



The Roman Religious Sanctuary at 'Blacklands', School Farm, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent

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Kent Archaeological Field School
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

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The Kent Archaeological Field School
The Classroom, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
info@kafs.co.uk www.kafs.co.uk

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The archaeological site of Blacklands ringed in red

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1. "The mosaic fragments from Blacklands (CRN 024, 027) are exceptionally fine in red, pink, ochre, white and dark grey. Some fragments a clearly part of a figure, others a foliate feature" (Steve Cosh pers. comm.)

Summary

In 2007 and 2008 the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) carried out a campaign of investigation by trial trenching and limited open area excavation of an archaeological site to the east of Faversham on land traditionally called 'Blacklands'. The site had been found by field-walking as part of the Swale Archaeological Survey conducted by the writer in 1995-1999 (Wilkinson, P. 2000).

The results of the KAFS archaeological investigation were spectacular with two buildings and a Roman rural sanctuary theatre investigated out of a potential of ten buildings which had been mapped by a geophysical survey requested by Peter Kendall and carried out by Andy Payne of English Heritage in March 1997.

The two Roman buildings excavated were substantial stone-built structures, both with hypocaust heating and one, Building 1 embellished with fine pictorial wall plaster and full colour pictorial mosaics. Building 1 overlooked a large depression excavated out of the chalk hillside which on investigation has been identified as a Roman cockpit theatre of a type usually found on rural sanctuary sites in north-west Europe rather than Britain.

The theatre overlooked large fresh-water springs from which a number of votive offerings have been retrieved; others were retrieved from field-walking on site.

The site also produced evidence of Neolithic use, Bronze and Iron Age occupation. The Roman site seems to have been established in the late 1st century AD and the theatre seems to have gone out of use in the mid 4th century. The post-Roman use of the site is of a probable large timber hall built on top of the mosaic floor of Building 1 and dated by pottery to the late 5th century AD.

Anglo-Saxon activity from the 7th century is attested by two burials inserted into the fabric of Building 1.

In the 12th and 13th centuries most of the fabric of the Roman buildings was removed, and some of the material used to construct kilns in the field to the north of the Roman site. This site was also unknown until the investigation at Easter 1995 by KAFS.

This Roman pagan religious sanctuary site is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon charters of AD 699 (BCS 99) and AD 815 (BCS 353) and Gordon Ward notes that: "The [Anglo-Saxon] use of the word *ealh* meant a pagan temple or, in more general terms, a sanctuary" (Ward, G. 1934).

The site is considered to be of National Importance as it is the only known example in Britain of a Roman Rural Religious Sanctuary with a theatre actually built into the hillside.

1. Introduction

1.1 Archaeological Investigation Background

"Here it will suffice to observe that at Blacklands, in Ewell, a mile east of Faversham, is thought, somewhat vaguely and suspiciously, to be the site of a Roman villa which was destroyed by fire". (VCH Kent 3, 1932: 94).

This statement, derived from earlier sources was the only historical clue to the whereabouts of a possible Roman villa and by inference - estate, east of Faversham. The source of the information in the Victoria County History (VCH) was derived from an article written by George Bedo in the Faversham Institute Monthly Journal. Although Edward Crow in his unpublished diaries of 1840 had already mentioned it. Bedo wrote: "Blacklands, in Ewell, are full of decayed animal and vegetable matter, charred wood, fragments of Roman vessels, tiles with raised edges, both ornamented and plain, cups of Samian ware, decayed foundation bricks, oyster shells, and Roman coins, some of Constantine and others not determinable. This was probably the site of a Roman villa; it would appear as if a huge fire had occurred here to account for the remains" (FIMJ., Feb, 1917: 334).

The exact whereabouts of Blacklands was unknown to modern researchers and had proved elusive. However, as part of PhD research by the writer, documentation and maps were sourced in little used archives that pinpointed the exact location of Blacklands.

The earliest literary reference to Blacklands is by Edward Jacob writing the history of Faversham in 1774. Jacob wrote of School Farm: "It now consists of one hundred and two acres and upwards, which lie in Ewell-field, Poyning's-marsh, Ewell-marsh, Ewell-ponds, Blacklands, Honey-croft, Honeyhole, and a small salt marsh adjoining." (Jacob, E. 1774: 56).

The place name 'School Farm' dates from the 16th century and is just to the north of Ewell Farm, itself east of Faversham on the Graveney Road. The place name Ewell derives from *aewell*, Old English for 'river source'. The Kentish form is *ewell*, the West Saxon *aewiell* or *aewyll* (Gelling, M. 1993: 12).

School Farm is called because in 1576 Queen Elizabeth 1 gave some of the Faversham Abbey lands, now belonging to the Crown, to the monastic school, now called the QE School to enable it to derive an income.

Research by the writer had located three primary documents that were able to pinpoint the exact whereabouts of Blacklands as noted by Jacob in 1774. The first was a manuscript map on parchment bought by the Faversham Society in 1994 and transcribed by Duncan Harrington soon after :

The plott of certeyne lane belonginge to the free Grammar School in the parish of Feversham in the county of Kent/ And also other lande to it adioyning which belongeth to a house ther called Ewell House now in the tenure and occupation of Ed: Fagge gentleman and in whose

occupation is also the other land beeloning to the schoole aforesayde shewed in this plott/ And now soe that it may allwayes appeere by this plot which is the schoole lande I have given it a yellow coller bounding the out bounds and also set downe in eatch severalle inclosuer the trew contence of all the acres roodes and peches in it/ And the other is but only trewly plotted for to shew also how the one doth ley from the others/ Measured and plotted at the requeste of diverse inhabitants and freemen of the town of Fevershame aforesayde In Aprylle Anno domini 1615 byme Nycholas Lane.

The sum total [As summa totalis] with the salt marshe is 98 acres 3 roods 12 perches.

The scale of perches xij in the inche.

Surveighed by John Woodd juratt

Anthonie Napleton commoner 1614.

The map shows named fields with Blacklands field being of 33 acres. Other annotation on the map include: *the sea wall[es]. Salt Marsh 3-1-10. Black Landes 33-0-32. Poynings Banke 1-3-15. Poyninges Marsh 11-5. Hunny Hole 2-1-38. Hunny crought [croft] 11-3-38. L[ittle] Snagg Fielde. Great Snagg Fielde. Ewell House. Orchardes. The Allye. Parte of Ewell Fielde 33-3-34.*

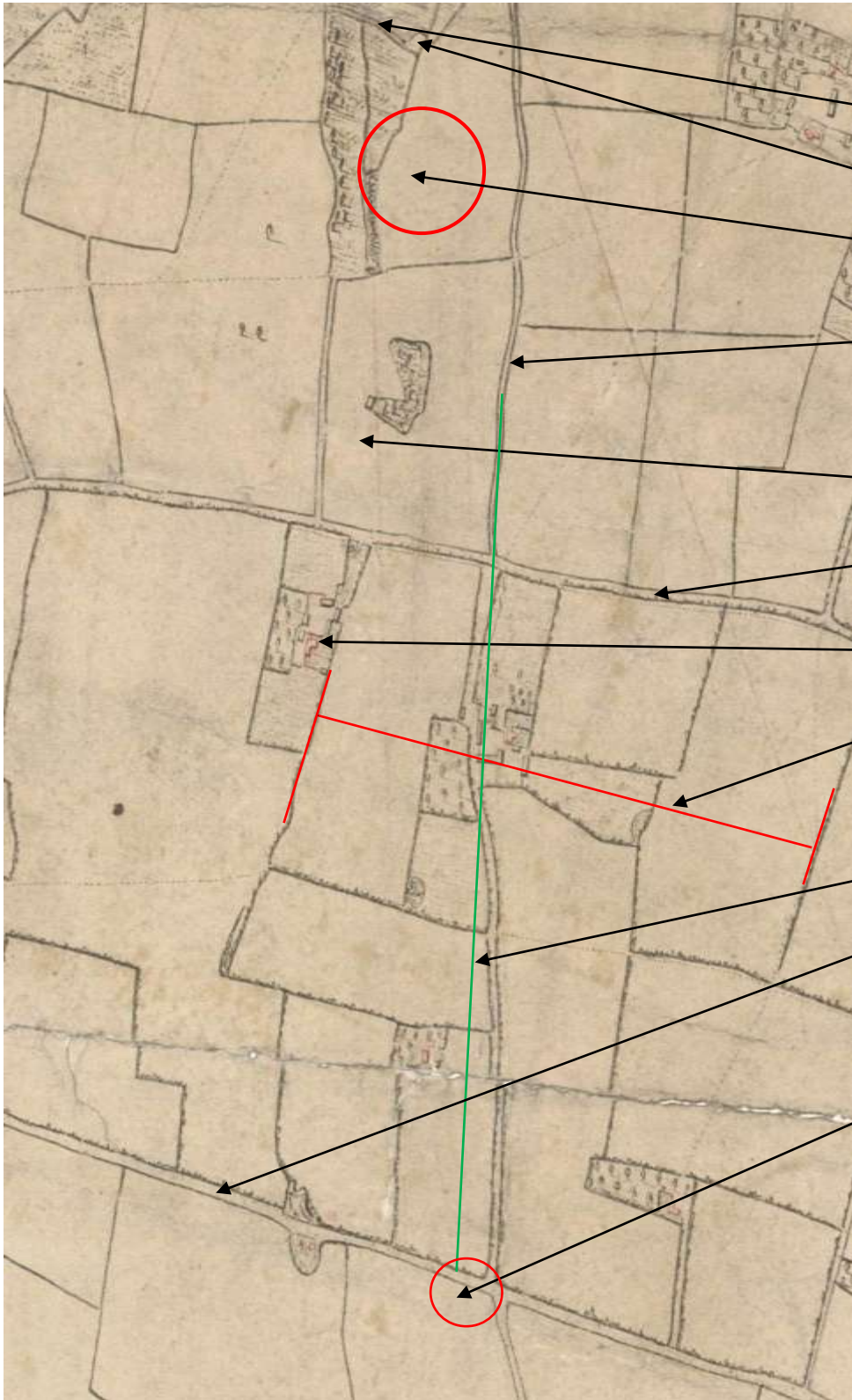
The parchment map itself shows a sea wall where even now a large bank still survives. (NGR TQ 0370 6175). It was thought until recently that this bank, a monumental undertaking, was built in the mid 17th century. It is similar in shape and undertaking to another large bank or sea wall west of Faversham and to the seaward of Teynham Church (NGR TQ 9690 6360). With the location of the sea wall fixed it was possible to pinpoint the area of the field called Blacklands.

The second document researched was the Rental Survey of Faversham Abbey of 1515 which indicates the Ewell sea wall was in existence then, and Blacklands is also mentioned: *Richard Martyn hold of the aforesaid Abbot of Faversham as of his manor aforesaid one acre of pasture adjacent to Blackland towards the East and South and Ewell Poondes adjacent to the said pasture and containing 8 acres of pasture and marsh in respect whereof pasture 3 acres and lying next to Blackland ... and the Mershe Dyke there towards the North.*

The very next holding in the 1515 rental itemises *"one water-mill called Holmansmell, the Melle Poonde and the Fyssh poondes there South"*.

The third document is a parchment map - "A plan of Homestall Farm, tenant Henry Saker", made by Christopher Saxton September 1590 (KAO Fa/U390).

The map, obviously drawn from earlier sources, still has fields marked: *'parte of the land belonging to the Abbey of Faversham'* - Faversham Abbey itself was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538. It shows that in 1590 the 'Marsh Dike' was in existence and the Ewell stream exited out of the east side of the dike into the creek or fleet. The nature and shape of the dam or dike has remained unchanged from at least 1590 and suggests that the dam was built to keep fresh water in and not seawater out, although by necessity this would have been part of the design. Field survey of the dam indicates the mill referred to in the 1515 survey would also have possibly been on the east side, and that the fresh water ponds to the south would possibly have been used to stock fish. In the 1625 Wardmote Book it says the dam was made (or rebuilt) at the expense of Mrs Mary Fagg (Percival, A. pers. comm. Nov 2012).



- 2. The Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing of Faversham dating from 1798.**
- The medieval sea wall is shown.
 - The location of the medieval tidal mill on the sea wall is here.
 - The site of the Roman site in the field called Blacklands is shown in the red circle.
 - The Roman road leading from Watling Street to the site was still in use as a farm track in 1798.
 - No farm buildings are shown on School Farm at this date.
 - The Lower Road which runs parallel to the Roman Watling Street is shown.
 - Ewell Farm with its adjacent Roman building is shown.
 - Note the field boundaries at right angles to Watling Street and measured out by Roman surveyors using 20 actus scale
 - The crop-mark route of the Roman road to Watling Street is shown with a green line.
 - Watling Street, the main Roman road to London and beyond.
 - At this junction of the two Roman roads a Roman temple complex was investigated between July and November 1961 by F. Jenkins of the Canterbury Archaeological Society. Two temples were uncovered and five domestic buildings plus an industrial iron-working site. Finds included sickles, votive lamps, figurine of a goddess, and coins dating to the mid-4th century (Site Code BC61 Archive 1199).

A seawall diagonally crossing the north Blackland field is shown on the 1614 map but not on the 1590 map. The route of the seawall, now ploughed out, survives as a public foot path, and is now part of the Saxon Shore Way. The field of Blacklands is written quite clearly on this map and so, for the first time we know where the Roman buildings as described by George Bedo in 1917 should be found.

1.2 Initial fieldwork: work in the north field

During Easter 1995 a small team from the Kent Archaeological Field School spent three days field walking and surveying the two fields of Blacklands, now divided by the London to Ramsgate railway line. For ease of identification the Blacklands field to the north of the railway line will be called 'the north field' (NGR TQ 0385 6180) and the Blacklands field to the south of the railway line called 'the south field' (NGR TQ 0375 6153). Large quantities of Roman building material were found in the north field (Figure 2) but in three days work only one sherd of pottery from an early medieval jar, most likely made at Tyler Hill, Canterbury, and probably dating from the 12th century. (Savage, A. 1995).

The Roman material consisted mainly of *imbrex* and *tegula*, fragments of combed flue tile, numerous stone fragments and gypsum rock, possibly from Dorset or Sussex.

Because of the large amount of Roman building material and the black and burnt condition of the soil in the north field it was decided to run a series of auger tests west to east at 6 metre 'jumps'. The first auger test was at position 'A' some 6 metres in from the Ewell stream (Figure 2).

Table 1. Results of auger survey

Sample A	1.20 m depth	Brick foundations
Sample B	0.40 m depth	Burnt layers
Sample C	0.50m depth	Burnt layer 0.8m cavity then stone foundations
Sample D	0.31m depth	Burnt layer 0.4m Roman CBM
Sample E	0.30 m depth	Burnt layer 0.8m stone frags
Sample F	Natural soil	
Sample G	0.50m depth	Roman CBM on surface 0.7m burnt layers
Sample H	0.50m depth	Trace of Roman CBM
Sample I	0.60m depth	Ragstone frags 0.60m burnt layers
Sample J	0.40m depth	Cavities with burnt material
Sample K	0.50m depth	Burnt layers 0.85m buff mortar
Sample L	0.50m depth	Charcoal pieces 0.60m buff mortar
Sample M	0.40m depth	Grey mortar, Roman CBM flecks

1.3 Results of the Auger Survey

Samples A to D, located on the lower slopes of the field were waterlogged and indicate that any organic material surviving would possibly be in a well-preserved condition.

Although initial thoughts were that the auger survey had located a large Roman building, a number of 5m square test pits dug in the early summer of 1995 soon confirmed that most of the field was one huge overlapping kiln site with layers of burnt deposits of up to 2m in depth. Pottery found in context in these test pits indicate a date of the 12th century for the latest levels. It seems the kiln builders were re-using large quantities of Roman building material to construct their kilns. The soil below the topsoil from the 5m square test trenches was sieved and numerous burnt clay fragments were recovered, presumably part of the beehive kiln roof, and still with the burnt out cavities of wood used in the lattice construction.

In a further evaluation trench to the north-west, a layer of charcoal left over from sieving was found some 750mm down. Below this was a 500mm layer of discarded oyster shells. Other evaluation trenches confirmed that most of what was possibly the medieval foreshore was covered with stratified layers of discarded oyster shells, charcoal waste and Roman building material debris. No further work has been done at the kilns sites. Further evaluation trenching and the use of thermo luminescence or archaeo-magnetic dating would be a useful development to what could be an important Roman foreshore and/or medieval industrial and foreshore site.



3. Kiln sites in the north field (NGR TQ 0387 6180) and looking north. The field has the name 'Blacklands' for the obvious reason that the soil is black with soot and charcoal from the numerous medieval kilns located here. The hedge (now removed) to the right is on the line of the Roman road leading to Ewell Fleet.

1.4 The Roman chalk road and ditch

To the east of the north field where the auger survey took place, and on the field boundary there was located through excavating a trench by hand a four metre wide ditch which ran as a possible field boundary north and south. The work would have been a vast undertaking and the line of the ditch runs from the foreshore of the Ewell Fleet in the north field south to Watling Street. The line it takes is followed by the border of the Faversham Hundred which was established in AD 636 by Archbishop Honorius. (Jacob E. 1774; 27).

Just to the east of the ditch and following its line was found a seven metre wide road comprised of rammed chalk blocks layered with flints and Roman building material, in all the *agger* is some two metres thick. The road continued south under the 1850 railway line and therefore pre-dates it and can still be found 75cm down in the arable fields to the south of the railway line. Its purpose, destination and exact date is still open to conjecture and must necessarily be a subject of further field-work but the evidence so far suggests a Roman road. This road leads north to a large earth curved jetty or embankment jutting out into the area of the marsh which may have been intertidal in the Roman and post-Roman era. GoogleEarth shows this feature well, but more field work is required to survey its extent. It just may be that pilgrims to the Roman Sanctuary were arriving by boat to this jetty as well as by road.



4. The exposed *agger* of the postulated Roman road capped by a construction of flint blocks and gravel mixed with Roman building ceramics. The surface of the road is deeply rutted by cart tracks and the road itself has ditches on either side. The route of the road is from the Roman temple complex at Brenley Corner on Watling Street and seems to end at a quay or jetty just north of the Roman site at Blacklands.

1.5 Work in the south field

With some questions answered by archaeology about the archaeology in the north field attention was focused on the south field in an attempt to locate the Roman buildings which had obviously been dismantled to provide building material for the medieval kiln makers, and no doubt other masonry buildings in the area. The soil was well drained arable soil, possibly forest at some stage- there are 16th century accounts of the School Lands providing timber for the new grammar school in Faversham, but now the land is ploughed. Two 'bald spots' full of Roman building materials were noted almost immediately where modern ploughing had removed the 'crown' of soil in a colluvial action which meant the soil was creeping down the west slope towards the still working springs of Ewell Fleet. The KAFS team concentrated on these two bald spots and began to find small marble multi-coloured *tesserae*, larger, tile-cut tessellated floor cubes, painted plaster, and large amounts of Roman building ceramics and Roman pottery. A small excavation was conducted and mortared stone walls were exposed, as well as a hypocaust system constructed out of chalk blocks. The hypocaust channels were filled with fragments of multi-coloured pictorial mosaics of the best quality and full colour pictorial painted plaster, some showing exquisite paintings of birds darting through foliage.

Subsequently in 1996, the writer accepted a request from Brian Philp, head of the Kent Archaeological Unit to undertake some limited excavation in the South Field that had produced



5. Brian Philp in 1996 provided a team of local archaeologists to supplement the KAFS team. The Roman flint foundations were exposed just below the plough soil with hypocaust channels built out of chalk blocks. Coloured mosaic pieces and painted plaster were retrieved from these channels. The location of the theatre seating area cut into the hillside can be seen at the top of the picture which is facing south-west.

the Roman finds (Philp 1996). This resulted in the recovery of part of the plan of a substantial Roman building constructed of flint with a long axis aligned south-east to north-west and a width of approximately 15m but of unknown extent. The walls of two complete rooms lay within the area of excavation, both containing a hypocaust built of chalk blocks, the upper parts of which had been robbed. The trenches were back-filled after recording, and prior to the geophysical survey undertaken by English Heritage in March 1997. Aerial photographic evidence for the site is limited, but did suggest that the 1996 excavated building is only part of a much larger complex of archaeological remains of several periods extending to the north, east and south over an area of up to eight hectares. The subsequent geophysical survey commissioned by Peter Kendall of English Heritage confirmed a huge site, some 200m across with further possible buildings to the north and south (Appendix 1).

Intensive field-walking by the KAFS team over the two year period from 1996 to 1997 recovered sufficient pottery in this area to indicate the site was in existence from the 1st to mid-4th centuries. A typical day in August 1997 with students retrieved:

“Over 70 sherds of pottery were recovered and were identified by Andrew Savage of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. They included - mortarium rim. Colchester form 496 Mid-late 2nd Century. Upchurch-type pottery, beakers of Monaghan type 2G. AD 70-130. Gaulish samian pottery, probably 2nd century. Alice-Holt ware, probably 4th century. Portchester 'D', probably mid 4th century. Oxford 'parchment' ware AD 240+. Nene-valley colour coated ware, probably mid 3rd century”. (KAFS field notes 1996-7).



6. Additional work in 1996 comprised cutting an evaluation trench 2m wide and running east to west and to the edge of the spring stream just to the north, and to the right side of the Roman theatre (facing west). At 1.2m below ground level a hard paved area was exposed made of flint cobbles set in mortar, the surface of which was strewn with Roman pottery fragments dating to the mid 4th century. The Roman cobbled surface dipped below the level of the modern stream.

2. Historical topography and archaeological sites

Blacklands Roman site is located in the South Field on a west facing slope overlooking the prolific spring at the head of a creek or *fleot* called in the earliest surviving Kentish Anglo-Saxon charter of AD 699 “Ealh-fleot”. The word *ealh* meant a [pagan] temple or, in more general terms, a sanctuary (Ward, G. 1936: 128).

Another charter dating from AD 815 again citing “Ealh-fleot” suggests that from AD 699 to AD 815 there were sufficient ruins left at Blacklands and sufficient local memory for the place to be given its correct name – a temple or sanctuary – by the Roman church compilers of the charter. This charter is in fact one of the earliest surviving charters from Kent and confirms that Blacklands was a pagan rather than a Christian religious complex. If it were Christian the word *eccles* would have been used rather than *ealh* (Gelling, M. pers. comm.).

To the east of the Blacklands Roman site is located the medieval border of Faversham Lathe, thought by Witney and Joliffe to be the boundary of the Anglo-Saxon Faversham “villa regio”, a provincial unit, precisely defined, of very ancient origin, and one of the precursors to the seven Lathes into which Kent was divided. Each was formed around what had been a court of the Kentish kings, and represented one of the fundamental institutions of the old Jutish kingdom based ultimately on Roman land-holdings and estates (Everitt, A. 1978: 90).

2.1 Other archaeological sites in the vicinity (7)

To the south of Blacklands is a possible Roman villa site above Ewell Farm, located through KAFS field-walking, and is of equal distance from other Roman villas located north of Watling Street (Wilkinson, P. 2000).

Ewell or *aewell* is Anglo-Saxon for “river-source” or “prolific spring” and although there is no longer a spring, its memory still survives in the place-name.

Roman buildings were discovered by farm workers somewhere around the site of the Ewell spring; these were exposed during farm building works in the 1970s but unfortunately were covered up quickly on instructions from the farm manager. The farm foreman told the writer that the base of a stone gateway and a Roman road leading south-east to Brenley Corner were exposed at a depth of about three feet.

In October 1961, 500 metres south-east of Ewell Farm at Watling Street a section of Roman road 12-13 feet (3.6-3.9 metres) wide was uncovered at Brenley Corner, the road ran north and south. An extensive cobbled area, showing signs of intensive wear, apparently comprised working floors for the smelting of iron. Another cobbled area had formed the floor of a building roughly 9ft (2.75 metres) square. Its plan was reminiscent of a small shrine, this proposition being supported by the presence of small finds including an incomplete clay statuette of Deanutrix type and an unusual number of coins ranging in date from the second to the late fourth century AD.

Another buried road, again running north and south for about two kilometres (1.2 miles), again from Brenley Corner may be the east boundary of the Roman complex at Blacklands

and the possible Roman villa at Ewell Farm. Part of its length has been utilised as a parish boundary (2) and it is also the border between Faversham and Blean Hundred. A section (4) was excavated by Paul Wilkinson in 1996. It was some 7 metres (23 ft) wide, deeply ditched on both sides and built of flint and gravel layers on a massive rammed chalk foundation some two (6.5 ft) metres thick. This road is probably the *strata antiqua quae jacet ad portum quae dicitur Cillincg* mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon charter of AD 814 (BCS 348) and translated means “the old road that leads to the [Anglo-Saxon] port called Cillincg” (Ward, G. 1934: 128).

Access to the Roman sanctuary site at Blacklands was by yet another Roman spur road from Watling Street, just to the south, or the ancient road (see above) running from Brenley Corner on Watling Street. Roman Canterbury is just seven miles away (2).

Access may have also been possible by boat as it seems there are the remains of an earth pier jutting out into the Ewell estuary or *Ealhfleot* and accessible from the “old road that leads to the port called Cillincg”. This may be the site of the port of Cillincg first mentioned in a charter of AD 699 when King Wihtrred transacted business there (Ward, G. 1934:128).

This Anglo-Saxon port of Cillincg dating from at least AD 699 may have been associated with the adjacent early medieval industrial activity on the foreshore of the north field of Blacklands, or indeed the postulated substantial timber hall constructed on the mosaic floor of Building 1 in the mid 5th century.

Little work has been done on the environment around Blacklands but viniculture is attested at the Roman site by the discovery of grape seeds in soil samples taken from the area of the springs. Dr Alan Clapham of Cambridge University and Dr Charles Turner were conducting a KAFS seminar on ‘weeds and seeds’ and some of the samples from the Roman levels of the spring produced grape seeds.

Unfortunately the springs have been remodelled recently (2011) by the landowner and immense damage done to the buried archaeology and ecological layers.

Long linear earthworks (lynchets) running north from Watling Street in the vicinity of Homestall and Ewell Farms are also a feature of the area. There are at least three, 200m apart and joining Watling Street with the possible Iron Age ‘Lower Road’ (according to Margary). The most pronounced was the lynchet to the east of Holmstall Lane (ploughed out and removed in 2010), the next (to the west) runs from Watling Street to Ewell Farm, and the last runs from Watling Street to Chambers Crossing (and on to Clapgate Springs with its Roman building).

These field boundaries could be the Roman field divisions of a villa estate centred on the possible Roman villa at Ewell Farm. The area thus defined could be bounded to the west by Clapgate Fleet, also called *Mearc Fleot* in early charters, which means boundary lake, the Swale estuary to the north, Watling Street to the south, and the possible Roman villa estate boundaries at Nash Court to the east. The area thus defined is some 1760 acres (712 hectares).



7. The circles indicate areas of Roman settlement and activity in the study area. From the left (west) the blue circle is the site of a Romano-Celtic temple (KAFS 2007) with a Roman ribbon development along Watling Street (Roman road), the main road from Canterbury to London. The larger red circle to the right is on the Roman settlement of *Durolevum*, again a ribbon development with cemeteries on the small town's perimeter. The smaller black circle near top centre (north) is the possible Roman buildings clustered around St Mary's church (Jacob 1776 & SWAT 2009). Just above, the purple circle is on the site of a Roman villa excavated by Philp in 1965 (Philp 1968) and to the east just across the stream another Roman building investigated by the KAFS in 2011-2012. The small yellow circle to the east is on the site of a masonry building situated on the west bank of Clapgate Springs. Field investigation suggests another temple. Further to the east there is a possible Roman villa at Ewell Farm (green circle), and to the north the site of the Roman Rural Sanctuary, the subject of this report. To the south-east the site of Roman temples and industrial activity at Brenley Corner (blue circle). The two arrows above the map indicate the location of additional Roman sites. The blue arrow to the west the Roman villa site at Luddenham Court, and the red arrow Roman harbour buildings at the Thorn.

The springs at the head of Clapgate Fleet, to the west of Blacklands has a Roman building situated on the west bank overlooking the spring. Surface collection of Roman material has recovered *tegula*, *imbrex*, box flue tiles, and pottery. Geophysical investigation by the KAFS on this building is planned for 2014.

Further to the west at Abbey Farm, some 1050m from Blacklands another large Roman building was discovered by the writer in 2011 (CA Issue 261:2011) and investigated by KAFS in the summer of 2011. Discovered last year by the Kent Archaeological Field School (see CA 261), recent work has shown that the waters of the Swale estuary lapped the buildings, which during the Roman period sat beside a large tidal inlet deep enough to harbour ships. Current work on the complex's bathhouse has yielded prestigious small finds including silver jewellery, exotic glass vessels and large quantities of coloured wall plaster which, together with the structure's impressive dimensions, measuring some 45m by 15m, suggests a building of some importance. Adjacent to this building, but on the west bank of the spring-fed stream, another Roman villa overlaying a Belgic farmstead was investigated by Brian Philp in 1965 (Philp, B. 1968: 74).

To the north of Abbey Farm, and straddling Watling Street is the extensive ribbon development of a Roman small town probably *Durolevum*.

3. Romano-Celtic religious sanctuaries in Britain

It seems that amongst landscape features often associated with gods the most popular are rivers and brooks. In particular, the sources of rivers, confluences, and intersections with roads. More numerous are the cult places connected with the source of a river and springs. In Gaul there is a plethora of locations to illustrate the point. Genainville is one of the largest with a magnificent temple and theatre whilst at Kindsbach, the source of the insignificant Gutenbach stream there are rock carvings and votive offerings.

In Britain such sites with theatres are sparse, indeed Edmond Frezouls writing in 1989 was of the opinion that: "the rural theatre is not found outside Gaul" (Frezouls, E. 1989).

It is often said that there are only four theatres in Roman Britain and only one rural sanctuary with a theatre which is Gosbecks Farm near Colchester, which seems not to be close to a source of water. Yet in Northern Gaul alone there are some 44 rural theatres known, all of which form part of a rural sanctuary associated with water.

John Wachter writing of towns in Roman Britain lists the four theatres, one outside a Roman town at Gosbecks Farm near Colchester and the other three inside the Roman towns of Canterbury, Colchester, and Verulamium. Of the known examples, only the theatres at Colchester and the second theatre at Canterbury match the style of the larger Gallic theatres. Of Gosbecks Farm Wachter says: "although superficially of Roman plan, [it] has a very small stage and no proper stage building; it also effects a compromise in the construction, the seating being carried on earth banks instead of masonry vaults, and the whole is reminiscent of Romano-Celtic types" (Wachter 1995: 56). Wachter also notes the theatre at Verulamium is a better example of the Romano-Celtic type, which has a distribution mainly in north-west Gaul.

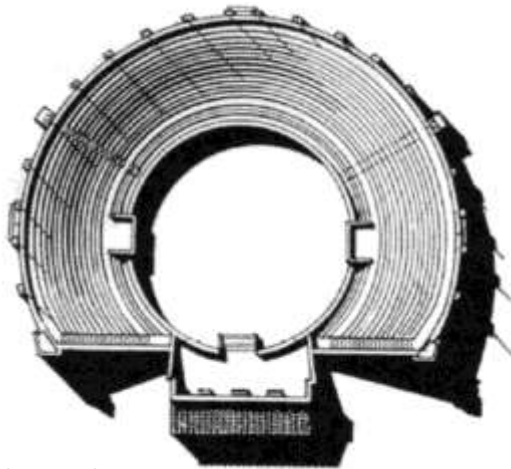
Gosbecks has been compared by Crummy to the religious sanctuaries found at Sanxay (Formige 1944), Vieil-Evreux (Baudot 1943), Champlieu (Grenier 1960) but apart from Champlieu all these sites are on a much larger scale. Crummy prefers to compare Gosbecks with the sanctuary dedicated to Lenus-Mars on the west bank of the Mosel and opposite the Roman town of Trier. Although of a much larger scale it contains, apart from a bath-house all the ingredients of Gosbecks.

Crummy notes some significant differences of the theatre at Gosbecks to the Vitruvian model for Roman theatres and postulates that these differences may go some way to understanding the function of these theatres. The apparent absence of a *scaena* building is very significant as it suggests that at Gosbecks the theatre was built for ritual and ceremony and not performance (Hawkes & Crummy 1995:105).

Jenkins, the excavator of Gosbecks in 1948-9 found no masonry left in position with the wall trenches filled with loose mortar and loose chips of Kentish ragstone which may suggest trading links with Kent and as well as stone, pilgrims could arrive by water to attend the periodic religious festivals and fairs.

English Heritage suggests that the theatre at Gosbecks Farm (Monument No. 384038) "is at present the sole representative in Britain of a large rural centre with a theatre, temple and

possible bath house". Indicative sizes are given with the *cavia* having a diameter of 85m built of turf and probably having wooden benches for about 4000 spectators. The orchestra was 30m in diameter retained by a wooden wall, together with a wooden stage 21m long and 10m wide. The theatre had been built in the second half of the 2nd century and was demolished during the 3rd century (Pastscape Monument No. 384038).



8. Verulamium theatre

Kathleen Kenyon writing of her excavation of the Roman theatre at Verulamium (8) also notes the plan of her theatre was extremely interesting with many differences from normal Roman theatres. The original build consisted of a completely circular orchestra with a wooden stage built over the curved wall of the orchestra. The diameter of the theatre is 45.64m. The seats seem to have been either an earth bank with or without wooden seating. By the 4th century the theatre was being filled with: "refuse of all kinds, which produced in

the course of time, an extremely rich organic earth. Masses of broken pottery and other household rubbish were included in this" (Kenyon 1934:12).

Adjacent to the theatre at Verulamium is a small temple of the Romano-Celtic type enclosed in a wide courtyard, whilst Kenyon also noted that opposite: "is a large building, obviously not a private house, whose excavation has not yet been completed" (Kenyon 1934: 4).

Romano-Celtic temples are an essential ingredient to a sanctuary site. Derks in discussing sanctuary sites in Gaul remarks that a large numbers of these temples like Gallo-Roman theatres are situated in sanctuaries of pre-Roman origin. However, theatres from this period are unknown with the earliest examples dating from the Flavian period. For this reason the theatre, together with the Gallo-Roman temple must be considered one of the new architectural forms introduced after the Roman conquest.

Derks notes that his investigations on the distribution of sanctuaries with a temple and theatre were restricted in his overarching study area to areas of Normandy, Picardy, and the *villa* districts of the Trier area (Derks 1998: 192).

