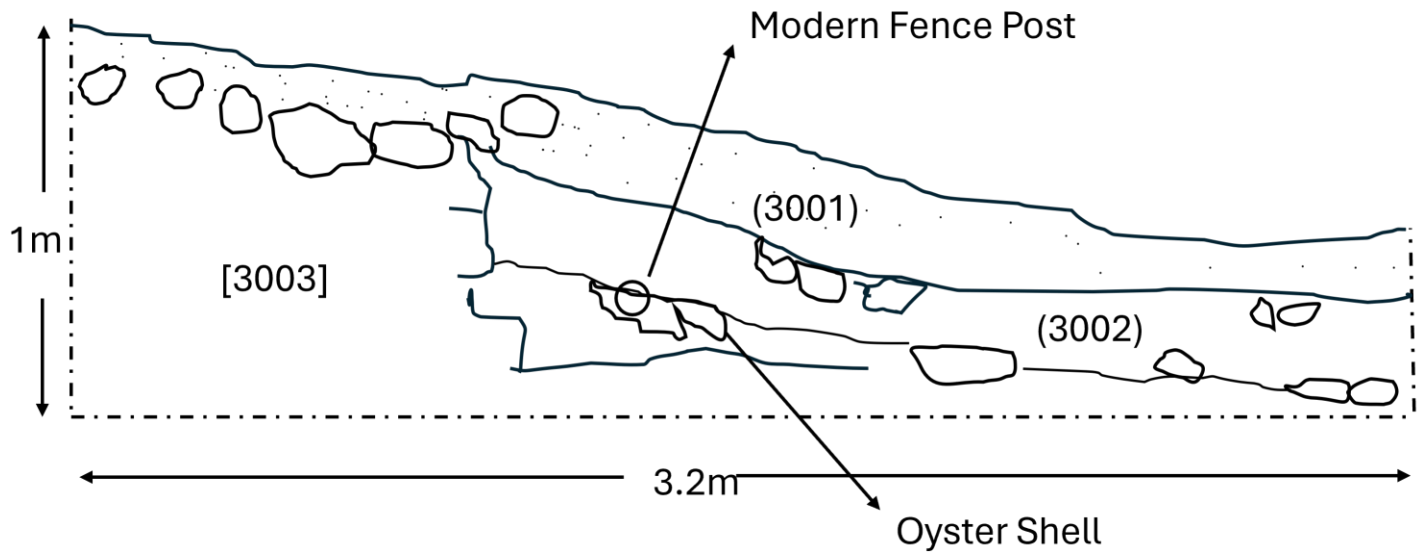


Figure 33 - Trench 3 North Cut



Figure 34 – Wall [3005] facing north, courtesy of Peter Murphy.

10.7 Trench 4 (2024)

10.7.1 Trench 4 was located to further explore the results of 2023's Trench 3. It was orientated with North at 3 o'clock. It measured 8m long by 1m wide. Initially the trench was split into 2m sections labelled A (North end of trench) to D (South end of trench, nearest Lime Kiln).

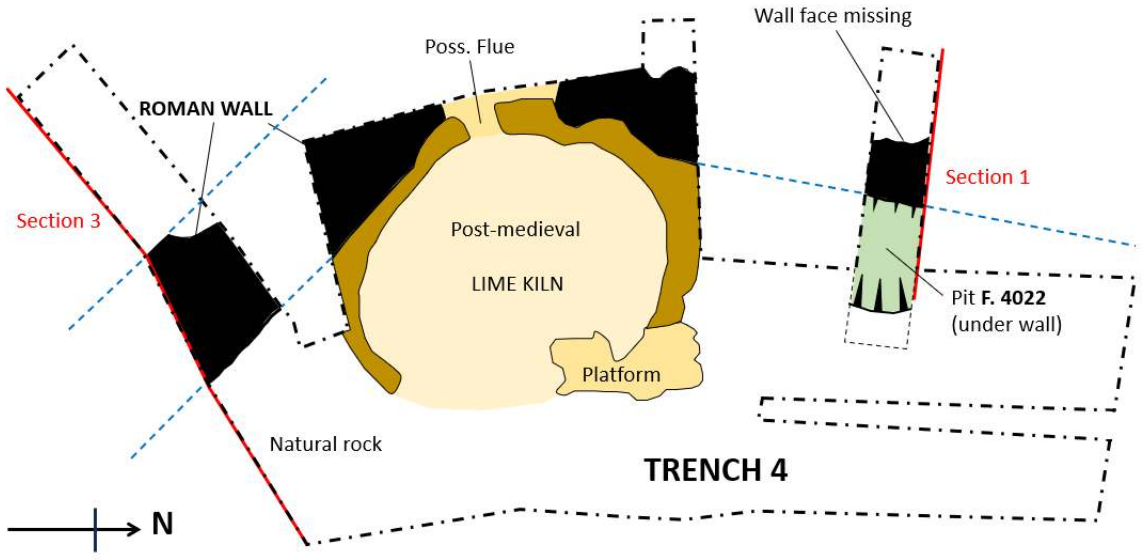


Figure 35 - Trench 4 & 5 illustration courtesy of Keith Parfitt based on photogrammetry model by John Townsend

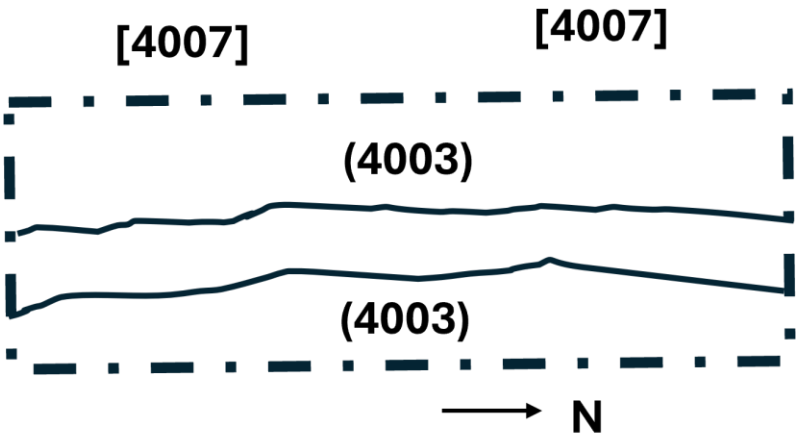
10.7.2 A total of 22 contexts where uncovered by the excavation in August 2024. These contexts are detailed in the below table.

Table 3 - Trench 4 (2024) Context Description

Context No.	Feature Group	Description
4001	Layer	Topsoil
4002	Layer	Subsoil
4003	Layer	Mixed Roman layer
4004	Cut	Cut for cable trench
4005	Fill	Fill of [4004]
4006	Layer	Bank/Berm infill [4007]; rubble, shingle and soil mix
4007	Feature	Ragstone Wall
4008	Layer	Firm Geological Sand
4009	Layer	Geological Ragstone
4010	Feature	Concrete Post Hole
4011	Feature	Concrete Post Hole
4012	Cut Feature	Post Hole
4013	Fill	Fill of [4012]
4014	Layer	Silty layer under (4003)
4015	Layer	Mortar and shingle on west of [4007]
4016	Feature	Lime Kiln cut into (4006)
4017	Dump Layer	Rubble dump of bank
4018	Dump Layer	Rubble dump of bank
4019	Layer	Soil + Rubble
4020	Layer	Layer of Fine Soil
4021	Layer	Layer of Fine Soil passing under Roman Wall
4022	Cut	Cut of broad shallow pit

10.7.3 Below the topsoil and subsoil layers, formed by the use of the field for pasture was revealed (4003); a dark brown-grey-black sandy clay soil. This layer has been interpreted as a Romano-British occupation layer characterised by ash/charcoal, rubbish and a range of apparently discarded Romano-British finds including pottery, animal bone, metal, and glass.

10.7.4 A linear cut [4004] was recorded within Trench 4 which formed part of a modern electric cable route. The landowner stated that the cable had not been installed in his memory. It is surmised that the cable may have once served the Anti-Aircraft position marked on ordnance survey mapping and the Kent Historic Environment Record.



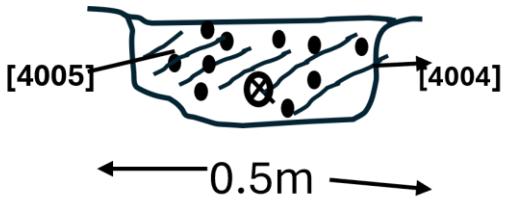


Figure 36 – [4004] Profile sketch

Figure 37 - (4003) Sketch Plan, the exact location of [4004] was not shown on the sketch plan

10.7.5 (4005) represents the modern fill of trench cut [4004] burying the electricity cable. No finds were recorded.

10.7.6 Context (4006) consists of a firm, mid-pink / brown sand, mortar and shingle mix. It likely represents infill spill of the wall's interior make up.

10.7.7 Abutting (4006) is a large ragstone wall] 4007] with rubble, sand, shingle and mortar mix forming the interior comparable to (4006).

10.7.8 Beneath (4003) lay context (4008) comprising firm-compact, yellow-brown sand stratified with ragstone bedrock. It probably represents geological sand.

10.7.9 Context (4009) represents a deposit of ragstone bedrock; which appears stratified with geological sand (4008).

10.7.10 Two concrete post holes [4010] and [4011] were recorded cut into (4008). These two post holes are likely 20th century in date.

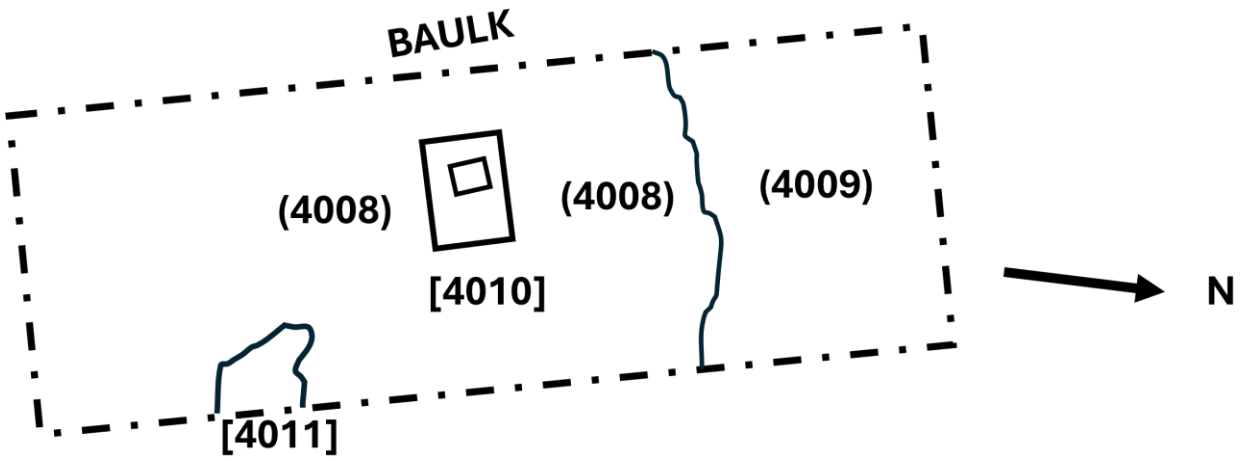


Figure 38 - [4010] and [4011] Sketch Plan

10.7.11 A circular post hole [4012] was cut into (4008), it was a rounded feature measuring c. 0.3m – 0.4m in diameter. Its upper edge was surrounded by well-bedded ragstone pieces. A possible gully feature abutted the edge of the circular fill (4013). The fill (4013) consisted of loose, mid-brown sand/silt with burnt clay inclusions and possible modern intrusions such as bottle tops likely caused by the cut of [4004]

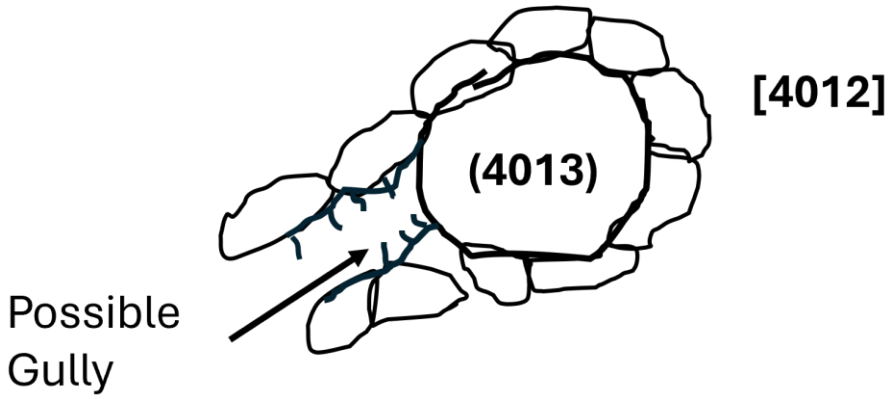


Figure 39 - [4012] Sketch Plan

10.7.12 Context (4014) comprised a friable dark grey-brown loam with inclusions of charcoal and daub. It is interpreted as an emerging thin band of silty soil under (4003) and abutting [Wall 4007].

10.7.13 A dump layer (4017) comprising the rubble from the bank-berm is recorded descending down over the mortared stone wall, [4007]. The context comprised loose, mid-grey gritty loam with frequent small white mortar lumps, frequent small blue-brown flint pebbles and the occasional small ragstone fragment. (4017) descends down the western, exterior side of [4007]. This bank is aligned on historic mapping with the parish boundary between Lympne and Hythe. It may be that the berm or bank may not be Roman in date, but instead may mark the later Medieval boundary. Further work in 2026 is proposed to investigate this idea.[59]

[59] Parfitt, Keith (2026) *Pers Comm*

10.7.14 Context (4018) comprised a loose, greyish-cream-white deposit of pure crushed mortar with frequent small mortar lumps and very occasional ragstone lumps. Like (4017) this deposit is found over the robbed west face of Roman wall [4007], measuring 0.15m in thickness. (4018) probably represents evidence of robbing activity affecting [4007].

10.7.15 A further layer abutting the eastern side of wall [4007], context (4019) comprises a moderate-loose, light grey gritty loam with frequent small mortar fragments and moderate ragstone lumps. The layer measured 0.15m in thickness and post-dates wall [4007].

10.7.16 A moderate, grey-brown silty loam (4020) containing moderate charcoal specks and occasional small ragstone lumps was recorded cut by the ragstone wall, [4007] and running beneath (4019). It represents the fill of Pit [4022]. Three Romano-British coins were recovered from this context including two Virtvs AVGG Antoninianus dating to 273 CE, issued by Tetricus I. The third coin was illegible but dates to c. 260 – 286 CE. A shed red deer antler was found at the base of (4020), which was likely used for bone working but featured no visible cut marks. Pottery recovered from (4020) dated from 270 – 410 CE.

10.7.17 Beneath the western edge of the wall, [4007] a further layer of fine soil (4021) was revealed containing a coin of Victorinus (SOL INVICTVS) which had been pierced, the only such coin recovered dating between c. 269 – 271 CE.

10.7.18 The broad shallow pit [4022] recorded on the eastern side of the trench, must predate the Roman all. Based on the coins contained within the pit fill, the wall above cannot have been constructed before *c*. AD 275 at the earliest.

10.7.19 Trench 4 likely incorporates the site of a midden or rubbish dump against the back of the Roman wall. It contained large quantities of daub, CBM, pottery and animal bone. The pottery from this area primarily dates from c. 270 – 410 CE with large quantities dating later from c. 350 – 400 suggesting a later episode of rubbish being thrown over the back of the wall.

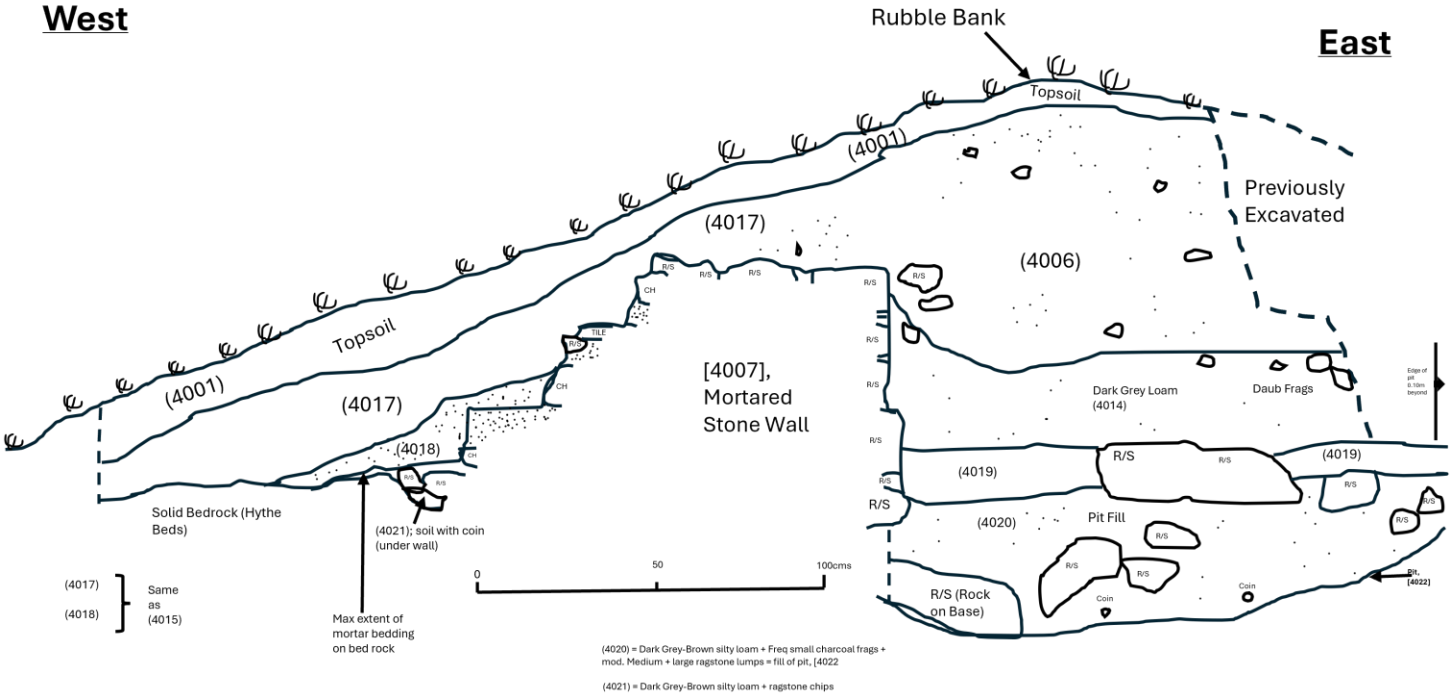


Figure 40 - Section across wall [4007]; Keith Parfitt & Tina Parfitt

10.8 Trench 5 (2024)

10.8.1 Trench 5 was opened on top of the mound adjacent to and joining with Trench 4 to examine the continued relationship between the interior and the defensive wall. The trench was orientated north-west-south-east and measured 4m x 3m. Two extensions were excavated south-west over the bank and down the escarpment (See figure 26 above) to examine the relationship between the wall and the exterior platform. This platform was initially thought to represent a possible bastion.

10.8.2 Unfortunately minimal records were kept of the excavation of this trench; the seven contexts recorded below are derived from the context sheets available, the section drawing produced and coin finds noted.

10.8.3 A layer of topsoil (5001) was recorded descending west – east away from the wall narrowing towards the edge of the trench. Two coins, dating between c. 388 – 395 CE were recovered from this topsoil.

10.8.4 The subsoil (5002) comprised a loose, mid-brown sandy soil with ragstone and shingle inclusions. It probably represents bank make-up material similar to (4006). Five Romano-British coins dating between c. 272 and c. 375 CE were recovered from the subsoil.

10.8.5 A large, circular feature initially interpreted as an oven, but in actuality a post-medieval lime kiln, [5003] was recorded against and through the Roman wall. The lime kiln had been deliberately set into a distinct 121 degree angle-change in the course of the wall.



Figure 41 - 3D Model showing a Lympne Kiln inserted into the Roman wall; Copyright John Townsend

10.8.6 A friable, mid-dark brown sandy loam measuring 100mm in thickness (5004) was recorded abutting wall [8005]. It is possibly contemporary with context (4003). Two coins one of Tetricus I (272 – 273 CE) and one of the House of Theodosius (c. 388 – 395 CE) were recovered from this context alongside Romano-British pottery spot dated to c. 325 – 350 CE.

10.8.7 Below (5004) a loose, light brown sandy soil and ragstone mortar mix was recorded (5005). This may represent possible construction or demolition associated with wall [8004]. A single uncertain radiate coin dating to *c*. 274 – 286 CE was recovered. Only two pottery sherds were recovered and spot dated to c. 270 – 410 CE.

10.8.8 Context (5006) has been recorded as the top of the natural Hythe Beds with some possible intrusions from (5005). Fourteen sherds of pottery dated between c. 270 – 400 CE were recovered. Two coins were also recovered dating from c. 274 – 286 CE and c. 348 – 361 CE.

10.8.9 A single coin of Constantius II or Constans dating to c. 341 – 348 CE has been recorded as deriving from context (5007). However, no pottery has been recovered from this context and no further information could be gleaned from the available records.

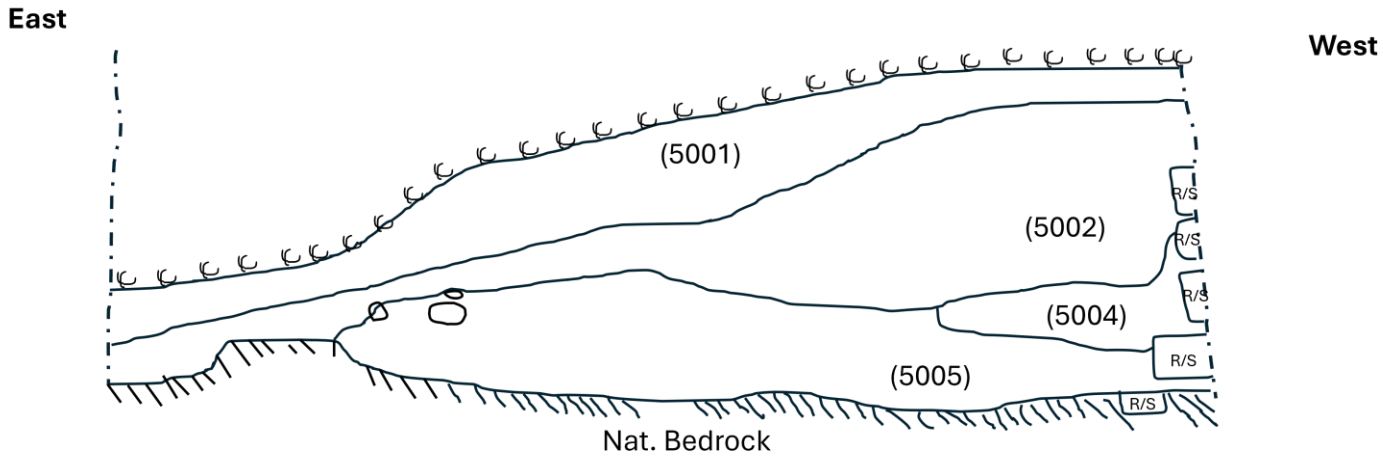


Figure 42 - Trench 5 Section Sketch Plan

Table 4 - Trench 5 Context Description

Context No.	Feature Group	Description
5001	Layer	Topsoil
5002	Deposit	Rubble; shingle and soil mix forming from bank
5003	Feature	Oven feature cut into the wall and overlain by (5002)
5004	Layer	Dark brown sandy soil
5005	Layer	Mortar and Soil Mix
5006	Layer	Top of natural Hythe beds
5007	Layer	No further information provided

10.9 Trench 6 (2024)

10.9.1 Trench 6 was opened to examine the interior of the proposed fortlet, focusing on the contrast visible in the earlier resistivity results. Three research questions were proposed; could the northern wall be located; could an entrance to the possible fort be located; what has caused the large area of low resistance in the resistivity date?

10.9.2 The trench was orientated north-south and positioned c. 50m north-east of the wall revealed in 2023. It was 13m x 2m in size.

10.9.3 A total of fifteen contexts were excavated by hand within Trench 6.

10.9.4 (6001) comprises a loose, mid-brown sandy topsoil measuring 0.1m – 0.2m thick. No finds were recovered.

10.9.5 Beneath (6001) a firm, mid-light brown sandy subsoil with occasional lumps of ragstone was recorded (6002). A number of coins were recovered from this subsoil dating between c. 274 – 402 CE. Although pottery was recorded on the context sheet no spot-date was included in the pottery report.

10.9.6 A friable, dark brown sandy soil layer containing pieces of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), ragstone and pottery (6003) was recorded, representing a possible occupation layer. Pottery recorded c. 90 sherds dating between 1600 – 1900 CE, likely intrusive pottery mixed into the context through historic ploughing activity. A number of Romano-British coins were recorded from the context spanning between c. 268 – 402 CE, but no Roman pottery sherds were recorded.

10.9.7 (6004) comprised the upper fill of a probable Roman ditch [6005]. Seventeen pottery sherds were recovered from the upper fill of this ditch represented by (6004) dating between c. 270 – 410 CE. Just three coins were recovered from (6004) dating between c. 364 – 402 CE.

10.9.8 A further ditch fill (6006) was recorded between (6004) comprising a firm mid-brown, silty clay with rare small pebbles of ragstone, very rare shell fragments and pieces of CBM. The pottery from this fill consisted of just nine sherds dating between c. 120 – 200 CE.

10.9.9 A third ditch fill (6007) was recorded orientated north-south. The fill was firm, dark-brown in colour made of silty clay. It contained very rare CBM fragments, ragstone flecks, charcoal and a single nail was recorded. Nine pottery sherds were also recorded dating between c. 50 -270 CE.

10.9.10 Beneath (6007) a sterile, green layer possibly a further ditch fill (6008) was recorded; it contained some animal bone at the top of the context with pieces of ironstone and ragstone mixed in.

10.9.11 A thin ditch fill lens (6009) just 15cm deep consisted of carbon flecked grey-green silty clay with occasional lumps of ragstone. A single fragment of pottery dated between c. 1 – 150 CE was recovered from the context.

10.9.12 Within the ditch, a layer of organised ragstone blocks, possibly a wall or ditch lining [6010] was recorded at the top of the ditch curve, beneath (6007). This line of stones had been interpreted on site as a possible defensive structure containing a typical Roman military “ankle-breaker”. However it is more likely to represent a ditch cutting [6010].



Figure 43 - Trench 6 looking east with [6010] and [6015] in the centre

10.9.13 A second line of ragstone was recorded closest to the northern edge of the trench [6011]. This consisted of smaller ragstone blocks and likely represents a second wall or ditch lining.

10.9.14 Nestled between the centre [6010] and southern [6015] line of stones was an 8cm deep layer of grey-green sandy silt with occasional ragstone lumps and flecks (6012). The green colour is likely

the result of the presence of standing water between each line of stones.

10.9.15 A green fill (6013) was recorded above (6014) comprising rare ragstone lumps and occasional stone flecks. The layer, more grey-green silty clay measured 18cm in thickness.

10.9.16 Beneath (6013) a primary ditch fil containing visible ragstone fragments was recorded.

10.9.17 The final context was a visible cut [6015] to the northern edge of the stones.



Figure 44 - Trench 6, Eastern section

10.9.18 Trench 6 has been interpreted as an internal ditch with a possible defensive function or a drainage ditch. Based on the coin evidence it is cut in the 3rd century with subsequent episodes of gradual infill rather than deliberate, contemporary [backfilled] activity. It may represent an internal drainage feature serving the fortlet, perhaps forming part of the internal drainage and water feeding system. Constructing water channels to guarantee access was an important element fort engineering.[60]

10.9.19 On the last day of the excavation a cut was made c. 2m south of the ditch in Trench 6 and what appeared to be the foundations of a wall was found some 1.5m wide with part of it unexcavated indicating that it could be the same 1.9m thickness of the wall found on the west side. This could represent the north wall of the defensive structure forming the fortlet.[61]

[60] Roman Military Forts: How They Were Built and Why They Were Unbreakable - History Rome [Accessed 31/07/2026]
[61] Topham, Guy *Pers Comm* (written)

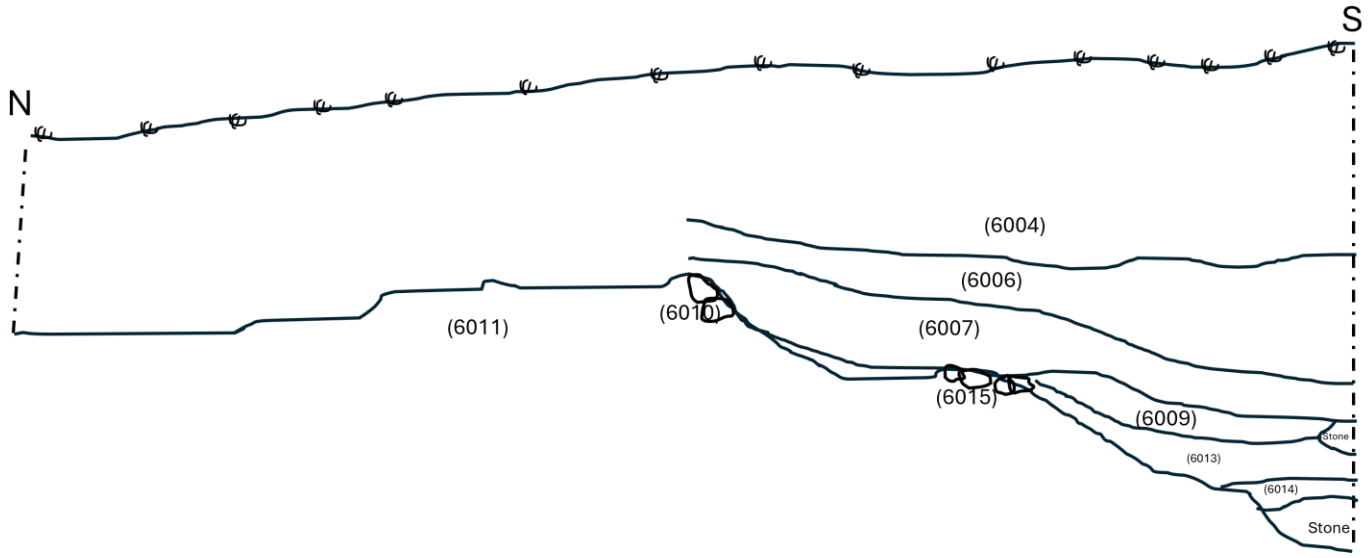


Figure 45 - Trench 6, North-South profile and section

10.10 Trench 7 (2024)

10.10.1 Trench 7 was located along the edge of the escarpment, c. 50 south-east of Trench 8. The Trench was orientated North-West-South-East. The topsoil and turf in Trench 7 were removed using a mechanical excavator before subsequent hand-excavation was undertaken.