Another essential ingredient was a bath-house and guest accommodation. The excavators noted a possible bath-house at Gosbecks Farm. In Gaul the bath-houses are often surprisingly small when compared to the numbers of visitors expected during religious festivals. At Ribemont-sur-Ancre the baths are only 5x10m, and at Champlieu about 10m square whilst at Blacklands they are about 7m square. Derks is of the opinion that the baths, given their small size, were only to be used by priests so they could be ritually washed before coming face to face with the gods (Derks 1998: 196).

4. The Romano-Celtic Temple: A methodology

The accepted use of this term is taken to mean a square, rectangular, circular or polygonal building called a *cella* which is surrounded by an ambulatory. The essence of the layout is two concentric functional spaces. The architectural nomenclature was refined by Warwick Rodwell (1980) and Lewis (1966).

It has been shown that the Romano-Celtic temple has its roots in the Iron Age and developed into its final form in the Roman period.

The reconstruction of the type is fraught with difficulties and usually based on the surviving *cellas* of Autun and Perigueux, the Titelberg relief (Lewis, 1966, Fig 43) and a Roman coin of Augustus 29-27 BC which shows a temple with a tower-like *cella* and a colonnaded portico in front. It is usually assumed by past excavators that the two concentric circuits of a Romano-Celtic temple are contemporary in construction, but this is not necessarily the case. Ambulatories could be and were added to simple *cellas*. The Lullingstone temple-mausoleum is an example often cited although Warwick Rodwell suggest Meates, the excavator showed “a basic lack of understanding of the most elementary building matters [of Lullingstone temple] and it has led the excavators to present conclusions which are in headlong collision with the evidence and a major reinterpretation is necessary.” (Rodwell, 1980:22)

Romano-Celtic temples can have rectangular, square, circular or polygonal *cella*, which are contained by an ambulatory. There are usually two concentric functions and spaces one or both of which to be roofed. An open-centred structure, that is a temple without a *cella* is not a Romano-Celtic temple, but a peristyle temple as illustrated by Springhead temple II and Lewis' Type III reconstructions.

The term of 'Romano-Celtic' was introduced by Wheeler in 1928 after work at the Romano-British temple at Harlow in West Essex. Frere writing in 1984 highlights Wheelers “brilliant and important paper, based, as far as the site was concerned on the results of very partial amateur excavation supported by only a single day's visit by Wheeler”. (France and Gobel 1984:11)

4.1 The Origins of Romano-Celtic Temples

Celtic religion was primarily to do with the worship of natural forces of nature; venerating rivers, ponds, springs, trees and standing stones. It seems that for Celtic sanctuaries there was no need for structures or statues. The concept for both was probably introduced by Greek and Roman expansion beyond the Mediterranean hinterland.

Pliny states that one of the usual types of sanctuary in the pre-Roman times was the grove (Nat. Hist. XVI, 95). Lucan writes about the destruction of a sacred wood near *Marsella*

(Marseille) by Caesar (Phar. III, 399 ff), and Tacitus describes the sacred groves on Anglesey in north Wales (Annals, XIV,30).

The place name element *nemeton* to be found in Nimes in France and Nettleton in Britain is thought to have originally meant a sacred grove, and only later a temple.

It seems all that the Celtic people required for worship was a piece of enclosed land to separate the sacred spot from the profane. The function of such sacred enclosures is open to conjecture, it seems they could be used for intertribal gatherings, markets, games and centres for settling disputes.

The cult object, be it tree, post or spring would have occupied the most important area. It is likely that even routine offerings to the gods were left in the open. Strabo describes the treasure at Toulouse kept in the open or deposited in pools (IV, 1, 13) whilst Caesar writes about the heaps of spoil left in the open (B.G. VI, 17).

The Celts and the Romans shared similar spiritual beliefs that involved both tombs and cemeteries. Both barrow and temple evolved to accommodate different but in some ways similar religious rites associated with the tomb and cemetery.

However, very few Romano-Celtic temples are connected with burials, and on the few occasions they are archaeological investigation has indicated a hero or aristocratic ancestor worship rather than an ordinary burial.

The most well-known example in Britain of probable ancestor worship is the so-called Romano-Celtic temple at Lullingstone in Kent with its two lead coffins buried in a vault under the cella floor. Other examples in Europe include Chagnon, Niederweiler and Cadra near Locarno.

Roofed temples of pre-Roman date are elusive and although a number of Romano-Celtic temples have shown on investigation to have a Iron Age predecessor it is considered such structures would be unroofed and probably indicate a continuing but late usage of the henge tradition.

Looking at all the evidence the conclusion seems unavoidable that the development and spread of the Romano-Celtic temple took place very largely under Roman rule (Lewis, 1966:9). This new form of building probably evolved in central or eastern France and seems to be an amalgam of Roman architectural style, building techniques and Iron-Age (Celtic) open-air religious rites.

The spread of the Romano-Celtic temple is likely to have followed the spread of Romanization, and with more exposure to Roman ideology more money would be spent by the elite on embellishing and re-building earlier, but more simple, shrines.

5. Romano-Celtic religious sanctuaries in Gaul

Pliny the Younger writing in the 1st century AD to his friend Romanus gives us an invaluable description of a Roman rural religious sanctuary:

“Have you ever seen the source of the River Clitumnus? If you have not (and I hardly think you can have seen it yet, or you would have told me), go there as soon as possible. I saw it yesterday, and I blame myself for not having seen it sooner. At the foot of a little hill, well wooded with old cypress trees, a spring gushes out, which, breaking up into different and unequal streams, forms itself, after several windings, into a large, broad basin of water, so transparently clear that you may count the shining pebbles, and the little pieces of money thrown into it, as they lie at the bottom.

From thence it is carried off not so much by the declivity of the ground as by its own weight and exuberance. A mere stream at its source, immediately, on quitting this, you find it expanded into a broad river, fit for large vessels even, allowing a free passage by each other, according as they sail with or against the stream.

The current runs so strong, though the ground is level, that the large barges going down the river have no occasion to make use of their oars; while those going up find it difficult to make headway even with the assistance of oars and poles: and this alternate interchange of ease and toil, according as you turn, is exceedingly amusing when one sails up and down merely for pleasure.

The banks are well covered with ash and poplar, the shape and colour of the trees being as clearly and distinctly reflected in the stream as if they were actually sunk in it. The water is cold as snow, and as white too.

Near it stands an ancient and venerable temple, in which is placed the river-god Clitumnus clothed in the usual robe of state; and indeed the prophetic oracles here delivered sufficiently testify the immediate presence of that divinity.

Several little chapels are scattered round, dedicated to particular gods, distinguished each by his own peculiar name and form of worship, and some of them, too, presiding over different fountains.

For, besides the principal spring, which is, as it were, the parent of all the rest, there are several other lesser streams, which, taking their rise from various sources, lose themselves in the river; over which a bridge is built that separates the sacred part from that which lies open to common use.

Vessels are allowed to come above this bridge, but no person is permitted to swim except below it. The Hispellates, to whom Augustus gave this place, furnish a public bath, and likewise entertain all strangers, at their own expense.

Several villas, attracted by the beauty of this river, stand about on its borders. In short, every surrounding object will afford you entertainment.

You may also amuse yourself with numberless inscriptions upon the pillars and walls, by different persons, celebrating the virtues of the fountain, and the divinity that presides over it.

Many of them you will admire, while some will make you laugh; but I must correct myself when I say so; you are too humane, I know, to laugh upon such an occasion. Farewell.

Pliny the Younger. Letters LXXX VIII

Why was flowing water so important? In the case of source sanctuaries, it is the natural blessings of the water welling up which determined the choice of location for Celtic and Roman peoples. Watercourses are currents of life, and the source of all life has a cosmological origin. Aristotle claims that the Celts baptised their newborn babies in the Rhine, so that they entered life purified. This simple metaphor is not only known from our Christian world but can be traced in numerous Indo-European religions as well (Derks, T. 1998: 141).

Many of the native deities are associated with water, and in particular springs or sources of rivers. The Romano-Celtic temple or sanctuary had a number of features in common- a sacred enclosure, temples and a theatre or amphitheatre to accommodate the crowds assembled to watch celebrations and festivals and fairs.



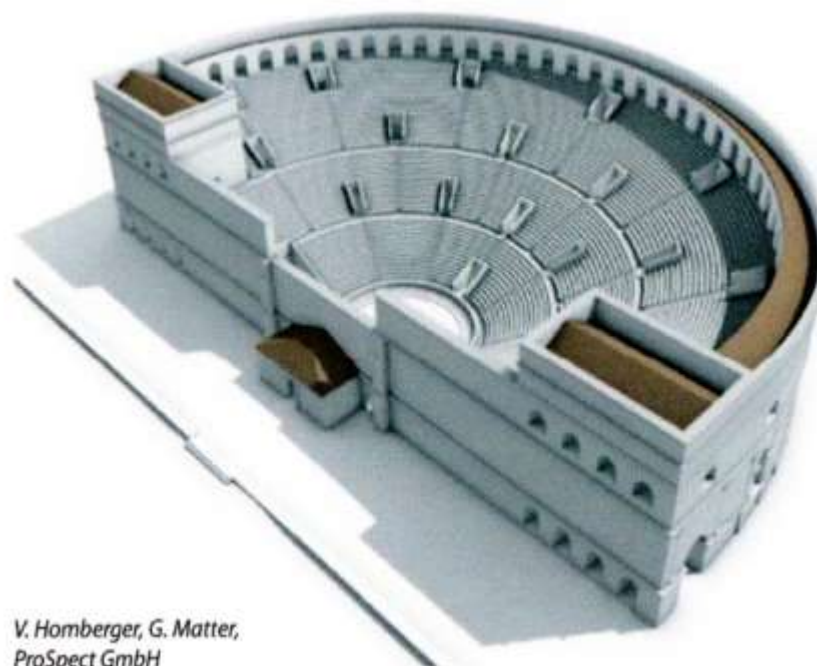
9. The Gallo-Roman theatre built into the hillside at *Argentomagus* in central Gaul. Note the river system to the south of the theatre. Other buildings include a temple (top left) and bath-house.

Cleary notes that “In the Roman period a town developed at Evreux (*Mediolanum Aulercorum*), seven miles from the sanctuary site [at Vieil-Evreux]...the sanctuary at Augine not only possessed a theatre but also baths fed by an aqueduct, while Grand in Normandy boasted a theatre, temple and bathing establishments. The theatre in Gaul was integrated into a conception of sacred space that also included the sites of springs, such as Champalement. The phenomenon of building a theatre both in a town and at a nearby sanctuary seems to have been essentially confined to *Belgica, Lugdunensis* and the northern part of *Aquitania* (Laurence & Cleary & Sears 2011: 243).

Over one hundred and fifteen theatres have been discovered in *Gallia Comata* with only four in Britain. Typical construction details for the Gallic theatres are that both the orchestra and the cavea (tiered seating) are more than semicircular, built sometimes into a hillside with simple seating of wooden benches or just the turf. The modestly sized stage was usually built of wood, and reached into the orchestra.

5.2 Size and capacity

Typical sizes are Avenches, with a total width of 66.4m, orchestra diameter 17.75m and 12,000 seats spread over 50 rows. At Fourviere just outside Lyon the theatre was 109m diameter and had seating for 10,000 people. An earlier theatre built in the reign of Augustus c.15BC on the same site had a diameter of 89m with a capacity of 4500 people. The theatre at Argentomagus (9) had two phases of build, the first at 61m diameter and the second when enlarged to 83m which fits in well with the 65m diameter of the theatre at Blacklands in Kent.



V. Homberger, G. Matter,
ProSpect GmbH

10. The Gallo- Roman free-standing theatre at Avenches (*Aventicum*) is very similar to a classic Roman theatre, but also shows a number of elements typical of a Gallo-Roman modification: both the *orchestra* and the *cavea* (tiered seating) are more than semicircular, the rather modestly sized stage building was built onto the exterior of the linear facade wall, and the actual stage consists of a simple wooden platform which reaches into the *orchestra*. Some of these characteristics have been identified at Verulamium and Gosbecks. Width of the theatre is 66.4m with a crowd capacity of c.12.000.

6. Roman Religion

Three main types of religion are found in Roman Britain; the Celtic, the Roman, and the Oriental. All these religions were capable of assimilating beliefs, rites and practices from each other. (Cumont 1922). But clearly the result was not homogeneous; legionary centres like York were more open to Roman influence (Frere 1967: 195) while frontier forts manned by non-Roman auxiliaries together with towns and ports frequented by foreign traders, were more susceptible to religions from the Orient. (Lewis 1966: 99, 313) Celtic beliefs seem to have survived in country districts and beyond the Roman frontier (Frere 1967:313) Indeed the wide geographical range of Celtic iconography and architecture like the horned god and the square porticoed temple make it legitimate to draw parallels between northern Gaul and Southern Britain (Ross 1967:127) of the three traditions, clearly the Roman occupies the pivotal position, both as the official tradition and as the intermediary between the Oriental and Celtic traditions. The Roman tradition had certain superficial similarities to the Celtic tradition, for example the divine founder of the Roman race was Mars who had a wide range of responsibilities, including success in war and in peace, health and fertility (Rose, 1948,21). This made him an ideal candidate for patron to the Celtic gods. (Ross 1970: 159).

Roman religion and its gods had traits that allowed a certain amount of assimilation to the Celtic religion through the famous '*interpretatio Romano*' of Tacitus (Tacitus Germ 43) Roman religion was unimaginative and timid, whereas the Greeks uncovered their heads for prayer to expose themselves to divine influence, the Romans covered their to avert evil omens (Ferguson 1970:99) and yet, almost all Roman mythology was derived from Greece. Each Greek and Roman god had their own special sphere of influence: the Romans were very careful to address the right god on the right occasion by the right name (Catullus XXXIV, 21-2).

Death to the Romans was final state departed souls living in an underground Hades and Elysium or in the paradise across the ocean the Isles of the Blest (Toynbee 1971: 33-9) unless of course you were the Emperor who would on death, subject to certain criteria and procedures become a god. Roman tombs are inscribed '*We are mortal, not immortal (Sumus mortals immortals non sumus)*'.

The Romans buried their dead by inhumation or cremation and occasionally by embalming. Cremation was the dominant rite until the advent of Christianity, with the burial of the ashes in a tomb to shield the dead from the view of the gods of whom the deceased had no further need. The deceased was laid to rest, wearing a toga, on a litter or couch and if he were a magistrate, bearing his badges of office. The funeral procession would pass through the town to the place of cremation where he was burnt on a pyre and his ashes gathered

and placed in a glass or pottery urn. If glass it was usually put inside a lead container. The container was then deposited in the sacred enclosure of the tomb and a bust erected to mark the spot. (Wilkinson 2003, 183)

When the Romans conquered the Celts they came into contact with a belief that offered life after death. Caesar wrote: 'The cardinal doctrine which they [the Celts] seek to teach is that souls do not die but after death pass from one to another (Caesar *de Bello Gallico* VI 14). It was this belief that led Lewis to suggest that the workshop of the dead an afterlife was one of the roots from which the Romano-Celtic temple grew (Lewis 1966:6). Indeed the Celts belief in an afterlife remained so dominant in the Romanised territories of southern Britain, northern Gaul and Germany that the marked presence of mainly Celtic deities with or without '*interpretatio Roman*' may be highlighted by the special type of Romano-Celtic temples which prospered throughout the first four centuries after the birth of Christ.

Oriental cults of which Christianity is one offered their initiates a purer life and life after death. Mithras offered life after death to its exclusively male devotees, Isis, on the other hand welcomed both sexes, as long as they were rich, whilst Christianity offered immortality, subject to certain criteria to all its devotees. Most of the Oriental cult's ritual for immortality was performed on initiation rather than at the moment of death. With the expectation of an afterlife there was a move away from cremation to inhumation. Christianity from its earliest days was very much concerned with death, burial and resurrection. Cemeteries, the dormitories of those awaiting the second coming were important establishments and followed a ritual established by the earliest Christians. The origins of the Christian burial rite are made quite clear by Athanasius and follow the Jewish custom based on the burial of Christ (Athanasius, *Vita Antonii* 90, *Migne* XXVI, 968). Tertullian also states the Christian criteria for burial (Tertullian, *De Resurrectione Carnis*, CXXVII) which follows the Gospel account (John 19: 39-42).

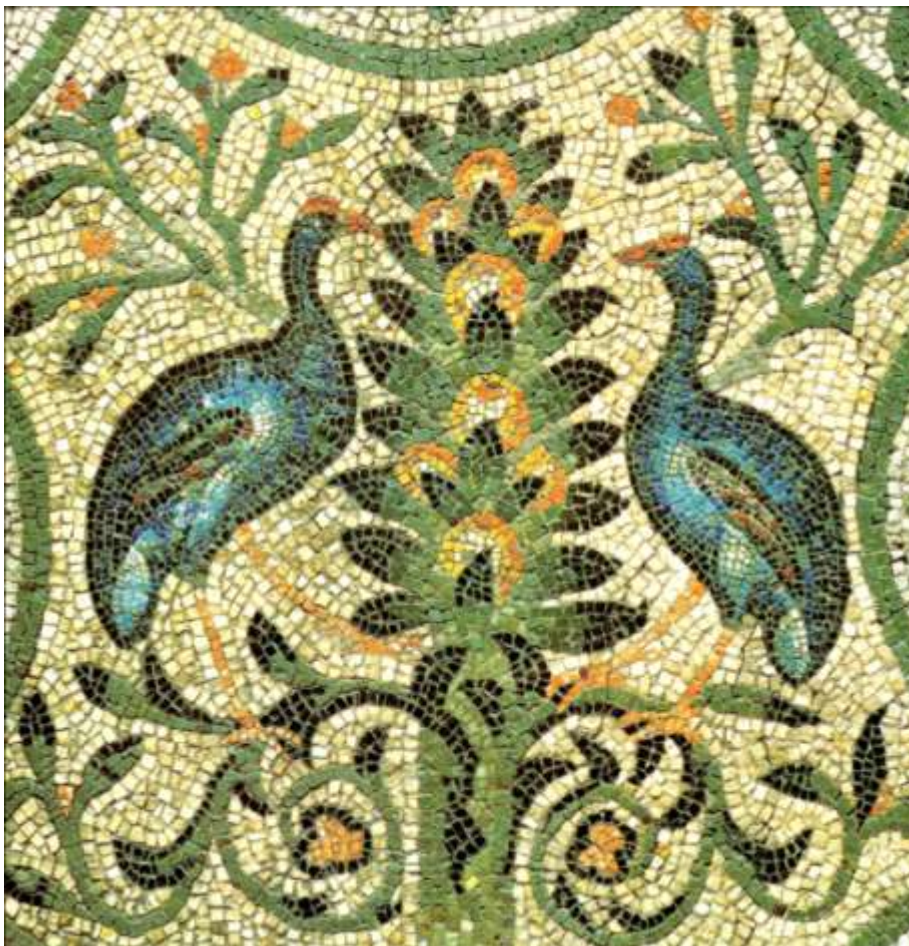
By the late 2nd, early 3rd centuries, Christian teachers such as Justin Martyr in Rome and Tertullian in Carthage were proposing the literal resurrection of the body at the moment of Resurrection. This concept proved more popular in the west. Indeed, the Roman authorities at Lyon in AD177 after martyring the Christians denied the request of the relatives for a Christian burial and cremated the bodies and scattered the ashes removing any hope of resurrection. (Eusebius, *Hist, Eccles*, 1,V ch1, 61-63).

The account of John, (John 19, 39-42) touches on another important point; that the dead body should be placed in a grave not previously occupied. We have a contemporary account of the importance of this from Sidonius Apollinaris who writes about the near degeneration of his grandfathers grave who had been Praetorian Prefect of Gaul under Constantine III in AD408 and been baptized a Christian. Sidonius was on his way to Clermont-Ferrand from his estate of Avitacum when he came to the cemetery where his grandfather was buried and saw gravediggers cutting a new grave through his grandfather's

grave. The desecration was stopped and the gravediggers severely beaten (Sidonius Apollinaris Book III, letter XII).

Equally important as the grave not being disturbed and therefore preserving the body intact for a physical resurrection is the placing of the grave near to some holy person. The proximity to such a holy martyr or Bishop was thought to guarantee salvation as the person would act as patron at the Judgement.

Belief about resurrection probably lies behind the custom of orienting Christian burials with the head to the west, a custom presumably originating in the Christian practise of facing east in prayer, which in turn, arises from the various allusions to the sun as a metaphor for God and the belief that at the resurrection Christ would appear from the East. (Matthew 24, 27). Indeed, with Constantine these biblical references to the sun seem to have culminated in his conversion to Christianity (Green 1977: 46-7).



11. Detail from a mosaic pavement uncovered in the Basilica Aquileia in north Italy dating from AD313. It was one of the earliest Christian churches and its mosaics which have survived show a mixture of pagan and Christian allegories. The two peacocks are eating the fruit from the Tree of Life, a Christian symbol of one of the trees given by God to the Garden of Eden whose fruit would have given Adam and Eve immortality.

The peacocks were to the pagans a symbol of immortality, and sacred to the pagan goddess Hera. It also symbolised birth, resurrection, immortality, and not only was its flesh incorruptible, its feathers if plucked returned in even greater splendour.

7. The site investigation: Introduction

Blacklands field is located east of Faversham and just north of School Farm, Graveney Road overlooking springs which form the headwaters of Ewell Fleet (NGR 635362 170935). The site is about seven miles from Canterbury and 1,263m north of Watling Street, and sits in a shallow valley that drains northwards to a tidal creek (Ewell Fleet) on the south side of the Swale, the seaway separating the Isle of Sheppey from the mainland of Kent. Present-day tidewater is about 1.25km downstream and The Swale itself about 3.25 km from the site. The bedrock at the site is the Upper Chalk which is shown by the British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Sheet 273 Faversham 1967) to be exposed on the lower slope of the east side of the valley. The upper slope and adjoining interfluvial area are mapped as Head Brickearth overlying Thanet Beds. The valley floor is mapped as Alluvium. The theatre site is on the east side of the valley and takes the form of a shallow sub-circular depression, 65m across, open towards the valley axis and with a floor at the level of the slope foot. Footings of Roman buildings have been excavated upslope from and slightly to the north of the rim of the theatre depression. During the period under study the valley floor adjacent to the site has been substantially modified, but to an extent unknown in detail. There are local records of watercress beds and physical evidence of excavation in the form of a pond and associated spoil heap. The marshy floor of the valley is c. 2.0m to 3.0m below the slope foot and locally separated from it by a steep bluff.

The site lay in the heartland of the dense concentrations of prehistoric and Roman sites clustered along Watling Street and the Swale estuary.

In view of the continuous damage to the environs of the site by agricultural operations and the danger of destruction of the archaeological deposits by treasure hunters, it was felt that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken.

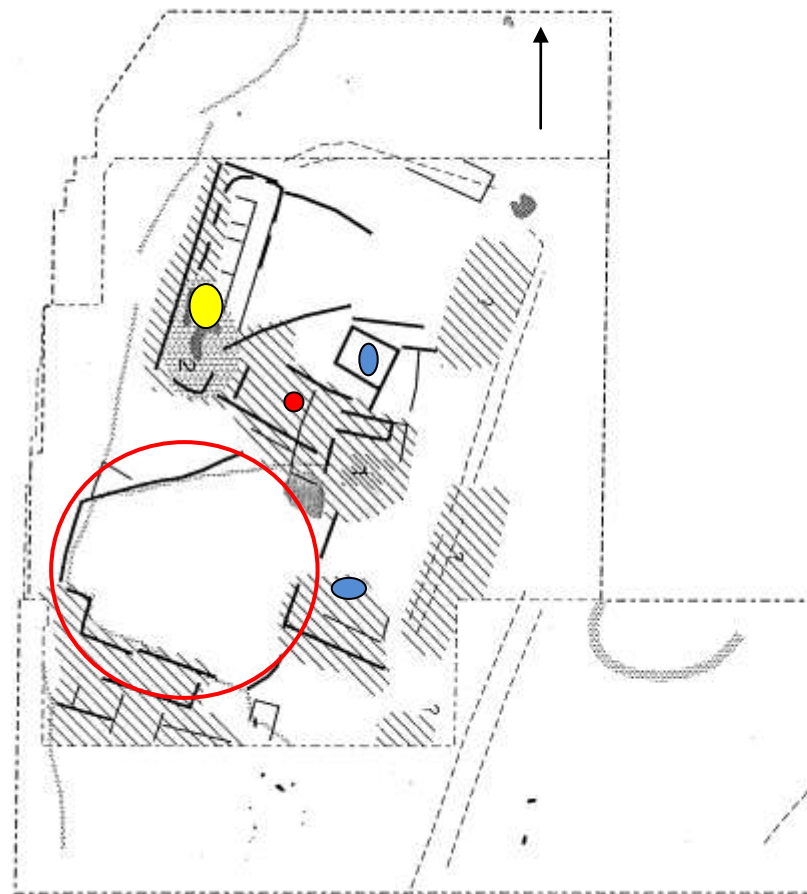
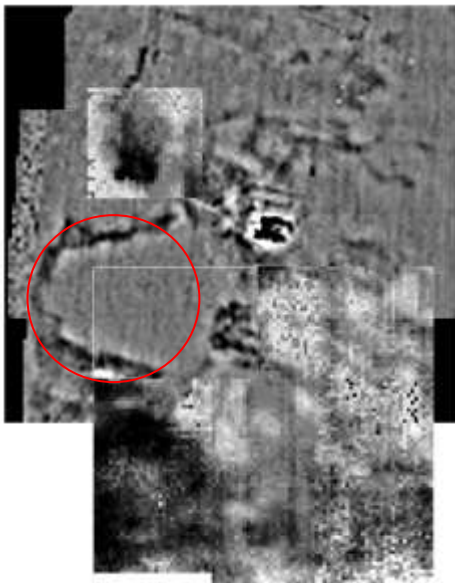
Negotiations with the landowner, Dr Martin Thomas of School Farm were completed satisfactorily, various funding bodies and local institutions were contacted and a major campaign of evaluation was undertaken in August 2007-8. The success of this campaign was due to the generosity and kindness of the landowner, the sponsors, History Today magazine, Friends of the British Museum and the students from the Kent Archaeological Field School.

The main aims of the evaluation programme were to define the central zone of the religious complex, to investigate the nature and building history of the Roman buildings. To seek any traces of a pre-Roman precursor to the Roman shrine and, by careful site recording, to dissect the latest remains and observe any indications of post-Roman modifications or reuse. It was also intended to record the positions three-dimensionally of as many of the finds as possible in order that the distributions could be analysed. The present paper is an

interim report, which summarises the results of landscape analysis, field walking, geophysical survey, test-pitting and finally archaeological evaluation.

7.1 Geophysical Survey

The purpose of the geophysical surveys were to attempt to trace unexcavated archaeological features extending beyond the theatre area and also to look for postulated features related to the temple complex, situated to the east of the theatre such as a *temenos* wall and ditch. In addition the surveys were designed to look further afield for any other indications of buried remains which might add to the understanding of the archaeological context of the site under evaluation. Geophysical surveys were undertaken by Andy Payne of English Heritage, following the establishment of a 10m grid across the field by KAFS (Appendix 1) and Prof. Bill Martin (Appendix 2).



12. The geophysical survey by English Heritage had stunning results. The theatre is in the area highlighted with a red circle. The stage (on the left) backs on to the springs whilst the seating area (on the right) is cut into the hillside. Surrounding the theatre is a large complex of Roman buildings (Fig. 11) which include Building 1 (red dot), possible temples (blue dot) and Building 2 (yellow dot).

7.2 Evaluation and recording strategies

Evaluation in August 2007 and 2008 involved the hand excavation of the thin topsoil which revealed extensive remains from the Roman periods.

An area of 3140 square metres was excavated by removing about 0.30m of modern topsoil. The topsoil was scanned by metal detector and small finds, mostly Roman coins were retrieved and plotted onto distribution sheets on site. Pottery, tile fragments underwent

the same process of recording. The plough soil was removed by hand excavation, and finds recorded on distribution sheets.

Structural remains were left in situ, and each area of evaluation had a section removed by hand trowling to sample the extent of stratification in that part of the site. Sections were recorded by drawing cumulative sections which recorded more information and in a more comprehensive manner than the quadrant method.

The detailed planning of rubble spreads proved invaluable in the elucidation of the post-Roman phases and the vigorous recovery of the available environmental data will make, it is hoped, a significant contribution to the overall interpretation of the site. The field is usually planted with cereals, by the direct drilling method, but for every four years or so a shallow ploughing was undertaken.

The finds were plotted onto site plans that were at the same scale of structures and features. All context details were kept in a register and contexts recorded on a single context recording sheet. The files containing these sheets form the basis of the Site Archive, which is kept at the Kent Archaeological Field School.



13. Excavation of Building 1 in August 2007. The thinness of the topsoil covering can be seen. One of the excavators is kneeling on the southern flint exterior wall whilst a post hole dated by pottery to the late 5th cent is being excavated. To the right another post hole is being drawn up. Three postholes out of eight of a post-Roman timber building constructed on top of the earlier mosaic floored bath-house can be seen. Note the massive wall on the right of the picture which is part of the base of an apsidal room (Fig. 6).

8. Building 1: Trench A. 2007

An area to the north-east of the theatre 'bowl' was stripped of topsoil by hand and revealed a large Roman building with an apsidal end to the south-west. Built of Kentish rag-stone blocks and large nodules of flint set in a grey/cream lime mortar with internal hypocaust blocks of chalk construction set in clay topped by an *opus signinum* floor base overlaying tile, and covered with fine full colour pictorial mosaics, of which little survived.

The building measures 9.57m east to west and 8.10m of the building was excavated to the limit of the topsoil strip to the north from where the building obviously continued. To the east the building is contained within a stone built boundary wall running for 10.35m north to south. Inside the precinct thus formed were found the remains of a heating furnace which furnished hot water and air to the bath building. Adjacent to the furnace facility were two stone platforms of unknown use. In between which a large and deep well was uncovered with its fill (CRN127) containing a large quantity of sherds dated to c.100-250AD.

The construction of the bath building can be dated by sherds of pottery found in the foundation matrix of the structure (CRN042) to AD 150-200.



14. Trench A. Building 1 (facing east). The chalk block construction of the hypocaust is clearly visible on the right whilst the flue to the under floor heating furnace is shown with a red arrow. More of the Roman building in the foreground to the left was excavated in 1997 by Brian Philp and his team (Fig. 7).

The eastern boundary wall has likewise been dated by sherds of pottery in its build (CRN 071) to AD 150-200. Pottery found in the hypocaust channels (CRN 028) are dated to c.270-370AD whilst fresh sherds of pottery (CRN 013) retrieved from the soot of the final burn of the heating furnace show that heating the building and providing hot bath water stopped around AD 300-350. A coin of Constantine dated to AD 330-335 found in the same context confirms the hypothesis.

8.1 Chronology of Building 1.

The earliest activity on the site of Building 1, and indeed the entire site is Neolithic with numerous flakes, cores, and debitage found during the investigation.

Bronze Age features were exposed during the investigation but not fully excavated. Under the Roman apse on the west side of the building a Bronze Age surface was recorded (CRN 008) and two sherds (37gms) of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury flint tempered ware were recovered and dated to c.1500-1400BC. The pottery specialist comments that: "one small, one large sherd, virtually unworn, and probably from an undisturbed contemporary context". A pit (CRN 076) in the north-east corner of the apse cutting this surface contained Middle Bronze Age pottery including a fresh sherd of a jar with applied cordon. Other pot found in this context included 26 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pot and three conjoined fine ware pottery sherds of the same period.

Additional Bronze Age pottery abraded sherds were retrieved from the surface of the chalk under the Roman cobbles west of the Roman building (CRN 054).

Iron Age pottery sherds were retrieved from context (CRN 005), the chalk surface under the cobbles adjacent to the Roman building on the south side. It is considered by the pottery specialist to be a large (38g) fresh sherd of a combed storage jar dating to the Late Iron Age.

In the north-west corner of Trench A, a sondage exposed a substantial cill beam slot (15x15cm) set into the chalk (CRN 149) running east to west contained 22 sherds of Roman pottery (181g).

The pottery, all of it fresh dates from c.50-100AD. A closed jar (R38) found in situ has a closer dating of c.43-80AD.

This may indicate that Roman building started on the sanctuary site soon after the conquest of AD 43 with this timber-framed structure. Other early Roman pottery was found in a number of residual contexts (CRN's 005), (014), (019).

However, the main phase of Roman activity is from c.150AD with the well filled in (CRN 127) and the bath-house constructed. The building went out of use c.330AD and the demolition phases can be dated to c.335-400AD with a demolition spread east of the furnace (CRN145). Adjacent to this area and overlapping the demolition layer a new chalk floor (CRN 124) was constructed and within the matrix ten large fresh sherds (153g) of Roman pottery retrieved dating to c.300-400AD. A series of postholes running parallel to the east Roman boundary wall [CRN 071] cut through this chalk surface and post-dated it.

The theatre 'bowl' was backfilled (below) with literally tons of demolition Roman material (CRN's 014), (043), (052) and 312 sherds of Roman pottery retrieved from just this small section dating no later than c.370AD. Two coins of Constans and Constantius retrieved from this context (CRN 041) date this event to no earlier than c.335-341AD.



15. The lip of the Roman theatre with a diameter of 65m can be clearly seen in both photographs. The lower photo shows how the *cavea* of the theatre curved round towards the stage. No seats survived but the slope was turfed in the Roman period. In the trees beyond are the 'sacred' springs. To the right (north) the apse of Building 1 can be seen, and in the foreground the remains of Roman cobbling and post holes of the post-Roman building (Fig. 8).

A series of eight parallel postholes had been cut through the southern flint wall of the bath-house measuring on average 600mm in diameter with a depth of 640mm. The length of the run of postholes was 16.5m with the east end of the timber building presumably turning north along the edge of the two stone platforms for 6.5m. To the west the postholes continued in a straight line beyond the curve of the Roman apse and possibly into an area of ground as yet unexcavated. The timber building could be longer than the 16.5m exposed.

Two fresh pottery sherds (20g) found in posthole (CRN 023) were dated by Malcolm Lyne to Middle Saxon whilst Nigel Macpherson-Grant suggests late 5th century, and notes as they were fresh they are most likely associated with the post-Roman timber building.

This vast post-Roman timber building erected sometime from the late 5th century on top of the relict full colour mosaic floors of the Roman bath-house recalls the legend of *Beowulf*, some say set in the adjacent watery landscape of the Swale Estuary with its known island of 'Heorot' (Harty) located across the Swale estuary from the site at Blacklands.

This is where *Wealhtheow* queen of Heorot crossed a *fagne flor* to offer Beowulf and his companion's refreshment. Margaret Gelling points out that the road to Heorot, a *straet* is an Anglo-Saxon loan word meaning Roman road and *fagne flor* is a mosaic floor whilst *Wealhtheow* is a Romano-British noble woman in an arranged marriage (Wilkinson 1998).



16. View of Building 1 looking to the east. The hypocaust channels of the Roman bath-house can be clearly seen and the slots (blue arrows) for the hot air to heat the vertical walls through a system of box flue tiles. Fragments of full colour figurative marble mosaics of the finest quality were retrieved from the hypocaust channels. Stephen Cosh notes: "Exceptionally fine tesserae (averaging approx 6mm) in red, pink, ochre, white and dark grey. The fragment is clearly part of a figure, and is probably an eye".

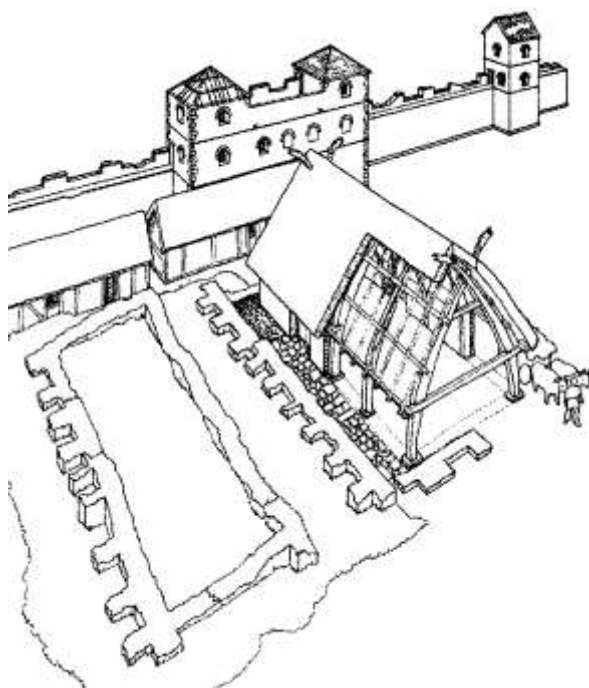
Three post-hole slots of the post-Roman timber building can be seen (red arrows). Four had been chopped through the flint and mortar foundations of the Roman building whilst some of the other post-holes were only slight depressions or pads (Fig. 6).

Another, more prosaic hypothesis is that this building is an example of a rare type of post-Roman timber building recognised by Tony Wilmott at Birdoswald on Hadrians Wall. The sizes of the timber building at Blacklands and Birdoswald can be seen in the chart below.

Blacklands, Faversham, Kent	16.5m (approx) x 6.5m
Birdoswald Roman fort, Cumbria	23m x 8.6m
Doon Hill A, Lothian	23m x 10.8m
South Cadbury, Somerset	19m x 10m
Kirkconnel, Dumfries	16m x 6m (approx)

It may be that the timber building at Blacklands belongs to a type also recognised at Yeavinger by Hope-Taylor in 1977. Few major timber buildings of late 5th-6th century date are known in Britain, and apart from Birdoswald, there are the timber buildings at Wroxeter and Cadbury Castle in Somerset (Wilmott 1997: 223).

Excavators of these sites have suggested that the halls “could have been the residence of a royal official, noble, or chieftain” (Ritchie & Breeze 1990) whilst Alcock suggests it was “the feasting hall of whatever noble warrior lived at Cadbury with his war-band” (Alcock 1986).



Later Saxon activity in this area is attested by jewellery retrieved by Brian Philp in 1996, Philp also excavated two Saxon burials. However, no further information has been made available for this report. Demolition of Building 1 continued during the medieval period with a skillet handle dating from c.1370-1500AD found in the robbed out Roman wall (CRN 010), and fresh sherds of various medieval cooking pots from AD1200-1300 found in another area of robbing (CRN 052).

17 Reconstruction drawing of Area A in Period 6 at Birdoswald showing the hypothetical timber-framed post-Roman cruck-framed structure built on the base of a Roman granary at the Roman fort on Hadrian’s Wall (courtesy of English Heritage)

8.2 Description of Building 1

Only part of Building 1 was exposed by excavation. The area exposed and excavated measured 20m by 9.57m (Fig. 6). The building is situated on the north-east curve of the adjacent theatre, itself measuring 65m in diameter. The building structure is at serious risk from ploughing with only about 14-18 cm of topsoil covering the structure, indeed the building was initially located by the huge number of individual marble *tesserae* retrieved out of the topsoil by field-walking.

The building is enclosed on the east side by a substantial flint, Kentish rag wall [CRN 070] set in lime mortar. About 60cm wide it runs almost north-south with 10.35m of it exposed by excavation. Pottery found within the fabric of the wall (CRN 071) date the build to about 150-200AD. The wall is partly built over a large pit (well?) 2m x3m and was excavated to a depth of 3.20m. The fill (CRN's 086, 127, 165,) was black, burnt, charcoal mix with numerous sherds of pottery which gave a date of fill as c.100-250AD.

Three rolled up lead objects were recovered from this fill and could be votive offerings. Professor Robin Osborne describes votive offerings as 'the exchange of material objects for supernatural return' and the key point of this statement is the word exchange; Romans believed the gods would help them only as a method of reciprocation – '*Do ut Des*' (Osborne R. 2004).

To the east of wall [CRN 070] various layers of demolition spread dating to 250-400AD were identified and in addition three post-holes about 22 cm in diameter were revealed. On excavation no dating material was forthcoming from the post-holes which may suggest they were part of the post-Roman building to the west. It may be they form part of a veranda.

To the west of this boundary wall [CRN 070] were two large stone foundations or platforms. The one to the south measured 3 x 2.80m, built of large nodules of flint set in lime mortar it was 0.62m deep below the level of the natural chalk, a massive foundation which may be a statue base. The other large stone foundation (to the north) measured 1.10 x 1.80m and on its south side was faced with Kentish ragstone blocks which to the west were burnt by the intense heat of the furnace that was situated here.

The flue (CRN 013) was 50cm wide and when excavated still full of soot and burnt pottery which dates to around 300-350AD. A coin of Constantine dated to 330-335AD found in the same context (CRN 013) confirms this hypothesis. To the north and south of the furnace the east wall of the building runs 4.75m to the south and 3.15m to the north, this part of the wall is stepped in at the furnace by about 30cm.

This east wall [CRN 121] is about 60cm wide and built of nodules of flint set in lime mortar. It turns to the west at the junction with the furnace flue (CRN 013) and at this point is about 1m wide and lined with burnt brick and Kentish ragstone.

This east wall joins the buildings outside wall to the south [CRN 009], and runs west in a straight line for 7.40m then curves in to form an apsidal space. Just before the turn at 5.90m

a wall built of Kentish rag joins the outside wall [CRN 009], and runs north to south. This wall [CRN 170] is about 75cm wide, substantially built, and is likely to have carried more than one storey. The apse thus formed has no evidence of either a plunge pool or underfloor heating, but the absence of underfloor heating and a surviving surface of re-deposited clay (CRN 172) suggest it is likely there was a cold or warm plunge pool situated in the apse. The apse is 5.40m long and 3.40m wide. A small linear sondage was made on the north side of the trench which exposed the remains of the apse's substantial stone foundations.

Beyond the apse and towards the west is outside the building and the floor surface were laid with well-rounded cobbles set in clay and sitting on the natural chalk. At the far west of the cobbles between post holes (CRN 142) and (CRN 143) the surface had been built up with additional cobbles, probably to give a level surface to the post-Roman building which sat on top of the Roman bath-house.

Inside the apsidal building the main room to the east of the apse measured at least 7.40m to the north and 4.60m east to west. All of this area was heated by an under floor hypocaust heating system comprising chalk blocks set in clay and sitting on the chalk bedrock. The surface being a fine full colour mosaic, fragments of which had survived in the demolition fill of the hypocaust channels along with fragments of highly decorated wall plaster.



18. The photograph is looking to the south-west and overlooks the bowl of the Roman theatre built into the hillside. The evaluation trench (black arrow) is where the stage is located. At about 65m in diameter, and based on data from other Roman theatres, the theatre at Blacklands could seat up to 12,000 people.

Archaeologists are excavating the post-Roman post-holes (CRN 023) whilst another team are investigating the rim of the theatre seen also in the drop to the right of the seated archaeologist who is recording the post-Roman post holes (CRN 135). Below, is a fragment of mosaic retrieved from the hypocaust.



9. Building 2: Trench E. 2007

An area (Figs. 2 & 3) to the north of the theatre 'bowl' was identified from the geophysical survey as an area of high potential. The topsoil was stripped by hand and revealed part of a large Roman building. The walls were built of Kentish rag-stone blocks and large nodules of flint set in a grey/cream lime mortar with in the south room internal hypocaust towers of upturned box flue tiles construction set on a mortar/chalk base (CRN 028) and topped by a polished *opus signinum* floor base overlaying tile.

The building exposed measured at least 15m east to west and over 15m north to south. The building was investigated to the limit of the soil strip from where the building obviously continued outside the area of excavation on all four sides. Inside the walls were found the remains of a furnace (CRN 081) which furnished hot water and air to the bath-building, *opus signinum* floors still in situ, some without under floor heating (CRN 013), and the remains of an apsidal bath (CRN 075).

The construction of the bath building can be dated by sherds of pottery found in the foundation matrix of the structure (CRN 047) to 150-200AD with a coin dated to 161-180AD.

The building was rebuilt somewhere between 270-300AD with fresh sherds retrieved in the upper levels of the re-built wall (CRN 046) and fresh sherds found in a layer of make-up (CRN 048) under the later chalk floor, and dated by the pottery specialist to 150-270AD with his interpretation that it "was dumped after AD 240".

To reinforce this hypothesis the *opus signinum* floor (CRN 017) was still in situ and hardly damaged and in its matrix contained fresh pottery sherds dated to 270-300AD (CRN 089). Elsewhere the chalk surface under another *opus signinum* floor (CRN 139) contained fresh pottery sherds dated to c.270-350AD with a coin dated to 255-268AD.

The building ceased to function as a bath-house half a century after the rebuild of 270-300AD with the hypocaust system original build (CRN 163) producing pottery dated to 120-200AD, the lower layer of soot (CRN 155) dated by pottery sherds to 150-200AD, and the backfill (CRN 148) around the hypocaust towers dumped after AD 350.

Post-Roman use of the building may be attested by fresh sherds of pottery retrieved from the debris surface (CRN 080) above the final *opus signinum* floor surface, and dated to c.650-850AD. In the collection of 11 sherds from this strata all the Roman sherds date after AD 350 with most dating from 400-420AD with one sherd of this date retrieved from a post hole (CRN 083) which was dug through the final Roman *opus signinum* surface.

The building is situated on the lower slope about 35m from the modern stream and is buried under 0.60-0.40m of overburden comprising Roman building debris and soil (Fig. 00).

9.1 Description of Building 2

Only part of Building 2 was exposed by excavation. The area exposed and excavated measured 15m by 15m in an L-shaped configuration (Fig. 5). The building is situated on the

north-west curve of the adjacent theatre, itself measuring 65m in diameter. The building structure is not at serious risk from ploughing with about 40-60 cm of topsoil covering the remains. The building was located by the English Heritage geophysical survey (Appendix 1).

Seven sections of substantial flint/ragstone wall were exposed. About 65cm wide, they run almost north-south, east-west with 42m of it exposed by excavation. Pottery found within the fabric of the wall (CRN 047) comprised 17 sherds of pottery (368g), all fresh and date the build to about 150-200AD. A Roman coin (SF 034) of Marcus Aurelius and dated 161-180AD was also retrieved from this context.

Another coin (SF109) found in the fabric of the furnace is also of Marcus Aurelius and with the same date.



19. The initial 'test pit' on Building 2 exposed part of a Roman bath-house *caldarium* or hot room (Room 1). Structure was exposed some 60cm below the field surface and the floor of the hypocaust was 1.20m below the field surface. Pottery sherds found in the initial build—the concrete/chalk floor—date the construction to 130-200AD. The rim of the necked jar actually set into the floor surface (by the metric scale rule) dates from c.130-200AD and was probably a votive offering to the foundation build (Fig. 5).

9.2 Room 1. The Hot Room (*caldarium*)

The initial investigation (above) was a 2m square 'test pit' which located substantial stone foundations and upstanding *pilae* in the form of box flue tiles (*tubulus*). The flint/ragstone wall exposed 60cm down on the west side (red arrow) was about 65cm wide with three courses surviving capped by tiles (*bipedales*), the one surviving tile (blue arrow) was about 60cm square, 6cm thick, and capped by a layer of *opus signinum* floor some 9cm thick.

17 tiles about 20cm square (*bessales*) were exposed with two tiles still having short columns (*pilae*) made of vertical placed box flue tiles (*tubulus*) some 43cm tall (green arrow). Neither of the two box flue tiles were filled with mortar.

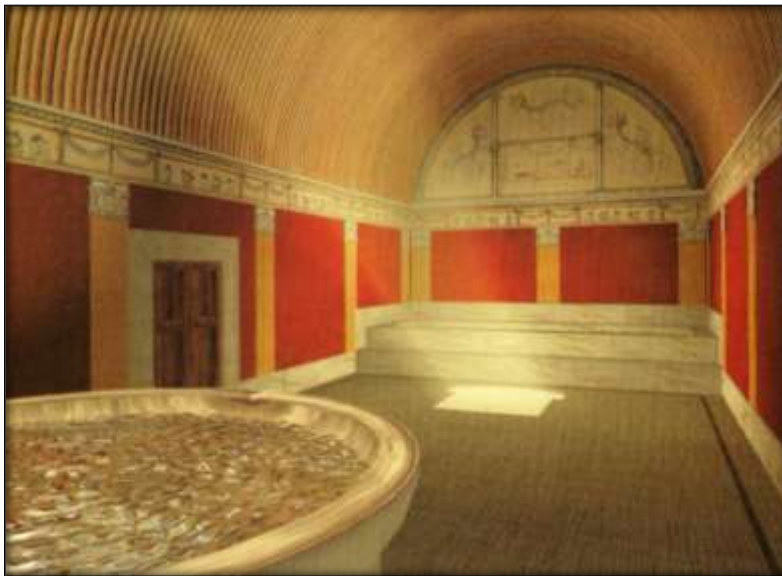
The hot room (*caldarium*) was infilled with large amounts of decorated plaster, box flue tile fragments and copious amounts of cube tiles from a destroyed floor of *opus tessellatum*.

34 sherds (433g) of pottery mixed in with soot, ash, and numerous box flue tile fragments were found in the lower fill of the hypocaust system (CRN 163). All were fresh and most covered in soot from the hypocaust system. The date of the pottery is c.120-200AD.

Overlaying (CRN 163) was a more dense demolition layer with 28 (199g) fresh sherds dating 150-200AD (CRN 155). The final dump of material (CRN 148) was of 37 (635g) fresh and conjoining sherds dated c.250-400AD but in the opinion of the pottery specialist dumped after AD 350.

Although only part of the corner of the hot room was excavated, the data retrieved indicate that it was part of a larger *caldarium*, possibly 2.50m wide and heated by an adjacent furnace in Room 2. The hot horizontal surface was a tiled floor constructed out of larger cubes (3x3cm) of different coloured tile with the hot vertical faces of the wall faced with box flue tiles finished with layers of painted plaster (Appendix 9).

The *caldarium* was kept at a high temperature, probably about 60°C. The floor would have



been too hot to touch. Indeed there was a special wood sandal (*soleae balnares*) that had to be worn. Pliny talks about his suite of baths as:

'Not so intensely hot as the hot bath, which projects farther. This last consists of three several compartments, each of different degrees of heat; the two former lie open to the full sun, the latter, though not much exposed to its heat, receives an equal share of its light'.

20. Caldarium from Pompeii

The layout as shown in a typical hot-room (above, **20**) would include a cold water basin (*labrum*) usually set on a pedestal. Cold water would be thrown on the hot floor by bathers to create steam and the hot plunge pool, shown in this picture situated at the far end of the room and directly over the furnace as in Room 1.

The ceiling is usually barrel-vaulted, ribbed with a drip cove, and can also be heated with hollow roof tiles. It is likely Room 1 was situated in the south-west corner of Building 2 and like Pliny's bath-house located as to take advantage of the sun.

Adjacent to Room 1 and to the north was situated the furnace room (Room 2).

9.3 Room 2. The Warm Room (*tepidarium*)

The length of the warm room is about 5m north to south. East-west is likely to be about 2.50m. The stoke area of the furnace itself is located beyond the area of excavation, and on the outside of the west wall. This wall [CRN 160] is mostly robbed out and is 0.78m below the turf, but where it survives is constructed of flint/ragstone set in pink mortar and is 0.41m below the turf.

53 (924g) fresh sherds of pottery were retrieved from the flues (CRN 064) leading to Room 1, and date from c.250-300/350+ which the pottery specialist suggests may indicate that the building was demolished in c.300-350AD.

Part of the hypocaust chalk block platform situated in the south-east area of the room is part of the original build (CRN 159) and the pottery retrieved from inside the platform matrix dates from c.100-150AD. The adjacent wall to the east [CRN 158] on investigation revealed 12 sherds (101g) in its matrix dated to c.150-200AD. Parts of the wall were robbed in the 13th century with sherds of pottery dating to 1225/1275 AD found in the backfill.

Adjacent to wall [CRN 158] parts of a chalk floor survived and pottery retrieved from its matrix (CRN 139) comprised 36 (352g) sherds with a date of c.270-350AD which suggests this area was part of the rebuild of 270-300AD. Also retrieved was a coin (SF 098) of Galienus dated to 253-268AD.

The north wall of Room 2 has been robbed and the backfill included 50 sherds (481g) of pottery mostly dated between 250-350AD, however three sherds of a medieval jug were also found in the backfill suggesting the wall had been robbed out in the medieval period. A deeper recess [137] on the east end of the wall has been interpreted as a doorway with two fresh sherds retrieved from a secure context under the surviving cill dating to 170-270AD.



21. The archaeologist is facing west and recording the west section of Room 2 whilst standing in the flue channel. To her left is part of the badly burnt hypocaust system, whilst to her right is an outcrop of natural chalk sealed with areas of unexcavated *opus signinum* floor surface.

The area heated suggests that Room 2 was built as a warm room (*tepidarium*) and served as an intermediate acclimatising room before entering the full heat of the adjoining hot room (Room 1).

9.4 Room 3. The Cold Room (*frigidarium*)

The size of this room is easier to compute given that it is almost fully exposed by excavation. Situated in the north-east area of the excavation it measures 5m x4.40m.

Of the four walls exposed, the walls to the north, west, and south are robbed out with only the east wall surviving. This wall is built of flint/ragstone blocks set in a cream-white mortar. On the north-east corner the surviving east wall is built slightly thicker where it joins the north wall.

Over half the floor surface has survived and is an *opus signinum* floor with a polished surface, and where it joins the vertical face of the surviving east wall, itself clad in *opus signinum* render, the join is sealed with a thick quadrant (9cm) of *opus signinum*.



22. Remains of the *opus signinum* floor of Room 3 can be seen beyond the standing archaeologist (Fig. 5). This area of the building has been badly damaged by stone robbing in the medieval and post-medieval era. Indeed in some buried Roman buildings in the Faversham area farmers regularly remove Kentish ragstone from buried Roman buildings for 21st century building projects. Behind the archaeologist one of the hypocaust channels can be seen-part of the heating of the warm room (Room 2).

Under the *opus signinum* floor is a solid sub-floor of re-deposited chalk and Roman building material. Pottery retrieved from this strata (088) were seven fresh sherds dating from 270-300AD. On the west side of the room, and again in the matrix of the chalk sub-floor (077) 24 (240g) were sherds dating from 270-350AD. It is reasonable to assume given the dating evidence that this floor and function of the room date from the re-build of 270-350AD.

The *frigidarium*, as its name suggests, was unheated. In some bath-houses this room could be used as a changing room, but given the location it is more likely this room was a cold room for cooling down after the immersion in the adjacent hot baths. In a cold room the bather can cool slowly, or more commonly be immersed in a cold bath (*baptisterium* or *puteus*) or in a larger pool big enough for total immersion or swimming (*piscine*, *natatio* or *natatorium*).

9.5 Room 4.

The most important feature revealed in Room 4 is an apsidal plunge bath measuring about three metres in length. The curve of the plunge bath fits into the enclosed area of the walls at the north end of the room.

The curve of the bath was achieved with tiles set on edge faced with a vertical face of *opus signinum* both in the area of the apsidal bath and the wet room beyond.

The wall to the east had been robbed out, and four sherds (15g) from the backfill were dated to 1200-1225AD.

A large pit dating from the same event (1200-1225AD) on the inside corner of the Room 4 was cleaned back (23, 24 below) and revealed eight sequential layers of Roman activity with the lowest strata of soot/charcoal debris dated by pottery sherds to 175-200AD. The next datable layer was the earliest re-deposited clay floor dated to 270-300AD. This floor had



been skimmed with an off-white lime mortar finish and at a later date another floor of similar build layered on top of the earlier floor surface.

It was not possible to date this event as no pottery sherds were retrieved.

Immediately above this was a demolition layer dated to after 300AD, and above this demolition layer a further floor surface dated to 350-400AD by two sherds of Late Roman grog-tempered ware.

23, 24. The picture above is facing south and shows surviving stratification inside Room 4. Remains of the vertical face of *opus signinum* can be seen on the left and is on the inside face of the room. It seems the room may have been originally built in 150-200AD as a hot or warm roof as the earliest strata is soot/charcoal. This can be seen in greater clarity in the photo to the right which shows the west facing strata of the same pit.



10. Building 3: Trenches 2 & 3. 2008

Two evaluation trenches (Fig. 9) were excavated in 2008 to test the hypothesis that the depression in Blacklands Field overlooking the fresh water springs was indeed a Roman theatre built into the hillside- the only one known from Roman Britain.

Work in 2007 just to the south of Building 1 had revealed the edge of an enormous feature which had been backfilled with hundreds of tons of Roman demolition material (CRN 15, 25, 26). Pottery sherds from the fill date this event to c.200-300AD (CRN 006, 005).

A coin of Constantine (SF 003) retrieved in 2008 from the chalk surface of the cockpit in front of the stage and under almost two metres of demolition is dated to AD 330-335.

It was recognised at the outset that to excavate a Roman hillside theatre some 65m in diameter would be beyond the resources of the KAFS. It was proposed that sufficient evidence to confirm the function of the building should be retrieved with the aim that the building can be recognised as a unique (for Britain) Roman theatre and preserved for posterity.



25. A quadrant of the theatre's seating (*cavea*) was excavated in the north-east corner and just to the south of Building 1. The picture (above) is looking to the west and in the direction of the prolific fresh water springs of which the theatre overlooks. The original seating seems to be of turf on a sculptured base of rows of seating. Beyond excavation is taking place on the front edge of the stage and back wall (*scaenae frons*).

Roman theatres hosted events such as plays, pantomimes, choral events, and orations. Their design, with its semicircular form, enhances the natural acoustics, unlike Roman amphitheatres constructed in the round.

These buildings were semi-circular and possessed certain inherent architectural structures, with minor differences depending on the region in which they were constructed. The *scaenae frons* was a high back wall of the stage floor, supported by columns. The *proscenium* was a wall that supported the front edge of the stage with ornately decorated niches off to the sides. The Hellenistic influence is seen through the use of the *proscenium*. The Roman theatre also had a *podium*, which sometimes supported the columns of the *scaenae frons*. The *scaenae* was originally not part of the building itself, constructed only to provide sufficient background for the actors. Eventually, it became a part of the edifice itself, made out of concrete. The theatre itself was divided into the stage (*orchestra*) and the seating section (*cavea*).



26. Adjacent to the theatre stage and on the north side an evaluation trench was dug during the 2008 season (Figs. 4 & 10). As can be seen the slope is part of the 'bowl' of the theatre and would have been part of the seating section (*cavea*).

Modern plough grooves are to be seen on the flat surface beyond the theatre and the break of slope to the seating area has been 'smoothed' by the mechanical digger.

The correct profile can be seen just below the 2m scale rod.

The *auditorium*, the area in which people gathered, was sometimes constructed on a small hill or slope, as at Blacklands in which stacked seating (*cavea*) could be easily made in the tradition of the Greek theatres. The central part of the *auditorium* was hollowed out of a hill or slope, while the outer radial seats required structural support from the hillside or wooden seating.

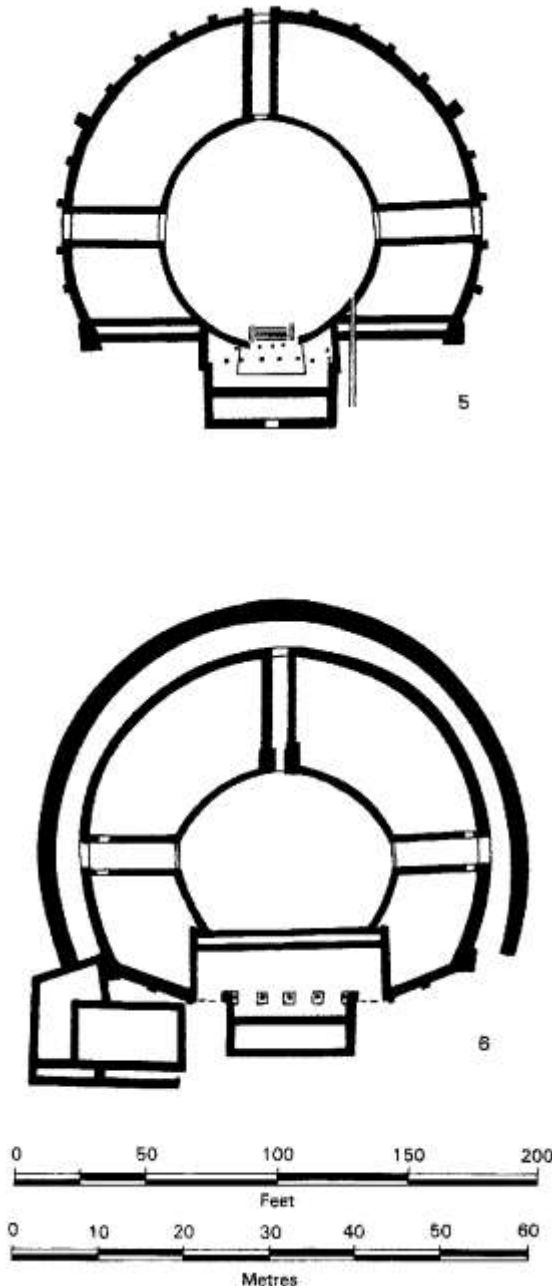
This was of course not always the case as Romans tended to build their theatres regardless of the availability of hillsides. The auditorium was not roofed; rather, awnings (*vela*) could be pulled overhead to provide shelter from rain or sunlight.

The more usual form of Roman theatre is well known, both from existing examples and from detailed information provided by Vitruvius.

Vitruvius, writing in the time of Augustus describes in Book V the location to be chosen for the building of a theatre; ‘for the purpose of seeing plays or festivals of the immortal gods, a site as healthy as possible should be selected for the theatre.....For when the plays are given, the spectators, with their wives and children, sit through them spell-bound’ (Vitruvius Book V, Chapter III).

Vitruvius continues- ‘the foundation walls will be an easier matter if they are on a hillside; but if they are to be laid on a plain or marshy place, solidity must be assured and substructures built in accordance with what has been written in the third book’.

Positioning of seating was of major importance to Vitruvius; ‘particular pains must also be taken that the site be not a ‘deaf’ one, but one through which the voice can range with the greatest clearness....Hence the ancient [Greek] architects, following in the footsteps of nature, perfected the ascending rows of seats in theatres from their investigations of the ascending voice (Vitruvius Book V, Chapter III).



27, 28. The two main phases of build of the *Verulamium* theatre are shown above. Period 1 and Period IV. Kenyon invented the term ‘cockpit theatre’ which is now used for all Gallo-Roman theatres-such as at Autun (right, **28**) and Blacklands.



For purposes of comparison it is worthwhile to remember the main features of the Roman theatre in contrast to the Greek theatre. In contrast with the Greek theatre, in which all the action took place in the circular orchestra, and where this area always remained important and clear of seats, in the Roman theatre the essential feature was always the stage.

In the usual Roman theatres the stage was always large, to accommodate all the actors, and the back wall (*scaenae frons*) which normally was highly decorated.

In front of the stage a curtain was usually provided which normally had a slot for furling and unfurling between 'scenes'.

With Gallo-Roman theatres it is apparent that there a huge differences in layout. Usually, the semicircular orchestra, the large stage, the side entrances to the orchestra adjoining the stage are all lacking. Kenyon suggests the reason for difference in layout was; 'to small for the normal Roman pantomime or play' (Kenyon 1934:246).



29. The theatre stage exposed by excavation at Blacklands in Trench 3. About five metres across the stage the stage is adjacent to the fresh water springs and we are looking west with the seating behind us which overlooks the stage and has a view of the springs beyond.

At the back of the stage the remains of a flint and tile wall-the *scaenae frons*- has survived as a truncated foundation (red arrow and Fig. 9).

In front of the stage, itself built of chalk and mortar on a clay base (green arrow), can be seen a slot possibly for the curtain or a retaining timber wall. The floor of the *orchestra*, the area by the 2m scale is littered with Roman pottery and building ceramics. A coin retrieved from the surface of the *orchestra* is of Constantine (SF 003) and dated to AD330-335. Note the post-holes with white tags which may be the remains of an earlier stage.

Kathleen Kenyon writing in 1934 was one of the first to recognise the differences between the classic Roman theatre and the theatre she was excavating at St Albans. Kenyon says: “when we look at the Verulamium theatre it is clear that the differences between the first period building and the Vitruvian theatre go far beyond the normal range of variations. Kenyon points out that ‘the semicircular orchestra, the large stage, the entrances to the orchestra adjoining the stage are all lacking. ‘The width of the stage is little more than half the diameter of the orchestra instead of twice that length, and its area is much diminished by fronting merely on to the curved orchestra wall’ (Kenyon 1934: 243).

Kenyon noted that at Verulamium the theatre seats were so arranged that a large number of them face towards the orchestra, and partially away from the stage. The same scenario is apparent at the Blacklands theatre where the curve of the seating is focused more on the orchestra area than the stage. Kenyon realised, and was probably the first scholar to do so, that this type of theatre as excavated at Verulamium was also found in the north of France.



30. Trench 3 was enlarged to the south (Fig. 9) where two archaeologists are cleaning back the surface of the exposed stage.

In the foreground the trench was excavated to expose the surface of the *orchestra* and retaining wall (*proscenium*) which is likely to have been a vertical timber wall (below-red arrow). Note the drainage pipe in the corner.



The orchestra could be flooded for aquatic displays. The water reached the orchestra through two holes in the stage. The pool could not have been very deep: two metres at most. Naval battles were of course not re-enacted. We should imagine a choreography of the gods and goddesses of the sea and lakes, of nymphs and nereids, presumably scarcely dressed.

Kenyon writing in 1934 was not aware of actually how many of these theatres were to be found in the Roman province of *Gallia Comata*- she calls them 'a number of obscure little theatres in the north of France', in fact she cites 11 with an additional 19 doubtful. Derks (2011) lists over a hundred, but in the province of Britannia there are only four theatres known, and with the investigation at Blacklands Field in Faversham there are now five but only one, at the religious sanctuary at Blacklands, that is built into a hillside with a substantial complex of Roman buildings- bath-houses and possible Romano-Celtic temples- around it.



31. Both in Trench 2 and 3 the rear wall (*scaenae frons*) was exposed by excavation. The 1m scale (left) is alongside the truncated remains of the rear wall, the surface of the stage is shown as is the drop to the *orchestra*. The photo is facing east towards the *orchestra* and seating area (*cavea*).

32. At the rear of the rear wall a thick layer (1.27m) of deposited 'mud' was investigated which exposed the still bubbling springs. Finds retrieved from this deposit included votive offerings and a large number of broken pots thought to be ritual deposits.



11. Archaeological Finds

11.1. Ceramic assemblage

A full programme of spot-dating has been carried out by Malcolm Lynne and Nigel Macpherson-Grant. Interim assessments can be found in *Appendices 3 & 4*.

11.2. Roman Building Ceramics (CBM)

A comprehensive assessment of the RBC assemblage from Blacklands will be carried out as part of the post-excavation programme.

11.3. Roman Coins

Spot-dating on Roman coins has been carried out on all coins recovered from Blacklands (*Appendices 5-7*).

11.4. Small Finds

Small finds are in the care of Ian Riddler and a full assessment of all findings will form part of the interim report (*Appendix 10*).

11.5. Environmental evidence

Quantification and analysis of the environmental evidence retained will form part of the post-excavation work for the final report (*Appendix 8*).

11.6. Animal bones

The few bones that were retrieved will form part of the post-excavation work.

11.7. Summary of the Site Archive

In addition to the artefact assemblages mentioned above, the Site Archive includes: Correspondence, 321 digital photographs, 19 colour and b/w slides. 39 permatrace site drawings of plans and sections. Context register and sheets, site notebooks. A full archive catalogue will be prepared for publication on receipt of final specialist reports.

12. Recommendations for further Archaeological Assessment

Statement of potential

The archaeological excavations at Blacklands Field, School Farm have confirmed the presence of an important Roman Religious Sanctuary constructed originally in the mid 2nd century with occupation and alteration continuing to the 5th century if not beyond. With the archaeological investigation of the adjacent Roman villa's, and the other Roman buildings known in the vicinity it seems a substantial Roman hinterland was established very soon after the conquest in AD 43 and continuously occupied until at least the 5th century in the area of Faversham and Sittingbourne.

Fieldwork in the environs of the site show that the landscape was laid out with Roman field measurements, and with Germanic and Anglo-Saxon layers added later. The surrounding features and buildings at Blacklands have had only limited excavation, and if preserved from deep ploughing, further investigation will be available for future archaeologists.

Conclusions

The archaeological investigations at School Farm have been carried out in accordance with a written Research Design and Method Statement.