10.10.2 Four contexts were recorded through the hand excavation of Trench 7. The initial trench labelled "A" was opened measuring 2m long x 1m wide. During the excavation further extensions labelled "B" and "C" were opened with steps cut in for safety.

10.10.3 At the top of the trench a mid-brown topsoil with some intermixed pebbles was recorded (7001).

10.10.4 Beneath this, a lighter brown, fine soil with ragstone inclusions was recorded as the subsoil (7002). A single coin of Arcadius dating between c. 397 – 402 CE was recorded from this context. Fourteen sherds of pottery were recorded dating between c. 270 – 410 CE. A residual Iron Age coin identified as a Potin dating from c. 95 – 80 BCE and identified as a Holman FL D7/1-2 Var; this was the only Iron Age coin recovered from the site.

10.10.5 A further context of lighter brown, fine soil similar to (7002) but containing a mix of broken ragstone was recorded (7003). A single coin was recovered from the spoil taken from (7003); a coin of the House of Constantine dating from c. 330 – 340 CE. Only three pottery sherds were recovered which were given a spot date of c. 450 – 750 CE. Across the site around 250 sherds of mid-5th to mid-8th century date were recovered, suggestive of later activity following the fall of the Roman empire.

10.10.6 The next recorded context (7004) comprised a rich brown soil which consistently held moisture during the excavation. It included some large, ragstone boulders. This context may represent a ditch

fill of [7005]. Two coins were recorded from (7004); a coin of Arcadius dating to c. 388 – 402 CE and one of the House of Theodosius dating from 388 – 395 CE. A small quantity of Romano-British pottery dating from c. 270 – 410 CE.

10.10.7 A ditch cut [7005] was recorded during the excavation, however time constraints during the project did not allow for the full investigation of this feature. This may represent a thick sequence of built-up soils sealing a possible ditch or pit, however it is unclear if this is accumulated plough soil or deliberate backfilling.

10.10.8 Abutting [7005] on its western side, a layer of Ragstone and yellow clay was recorded (7006). Just nineteen pottery sherds were recovered from (7006) dating between c. 270 – 410 CE.

10.10.9 An auger was drilled to a depth of 350mm on the eastern side of Trench 7 until it hit a hard surface. The removed sample was dark with flecks of ragstone.

Context No.	Feature Group	Description
7001	Layer	Topsoil; mid-brown, some pebbles, rough pasture
7002	Layer	Lighter brown, fine soil with ragstone inclusions
7003	Layer	Lighter brown fine soil same as (7002) but with much more broken ragstone
7004	Fill	Fill of [7005]; Rich brown soil, rare large ragstone boulders
7005	Feature	Ditch cut
7006	Layer	Ragstone and yellow clay

Table 5 - Trench 7 Context Description

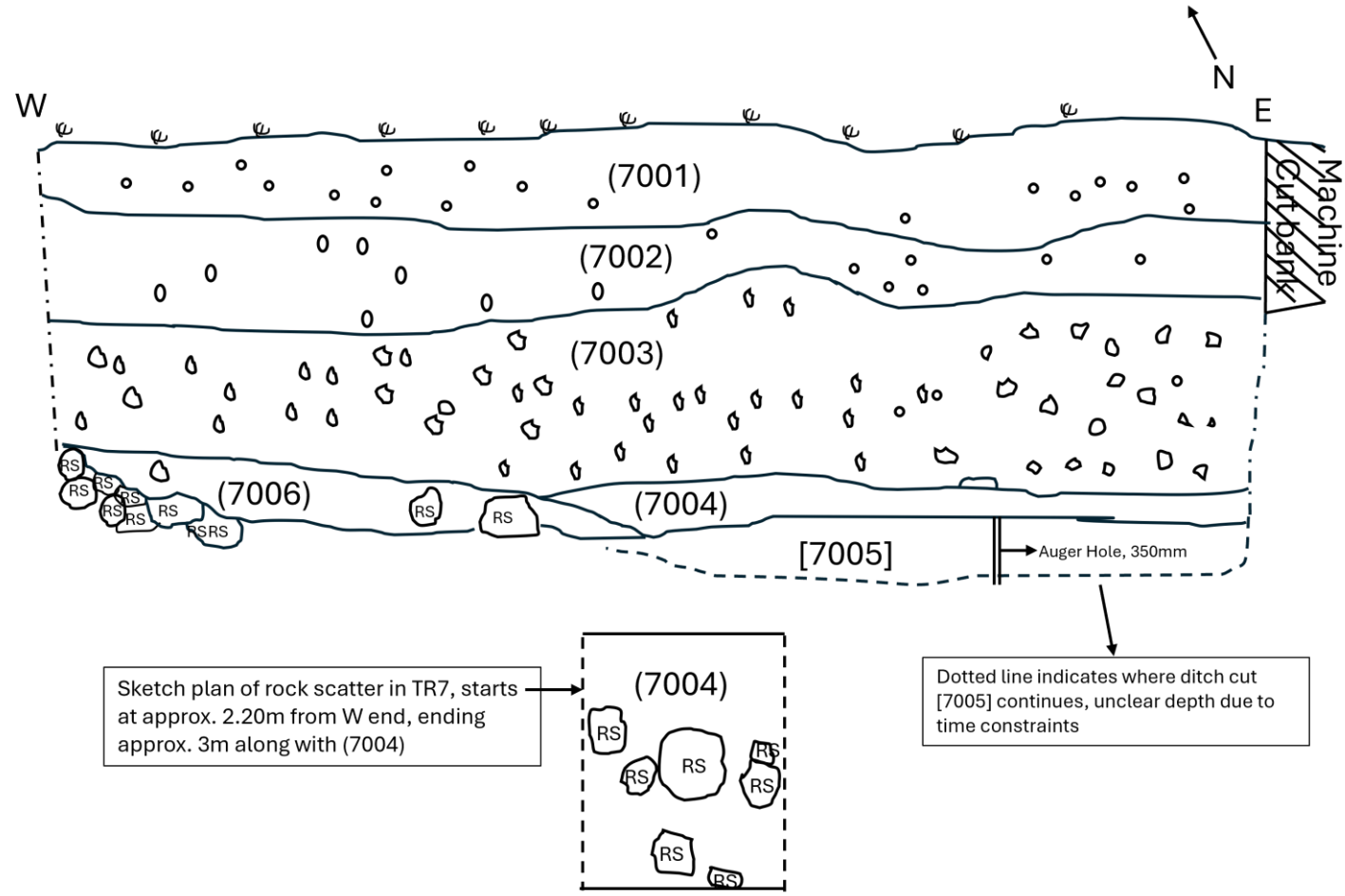


Figure 46 - Trench 7, South-Facing Sketch Plan

10.11 Trench 8 (2024)

10.11.1 Trench 8 was excavated north-east-south-west down the escarpment before joining Trench 5. It was targeted on the position of a metal detected find recovered from the escarpment by SHAL volunteer Neil Green. A copper-alloy Romano-British footlamp (KENT-EE88CA) recovered in July during preparatory summer work by SHAL and reported under The Treasure Act (1996) (see appendix 4).

10.11.2 As the footlamp was proposed to have come from a votive deposit, it was decided to excavate an initial 1m x 1m trench around the findspot to examine for the presence of a grave or associated finds.

10.11.3 This 1m x 1m trench was extended to form Trench 8. A total of four contexts were recorded.

10.11.4 A thin topsoil layer (8001) was recorded descending down the bank/berm formed across the escarpment.

10.11.5 Beneath this a shingle, ragstone and sandy soil matrix forming the bank (8002) was recorded descending down from the collapsed fragment the Roman wall [8005]. The layer (8002) was

primarily formed of weathered rock and clay. Just five sherd of pottery were recovered from the context dating between c. 270 – 410 CE.

10.11.6 A natural ragstone outcrop (8003) was recorded at the base of the slope on top of which (8002) sat.

10.11.7 A cut into the natural ragstone F. [8004] formed a "plinth" where the footlamp and its associated pottery was recovered from. The soil beneath this (8002) was comprised of loose brown, gritty loam with occasional small ragstone lumps. The pottery associated with the footlamp was dated to c. 50 – 150 CE comprising twenty-four sherds including a base. Other pottery fragments were also recovered from (8004) dating between c. 250 – 410 CE.

10.11.8 Trench 8 revealed more of the wall seen across the escarpment trenches with a tumble of ragstone suggesting demolition of the wall following its use, potentially undertaken when the lime kiln was established. The presence of a 1st century footlamp in the area of Trench 8 poses a number of questions which will need further exploration in 2026.

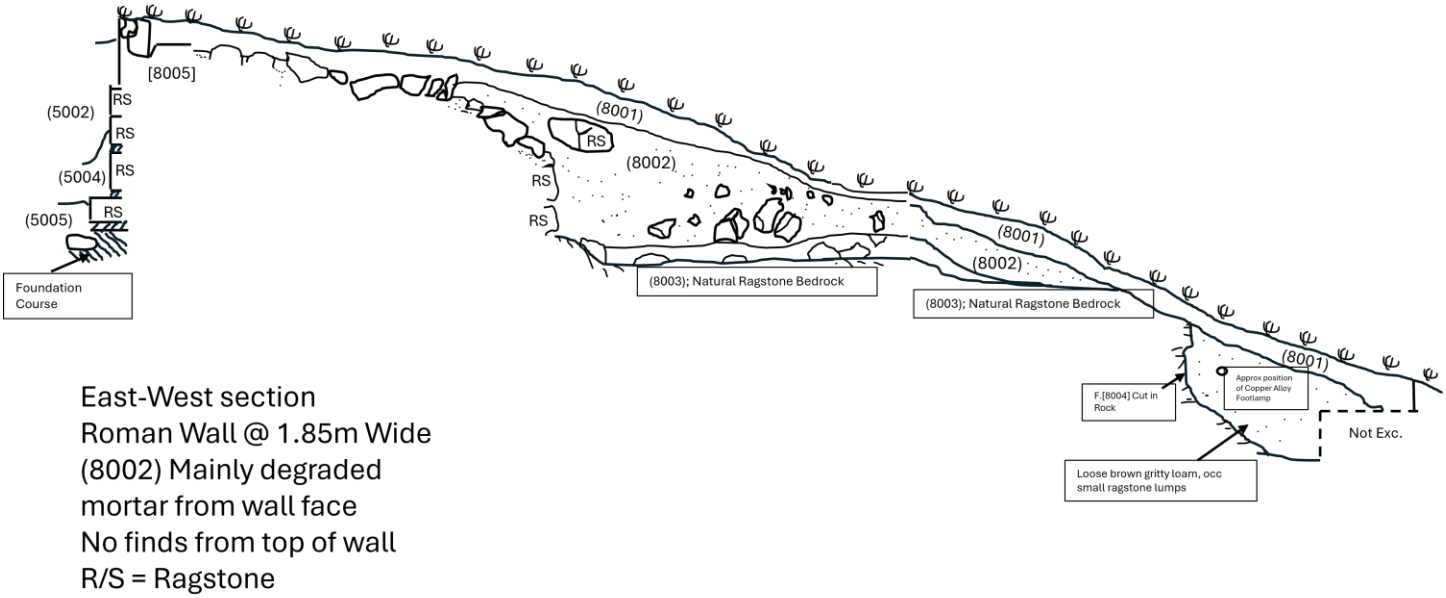


Figure 47 - Trench 8 East-West facing section

Context No.	Layer Group	Description
8001	Layer	Topsoil
8002	Layer	Subsoil; weather rocky clay
8003	Layer	Natural Ragstone Deposit
8004	Feature/Cut	Cut into natural ragstone forming a small plinth at which the Copper Alloy 1st century footlamp was recovered

Table 6 - Trench 8 Context Description

10.12 Trench 9 (2024)

10.12.1 Trench 9 was a small 1m x 1m trench positioned on the western side of the bank aimed at examining if the wall continued down the slope.

10.12.2 Only two contexts were recorded in the site archive with unfortunately no section or plan drawings being provided to the author.

10.12.3 No coins or pottery providing spot dates were recorded for this trench.

10.12.4 The site diary kept by SHAL during the excavation states that Trench 9, 10 and 11 were combined into a single trench but unfortunately this is not clearly recorded in the GNSS data taken by Richard Taylor.

Context No.	Layer Group	Description
9001	Layer	Topsoil
9002	Layer	Rubble, shingle and soil mix forming bank

Table 7 - Trench 9 Context Description

10.13 Trench 10 (2024)

10.13.1 Trench 10 was located alongside trenches 9 and 11 on the outer side of the mound, visible on the escarpment's southern edge. No records related to this trench were provided to the author, but information has been gathered from specialist reports and the site journal kept by SHAL.

10.13.2 Trench 10, while initially excavated as a separate trench, was combined with trench 9 and 11 and subsequently treated as a single trench.

10.13.3 Only four numbers were recorded for Trench 10 which are detailed below.

10.13.4 No coins were recovered from Trench 10. Spot dating of pottery has sherds dating to c. 100 – 230 CE being recovered from the topsoil and sherds spanning c. 270 – 410 CE being recovered from the subsoil.

Context No.	Layer Group	Description
10001	Layer	Topsoil
10002	Layer	Subsoil – Composition not recorded
10003	No Information	No Information
10004	No Information	A single fragment of box flue tile was recorded from this context

Table 8 - Trench 10 Context Description

10.14 Trench 11 (2024)

10.14.1 Trench 11 was also located on the outside of the mound alongside trench 9 and 10, before being amalgamated into a single trench.

10.14.2 No coins or pottery was recorded from this trench.

10.14.3 No finds or context information of this trench was provided at the time of writing.

10.15 Trench 12 (2024)

10.15.1 Trench 12 was one of two smaller trenches excavated 10m apart, towards the end of the excavation to see whether the wall along the escarpment continued to the east. Trench 12 measured 2.75m long x 1m wide and was orientated north-east-south-west.

10.15.2 No context details or recording sheets were provided for this trench, however a small sketch and plan drawing had been made of the trench and is included below.

10.15.3 The continuation of wall [8005] was revealed within Trench 12 but the majority of the trench remained unexcavated. The ragstone wall appears to have been heavily disturbed.

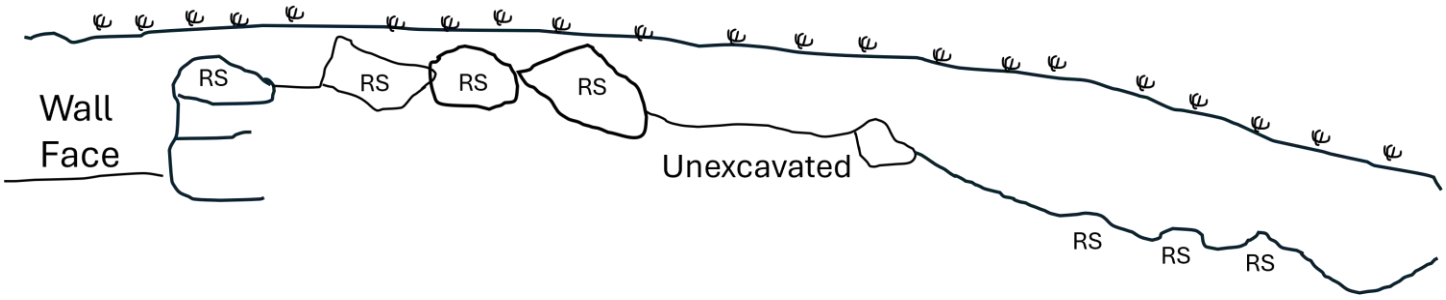


Figure 48 - Trench 12 Section, Scale 1:10

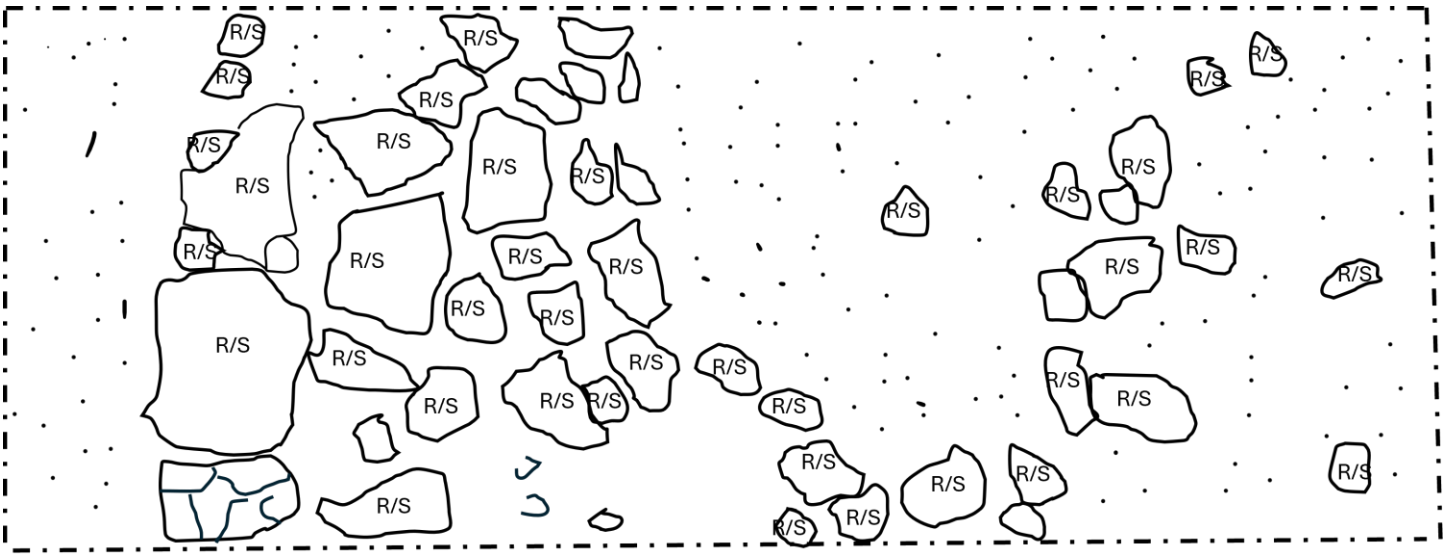


Figure 49 - Trench 12, Plan, scale 1:10

10.16 Trench 13 (2024)

10.16.1 As with Trench 12 above, this trench was excavated to check the course of the 1.9m Roman wall and whether it continued to the east of the site. It measured 2.5m long x 1m wide and was also orientated north-east-south-west.

10.16.2 No context information or recording sheets were provided for Trench 13, but a section and plan sketch were created and are illustrated below.

10.16.3 The trench section recorded only a topsoil layer and two distinct ragstone scatters. It is not yet conclusive whether this represents a continuation of the Romano-British wall seen elsewhere on site.

10.16.4 No finds were recorded from this trench.

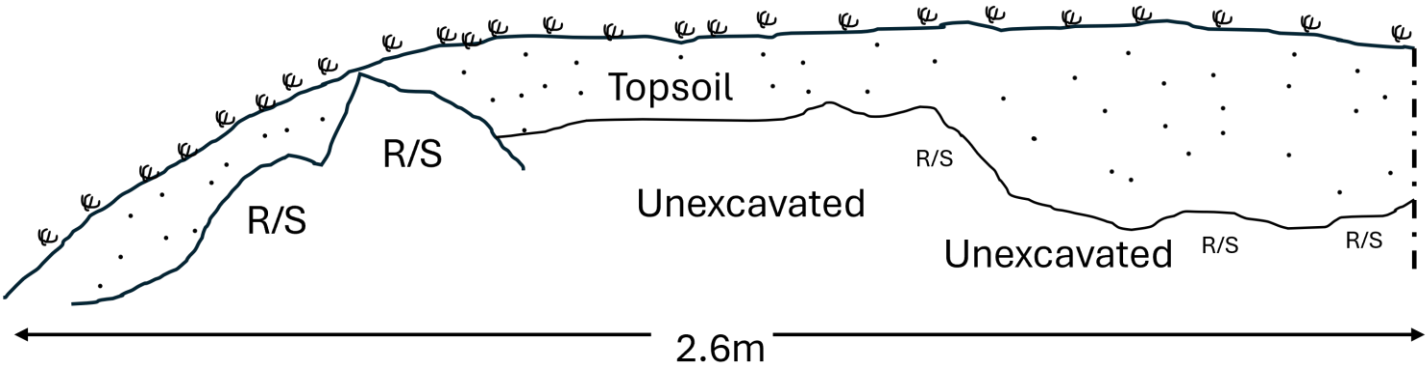


Figure 50 - Trench 13 Section, scale 1:10

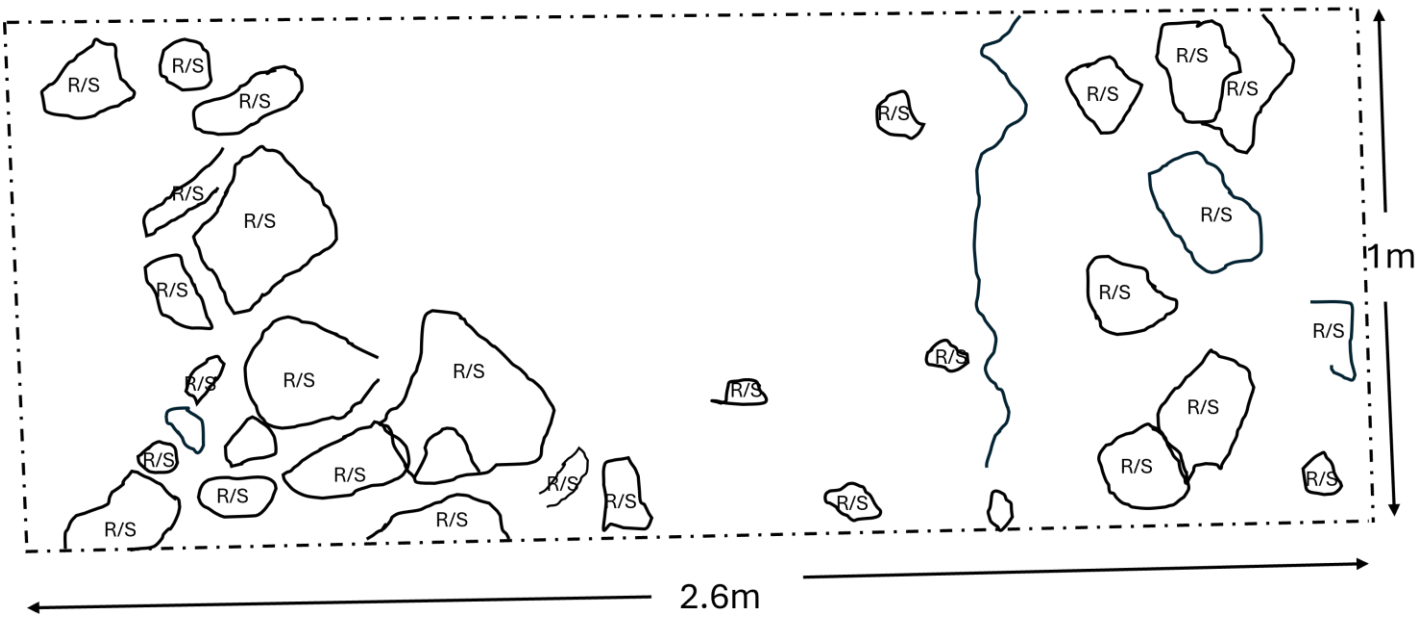


Figure 51 - Trench 13, Plan, Scale 1:10

11 The Finds

11.1 Summary

11.1.1 A large archive of archaeological finds was retrieved during the 2023 and 2024 excavations. Finds were washed and air dried by members of SHAL as appropriate. All finds were bagged by material and context. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA Guidelines (2022). Bulk finds from 2023 have been quantified in table 9. Bulk finds from 2024 were sent directly to specialists after some quantification by SHAL. Quantification of these finds are included in the relevant material type section. The registered finds from the site are quantified in table 29 and table 30 and discussed in section 11.42

Table 9 - Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds 2023

Context	Lithics	Weight	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Iron nail	Weight	Copper	Weight	Animal	Weight (g)	Fired	Weight (g)	Charcoal	Weight	Stone	Weight (g)	Clay	Weight	Marine	Weight (g)
1001	4	35	6	53																		
1002			1	17.7																		
1003			346	2711	120	8488					112	611.8	5	334.5	5	7	38	3729.1			79	393
1004			9	36	14	526.9					2	7					9	359			7	13
1005			255	1565	22	500					76	440	4	152			5	336			10	90.9
1009			45	245.7	11	33					10	42										
2003											1	8										
2004			14	135	1	314					12	91					4	1018				
2006			1	2.6											1	4	1	627			1	4
2008					1	128																
3000			12	90	5	453					5	24					2	384				
3001	1	3	157	1345.6	113	7274					188	2940.2					65	4277.4			372	4131
3003			43	754.6	12	2147.1			2	13	165	2112			2	1.8	1	172			132	1989
3004			17	261.5	9	1309.9	1	19			50	776.9					2	89.1			39	877
4001			5	38	2	1026					2	300						2274				
4002			14	47	17	2190					3	2.8					17	1583	1	1.1	2	2
U/S			7	31	2	13					2	27										
Total	5	38	932	7314.2	329	24,402.9	1	19	2	13	628	7382.7	9	486.5	8	12.8	139	14848.6			642	7499.9

11.1.2 All finds have been assessed by specialists following the 2024 excavation and are discussed below.

11.1.3 Bulk finds have been returned to the care of SHAL for long-term storage with some material types to returned to the site for burial at a geo-located location based on specialist advice.

11.1.4 Finds deemed "special" by SHAL with advice of the author were retained by the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) until the completion of this report. On completion the special finds will be returned to SHAL for inclusion in their long-term permanent archive.[62]

11.2 The 2023 Pottery *by Ed Biddulph*

11.2.1 Some 758 sherds, weighing 5772g, were recovered during the 2023 season of excavation. The pottery has been recorded in detail. Within each context group, the pottery was sorted into fabrics and assigned codes taken from the Oxford Archaeology fabric series (Booth nd). Forms were identified by rim and given Oxford Archaeology codes, supplemented where possible with coding from well-established corpora (e.g. Young 1977; Monaghan 1987). Each vessel and other groups of sherds were quantified by sherd count and weight in grammes, with rims additionally being recorded by minimum number of vessels (MV) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE). A date was assigned to each group based on the diagnostic elements within that group. Table 10 gives the amount of pottery and the ceramic date for each context-group.

Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE	Date from (AD)	Date to (AD)
1001	4	35	3	0.16	43	410
1002	1	17	1	0.05	270	400
1003	344	2309	30	1.41	270	400
1005	201	1173	23	1.02	270	400
1009	22	111	6	0.32	270	400
2004	14	137	1	0.06	270	400
3000	12	87	2	0.09	270	400
3001	94	875	11	0.77	330	400
3002	4	52	1	0.11	270	400
3003	46	803	10	0.74	270	400
3004	7	117	1	0.35	270	400
4001	6	48	1	0.06	300	400
4002	3	8			43	410
Total	758	5772	90	5.14		

Table 10 - Quantification and ceramic dating by context

11.2.2 The following fabrics were identified (Table 10):

Fabric	Description	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE
B20	Black-burnished ware, category 2	12	65	8	0.33
C11	'Late' shelly ware (HAR SH)	2	49	1	0.16
E20	Iron Age/early Roman fine sandy fabrics	2	6		

[62] The special finds were returned on the first day of the 2026 excavation.