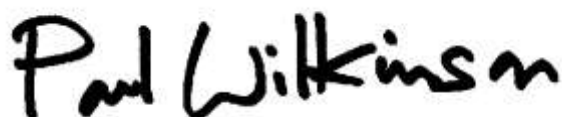
Archaeological remains present within the study site have been assessed and reported, enabling preservation by record. A wealth of important data on the establishment and design of an Roman Religious Sanctuary set in its British landscape has been retrieved, and an opportunity realised to teach a future generation of archaeologists the importance of Roman building technology and landscape interpretation.

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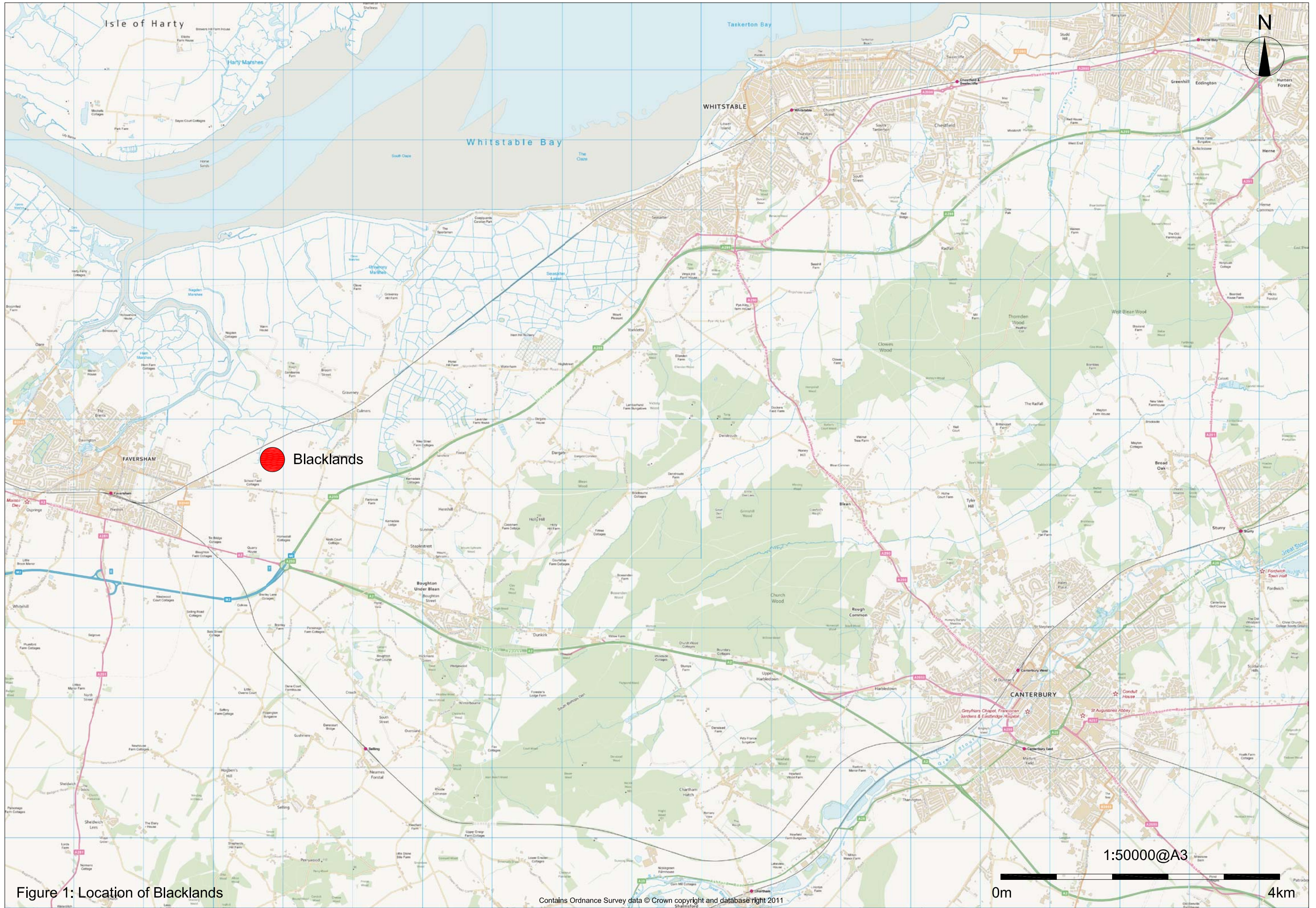


Figure 1: Location of Blacklands

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011

0m

4km

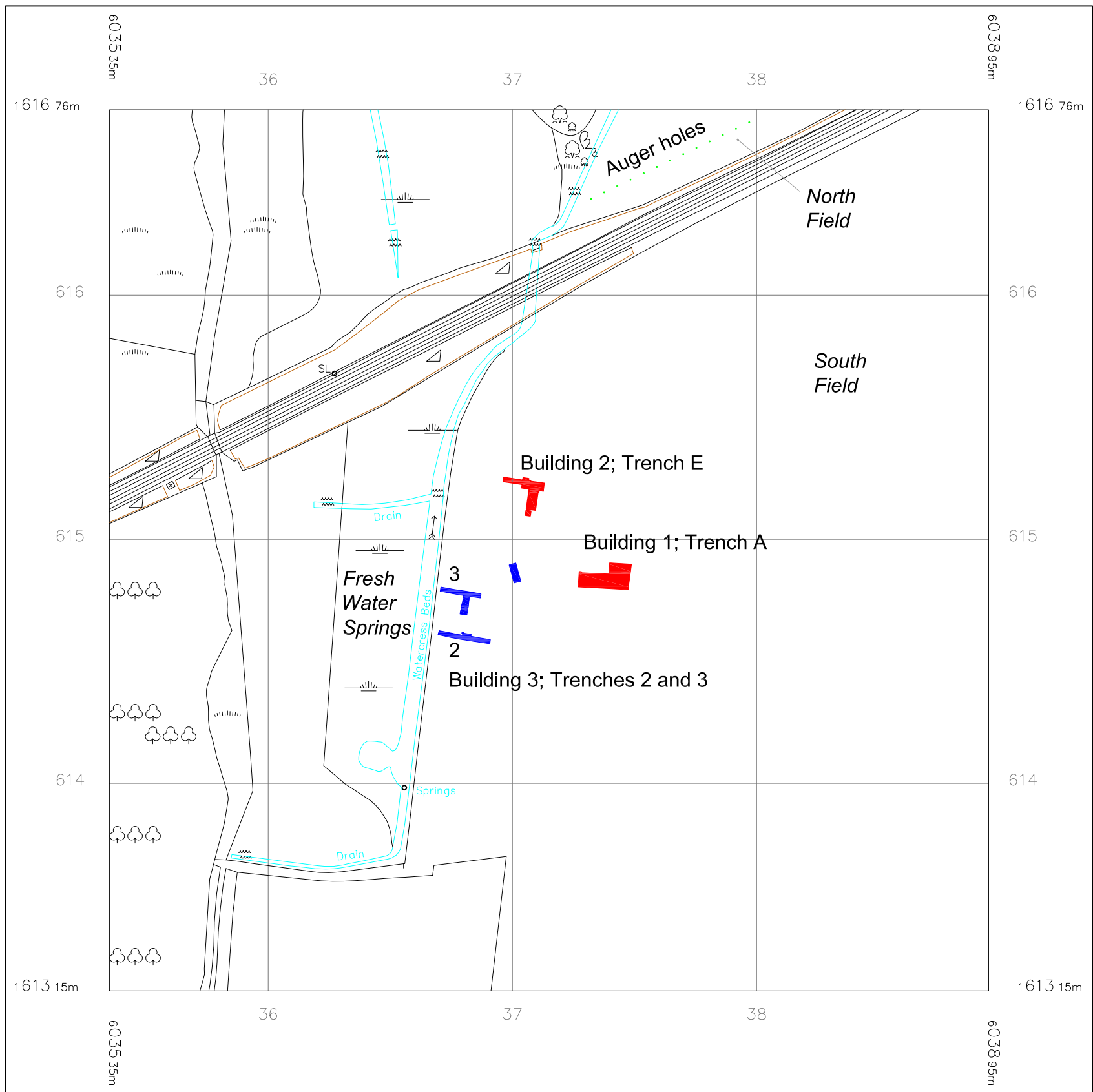
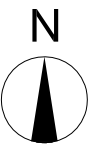


Figure 2: Location of trenches at Blacklands (2007 shown in red, 2008 shown in blue); 1995 Auger holes shown in green

1:2000@A3



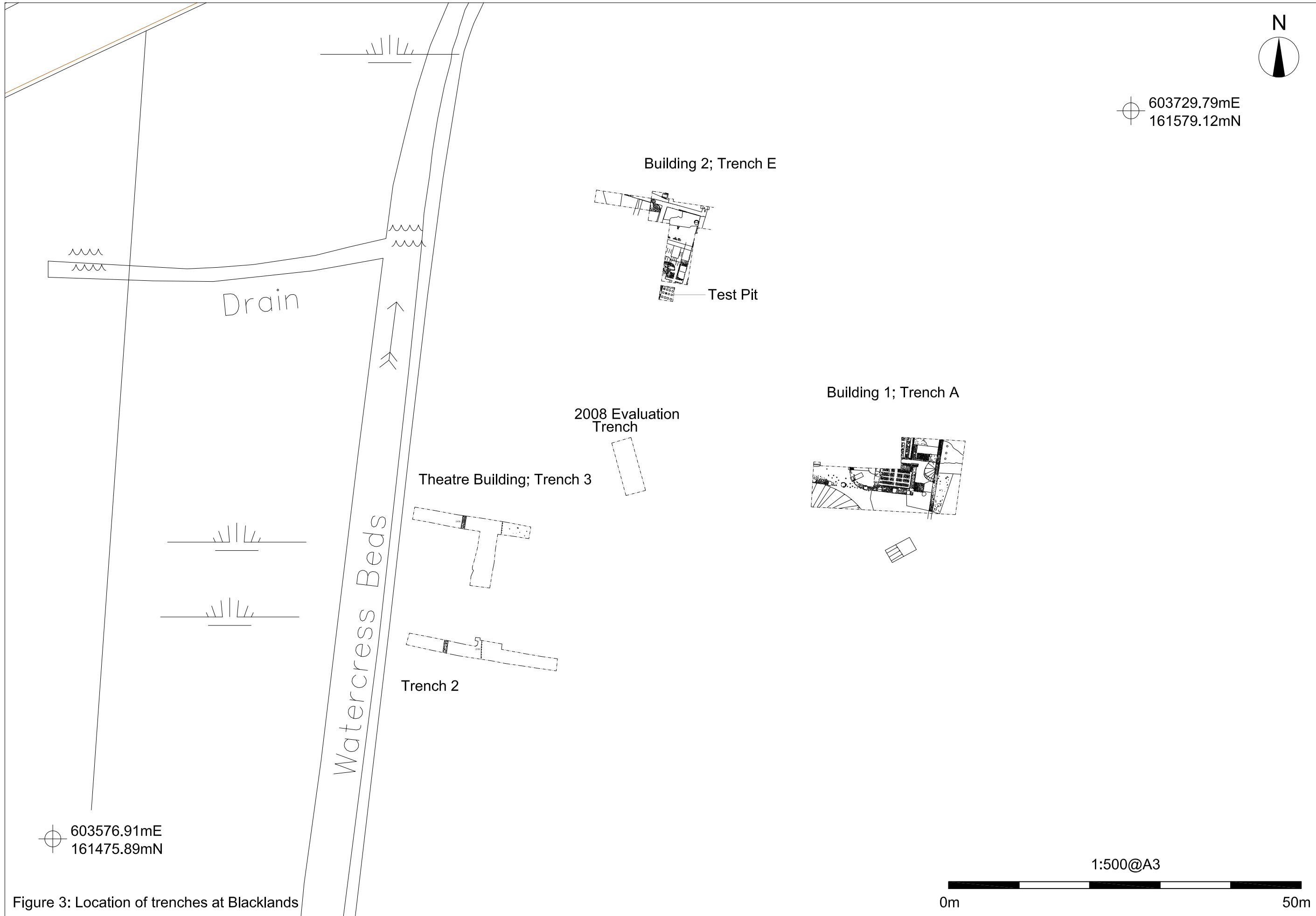


Figure 3: Location of trenches at Blacklands

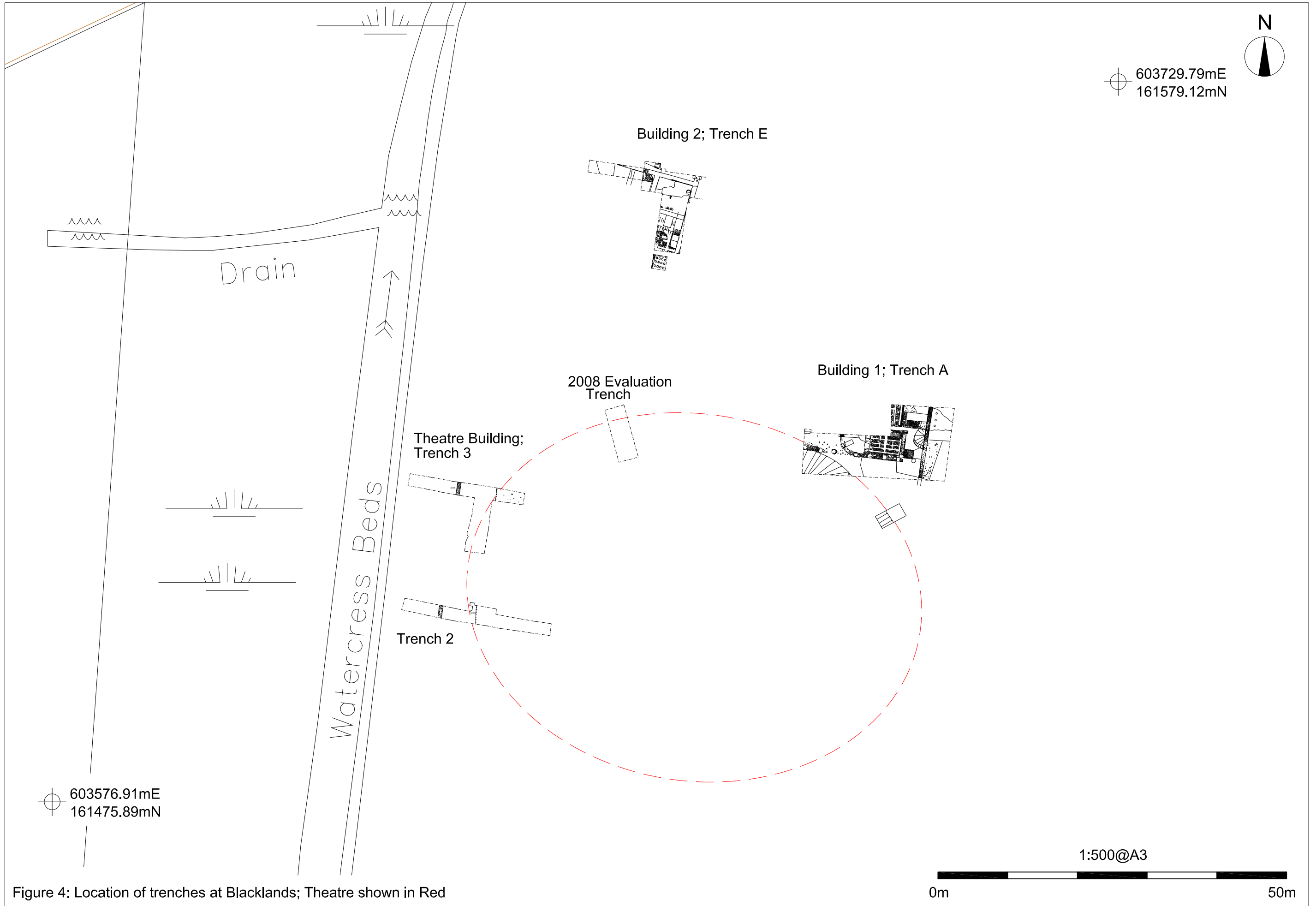
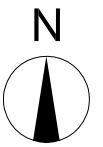
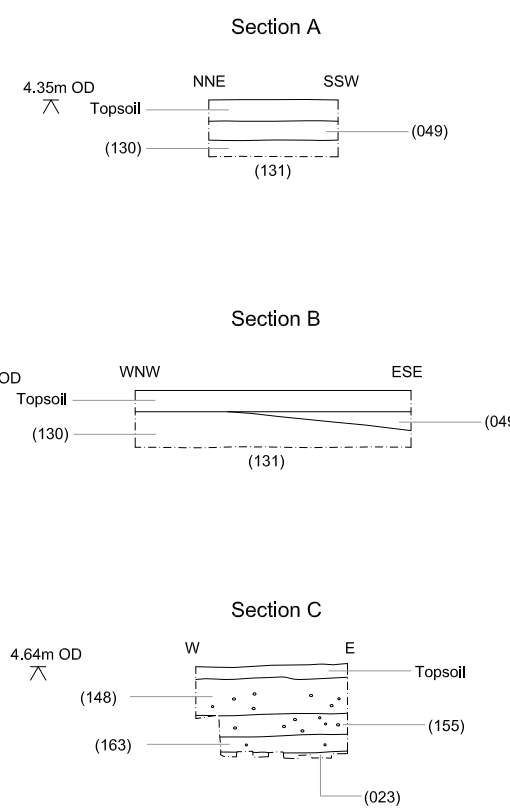


Figure 4: Location of trenches at Blacklands; Theatre shown in Red



603718.41mE
161526.45mN



Key:

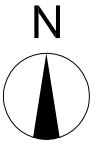
- Hypocaust
- Stone walls
- Post-Roman post-hole
- Ditch

603687.83mE
161505.81m N

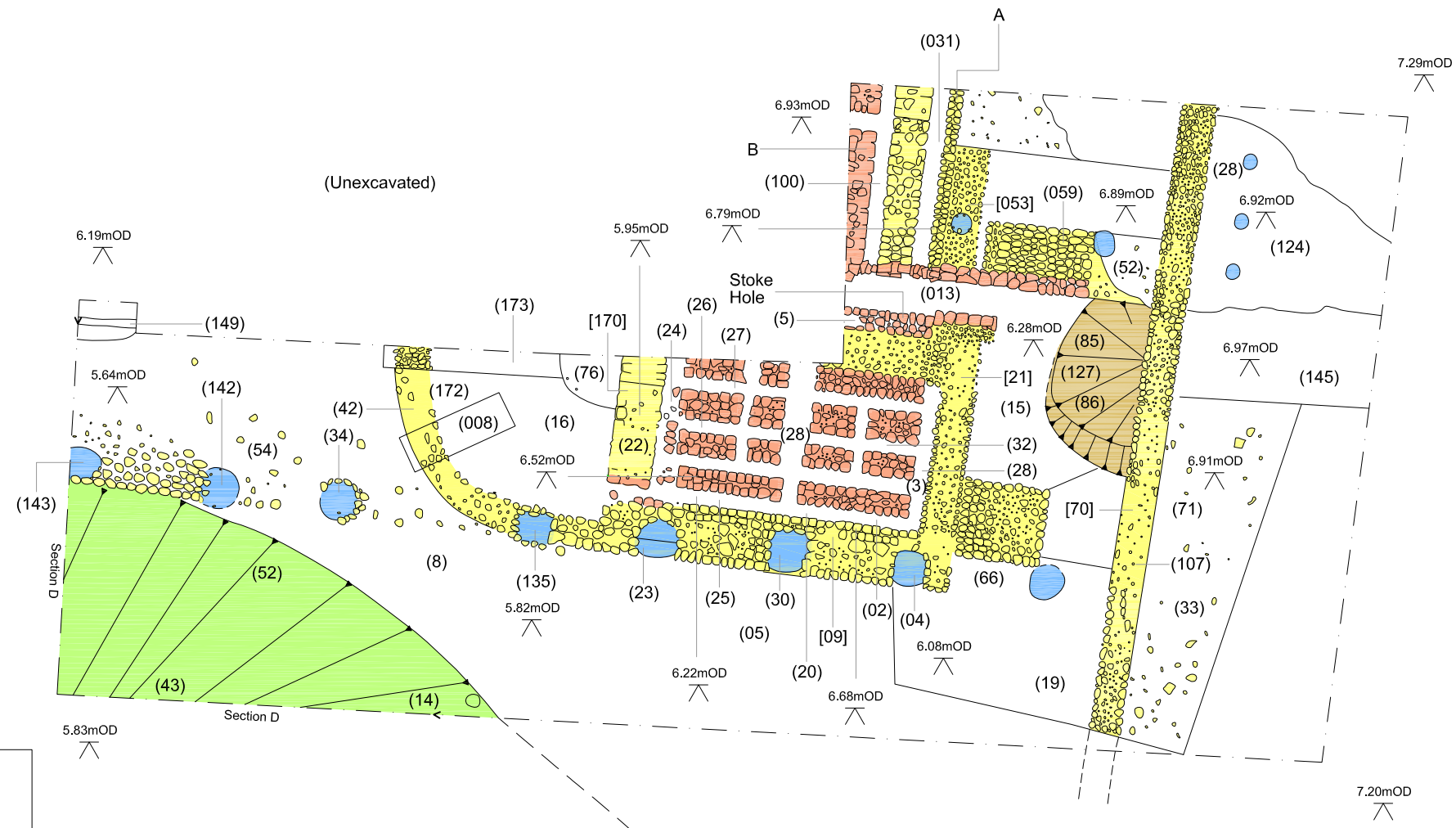
1:100@A3



Figure 5: Building 2; Trench E (excavated in 2007)



603751.67mE
161494.01mN



Key:

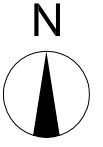
- Hypocaust
- Stone walls
- Post-Roman timber building
- Theatre

603721.09mE
161473.36mN

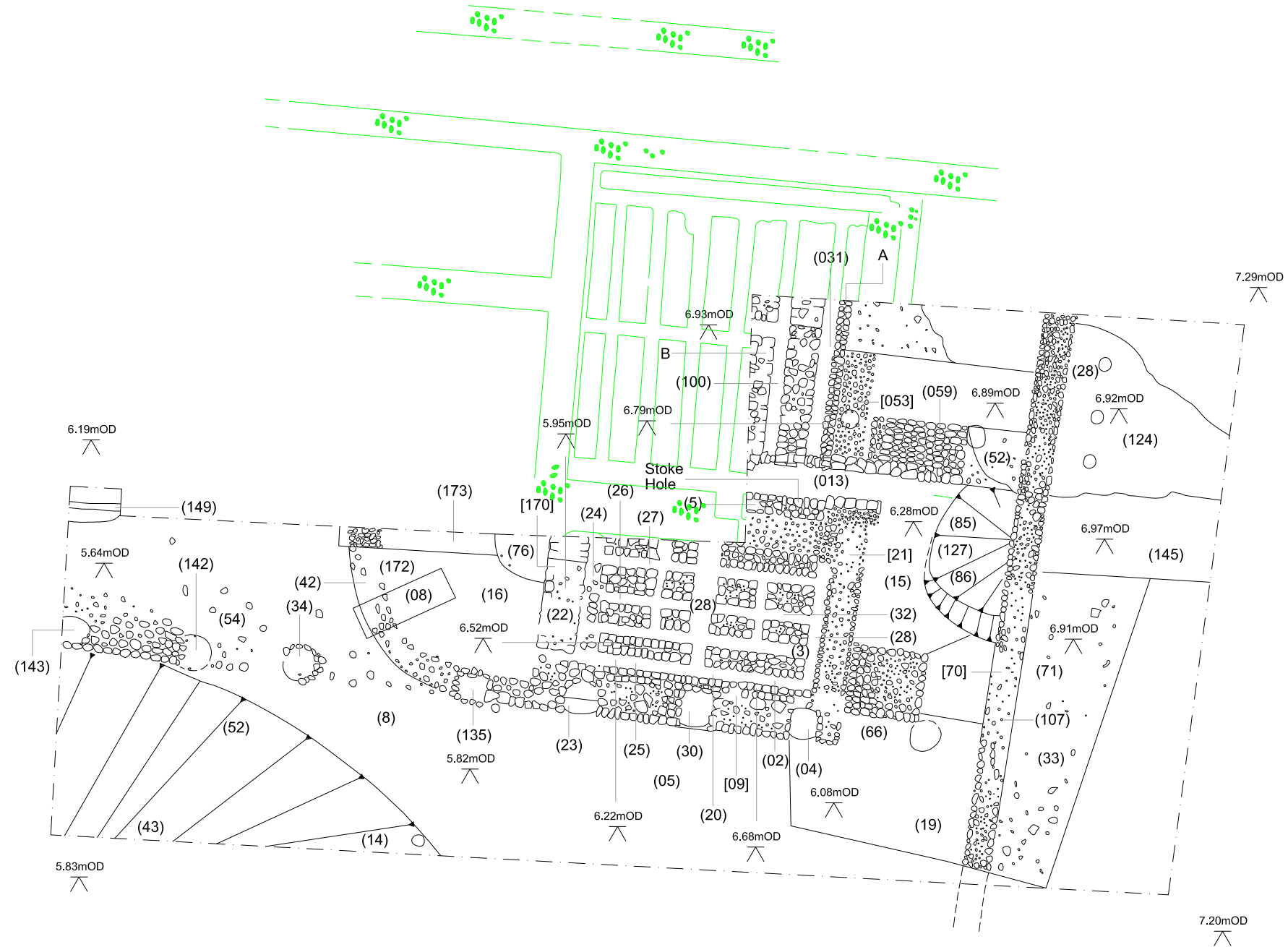
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Figure 6: Building 1; Trench A (excavated in 2007)



603751.67mE
161494.01mN



Key:



Flint walls

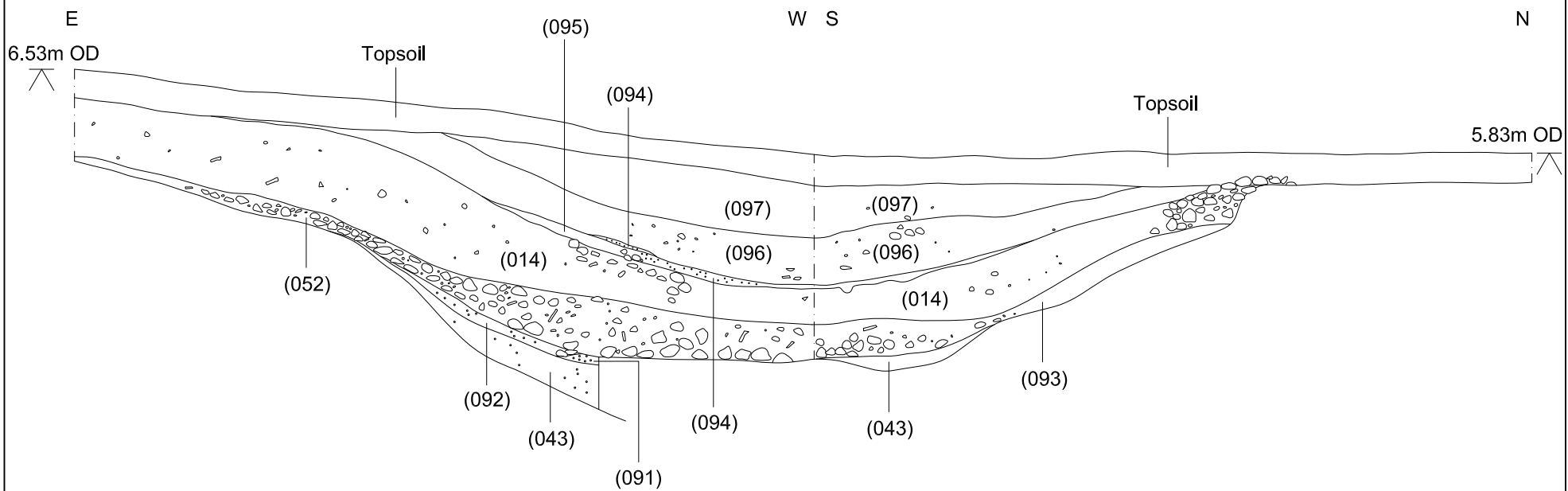
603721.09mE
161473.36mN

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Figure 7: Building 1; Trench A (excavated in 2007) with Philp 1996 excavation shown in green

Section D



1:50@A4



Figure 8: Section D; Trench A



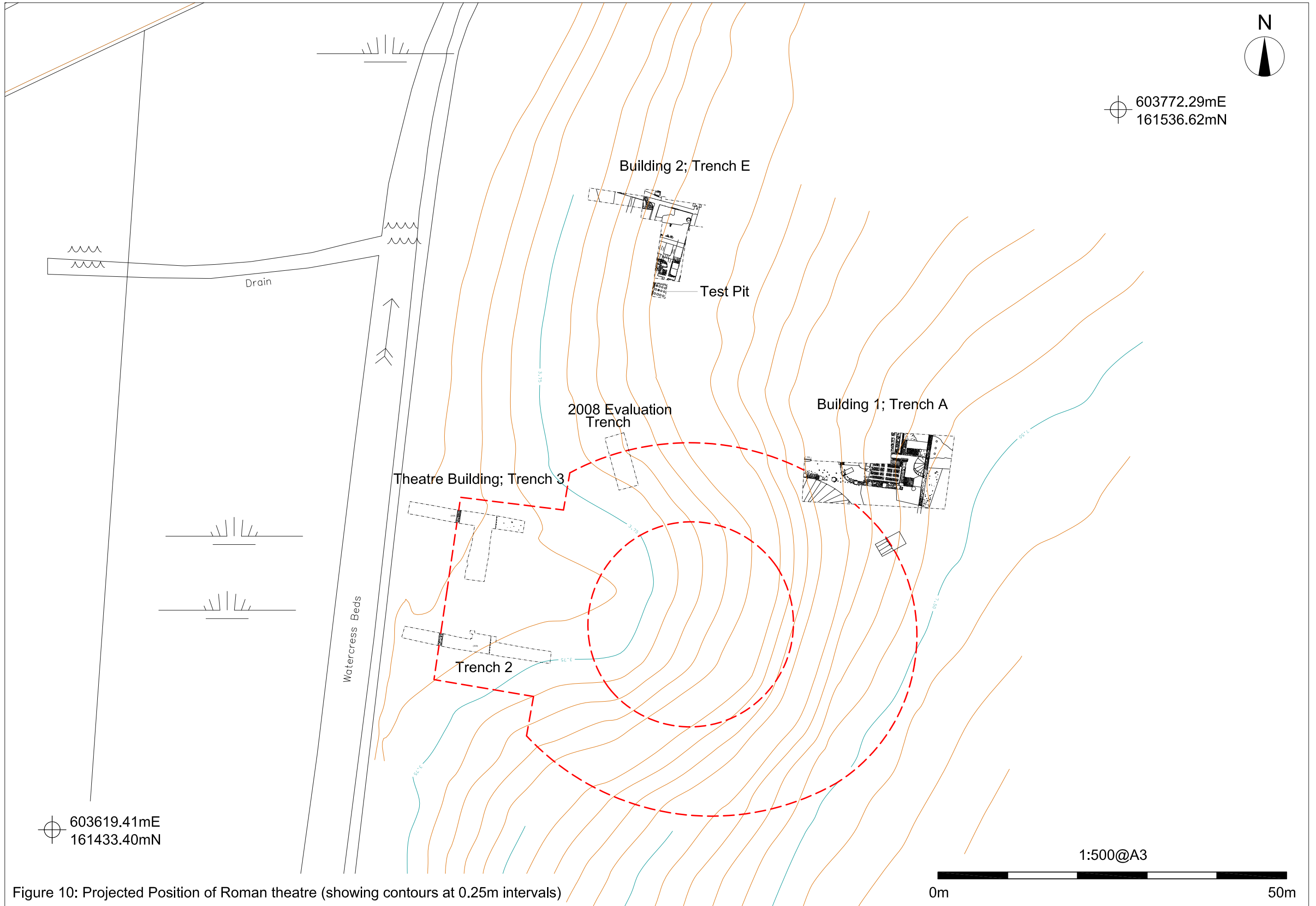


Figure 10: Projected Position of Roman theatre (showing contours at 0.25m intervals)

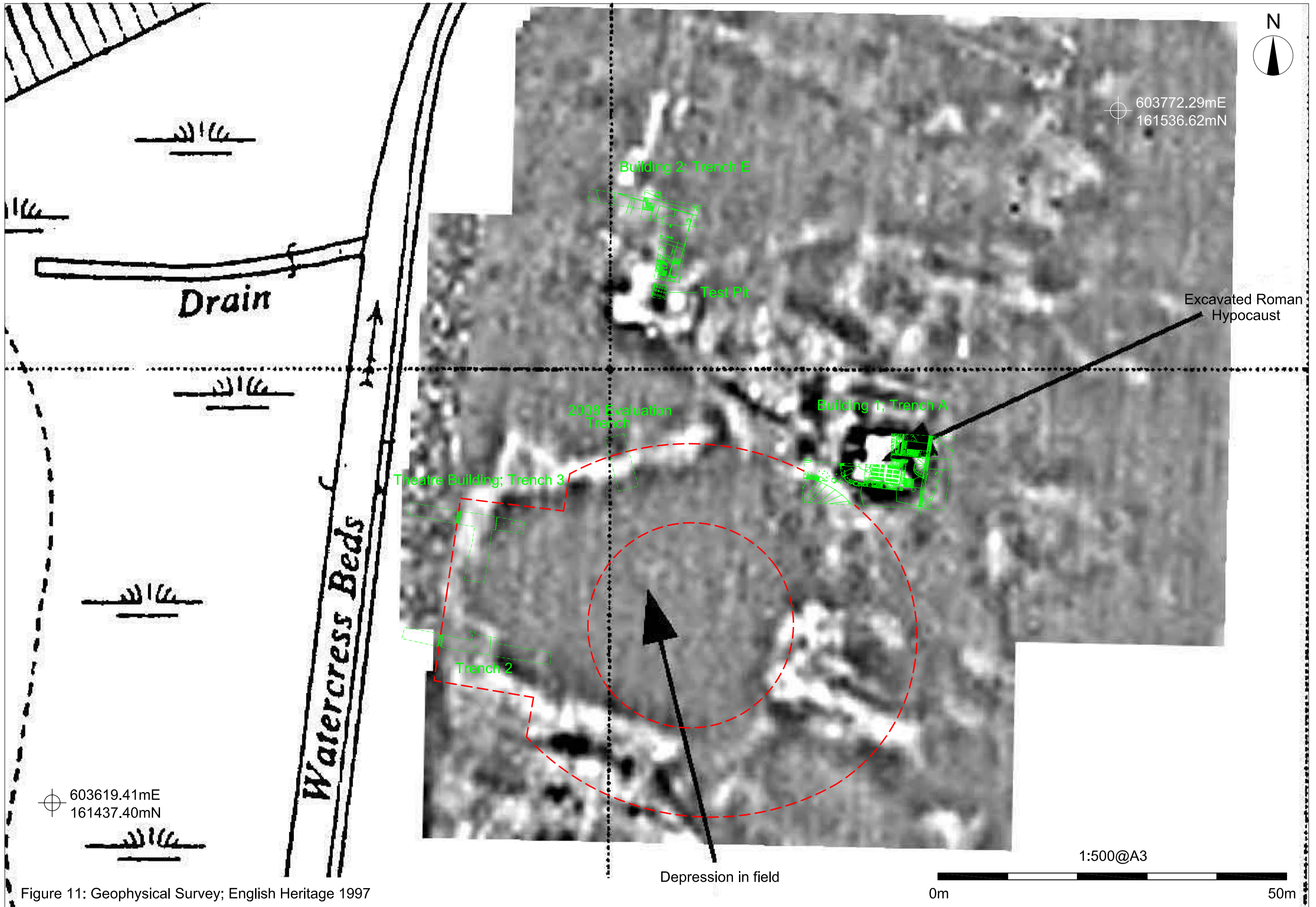


Figure 11: Geophysical Survey; English Heritage 1997

Blacklands Roman site, School Farm, Ewell, Faversham, Kent

Report on Geophysical Surveys, March 1997

INTRODUCTION

The area known as Blacklands is noted as the location of a possible Roman villa east of Faversham in 19th century sources (VCH Kent 3, 1932). The presence of this site was confirmed in 1995 when a concentration of Roman building materials was identified at NGR TR 037 615 on the surface of an arable field north of School Farm, Ewell by Paul Wilkinson during an archaeological survey conducted for Swale Borough Council.