E30	Iron Age/early Roman sandy fabrics	1	5		
E40	Iron Age/early Roman shelly fabrics	14	101		
E80	Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered ware (SOB GT)	16	172	2	0.13
E810	Late Iron Age/early Roman grog and sand tempered wares	2	7		
E820	Late Iron Age/early Roman grog and shell tempered wares	1	11	1	0.05
F51	Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware (OXF RS)	7	95	2	0.14
F52	Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC)	1	2		
F60	Unsourced red/brown colour-coated wares	6	70		
M30	Unsourced white-slipped oxidised mortaria	2	40	2	0.07
M31	Oxford white-slipped oxidised mortaria (OXF WS)	2	61	1	0.11
M41	Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware mortaria (OXF RS)	1	22	1	0.05
O	Indeterminate oxidised fabrics	7	8		
O10	Unsourced fine oxidised wares	39	154	2	0.07
O20	Unsourced sandy oxidised wares	20	144		
O24	Portchester 'D' ware (OVW WH)	4	28	1	0.06
O50	North Kent fine oxidised ware	7	20	1	0.16
O52	Canterbury sandy oxidised ware	6	13	1	0.03
O53	?Canterbury fine sandy oxidised ware	1	4		
O80	Coarse tempered oxidised wares	2	68	1	0.05
O91	Mayen ware (MAY CO)	1	51	1	0.2
P	Prehistoric fabrics	5	43	5	0.28
Q20	Unsourced white-slipped oxidised wares	3	15		
R10	Unsourced fine reduced wares	37	125	1	0.05
R16	North Kent fine reduced ware (UPC FR)	48	134	6	0.24
R20	Unsourced sandy reduced wares	6	82	5	0.24
R30	Unsourced medium sandy reduced wares	59	243	4	0.22
R48	New Forest reduced ware	1	32	1	0.11
R97	'Late Roman' grog-/coarse-tempered wares	423	3851	40	2.29
S	Unsourced samian wares	3	5		
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware (LEZ SA 2)	8	17	2	0.06
S32	Les Martres de Veyre samian ware (LMV SA)	1	1	1	0.04
S40	East Gaulish samian ware	1	5		
W10	Unsourced fine white wares	5	17		
Z30	Post-medieval wares	2	6		
Total		758	5772	90	5.14

Table 11 - Quantification of the pottery by fabric

11.2.3 The following forms were encountered (Table 12):

Type	Description	MV	EVE
C	Jar	12	0.45
CD	Medium mouthed jar	2	0.12
CH	Bead rimmed jar	3	0.13
CI	Everted rim jar	25	1.72
CJ	Lid seated jar	1	0.2

CK	'Cooking-pot'-type jar	5	0.42
CN	Storage jar	2	0.18
CU	'Saucepan-pot'-type jar	1	0.14
D	Jar or bowl	2	0.06
E	Beaker	1	0.16
EC	Bag-shaped beaker	1	0.05
EF	Poppyhead beaker	2	0.06
FB	Bell-shaped cup (Drag. 27)	1	0.04
H	Bowl	1	0.05
HB440	Straight-sided bowl with bead-and-flanged rim	1	0.05
HC	Curving-sided bowl	2	0.14
I	Bowl or dish	2	0.06
J	Dish	2	0.05
J210	Dish with bead rim	1	0.04
JA110	Straight sided dish with plain rim	9	0.38
JA120	Straight sided dish with thickened plain rim	1	0.03
JA210	Straight sided dish with bead rim	3	0.17
JA440	Straight sided dish with bead-and-flanged rim	1	0.04
JB110	Curving sided dish with plain rim	2	0.09
JB120	Curving sided dish with thickened plain rim	1	0.04
K	Mortarium	1	0.04
KA	Mortarium with bead and hooked flange	1	0.03
KE	Mortarium with stubby bead and flange	2	0.16
Z	Indeterminate form	2	0.04
Total		90	5.14

Table 12 - Quantification of the pottery by form

11.2.4 With the exception of two small groups (contexts 1001 and 4002), which contained pottery that could be dated only broadly to the Roman period (c AD 43-410), all groups were deposited in the late Roman period (c AD 270-400/410) or later. The groups have been dated largely based on the presence of coarse-tempered handmade fabrics collectively assigned to fabric R97 – 'late Roman' grog-tempered ware, but in many cases encompassing a range of inclusion types in addition to grog, including sand, flint and shell (cf. Pollard 1988, 154-5, fig. 53, nos 204-211; Lyne 2015, 74). Vessel forms are typical of this tradition of pottery: jars with everted rims (CI) and dishes with plain (JA/JB 110/120) or bead-and-flanged (JA440) rims, all generally deriving from black-burnished ware industry repertoires. The pottery broadly spanned the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD, and the date is supported by, most notably, products of the Oxford industry (M31, M41, and F51), so-called Portchester 'D' ware or Tilford/Overwey white ware (O24), 'late Roman' shelly ware from the South Midlands (C11), and imported coarse fabric, Mayen ware (O91). Within these groups, however, there is much earlier material, which, though residual, derives from prehistoric, late Iron Age or early Roman, and 2nd/3rd-century activity at the site.

11.2.5 The prehistoric pottery, recorded in contexts 1003 and 1005, comprise a saucepan-type jar (CU) with vertical ridges on the body, and rim sherds of uncertain form, but probably belonging to shouldered jars (C). These are in shelly and flint fabrics and have been tentatively dated to the early Iron Age. A proportion of grog-tempered fabrics were dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period (fabric E80). These were superficially similar to fabrics identified as R97, but were not so coarse and were comb-decorated or had cordoned or 'corrugated' shoulders, which are not attested

on the late Roman fabrics (Lyne 2015, 1-2).

11.2.6 Fine oxidised and reduced wares reached the site from North Kent (fabric O50 and R16) probably from the later 1st century onwards. The pottery was largely present as undiagnostic body sherds, but poppyhead beakers (EF) and a flanged bowl, both forms dating from the late 1st to mid-2nd century (Monaghan 1987), were recorded. The early 2nd century AD is represented by a Drag. 27 cup in samian ware from Les Martres de Veyre, while the mid/late 2nd and 3rd centuries are represented by dishes – both plain-rimmed and bead-rimmed – and 'cooking-pot'-type jars (CK) in black-burnished wares from North Kent (B20) and samian wares from Central (S30) and East Gaul (S40).

11.2.7 Overall, the condition of the assemblage is poor, the pottery being very fragmented, as reflected in the mean sherd weight (weight divided by number of sherds) of 7.6g and mean EVE value (EVE divided by MV) of 0.06 EVE (in other words, on average, just 6% of each vessel's rim survived). The condition of the pottery, and the presence within most groups of residual material, suggests that groups are mixed, having generally undergone multiple episodes of deposition. This had the effect of breaking up vessels and separating component elements (rims, body, bases) but also bringing together pottery from several sources, such as middens or other dumps, within the site.

11.3 The 2024 Pottery by *Ed Biddulph*

11.3.1 Some 1605 sherds of pottery, weighing almost 19kg, were recovered from the excavation carried out in 2024. The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight in grammes, minimum number of vessels based on rim (MV) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), also based on rim (eg 0.1 EVE equals 10% of the rim). Form, fabric and decoration codes are taken from Booth (nd), and the recording methodology follows the standard set by pottery research groups (PCRG *et al.* 2016).

11.3.2 Pottery of late Iron Age or early Roman date (*c* 50 BC to AD 100) was represented by just eight sherds of grog-tempered pottery (E80). With a mean sherd weight of just 4g, the pottery was very fragmentary and probably residual; a vessel with an everted rim was recorded in the fabric, but the precise type could not be identified. Another early Roman fabric, shelly ware C19, was present, but similarly in very low quantity, with just two sherds recorded.

11.3.3 Pottery exclusively of mid-Roman (2nd/early 3rd century AD) date was slightly better represented, with some 17 sherds recorded. Pottery diagnostic of this period included Colchester colour-coated ware (F55), which was represented by body sherds from a bag-shaped beaker with barbotine scale decoration (Going 1987, type H22, *c* AD 120-180). There were five sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware (S30) from Lezoux. Most sherds were from dishes or bowls. The only rim sherd present was a dish of Dragendorff 79 type, dating to *c* AD 160-200. One body sherd came from a jar with 'cut-glass' decoration. Also of note was a sherd from a beaker in Highgate Wood C reduced ware (R88), which dates to c AD 70-160. This date range is shared by a ring-necked flagon in a fine white/buff fabric (W41) and a poppyhead beaker (EF) in unsourced reduced ware R30. A jar with a heavily moulded lid-seated rim (CJ; Going 1987, type G5.6) ostensibly dates to the 2nd or early 3rd century, but it is in a hard, gritty fabric (R25) that is more strongly associated with late Roman pottery

supply and it is possible that the jar is a copy of vessels with similar rims produced in Mayen ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, fabric MAY CO), among others. It may, however, be a copy of Derbyshire coarse ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, fabric DER CO), which typically dates from the mid-2nd to mid-4th century AD, though that ware is almost unknown in Kent. (See below for further discussion of fabric R25.)

11.3.4 The vast majority of pottery was deposited in the late Roman period (c AD 250/70-410). Late Roman grog-tempered ware (R97) was dominant. Forms were generally based on black-burnished ware prototypes: neckless jars with everted rims (CI), curving-sided dishes or straight-sided bowls with plain rims (JB 110; HB 110), or deeper curving-sided bowls, also with plain rims (HC 110). Narrow-necked jars with everted rims (CC 730) were also present.

11.3.5 Other wares were recorded in much smaller quantities. Two vessels in wheel-made black-burnished wares (B20/B30) were recorded, one a plain-rimmed dish (JB 110), the other a straight-sided, bead-and-flanged bowl (HB 440). A jar or bowl (D) in North Kent fine reduced ware (R16) was recorded, but this was probably residual. Sherds were also recognised in New Forest reduced ware (R48), which typically has a black slip; handled jars or mugs (GB; Fulford 1975, fig. 32, nos 17 and 18) were identified. Dorset black-burnished ware (B11) and Alice Holt reduced ware (R39) were recorded but not represented by rims (although rims in the latter were seen in post-Roman groups). Other reduced wares (R10, R20, R30) were unsourced, but probably of local origin. Few rims in these fabrics could be identified precisely to type, but belonged jars, beakers and bowls. Fabric R25 was somewhat problematic. It is distinctive, being very hard and gritty (it was tempered with frequent quartz sand grains), and made a relatively important contribution to the supply of coarse reduced wares, but its source is uncertain. Under macro- and microscopic examination, sherds resembled Canterbury sandy wares (Pollard 1988, fabric 6), but a Canterbury source seems unlikely, as the Canterbury wares normally date to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD (Pollard 1988, 212). A Tilford/Overwey source in Hampshire may be more likely; fabric R25 is similar to Portchester D white ware (O24), which was present in some quantity. Indeed, two sherds in fabric R25 have combed or rilled decoration on the body, a form of decoration typical of fabric O24. A reduced ware version of fabric O24 is by no means unknown in Kent and dates to the 4th century (Pollard 1988, fabric 25), and on balance, a Hampshire source for fabric R25 is plausible, at least for some sherds. Not all sherds assigned to fabric R25 were identical, except that all were hard and gritty, suggesting that a range of sources may be represented. Forms identified by rim included a narrow-necked jar (CC) and medium-mouthed necked jars (CD), as well as the lid-seated jar discussed above.

11.3.6 A similar pattern was observed among the oxidised wares. Fabric O52 is a hard, gritty oxidised fabric, essentially an oxidised version of fabric R25, that is similar to Canterbury oxidised sandy products, but it is possible that examples are variants, or copies, of Portchester D ware (O24). A narrow-necked jar (CC) was recorded in fabric O52. Fabric O24 was present in relatively large quantity, with rims identifying medium-mouthed necked jars (CD) and a straight-sided bowl with bead-and-flanged rim (HB 440), though the latter was seen in a post-Roman group. Another oxidised fabric arrived from the South Midlands, probably Harrold in Bedfordshire, in the form of medium-mouthed necked jars in shelly ware C11.

11.3.7 Mortaria arrived almost exclusively from the Oxford region. They were represented by vessels with stubby flanges and tall beads (KE) in white ware M22 (Young 1977, type M22), white-slipped

oxidised ware M31 (Young 1977, type WC7), and red/brown colour-coated ware M41 (Young 1977, type C100), the last dating to the 4th century. Just one mortarium, represented by a body sherd, was made elsewhere, though its precise source is unknown. It had a fine sandy fabric, with grey core and orange margins, and had a brown slip (M40). Though superficially similar to Oxford fabric M41, it had flint, rather than sand trituration grits. (The grits also rule out a Much Hadham source.)

11.3.8 The Oxford industry was also the principal supplier of fine ware. Its red/brown colour-coated ware (F51) was available as dishes (eg Young 1977, type C45) and flanged bowls (eg Young 1977, type C51) copying samian ware prototypes), necked bowls (eg Young 1977, type C75), carinated bowls (eg Young 1977, type C85), and flagons and jugs (eg Young 1977, type C9). Many of the vessels were decorated with rosette or demi-rosette stamps. White-painted decoration was also recorded. Vessels with stamped and painted decoration were made during the 4th century, and Young type C86, a handled carinated bowl, was made after AD 350. Other fine wares arrived from the Nene Valley (F52), the New Forest (F53, F54 and F57), and Much Hadham (F56), but in much smaller quantity. One sherd in fabric F56 had so-called 'Romano-Saxon' decoration, a style of decoration thought to have been current in the mid- to late 4th century. A number of colour-coated fine ware sherds could not be assigned with confidence to a source. Some (F50) are likely to be from the principal producers like Oxford or the Nene Valley, but were burnt or abraded, making identification difficult. Others (F60) might be from those industries but might equally be from other sources or have a more local origin. Several sherds were in a reduced fabric and had a dark slip (F80) and may be allied to New Forest reduced ware (R48), though in these instances, a New Forest source cannot be confirmed. In most cases, body sherds and rims in fabrics F50, F60 and F80 were from funnel-necked globular beakers, a late Roman form.

11.3.9 Continental imports were few; given the late Roman emphasis, samian wares (S30 and S40) and South Spanish olive oil amphorae (A11) – relatively common in early and mid-Roman assemblages – were sparse. However, late Roman imports are represented by Argonne red-slipped ware, a late Roman ware available as curving-sided bowls deriving from samian form Dragendorff 37, and body sherds in a coarse, buff amphora fabric (A30) tentatively identified as belonging to Almagro 54 cigar-shaped wine or olive oil amphorae from Gaza, also 4th century (or later).

11.3.10 A proportion of the assemblage was found in association with Anglo-Saxon (Z10), medieval (Z20), and post-medieval (Z30) fabrics and is presumably residual.

11.3.11 Overall, the condition of the assemblage was poor. Sherds were generally small and many were very abraded. The average sherd weight is 12g, while the average rim percentage value is 0.1 or 10%, pointing to a generally fragmentary assemblage. Very few vessels had complete profiles, with most vessels identified by rim surviving only to the neck or shoulder, and whole vessels were absent. The condition of the assemblage suggests that the pottery had undergone many episodes of disturbance, relocation, and redeposition, resulting in the breaking up and scattering of vessel elements, chronological mixing, and abrasion of sherds.

11.3.12 In late Roman assemblages, the cessation of samian importation and dominance in supply patterns of fineware-producing regional industries mean that ceramic differences between sites tend to flatten out, making the determination of status or site type somewhat difficult. Nevertheless, the Lympne assemblage has characteristics that provide a measure of status of the site from which it

derived. Ignoring the dominance of late Roman grog-tempered wares (R97), the range of fabrics present is relatively diverse, with the products of several regional and continental industries being recognised. The range of forms is also relatively diverse, with eating- and drinking-related forms recorded in some quantity alongside cooking- and storage-related vessels. The assemblage indicates that the settlement from which it derived was well-connected with regional trade networks, and that the inhabitants enjoyed Roman-style food preparation and dining. The assemblage would not be out of place in a settlement of relatively high status, such as a villa or nucleated settlement, and probably a fairly large one, given the amount of pottery recovered, much of it belonging to a single ceramic phase.

11.4 Coins by David Holman and Dr Sam Moorhead

11.4.1 A total of 224 coins (one Iron Age, 220 Roman, and three post-medieval) were recovered from three seasons of excavations at Lympne (*Supra Lemanem*) between 2022 and 2024 and form the basis of this interim report.[63] These can be split between a northern and a southern area, the division being the line of the road running east-west which is regarded as being on the line of the Roman road between Dover and Lympne (Margary 131).[64] This distinction proved to be important when analysing the coins as significant differences were observed between these areas, and should serve as a warning that an overall coin distribution histogram prepared for the purposes of a report may inadvertently hide key aspects.

11.4.2 The solitary Iron Age coin found was a topsoil find from the southern area in 2024. This is a Flat Linear potin which has been identified as type D7/1-2a within Holman's classification of the series, dated to the early first century BC. It has no obvious connection to any of the archaeology seen in this area and is regarded as a casual loss.

11.4.3 Of the 220 Roman coins, 200 are identifiable to one or other of the periods defined by Richard Reece.[65] From these, histograms can be created to demonstrate peaks and troughs in the coin distribution. The northern and southern areas produced 53 and 147 identifiable coins respectively.

[63] A small hoard of 19 coins terminating with two Theodosian coins dated 388-395, from the southern area close to the interior of the enclosure wall, is not included in the figures or this report.
[64] Margary 1955, 43-44
[65] Reece 1991

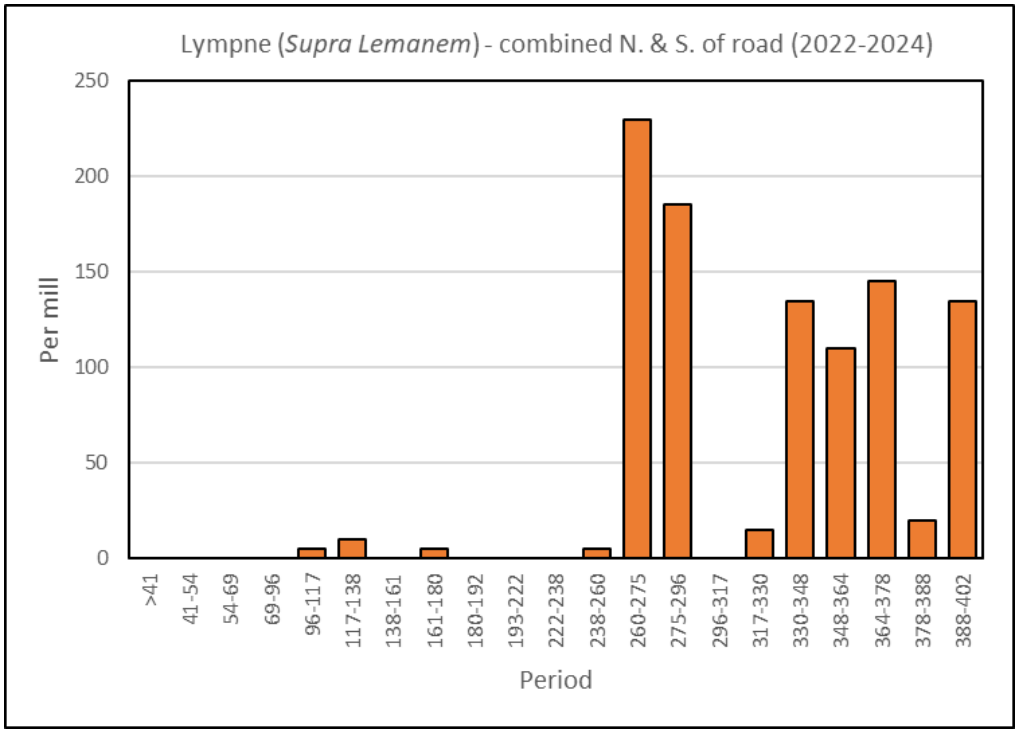


Figure 52 - All Roman coin finds from Lympne (Supra Lemanem) 2022-2024

11.4.4 Figure 44 shows a typical British coin distribution up to the Constantinian period (330-348), with very few early coins but many from the late third century. The first indication of something unusual at Lympne is seen with the lower than usual representation of coins dated 330-348, often the commonest coins on Romano-British sites. At Lympne, they are, unusually, exceeded by coins of the Valentinianic period (364-378), and even more unusually, equalled by coins of the Theodosian period (388-402). This indicates higher than usual activity for the later fourth century at Lympne. Indeed, this high preponderance of late Roman coins places Lympne in a similar position to Richborough and Canterbury, as opposed to Dover and Reculver where there is a general collapse in coin-loss in the late fourth century. There is also a contrast to the coins from the Saxon Shore fort at Lympne, where there are very few coins after the mid-fourth century and none from the later part of the century, indicating activity on the cliff-top site at a time when the fort below had seemingly been abandoned.

11.4.5 However, it is only when the coins shown in Figure 1 are split into the northern and southern areas that it is seen that this overall figure hides some significant differences within the general site.

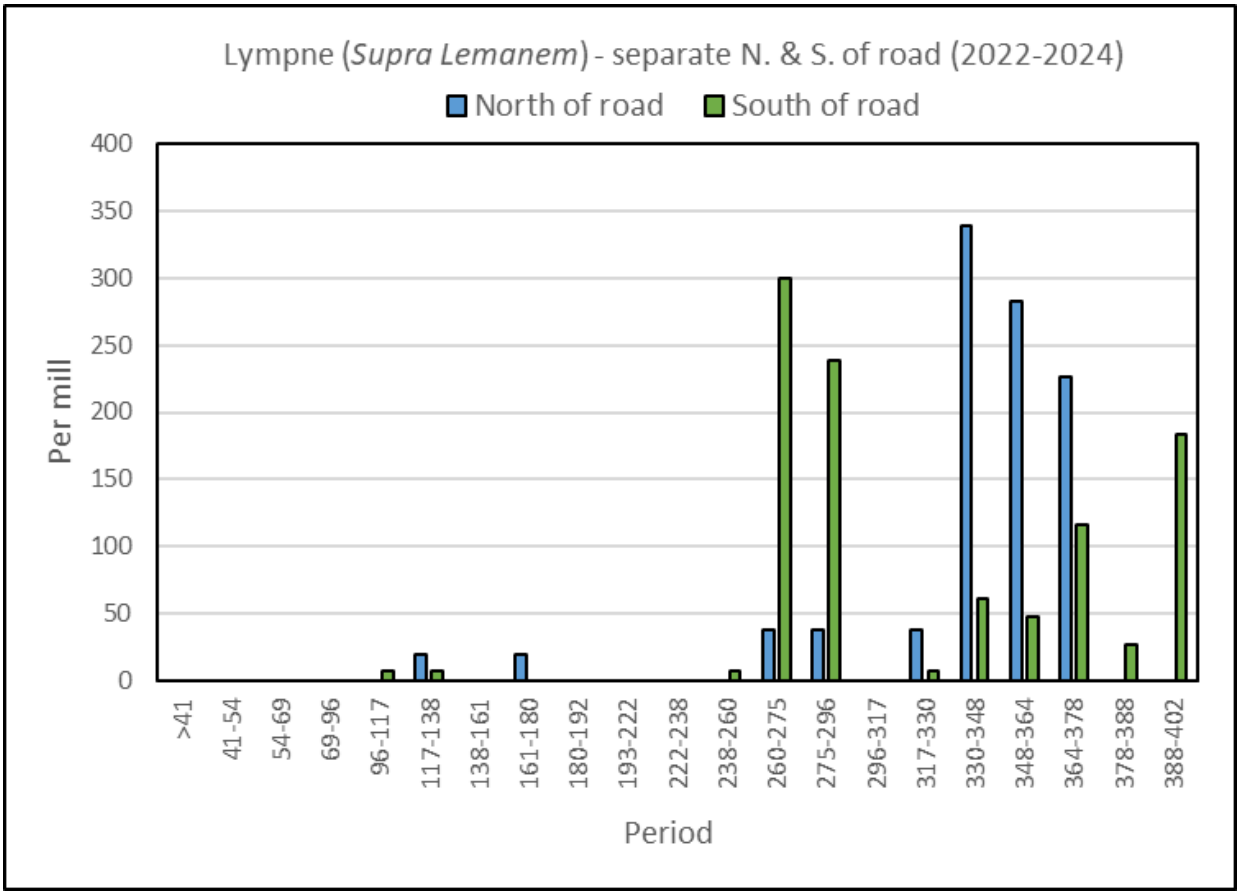


Figure 53 - Roman coin finds for separate northern and southern areas at Lympne (Supra Lemanem) 2022-2024

11.4.6 Figure 45 shows the chronological distribution of the coins from the northern and southern areas alongside one another, and it is immediately clear from the respective histograms that the coins from the northern area show a completely different chronological distribution than those from the southern area. The coins from the northern area are very heavily biased towards the middle years of the fourth century (330-378), covering the Constantinian and Valentinianic issues. Late third century radiates are conspicuous by their small number, an unusual feature, although parallelled by some other sites in east Kent, e.g. Minster Roman Villa, Folkestone East Wear Bay. Conversely, the coins from the southern area show a strong peak in the late third century, but a far lower representation of Constantinian issues than is normally seen on a British site.

11.4.7 The other unusual feature of the southern area histogram is the high level of coinage towards the end of the fourth century, this period being much more prominent than is seen on most sites. The coins post-dating AD 378 from the excavations all come from the southern area, particularly from close to the enclosure wall, strongly suggesting reoccupation of the enclosure at this time, potentially into the early years of the fifth century given the scarcity of coins after AD 395 in Britain. Such a late date is hinted at by the latest coin from the site, a clipped siliqua of Arcadius dated 397-402, with much of the clipping of such coins thought to have taken place in the fifth century.[66] Taken in conjunction, the coins suggest that the principal focus of activity at Lympne moved from the southern area to the northern area at some point in the first half of the fourth century, and then back again towards the end of the century.

[66] Guest 2005,44; Moorhead 2012, 109-111; Abdy 2013, 612-614

11.4.8 The coins provided useful evidence for the dating of the enclosure wall in the southern area. A pit (F.4022) running underneath the wall and thus predating it, produced three radiates, all dated between 260 and 286. One is illegible, and both the others are of Tetricus I (271-274). Further evidence showing that the wall must be later than this came in the form of a radiate of Victorinus (269-271), found in a soil layer beneath a rock which lay below the line of the enclosure wall at a point where it had been entirely removed by stone robbing. This coin, showing some signs of wear, is the only coin found which has been pierced, and it should not go un-noted that this, along with the location, shows the potential for it to have been a deliberately placed offering ahead of the construction of the wall. Further potential evidence of the date of the wall is provided by three coins with mortar adhering to their surfaces, all of which are radiates, the latest being one of Carausius dated c.287-290. Although this may be coincidence rather than tangible proof of the date of the wall, it may be significant that no later coins display this feature.

11.4.9 The final report will be updated to include any coins found during excavations in 2026 as well as over 600 hundred coins found in the 1970s/1980s, and more recently, which have been recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database. The late Roman hoard referred found in 2024 will also be fully covered. These extra coins may show some changes from the picture outlined in the above report, but the general trend is expected to remain broadly similar. Indeed, the 'legacy' finds also show the marked difference in chronological profile between the northern and southern areas (Figure 46). They also show important concentrations of coins of Carausius which will be linked more closely to the archaeology in the final report.

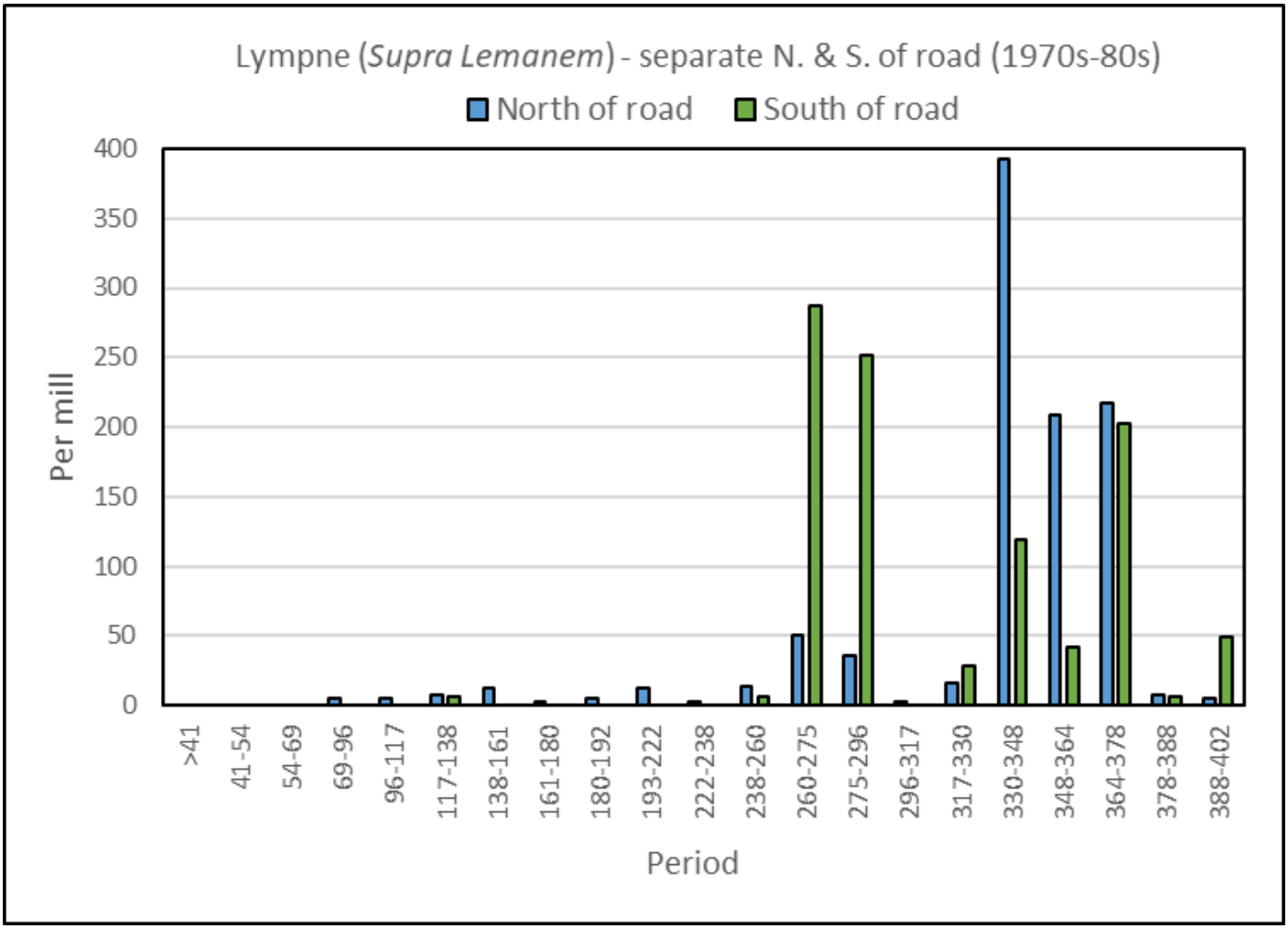


Figure 54 - Legacy finds of Roman coins from Supra Lemanem (1970-80s) – Lympne Field I (north of the road, 418 coins); Lympne Field II (south of the road, 143 coins) (Sam Moorhead 2026)

11.5 Worked Stone by Luke Barber

11.5.1 The excavations at the site produced 15 pieces of stone, weighing 4909g, from six individually numbered contexts. All of the material was collected by hand on site – no material from environmental residues was present in the assemblage. The assemblage has been fully listed on geological record sheets, with the resultant information being used to create an excel spreadsheet as part of the digital archive. Essentially all of the stone appears to be of later Roman date, either by direct artefactual dating or by association. With one notable exception, all of the stone types are of Wealden origin and would have been available relatively close to the site. The assemblage is fully listed in Table 13.

Context	Type	No	Weight (g)	Comments
1003	Wealden Clay Ironstone	7	73	Fragmented
3003	Millstone Grit	1	1563	Rotary quern fragment. Outer edge 45mm thick. c. 460mm diameter. Probably upper stone but re-used post breakage - causing dishing on grinding face - makes this uncertain
4001/B	Tilgate-type stone	1	204	Flattened water-worn cobble fragment. Light/mid grey & calcareous. Used as a polishing/whetstone. Use wear on one distinctly flattened face
T5	Fine iron-mottled calcareous sandstone (probably Hastings Beds)	1	167	18mm thick bed. Water-rounded
T5	Fine buff calcareous slightly siliceous sandstone (Tilgate-type)	1	558	27mm thick bed. Probably a paving slab (slight mortar staining on base). But one broken edge has a distinct concave use wear from being utilised as a whetstone.
6003	Lower Greensand	1	20	Worn. Traces of mortar.
6003	Tertiary Flint	2	133	Scorched red/orange
8002	Wealden Clay Ironstone	1	2191	42mm thick weathered bed. Traces of adhering mortar - used in a wall

Table 13 - Characterisation of the geological material by type/probable source area

The Assemblage

11.5.2 The majority of the assemblage can be grouped as probable building materials (10/2842g). The most common type is Wealden Clay Ironstone, a type quite frequently used for quoins due to its ability to be easily shaped. All of the current pieces are rather fragmentary but that from context (8002) has traces of adhering mortar. The small piece of Lower Greensand from context (6003) also appears to have traces of adhering mortar. The 27mm thick Tilgate-type sandstone slab fragment from Trench 5 has slight mortar staining on its base, suggesting it to have been used in flooring. However, this piece appears to have been re-used as an improvised sharpening stone following breakage, with a distinct concave wear on the broken edge. Another piece of Tilgate stone, this time in the form of a cobble from the beach, also has use wear on one face and appears to have been used as a polishing or sharpening stone (context (4001/B)). Only one rotary quern fragment was recovered and this represents the only non-Wealden stone, being a fragment in Millstone Grit from the Midlands. The type is not uncommon in Kent as the trade was widespread, particularly in the later Roman period (context (3003)). The excavated fragment is from a large hand quern of *c.* 460mm diameter, with an exterior edge 45mm thick. The quern fragment has been re-used for grinding post-breakage, not an uncommon occurrence on rural Roman sites, but this post-breakage usage has transformed the morphology of the stone making it slightly unclear if it derives from an upper or lower stone (though the former is suspected).

11.5.3 Worked Flint (in with stone)

1003	Worked Flint	3	25	Black downland flint. Hard hammer waste flakes from core

Table 14 - Worked Flint included in Stone Assemblage

11.5.4 Ceramic Building Material (in with stone)

3008	Brick	1	46	Common sugary quartz with sparse iron oxide fabric. Quite well fired with x1 overfired/vitrified face surviving. No complete surviving dimensions but in excess of 50mm thick. Re-used - mortar traces on breaks. Probably later C16th-early 18th

Table 15 - CBM included in Stone Assemblage

11.6 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Louise Harrison

11.6.1 A total quantity of 199 fragments of Roman brick and tile weighing 24.489 kgs has been quantified, weighed and analysed and is the subject of this report.

11.6.2 The assemblage, although fragmentary is generally of a good condition and consists of the following types:

Form	Quantity	Weight
Brick	14	9797
Flue	2	447
Miscellaneous	174	10662
Tegula	9	3583
Total:	**199**	**24489**

Table 16 - showing the different tile types, quantities and weights

11.6.3 Fabric Types

11.6.3.1 The brick and tile was examined using a 40x magnification hand lens and the following fabric types were identified, based on a Roman brick and tile fabric typology which was developed by the author. All are red/orange in colour unless otherwise stated.

11.6.4 **Fabric 1**

11.6.4.1 This is a fine sandy fabric with very few large quartz grains and occasional calcareous inclusions are sometimes present. The fabric is very similar to tile excavated from two kiln sites in Canterbury, situated at Whitehall Gardens and St. Stephen's (Jenkins 1956,1960).

11.6.5 **Fabric 2**

11.6.5.1 This is a very fine fabric which is not sandy. It contains few, if any inclusions in the matrix. Very occasionally, calcareous inclusions are visible. This fabric may be a non-sandy variant of fabric 1.

11.6.6 Fabric 3

11.6.6.1 This has a fine "background matrix" with a moderate quantity of medium to large sized quartz grains (up to 1mm), white and clear in colour, present in the fabric's matrix. This may be a sandy variant of fabric 1 as it's very similar to tile excavated from two kiln sites in Canterbury (see fabric 1).

11.6.7 **Fabric 8**

11.6.7.1 The colour of this fabric is its most distinctive feature which varies from white and cream to yellow or pale orange. Additionally, there are a scatter of usually small--sized clear, "rose" and white coloured quartz grains (up to 0.5mm) and occasionally red clay pellets or lenses

are visible. Additionally, the sanding on the back of these tiles consists of "rose" coloured quartz.

11.6.7.2 This fabric is thought to have been produced in Eccles, northwest Kent and dates in London from the early first century (*c.* AD 50–60/1) to the early second century (AD 175–80) (Betts 1992).

11.6.8 **Fabric 11**

11.6.8.1 This fabric is pale orange/red in colour, and it has a fine fabric which is slightly sandy. The characterising feature is that of cream coloured "swirls" or lenses (silty inclusions) appearing commonly in the matrix. Additionally, a scatter of small sized quartz grains (0.5mm) are also present. This fabric was produced in London or nearby and is dated (in London) to AD 100/120 (Betts pers comm).[67]

11.6.9 Fabric *

11.6.9.1 This is a probable new imported fabric which could either be from Southeast Midlands (e.g. Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire) or quite possibly from Northern France (more research is needed).

11.6.9.2 It is pale orange with a grey centre, indicating 'reduced firing'. It is sand free, only sparse rounded polished grains being visible. It has a moderate amount of oyster shell and a few scallop shell inclusions. There is also an example of a possible fossilized fish tooth or bone apparent.

11.7 Table 17 indicates the fabric types by quantity and weight.

Fabric	Quantity	Weight
1	170	21125
2	6	1711
3	1	950
8	14	280
11	5	223
*	3	200
Total:	**199**	**24489**

Table 17 -fabric types by quantity and weight

[67] This may represent *Classis Britannica* Fabric 2; Crowley, N. and Betts, I. M. (1992). Three Classis Britannica stamps from London. *Britannia 23*. Vol 23, pp. 218-222.

11.7.1.1 Table 18 shows the breakdown of the different fabric types to the brick and tile forms present (by quantity and weight).

Fabric Type:	Tile type:	Brick (No./Kg)	Flue (No./Kg)	Miscellaneous (No./Kg)	Tegula (No./Kg)
1		11 /8.536	1 / 280	151/ 9.848	7 / 2.461
2		3 /1.261	1 / 167	1 / 0.111	1 / 0.172
3		0	0	0	1 / 0.950
8		0	0	14 / 0.280	0
11		0	0	5 / 0.223	0
*		0	0	3 / 0.200	0
Totals:		**14 / 9.797**	**2 / 0.447**	**174 / 10.662**	**9 / 3.583**

Table 18 - Breakdown of each fabric type to brick and tile form.

11.8 The Brick

11.8.1 This was all fragmentary, the thicknesses varying from 33mm to 55mm, tentatively suggesting the presence of Bessales, Pedales and Lydion forms. Five of these fragments bore mortar on their broken edges, strongly suggesting that they had been reused previously.

11.8.2 There were also two substantial pieces of brick that were overfired and distorted; these can be identified as waster bricks and implies that a brick and tile kiln was situated within or in close proximity to the area of excavation.

11.9 The Flue Tile

11.9.1 This was all fragmentary and every piece bore evidence of keying. This generally consisted of a combed cross of various types (with and without borders), plus one piece with wavy lines and a couple of examples of a scored lattice pattern.

11.10 The Tegulae

11.10.1 Tile was positively identified and recorded as Tegulae if it bore a Tegula characteristic, for example, a flange or an upper or lower cutaway.

11.10.2 Every fragment had evidence of a flange, but only one was complete enough to be positively identified as flange type 2.

11.10.3 Additionally, one fragment showing evidence of reuse (having mortar on its broken edge), and bore a signature mark consisting of a single grooved semi-circle.

11.11 The Miscellaneous fragments

11.11.1 Roman brick and tile that had no identifying features to enable it to be classed as a certain type of ceramic building material was categorised as Miscellaneous.

11.11.2 The notable pieces consisted of six fragments that had been reused, one piece which had Opus Signinum covering its surface, two pieces showing evidence of incomplete signature marks and one fragment which had a nail hole (strongly suggesting that this was part of a Tegula tile).

11.11.3 Additionally, three pieces of tile (form unknown) with a very unusual fabric (rich in shell/calcareous inclusions) was identified; further research is needed to establish it's form and fabric type. Although, because of its rarity in Southeast Kent, it is very likely to be an imported clay/fabric.

11.12 Stratigraphic information and conclusion

11.12.1 The assemblage was generally of a good condition and consisted of brick, flue and roofing tile, (mainly Tegulae), plus miscellaneous fragments and reused material. Its presence in these quantities and condition suggests that a substantial Roman structure, probably with a hypocaust system existed in close proximity to the area that has been excavated. The overfired and distorted material suggests that a kiln might have been nearby although more evidence is needed to substantiate this.

11.12.2 Apart from the brick and tile from unstratified layers, the largest quantities of the ceramic building material were mainly derived from contexts (1003) which was related to a ditch recorded in trench 1.

11.12.3 When the stratigraphic information is received and completed, and further future planned work has taken place, it will enable a clearer and more considered conclusion to be compiled and completed.

11.13 2024 CBM by Louise Harrison

11.13.1 A total quantity of 265 fragments of Roman brick and tile weighing 43.775 kgs has been quantified, weighed and analysed and is the subject of this report.

11.13.2 The assemblage, although fragmentary is generally of a good condition and consists of the following types:

Tile Type	Quantity	Weight
Brick	30	18876
Flue Tile	28	3015
Imbrex	1	100
Miscellaneous	175	15881
Tegula	31	5903
Total:	**265**	**43775**

Table 19 - showing the different tile types, quantities and weights

11.14 Fabric Types

11.14.1 The brick and tile was examined using a 40x magnification hand lens and the following fabric types were identified and are based on a Roman brick and tile fabric typology which was developed by the author. All are red/orange in colour unless otherwise stated.

11.15 Fabric 1

11.15.1 This is a fine sandy fabric with very few large quartz grains and occasional calcareous inclusions are sometimes present. The fabric is very similar to tile excavated from two kiln sites in Canterbury, situated at Whitehall Gardens and St. Stephen's (Jenkins ****).

11.16 Fabric 2

11.16.1 This is a very fine fabric which is not sandy. It contains few, if any inclusions in the matrix. Very occasionally, calcareous inclusions are visible. This fabric may be a non-sandy variant of fabric 1.

11.17 Fabric 3

11.17.1 This has a fine "background matrix" with a moderate quantity of medium to large sized quartz grains (up to 1mm), white and clear in colour, present in the fabric's matrix. This may be a sandy variant of fabric 1 as it's very similar to tile excavated from two kiln sites in Canterbury (see fabric 1).

11.18 Fabric 8

11.18.1 The colour of this fabric is its most distinctive feature which varies from white and cream to yellow or pale orange. Additionally, there are a scatter of usually small-sized clear, "rose" and white coloured quartz grains (up to 0.5mm) and occasionally red clay pellets or lenses are visible. Additionally, the sanding on the back of these tiles consists of "rose" coloured quartz.

11.18.2 This fabric is thought to have been produced in Eccles, northwest Kent and dates in London from the early first century (*c.* AD 50–60/1) to the early second century (AD 175–80) (Betts 1992).

11.19 Fabric 10

11.19.1 This is a fine sandy fabric with characteristic common black oxides appearing abundantly in the matrix, and occasional red clay inclusions are also present.

11.19.2 A similar fabric has been identified in London as coming from Radlett in Herts, though the London examples are sandier and have a larger quantity of black oxide inclusions than the examples identified in Lympne, suggesting that the tile from here could have been produced more locally.

11.20 Fabric 11

11.20.1 This fabric is pale orange/red in colour, and it has a fine fabric which is slightly sandy. The characterising feature is that of cream coloured "swirls" or lenses (silty inclusions) appearing commonly in the matrix. Additionally, a scatter of small sized quartz grains (0.5mm) are also present. This fabric was produced in London or nearby and is dated (in London) to AD 100/120 (Betts pers comm).

11.20.2 Table 20 indicates the fabric types by quantity and weight.

Fabric	Quantity	Weight
1	214	30407
2	23	6568
3	2	605
8	20	1180
11	3	325
16	3	4690
Total	**265**	**43775**

Table 20 - fabric types by weight and quantity

11.20.3 Table 21 shows the breakdown of the different fabric types to the brick and tile forms present (by quantity and weight).

Fabric Type:	Tile type:	Brick (No./Kg)	Flue (No./Kg)	Imbrex (No./Kg)	Miscellaneous (No./Kg)	Tegula (No./Kg)
1		23/15.256	18/1.177	1/0.100	150/9.160	22/4.714
2		6/3.374	6/1.423	0	5/1.277	6/0.494
3		0	1/0.184	0	0	1/0.421
8		1/0.246	3/0.231	0	16/0.703	0
11		0	0	0	1/0.051	2/0.274
16		0	0	0	3/4.690	0
Totals:		**30/18.876**	**28/3.015**	**1/0.100**	**175/15.881**	**31/5.903**

Table 21 - Breakdown of each fabric type to brick and tile form.

11.21 The Brick

11.21.1 The brick was fragmentary, but virtually every piece (with one exception) had a base and a top surface, which enabled the thicknesses to be measured. They ranged from 25mm to 58mm thick. Although positive identifications can only really be made with additional dimensions (length and width), the available measurements tentatively suggest the presence of Bessalis and Pedalis bricks.

11.21.2 Additionally, two pieces bore signature marks (two grooved semi-circle) and two fragments each had one corner. Five fragments had mortar present on a broken edge suggesting that these had been reused and two bricks showed evidence of overfiring and can be identified as wasters.

11.22 The Flue Tile

11.22.1 This was all fragmentary, but all bore keying consisting of several different types. The main methods observed were of combing (one of wavy lines and the other of diagonal strokes most probably forming a cross) and scoring consisting of a lattice style; there was also a small fragment of roller stamped keying present, plus a tile that had mortar on a broken edge indicating reuse.

11.23 The Tegulae

11.23.1 Tile was positively identified and recorded as Tegulae if it bore a Tegula characteristic, for example, a flange or an upper or lower cutaway. Although the vast majority (with one exception) showed evidence of a flange, only ten pieces were complete enough to be able to be classified as a certain flange type. All identifiable flanges were of Flange type 2 with one single piece also having a lower cutaway (type E), a signature mark (type 2) and a paw print impression.

11.23.2 Additionally, two fragments bore CLBR stamps and although both were partial, the most complete one was able to be positively identified as type F, No. 19 (Philp 1981). [What Fabric types??]

11.23.3 Five pieces had mortar present on the broken edge suggesting that the tiles had been reused; and one fragment was extremely water worn/rolled.

11.24 The Miscellaneous fragments

11.24.1 Roman brick and tile that had no identifying features to enable it to be classed as a certain type of ceramic building material was categorised as Miscellaneous.

11.24.2 Worthy of mention is a partial CLBR stamp that unfortunately is covered in mortar so it is therefore impossible to identify its type.

11.24.3 There was also evidence of two partial signature marks, a dog paw print, a fingerprint impression and a heavily water worn tile. Additionally, five fragments had mortar on their broken edges suggesting that the tiles had been reused.

11.25 Stratigraphic information and conclusion

11.25.1 The assemblage was generally of a good condition and consisted of brick, flue and roofing tile, (mainly Tegulae), plus miscellaneous fragments. Its presence in these quantities and condition suggests that a substantial Roman structure, probably with a hypocaust system existed in close proximity to the area that has been excavated. The presence of the three CLBR stamps tentatively suggest that the building was related to a naval installation close to the excavated area.

11.25.2 Apart from the brick and tile from unstratified layers, the largest quantities of the ceramic building material were mainly derived from context 6003 and trench 4.

11.25.3 When the stratigraphic information is received and completed, and further future planned work has taken place, it will enable a clearer and considered conclusion to be compiled and completed.

11.26 Glass by Sally Cottam

11.26.1 Thirty-seven fragments with a total weight of 184.68g were submitted for specialist assessment plus a lump of vitrified slag. Two iridescent flakes from context LRP24_EX 4015B 130 were missing from the group on arrival. All the fragments had been recorded in Excel spreadsheets noting context code, finds number, weight, dimensions and a preliminary description. The glass was examined by eye and with a x10 lens. Further spreadsheets were added with summarised information on each fragment and an assessment of date.

11.26.2 LRP22 – 5 fragments, 1 dark green, 3 pale green, 1 dark brown (probably all modern)

11.26.3 LRP23 – 17 fragments, mainly modern but with a fragment of Roman bottle glass

11.26.4 LRP24 – 15 fragments, a mixture of Roman and modern plus a lump of vitrified slag

11.26.5 Twelve of the fragments were of certain or probable Roman date. All of these were vessel fragments. Eleven of these came from the LRP24 season and one from LRP23. The remaining 26 fragments were post medieval in date, with several recognisably from late 19th or early 20th century vessels. These included 10 fragments from at least one 'Codd' bottle, which once contained a

carbonated drink. A further late 19th or early 20th century pop or beer bottle had moulded letters ENT, possibly forming part of the word 'KENT', though this is very tentative.

11.26.6 Three fragments came from late- or post-medieval windows. The lump of vitrified slag of uncertain material and date came from LRP24_EX 6003 <133>. This was not glass waste and was heavier than glass (17.3g).

11.27 Condition of the glass

11.27.1 Most of the glass is generally in good condition, though several of the fragments, including some of the late Roman fragments, have flaky iridescent weathering. Although this iridescence may flake away further from the surfaces, consolidation by a conservator would not be considered cost-effective for these small and largely undiagnostic fragments. Keeping the fragments in their present environment is sufficient.

11.28 Summary of the Roman Glass

11.28.1 The twelve fragments of Roman or probably Roman glass were all vessels. There were no joins, and no obvious instances of fragments coming from the same vessel, though this cannot be ruled out. Six were certainly late Roman in date, one bottle was certainly mid 1st-2nd century CE in date. The following seven specific forms were identified:-

11.28.2 LRP23-EX 1003? <099>

11.28.2.1 Body fragment, blue/green prismatic (probably square) bottle (Price and Cottam 1998, 194-198). Mid 1st-2nd century CE.

11.28.3 LPR24 – EX 4003D <14>

11.28.3.1 Rim and body fragment, pale green, cup/small bowl (Price and Cottam 1998, 126-128). Horizontal abraded band below rim. Rim diameter 110mm. Later 4th century – early 5th century CE.

11.28.4 LPR24 – EX 4003D <14>

11.28.4.1 Body fragment, yellow/green, bowl. Part of indent from decorated bowl (Price and Cottam 1998, 128-129). Later 4th century CE.

11.28.5 LPR24 – EX 5001 <131>

11.28.5.1 Body fragment, pale green, conical beaker (Price and Cottam 1998, 121-123). 4th century CE

11.28.6 LRP24 – EX 4003/A <15>

11.28.6.1 Rim fragment, flask/jug. Colourless. Rim diameter c.35mm. 2nd-3rd century CE.

11.28.7 LRP24 – EX 10001 <134>

11.28.7.1 Neck fragment, flask/unguent bottle. Blue/green. Trace of out-turned rim. 1st-3rd century CE.

11.28.8 LRP24 – EX 4015/B <128>

11.28.8.1 Straight sided body fragment. Pale green. ?Conical beaker (Price and Cottam 1998, 121-123). 4th century CE.

11.28.9 Five undiagnostic fragments are also probably Roman:-

11.28.10 LRP24 – EX 4002 1A <50>

11.28.10.1 Two small blue/green fragments. Probably 2nd-3rd century CE.

11.28.11 LPR24 – EX 5002 <132>

11.28.11.1 Flat blue/green fragment. Probably 2nd-3rd century CE.

11.28.12 LRP24 – EX 4015/B <129>

11.28.12.1 Convex body fragment. Pale yellow/green. Horizontal abrasion. 4th century CE.

11.28.13 LRP24 – EX 4003/D <127>

11.28.13.1 Yellow/green fragment. Distorted by heat. Probably 4th century CE.

11.28.14 This small group of glass has several points of interest which may prove useful to the interpretation of the site. Firstly, the fragment of square bottle indicates the presence of a vessel form usually seen on sites in use in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE. Bottles are durable vessels and some appear to have continued to be used into the 3rd century, even if production had ceased by this time (Cool and Price 1995, 184-5). However, the presence of this vessel corresponds with other evidence and points to activity at Lympne in the 2nd century. The blue/green neck fragment is also most likely to be from a 2nd or 3rd century vessel.

11.28.15 Half of the Roman fragments are from 4th century vessels, identifiable by the distinct quality and colour of late Roman glass. These included a thick/walled cup or small bowl, one or two conical beakers, and an indented vessel (probably a bowl). These are common forms found throughout late Roman Britain and elsewhere in the empire. Two however (the thick-walled cup and the indented bowl) are of particular interest for the dating of the later occupation at Lympne. Both are from context LRP24 – EX 4003D <14>. These forms are considered to be associated with activity in the second half of the 4th century, and even the early 5th century. This dating is worth further investigation in relation to other late Roman [and Anglo-Saxon pottery) finds from Lympne, as it has implications for the discussions surrounding the date of the abandonment of the fort.

11.28.16 Very little Roman glass has previously been found and published from Lympne. A single fragment was published from the excavations of 1976-8 (Cunliffe 1980, 271 no.8, fig.23) and three fragments from the 19th century excavations by Charles Roach Smith (Smith and Elliot 1852; Illustrated London News October 5th 1850; 279-80) are in the collection of Romano-British glass in the British Museum (nos. 1856,0701,5060-2). The group is therefore a significant addition to the Roman glass already known from Lympne.

11.28.17 The group also supplements our knowledge of the types of glass vessel being used at [proposed] forts along the eastern and southern coasts of England in the later Roman period. The group can be compared with assemblages from Burgh Castle and Caister-on-Sea (Norfolk),

Richborough (Kent), Portchester Castle (Hampshire) and elsewhere.

11.29 Further work if required

11.29.1 A more detailed catalogue and report by a glass specialist: Half a day

11.29.2 Illustration of the glass (two rim fragments) LPR24 – EX 4003D <14> and LRP24 – EX 4003/A <15>

11.30 Animal Bone Tom Vaughan

11.30.1 This report analyses and interprets the animal bone assemblage from excavations at the Roman probable defensive structure in Beacon Field. The site produced 2123 fragments of animal remains prior to refitting. These were recovered by hand collection from 58 separate archaeological contexts.

11.31 Material

11.31.1 The Beacon Field animal bone assemblage derives from excavations of a Roman defensive structure, likely dating to the late third century AD. Located on the Lympne Escarpment, just south-east of the village of Lympne in Kent, the site yielded material from nine trenches excavated during seasons in 2023 and 2024. Trench 2 revealed a large defensive ditch. Trenches 3 and 4 form part of an extensive midden located inside one of the structure's walls. Trenches 5, 8, 9, and 10, situated in the south-west corner of the structure, exposed a lime kiln that may be of later date. A deep defensive ditch was also excavated in Trench 6, while Trench 7 may have uncovered the southern section of one of the structure's defensive walls.

11.32 Methods

11.32.1 Bone fragments were examined macroscopically and recorded following good practice (Baker and Worley, 2019). Species identification was achieved using identification guides (e.g., Schmid, 1972; Cohen and Serjeantson, 1996). Some fish and bird specimens were identified using a collection of modern comparative specimens held at the Terry O'Connor Zooarchaeology Laboratory, University of York. Morphologically similar species were distinguished when possible, using published criteria, including deer species (Lister, 1996), rabbits/hares (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*/ *Lepus sp.*)(Callou, 1997) and sheep/goats (*Ovis aries*/ *Capra hircus*) are only distinguished by skull and horncore morphology (Schmid, 1972). Bone fragments which could not be identified to taxa were recorded to size class: large-mammal (cattle sized), medium-mammal (sheep sized), small-mammal (cat sized) or micromammal (rat sized). Ribs and vertebrae (excluding the atlas and axis) were only identified to size-class.

11.32.2 Diagnostic zones were recorded following the system devised by Dobney and Rielly (1988). Ageing was achieved using two methods: fusion status of postcranial bones and tooth eruption/wear (Payne, 1973; Grant, 1982). Juvenile bones, which appear porous, were also noted. Pigs (*Sus scrofa*) were sexed based on the morphology of their canines and alveolus's (Hillson, 2005).

11.32.3 Measurements were taken on fused bones following the standards of von den Driesch (1976), with additional measurements of humeri from Payne and Bull (1988). Bones exhibiting signs of pathology were described systematically following guidance by Thomas and Worley (2019). A low light magnification was used to examine taphonomic evidence. Butchery was attributed to type of

mark, either slice, chop, sawn, impact or shave then systematically described. Burnt bone was recorded by degree of burning. The overall surface quality of a given bone fragment was recorded on a 5-point scale, from very poor (>50% of the bone surface powdery) to very good (smooth fresh surface).

11.32.4 NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) was used to quantify taxa, and associated bone groups (ABG) were counted as one so as not to bias the NISP counts.

11.33 Results

11.33.1 A total of 2051 refitted bone and tooth specimens were subject to systematic analysis. This includes twelve articulated bone groups (ABGs) which account for 116 of the specimens (Table 28).

11.34 Preservation and Taphonomy

11.34.1 Preservation and taphonomic factors of bone specimens are displayed in Table 22. Overall, the assemblage is of average preservation, with 97% of bone specimens exhibiting average surface preservation. Gnawing was observed on 4% of specimens. This was entirely canid gnawing. Burning was rarely recorded on only 2% of specimens.

Trench	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**Total**
Very good										
Good		4	18	2		7	3	1		**35**
Average	1	329	908	351	78	47	23		31	**1768**
Poor		12	5	9		1				**27**
Very poor										
Total	**1**	**345**	**931**	**362**	**78**	**55**	**26**	**1**	**31**	**1830**
Butchery		9	42	12	1			1		**65**
Burnt		7	16	2		2	1			**28**
Gnawed		4	35	17	1	8	1			**66**

Table 22 - Preservation and taphonomic factors.