Subsequently in 1995-6 Kent Archaeological Unit undertook some limited excavation in the field that had produced the Roman finds (Philp 1996). This resulted in the recovery of part of the plan of a substantial Roman building constructed of flint with a long axis aligned south-east to north-west and a width of approximately 15m (see photograph) but of unknown extent. The walls of two complete rooms lay within the area of excavation, both containing a hypocaust built of chalk blocks, the upper parts of which had been robbed. The trenches were back-filled after recording prior to the geophysical survey reported on here. Aerial photographic evidence for the site is limited, but suggests that the excavated building is only part of a much larger complex of archaeological remains of several periods extending to the north, east and south over an area of up to 8 hectares. Further trial trenching has revealed that archaeological activity extends to the north of the London to Ramsgate railway line.

The Roman building occupies a south-west facing slope overlooking a small stream that issues from a spring and then flows north through a low lying marshy area (see Figure 1). This is the remnant of a former tidal inlet from the Swale channel depicted on historical maps and known as Ewell Fleet (the shoreline having since advanced further to the north). It is possible that the Roman building may therefore have been sited to give access to open water along the former tidal creek, to take advantage of waterborne communication links. The underlying solid geology of the site consists of Cretaceous upper chalk overlain on the higher ground by Tertiary (Eocene) Thanet Beds (green grey sand with shell beds and sandy clay) and Quaternary brick-earth deposits of aeolian origin (Institute of Geological Sciences 1967). These deposits are overlain by marine alluvium in the former inter-tidal area.

Despite the excavation little was known of the full extent, overall plan and function of the newly discovered remains at Blacklands. A geophysical survey was therefore undertaken by the former Ancient Monuments Laboratory (AML) in March 1997 at the request of Peter Kendall (Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Kent). The aim was to provide more detail on the character of the site without resort to further excavation and help define the extent and layout of the Roman activity for future management purposes. The survey was also required to enable the site to be assessed with a view to possible scheduling.

METHOD

Due to time constraints, the size and anticipated complexity of the site, the survey concentrated on examining the partially excavated Roman building and its environs in the south field of Blacklands (south of the railway that divides the site). An extensive magnetometer survey was carried out initially in an attempt to define the general bounds of archaeological activity in the field containing the Roman building and to pinpoint areas of Roman occupation for more detailed investigation with resistivity survey. Although magnetometer survey is generally capable of detecting a wide range of archaeological features (including: silted-up ditches and pits, walls constructed from materials with contrasting magnetic properties to the surrounding soil, fired clay structures and deposits of burnt material), the magnetic response from archaeological features at Ewell was disappointing. The magnetometer survey was therefore discontinued after two days of fieldwork in favour of resistivity survey which although slower is usually better suited to the detection of buried structural remains such as wall footings, paved floors and rubble deposits. The resistivity survey concentrated on mapping the continuation of the Roman building(s) already partially known from excavation. Although resistivity proved effective it was unfortunately not possible to trace the full extent of buried building remains on the site in the limited time left available because of the relative slowness of the technique compared to magnetometry.

Instrument readings with both techniques were based on a grid of 30m squares (see Figure 1) aligned close to the national grid and measured in to the field boundaries.

Magnetometer Survey

Each 30m square was surveyed using Geoscan FM36 fluxgate gradiometers. Measurements were recorded at 0.1 nT (nanotesla) sensitivity at 0.25m intervals in a north-south direction along successive parallel traverses spaced 1m apart. Readings were stored in the internal memory of each magnetometer and the data was periodically transferred in the field to a portable microcomputer for storage and verification. The data was subsequently processed in the laboratory using a suite of computer programmes developed by the Archaeometry Branch of the AML for processing archaeo-geophysical data, supporting a range of display options and mathematical image enhancement routines. The raw data is presented as an X-Y trace-plot on Figure 3, together with a greyscale plot of the data using a linear greyscale and an interpolation algorithm. Processing involved the preliminary reduction of the effect of instrument drift and responses to iron (Figure 3(a)) and the application of a 1m radius Gaussian low-pass filter to smooth out the effects of slight instrument and soil noise (Figure 3(b)). A greyscale plot of the magnetometer data related to the Ordnance Survey plan is supplied on Figure 2 and an interpretation is provided on Figure 4.

Resistivity Survey

15 of the squares already surveyed with the magnetometer were resurveyed with this technique. (The results of both surveys are compared in Figure 8 and a combined interpretation of both surveys is provided in Figure 9). The resistance of the ground to a depth approaching 1m was measured using a Geoscan RM15 resistance meter operated in the Twin Electrode configuration with a mobile probe spacing of 0.5m. Resistance readings were taken at 1m intervals along successive parallel traverses spaced 1m apart. Data processing in the laboratory involved the initial cleaning of the raw data to replace occasional false readings (caused by poor probe contact) using a threshold median filter. The resulting data is presented as a trace-plot (Figure 6a) and a greyscale plot (Figure 6b). Broad variations in background resistance occur across the site

and to counter this the data was further treated with a 4m radius Gaussian high-pass filter to remove the effect of natural background changes in resistance and highlight anomalies of artificial origin less than 4m in width (Figure 6c). An interpretation of the resistivity data is provided in Figure 6d.

RESULTS

Magnetometer survey (see Figures 2, 3 and 4)

Despite a generally disappointing response, the magnetometer survey has in places succeeded in detecting some vague evidence of buried archaeological features and has also provided some complementary detail to the results of the resistivity survey (see Figure 9).

There is little apparent response to buried buildings in the survey, except in one place where the indistinct outline of a possible rectilinear building has been detected as a slight positive magnetic anomaly [M1]. The presence of a possible large building here (with dimensions of approximately 45x12m and a long axis north-south) is also suggested by the resistivity data (see below) and the magnetic anomalies correspond closely with a number of high resistance anomalies indicating buried masonry (see Figure 9). At the southern end of this feature a more strongly positive area of anomalous magnetic activity [M2] coinciding with an area of high resistance may indicate the presence of a further hypocaust or other fired structure (for example a corn drying oven or furnace). Local enhancement of the magnetic susceptibility of the soils in the area of the building (presumably resulting from sustained burning) has probably contributed to its detection by the magnetometer. Another isolated feature - possibly a thermally magnetised structure or a large pit full of magnetically enhanced material has been detected at [M3] near a possible small outbuilding [R5] revealed by the resistivity survey. Elsewhere in the magnetometer survey, no other buildings can certainly be recognised, probably because the chalk and flint construction materials used in the buildings have negligible magnetic contrast with the surrounding soil and geology.

To the south of the possible structure at [M1/2], the survey has defined the edges of an area of slightly increased soil magnetism visible as a wide shallow depression in the ground surface [M4]. The magnetometer is probably responding to sediment that has accumulated in the depression, but the actual origin of the feature is unclear from the survey. At the north-east corner of this area a localised region of magnetic enhancement is visible [M5] which may be related to the excavated hypocaust structure [R7] located 5m to the north-east (possibly a stoking pit or a large pit filled with burnt material). Near the western limit of the survey, adjacent to the stream, various intermittent curvi-linear positive and negative anomalies are visible roughly following the present course of the stream. These may relate to fluvial deposits linked to the stream channel, but it is also possible that they represent man-made structures linked to the management or use of the watercourse in the Roman period (such as flood prevention banks or wharves). According to excavation evidence, a flinty metallated layer or cobbled surface of unknown purpose was located in this area and features such as this could account for the magnetic anomalies along the course of the stream.

Other vague positive linear anomalies at [M6] and [M7] are tentatively interpreted as buried ditches - speculatively forming part of a rectilinear enclosure around the main villa buildings (although geophysical evidence alone is insufficient to support this) - and the side ditches of a possible roadway at [M8]. To the east of [M9] is a wide curving weak negative linear anomaly continuing out of the survey area to the north. This might be archaeologically significant, but

could also be a feature of the natural geology.

Resistivity survey (see Figures 5, 6 and 7)

In the discussion below, references enclosed in square brackets relate to feature numbers indicated on the interpretation plans (Figures 6 and 9)

The resistivity data contains numerous high resistance responses, which are angular in outline and share similar alignments suggesting structural remains. Although generally lacking fine detail, these high resistance areas resemble rectangular buildings in plan and taken together suggest the presence of an extensive complex of Roman buildings of masonry construction. Unfortunately due to the limited structural definition in the data (possibly a result of plough disturbance to the buried structures) it is difficult to recognise separate wall alignments and internal divisions of individual buildings. The survey has nevertheless succeeded in defining the general ground plan of the complex and the potential remains of at least 6 individual buildings or wings have been identified (**R1 – R6** on Figures 6 and 9). These extend across the whole of the survey area and appear to continue beyond the present limit of coverage to the north and south, suggesting that the site is an impressive size (covering an area of at least 1.2 hectares). The site would compare in scale to some of the larger known villas and Roman buildings in England including the major courtyard complexes at Winterton, Lincs; Bignor, Sussex; and North Leigh, Oxfordshire. Weaker and more irregular areas of increased resistance readings on the higher ground in the eastern part of the survey may be caused by spreads of rubble representing less well preserved plough-truncated building remains (see ? symbols on Figures 6 and 9). Greater disturbance to the archaeological features in this area of the site could have occurred as a result of thinner soil cover on the higher part of the field. The possibility that some of the high resistance areas to the east could be geological in origin should also not be discounted.

The location of the 1995-6 excavation is visible as a 10 by 8m highly resistive area [**R7**] lending confirmation to the interpretation of the adjacent anomalous activity as archaeological. The un-excavated portion of the building partially known from excavation at [**R3**] has been traced by the resistivity survey continuing to the west-north-west.

The features detected by the survey appear to be arrayed along the river bank and may have been laid out in relation to the former course of the stream. Several high resistance linear anomalies [**R8, R9**], running diagonally to the main areas of high resistance, are not easily explicable as parts of buildings, and may represent drains linked to the stream.

An interesting sub-rectangular area empty of anomalous activity occurs in the south western part of the survey [**R10**] and coincides with a wide depression in the surface of the field faintly visible in the magnetometer data. The nature of this feature is uncertain. It might represent the location a former quarry of relatively recent origin perhaps linked to brick-earth extraction, but a possible association with the Roman buildings cannot be ruled out as it does appear to be respected by surrounding areas of high resistance interpreted as possible buildings. If the depression is due to an original feature of the Roman period, a possible explanation is that it represents an artificial water feature of some description.

CONCLUSIONS

The geophysical surveys have successfully managed to detect evidence of buried archaeological features. The results indicate that buried building remains are substantial suggesting a high status Roman settlement potentially of some archaeological significance and of a size similar to other

late Roman villas in Southern England built on a grand scale such as Bignor, West Sussex (Winbolt and Herbert 1965) and Darenth, Kent (Smith 1978, Fig.51). Although the resistivity anomalies become fainter to the north and west, structural detail is better resolved. This suggests a greater depth of overburden (due to colluvial soil build-up at the bottom of terrace on which the site was built) over the archaeological remains causing a weaker anomaly, but resulting in better preservation and therefore improved structural definition. There appears to be a very close relationship between the Roman features located in the small excavated area and the wider pattern of anomalies in the geophysical data indicating that the anomalies represent a continuation of the partially excavated Roman remains. Unlike many Roman villa sites that have been encroached upon by modern urban development, there is considerable potential for tracing the full extent of the site at Ewell as the land use in the area is primarily agricultural and therefore suitable for extended survey.

In the absence of evidence for phasing (which would require excavation), the buildings represented in the geophysical data may not all be contemporary. The geophysical survey could give the illusion of a much larger complex of buildings than may have been the case during a single period of the history of the site. The overall plan provided by the geophysics probably represents a composite picture of the development of the site over several centuries.

In the context of the Romano-British landscape of the area, the enigmatic feature to the south of the main building complex could represent a former flooded harbour basin connected with industrial or commercial usage of the site. Although the building complex is now only near a small stream, flowing towards the coast, the water level would probably have been much higher in the early first Millennium AD when the site was in use¹. This would have allowed the occupants to take advantage of important waterborne transport and trade links, possibly accounting for the apparent grandeur and scale of the building remains suggested by the survey.

1. In the Roman period the site would have lain close to the inter-tidal zone and would have been accessible to maritime transport from the sea via a tidal inlet (or creek) off the Swale Channel. It is only in comparatively recent centuries that the shoreline of the north coast of this part of Kent has retreated to its present position.

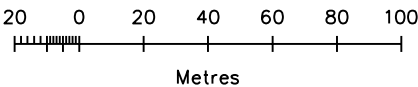
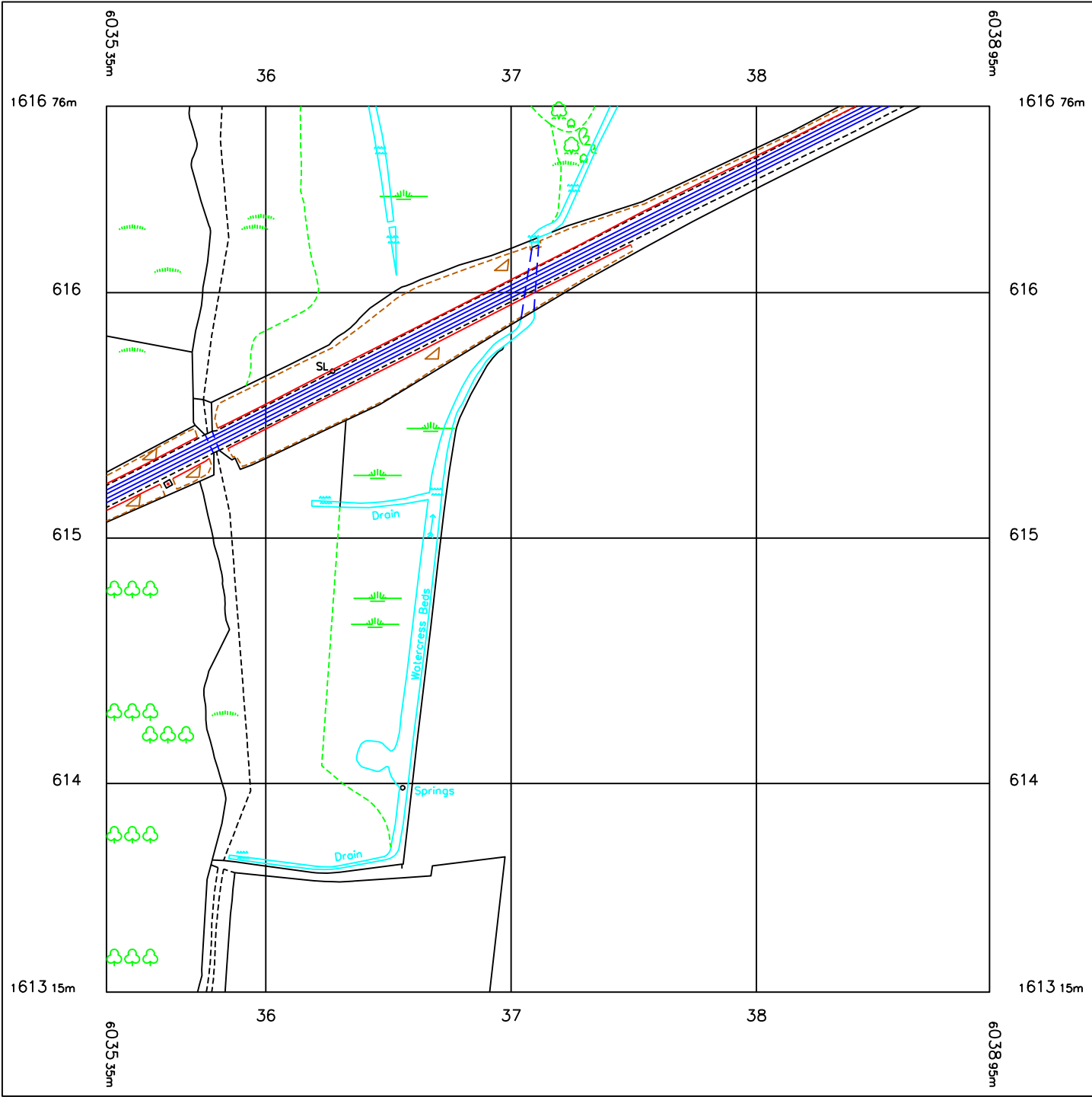
REFERENCES

Philp, B, 1996 Roman building discovered near Faversham, *Kent Archaeological Review*, Spring 1996, published by Council for Kentish Archaeology.

Smith, J T, 1978 Villas as a key to social structure, in *Studies in the Romano-British Villa* (edited by M Todd), 149-186, Leicester University Press.

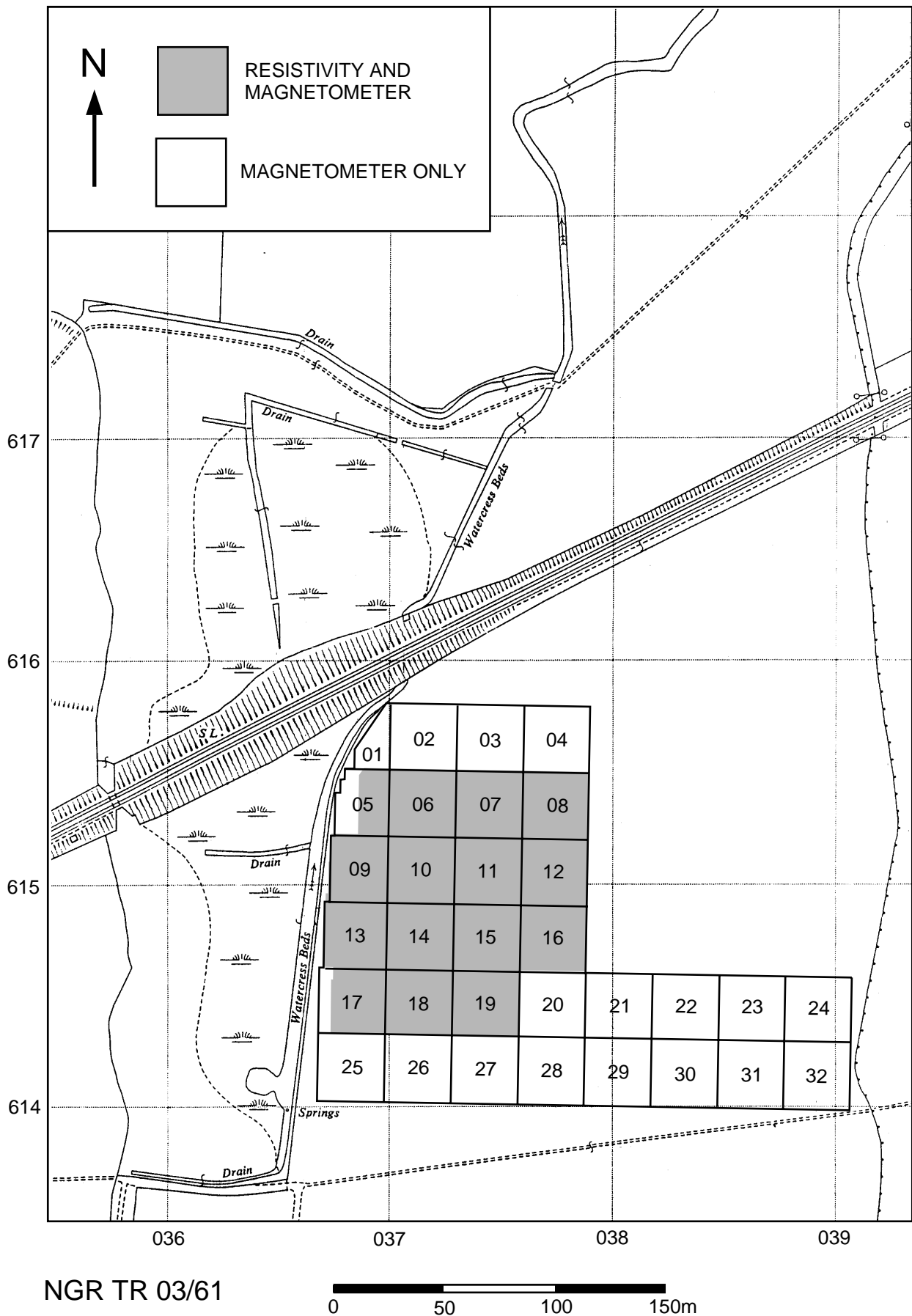
Winbolt, S E, and Herbert, G, 1965 *The Roman villa at Bignor, Sussex*.

Ordnance Survey[®] OS Sitemap[™]



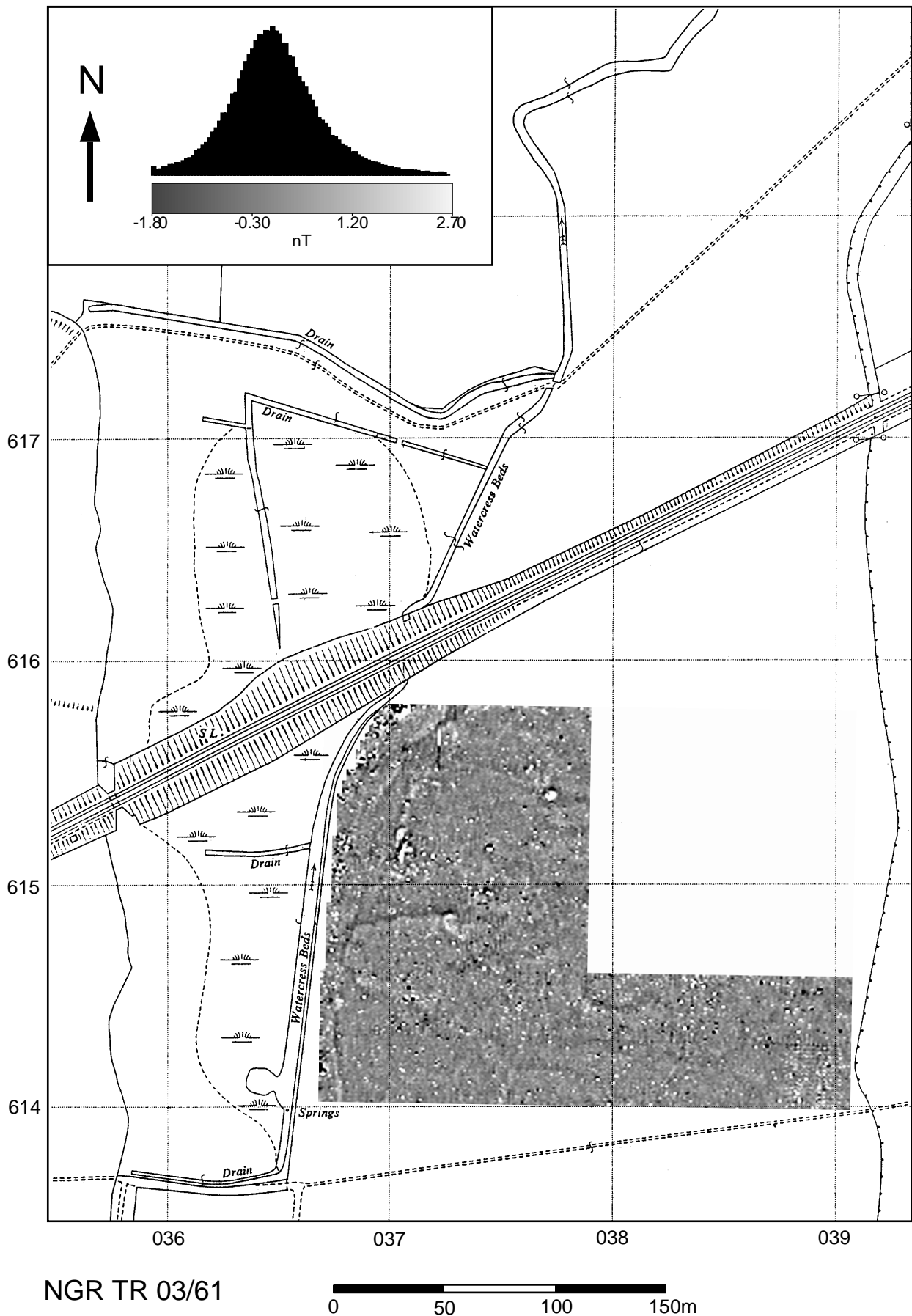
BLACKLANDS ROMAN SITE, SCHOOL FARM, EWELL NR FAVERSHAM, KENT

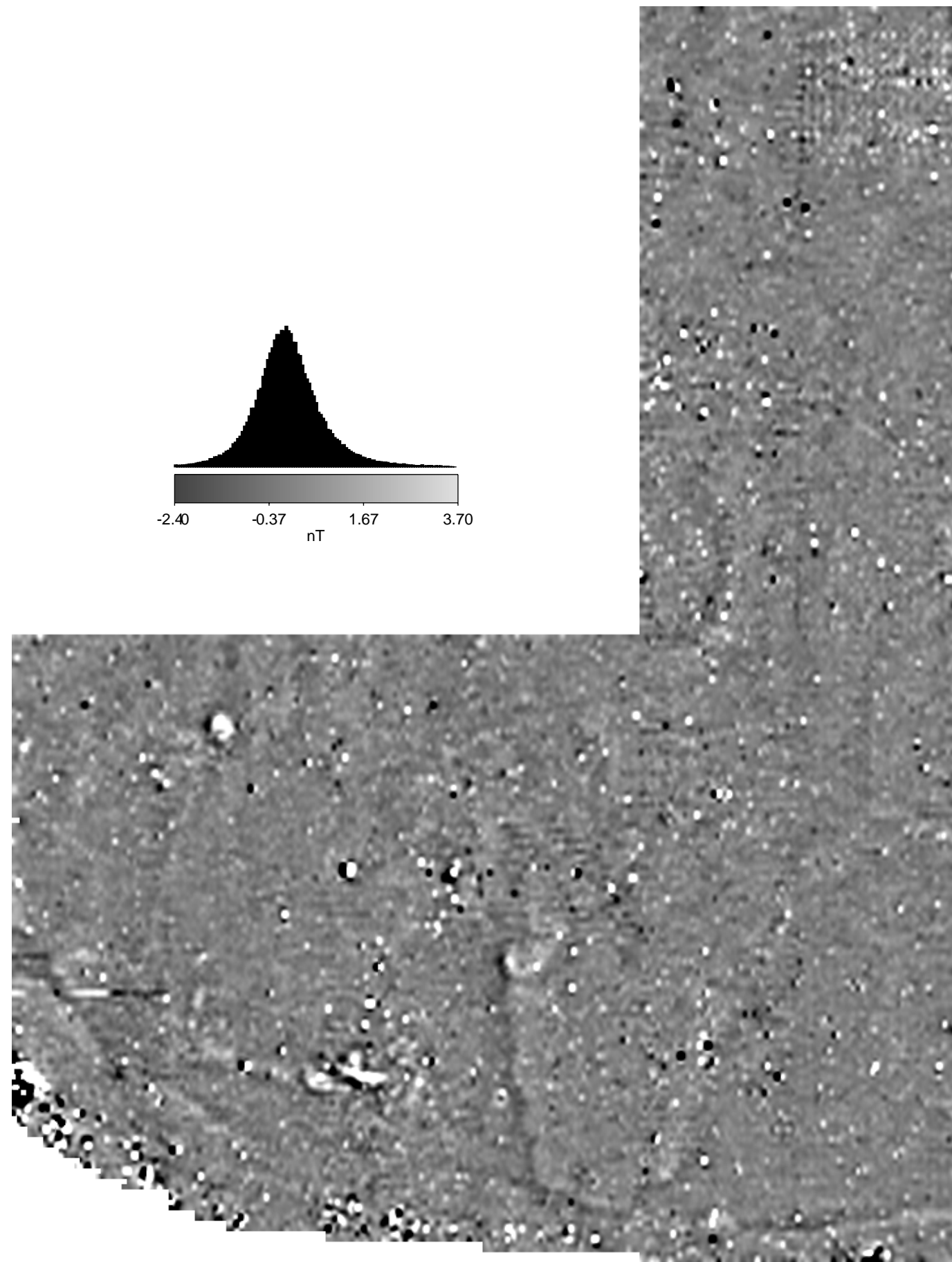
FIG. 1. Location of Geophysical Surveys, March 1997



BLACKLANDS ROMAN SITE,
SCHOOL FARM, EWELL NR FAVERSHAM, KENT

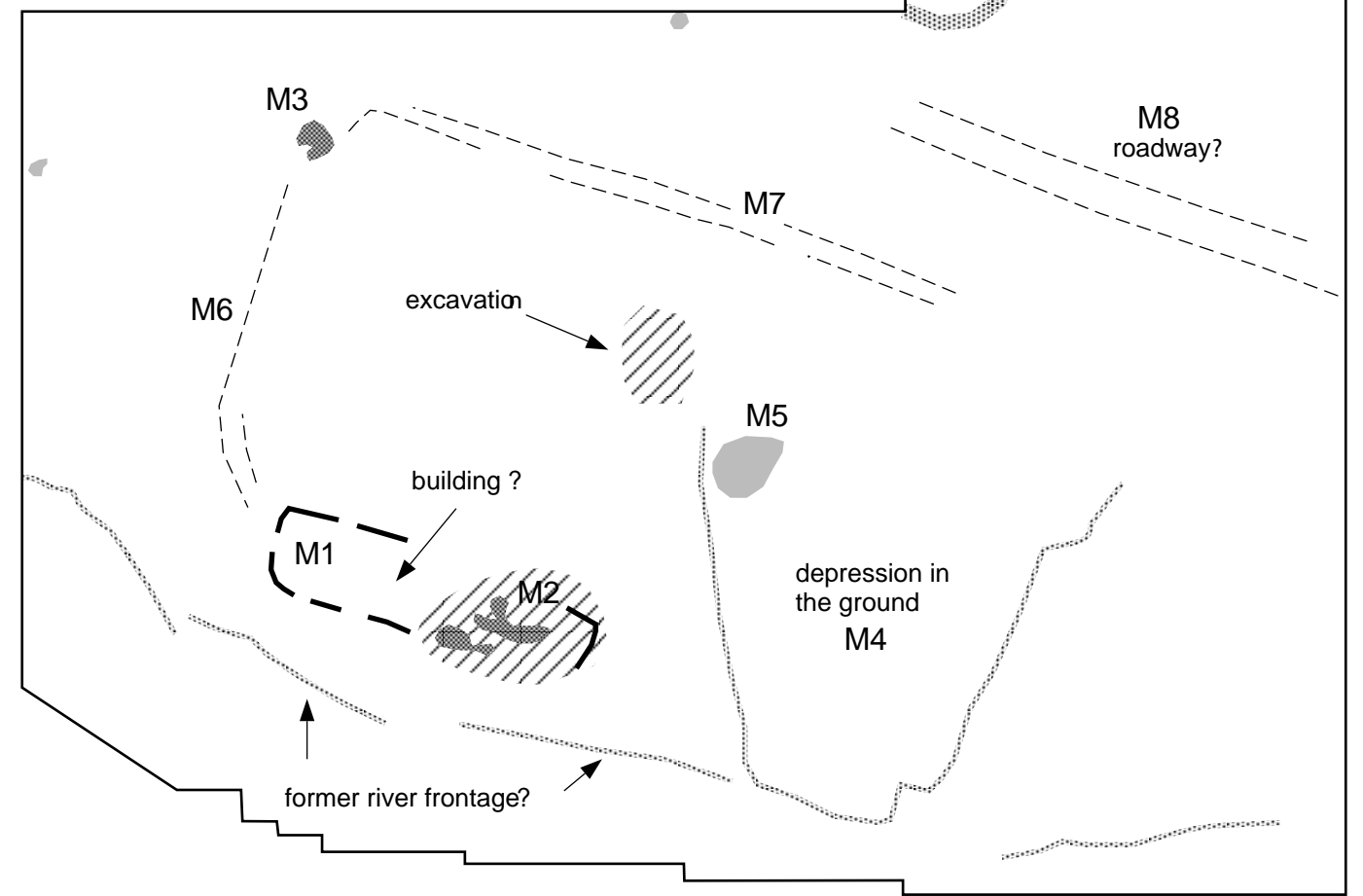
FIG. 2. Location of Magnetometer Survey, March 1997