11.35 Species representation

11.35.1 Overall, 364 specimens were identified to taxa while the other 1584 were ascribed to broader categories (Table 23). A diverse range of fourteen different species of mammals, birds and fishes have been identified from the assemblage. The main livestock taxa: cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat, and pig account for the majority (90%) of the identified specimens. The midden trenches (3 and 4) constitute the largest amount of identified specimens, while trench 5 also produces a significant number. Remains from other trenches only form a very small number of the identified specimens.

Taxon	Common Name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Bos taurus	Cattle		24	72	22	13	3	3		1	138
Ovis/Capra	Sheep / goat		15	43	27	3	6				94
Ovis aries	Sheep			1						1	2
Capra hircus	Goat			1							1
Sus scrofa	Pig		16	49	19		3	3			90
Canis familiaris	Dog		2	1	2						5
Canis/Vulpe	Dog / fox				1						1
Equus sp.	Equid			3	3						6
Oryctolagus cuniculus	Rabbit				1						1
Dama/Cervus	Red/fallow deer			1	2			1			4
Cervus elaphus	Red deer		3	2	1						6
Capreolus capreolus	Roe deer			1	1						2
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice									1	1
Gallus gallus	Chicken		4	3	2						9
Buteo buteo	Common buzzard			1							1
Pavo cristatus	Indian peafowl				1						1
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard				2						2
Total Identified		**0**	**64**	**178**	**84**	**16**	**12**	**7**	**0**	**3**	**364**
Large bird				3							3
Medium bird				1	2		2				5
Large mammal		1	124	312	89	29	17	4		9	585
Medium mammal			61	232	83		14	10	1	11	412
Small mammal			1	1							2
Indet. mammal			111	255	129	51	12	9		10	577
Total Unidentified		**1**	**297**	**804**	**303**	**80**	**45**	**23**	**1**	**30**	**1584**
Grand Total		**1**	**361**	**982**	**387**	**96**	**57**	**30**	**1**	**33**	**1947**

Table 23 - NISP

11.35.2 Cattle make up the largest portion (42%) of the three main types of livestock, while sheep/goats and pigs have nearly equal percentages, ranging from 27% to 30%. A few sheep and goats were able to be distinguished individually, with a goat horncore identified in context (4003-A) and sheep ABG's recovered from contexts (4001-A) and (10002). Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) were identified in the assemblage, including a large, shed stag antler from context (4020) and the skull of a hind (ABG 9). Some roe deer specimens were also identified; some small antler tine tips had to be placed in the broader category of fallow/red deer given their similarity.

11.35.3 Chicken (*Gallus gallus*) remains are the most prevalent bird taxa found in the assemblage, with nine specimens recovered from trenches 3, 4, and 5. Additionally, trench 5 yielded two mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) bone specimens. The distal left leg of a peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) (ABG 8) was identified from context (subsoil layer, trench 5; Context 5002). An articular bone from a plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) was also identified from context (10002).

11.36 Body part representation

11.36.1 Body part representation (BPR) for the three main taxa is presented in Table 24. All parts of the cattle skeleton are represented on the site however pelves and first phalanges are abundant despite their expected preservation. The abundance of low meat bearing elements like phalanges suggest a degree of disposal from primary butchery activities on site while high meat bearing pelves are indicative of consumption. Sheep/goats are mainly represented by mandibles, distal humeri, and pelves. Mandibles are likely primary butchery waste while the humerus and pelvis are high meat bearing elements suggesting primary butchery and consumption of sheep/goat on site. Pig BPR indicates most regions of the skeleton are represented in the assemblage although with few hindlimb elements apart from the tibia.

Table 24 - Body Part Representation, elements are ordered by expected preservation. * counts for phalanges are adjusted for frequency bias.

Element	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig
Mandible	1	9	5
Metacarpal P	2	3	2
Metatarsal P	3		
Humerus D	2	5	3
Tibia D	2	2	4
Radius P	2	1	3
Pelvis	6	5	
Scapula D	2	2	3
Metacarpal D	1		2
Metatarsal D	1		
Femur P	1		
Radius D	1		
Tibia P	2	2	4
Femur D	1		
Humerus P			
1st phalanx*	5	2	0.5
2nd phalanx*	2.5	0.5	0.5
3rd phalanx*			
Total	**34.5**	**31.5**	**27**

11.37 Age and sex

11.37.1 Mortality data for the main domesticates are displayed in Table 25 for fusion and Table 26 for mandibular wear stages. All early fusing cattle elements were fused which suggests no cattle remains on the site were animals killed during the first approximate two years of life. This aligns with the singular ageable cattle mandible which indicates an age of between 2-3 years. Data for the middle and late stages are limited (12 in total) and therefore harder to interpret, in general they suggest both the presence of cattle that were killed before full skeletal maturity and some adult cattle.

		Early	Middle	Late
Cattle	Fused	31	2	3
	Unfused		6	1
	Total	31	8	4
	Percentage Fused	**100%**	**25%**	**75%**
Sheep/goat	Fused	18	2	
	Unfused	6	3	1
	Total	24	5	1
	Percentage Fused	**75%**	**40%**	**0%**
Pig	Fused	8	4	3
	Unfused	3	3	4
	Total	11	7	7
	Percentage Fused	**72.7%**	**57.1%**	**42.9%**

Table 25: Summary of fusion data. ABGs are counted as 1.

Cattle			Sheep/ goats			Pig		
Stage	**Approx. age**	**Count**	**Stage**	**Approx. age**	**Count**	**Stage**	**Approx. age**	**Count**
A	Neonate		A	0-1mth	1	A	0-2 mth	1
B	0-6mth		B	1-3mth	2	B	2-7mth	
C	5-18mth		C	3-12mth	1	C	7-14mth	
D	16-28mth		D	10-24mth		D	14-21mth	1
E	26-36mth	1	E	20-36mth	2	E	21-27mth	
F	34-43mth		F	2.5-4.5yrs	3	F	27-36mth	
G	40m-6.5yrs		G	4.5-7+yrs		G	adult	
H	5-10yrs		H	7+yrs	1	H	old adult	
J	8-16yrs		J	8-10 yrs		I	senile	
K	14-20+yrs							
Total		**1**			**10**			**2**

Table 26: Summary of tooth wear data with approximate ages (Halstead, 1985; Jones, 2006; Jones and Sadler, 2012).

11.37.2 Sheep/goat fusion analysis shows that the majority (75%) of animals lived beyond approximately one years old however there is a significant presence of juvenile individuals. Three of these are represented by partial skeletons ABGs 1,6, and 7 from contexts (4003-A), (4016), and (10002) respectively. The mandibular deciduous fourth premolar of ABG 1 is unworn and indicative of a neonatal individual while ABG 7 mandibular wear is exemplative of an animal between 1-3 months old and fusion data for ABG 6 shows they are less than 10 months old. There is also the isolated mandible of another young individual of 1-3 months old recovered from (4014). Again, the fusion data for later stages is very limited. Mandibular wear demonstrates that adult individuals are present in the assemblage such as the mandible of an elderly animal of 7+ years in (3003).

11.37.3 Pig fusion indicates that a mix of juvenile and adult animals are present in the assemblage. Similarly to sheep/goats there is the presence of very young animals: like two very small and porous radius from (3003) indicative of possible neonates and a neonatal piglet in the form of a mandible recovered from (5006). Both female and male pig canines are represented in equal number at the site with a ratio of 4:4 female to male canines.

11.38 Butchery, Pathology and Metrics

11.38.1 Bone specimens showing signs of butchery make up 4% of the total specimens, these are summarised in Table 27. Chop marks are the most common, with 51 out of 65 marks being chops, primarily associated with disarticulation and portioning. An example of this are two right cattle humeri from context (4002-A) which display oblique chops through the distal condyles which would be separating the upper part of the forelimb from the lower part. Additional butchery patterns are identifiable, such as a cattle metatarsal from context (4014) displaying horizontal slice marks, suggesting skinning. Evidence of bone working is also present, seen in a large cervid antler with chop marks from context (5002).

Taxon	Chop	Slice	Chop & Slice	Total
Cattle	8	3	1	12
Sheep / goat	7			7
Pig	3	2		5
Red deer		1		1
Red/fallow deer	1			1
Peafowl	1			1
Large mammal	22	4		26
Medium mammal	9	3		12
Total	**51**	**13**	**1**	**65**

Table 27: Summary of butchery data.

11.38.2 Eight specimens exhibited osteological pathologies. These can be broadly categorised as the following: five specimens exhibiting joint diseases, two specimens exhibiting oral pathology, and one specimen exhibiting infection or inflammation. One of ten sheep/goat mandibles display periodontal disease at stage 2 – alveolus recession and widening (Levitan, 1977). The proximal radius and the adjacent portion of the ulna of pig ABG 3 show signs of osteoperiostitis lesions. These appear to be limited to the bone surface and have not extended into the marrow cavity, indicating an early stage of osteomyelitis (Baker and Brothwell, 1980). This lesion has a prevalence rate of one out of six pig radii/ulnae. In total 62 specimens were able to be measured; within this dataset there appears to be no metrical anomalies.

11.39 Discussion

11.39.1 The Beacon Field assemblage has produced a significant amount of identifiable remains, providing an opportunity to explore consumption and husbandry patterns at the site. To investigate the relative abundance of livestock taxa, Figure 47 compares the Beacon Field assemblage with other assemblage types from Kent and Britain. Cattle are typically the most abundant taxon in Roman assemblages, and Beacon Field follows this trend (Maltby, 2014). However, cattle are not as dominant at Beacon Field as they are in the average villa or military sites.

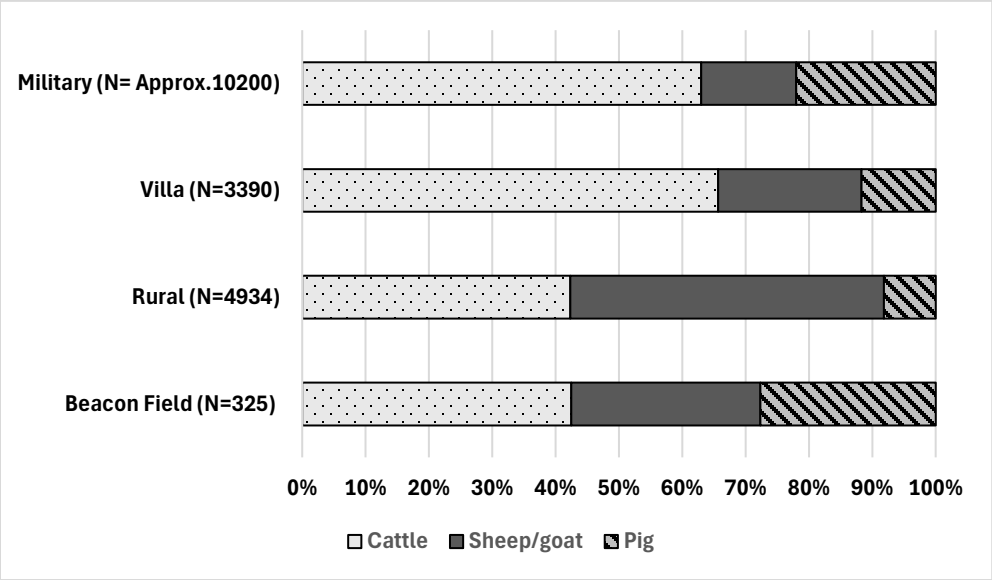


Figure 55 - Relative abundance of main domestic taxa as %NISP compared to villa and rural assemblages from Kent (Steinke 2004), and average of military assemblages from Britain (King 1999).

11.39.2 Pigs are well represented in the Beacon Field assemblage compared to most other sites, except for military assemblages, which show similar frequencies. Pigs are commonly well represented at military sites as well as high-status sites (King, 1984). Although they are seemingly underrepresented at Kent villas, this may be due to an outlier: the villa site of Sondland, which produced an unusually high amount of cattle remains (Driver, 2009; Steinke, 2024). Commonly sheep/goats are well represented in less Romanised rural settlements (Grant, 2004), making the relatively high abundance of sheep/goats at Beacon Field particularly curious. Presence of neonatal lambs or kids could suggest a degree of onsite husbandry. Another possibility is the consumption

lamb or kid at the site which is seen in some high-status assemblages (Maltby, 2014).

11.39.3 The BPR data indicate that some primary butchery of cattle and sheep/goat carcasses was likely carried out on site, although for pigs this is less certain. As previously suggested, sheep and goats may have been husbanded at the site, in the case of cattle its possible they were transported on the hoof from nearby and slaughtered on site. This would imply the presence of a specialist butcher, this is supported by the observed butchery marks, which are characteristic of specific Roman butchery practices (Seetah, 2006).

11.39.4 Wild taxa, which make up a small proportion of the assemblage, are worth considering. About half the deer remains consist of, which were likely collected for bone working, as exemplified by the shed antler from (4020) and an antler tine with chop marks from (5002). This indicates some small-scale bone working activity on the site. The presence of other deer remains indicates that the hunting of deer likely took place in some capacity. Evidence of deer hunting is uncommon in the Roman period and usually associated with the upper echelon of society (Allen, 2015). The plaice specimen was most likely caught nearby in the English Channel, hinting at the exploitation of marine resources at the site. Indeed flatfishes such as plaice are the third most common fish taxa found in Roman period assemblages in the south (Locker, 2007).

11.39.5 The peafowl remains from this assemblage are significant, as they are rarely recorded in Roman assemblages. Peafowl were introduced to the British Isles by the Romans and are depicted in mosaics, such as the second century Peacock mosaic from St Nicholas Street, Leicester. At least two other Roman period zooarchaeological assemblages contain peafowl remains (Yalden and Albarella, 2009, tbl. 5.1). Peafowl were revered by the Romans as a symbol of luxury and high-status food (Yalden and Albarella, 2009). The presence of butchery marks on the peafowl remains from this assemblage suggests that the bird was consumed, indicating high-status consumption at the site.

11.39.6 The assemblage shows signs of high-status consumption, with the butchered peafowl remains being the most salient example. The dietary preferences would also be consistent with a military presence at the site. The only exception is the relatively high abundance of sheep/goat remains, which may suggest a degree of on-site husbandry or integration with nearby rural settlements.

11.40 Recommendations

11.40.1 The assemblage holds modest research value and is recommended for retention. However, unstratified remains are not significant and, if necessary, can be discarded. Further excavation at the site could benefit from sieving or flotation techniques, as these methods may uncover smaller bone specimens that are usually lost. This could reveal evidence of other birds, fish, and micromammals, which would help determine both the consumption habits and environmental ecology of the site. The plaice bone suggests that more fish and other small remains could be recovered. If a plan to carbon-date certain deposits is developed, the ABGs (see table 27) present an excellent opportunity, as they are unlikely to be disturbed. Specifically, the peafowl remains (ABG 8) would be a good choice.

ABG	Context	Taxa	Completeness	Specimens	Skeletal regions	Age	Notes
1	4003-A	Sheep/goat	60-80%	70	skull, torso,forelimb,hindlimb	0-1 month	Neonatal
2	4001-A	Sheep	0-20%	2	hindlimb	20+ months	Arthopathy present on distal phalanx 1
3	5003	Pig	0-20%	2	forelimb	12+ months	Osteoperiostitis ulna+radius.
4	8002	Cattle	0-20%	1	skull	Adult	
5	4014	pig	0-20%	1	skull	1+ months	
6	4016	Sheep/goat	20-40%	15	torso, forelimb	>10 months	Neonatal/juvenile
7	10002	Sheep	40-60%	17	skull, torso, forelimb, hindlimb	1-3 months	Juvenile lamb
8	5002	Peafowl	0-20%	2	hindlimb	Adult	Butchered
9	3 Wall Extension	Red deer	0-20%	1	skull	Adult	Female
10	3003	Cattle	0-20%	1	skull	Adult	
11	3003	Red deer	0-20%	1	skull	Adult	
12	5004	Cattle	0-20%	1	skull	Adult	

Table 28 - ABG Table

11.41 Marine Shell by Greg Campbell

11.41.1 Marine Shells

11.41.1.1 The marine shells from a reasonably large assemblage (1016 shells, 994 of them stratified from 24 deposits) were identified to genus (or where possible to species) using the criteria and names of a standard reference (Hayward, Wigham and Yonow 1990), and the usual and unusual features of each identified group were noted. Even amongst the deposits with shells, those shells were very much concentrated: several contained only one or two shells, with half the deposits containing a dozen or fewer shells; three deposits (3003, 4003 and 4014) contained two-thirds of the shells, and one of these alone (4003 and its subdivisions /A - /D) accounted for a third of the shells (334 identifiable shells). The shells are well-preserved, most structurally sound with little flakes or chips. Only ten types of shell were encountered, all native to the British Isles and all but one famous in both modern and Roman cuisine.

11.41.1.2 Common Oysters (*Ostrea edulis* L.), bivalves that colonize a wide range of stable surfaces from low tide to 80 metres depth, accounted for 75% of the shells, representing at least 392 individuals. Preservation was good, with about one in four complete enough to measure. These were overwhelmingly of a good edible size (4-6 inches) with very few very small, young or large, old shells. As is often the case, the right (flatter, smoother, upper) valves outnumbered the left (cupped, weakly pleated, lower) valves (392 to 351), but this was not statistically significant (χ^2: 2.26; df: 1; *P*: 0.13), so oysters were usually transported to the site as whole oysters. The shells were quite free of encrusting organisms, but a few bore colonies of sea-mats (bryozoans) and several bore hollow burrows of bristle-worms (*Polydora ciliata*) and an unusual number had keelworms (*Pomatoceros triqueter*); this suggests most oysters lived in silt-free waters. Somewhat unexpectedly the right valves were more commonly infested than the left valves.

11.41.1.3 There were no convincing examples of damage to the shell edge caused by the shell being opened ('shucking-marks'), but one valve, from Deposit 4003, had a circular hole, most likely from being harvested by oyster-tongs (Dupont 2010).

11.41.1.4 The oyster left valves came in four forms, representing four different types of exploitation:

- *Re-laid*: oval, the thickish shells bearing the classic weakly pleated surface, and broad-hinged beaks often with an indentation in the shape of a mussel, cockle, oyster right valve, marine gravel or wobbly cylinder such as a stick or small log; in a few cases the shell or gravel was still attached. These shells were re-laid: after being allowed to settle out of the plankton on the surface of some small solid object on the sea-bed, perhaps waste shells or sticks intentionally dumped to enhance this settling ('cultch'), they were raised and transported to locations where growth conditions were good, and then left to attain harvestable sizes. The most common form for these oysters.
- *Man-made beds*: flat, small-hinged, the thinnish shells with a narrow incurved edge and a very broad flat base, the outer face rough with shallow channels, often with small conical hollows many of which still contained shells of barnacles. These oysters they were allowed to settle and left to grow to harvestable size on solid objects with broad flat surfaces intentionally placed on the sea-bed (wooden planks, recycled roof-tiles, roofing-slates or paving slabs, etc.), often encrusted with marine growths and barnacles. Quite common.

- *Natural un-managed beds*: irregular, often curved or twisted with rough exteriors, sometimes with broad hollows and occasionally with narrow V-profile grooves, from growing across the shell or around the edge of an adjacent oyster. These oysters were allowed to settle and grow to edible sizes naturally in close proximity to each other in un-managed beds. Frequent, less common than the previous two forms.
- *Reefs*: socketed (with a hollow below the hinge), the thinnish shells facetted (flat on one side, or triangular in cross-section), usually due to growing adjacent to an oyster of similar age or size. While these were rare, there were two examples of these oysters still conjoined into such a group (which French archaeologists call *une bouquet d'huitres*: Dupont 2010). These oysters grew in a fully-established three-dimensional natural reef of common oysters, a habitat that no longer exists in nature. Rare in these oysters.

11.41.1.5 Mussels (*Mytilus edulis* L.) accounted for 13% of the shells, and were also comparatively well-preserved, with about one in ten complete enough to measure. These colonists of stable surfaces from upper mid-tide to a few fathoms depth are also well-known to modern and Roman cuisine.

11.41.1.6 They tended to be quite large (2 - 5 inches) and broad, probably growing in un-crowded colonies. There were no examples of the more scimitar-shaped Mediterranean Mussel (*M. galloprovincialis*).

11.41.1.7 Common whelks (*Buccinum undatum* L.) made up 5% of the shells. About half were complete enough to measure, and the usual size for eating (1½ – 5 inches). This very edible predator/scavenger of sub-tidal sea-beds to 1200 metres depth is also a pest of both oysters and mussels; a considerable number (10%) were infested with keelwormslike the oysters, and a dozen or so of the oyster shells had the 2mm circular 'drill-hole' of a whelk attack, so most of the whelks are most likely by-catch with the oysters.

11.41.1.8 Edible Cockles (*Cerastoderma* spp.) formed 5% of the shells, dwell just below the surface of shallow-water sands and muddy sands where they are easily raked out. Most appeared to be common cockles (*C. edule* (L.)) rather than estuary cockles (*C. glaucum* Poiret). Almost all were intact enough to measure, and were of edible but small size. A few of these may have been 'cultch' for oysters; one had a very young oyster still attached.

11.41.1.9 Other types of shell were uncommon. The two spiny cockles (*Acanthocardia* spp.), both badly broken, are bivalves of muddy gravel, and may have been incidentally harvested with the cockles. The single Baltic tellin (*Macoma balthica* L.), a bivalve of intertidal estuary mud which is also edible but almost never eaten by the British, could also be cockle by-catch. Common Limpets (*Patella vulgata* L.) made up 2% of the assemblage; there were no convincing examples of the other native limpet species. Very well-preserved, all were large and very conical, typical of very high-shore intertidal rocks. The one dog-whelk (*Nucella lapillus* (L.)) and one periwinkle (*Littorina littorea* (L.)) are also edible gastropods that are very common on rocky shores. One unstratified cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis* L.) 'bone', correctly identified by one of the Group's members, is from a free-swimming predatory relative of the squid and a modern Continental delicacy, but very seldom found in archaeological excavations.

11.41.1.10 This group is now one of the better understood Roman shell-assemblages for the county. The Roman-period occupants of Beacon Field fed on oysters, primarily from fully-managed

beds (moved when young and spread out across good growing sites, or grown to maturity on planks, tiles or roundwood) with some 'wild' oysters (un-managed beds or rarely reefs) and some common whelks as by-catch. They also consumed mussels from well-managed or regularly-harvested beds, supplemented with some digging or raking of intertidal mud (cockles, spiny cockles, tellins) and with a little gathering on rocky shores (limpets, winkles, dog-whelks) perhaps concentrating on the high-tide line (the limpets are very conical). All of these could have come from the nearby coast and what is now Romney Marsh, which was considerably more marine and estuarine than the present day (Long *et al*. 2007, 195-200). Unfortunately, Roman marine shell reports for Kent are restricted to a dozen brief notes (Hall 2008). This, combined with the gross bias towards oysters in hand-recovered shells without wet-sieving (Campbell 2017, 274), means that comparisons and contrasts with shellfish use at other Roman sites (villas, roadside settlements, or other military sites) cannot be drawn with any accuracy. The small hand-retrieved assemblage from the nearby Roman fort of Stutfall Castle (*Portus Lemanis*) (Rouillard 1980, 260) was also principally oysters with mussels and winkles; other shells were so rare they may have been part of beach gravel used for mortar.

11.41.1.11 The nearest sizeable assemblage of shellfish is from the Eighth- to Ninth-Century AD beach-front fishing-hamlet of *Sandtun*, in the *Limen* estuary [south of West Hythe] (Murray 2001; the exact number is not reported). These shells were quite different from Beacon Field: dominated by cockles (approximately 65%), rather than oysters (approximately 16% of the marine shells), with mussels rare (about 4%), and rocky-shore gathering more prominent (periwinkles made up 11%, and limpets present in low numbers). The contrast with Beacon Field is more likely the occupants of *Sandtun* making use of readily-available local shellfish resources, rather than Roman/Dark Age cultural contrasts.

11.41.2 Terrestrial shells

11.41.2.1 The considerable numbers of terrestrial shells hand-picked from several deposits were quickly scanned to assess the dominant species, sizes and preservation. Nearly all were examples of the Common Garden Snail (*Helix aspersa* Müller) with perhaps a very few of the Apple or Roman Snail (*Helix pomatia* L.) along with a very few potential Banded Heath Snail (*Helicella itala* (L.)) and Round-mouth Snail (*Pomatias elegans* Müller). All these are common or very common in southern England, especially the chalky ground of Kent. All were well-preserved, unusual in such thin-walled, fragile shells. All were large for their species, with very few less than 10mm, which is unusually large for assemblages of living or recently dead shells. Since the shells were hand-selected rather than sieved to recover the full potential size range in a natural population of these species, it is not possible to determine whether these shells are large examples selected by the Romans as worth eating, or large examples selected by the excavators as clearly visible. Their good preservation means that terrestrial snails will be a good source of information about previous land use and local ecology at the site.

11.42 Recorded Finds by Andy Ward

11.42.1 A total of 155 recorded small finds were recovered during the excavations spanning 2023 and 2024. Of these seventy-one were of iron, thirty-six of copper alloy, ten of lead, and seven were waste materials in 2023. In 2024 eleven iron objects, sixteen copper-alloy objects, three lead and one waste material were recovered. The functional groups (used to describe the objects original use) referred to in this report are based on those adopted by Crummy (1983). The assemblage is too small to comment on possible industry or other activities on site at this stage. The assemblage as a whole currently contains numerous late medieval to post medieval finds which are likely to have derived from recent military activity in the area. A small quantity of clearly identifiable Roman material has been recovered including one military style dolphin buckle, a copper-alloy ring, and an ACVISSA brooch. The large quantity of nails recovered from site are predominantly of Manning (1985a) type 1b, a long-lived and well-utilised type of nail from the Roman to post-medieval periods.

Context Number	Sum of Fragment count	Count of Weight (g)
1002	**9**	**7**
?Shank	**1**	**1**
Buckle?	**1**	**1**
Fitting?	**3**	**1**
Nail	**1**	**1**
Unknown object	**3**	**3**
1003	**14**	**11**
Lead Slag	**2**	**1**
Nail	**4**	**4**
Nail head	**1**	**1**
Nail/Tack	**1**	**1**
Nails	**3**	**1**
Possible hobnail or stud?	**1**	**1**
Unknown object	**2**	**2**
1005	**12**	**6**
?Nail or Fitting	**1**	**1**
Lead Slag	**5**	**2**
Nail	**1**	**1**
Nails	**4**	**1**

Unknown object	1	1
2001	9	5
Lead-alloy slag	1	1
Military Button	1	1
Misc	5	1
Nail	1	1
Partial horseshoe	1	1
2002	2	2
Door Stud	1	1
Stud or Button	1	1
2004	3	2
Unknown object	3	2
2006	1	1
Shank from a nail or attachment?	1	1
2008	3	3
Nail	2	2
Ship Nail	1	1
3000	1	1
Fe ?nail	1	1
3001	19	13
Fe Nail	1	1
Fragments	2	1
Horse Bridle Buckle	1	1
Horseshoe	1	1
Lead Slag	1	1
Nail	4	4
Nails	7	2
Roll lead object	1	1
Staple	1	1
3003	10	3

Fe Nails	3	1
Lead waste	3	1
Nails	4	1
3004	2	2
Nail	2	2
4001	1	1
Nail	1	1
4002	5	5
?Button	1	1
?Fitting	2	2
Nail	2	2
1003?	1	1
Fragment	1	1
U/S	32	27
?Clench Nails	3	1
?Hob Nail	1	1
?Horse brass or badge	1	1
?Knife Handle fragment	1	1
Badge/Buckle	1	1
Buckle	1	1
Button	5	5
Buttons	4	1
Circular Fitting?	1	1
Decorative Metal Object	1	1
Door Stud/Ships Nail	1	1
Horse Harness cheek rung	1	1
Horse Harness Leather Buckle	1	1
Military Button	3	3
Shotgun Cartridge	1	1
Shrapnel?	2	2

Token	**2**	**2**
Unknown object	**1**	**1**
Webbing Strap Slide	**1**	**1**
Grand Total	**124**	**90**

Table 29 - Registered Finds Catalogue 2023 by context

11.42.2 The majority of the metal finds recovered in 2023 comprised fixtures and fittings predominantly nails. Two large nails, originally identified as "ship nails" were found during the excavation. One RF053 was unstratified while the second RF098 was recovered from context [2002]. Comparisons with examples on the Portable Antiquities Scheme suggest both are of a Medieval to post medieval date and are more than likely decorative door nails.

11.42.3 The remaining iron nails were found in excavated contexts across the site and in the majority are of Manning (1985a) type 1b, general purpose nail. Two possible hobnails RF041 and RF056 were recovered from an unstratified area and from context [1003] respectively . Similar hob nails were found in the Northern Area (excavated in 2022) as part of a cremation burial assemblage. Late Post medieval clench nails were also recorded.

11.42.4 The majority of the nails recorded in 2023 were straight with rounded or sub-round heads placing them in Manby (2024)'s type 1 general purpose category. Her research suggests that through the use of a pilot hole nails could be extracted with little visible damage to the shank. However, a smaller number of nails did feature some variant shank morphologies including; curved, hooked, and turned.

11.42.5 A single copper alloy ship's nail RF114 was recovered during the 2023 season. This cast nail with square section tapering to a point which bends to one side. The domed head features the "Admiralty" or "Broad" arrow mark, used from the 16th century (or possibly before) to denote government property). Likely a ships nail used to fix wooden planks to the deck of ships. This was recovered from context 2008.

11.42.6 Non-nail metalwork found during the 2023 excavation included RF081 recovered from context [1002] which comprised a fragment of a possible Iron buckle. Two post medieval horse shoe fragments RF064 and RF126 from contexts [2002] and [3001] respectively were recovered by metal detector. A large D-shaped buckle RF134 was recovered from context 3001. It is of 20th century date and likely derived from a horse's bridle. The presence of horse tack may be associated with the nearby cottage recorded on historic mapping, use of the area by the military in the late 19th and early 20th century, or beasts of burden used in farming or transport.

11.42.7 A number of cylindrical lead objects were also recovered during the 2023 excavations including RF093 and RF124. These lead items which have been rolled / folded over are likely derived from modern farming activity in the area. Although lead curse tablets are known in the Roman Period, rolled led was in use throughout the post-medieval period, predominantly as weights for fishing/bird/rabbit nets as well as for weighing down farm gates. Without the possibility of unrolling the lead, a post-medieval date is most likely. However, Rolled lead cylinders suggested as either bird or fishing net weights have been found at Dickson's Corner, Worth (Parfitt, 2000) from a

Roman period.

11.42.8 A total of sixteen copper alloy buttons were recovered during the excavations in 2023. All of the buttons are of late post medieval to early modern date with a heavy focus on military buttons.

11.42.9 RF033 is a post-medieval copper alloy button from a military uniform dating to the 19th century. The hollow button is domed in shape. The back is flat with a central depression and two holes for the separate, drawn through copper-alloy loop. The front has a central crown at the top with elaborate intertwined VR (Victoria Regina, 1837 – 1901), to each side of the initials is a wreath pattern. The reverse inscription is illegible but is most likely that of Smith & Wright, button makers from Birmingham active from 1880 - 1886. Similar examples are found in Squire (1972:32, No. 5). An almost identical example is recorded on the PAS under SOM-A3012C. A further example on the PAS database SUR-2811FE records the button as belonging to the Royal Engineers, but provides no information as to how it reached such an attribution.

11.42.10 RF058 is a copper alloy military button of the 68th regiment (Durham) of foot (active 1782-1808) and Durham Light Infantry (active 1808 -1881) button. Obverse face contains the number 68 crowned on bar within French scroll with dot at opening. The backmark isn't visible. Possible light infantry bugle on the right hand side of the obverse. The 68th regiment was based in Kent between 1806 and 1808 and was stationed at Brabourne Lees, a short 1hr 35 minute walk (by modern maps) from Lympne, where it trained with the 85th regiment under Lt col Franz Von Rothenburg.

11.42.11 RF067 A copper alloy composite button of the (Bedfordshire) 16th Regiment of Foot. The obverse features a crowned 16 with laurel wreath below. It has a large probable iron loop, partially broken, on its back. The Bedfordshire regiment, initially the Douglass regiment when founded in the 17th century became the 16th Regiment of foot in 1751.

11.42.12 RF069 and RF072 are both copper alloy military buttons featuring the insignia of The Royal Artillery. Both feature three dots above with three gun carriages below and likely date from the War of 1812.

11.42.13 The remaining buttons are either undecorated or illegible, but do feature some silvering on a small number. These may be military or civilian buttons and provide evidence of more modern use of the landscape.

11.42.14 The area of Beacon Hill was utilised as a military training area in the 20th century which may account for the modern militaria recovered during the project. This included copper alloy horse tack and the military buttons.

11.42.15 Twelve pieces of lead metalworking waste were recorded during the 2023 excavations. These carry a date of Roman to Modern due to their ubiquity and difficult in narrowing down a date.

11.43 Registered Finds 2024

Context Numbers	Sum of Fragment count	Sum of Weight (g)
5001	2	22.1
Key	1	18
Nail	1	4.1
5002	1	2.6
Metal Working waste	1	2.6
6002	2	5.3
Box Fitting	1	3.6
Pin/SHANK	1	1.7
6003	4	8.15
Fragment	1	1.56
Hob Nail / Stud	1	0.59
Metal Working waste	1	1.6
Nail	1	4.4
6007	1	5
AVCISSA Brooch	1	5
7004	2	5.5
Pin	2	5.5
4003/A	1	10.57
Fragment	1	10.57
4002/D	1	72.2
Hinge	1	72.2
4003/A	5	18.25
Buckle	1	11.14
Coin	1	
Fragment	1	4.97
Pin	2	2.14
4003/B	3	3.35
Coin	1	

Fragment	**2**	**3.35**
4003/C	**1**	**0.9**
Stud / Hob Nail	**1**	**0.9**
4003/D	**1**	**17**
Nail	**1**	**17**
4015/C	**1**	**51.85**
Unidentified	**1**	**51.85**
Metal detected find	**1**	**1.1**
Pin	**1**	**1.1**
N/A Metal Detected Find	**1**	**4.41**
Ring-key	**1**	**4.41**
N/A Metal Detected Find (Edge of Platform)	**1**	**18.52**
Fork	**1**	**18.52**
N/A Metal Detected Find (SE Wall)	**1**	**55.92**
knife	**1**	**55.92**
U/S	**2**	**40.49**
Metal working waste?	**1**	**31.09**
Nail	**1**	**9.4**
Grand Total	**31**	**343.21**

Table 30 - Registered Finds 2024 by context

11.43.1 Only four iron nails were recovered during the 2024 season. These comprised RF048, RF064, RF065, and RF066. All four iron nails were of Manning (1985) Type 1b. A single hobnail was recovered RF057 from context [6003].

11.43.2 A small number of possible box or structural fittings were recovered during the 2024 excavation.

11.43.3 RF054: Iron fragment with pointed end and downturned hinge fragment. Likely part of a box hinge or other fitting was found in 4002/D.

11.43.4 RF056: A square sectioned iron object, tapering at one end to a blunt point and square at the other, with a raised projection was found in context 4015/C. Originally identified on site as a Roman knife handle, but there is no clear way of a blade being attached so this is unlikely.

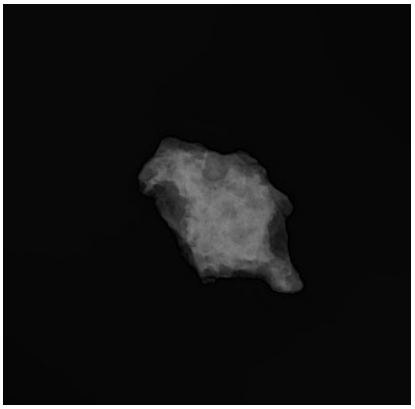


Figure 56 - Xray of RF059, 70kv/5ms

11.43.5 RF059 Small triangular flat iron fragment with a possible tang and missing its tip found in 4003/B. Its possible origins include an arrowhead (Manning type 1)/ projectile point or fence topping. The find was x-rayed at Canterbury Christchurch University, but unfortunately provided no further answers, but does rule out an arrowhead.

11.43.6 RF055: Small copper alloy probable box fitting with traces of three copper alloy rivets along one edge and a forth on a bent over portion recovered from context 6002.

11.43.7 RF139 is a small copper alloy nail found during post-excavation work by SHAL and passed to the author for examination. It had been retrieved from 6015. It being the only copper-alloy nail recovered during the 2024 season. Unlike the copper alloy nail recovered in 2023 this nail does not feature the Broad Arrow mark of the Admiralty and therefore may be earlier in date. This copper nail may relate to boat building in the area which were, on occasion kept as magic or votive nails due to their connection to shipwrecks (Dr Chris How, *Pers Comm*). However, Crummy (1983, p. 115, fig. 116, Nos. 2992) posits that these are almost certainly from furniture upholstery.

11.43.8 A 17th century iron two-pronged fork RF016 with a baluster stem and collared junction was recovered by metal detector on the edge of the platform near trench 8. A second, late post-medieval object was recovered from context [5001], an iron key with D-shaped oval bow. The stem features a section of moulded collar just below the bow. The bit is solid and shows no signs of being welded on. It descends from the hollow, circular stem and has two clefts cut forming two projecting wards in line with the stem, forming an 'E' in profile. It is of Winchester type 3 (London Type II), most likely of 18th century or later date.

11.43.9 A single iron knife of Manning (1985) type 11b RF017 was recovered by metal detector near the south east wall. It is predominantly intact with a slightly bent tip. It has a round sectioned tang with a "pommel" on the end. The back of the blade is slightly curved descending towards the tip. The edge curves gently upwards towards the tip. A second iron knife, also of Manning (1985) type 11, but group A, was recovered from context [3003]. It features a straight back extending out from a square sectioned whittle tang curving gently towards the now missing tip. The edge curves gently upwards towards the tip. Both knives are of typical household use.

11.43.10 A number of predominantly copper alloy dress accessories were recovered during the 2024 season. The majority of these finds were recovered by SHAL's metal detectorist, with some recovered by hand.

11.43.11 The most impressive dress accessory recovered was that of a Roman copper alloy ring key of Guiraud type 5e, which dates between c. 200 – 410 AD. Type 5e finger rings are fairly rare in Britain, but are typically found in silver or gold on the continent. According to Crummy (1983, 84) ring keys generally belong to small boxes or caskets for personal possessions, with the ring needing to be removed from the finger to be used. Type 5e rings with their decorative bit are unlikely to have been functional as keys. The ring was found by metal detectorist Neil Green.



Figure 57 - Ring key, recorded with Portable Antiquities Scheme

11.43.12 Four copper-alloy probable brooch or buckle pins were recovered during excavations in 2024.

11.43.13 RF004.b was found in association with an unidentified fragment in context [4003/A], near the escarpment wall. The pin comprises a closed loop with a circular cross-sectioned shaft ending in a narrow tip. There is a slight bend in the middle of the shaft which may be post-depositional. Near the tip are two raised lines possibly decoration suggesting this object probably derives from a buckle. It may date from the Roman to Post-Medieval periods, but its recovery near the wall would suggest a Roman date is reasonable.

11.43.14 RF029, recovered from context [6002] is a copper alloy wire pin or shank which ends in a sharp point and is twisted at the top, reminiscent of Iron Age brooch pins. Unfortunately its fragmentary conditions leaves no room for further interpretation.

11.43.15 RF043, recovered from context [7004] is a copper alloy open loop brooch or buckle pin; initially identified on site as an ear scoop. Its tip curves down to a point which would have sat over the frame of the brooch or buckle.. The shank is undecorated; however it most likely originated from an annular or penannular brooch which span the Middle Iron Age to Medieval period.

11.43.16 RF061, recovered from context [4003/A] is a copper alloy brooch or buckle pin, closed loop with a broken tip. The pin has a pale green patina across the loop surface while the remaining shaft is dark green in colour. There is a slight bend at the junction between the loop and shaft. The closed loop has a projection / concretion on the shoulder (with the tip to the left) and the loop slopes inwards while the opposite side is flat, suggesting the whole has been punched through. The pin is circular in cross section, but appears cast rather than wire-made. Possibly derived from a buckle or brooch and again may span the Middle Iron Age to Medieval periods.

11.43.17 Two copper alloy pins have been recovered from the site during the 2024 excavations which may have served as dress or hair pins.

11.43.18 RF044 is a slender, cylindrical pin with conical head and broken tip of Cool (1990) Group 23; and Crummy (1983) type 1. These pins tend to date from c. 50 - 200 AD, more likely the 2nd Century AD. RF051 was recovered by metal detector near the outer escarpment platform. It is a small copper alloy pin head of uncertain date; probably Roman - Medieval. It has minor damage to the spherical head and a tapering shaft which is broken part way down making its overall length uncertain. With its plain, undecorated head it is likely to be of Cool (1990) type 24 which are common finds across Romano-British sites and may have been used as hair pins.

11.43.19 RF052, recovered from context [4003/C] is a small copper alloy stud or hob nail with a bi-conical head and tapering shank broken at the tip. It has a dark purple colour in patina.

11.43.20 Two copper alloy finds recovered during 2024 have links with Roman military presence within Britain and within the locality of Lympne more generally.

11.43.21 The first is a copper alloy buckle of Hawkes and Dunning (1961) type II A. The buckle is partially complete, with two confronted dolphins forming the loop whose tails invert to form the terminals. The right hand tail is missing. One cylindrical attachment is present on the left terminal where a separate bar would be fitted. These buckles typically date from c. 350 - 425 AD. Dolphin buckles of this style reportedly come into use in Europe during the early or mid 4th century AD and are typically associated with belt stiffeners and amphora strap ends (Appels & Laycock, 2007). The style of RF 020 is a non-crested open loop buckle which is a style found widely across Britain potentially inspired by Continental examples (Appels & Laycock, 2007). The face of the buckle has been decorated with incised lines forming ‘gills’ and the ‘dolphin’s’ eyes.



Figure 58 - RF20, Hawkes and Dunning, Type IIa Buckle

11.43.22 The second is a very much earlier AVCISSA copper alloy brooch of Mackreth (2011) Type 2.b dating to the 1st century AD; c. 43 - 75 (Mackreth, 2011, pg. 130 - 133). Comparable to Mackreth (2011; 14019*); other examples can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Database. The brooch has a high bow with transverse lines down each side giving it a triangular cross-section. The foot ends with a moulded knop with at least one collar visible. The catchplate rests above the knop. The head is flat, rolling up towards the end which would have once held the now missing pin and cylindrical attachment. The pin is typically made of Iron which may account for the traces of orange corrosion visible on the bow. However, this may hide traces of enamel typically found on these brooches. AVCISSA or Aucissa brooches are widely distributed on military sites, however it has been presumed that this "soldiers brooch" was often copied by local manufacturers. On the continent these brooches are found in legionary forts of the Augustan campaigns in Germany and in others of the mid-first century AD.

11.43.23 Evidence of metal working was found across the site in the form of droplets of lead. These are extremely difficult to date out of context as they are found in all periods from Roman to post medieval. Given its coastal location, these lead fragments may be indicative of salt-production having taken place on or nearby to the site, but until further evidence is found this is merely conjectural.

11.43.24 Lead containers for brine evaporation are introduced in the 1st century AD (Hathaway, S.-J (2013, pg. 475)). Lead was also used in the Roman period as a method of protection against corrosion, by coating iron fasteners with lead (Fregni, Giovanna, 2024, pg. 7).

11.43.25 A small number of unidentifiable metal objects were recovered during the excavations at Beacon Field. RF062 is a metal fragment, exact composition and function unknown. RF004.a is an

unidentified copper alloy fragment found near the cliff wall; possibly part of a brooch representing part of the foot and catchplate. RF053 is a small square copper alloy fragment, possibly a nail cleaner. It features a central band on the top face and a plain, undercoated side beneath. Both ends feature a semi-circular indent. RF060: Copper alloy cylindrical cross section fragment, possibly a handle or attachment, gently curving and broken at both ends.

11.44 Recommendations

11.44.1 Further research should be undertaken on the bulk of the recorded finds leading to full publication of the assemblage. The best stratified examples of the iron nails should be recorded in line with Manby (2024)'s methodology and retained as part of the SHAL reference collection. Heavily corroded examples can be discarded in line with SHAL's discard policy as these have been X-rayed.

11.44.2 All decorative finds such as brooches, buckles, rings and strap fittings should be retained as part of the project archive.

11.44.3 Any retained metal finds held by SHAL should be subject to conservation assessment and stabilisation in order to allow for further research and eventual deposition in a local museum for display.

11.44.4 It is recommended that 6 objects be illustrated for any publication report as indicated in the table below.

Registered Finds number	Context	Description
017	Unstratified Metal Detected Find	A mostly intact knife with slightly bent tip, the very tip is missing. Round sectioned Tang has a "pommel" on the end. The back of the blade is slightly curved from the tip to the tang. The edge is straight before curving up towards the tang. it is of Manning (1985) type 11b.
138	3003	Manning (type 11a) knife
028	5001	Iron key with D-shaped/oval bow. The stem features a section of moulded collar just beyond the bow. The bit is solid and shows no sign of being welded on. It descends from the hollow, circular stem and has two cleft cuts forming two projecting wards in line with the stem, forming an 'E' in profile. Probably of 18th century or later date. Possibly Winchester Type 3 (London Type II)
033	U/S Metal Detected Find	A Roman copper alloy ring key of Guiraud type 5e, c. 200 - 410
020	4003/A	Copper alloy (Bronze) buckle of Hawkes and Dunning (1961) type II A. Partially complete, two confronted dolphins form the loop whose tails invert to form the terminals. The right hand tail is missing. One cyclindrical attachment is present on the left terminal where a seperate bar would be fitted. 350 - 425 AD; Suggested military origin
026	6007	An AVCISSA copper alloy brooch of Mackreth (2011) Type 2.b dating to the 1st century AD; c. 43 - 75 (Mackreth, 2011, pg 130 - 133). Comparable to Mackreth (2011; 14019*); other examples easily found on the PAS Database. High bow with transvers lines down each side giving it a triangular cross-section. Foot ends with a moulded

		knob with at least one collar visible. Catchplate rests above the knob. The head is flat, rolling up towards the end which would have once held the now missing pin and cylindrical attachment. The pin is typically made of Iron which may account for the traces of orange corrosion visible on the bow.

Table 31 - Recommended Objects for Illustration

11.45 Osteological Analysis of human bone *by Charlotte Lawrence*

11.45.1 During the summer excavation in 2023 a small number of disarticulated human remains were identified during finds processing. These were immediately separated for identification by Charlotte Lawrence.

11.45.2 An accidental disturbance letter was issued by the Ministry of Justic (2024-10) as a burial license had not previously been sought as the historic information had not indicated the likely presence of human skeletal remains within the site.

11.45.3 The remains were recovered from an area of a probable midden suggesting they were the result of secondary burial from an as yet unknown location.

11.45.4 A minimum number of five individuals have been identified.

11.45.5 Skeleton (SK1) is represented by a single bone- a fully preserved left humerus (Fig 48). Maximum length of the unfused bone shaft is 15.5mm, while distal width is 4mm suggesting a prenatal age-at-death of 14 – 16 weeks.

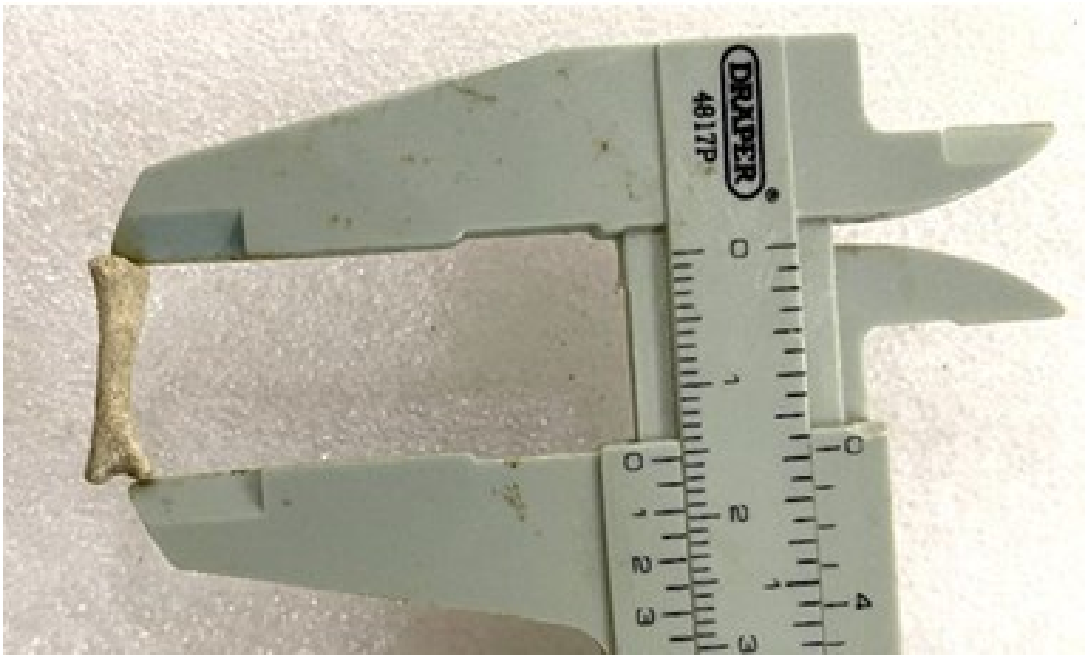


Figure 59 - Fully preserved humeral diaphysis of a 14 - 16 week neonate

11.45.6 Poor preservation of the scapulae, ulnae, radii, fibulae and tibiae do not facilitate metric measurements to estimate age-at-death. Preservation of the distal humeri, however, allowed maximum humeral width to be measured. At 14mm bilaterally, age-at-death was estimated to be 34 – 36 neonatal weeks. Morphological analysis of the remaining bones is consistent with a fetus at this stage of development.

11.45.7 Table 31 and Figure 49 present the total inventory of bones identified as SK2.

Region	Bone	Left	Right	Notes
Shoulder girdle	Scapula	F	F	Preservation centres around the scapular spines as this is the thickest part of the bone. The thinner plate-like surface has not been preserved
Upper limb	Humerus	F	F	Both distal ends preserved, facilitating age estimation
	Ulna	F		Partial preservation of the proximal shaft
	Radius	F		Partial preservation of the distal shaft
Lower limb	Tibia	F	F	Partial preservation of the proximal shafts
	Fibula	F	F	Partial preservation of the middle shafts

Table 32 - Skeletal inventory of remains consistent with identification as SK 2, based on size, developmental morphology and, where possible, metric measurement. P = bone fully preserved, F = bone preserved in a fragmentary state, and blank = no bone preserved



Figure 60 - Bones representative of SK 2, a 34 - 36 week neonate. Remains are positioned anatomically on the table, so the left side of the body appears on the right of the photo. Black and White squares in the scale bar represent 1cm squared each.

11.45.8 SK 3 represents the best-preserved individual from the site. A total inventory of bones is described in Table 32 and visible in figure 50.

Region	Bone	Left	Right	Notes
Skull	Frontal	F	F	Identifiable fragments include the superior orbital region of both frontals, and the unfused metopic suture on the right side where the bones would later fuse together
	Occipital	F	F	The largest fragment represents the back and base of the cranium known as the squamous occipital. Additional well-preserved fragments are the right and left pars lateralis- bones that later fuse to the rest of the occipital to form the lateral borders of the foramen magnum (an opening at the base of the cranium through which the spinal cord passes)
	Temporal		F	One fragment shows the zygomatic process on the main squamous portion of the bone, and a second fragment is the right pars petrosa- a bone that later fuses to the temporal and houses the internal acoustic meatus, or, internal ear canal
	Sphenoid	P	P	Fully preserved. In life, this bone forms the base of the cranium and posterior of the eye sockets
	Mandible	P	P	Both halves of the unfused mandibular corpus full preserved. Two unerupted tooth crowns were recovered from the alveoli (sockets), one from a single rooted tooth and one from a double rooted tooth
	Maxilla	F	F	Fragments of the alveoli present on both sides
Shoulder girdle	Clavicle		P	Fully preserved
	Scapula	F		Fragment of the lateral border and articular site on spinous process for the acromion preserved
Trunk	Vertebrae	F	F	A total of eight neural vertebral arches (bones that fuse to house the spinal cord) were recovered, of which three represent cervical vertebrae (two left and one right), and five thoracic (four left and three right). All are well preserved but only two of the cervical arches are fully complete
	Ribs	F	F	All 24 head-ends are present allowing each rib to be counted. Only the first left rib was fully preserved to facilitate measurement
	Ilium	F	F	Both ilia near-fully preserved
Upper limb	Humerus	F		Distal humeral shaft preserved
	Radius	F	F	Partial preservation of both shafts
	Ulna	F	F	Partial preservation of both shafts, with the right-side near complete
Lower limb	Femur	P		Fully preserved femoral shaft with unfused metaphyseal surfaces
	Fibula	F	F	Partial preservation of both shafts
	Metatarsal	P		Two metatarsals fully preserved, but unable to be sided due to undeveloped distinguishing morphological features

Table 33 - Skeletal inventory of remains consistent with identification of SK 3, based on size, developmental morphology and, where possible metric measurement. P = bone fully preserved, F = bone preserved in a fragmentary state, and blank = no bone preserved



Figure 61 - Bones representative of SK 3, a 38 - 40 week perinate. Remains are positioned anatomically, so the left side of the body appears on the right of the photo. Black and white squares in the scale bar represents 1cm squared each

11.45.9 Given the good level of preservation of bones associated with SK 3, it is possible to estimate age-at-death. Figure 51 summarises the 13 methods used to estimate age and their results, which are described further below.

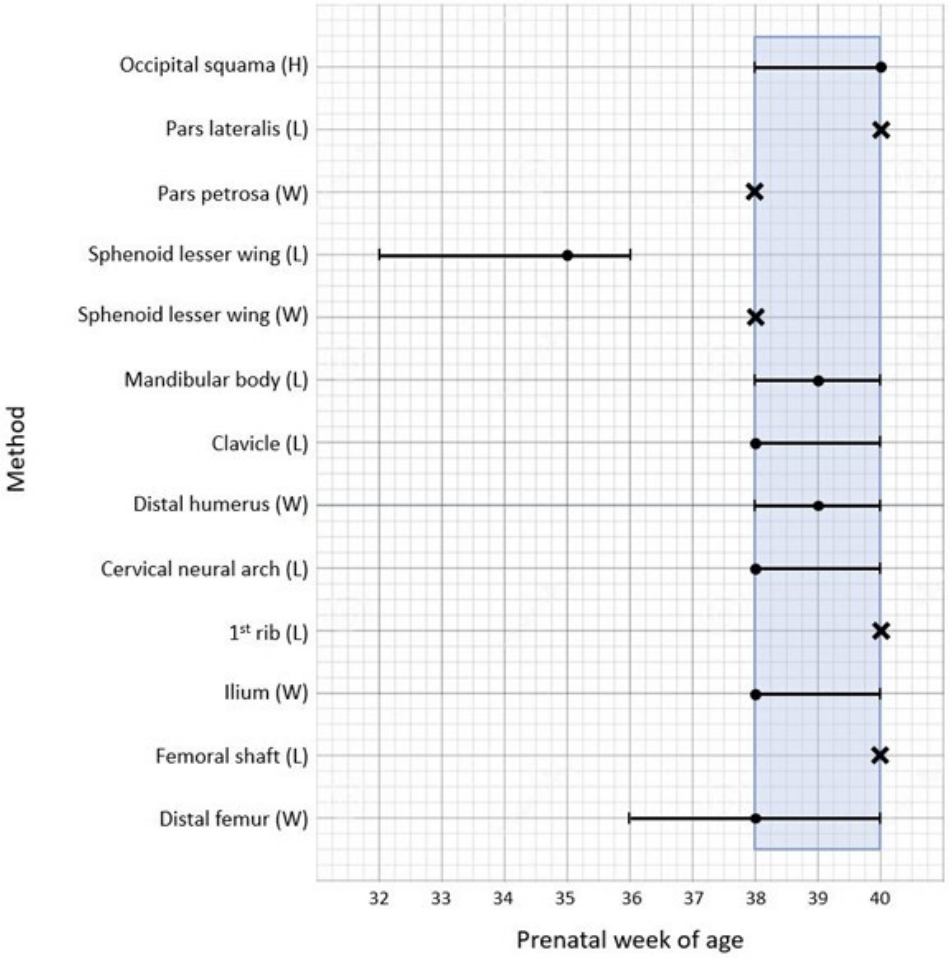


Figure 62 Multifactorial age estimation for SK 3, according to the methods and data given in Scheuer & Black (2000). Horizontal black bars represent the estimated age range of bone measurements from each method. Black circles on these denote the mean age within the range, and crosses are used when only a single, specific age is estimated. On the Y axis, (H) = Bone heigh, (L) = bone length, and (W) = bone width. The blue box highlights the most frequently estimated age ranges, concluding that SK 3 is a 38 – 40 week perinate.

11.45.10 Assessing bones of the skull, maximum chord height of the occipital squama from the border of the foramen magnum (opening of the spinal cord) to the tip of the bone at the midline was 56mm, suggesting that the individual was 38 – 40 neonatal weeks old at death. This is further supported by the extent of development across the sutura mendosa and superior median fissure-sites that fuse on the bone during growth. The maximum length of the occipital right pars lateralis (see Table 33) is 28mm, also suggesting an age of 40 weeks in-utero. The width of the right temporal pars petrosa at 17.5mm then offers an approximate age of 38 weeks. The good preservation of the sphenoid facilitated measurement of both the lesser wing length and width, which at 15mm and 11mm respectively suggest an age of 34-38 weeks at death. Finally, the mandibular body length of each unfused half, as measured between the obtuse angle (posterior corner of the jaw) to the symphyseal surface where the bones fuse at the chin was 35mm, indicating

an age of 38 – 40 weeks at death. The identification of one single rooted and one double rooted tooth crown recovered from within the mandibular sockets further supports this age estimate.