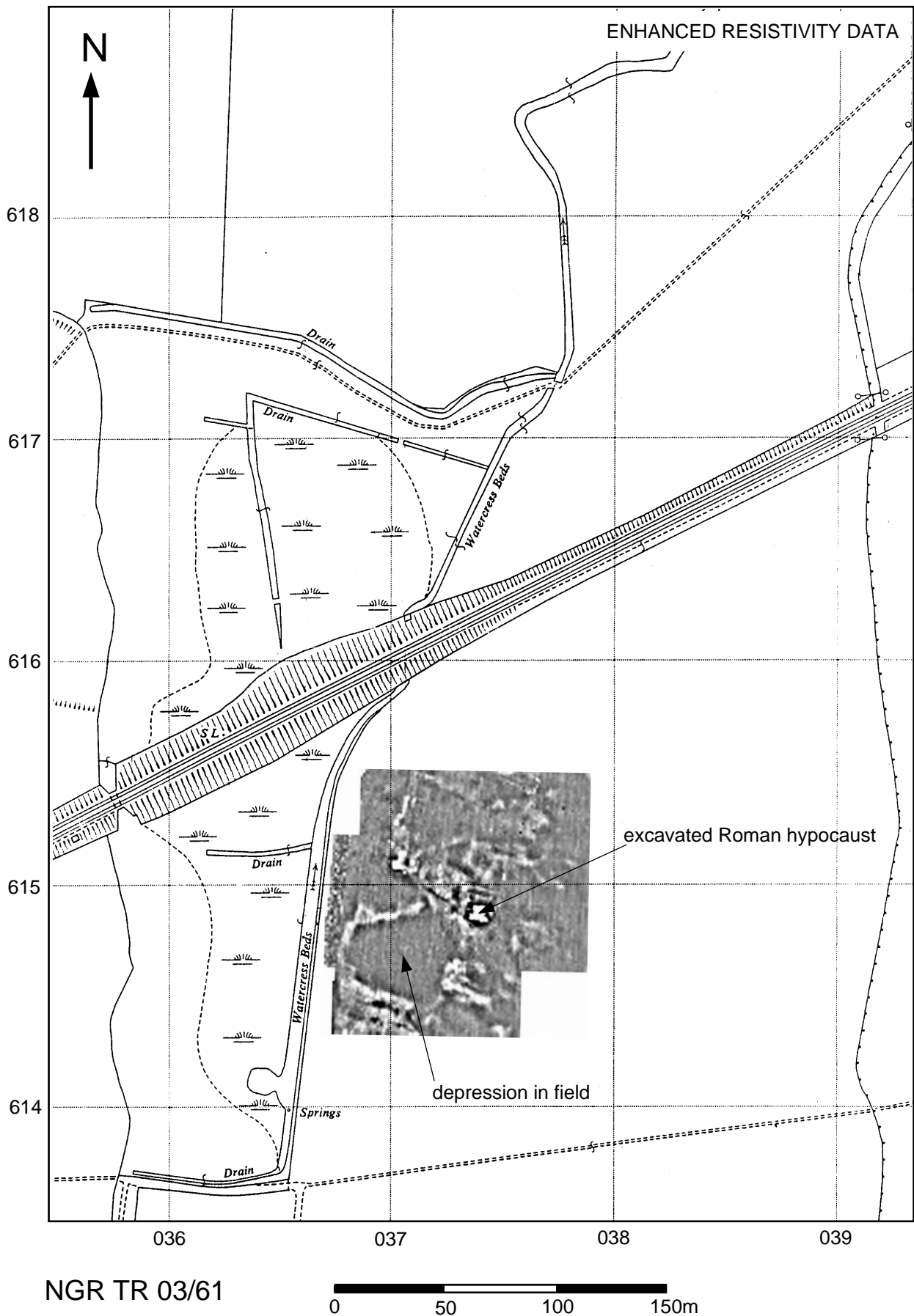
GUIDE TO INTERPRETATION OF ANOMALIES

- vague linear positive anomalies - possible ditches
- ⋯ linear negative anomalies - possible walls or embanked features or ? geological
- - - outline of possible building defined by weak positive magnetic anomaly
- localised positive magnetic anomalies - pits/quarries
- anomalies indicative of strongly thermally magnetised features eg. ovens, flues, hearths, fired clay
- ▨ areas of generalised magnetic disturbance associated with building remains



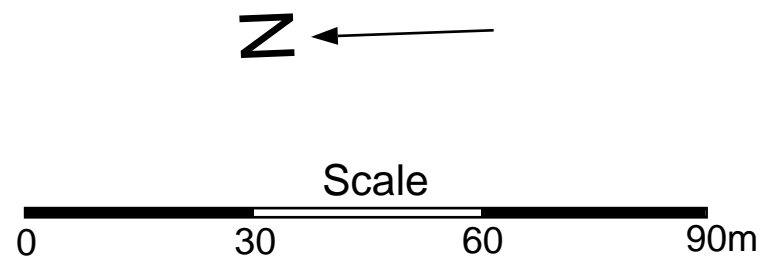
BLACKLANDS ROMAN SITE,
SCHOOL FARM, EWELL NR FAVERSHAM, KENT

FIG. 5. Location of Resistivity Survey, March 1997

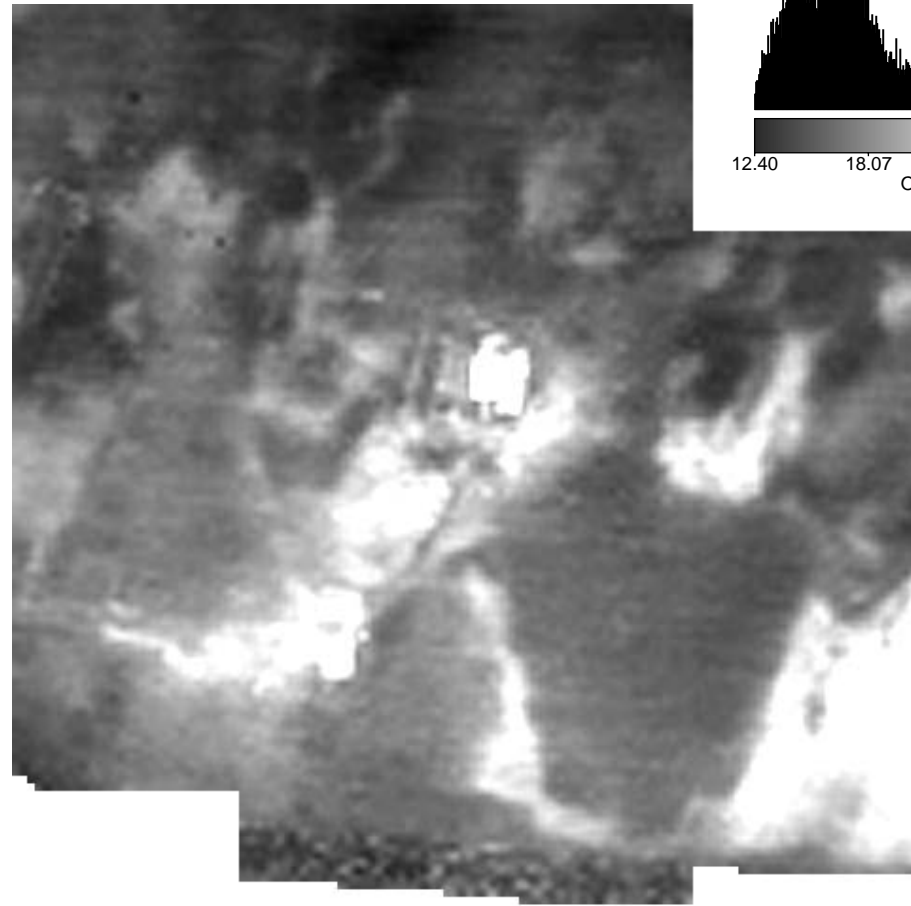


KEY TO PLOTS

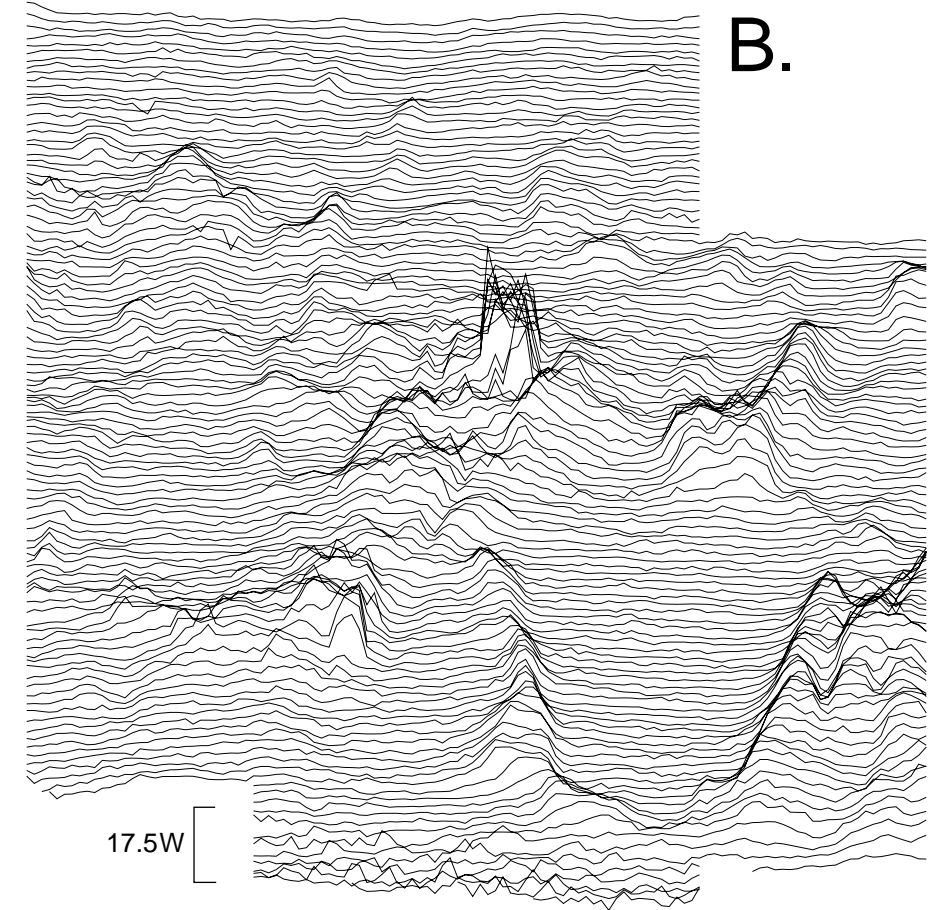
- A. greyscale of raw data
- B. traceplot of raw data
- C. greyscale of data enhanced with a 4m radius Gaussian high-pass filter
- D. interpretation of survey data



A.



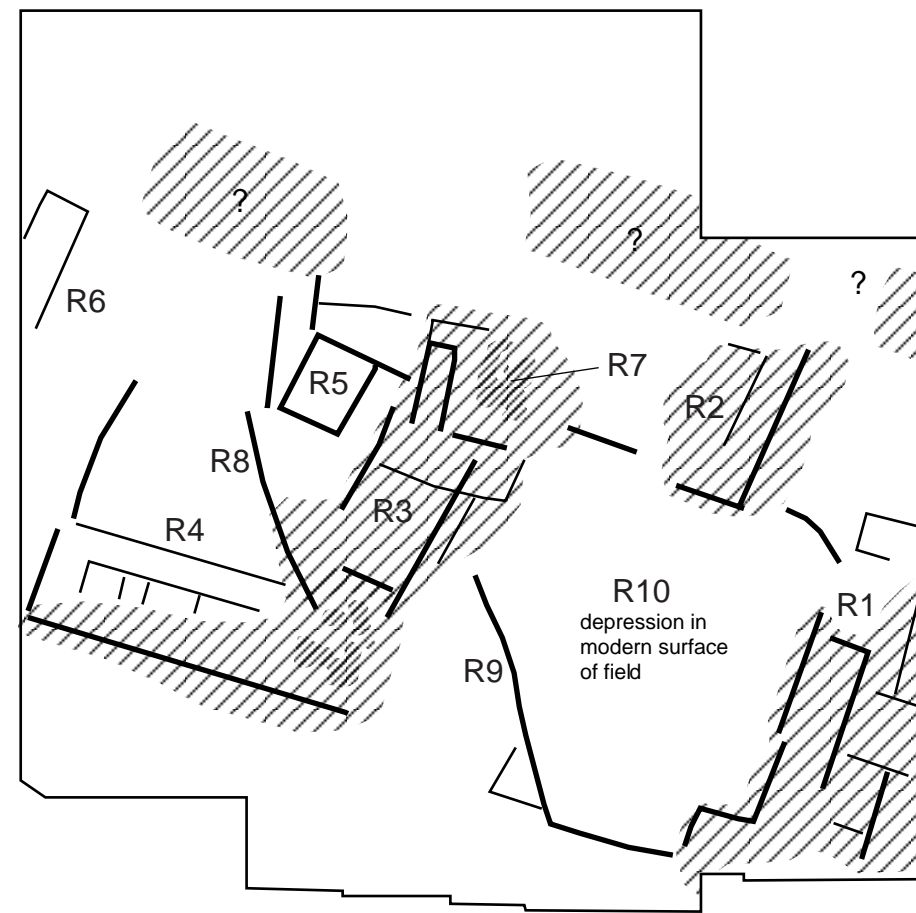
B.



C.



D.

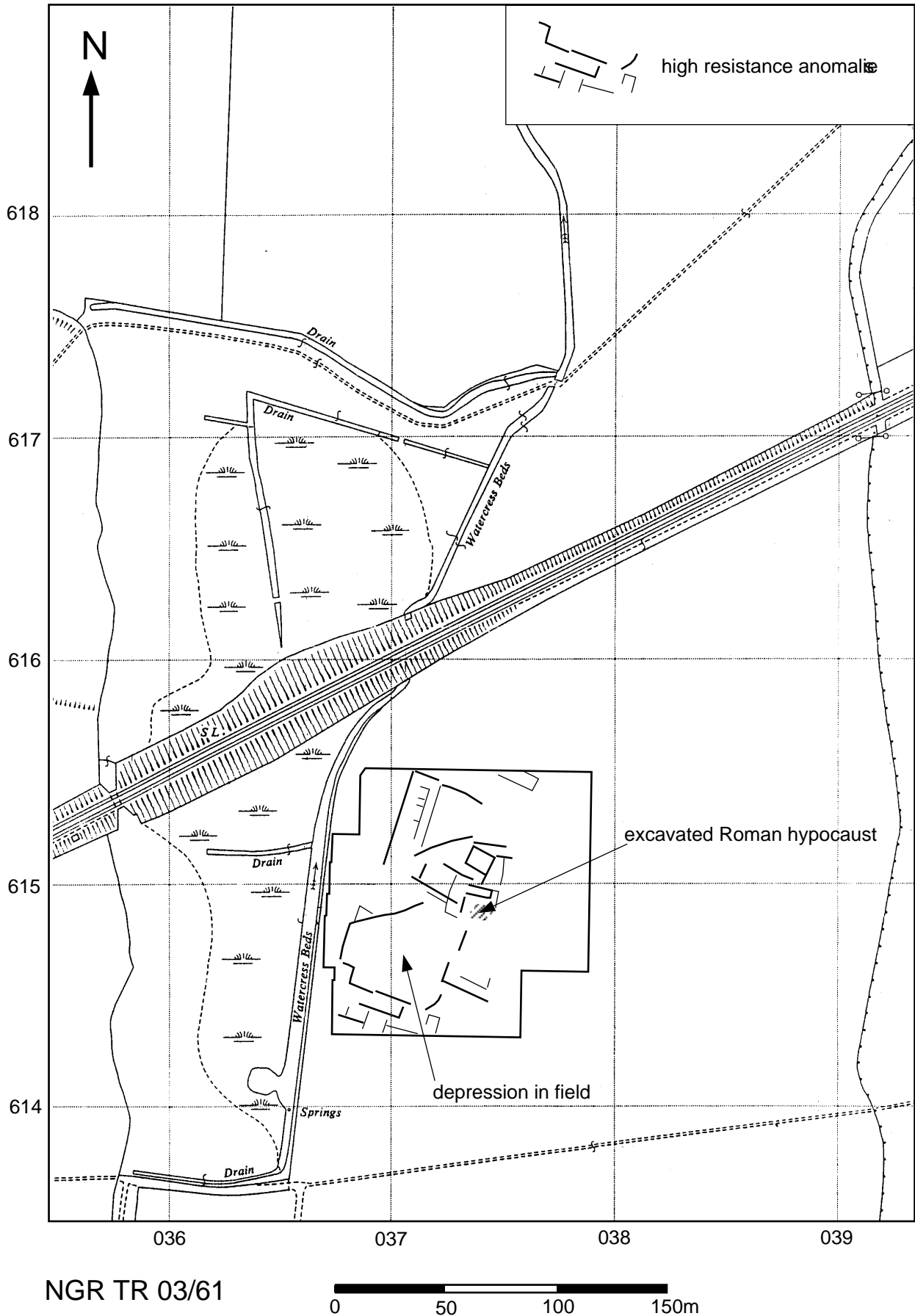


- areas possibly containing remains of buildings, but which generally lack clear structural definition possibly as a result of plough activity
- high resistance alignments indicating possible structural detail - conjectural walls
- other areas of high resistance sharing a similar alignment to possible buildings, but of less certain archaeological significance
- excavated Roman hypocaust, second possible hypocaust
- high resistance anomalies coinciding with the direction of ploughing have been excluded as they may be of modern origin

BLACKLANDS ROMAN SITE,
SCHOOL FARM, EWELL NR FAVERSHAM, KENT

FIG. 7.

Location of main possible wall alignments defined by resistivity survey



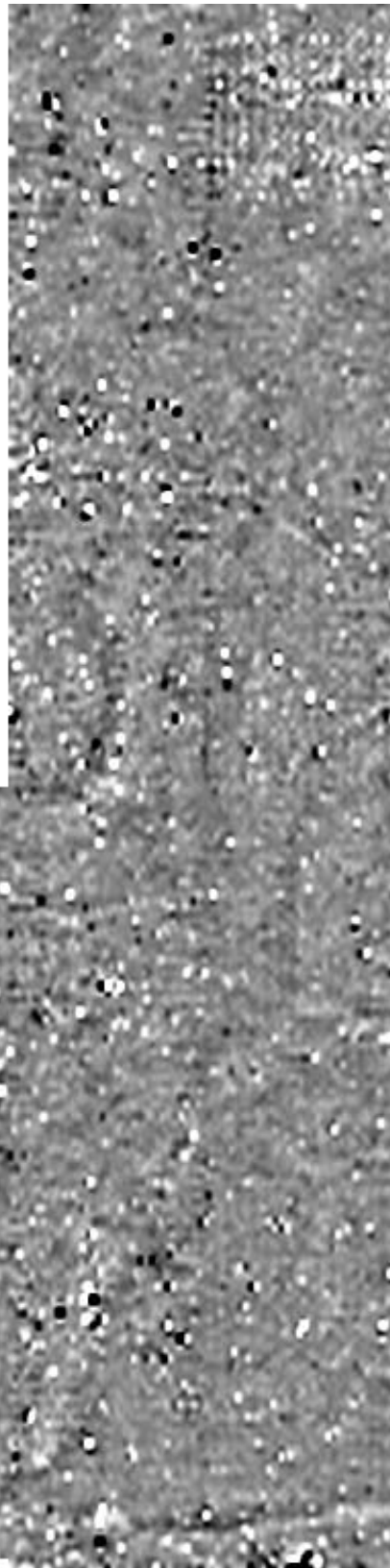
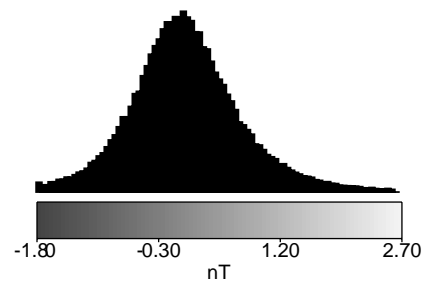
BLACKLANDS ROMAN SITE

FIGURE. 8.

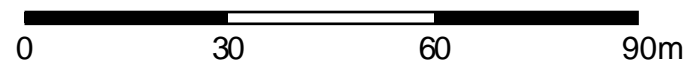
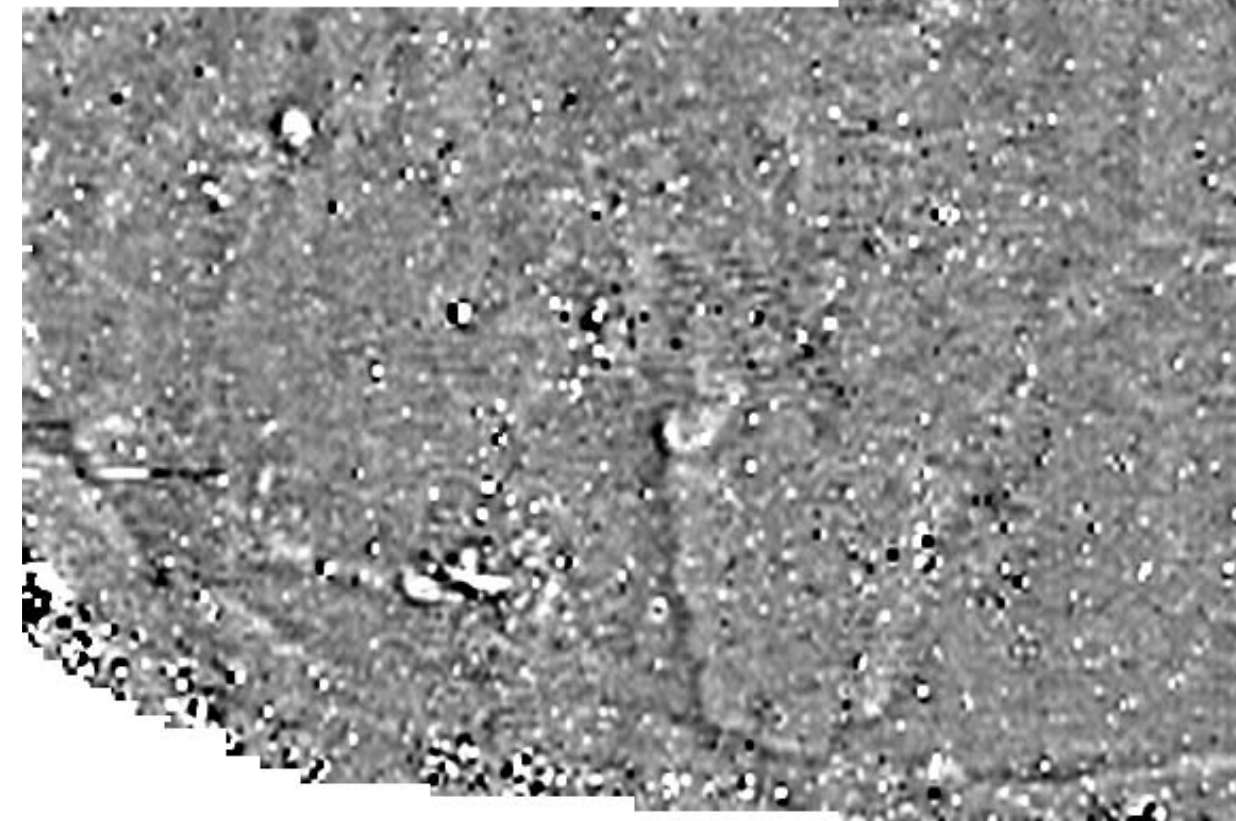
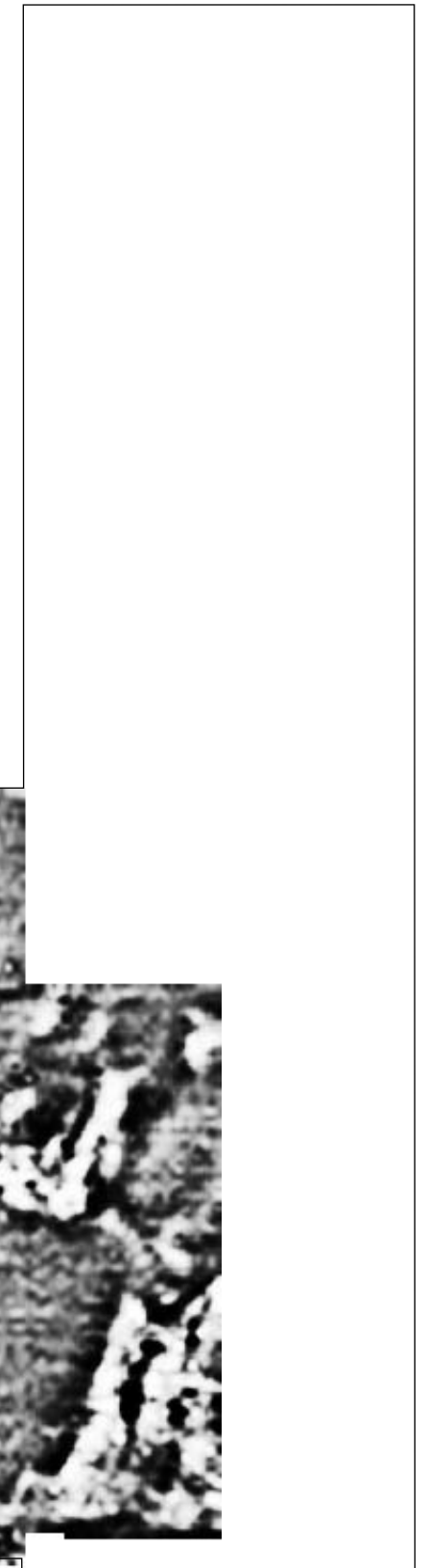
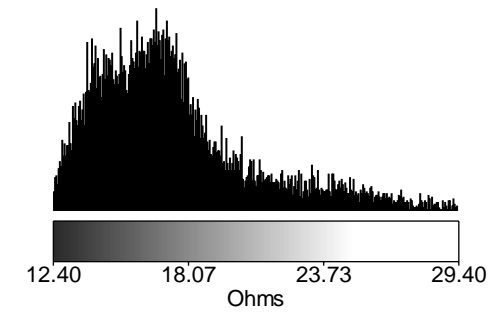
Comparison between Magnetometer and Resistivity Surveys, March 1997.



Greyscale of magnetometer data


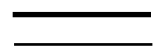




Greyscale of resistivity Data

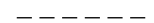







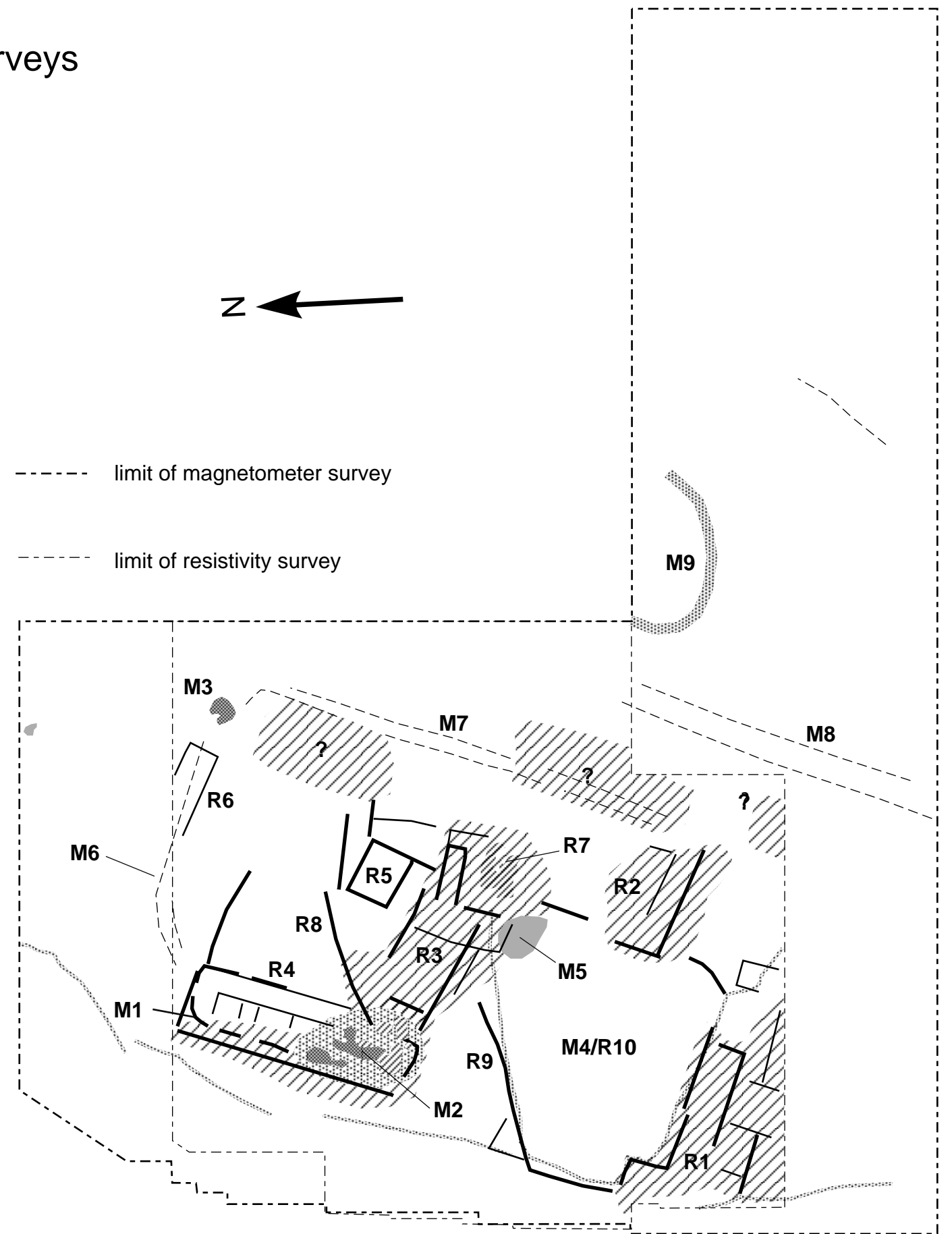
Combined interpretation of magnetometer and resistivity surveys

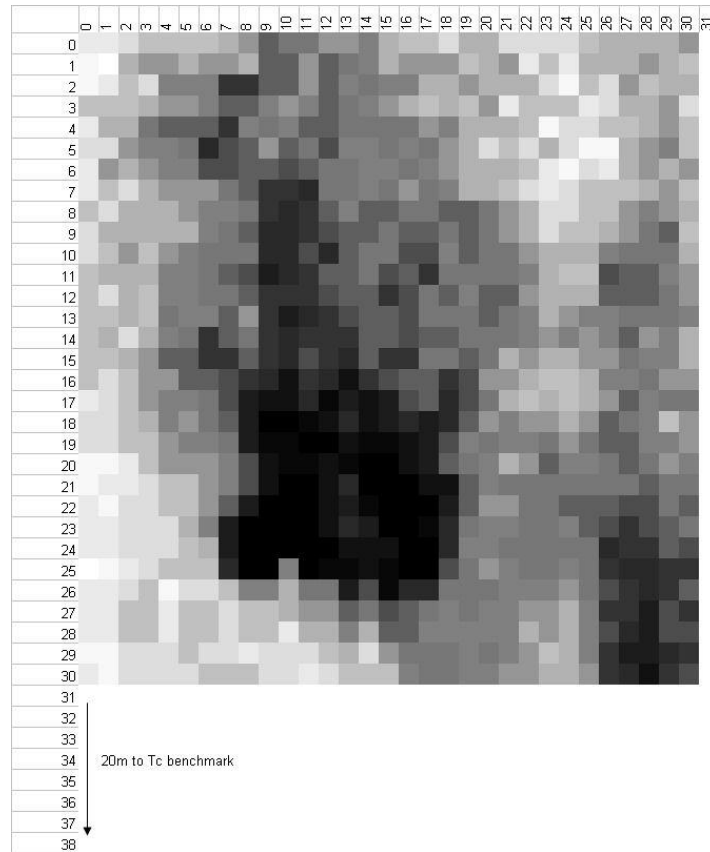
1. RESISTIVITY ANOMALIES

-  areas possibly containing remains of buildings but which generally lack clear structural definition possibly as a result of plough action
-  high resistance alignments indicating possible structural detail including walls
-  other areas of high resistance sharing a similar alignment to possible buildings, but of less certain archaeological significance
-  excavated Roman hypocaust (1), second possible hypocaust at (2)

2. MAGNETIC ANOMALIES

-  vague linear positive anomalies - possible ditches
-  linear negative anomalies - possible walls or embanked features or ? geological
-  outline of possible building defined by a weak positive magnetic anomaly
-  localised positive magnetic anomalies - pits/quarries/tree-root holes
-  stronger positive magnetic anomalies possibly derived from magnetic material associated with former structures including : burnt and fired features such as ovens, flues and hearths or dumps of pottery, brick or tile
-  area of generalised magnetic disturbance associated with building remains





Appendix 2

Geophysics Survey at Blacklands Roman Site, Faversham, Kent 17-20 August, 2007

W E Martin, Field Archaeology Group, SAHAAS

Summary

S.1 This report presents the results of a geophysics survey carried out by W E Martin of the the Field Archaeology Group of the St Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society and members of the Kent Archaeology Field School on 17-20 August 2007 at Blacklands Roman Site, Faversham, Kent.

S.2 The site of a large Roman building complex, has been identified and excavations were under way at the time of the survey. A previous resistivity survey by English Heritage had identified several areas of probable demolition scatter and wall lines.

S.3 Date of report, November 2007. National Grid Reference is NGR TR 037 615. Author of the report is William Martin.