11.45.11 Considering the postcranial skeleton, maximum length of the right clavicle at 42mm, and distal humeral width at 16mm indicates a prenatal age of 38 – 40 weeks at death. Maximum neural arch length could then be measured from the two fully preserved cervical vertebrae which, at 17.5mm and 17mm, support an estimate of 38-40 weeks. Similarly, maximum length of the left first rib was 25mm, suggesting an age of 40 weeks at death. Maximum iliac width as measured from the midpoint of the right iliac crest to the acetabular extremity (the surface that fuses to form the articular socket for the femur) was 28mm. this suggests that the individual died at 38 – 40 weeks during gestation. Finally, the left femoral diaphyseal (shaft) length of 74mm and 18mm distal width estimated 36 – 40 weeks at death. Thus by combining the results of all 13 methods, SK 3 is estimated to have died at 38 – 40 prenatal weeks. Given that the average duration of pregnancy is 40 weeks, SK 3 is therefore best described as a perinate, whereby they died shortly before, during, or after birth.

11.45.12 SK 4 is represented by only two vertebral fragments. The first is the fragment of the spinous process of a mid-thoracic vertebra, while the second is a vertebral body. The spinous process is of small size compared to the morphology typical of a fully developed adult, however no features are preserved to facilitate specific metric measurement. As highlighted in Figure 52, however, the two halves of the neural arch have fused at the posterior synchondrosis (midline)- a process that occurs no sooner than two years after birth.

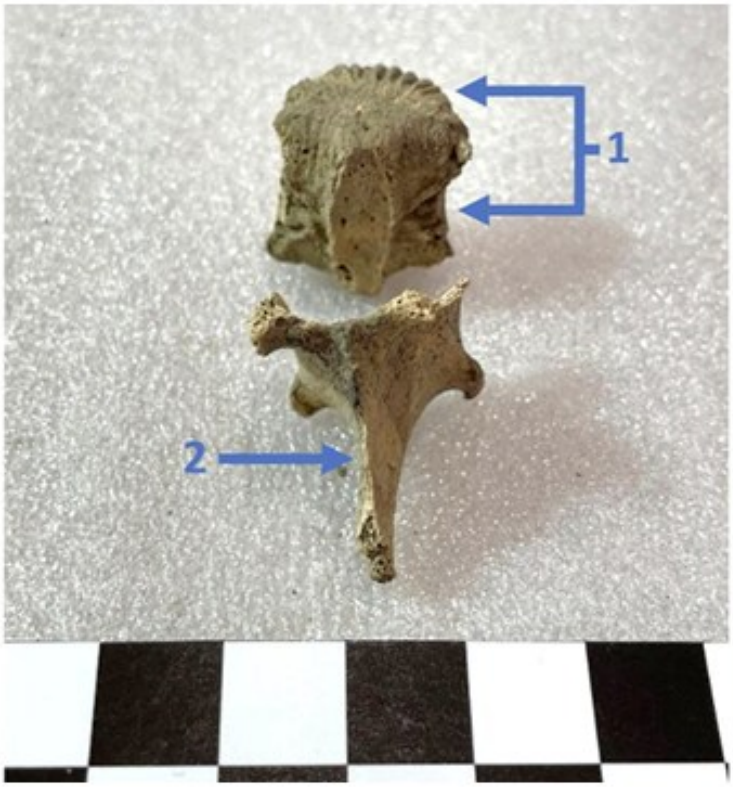


Figure 63 - SK4 Bones representative of SK 4, a 2-4 year-old juvenile. Arrow 1 highlights the billowing surfaces of the vertebral body, where the other elements of

The vertebral body, which is fully preserved, exhibits billowing on the superior and inferior surfaces, as well as unfused neurocentral junctions where the neural arches would later attach between 3-4 years of age. Although it is not possible to visually confirm that the two vertebral fragments belong to the same individual, their same similar size and corresponding height suggest that they represent a single vertebra from a juvenile aged 2-4 years at death.

11.45.13 SK 5 offers limited skeletal fragments, only one of which is fully preserved. Both bones are from the hand, although siding is indeterminate. As seen in Figure 53, the bones can be identified as a fragmentary metacarpal (any aside from MC1 based on a tuberosity towards the proximal end) and a proximal hand phalanx (any aside from the first). While both are too large to be associated with SK 4 (aged 2-4 years), neither exhibits fully developed adult morphology at the articular surfaces which occurs between approximately 14.5-16.5 years for females and males respectively. The maximum width of the metacarpal at the midshaft, however, is 8 mm, which indicates an age-at-death of at least 14 years. Age-at-death is therefore estimated to be between approximately 14-16.5 years, meaning that this individual would be considered an adolescent (Buikstra & Ubelaker, 1994).



Figure 64 - SK 5

Bones representative of SK 5, a 14-16.5 year-old adolescent. The bone on the left of the image is a fragmentary metacarpal, while the bone to the right is a well-preserved proximal hand phalanx. Black and white squares in the scale bar are 1 cm^2 each.

11.45.14 Beyond the bones able to be attributed to SK 1-5 based on developmental morphology and age estimation, a collection of additional skeletal fragments were recovered that were either unable to be ascribed to an individual, or unable to be identified morphologically. The first of these, shown in Figure 54, is a right incus- a small bone of the inner ear that, together with the stapes and malleus, facilitate the transmission of sound vibrations for hearing. Given that these bones are fully developed at birth, after which they no longer grow, it is not possible to ascertain which of the individuals the bone may have been associated with. However, if an estimate of affiliation were to

be given, SK 3 would seem the most likely given that the right temporal's petrous element (where the incus is housed) was recovered, and the ear ossicles are rarely excavated outside of this.



Figure 65 - Fully developed right incus. The white square within which the bone sits is 1cm squared



Figure 66 - Unidentified Human Skeletal Remains

Human skeletal remains that could not be specifically identified. Although these fragments lack distinct morphological features due to their poor preservation, they have been broadly categorised according to bone type. Bones in box (1) are small rib fragments; those in (2) are cranial fragments, (3) are larger rib fragments, (4) are larger long bone and miscellaneous

11.45.15 As shown in Figure 55 above, further human bone fragments were recovered, but these were too indistinct and poorly preserved to facilitate analysis or age estimation.

11.45.16 Commingled with the human remains were also a small number of nonhuman bones. Briefly, these included a proximal tibia, a possible humerus, an intermediate phalanx, and a probable proximal phalanx. The intermediate phalanx presented morphology very similar to that of an adult human, however it was much too small to be identified as such. While human juvenile status was considered, the bone exhibits morphology only consistent with adult age. With a cortical bone texture more common in animal remains, categorisation as an animal bone was therefore decided.



Figure 67 - Non-Human bones

Nonhuman bones recovered alongside the human remains. From left the right the bones have been identified as a proximal tibia, possible humerus, probably proximal phalanx, and an intermediate phalanx. Black and white squares in the scale bar are 1 cm^2 each.

11.45.17 Lastly, considering taphonomy (the postmortem processes affecting biological remains), there are a few interesting manifestations. Firstly, all bones are evenly stained by the soil, suggesting that none were subject to variant or extreme decompositional environments that would

alter discolouration prior to burial, such as bleaching from prolonged sun exposure (Pokines & Baker, 2014). This becomes noteworthy following the identification of postmortem trauma on the base of SK 4's spinous process, on the anteroinferior surface where the spine ends to form the wall of the vertebral foramen (Figure 57). Given that the exposed surface where the inferior articular process has been cut-off shows the same discolouration as the rest of the bone, the trauma did not occur during the recent excavation of the remains. This is because, when damaged during or after removal from the burial environment, bone that has not previously been exposed to the soil remains light in colour, having not absorbed the organic residues. Around the trauma though, the bone also shows no signs of remodeling, suggesting that this did not occur during life. The smooth fracture morphology is also indicative of damage to dry bone after death, suggesting that the bone was damaged postmortem, but not recently. Given the scattered and commingled nature of the remains, this supports the notion that the deposition represents a secondary burial into which the bones were placed after being relocated at least once from their initial depositional location.

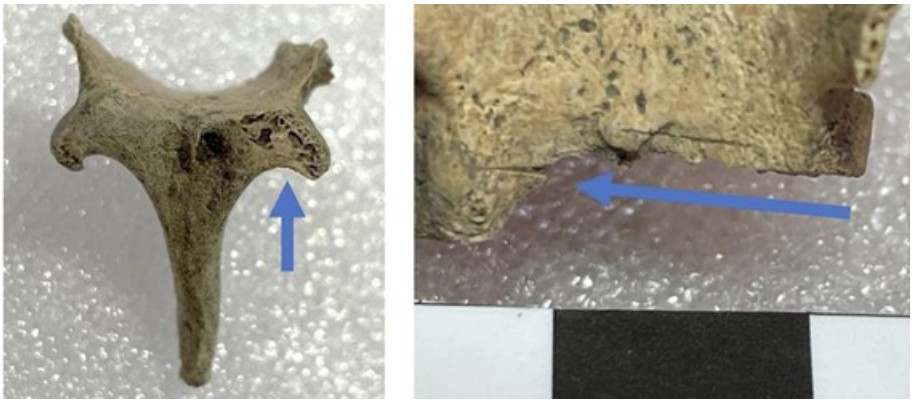


Figure 68 - Images highlighting trauma, SK 4

Images highlighting trauma to the spinous process of SK 4. The photo on the left highlights the smooth surface where the inferior articular process was sliced off and discoloured. The image on the right shows the two sharp, parallel cut lines into the bone, with direction of force travelling inwards medially from the left lateral side. Black and white squares in the scale bar are 1 cm^2 each.

11.45.18 Aside from discolouration, the bones also show dendritic root etching across the cortical surface, visible in Figure 58. This occurs commonly, and is the result of plant roots secreting acid as they grow across and through bone. It is widely considered to be a pseudopathology due to its resemblance to pathological processes.



Figure 69 - Plant root etching across the proximal phalanx of SK 5. Black and white squares in the scale bar are 1cm² each.

11.45.19 Finally, two bones were found exhibiting evidence of burning, possibly cremation. It is not possible to confirm whether the bones are human or nonhuman in origin due to their poor preservation, however one (on the left of Figure 59) is likely from the pelvis, while the second is a rib fragment. White colouration suggests that the remains were completely oxidized, and longitudinal cracking across the larger fragment suggests that the bone has lost all organic material, resulting in shrinking of the bone matrix (Symes, et al., 2015). This suggests that the bones were burnt at a temperature of at least 650°C (Devlin & Herrmann, 2015).



Figure 70 - Photograph showing the discolouration and cracking of burned bone. Black and white squares in the scale bar are 1cm² each.

11.45.20 This report presents the analysis of human skeletal remains recovered from Lympne, Kent. Although commingled, a minimum number of five individuals were identified among animal bone based on morphologically distinct indicators of age. Ages at death were estimated to be 16 neonatal weeks, 34 36 neonatal weeks, 38-40 neonatal weeks (perinate), 2-4 years, and 14-16.5 years. All remains are visible together in Figure 60. Analysis of the biological profile pertaining to sex, ancestry, and stature was not possible due to the poor preservation of bones, as well as the fact that sex-specific morphological features only develop at puberty and were not preserved for the only applicable individual, SK 5. No pathologies were identified, however there was evidence of

postmortem trauma consistent with secondary burial of the remains. Finally, two fragments of cremated bone show evidence of oxidisation through the use of advanced pyre technology, with which the bones were burnt at a temperature of at least 650°C.

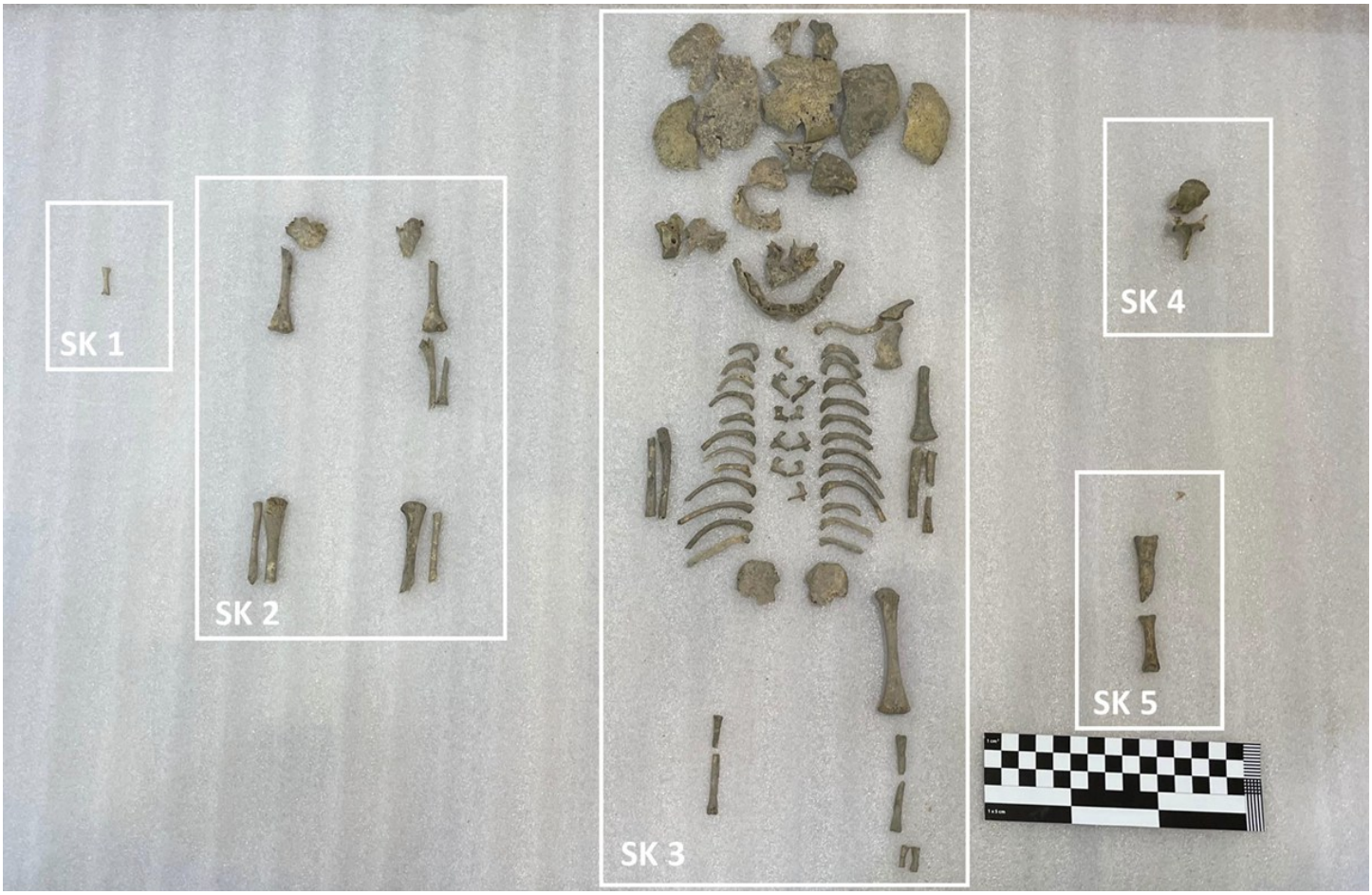


Figure 71 - Photograph displaying all human skeletal remains that were identified as distinct individuals. SK 1 is aged 16 neonatal weeks, SK 2 is 34-36 neonatal weeks, SK 3 is a perinate at 38-40 weeks, SK 4 is a juvenile aged 2-4 years, and SK 5 is an adolescent aged 14-16.5 years at death. Black and white squares in the scale bar are 1 cm2 each.

11.46 Copper-Alloy footlamp *by Andy Ward, Isabelle Diggle and Jon Whitmore*

11.46.1 A Roman copper alloy plastic lamp, shaped like an anatomical human foot and twenty-four sherds of associated Roman pottery[68] were recovered during the 2024 excavation and submitted to the Kent Finds Liaison Officer as potential Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act (2023) significance criteria.

11.46.2 The lamp was found during the excavation of a 1.5 m stretch of Roman wall, initially found during 2023 and currently interpreted to be 3rd Century in date. Metal detectorist and SHAL member, Neil Green, was metal detecting around the edge of the escarpment and located a copper alloy signal. Upon digging the signal, Mr Green initially saw the chain of the lamp before uncovering the complete object, sitting atop a ragstone outcrop. After informing the KAS curator, a 1 m x 1 m test

[68] The Roman pottery found associated with the plastic lamp was not viewed by the project pottery specialist, but was delivered to the Finds Liaison Officer.

pit was excavated around the findspot; this was to investigate for a potential hoard, grave cut or other associated features.

11.46.3 Within the test pit, no cut features were present [apart from the ragstone cut edge on north-eastern (uphill) side (F. 8004).]

11.46.4 Rather, an area of disturbance was discovered, recorded on-site as a void. This appeared to be the result of burrowing, in keeping with the rabbit holes and burrows found throughout the site. Within this disturbed void, 24 sherds of pottery were recovered from above and around the findspot of the lamp. Beneath this void was the natural ragstone and clayey geology of the surrounding area. No entrance or exit hole for the void was determined.

11.46.5 The lamp is in the form of a sandaled right foot, moulded in relief from copper alloy, with an attached chain and hook. This foot begins at the lower ankle and extends to the end of each toenail. The foot is sandaled, formed of a horizontal strap around the ankle with five vertical straps connecting this to the sole and enclosing the heel. A long thin strap runs along the bridge of the foot to the horizontal toe strap, completing the sandal. This bridge strap has two circular attachment loops, to which both have short chains attached, composed of two and three links respectively, and each chain measuring 9 mm and 24 mm in length. These chains then meet and join to a longer chain (4.57 mm). At the top of this chain is a link attached hook, a cast piece with one long straight side and a curved crescent emanating from the other. The sole of the lamp is present, but now detached. All of the components are a light patinated green in colour.

11.46.6 Measurements: Height of Foot: 30 - 12.2 mm; Length of Foot: 74.5 mm; Width of Foot: 21.8 - 11 mm; Thickness of Foot Wall: 3.6 mm; Ankle Perforation: 16 mm x 8.4 mm; Toe Perforation: 5 mm x 6.2 mm and Total Weight: 70.2 g.

11.46.7 Length of Hook: 79 mm; Width of Hook: 30 mm - 4.6 mm; Thickness of Hook: 3.6 mm;

11.46.8 Length of Chain: 45.7 mm + 24 mm for each other piece; Thickness of Chain: 2.2 mm

11.46.9 Sole of Foot: Length: 68.6 mm; Width: 19 mm; Thickness: 0.9 mm and Weight: 2.9 g.

11.46.10 Plastic lamps are well attested across the Roman Empire, consisting of lamps modelled in three-dimensions, with a range of depicted subjects. These mostly date to the 1st Century AD, waning in popularity in the later Roman period. Lamps of all types are notably scarce in Britain (Eckhardt, 2000), with only three other copper alloy examples recorded on the PAS database (LANCUM-D60822, SF-E35591 and LANCUM-718759). Lamps would have represented a significant level of status and wealth, involving the literal burning of food and resources (Eckhardt, 2000). This example notably has no handle, instead chains and a hook, indicating suspension. The hook is a type known for lamps, with similar examples listed in Crummy (1983). This lamp is particularly small in comparison to the corpus of plastic lamps.

11.46.11 The depictions of anatomical feet is a known motif, with a number of continental examples available in the British Museum, in both ceramic (1963,0715.5 and 1814,0704.171) and copper alloy (1824,0454.5 and 1873,0820.159). Roman foot-shaped artefacts appear to have had a number

of meanings, often simultaneously, with connections to temples (Dunbabin, 1990), the cult of Isis (Elsner and Rutherford, 2007) and apotropaism. However, they are also noted as being novelty items, status signifiers and signatures (Shaw, 2024). The foot being from the right appears significant, with the majority of lamps (van Driel-Murray, 1999) and figurines (such as SOM-AF00AB and ESS-202129) modelled to this side.

11.46.12 This object is of considerable historical significance. It is being submitted as potential Treasure as it meets the requirements of the Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023 by being more than 200 years old at the time of discovery, being made of metal, and providing 'a significant insight into an aspect of national history'. It meets these latter criteria under the following two categories:

11.46.13 Historical significance, Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice, section B.34 (a rare example of its type)

11.46.13.1 The lamp is of considerable historical significance, being the first known example of its type to have been found in Britain. Roman plastic lamps are relatively rare in Britain, with only eight recorded in *Illuminating Britain* (Eckhardt, 2002), all noted as 'elaborate and rare objects'. Of those in the form of an anthropomorphic foot, there are only three comparable in Britain. Two of these examples, from Southwark (BGH95[522]<426>) and Corsham respectively, are rendered in terracotta. The only other known copper alloy foot lamp currently resides at the Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. This object was acquired from the collection of Robert Ferguson, an antiquarian who collected objects from Carlisle, but also from the continent, with the provenances often unclear. Thus, the Lympne Lamp is the only example of a copper alloy Roman plastic lamp in Britain with a confirmed native findspot.

11.46.13.2 This object is therefore of considerable historic interest as the only known example of its type from Britain, not only expanding the corpus of Roman plastic lamps in Britain, but also throughout the wider empire.

11.46.14 Geographical significance, Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice, section B.35 (the location in which it was found)

11.46.14.1 The lamp is also highly significant due to the area in which it was found. Lympne, Kent, was the site of a Roman Saxon Shore fort, Lemanis, with earlier settlement nearby. This object was discovered through metal detecting at a research excavation. Consequently, the lamp is contextually situated within a wider site of known Roman activity. Whilst the scarcity of lamps poses a possible understanding of the province (Eckhardt, 2000), the presence of this object in Lympne has the potential to transform our understanding of the area. This has great research potential; Liz Shaw (per comms.) has already noted that the suggested military setting of the find contributes to current scholarly discourse into the associations between plastic lamps and the imperial cult. The contextual information associated with this object could not only transform our understanding of Roman Lympne but also of the use of lighting equipment in the province of Britannia.

11.46.15 In total, there are 24 associated sherds of fineware pottery. The assemblage consists of 1 section of base and 23 body sherds; none of the rim is present. Each sherd's surface is a light buff in colour, whilst the section margins are the same buff, diffusing into a greyish-brown core. The sherds have a mid-hardness and a silty feel. The inclusions are moderately well sorted and relatively sparse in frequency. This temper consists of small crystals, tiny specks and small circular voids, likely sand, chalk and organics respectively. None of the sherds present evidence of any surface treatments or decoration. The sherds have throwing rings, small grooves running horizontally around the inside, suggesting the use of a wheel during a final stage of production. All breaks are worn and abraded.

11.46.16 This pottery likely dates from the early Roman period, c.AD 50-175. Paul Hart (per comms.) has suggested a ware type of Canterbury or North Kent Fine Ware, or a Kentish white-cream ware. This fine ware was likely a tableware vessel and the consistency of the sherds suggests that only one vessel is present, possibly a flagon (or similar) due to the bulbous central sherds. All sherds appear to have been broken in antiquity. This object is of considerable historical significance due to its association with the lamp. It is being submitted as potential Treasure as it meets the requirements of the Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023 and meets the criteria under the following category:

11.46.17 Historical significance, Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice, section B.37 (part of the same find as one or more other objects, and the group of objects, when considered together, provides an exceptional insight by virtue of one or more of the factors set out above)

11.46.17.1 The pottery likely dates to the early Roman period and is relatively contemporary with the foot lamp. This, alongside their shared findspot, suggest a shared deposition episode. The lamp does not (at this time) represent the main period of the site's occupation; the pottery is one of a few objects on the site which is contemporary with the lamp. Whilst the excavation did not present an associated hoard or burial, the pottery does suggest an intentional activity, possibly votive in nature. Both objects also have a domestic function, suggesting a deliberate removal from their original or intended setting. Thus, the pottery is essential to furthering our understanding of the unique lamp.



Figure 72 - 2024-T1333 Courtesy of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

11.47 Coin Hoard by Andy Ward, David Holman and Dr Sam Moorhead

11.47.1 The site at Lympne produced a second Treasure case due to the discovery of a hoard of 18 Roman copper alloy coins, again discovered through metal detecting by Neil Green and excavated by Neil and SHAL member David Jones. This hoard was found within Trench 4.

11.47.2 An initial hoard of thirteen Romano-British coins were recovered on the 22nd May 2024, before a further five associated coins were recovered on the 29th May 2024.

11.47.3 Thirteen copper-alloy Roman nummi were found in the same area, beneath a large fragment of Samian Ware, with the coins dating between 335 – 402 AD. The hoard comprised coins of Constantine II as Caesar (335 – 337 AD), Constans (335 – 348 AD), Constantius II (353 – 360 AD), House of Valentinian (364 – 378 AD), Valentinian I (364 – 375 AD), Valens (364 – 378 AD), Gratian (367 – 375 AD), Arcadius (388 – 392 AD), House of Theodosius (388 – 395 AD) and three illegible coins dating between 330 – 402 AD. An iron object, identified on site as a possible spearhead was also found in the same area.

11.47.4 A further five Romano-British coins were recovered from the same area on the 29th May. These likely represent the effects of ploughing or the installation of a nearby cable excavated to the rear of the trench.

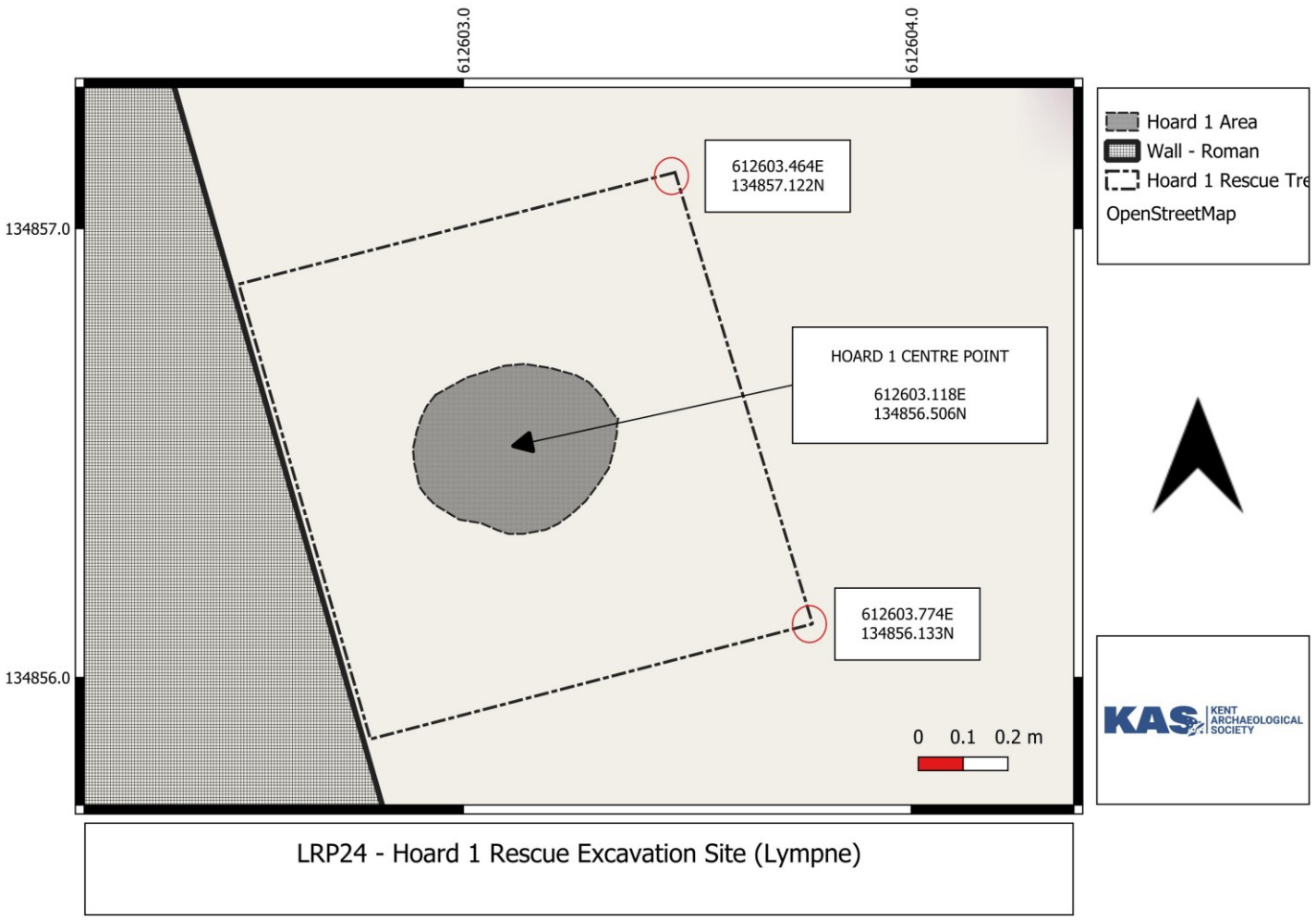


Figure 73 - Hoard 1 Rescue Excavation Site Plan

11.47.5 The first group of coins was found at a depth of c. 450mm beneath fallen stones and soil, part of a large Samian ware dish was lain over the top and associated with an iron object, initially identified as a spearhead or knife.