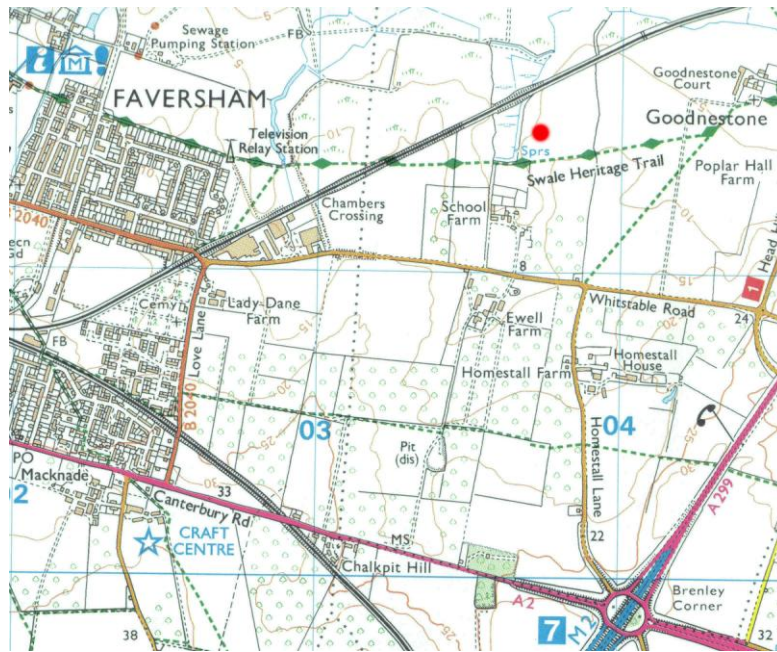


Figure 1. OS 1:25000. Site at red circle.



Figure 2. Aerial photo of site, centred (~1:10000, GetMapping).

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Blacklands Roman Site has been the subject of several investigations over a number of years including field walking, geophysics surveys, trial trenching, and is currently the subject of detailed excavations carried out by the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS).

1.2 Previous resistivity surveys by English Heritage showed the presence of probable demolition scatter from several structures over a 1-2 Ha area along with linear features consistent with walls and ditches.

1.3 This survey was suggested by Dr Paul Wilkinson of KAFS to confirm the previous work and to investigate in more detail and extend the range of surveyed area. The site is not a listed monument.

2 Methodology

2.1 The methodology for the survey follows best practice suggested by English Heritage in *Geophysics Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (P Linford, 1995)

2.2 An area of the site immediately adjacent to the excavations in progress was laid out in a series of 30x30m grids surveyed into the site plan using the excavation benchmarks. Resistivity was measured with two M.M Instruments 216M meters. Measurements were taken at one meter transverse separations at one meter intervals. The instrument configuration was twin-probe with 0.5m electrode separation.

2.3 The weather conditions were extremely variable during the survey with rain at times too heavy for surveying. The 12-bit digitized resistance data was recorded and processed to correct for twin-probe geometric distortions and edge-matched to account for the variations in background resistivity due to the varying conditions over the several days of surveying. Corrections generally were small (~10%) so that the integrated survey data is considered reliable. The data is presented at 16 grey levels in the figures to follow and is units of resistance [ohms]. Conversion to resistivity [multiplication by a geometrical constant] can be accomplished using the accompanying dvd-rom containing the processed data files if absolute comparisons are needed with other surveys. The accompanying spreadsheet data files can also be used to vary the data display variables, levels, greyscale thresholds, etc to examine specific features.

3. The Survey

3.1 The survey results are plotted in Figures 3 and 4 for the processed data and overlaid on the site OS tile to an accuracy of 0.25 m in Figure 5. Figures 6 and 7 show the resistance histograms of the two surveyed areas.

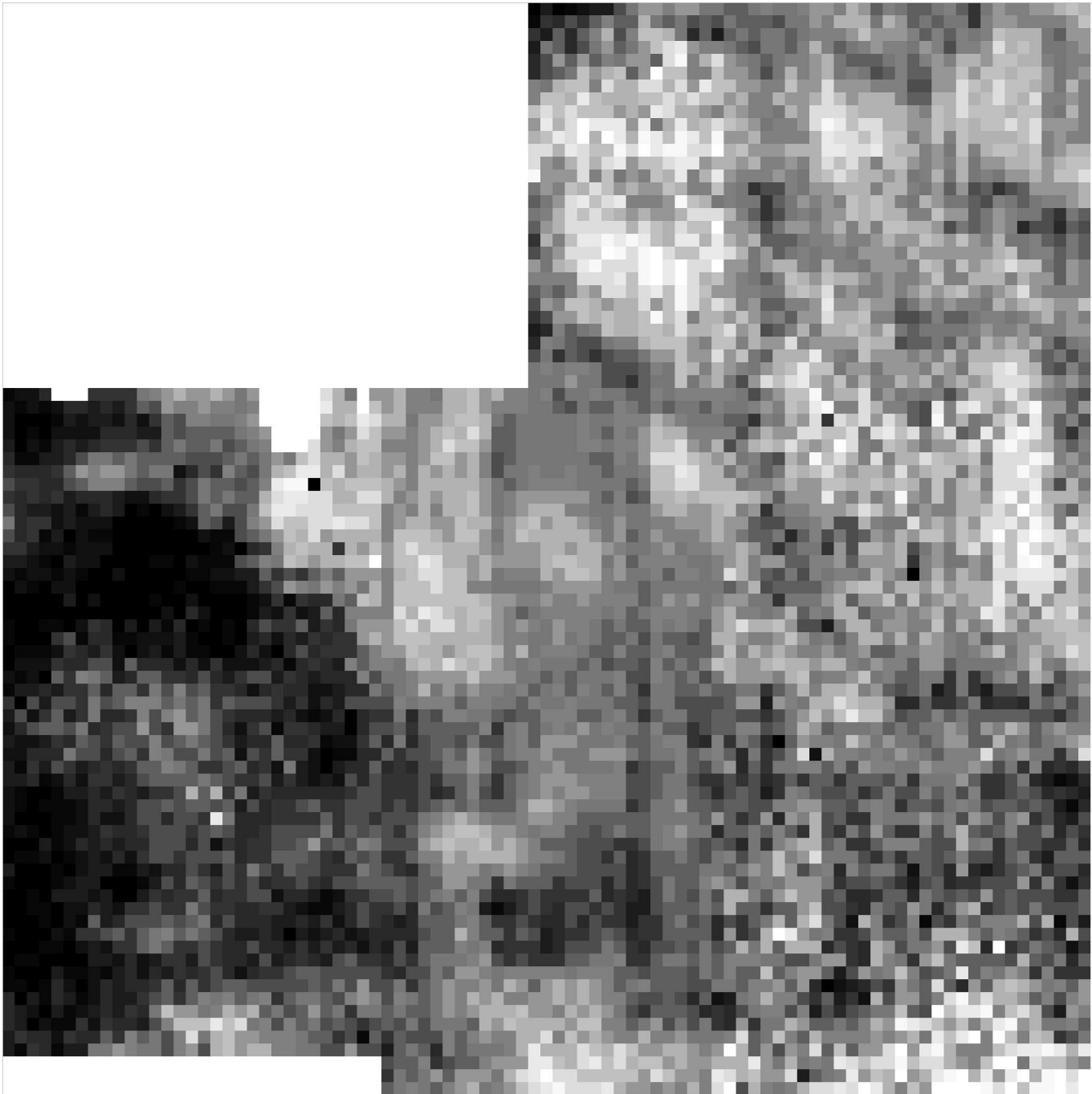


Figure 3. Main grid, north up, smallest squares are 1x1m, 16 grey levels, range 20-40 ohms.

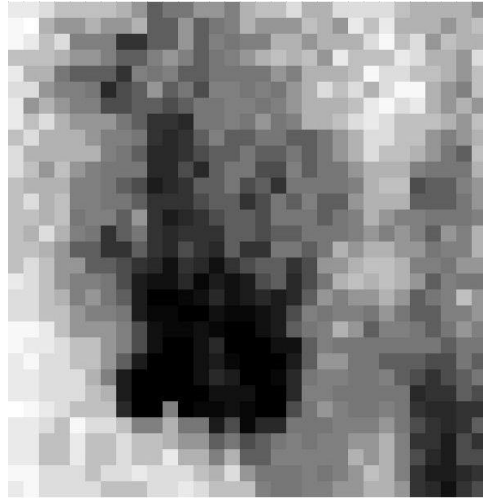


Figure 4. North grid, north up, smallest squares are 1x1m, 16 grey levels, range 25-40 ohms.

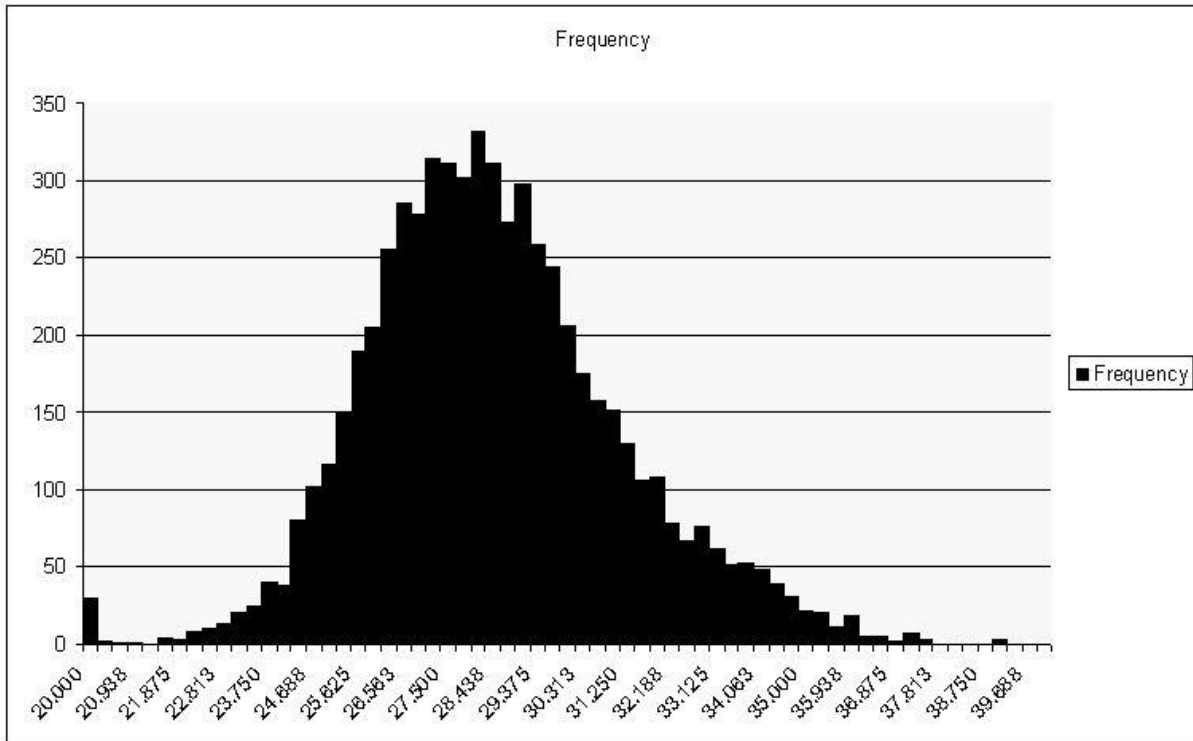


Figure 6. Resistance histogram for the main grid.

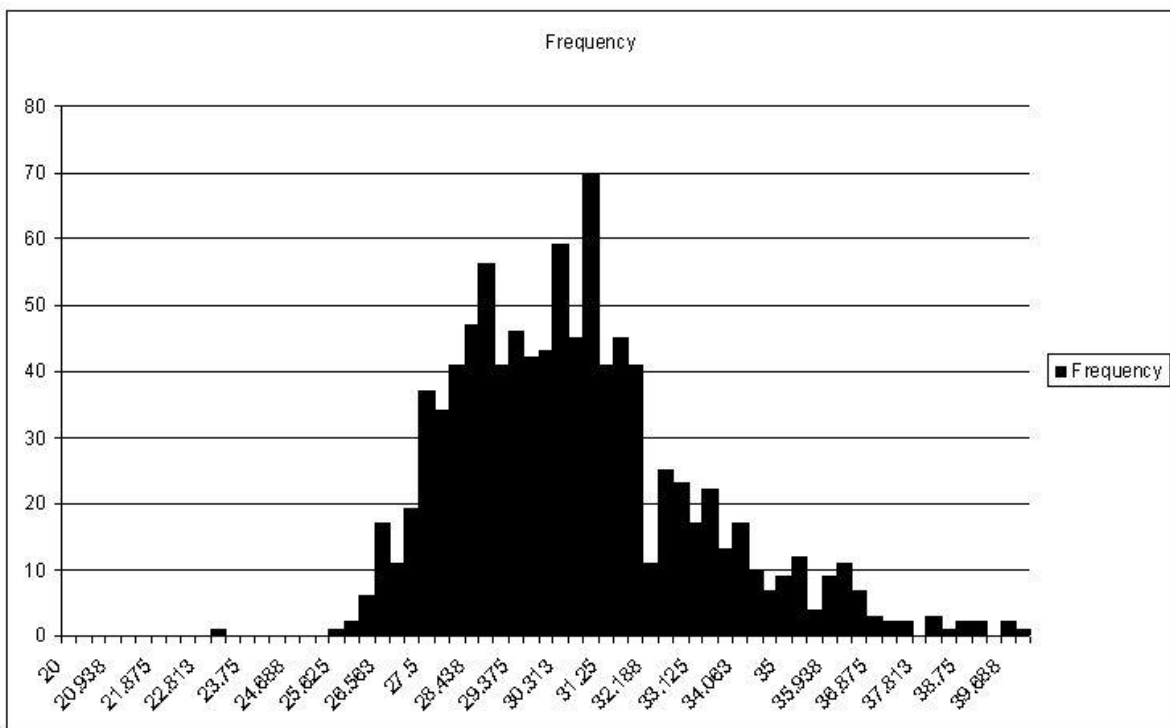


Figure 7. Resistance histogram for the north grid.

4. Interpretation and Conclusions

The main survey grid shows evidence of considerable demolition scatter and stronger features from a number of different possible structures, enclosures, and partitioning activity. Plough lines are evident in the north-south direction. The north eastern corner has a number of low contrast resistance features typical of 'wall footings' over a wide area with apparent rectangular and linear patterns. A small test pit in this area showed a concentration of larger flint nodules with mortar at a depth of approximately 40cm. The south western corner shows strong evidence of substantial building activity with large areas of high resistance and smaller, well-defined high contrast features isolated from the larger groups. The resistance histogram shows the high resistance tail expected with significant high contrast features.

The data is consistent with the considerable building activity associated with long occupation of a large, high status 'villa' site and/or a small township.

The small north grid shows a well-defined high resistance rectangular area with a northerly extension and a separate area to the south west of lower resistivity. This is likely to be a stand-alone structure. The resistance histogram shows clearly the high frequency of high resistance readings.

5. Bibliography

English Heritage, 1995 Geophysics Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation

English Heritage, 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.

APPENDIX 3

SPOT-DATING OF THE POTTERY FROM BLACKLANDS (BLACK07 & 08)

By

Malcolm Lyne

1. Fabrics

Prehistoric

P1. Handmade rough black fired brown with profuse up-to 1.00mm calcined flint filler

P2. Handmade lumpy fabric with profuse ill-sorted 0.10<2.00mm calcined flint filler

'Belgic' Late Iron Age

LIA1. Coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (B2)

LIA2. North Kent Shell-tempered ware (B6)

Roman

R1. Native Coarse Ware (R1)

R2A. Late Roman Grog-tempered ware (LR1)

R2B. Late Roman Grog-tempered ware with siltstone grog (LR1.1)

R3. Canterbury greyware (R5)

R4. Fine pink-brown Canterbury Oxidised ware fabric with profuse up-to 0.10mm quartz filler. (R8.3)

R5. BB2 (R14)

R6A. Thameside fine grey sandy ware (LR2.1)

R6B 'Scorched' Thameside fine grey sandy ware (LR2.2)

R6C Thameside coarse sanded greyware (LR2.3)

R6D 'Scorched' Thameside coarse greyware (LR2.4)

R6E. Sandy carbon-soaked black fabric with profuse <0.50mm. quartz sand filler

R7A. North Kent Fineware. (R16)

R7B. White-slipped Hoo fabric (R17)

R8. Alice Holt/Farnham greyware (LR5)

R9A. Hadham Oxidised ware (LR13)

R9B. Hadham Greyware (LR13.1)

R10. Silty vitrified grey fabric with glassy surfaced interior

R11. Smooth grey fabric with < 0.50mm alluvial sand, occasional shell and flint inclusions

R12. Miscellaneous greywares

R13. Miscellaneous oxidised wares

R14A. Central Gaulish Samian (R43)

R14B. East Gaulish Samian (R46)

R15. White Cologne fineware with black colour-coat (R25)

R16. Gilt mica washed silt tempered pink-brown fabric (R29)

R17. Colchester Colour-coat (R33)

- R18. Moselkeramik (R36)
- R19A. Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat (LR10)
- R19B. Oxfordshire Whiteware (LR23)
- R20. Lower Nene Valley Colour-coat (LR11)
- R21. Late Rhenish Colour-coat (LR30)
- R22. Hard very-fine-sanded pink fabric with external cream slip
- R23. Sandfree buff-yellow fabric
- R24. Pale grey silt-tempered fabric with sparse up-to 0.30mm iron-stained quartz fired yellow with polished orange exterior
- R25. Very-fine-sanded yellow mortarium fabric
- R26. Sandfree pink mortarium fabric fired greenish cream
- R27. Orange-pink silt tempered mortarium fabric with external white slip and flint trituration grits
- R28. Dressel 20 fabric
- R29. Gauloise 4 fabric
- R30. Catalan amphora fabric in pink fabric with profuse up-to 2.00mm white limestone, 1.00mm quartz and granitic inclusions
- R31. Silty grey fired polished buff-brown with black patches.
- R32. Very-fine-sanded pink-cored grey fabric. ?Preston kiln. (LR5.1)
- R33. Streak-burnished ware. (LR14)
- R34. Pink Grog Tempered ware
- R35. BB1 (R13)
- R36. Chaff-tempered briquetage fabric (BER15)
- R37. Bubbly off-white mortarium fabric with small white quartz sand trituration grits.
- R38. Sand-free pale grey to off-white fabric.
- R39. Silty pink-buff mortarium fabric with profuse <5.00mm. white flint, <2.00mm. black ironstone and red sandstone trituration grits.

Saxon

- S1. Rough handmade buff-grey fabric with silt and sparse <2.00 mm. crushed flint filler (MLS2)

Medieval.

- M1. Very-fine-sanded greyware with external apple-green glaze
- M2. Silty grey fabric fired pink with splashed yellow glaze
- M3. Grey fabric with profuse 0.30mm quartz filler fired rough buff-brown with white erupting surface blisters.
- M4. Grey fabric with very fine sand and sparse shell filler fired patchy brown-black
- M5. Grey Proto-stoneware

2.Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Wt in gm	Comments
TT F1 001	Tile	Box flue		1	69g	
T.A.004	P1 R2A R5 R6A R7A R32 M1	Jar Jar Lid 5C3.5 bowl Jar Jar Jar Jug	?Middle Iron Age c.270-420 c.270-300 c.150/70-210 c.150-350 c.150-250 c.270-370 c.1250-1500	1 3 3 1 1 2 1	5 104 41 6 10 10 2	Abraded Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
			Wide-ranging	12	178g	Deposit
T.A.005	R3 R5 R6B R8 R14A R15 Tile	Necked jar 5C4.3 bowl 5F3.9 dish Necked jar 3B-9 jar Dr 37 Roughcast beaker Tegula	c.70-175 c.150/80-250 c.170/90-230 c.150-270 c.200-300 c.120-200 c.130-250	1 5 1 1 1 1 1	21 98 22 15 5 2	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh burnt Fresh
			c.150-250	11	201g	Redeposited clay
T.B.005	R1 R5 R6A R6C R7A R12 R20 R30 Tile	Jar Str-sided dish Jars Necked jar Rouletted beaker 5A2 bowl Perrin 203 box Beaker Amphora	c.170-250 c.160-350 c.150-300 c.150-270 c.190-300 c.230-320 c.250-350 c.200-300	2 2 3 3 3 5 1 1 1	13 28 8 40 18 53 8 2 70	Abraded Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
			c.200-300	21	240g	Painted plaster etc
T.B.006	R1 R5 R14A R20	5A4.2 bowl 5E1.8 Dish Jar Dr 31 Closed form	c.170-300 c.240-350 c.170/90-270 c.150-200 c.270-400	1 3 1 8 1	13 36 10 44 2	Abraded Fresh Fresh. SF 6 Abraded
			c.170-300	14	105g	
T.A.008	M5	Closed	c.1350-1450	1	5g	Fresh. Chalk surface
010	M2	Skillet handle	c.1370-1500	1	20g	Chalk surface
T.T.B 011	R5 R14A	5D2.2 bowl 5C4 bowl Dr 31	c.130-180 c.150/70-250 c.150-200	1 1 1	10 6 30	Fresh refired Fresh
			c.150-180	3	46g	Wall
T.A.013	R2A R6C R12 R13 R20 Asbestos	Jar Basal sherd Open form Bowl Closed	c.270-420 c.300-350 c.250-350 c.270-400	1 1 1 1 1	18 35 16 36 4	Fresh Fresh. Cheese wired Fresh Fresh Fresh Intrusive
			c.300-350	5	109g	Flue deposit
T.A.014	P2 LIA2 R1 R3 R5 R6A R6D	Jar Storage jar Jar Jar 5C3.1 bowl 5C3.5 bowl 5C4.3 bowl 5D3.1 bowl 5E1.3 dish 5E3.1 Dishx2 5F7.2 dishx3 Cooking-pots Necked jarx2 3J9 jar 5F dish Lid Ev rim jar	Prehistoric c.50-170 c.170-250 c.80-175 c.150-250 c.150/70-210 c.150/80-250 c.130-180 c.160-300 c.130-230 c.140-200 c.170-250 c.150-270 c.170-230 c.130-300 c.180-270	1 10 1 1 22 19	16 229 59 16 296 231	Fresh Fresh SF 025 Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh

	R7A	3H2.7 jar	c.170-230	4	71	Fresh
	R8	Beaker		3	11	
	R12	Ev rim jar	c.200-300	1	22	Abraded
	R14A	Necked jar		1	11	
		Dr 31	c.150-200			Fresh
		Dr 37	c.120-200	2	18	Fresh
	R19A	C49 dish	c.240-400	1	13	Abraded
	R21	Beaker	c.270-350	1	2	
	R25	Gillam 255 mort	c.160-240	1	78	Fresh
	R26	Mortarium	c.150-250	1	36	Fresh
			c.170-270/300+	69	1109g	Redeposited brickearth
T.A.015	R1	Jar	c.170-300	4	60	Fresh 1 pot
	R5			1	1	
	R7A	Beaker		2	3	Fresh
	R9A	Closed	c.250-400	1	2	Fresh
	R12	Closed		1	3	Abraded
	Post		?17 th c.	1	3	?Intrusive
	Med					
			Redeposited	10	72g	Fill of earlier excavation
T.A.019	P1		?Middle Iron Age	1	7	Abraded
	LIA2	Storage jar	c.50-170	1	26	
	R5	C1 5C bowl	c.170-270			Abraded
		Str-sided dish	c.160-350	4	31	Abraded
	R6A	Necked jars	c.170-350	3	21	Abraded
	R7A	Beakers		3	13	
	R7B	5B2 dish	c.90-130	1	14	
	R10	Jar	c.300-400	1	7	Fresh
	R12	Open form		1	9	Abraded
	R14A	Dr 18/31	c.120-150	1	10	Abraded
	R15	Roughcast beaker	c.130-250	1	1	Abraded
	R23	?C81 bowl	c.300-400	1	13	Abraded
			c.300-400 or later	18	152g	Demolition layer/subsoil
T.A. 023	R7A	Closed	c.43-300+	1	1	Fresh
	Misc	Jar basal	?Iron Age or Middle Saxon	1	19	Fresh handmade with fossil shell and limestone
				2	20g	Bottom of posthole
T.A.028	R6C	Closed	c.270-370	1	3	
	R12	Hook rim jar	c.270-370	1	10	?Rettenden
	R13			1	6	Sl abraded
			c.270-370	3	19g	Hypocaust
T.A.030	M2		c.1250-1500	1	2	v.abraded
	Slate		19 th c.	2		
			19 th c.	1	2g	Posthole
033	R5	5F dish	c.130-300	1	4	Abraded
	R12			1	9	Abraded
	R25	Mortarium	c.150-250	1	73	
			c.150-250	3	86g	Demolition material
T.A.042	LIA1/R1	Storage jar	c.70-200	1	158	Fresh
	R5	Cooking pot	c.170-250	1	10	Fresh
	R7A	2A5 or 6 beaker	c.160-300	1	4	
	R12	Handle		1	65	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 44 bowl	c.130-200	1	6	Fresh
			c.150-200	5	243g	
T.A.043	LIA2	Jar	c.50-170	1	7	Abraded
	R1	Jar	c.170-300	1	20	
	R2A	Ev rim jar	c.270-420	2	43	fresh
	R4	Ring-neck flagon	c.150-250	1	5	
	R5	3F jar	c.170-250			fresh
		4A2 jar				fresh
		4A2.5 necked bowl	c.110-200			fresh
		5C3-5 bowl	c.150/70-210			fresh
		5C4.2 bowl	c.150/70-250			fresh
		5C4.3 bowl	c.150/80-250			fresh
		5E1.4 dish	c.130/60-200			fresh
		5F3.3 dishx2	c.130-210			fresh
		5F4.3 dish	c.130-300			fresh
		Pollard 113 dish	c.150-200			fresh
		Flanged bowl		50	673	fresh
	R6A	3H5.3 Jarx3	c.170-230	16	436	fresh
	R6D	Jar		1	9	fresh
	R7A	2A5 beaker	c.160-200			fresh
		2A6 beaker	c.190-300			fresh

	R7B R12 R14A R14B R15 R16 R17 R19A R26 R29 R33 R34 Misc Tile	2C2 beaker 2C3 beaker Flagon Jars Dr 31 Dr 33 Hunt cup Beaker Cornice rim beaker Open form Mortarium GAUL 4 amphora Open form Storage jar Closed <i>imbrex</i>	c.250-350 c.280-350 c.150-200 c.140-260 c.130-250 c.150-200 c.130-250 c.240-400 c.90-130 c.250-400	19 1 4 8 1 4 1 8 1 1 3 1 1 3 3	227 5 220 90 3 12 3 31 4 135 70 10 21 25 194	fresh fresh Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh abraded fresh burnt fresh fresh abraded abraded abraded abraded. Inc imbrex wasters
			c.150-270/400+	128	2149g	Demolition infill of ditch east of chalk floor
T.A.043A	R14B	Dr 33 base	c.140-260	1	52g	A.F.R.I.N.I.M SF115*
T.E. 046	R1 R5 R6A R6D R7A R12	Jar 5C3.5 bowl 5F dish Str sided dish Jars Jar Closed Jar	c.170-300 c.150/70-210 c.130-300 c.160-300 c.150-300 c.270-370	2 12 10 1 5 3	28 80 40 2 10 20	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
			c.270-300. if in constructional context, suggests building constructed c.270- 300	33	180g	Continuation of wall.
T.E. 047	LIA2 R5 R7A R12 R14A R14B R20 Tile	Storage jar 5F dish Closed Narrow necked jar Lid seated nkd bowl Dr 31 Dr 32 Dr 37 Dr 37 Barbotined beaker <i>Imbrex</i>	c.50-170 c.130-300 c.70-150 c.150-200 c.160-200 c.120-200 c.140-260 c.200-300	1 4 2 4 4 1 1 1	34 123 22 89 88 7 5 80	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
			c.150-200	17	368g	
T.E.048	R5 R6A R6B R6C R7A R7B R14A R19B R20 R23 R29	3F jar 5C2.2 Bowl 5C4.3 Bowl Str sided dish Ev rim jar Necked jarsx5 Necked jar Jar 2A5 beaker Rouletted beaker Mortarium Dr 31 Dr 38 Mortarium Beaker Closed Gaul 4 amphora	c.170-250 c.120/50-210 c.150/80-250 c.160-300 c.170-250 c.170-270 c.160-200 c.230-300 c.170-250 c.150-200 c.140-200 c.240-400 c.160-400	9 8 1 1 8 2 2 1 1 1 1 2	190 119 18 7 94 22 44 5 2 20 312	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
			c.150-270. dumped after 240	36	833g	Fill under mortar
T.E.049	LIA1/R1 Tile	Jar <i>Imbrex</i>	c.50-150	2 1	46 52	Fresh
				2	46g	Natural chalk
T.E.051	R1 R3 R5 R6A R6C R6D R7A	Jar Jar base 5C4.2 bowl Jar Jar basal Jar Beaker	c.170-300 c.70-175 c.150/70-250 c.150-300 c.270-370 c.270-370 c.190-300	2 1 4 2 3 3 1	17 66 73 9 87 39 4	Abraded Fresh Abraded Fresh and Abraded

	R9A	Jar	c.250-400	1	5	Fresh
	R12	Jar		2	13	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 37	c.190-220	1	20	Caletus SF 032
	R16	Closed		1	2	
	R22	Closed		1	6	Sl.abraded
	R27	Mortarium		1	156	
	M1	Cooking-pot	c.1250-1350	2	7	
	M2	Jug		2	31	Fresh
	M3	Cooking-pot		6	56	Fresh and Abraded
	M4	Cooking-pot	c.1200-1250/1300	7	93	Fresh
			Wall robbed c. 1250-1300	40	664g	Fill of wall robbing trench
T.A.052	LIA1	Jar	c.25BC-200	2	49	Abraded
	R5	Necked bowl				Fresh
		3J9 jar	c.170-240			fresh
		4A2 jar	c.110-200			Fresh
		5C3.1 bowl	c.150-270			Fresh
		5C4.1 dish	c.170-270			Fresh
		5C4.3 bowl	c.170-270			Fresh
		Str sided dish	c.160-300			Fresh
		5F3.3 dishx2	c.130-210	45	678	Fresh
	R6A	Necked jars	c.170-270	17	87	Fresh
	R6C	3H5.3 jar	c.270-370	2	44	Fresh
	R6D	Jar	c.270-370	1	25	Fresh
	R7A	Pollard 146 beaker	c.100-250			Fresh
		2A3 or 4 beaker	c.130-200	22	184	Fresh
	R7B	Flagon		8	69	Fresh
	R8	jar	c.270-420	1	3	Fresh
	R12	Jar base		1	82	Fresh.SI graffito. SF O45
	R14A	Dr 33	c.120-200	1	4	Fresh
		Dr 31	c.150-200	2	25	Fresh
	R20	Perrin 125 beaker	c.160-200	1	8	Fresh
	R22	Closed		1	8	
	R24	Large flagon		4	63	Fresh
	R28	DR20	c.170-300	1	80	Fresh
	R32	Closed		1	2	Fresh
	Misc			5	33	
	Tile	<i>Imbrex</i>		2	138	Fresh
			c.170-370	115	1444g	Late fill of large depression
T.E.055	LIA2	Storage jar	c.50-170	1	62	
	LIA1	Jar	L.I.A.-200	1	27	
	R5	5C bowl	c.150/70-270			Fresh
		Str sided dish	c.160-300			Fresh
		3F jar	c.170-250	22	633	Fresh
	R6A	Jar		2	189	Fresh
	R7A	Ac latticed beaker	c.120-160			Fresh
		2A4 beaker	c.130-170			Fresh
		2A6 beaker	c.190-300	13	175	Fresh
	R7B	Closed		2	70	
	R14A	Dr 33	c.120-200	1	6	Fresh
	R16	Beaker	c.150-200	1	15	Fresh
	R18	Beaker	c.200-275	1	2	Fresh
	R24	Large flagon		4	53	Fresh
	R28	DR20.M-K 41	c.200-280	1	424	Fresh
	R29	GAUL 4		1	78	Fresh
			c.150-270	50	1734g	Hypocaust fill
T.E.055	R6A	2D1 beaker	c.130-270	1	115g	On base of hypocaust system
T.E.058	R6A	Jar	c.150-270	3	15	Fresh
	R6B	Necked jar	c.170-300	2	24	Fresh
	R7A	Beaker	c.250-350	9	76	Fresh
	R14A	Walters 79	c.160-200	1	47	Fresh
	R14B	Dr 33	c.140-260	1	9	Fresh
	R20	Rouletted beaker	c.200-400	1	2	Fresh
	R23	Closed		1	3	
	Tile	<i>imbrex</i>		1	55	Fresh burnt
			c.170-250+	18	176g	
T.A.062	LIA2	Storage jar	c.50-170	4	126	
	R1	Jar	c.170-300	1	25	
	R5	3F jar	c.170-250			Fresh
		5C bowl	c.170-270			Fresh
		Str sided dishx2	c.160-270	10	109	Fresh
	R6B	Necked jar		1	4	

	R6C	Indented jar	c.140-300	1	8	Fresh
	R7A	Beaker		1	5	Fresh
	R12	Jar		1	8	
	R14A	Dr 31	c.150-200	1	17	Fresh
	R22	Ring-neck flagon	c.130-250	2	43	Fresh
	R23	Screw neck beaker		5	30	Fresh
	MISC			2	8	
			c.170-270	29	383g	Deposit on surface of wall
T.A.062	P2	Jar	Prehistoric	1	6	
	LIA2	Storage jar	c.50-170	6	203	
	R1	Jar	c.170-300	1	2	
	R5	Open form				Abraded
	R12	Beaker base		2	49	Abraded
	R15	Roughcast beaker	c.130-250	1	2	Abraded
				2	3	
				13	265g	Under cremation
T.E. 063	R5	2F jar	c.170-250			Fresh
		5C2.2 bowl	c.130-210			Fresh
		5C3.2 bowl	c.170-270			Fresh
		5C4.2 bowl	c.150/70-270			Fresh
		5F3.10 dish	c.130-300	9	123	Fresh
	R6A	3H7.7 jar	c.180-270			Fresh
		Misc jars		8	36	Fresh
	R6B	3H1.8 jar	c.180-230	4	89	Fresh
	R7A	Jar base		2	12	Fresh X graffito
	R13	5C3.5 bowl	c.150/70-210	1	6	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 18/31	c.120-150			Fresh
		Dr 31	c.150-200			Fresh
		Dr 33	c.120-200	3	21	Fresh
	R22	Closed		1	8	Fresh
			c.170-250/70	28	295g	
T.E. 064	R1	Beaded+fl bowl	c.270-350	2	21	Fresh
	R2A	7B.5 jar	c.300-400	1	41	Fresh
	R2B	7A.9 bowl	c.270-350			Fresh
		Hole-mouthed pot	c.270-420	6	137	Fresh
	R5	5C2.2 bowl	c.130-210			Fresh
		5C3.2 bowl	c.170-270			Fresh
		5C4.3 bowlx2	c.170-270			Fresh
		Str sided dish	c.200-350			Fresh
		5F dish	c.130-300	10	159	
	R6A	3H1.1 jar	c.190-270			Fresh
		Necked jar		4	76	Fresh
	R6C	Necked jarsx5	c.270-350	10	170	Fresh
	R6D	Necked jar	c.270-350	4	72	Fresh
	R7A	2A6 beaker	c.190-300	5	29	Fresh
	R7B	Closed		1	6	Fresh
	R8	Open form	c.200-400	1	26	Fresh
	R12	Necked jar		1	5	Abraded
	R13			1	2	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 37	c.125-150	2	101	Priscinus
	R14B	Dr 31	c.150-260	1	39	Fresh
	R19A	Bowl	c.240-400	1	8	
	R22	Closed		1	2	Fresh
	R29	GAUL 4 amphora		1	30	Fresh
			c.250-300/350+.	53	924g	Demolition material inside building
			Suggests building demolished c.300-350			
T. A. 069	P2	Storage jar	c.150BC-0	1	7g	Fresh
T.A.071	LIA1/R1	Ev rim jar	c.70-200	1	17	Fresh
	R6A	3E3.2 jar	c.70-150			
		3H1.5 jarx2	c.100-200	5	39	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 31	c.150-200	1	49	Fresh
			c.150-200	7	105g	Demolished Roman wall
T.F.073	LIA/R1	Necked store jar	c.70-200	1	82	Fresh
	R5	Necked jar	c.70-150	2	69	Fresh
				3	151g	
T.E.074	LIA2		c.50-100	2	10	Very abraded
	R1	Jar	c.170-250	2	7	
	R5		c.120-350	3	12	Fresh and abraded
	R7A	Jar		2	5	
	R8		c.270-420	1	1	
	M1		c.1250-1500	1	2	