11.47.6 The hoard (2024-T593) constitutes a coin hoard deposited probably deposited post c. 402; with the latest coin being two illegible and fused coins dated to c. 330 – 402 CE while the earliest coin is one issued by Constantine II, Caesar dated c. 335 – 337 CE. The majority of the coins are attributable to Reece Period 19 (nine coins). The lack of SALVS REI PVBLICAE reverse type coins in the assemblage suggests a *terminus post quem* of c. 395 CE (Sam Moorhead, pers comm)

11.47.7 The coin hoard will be included in a subsequent report by David Holman and Dr Sam Moorhead on the coins found across all seasons of work at Lympne.

11.47.8 Due thanks are to be given to the landowners, the Hurley Family for waiving their reward due under The Treasure Act to retain the coin hoard within the site archive for long-term study.

11.48 Non-Metal Special Finds by Andy Ward

11.48.1 A small number of special finds not made of metal were recovered by SHAL across the two seasons of excavations and are reported on below.

11.48.2 In 2023, a total of 28 non-metal special finds weighing 1.24kg were recovered by hand. The below report details those finds not included in the specialist assessments. This was mostly due to their discovery during processing after the assemblages had already been deposited with specialists.

11.48.3 Only 6 special finds of material not seen by specialists are recorded here, weighing a total of 80g.

11.48.4 Excavations in 2024 at the same site by SHAL recovered a total of 149 non-metal special finds weighing a total of 5.33kg. Again, only finds not already discussed above are included in this report amounting to 10 finds weighing 114g.

11.49 Painted Wall Plaster

11.49.1 A single piece of Painted Wall Plaster (PWP) RF001 was recovered from context (3001). It is a small irregular fragment measuring 17.05mm wide by 30.4mm long. It is 15.1mm thick and weighs 3.5g. It consists of a sandy, multi-inclusion matrix consisting predominantly of bright orange brick fragments in a pale, almost white plaster. The painted surface is smooth, almost matt but does feature faint brush strokes when viewed under lighting. It consists of a white background with a red band across it, stylistically similar to Style 72 (91) from Abbey Farm Minster (Trust for Thanet Archaeology, accessed 11/09/2025). The colour combination is fairly common for Romano-British decorated buildings, and suggests a high status building once occupied the area.

11.50 Worked Bone

11.50.1 Two pieces of worked or modified animal bone were recovered during the 2023 excavations. RF003 and RF146.

11.50.2 RF003 is a small fragment of worked animal bone consisting of a D-shaped cross section fragment with two small probable rivet holes towards the tip and upper edge. It is possible the fragment forms part of a double sided comb or, and more likely part of a tanged knife handle with the rivets holding the two sides together. It measures 42.5mm long by 10.8mm wide and 3.2mm thick at its centre. It weighs 4.26g. Both the upper and lower surface feature red staining from close contact with iron. Both sides are undecorated. The foremost rivet hole, nearest to where the blade would be situated has snapped leaving an L shaped edge.

11.50.3 RF146 is a large fragment of animal bone, likely pig. It is from a hollow bone, possibly the tibia. It has been snapped at both ends suggesting butchery was carried out to access bone marrow. Two angular cut marks are clearly visible on end face, with the most complete cut mark having chipped away part of the bone. It measures 22.72mm high, 4.23mm thick, 25.26mm wide and 79.32mm long.

11.51 Worked Stone

11.51.1 A possible worked stone hone or whetstone RF147 was recovered from (3004). The stone is dark brown-red in colour with linear marks on both faces. These may be from sharpening tools or from

plough strikes, none appear to be the result of recent damage caused by trowel excavation. The stone is sub-triangular in shape with a thicker terminus on the longest edge and two thin termini on the short edge. No obvious faceting is present, but the short edge does appear to have damage possibly caused by use. Similar improvised whetstones are recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme and date from the advent of metal sharp edged tools. The use of improvised hones is characteristic of a long period from later Prehistory to the Viking Age. A rock of this size might be used to sharpen large tools such as a scythe or spade iron. It may have been collected from a riverine context. A wide range of improvised hone stones were used until Norwegian schist achieved dominance over the medieval market for sharpening stones. It measures 8.57mm thick, 39.87mm at the widest point and 17.72mm at its narrowest. It is 70.77mm long from tip to tip.

11.52 Carbonised Wood

11.52.1 RF138 is a fragment of carbonised wood found in context (3004). Its exact species and function is currently unknown and requires further specialist work.

11.53 2024 Registered finds

11.54 Painted Wall Plaster

11.54.1 A single fragment of Painted Wall plaster, RF115 was found during work in 2024 but unfortunately the context was not recorded so it remains unstratified. It is a small irregular fragment measuring 26.16mm wide by 36.8mm long. It is 14.35mm thick and weighs 11.92g. It consists of a white, sandy matrix with spare chalk and ?flint inclusions. The painted surface is smooth, almost matt but does feature faint brush strokes when viewed under lighting. It consists of a white background with a thick red band across the bottom ¾ of the surface, a thin bad of white is sandwiched between the red and a thin band of grey, stylistically similar to Style 259 (1) from Abbey Farm Minster (Trust for Thanet Archaeology, accessed 17/09/2025). The colour combination is fairly common for Romano-British decorated buildings, and suggests a high status building once occupied the area when also combined with the hypocaust tile.

11.55 Worked Stone

11.55.1 Two possible stone hones or whetstones were found during the 2024 season, RF41 and RF121.

11.55.2 RF41 was recovered from context (3003) and measures 14.22mm thick by 22.33mm wide by 44.98mm long with a diameter of 22mm. It weighs 25.8g. It is a sub-circular cross sectioned stone, broken in half horizontally and has red staining, possibly from iron or paint along the smaller broken portion. A small area of white ?paint or mortar is also visible at the circular end of the object. Although the exact geological make-up of the stone is not yet ascertained, it appears of a probable course grained sandstone, probably greensand and of local origin. Its sub-circular cross section suggests it may have been lathe turned and used on a spindle, suggesting a post-medieval date.

11.55.3 RF121 is the second possible whetstone found during the 2024 season. It was recovered from context (4003B) and measures 16.76mm thick by 28.04mm wide (at its centre), 62.46mm long and with an end diameter of 26.02. It has a elliptical cross section and features old breaks at both ends. It consists of a probable course grained sandstone, possibly greensand and is of local origin. On one surface it has traces of lime mortar across its length. The other surface is unmodified but features a

small break near one end. Its elliptical shape suggests it may have been lathe turned and used on a spindle, suggesting a post-medieval date.

11.56 Lithics by Andy Ward

11.56.1 Three hard hammer struck waste flakes of Black Downland flint, weighing 25g were recovered from context (1003) and included in the worked stone assemblage.

11.56.2 Three worked flints were recovered by hand during the 2024 excavation at Beacon Field. These comprise RF005, RF045 and RF049

11.56.3 RF005 is a flint blade recovered from (4003B) near to the upstanding wall. It is a long blade made on a tertiary grey flint. The bulb of percussion has been lost at some point in antiquity evidenced by a deep hinge fracture on the ventral face. A long blade flake has been removed from the dorsal face, evidenced by a sharp hinge fracture at its base. The righthand edge of the dorsal face features short, sub-parallel, low-angled retouch at its very tip, possibly to give the flint a scraper function. The edge itself appears untouched and the item may be unfinished or discarded. Probably of later Prehistoric date. It measures 5.22g in weight and is 4.85mm thick by 15.88mm wide by 66.71mm long.

11.56.4 RF045 is a Small, blue-grey patinated secondary flake. It measures 7.55mm thick by 22.64mm wide at its distal end and 7.56mm at its proximal end. It is 41.95mm long and weights 9.2g. It has an area of heavy cortex on the distal end of the dorsal face, probably from its origin as a river cobble. It is unclear if the edge has been retouched due to damage probably caused by farming machinery. Its ventral face features a small striking platform on its Proximal end with a subtle bulb of percussion suggesting use of a soft-hammer. Retouch at the distal end to form a scraping edge. A probable date of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic is appropriate.

11.56.5 The final flint flake recovered in 2024, RF049, is a small notched tertiary flake with pronounced bulb of percussion and white patination on the dorsal Face. The notch on the left side of the ventral face features a small area of short, scaled, semi-abrupt retouch which appears to cut through the white dorsal patination suggesting a possible later re-use of an earlier flake. The large bulb of percussion suggests the use of a hard-hammer and a late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date, but the cutting of the retouch through the white patination suggests a possible later re-use in the later Bronze Age – Early Iron Age. The flake measures 2.4g in weight and is 4.75mm thick, 17.78mm wide at the proximal end and 5mm wide at the distal end and is 22.5mm long.

11.57 Architectural Stone[69]

11.57.1 Two pieces of possible architectural stone were recovered from context (4003B) and recorded as RF120. They are a course grained on the inside with traces of possible quartz in areas. The outer surface is smooth to the touch with traces of iron staining on the outside. Their exact date and function are currently unknown. The first piece weighs 31.67g and measures 55.30mm long by 26.45mm wide. It is 14.71mm thick. The second piece weighs 31.89g and measures 53.57mm long by 30.9mm wide. It is 12.7mm thick.

[69] Not included in material sent to the architectural stone specialist.

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11.58 Worked Bone

11.58.1 A single fragment of worked bone RF126 was recovered from context (4003A). It is an extremely light fragment of bone weighing just 5.19g. Its origin is unclear as the fragment is too small to identify to species. It measures 37.08mm long by 25.6mm wide by 8.54mm thick. It features three deep vertical cut marks across its surface and a further diagonal section has been removed. Whether this is evidence of butchery or craft production is unclear.

12 Environmental Evidence

12.1 Organic Residue Analysis by Dr Lilly Olet, Dr Isabel Wiltshire, Dr Lucy JE Cramp, Dr Mélanie Roffet-Salque and Jada Northcott-Comer, School of Chemistry, University of Bristol

12.1.1 Two sherds of Roman pottery found in context 4001/B from Lympne were selected for organic residue analysis. These two sherds (RF77a and RF77b) were initially hand-washed before their potential for ORA was spotted due to the presence of potential burnt material on the inner surface of the sherds.

12.1.2 The aim of the study was to characterise the lipids absorbed in the ceramics and to provide an initial assessment of lipid preservation and vessel use at the site.

12.2 **Methods**

12.2.1 *Pottery vessels*

12.2.1.1 Approximately 2g of ceramic fabric samples were taken and their surfaces cleaned using a solvent-cleaned modelling drill to remove any exogenous lipids (e.g. soil or finger lipids due to handling). The samples were then ground to a fine powder using a solvent-cleaned glass mortar and pestle.

12.2.2 *Acidified methanolic extraction of lipid residues*

12.2.2.1 Lipid residue analyses and interpretations were based on established protocols (Evershed et al., 1990; Correa-Ascencio and Evershed, 2014). Briefly, analyses proceeded as follows: the powdered ceramic was transferred to a glass culture tube and an internal standard was added for quantification (*n*-tetratriacontane, 20 µg). The powdered sherd was extracted using an acidified methanol solution (H_2SO_4/MeOH, 4 % *v/v,* 5 mL, 70 °C, 1 h) (Correa-Ascencio and Evershed, 2014). The lipids were then extracted from the H_2SO_4/MeOH portion with *n*-hexane (2 x 3 mL

and 2 x 2 mL). The solvent was evaporated under a gentle stream of nitrogen to obtain the total lipid extract (TLE). Aliquots of the TLE (generally one quarter aliquots) were trimethylsilylated using *N,O*-bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide containing 1 % trimethylsilyl chloride (20 µL, 70 °C, 1 h) and re-dissolved into *n*-hexane for analysis by gas chromatography (GC-FID). Combined GC/MS analyses were also performed on trimethylsilylated aliquots of the lipid extracts enabling the elucidation of structures of components not identifiable on the basis of GC retention time alone. A selected ion monitoring mode was used to detect dihydroxy-FAMEs (*m/z* 215, 243, 259, 443, 459, 471, 487, 499, 515), some of which are diagnostic of aquatic resources (Cramp and Evershed, 2014) and miliacin (*m/z* 189), which is a biomarker of broomcorn millet (Heron et al., 2016).

12.2.2.2 Lipid extracts containing significant amounts of saturated fatty acids characteristic of degraded animal fats are submitted to GC-combustion-isotope ratio mass spectrometry (GC-C-IRMS) in order to distinguish between non-ruminant and ruminant fats, and dairy from adipose fats (Copley et al., 2003a).

12.2.2.3 Table 34 lists the pottery details and the results of the lipid residue analyses.

Table 34 - Sample details and results of lipid residue analysis. FA - fatty acid; number n and n:i acyl carbon number with zero or i degrees of unsaturation.

Sample name	Sample No	Period	Lipid concentration (µg/g)	Compounds	$\delta^{13}C_{1\ 6:0}$ (‰)	$\delta^{13}C_{18:0}$ (‰)	$\Delta^{13}C$ (‰)	Interpretation (molecular and isotopic compositions)
LYM 1000	RF77 a	Roman	3	FAs, *n* = 16, 18; *n*-Alcohols (TMS), *n* = 18; Coelution of (di-) hydroxy FAs, Phthalate				(Degraded animal fats?) Contamination
LYM 1001	RF77 b	Roman	0	-				-

12.3 Results and discussion

12.3.1 Neither of the two analysed sherds contained significant archaeological lipids (> 5 µg/g). LYM 1001 (sherd RF 77 b) yielded no identifiable lipids, while LYM 1000 (sherd RF 77 a) contained trace amounts of lipids (Figure 63).

12.3.2 The lipid profile of LYM 1000 was dominated by a free fatty acid ($C_{18:0}$), accompanied by a much smaller peak of $C_{16:0}$ fatty acid. This might be evidence for strongly degraded animal fats. Oxidation products of unsaturated fatty acids (hydroxy fatty acids, dihydroxy fatty acids) and *n*-alcohols (C_{16}, C_{18}) were also identified in this lipid extract (see Table 34; Figure 63). Oxidation products can form naturally through degradation processes or under elevated temperatures during vessel use (Regert et al., 1998; Evershed, 2008).

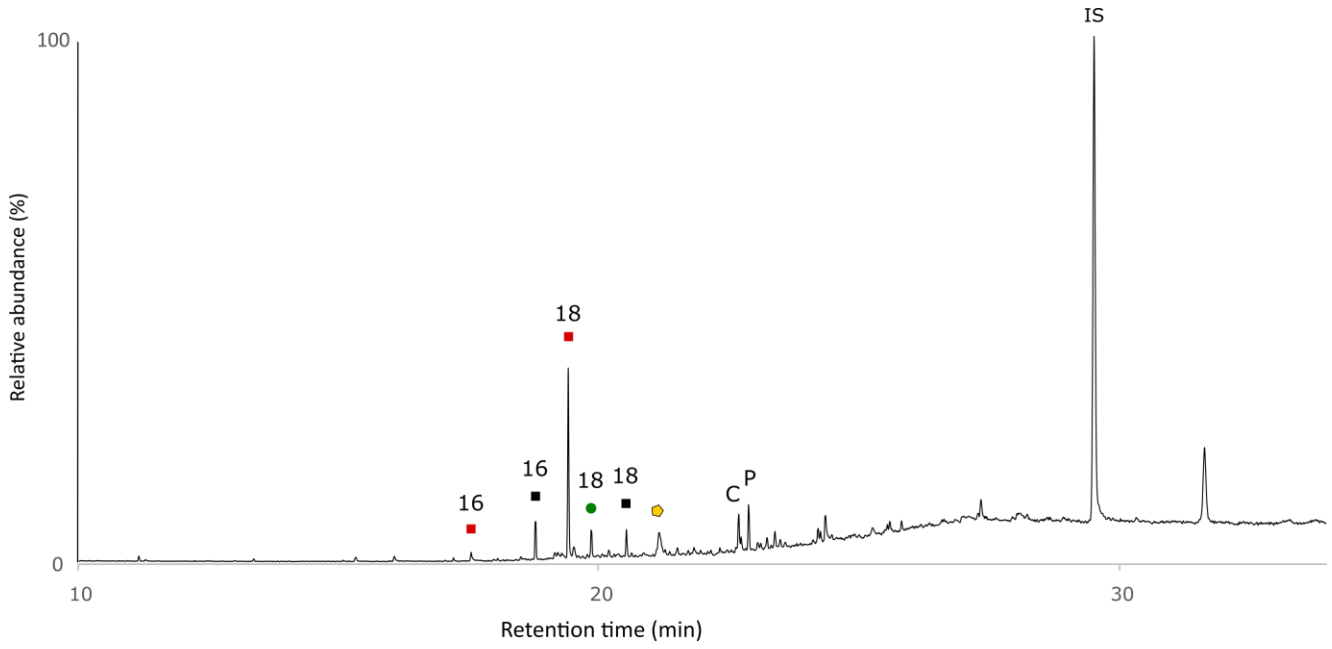


Figure 74 - Partial gas chromatogram of total lipid extracts from LYM 1000. Albeit under the threshold of 5 µg/g above which archaeological lipids are deemed significant, the lipid profile might represent the remnants of a degraded animal fat. Squares: *n*–alkanoic acids (red for fatty acid methyl esters, black for TMS esters); green circles: *n*–alcohols; yellow hexagon: a coelution of various hydroxy and/or dihydroxy fatty acids; IS: internal standard (*n*-tetratriacontane); P: phthalate; C: other contaminants; number *n* and *n*:i: acyl carbon number with zero or i degrees of unsaturation.

12.4 Preliminary conclusions of the study

12.4.1 Organic residue analysis showed that the sherds RF 77a and RF 77b, which date to the Roman period, did not contain any significant lipids of archaeological origin. Sherd RF 77a (LYM 1000) contained trace amounts of lipids that might be linked to a very degraded animal fat. However, as the lipid concentration of this extract (3 µg/g) is below the threshold of 5 µg/g and accompanied by comparable amounts of contaminants and therefore this interpretation remains tentative.

12.5 Suggestions for further work

12.5.1 The limited number of sherds analysed in this study prevents any firm conclusions regarding vessel use. Analysis of further pottery sherds (20-30) from this site would give a better insight into vessel use, and potentially provide information regarding past diet and subsistence strategies at the site. Analysing a range of vessel types might provide evidence whether the low lipid yields of the two sherds RF 77a and RF 77b are linked to a specific vessel type or to a specific type of use, or whether the poor lipid preservation is the result of an unfavourable burial environment at the site (diagenesis).

12.6 Acknowledgements

12.6.1 The NERC are thanked for partial funding of the National Environmental Isotope Facility (NEIF; contract no. NE/V003917/1). The authors wish to thank the NERC (contract no. NE/V003917/1) and funding from the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP/2007-2013) and European Research Council Grant Agreement number 340923 for funding GC-MS capabilities.

12.7 Flotation by Shorne Woods Archaeology Group

12.7.1 Flotation was carried out by members of the Shorne Woods Archaeology Group (SWAG) on a small sample of soil which had originally surround two fragments of pot (RF77). Flotation was carried out to check for the presence of small finds and any environmental evidence associated with context (4001/B).

12.7.2 1 litre of dry weight was passed through the flotation set up created by SWAG before being air-dried.

12.7.3 The dried sample was then pass through three levels of sieve; 2mm, 1mm, 0.5mm producing three bags of sample.

12.7.4 Due to time delays caused by ongoing hosepipe bans in Kent the samples were not able to be sent out to a specialist in time for this report. Further work will be needed to identify any environmental remains such as plant microfossils, wood charcoal, faunal remains and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds and human bone recovery.

12.7.5 A preliminary review of the three samples by the KAS identified clearly visible charcoal, unburnt and burnt bone, probable pottery fragments and other fragmentary finds.

12.7.6 The samples will be returned to SHAL to secure specialist analysis in 2026.

12.8 Optical Spectral Luminescence (OSL)

12.8.1 On the final day of excavation in 2024 a sample was taken from the side of the Lime Kiln to attempt Optical Spectral Luminescence dating.

12.8.2 Unfortunately the sample was unsuitable for lab analysis and as such no OSL was carried out.

12.8.3 The excavations in 2026 would benefit from taking a suitable OSL sample, in conjunction with a dating laboratory to ascertain the date of the Lime Kiln. Archaeomagnetic dating may also be suitable should further dating evidence be required.

13 Discussion

13.1 Overview of Stratigraphic Sequence

13.1.1 The underlying natural ragstone and hassock geology was exposed intermittently across the site. Trenches 3, 4, 5, 8 reached the natural Hythe beds while trench 6 and 7 reached a depth beyond which it was unsafe to continue unshored excavation without revealing the natural bedrock. This suggests that there has been a significant accumulation of soil across the site, likely through plough action.

13.1.2 Archaeological features were identified across the site including Roman ditches, a massive ragstone-built, possible enclosure wall, a probable Medieval parish boundary bank, and a Post-Medieval lime kiln.

13.1.3 While the recording and interpretation of the features and deposits was hampered to an extent by the lack of consistent supervision on site, and modern lime kiln and cable intrusion was noted, especially within trench 4, several intact features were recorded and a date could be provisionally assigned with a degree of certainty. Further work in 2026 will further enhance the information gathered by SHAL to date.

13.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

13.2.1 The site at Beacon field appears to have been a centre of activity over an extended period of time, although primarily activity is focused on the later Roman period. Some truncation of features by modern intrusion, particularly a second world war communications cable and a number of modern concrete post bases were noted in trench 4. Elsewhere, historic ploughing is likely to have reduced the highest stratified deposits further. A Post-Medieval lime kiln was built within and over the revealed Roman wall with clear evidence of stone robbing also being noted and recorded in an 18th century document.

13.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

13.3.1 A small number of residual flint flakes, probably of Neolithic to Bronze Age date, were recorded during the excavations at Beacon Field, suggesting transient Prehistoric activity within the area. Given its location on a ridgeline it is not unsurprising for moving prehistoric peoples to have

utilised the area. A fairly dense concentration of worked flint has been located approximately 780m north-east of the Site (HER ref.TR 13 NW 46 and 47).

13.3.2 A single Iron Age potin coin was recovered from the Trench 7 and identified as a Flat Linear potin of type D7/1-2a dating to the early first century BCE. At present it has no obvious connection to the recorded features and likely represents a casual loss.

13.3.3 While Late Iron Age or Early Roman pottery, dating *c.* 50 BCE – 100 CE, was recorded it was fragmentary and likely residual in nature. The presence of LIA/ER pottery may suggest earlier activity within the area of Beacon Field which garners further research.

1st – 2nd century CE

13.3.4 Activity on site from the mid-Roman period (2nd to early 3rd century CE) was noted in a number of trenches. The discovery of a 1st century CE copper alloy plastic footlamp was of particular note and may suggest earlier ritual or votive activity on the site. While only a small quantity of earlier Roman coins were recorded on the site, a better represented assemblage of mid-Roman pottery was recovered. This assemblage included local and regional fabrics suggesting trade was active and well attested on the site. This evidence is all closely bound up with the question as to when *Portus Lemanis* was founded. It does not appear to have much of a pre-Conquest origin – like Dover.

13.3.5 A small number of *Classis Britannica* (CLBR) re-used tile fragments suggest the presence of an earlier fort predating the Saxon Shore Fort at Stutfall Castle within the vicinity of Beacon Field, potentially at the base of Lympne Hill.

Late Roman

13.3.6 The main phase of activity identified on the site appears to date from c. 270 – 400 CE. The main ceramic phase of recovered pottery dates between c. 250/70 – 410 CE with Late Roman grog tempered ware being the most dominate ware recorded. A number of regional and imported pottery types were present in large quantities suggesting that the site was well connected with regional trade networks, and that, if a settlement or high status building is located on or nearby to Beacon Field, the inhabitants enjoyed Roman-style food preparation and dining. This is further supported by the presence of high-status food types in the animal remains from site including two peafowl bones. The quantity of pottery, box flue tile and painted wall plaster would suggest that a large scale villa or settlement is located nearby to the site at Beacon Field, if not within it.

13.3.7 The enclosure wall revealed on site may have been constructed during the reign of Carausius and is dated by three coins of c. 260 – 286 CE located in a pit running underneath the feature [F. 4022.] Following its construction activity appears to have moved from Beacon Field north across the line of the east-west Roman Road (Margary 131), into the area of the roadside settlement excavated in 2022 by SHAL. This change of focus appears to have occurred sometime in the first half of the fourth century. The site at Beacon field was returned to at some time towards the end of the century, with activity once again taking place near the enclosure wall post 387 CE and potentially into the early fifth century.

Anglo-Saxon

13.3.8 A scattering of Anglo-Saxon or Early Medieval pottery was recovered, primarily from trenches 3 and 4 nearest to the enclosure wall. It may well be that the later pottery has been brought up by repeated deposition activity on site as the area of the enclosure wall appears to have been used as a repeated rubbish pit or midden area. This may suggest Anglo-Saxon occupation within the site or the nearby area. Given Anglo-Saxon burials have been reported historically this may suggest a settlement nearby.

Medieval

13.3.9 A small amount of Medieval pottery and coins were recovered during the excavations. These are likely the results of casual loss or night soiling.

13.3.10 The bank or berm which follows the line of the escarpment wall and the line of the West Hythe/Lympne parish border on historic mapping may have originated in the Medieval period, but as yet this is unclear.

Post-Medieval and Modern

13.3.11 A large probable post-medieval lime kiln was constructed over and through the enclosure wall seen in Trench 5. The lime kiln is formed of ragstone blocks with a hard-packed surface and possible hearth in the centre. A possible flue can be seen at the western side of the kiln pointing in the direction of Lympne Hill. After its function had ceased it had been used as an area for rubbish deposition and containing both contemporary finds but also earlier pottery, animal bone, and oyster shell likely gathered from elsewhere on the site during digging.

13.3.12 Beacon Field was probably the site of a 16th century beacon, but its exact location within the site is currently unclear.

13.3.13 Second World War activity is also seen on the site through the digging of a communications cable likely associated with a nearby anti-aircraft gun emplacement.

13.4 Consideration of research questions

13.4.1 The results of the 2023 and 2024 excavation provide some answers to the posed research questions, however further work due to take place in July 2026 will further investigate the site and the information gathered should be added to the results of this report.

13.4.2 The objectives for the 2023 and 2024 excavations were met to a limited degree, with further work aimed at providing clearer evidence.

- **OB1 –** Reveal dating evidence for the construction of the upstanding wall, thought to relate to a Roman fortlet.

13.4.3 Dating evidence in the form of a pit [F.4022] running beneath the enclosure wall containing coins dating c. 260 – 286 CE and mortar encrusted coins of Tetricus I suggest a construction date in the mid to late 3rd century CE.

- **OB2 –** Investigate the origin and phasing of the geophysical anomalies previously identified by magnetometry and resistivity.

13.4.4 The trenches were targeted across geophysical anomalies with a large ditch being revealed in Trench 6 and a possible ditch also being shown in trench 7. Continuation of the enclosure wall was found in Trench 5, 8, 9, 10, and 12.

- **OB3 –** Substantiate the thought that Beacon Field contained a Romano-British fortlet, served by the *vicus* on land at Shepway Cross.

13.4.5 A large, c. 1.9m wide enclosure wall was found in multiple trenches across the two seasons of excavation likely indicating of a large defensive structure. A very few Roman military associated dress accessories were also recorded suggesting a *possible* military presence in the area. Coin distribution suggests movement of activity between Beacon Field and Shepway Cross in the late fourth century, returning back again towards the end of the century.

- **OB4 –** Identify evidence for a Roman Signal Station positioned with line of sight to Boulogne and associated with the *Classis Britannica.*

13.4.6 While no definitive signal station was revealed during the 2023 and 2024 excavations, evidence of an earlier nearby *Classis Britannica* presence was recorded in the form of a number of CLBR stamped tiles, which had been re-used in the construction of the enclosure wall. This reinforces previous views that the *Classis Brittanica* were active in the area, most likely at the base of Lympne Hill which Beacon Field overlooks and may have served as an adjoining or associated military installation.

14 Conclusions

14.1 The excavations at Beacon Field revealed a substantial ragstone-built enclosure wall dating to the mid 3rd century CE in its construction and containing re-used material from an earlier, nearby *Classis Britannica* fortification. Activity has taken place on Beacon Field from at least the 1st century CE, with the most prominent period dating to the late Roman period. Large interior ditches of probable Roman date were recorded in two trenches and a large, post-medieval lime kiln was also revealed. While earlier evidence was sparse, transient Prehistoric, Iron Age and Medieval activity in the area is likely.

15 Archive Deposition

15.1 The excavation archive has produced:

- Three ring-bound folders containing
  - Context Recording Sheets
  - Context Lists
  - Section Plans
- A digital archive containing

- Specialist reports
- Reference documents
- Bulk Finds & Registered Finds Spreadsheets
- GIS Data in Shapefile format
- Digital Photographic Images

- A physical archive of
  - Three boxes of special finds
  - Multiple boxes of bulk archaeological finds
  - One bag of environmental flot samples

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