	M4 <i>tile</i>	Cooking-pot	c.1200-1250/1300	1 <i>1</i>	4 <i>4</i>	fresh
			c.1250-1300	12	41g	Infill of robbed chalk wall
TA.076	P2? S1	Jar	c.800-1050	3 1	13 20	Fresh lumps abraded
				4	33g	Fill of rubbish pit in apse
T.E.077	R1 R5 R6A R6B R6C R6D R7A R7B Misc M1 <i>Tile</i>	Jar Ev rim jar 3E3.2 jar Jar Necked jar 5A2.2 bowl Necked jar Hook-rim jar Beaker Closed Jug	c.170-300 c.170-250 c.70-150 c.270-350 c.230-320/50 c.270-350 c.270-350 c.1250-1500	1 6 4 1 2 2 1 1 1 <i>1</i>	12 45 24 17 50 66 3 17 2 4 <i>15</i>	Abraded Abraded Fresh Fresh Fresh Abraded abraded
			c.270-350. ?Medieval intrusive	24	240g	Gravel layer
T.E.078	R12 M1 M3 M4	Closed Jug Cooking-pot	c.1250-1350 c.1200-1250/1300	1 2 1 1	2 8 2 4	Fresh Fresh joining
			c.1250-1300	5	16g	Wall robber trench fill
T.E.080	R2B R6A R12 R19A ?MS M1	7A.17 dish Necked jar Girth cordoned jar C48 dish Jar jug cooking pot	c.370-420 c.300-350 c.300-400 c.270-400 c.650-850 c.1250-1500 c.1250-1500	1 1 2 1 3 3	35 12 30 4 67 25	Fresh Abraded Fresh Fresh.
			c.1250+, Roman residual	11	173g	Fill of rubbish pit
T.E.081	R5 R6A R6C	5C4.2 bowl Jar basal Necked jars	c.150/70-270 c.200-350	6 1 3	125 25 36	Fresh Fresh Fresh
			c.200-270	10	186g	Layer of red brick
T.E.082	R6C R32	Jar Jar	c.270-370 c.270-370	1 1	3 6	fresh
			c.270-370	2	9g	Subsoil
T.A.086	P2 LIA2 R1 R4 R5 R6A R6C R6D R7B R12 R14A R22 R23 R26 R28 Amph Misc MX	Store-jar Jar basal Closed Ev rim jar Jar base Jar 3J3 jar 4A2 bowl Jars Jar Dr 33 Flagon Flagon Screw neck beaker Mortarium Dressel 20 Mortarium	c.50-170 c.170-250 c.150-250 c.170-250 c.170-350 c.160-230 c.110-200 c.150-300 c.270-370 c.120-200 c.130-250 c.150-250 c.170-300	1 4 4 3 16 6 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	7 60 90 9 121 17 7 1 15 31 3 7 151 292 18 9 10	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh flake
			c.170-250	48	855g	Fill of well
T.E.088	R5 R6C R6D R35	5C bowl 5A2 bowl Jar Str-sided dish	c.170-270 c.270-300 c.270-370 c.270-300	1 4 1 1	18 34 3 18	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
			c.270-300	7	73g	Above 089
T.E.090	R1	Jars	c.170-250	7	77	

	R2A	Necked jar	c.270-420	1	11	
	R2B	Necked jar	c.270-420	2	50	Sl abraded
	R3	Jar	c.80-175	1	7	abraded
	R5	Open form	c.170-250	1	28	Sl abraded
	R6A	Ev rim jar	c.130-200	11	50	
	R6C	Ev rim jar	c.270-350	1	6	Fresh
	R9A	Barbotine beaker	c.250-400	2	15	Fresh
	R19A	Dr 38	c.240-400	1	14	v.abraded
	R28	Dr20	c.170-300	1	8	abraded
	R31	Dr 38 copy	c.250-400	2	69	Fresh joining
	Misc			1	3	
	M1	Jug	c.1250-1350	1	2	Fresh
	M2	Jug	c.1000-1100?	1	14	
	tile	<i>Inc imbrex</i>		4	75	abraded
			3 rd c – Medieval	33	354g	Subsoil
T.E.123	R2A	Necked jar	c.270-420	3	114	Fresh
	R4	Closed	c.150-250	6	18	One vessel
	R5	Necked jar	c.270-350			Fresh
		Beaded+fl bowl x2	c.270-350	3	33	Fresh
	R6A	Lids				
		Necked jar		3	51	
	R6C	Hook-rim jar	c.300-400	4	40	Abraded
	R7A	Closed		1	1	fresh
	R12	Bead rim bowl		1	10	Fresh
		Beaded+fl bowl	c.350-400	1	54	Fresh
		Jar base	c.300-400	1	49	
	R19A	C48 dish	c.270-400	3	16	
		Dish	c.270-300	1	53	Fresh stamped K.NIII.V
	R36		LIA-c.150	1	3	White barbotine dots
	M1	Closed	c.1250-1500	1	12	Abraded
	M3	Cooking pot		2	17	Fresh
			c.300-13 th c	31	471g	Deposit
T.A.124	R5	5C0.1 bowlx2	c.130-240	7	98	Fresh
	R6B	Jar	c.180-370	1	2	
	R7A	Beaker		1	2	Fresh
	R20	Perrin 205 box	c.300-400	1	51	Large fresh
	tile			1	42	abraded
			c.300-400	10	153g	Chalk floor
T.A.125	P1	Jar	M.I.A.	1	5	Abraded
	P2	?Storage jar	c.150BC-0	6	49	
		Jar	c.150BC-0	2	8	
	R6A		c.50-150	1	6	
	R7A		c.43-300+	1	6	Abraded
			c.150BC-50+	11	74g	
T.A.126	R5	Jar	c.120-250	1	8	Fresh
	R6A	Necked jar		1	6	
	R7B	7A1.2 dish	c.43-120	1	23	Fresh
			Residual	3	37g	Unstratified
T.A.127	R5	Ac latticed c'pot	c.120-250			Fresh
		Chamfered bowl base	c.120-250	6	61	Fresh
	R6A	Jar		1	6	
	R14A	Dr 36	c.90-120	1	3	Fresh MDV Samian
	R15	Beaker	c.130-250	1	2	Fresh
			c.120-250	9	72g	Well fill 1.97-2.05 m from top
T.A.127	R5	5F8 dish	c.140-240	2	37g	Well fill 2 M
T.A.127	LIA2	Storage jar	c.50-170	2	566g	Well fill 2.10 m
T.A.127	R12	Storage jar		1	43	2.00mm alluvial flint filler
	LIA2	Jar	c.50-100	1	31	Fresh
				2	74g	Well fill 2.50m
T.A.127	LIA1/R1		c.70-200	1	2	Fresh
	R1	Jar	c.170-250	1	8	
	R5	5C bowl	c.150/70-250	8	62	Fresh
	R7A	Closed		2	7	Fresh
	R14B	Dr 18/31	c.140-160	1	8	
			c.150-250	13	87g	Well fill 2.8-3 m
T.A.127	R6A	Jar	c.150-300	1	8	Fresh
	Tile			1	5	
				1	8g	Well fill 2.10 m
T.A.127	LIA1/R1		c.70-200	5	130	Fresh
	LIA2	Jar	c.50-170	2	41	Fresh
	R1	Jar	c.170-250	1	15	fresh

	R3 R5	Flanged bowl Everted rim jarsx2	c.80-150 c.170-250	9	126	Fresh Fresh
		5C4.2 bowl	c.150-250			Fresh
		5F dish	c.130-300	14	262	Fresh
	R7A	Dot barbotine bkr	c.70-200			Fresh
		Latticed beaker	c.110-160	7	52	Fresh
	R12	Jar		1	17	Fresh
	R14A		c.120-200	2	2	
	R22	Flagon	c.150-250	1	6	Fresh ?same as 062,086
	R36	Briquetage	c.0-150	1	4	Fresh
	R37	Mortarium	c.150-300	1	23	
	Tile			1	6	
			c.100-250	44	678g	Well fill
T.E.137	R6A	Necked jar	c.170-270	1	18	
	R13	Flagon		1	6	Fresh
				2	24g	Wall demolition
T.E.139	R2B	Jar	c.270-420	1	7	Abraded
	R5	Beaded+fl bowl	c.270-350			Abraded
		Str-sided dish	c.200-350			Abraded
		Ev rim jarx2	c.200-350	9	101	Abraded
	R6A	Necked jarx4	c.200-350			
		Beaded+fl bowl	c.270-350			
		Bead-rim beaker	c.250-350	13	145	Fresh
	R6B	Necked jar	c.200-350	1	32	Fresh
	R7A	Poppyhead beaker	c.160-200	8	22	Abraded
	R13	Beaded+fl bowl	c.250-400	2	18	Abraded
	R14A		c.120-200	1	2	Abraded
	R14B	Dr 32	c.160-260	1	25	
	Tile	<i>Imbrex</i>		3	98	Burnt
			c.270-350	36	352g	Chalk floor
T.E.140	LIA1/R1	Jars	c.70-200	5	20	fresh
	LIA2	Jar	c.50-100	1	18	
	R1	jars	c.170-250	8	44	
	R2B	Beaded+fl bowl	c.370-420	1	3	
	R4		c.150-200	1	2	
	R5	5D1.8 dish	c.120-150			fresh
		Str-sided dish	c.160-350	8	248	fresh
	R6A	Necked jarsx2		13	75	fresh
	R7A	Closed		4	7	abraded
	R7B	Flagon neck		1	23	
	R8	Jar	c.270-420	2	5	
	R14A	Dr 18/31	c.120-150	3	13	
	M1	Jug	c.1200-1500	3	23	
			Roman residual in medieval robbing	50	481g	Demolition fill of robbed wall
T.A.145	R5	5C4.2 bowl	c.150/70-270	2	48	
		5F dish	c.130-300	4	29	Abraded
	R12			1	6	Abraded
	R13			1	2	
	R23	Barbotine beaker	c.250-400	8	85g	Demolition material
T.E.148	R1	Jar	c.170-300	1	21	Fresh
	R2A	Jarx2	c.270-420			Fresh
		Convex-sided dish	c.350-420	3	65	Fresh
	R5	5C3.2 Bowl	c.170-270			
		5E0.1 dish	c.100-150			
		5F dish	c.130-300			
		Pollard 113 dish	c.150-250	13	182	
	R6A	Necked jarsx7	c.170-370			Fresh
		Everted rim jar		11	129	Fresh
	R6C	Necked jar	c.200-300	2	167	Fresh joining
	R7A	Jar base		2	30	Fresh
	R7B	Closed		1	8	Fresh
	R9B	Lid-seated jar	c.250-400	1	12	Fresh
	R19A	C48 dish	c.270-400	2	11	
	R19B	Mortarium	c.240-400	1	10	Fresh
			c.250-400. dumped after 350	37	635g	Deposit in burnt area above pilae
T.A.149	LIA2	Jar	c.50-100	3	80	Fresh
	LIA1/R1	Storage jar	c.50-150	3	22	Fresh
	R5	Ev rim jar	c.120-170	3	12	
	R6A	3G1.9 jar	c.50-110	2	10	Fresh
		Misc jars		2	8	
	R6E	Jar	c.43-100	2	24	Fresh
	R7A	Closed		6	24	Fresh

	R38	Closed	c.43-80	1	1	Fresh
			c.50-150	22	181g	
T.E.151	R5 R6A	Ac latticed jar Necked jar	c.120-250 c.100-300	1	4	Fresh
	R6C	Cheese wired jar base	c.300-400	3	95	Fresh
	R7A	3J3.2 jar	c.150-240	1	76	Fresh
	R12	4A1.1 Jar	c.70-120	7	134	Fresh and abraded
	R20	Dr 38 copy	c.270-400	1	13	Fresh
			c.100-400. dumped after 300	1	12	Abraded
				14	334g	Redeposited demolition debris
T.E.152	R2B	Jar	c.270-420	2	45	Fresh
	R5	5F dish	c.130-300	6	54	
	R6A	Jar		2	18	Fresh
	R7A	Necked jar	c.150-300+	8	55	Fresh
	R8	Beaded+fl bowl	c.270-400	1	22	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 38	c.140-200	4	55	Fresh
			c.270-300+	23	249g	Mixed chalk/RBC deposit
T.E.153	R6D	Jar	c.270-370	1	9g	Fresh.
T.E.153/ 156	R1	Knife trimmed jars	c.170-250	5	31	
	R5	5C bowl	c.150/70-250	4	21	Abraded
	R6C	Jar	c.270-370	1	9	Fresh
	R7A	Beaker		1	2	Fresh
			c.270-370	11	63g	
T.E.155	LIA2	Jar	c.50-100	1	8	Fresh
	R3	Lid-seated jar	c.130-175			Fresh
		Pie dish	c.130-175	2	18	Fresh
	R5	5C3 bowlx2 5F dishes x2	c.150-270 c.130-300			
		Necked jar		9	67	
	R6A	Necked jars		5	40	Fresh
	R6B	Jar	c.180-350	1	21	Fresh
	R7A	Ev rim jar	c.150-300	4	18	Fresh
	R12			1	4	
	R14A	Dr 18/31 or 31	c.120-200	3	9	Burnt
	R22	Closed	c.150-250	1	4	
	R24	Closed		1	10	Fresh
			c.150-200	28	199g	
T.E.158	R5	3J2.2 jar	c.150-200	3	61	Fresh 1 pot
	R15	Beaker	c.130-250	9	40	Fresh 1 pot
			c.150-200. ? constructional	12	101g	Flint wall
T.E.159	R5	4A2.2 bowl	c.110-200	2	22	
	R6A	3E3.2 jar	c.43-150	4	35	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 31	c.150-200	1	25	Fresh
	R39	Mortarium	c.50-150	3	250	Fresh joining SF 111
			c.100-150	10	332g	Tumble beside chalk wall
T.E.163	R3	Ev rim jar	c.130-175	2	110	Fresh
	R5	5C2 bowlsx2 5D4.1 Bowl	c.120-210 c.120-180			
		Str-sided dish	c.120-300	12	171	
	R6A	Necked jars		3	14	
	R7A	1B3 flask	c.90-190			Fresh
		2A3-5 beaker	c.130-200	11	84	Fresh
	R7B	Flagon		2	42	Fresh
	R12			3	9	Fresh
	R14A		c.120-200	1	3	Fresh
			c.120-200	34	433g	Fill of hypocaust
T.E.164	R6D	Beaded+fl bowl	c.350-400	1	12	Abraded
	R7A	Beaker		1	2	Abraded
	R12			1	5	Abraded
	R19A		c.240-400	1	7	Abraded
	R19B	Mortarium	c.240-400	1	29	
	M4	Cooking pot	c.1150-1250	4	57	Fresh
			Roman residual	9	112g	
T.A. 165	R1	Jar	c.170-300	1	45	Fresh
	R2A	Bowl	c.270-420	1	100	Fresh
	R7A	Poppyhead beaker	c.160-300	1	21	Fresh
	R14A	Dr 31	c.150-200			Fresh
		Dr 33	c.120-200	2	23	Fresh
			c.150-420	5	189g	Well top soil

T.E. 166	LIA2	Jar	c.50-100	2	8	
	R3	Jar	c.60-90	2	4	
	R12	Lid	c.50-120	1	13	Micaceous silty
		Jar		5	22	
	R13	Bead-rim beaker		1	2	Colour-coated
			c.50-120	11	49g	Fill of ditch

APPENDIX 4

BLACKLANDS FIELD EXCAVATIONS 2007-2008 : I. EXCAVATION 2007 (BLACK-07) II. EXCAVATION 2008 (

A. Primary quantification : A1. Excavation 2007 Overall sherd count : 109 sherds. Overall sherd weight : 1kg.471gms

A2. Excavation 2008 : COMPLETE A3. Overall totals : COMPLETE

B. Period Codes employed :

MBA = Middle Bronze Age

LIA = Late Iron Age

ER = Early Roman

MR = Mid Roman

LR = Late Roman

EM = Early Medieval

EM/M = Early Medieval-Medieval transition

M = Medieval

PM = Post-Medieval

CI. EXCAVATION 2007 (BLACK-07)

CONTEXT : 014

Sherds : 13 (weight : 243gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

11 sherds ER N.Kent shell-tempered ware (c.40/100-150 AD)

1 sherd M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225/1250-1275 AD)

Likely context date : If not residual, Roman, ? MC2-EC3 AD

Comment : All sherds worn, though some Roman material less so – and all could be residual in a Late or Post-Medieval context. If not the MBA flint-tempered sherd is moderate-sized but worn, the Medieval sherd small, worn and probably intrusive into a Roman context. The Roman shell-tempered sherds are all from hard-fired thick-walled storage-jar vessels, small-fairly large in size. Some are heavily worn, some fairly fresh. The dating preference, ie. Roman is based on the quantity of sherds, their larger size and presence of some fairly fresh sherds.

CONTEXT : 069

Sherd : 1 (weight : 6gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : Small sherd – only slightly worn. Probably from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

CONTEXT : 090

Sherds : 4 (weight : 25gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

1 sherd EM/M London-type Coarse Ware (c.1175-1225/1250 AD prob)

2 sherds M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1250-1300/1325 AD)

Likely context date : ? Residual

Comment : MBA sherd moderate-sized and fairly fresh, all Medieval sherds small and fairly worn.

C1b : Trench-based contexts :

TRENCH A :

CONTEXT : 016 Fill N. of flint (W. of S. Platform)

Sherd : 1 (weight : 16gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

Likely context date : Residual

Comment : Sherd is fairly small and worn and should be residual.

CONTEXT : 008 (Surface of West Apse)

Sherds : 2 (weight : 37gms)

2 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : One small, one fairly large sherd, virtually unworn – probably from an undisturbed contemporary context

CONTEXT : Dump on top of 016

Sherds : 4 (weight : 26gms)

4 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : Small sherds, 2 fairly worn – includes one jar sherd with an applied cordon. Should all be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 023 (Bottom of post-hole)

Sherds : 2 (weight : 20gms)

1 sherd MR Upchurch-type ware (c.150-200/225 AD)

1 sherd LR grog-tempered ware (c.275/350-400 AD probably)

Likely context date : If not residual in a post-Roman structure, LC4-EC5 AD

Comment : The MR sherd is small but fairly fresh, the LR sherd fairly large but moderately worn, indicating it may have been a little residual before being incorporated in the fill of the post-hole.

CONTEXT : 054

Sherds : 2 (weight : 5gms)

2 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (1500/1400-1100 BC)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : Sherds are small scraps but fresh and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 059

Sherd : 1 (weight : 22gms)

1 sherd PM red earthenware (hard compact fabric – c.1625-1675/1700 AD probably)

Likely context date : If not intrusive or residual, uncertain C17 or C18 AD

Comment : Sherd is fairly large, and fairly fresh and could be from an undisturbed context; there is a personal preference for C17 AD but in the absence of any formal/decorative features –it could be C18 AD (upto c.1750/1775 AD)

CONTEXT : 062

Sherds : 5 (weight : 128gms)

1 sherd MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

4 sherds ER N.Kent shell-tempered ware (c.40/50-150 AD)

Likely context date : c.100-150 AD or ? later C2 AD

Comment : The MBA sherd is small, fairly fresh and residual. Roman sherds vary in size from small to mostly fairly large. One is fairly heavily worn and fairly low-fired and should be residual from mid-

later C1 AD activity; the remaining shell-tempered sherds are hard-fired and probably of earlier C2 AD date.

CONTEXT : 067 (Cut in 016)

Sherds : 9 (weight : 96gms)

9 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC; **2 conjoining; 1 fineware sherd = Context 076**)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : Small-medium sized sherds, a few slightly worn, includes 1 thumb-decorated barrel-type storage jar rim, 1 sherd with an applied cordon. Should all be from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

CONTEXT : 076 (Under 022)

Sherds : 26 + scraps (weight : 344gms)

26 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC; **3 fineware sherds = Context 067**)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : Two sherds are large or rest moderate-sized together with some small worn scraps. Most of the larger sherds are fairly fresh and all should be from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

CONTEXT : 141

Sherds : 7 (weight : 34gms)

6 sherds MBA Deverel-Rimbury flint-tempered ware (c.1500/1400-1100 BC)

1 sherd MR sintered sandy ware (c.175/200-250AD)

Likely context date : c.1400-1100 BC

Comment : Most of the MBA sherds are small and fresh, suggesting they are from an undisturbed contemporary context. The mid-Roman sherd is slightly worn and should be intrusive.

TRENCH E :

CONTEXT : Unstratified

Sherd : 1 (weight : 6gms)

1 sherd EM/M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1175-1200/1225 AD)

Likely context date : Residual

Comment : The sherd is small and slightly worn

CONTEXT : 039 (and top)

Sherds : 6 (weight : 105gms)

1 sherd EM ? Canterbury-type shell-filled sandy ware (c.1100/1125-1175 AD)

2 sherds EM shell-tempered ware (c.1150-1175/1200 AD)

1 sherd EM/M shell-filled ware with moderate sand (c.1175/1200-1225 AD)

Likely context date : c.1200-1250 AD

Comment : Dating here is, obviously based on known date ranges, but also on condition : the small ?Canterbury sherd is fairly heavily worn and should be, compared with the latest element, an earlier-mid C11 AD product. The purely shell-tempered sherds are moderate-sized and less worn. The final element, three fairly large base sherds from the same shell-tempered cooking-pot are fresh and unworn and should be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 047

Sherds : 3 (weight : 60gms)

1 sherd ER N.Kent shell-tempered ware (c.40/50-150 AD)

1 sherd EM shell-tempered ware (c.1150-1175/1200 AD)

1 sherd EM/M shell-tempered ware with moderate sand (c.1175/1200-1225 AD)

Likely context date : c.1200-1225 AD

Comment : The ER sherd is fairly small (from a large-diameter storage-jar Monaghan Type 3D.1) and residual. The two Early Medieval sherds are moderate-sized, with some slight wear, but not enough to make them seriously residual.

CONTEXT : 050

Sherd : 1 (weight : 121gms)

1 sherd M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD)

Likely context date : c.1225-1250 AD

Comment : Large, unworn sherd from a thumbled jug base – should be from an undisturbed contemporary deposit.

CONTEXT : 051

Sherds : 2 (weight : 9gms)

1 sherd M London-type Ware (broadly C13 AD, perhaps c.1200-1250 AD on basis wall thickness and firing)

1 sherd M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD)

Likely context date : If not residual, later C13 AD

Comment : Both sherds are small, the London-type sherd with fairly heavily worn edges, the Canterbury sherd, fairly fresh.

CONTEXT : 074

Sherds : 4 (weight : 15gms)

1 sherd ER N.Kent shell-tempered ware (c.40/50-150 AD)

2 sherds EM shell-tempered ware (c.1125/1150-1175 AD)

1 sherd EM/M London-type Ware – Rouen type (c.1190-1250 AD)

Likely context date : If not residual, earlier C13 AD

Comment : All sherds small. The ER sherd is heavily worn, the 2 EM shell-tempered sherds moderately worn but not enough to indicate they are radically earlier than the London Ware sherd. This type, copying imported NFR Rouen jugs has a stylistic production peak around c.1210 and this sherd need not be later than **c.1200-1225 AD**.

CONTEXT : 082

Sherd : 1 (weight : 9gms)

1 sherd M London-type Ware (c.1225-1275/1325 AD probable range; **CHECK**)

Likely context date : If not residual, LC13-EC14 AD

Comment : Single medium-sized sherd with fairly worn edges

CONTEXT : 122

Sherds : 2 (weight : 9gms)

2 sherds M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225/1250-1275 AD)

Likely context date : Probably fairly residual

Comment : Two small sherds, both moderately worn.

CONTEXT : 123

Sherds : 6 (weight : 40gms)

1 sherd EM/M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1175/1200-1225 AD)

5 sherds M Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware (c.1225-1250/1275 AD)

Likely context date : ER or c.1250-1275 AD

Comment : The Early Roman grogged sherd is fairly large and fresh. However, the earliest sherd, from a combed wavy-line decorated jug is moderate-sized and fairly fresh. The later sherds, from the same jug, are all small and slightly worn. Despite sherd sizes and condition in relation to the Roman sherd, the material could still be from an undisturbed contemporary context.

CONTEXT : 155

Sherd : 1 (weight : 8gms)

1 sherd ER N.Kent shell-tempered ware (c.40/50-150 AD)

Likely context date : Residual

Comment : Small sherd with fairly heavy unifacial wear..

CONTEXT : 166

Sherd : 1 (weight : 6gms)

1 sherd EM shell-tempered ware with moderate sand (c.1125/1150-1175 AD probably)

Likely context date : Late Roman or LC 12-EC 13 AD or later

Comment : All sherds are small and variably worn. The single post-Roman shelly ware sherd has fairly heavy unifacial damage. The latter could be intrusive into a Late Roman context.

APPENDIX 5
BLACKLANDS COIN FINDS 2007

Item Reference No: SF074
Context No: 123
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Head and shoulders bust facing right. Laureate crown
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Two soldiers with one standard
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANS/
Period/Date: 335 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/ Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF029
Context No: 051
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Bust facing right. Laureate crown
Obv Inscription: “CONSTANTINVS” ----
Rev Description: Two soldiers holding two standards
Rev Inscription: “GLORIA EXERCITVS” part legible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I/
Period/Date: 330 – 335
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 17mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF017
Context No: 014
Trench No: A
Obv Description: Bust facing right. Laureate crown
Obv Inscription: “CONSTANTINUS AVG”
Rev Description: Two soldiers with one standard
Rev Inscription: “GLORIA EXERCITVS” part legible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I/
Period/Date: 335 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/ Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 14mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF116
Context No: 036
Trench No: D
Obv Description: Bust facing right. Laureate crown

Obv Inscription: "CONSTANS PFAVG"
Rev Description: Two victories facing each other, each with wreath. 'D' between
Rev Inscription: "VICTORIAEDD AVGG QNN"
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANS/Trier
Period/Date: 343 – 348
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Good
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF003
Context No: 006
Trench No: B
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Victory with sceptre and shield
Rev Inscription: Nil
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I?
Period/Date: 330 – 335
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 16mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF057
Context No: 080
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Illegible. Radiate crown?
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: 'Pax' looking left. 'P' in right field
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CARAUSIUS?/
Period/Date: 286 – 293
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 22mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF018
Context No: 010
Trench No: C
Obv Description: Head and shoulders. Laureate crown
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Two soldiers and one standard
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANS
Period/Date: 335 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 13mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF121
Context No: 036
Trench No: D
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Emperor standing right with spear & shield
Rev Inscription: “.....VGGNN”
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I/ Arles
Period/Date: 337 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 16mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF051
Context No: 073
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Britannia seated looking left
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: ANTONINUS PIUS
Period/Date: 154 – 155
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 23mm Weight: 9g

Item Reference No: 122
Context No: 036
Trench No: D
Obv Description: Head & shoulders bust. Laureate crown
Obv Inscription: “.....SPFAG”
Rev Description: Two victories facing with wreaths. “D” in field
Rev Inscription: “ORIAEDD”
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANS/
Period/Date: 343 – 348
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF123
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: Nil
Obv Description: Laureate bust
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev description: Two soldiers with two standards

Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I /
Period/Date: 330 – 335
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF124
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Left facing helmeted head & shoulders
Obv Inscription: “.....INOPO”
Rev Description: Victory on prow with sceptre & shield
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE / Trier
Period/Date: 330 – 335
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 17mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF125
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Head and shoulders, radiate crown
Obv Inscription: “...MP CPFAVG”
Rev Description: Standing figure facing left
Rev Inscription: “...FI.....IL”
Ruler/Mint: TETRICUS? /
Period/Date: 270 – 273
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/ Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 20mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF126
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Two soldiers with one standard
Rev Inscription: “GLORI”
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANS / Trier
Period/Date: 335-341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF127
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Head and shoulders; laureate crown
Obv Inscription: "CONST"
Rev Description: Two soldiers with one standard
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANS /
Period/Date: 335-341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF128
Context No: 073
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Head & shoulders; laureate crown
Obv Inscription: "CONSTANTINVS"
Rev Description: Two soldiers with two standards
Rev Inscription: "GLORIA"
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I / TRP (Trier)
Period/Date: 330-335
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF129
Context No: 036
Trench No: D
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: VOT XX MVLV XXX in wreath
Rev Inscription: None
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINUS II
Period/Date: 343-348
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 14mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF130
Context No: 043
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Wolf and twins
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I /

Period/Date: 330-335
Material Description: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 14mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF131
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Victory on prow with sceptre & shield
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I
Period/Date: 330-335
Material Description: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 16mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF132
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv description: Head & shoulders; laureate crown
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Soldier spearing barbarian fallen from horse
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTIUS II
Period/Date: 354-361
Material Description: Copper alloy
Wear/ Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 12mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF117
Context No: Unstrat
Trench No: F
Obv Description: Draped bust, diadem crown
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Victory walking left with weath; "OF" in left field
Rev Inscription: ".....ICT....."
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTIUS II / Arles (CONS)
Period/Date: 343-348
Material Description: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 19mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF80
Context No: 123

Trench No: E
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Inscription: Nil
Rev Description: Soldier spearing barbarian
Rev Inscription: Nil
Ruler/Mint: Unknown
Period/Date: 354 – 361
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 10mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF081
Context No: 090
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Bust with radiate crown. Full beard
Obv Inscription: “*IMP TET*.....”
Rev Description: Laetitia with wreath & anchor
Rev Inscription: “.....*TITI AHVGG*”
Ruler/Mint: TETRICUS /
Period/Date: 270 – 273
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 19mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF098
Context No: 139
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Right facing, short beard, radiate crown
Obv Inscription: “*GALI*.....”
Rev Description: Standing deer facing left
Rev Inscription: “.....*SAUG*”
Ruler/Mint: GALIENUS / Rome (XII)
Period/Date: 253 – 268
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 19mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF010
Context No: 010
Trench No: C
Obv Description: Armoured, laureate, clean shaven bust
Obv Description: “*CONSTANTINUS IVN NOB C*”
Rev Description: Two soldiers with two standards
Rev Inscription: “.....*OR**AEXER*”
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE II /
Period/Date: 330 – 335
Material/Composition: Copper alloy

Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 16mm

Weight:

Item Reference No: SF034
Context No: 047
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Head with laureate crown. Full long beard
Obv Inscription: “.....*ANTONINVS AVG*”
Rev Description:
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: MARCUS AURELIUS /
Period/Date: 161 – 180
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear:Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 26mm Weight: 16g

Item Reference No: SF109
Context No: 081
Trench No: E
Obv description: Head with laureate crown. Full long beard
Obv Inscription: “*AUG T*..... ”
Rev Description:
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: MARCUS AURELIUS /
Period/Date: 161 - 180
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 28mm Weight: 22g

Item Reference No: SF071
Context No: 123
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Draped bust, no headdress
Obv Inscription: “*CL CONSTANTIVS* ”
Rev Description: Soldier spearing barbarian on ground
Rev Inscription: “*PARATIO*”
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE II / Lyons (PLG)
Period/Date: 350 – 354
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 19mm Weight: 4g

Item Reference No: SF106
Context No: 094
Trench No: D
Obv Description: Illegible

Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Genius standing facing left, corn measure on head, patera in
Right hand and cornucopia in left
Rev Inscription: "GENIO POPVLI ROMANI"
Ruler/Mint: GALERIUS or SEVERUS II / No mint mark
Period/Date: 294 – 307
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 28mm Weight: 10g

Item Reference No: 133
Context No: 036
Trench No: D
Obv Description: Bust; no headdress
Obv inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Two victories holding shield with 'X'
Rev Inscription: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: MAGNENTIUS or DECENTIUS /
Period/Date: 350 – 353
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 20mm Weight: 2g

Item Reference No: SF093
Context No: 090
Trench No: E
Obv Description: Helmeted bust facing left
Obv Inscription: Illegible
Rev Description: Wolf and twins; two stars above
Rev Inscription: Nil
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I / Trier (TRS *)
Period/Date: Circa 333
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 13mm Weight:

APPENDIX 6
BLACKLANDS COIN FINDS 2008

Item Reference No: SF008
Context No: 002
Trench No: 02
Obv Description: Head to R. Beard, laureate crown
Obv Legend: -----IANVS AVG -----
Rev Description: Illegible
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: HADRIAN
Period/Date: 117 – 138
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 32mm Weight: 26g

Item Reference No: SF010
Context No: 006
Trench No: 05
Obv Description: Bust to R. No beard. Diadem, draped
Obv Legend: -----ANTIN-----
Rev Description: 2 soldiers, one standard between
Rev Legend: GLORIA EXERCITUS”
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE, CONSTANTINE II or CONSTANTIUS II /
Trier (TRP)
Period/Date: 337 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF012
Context No: 010
Trench No: 05
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Legend: Illegible
Rev Description: 2 soldiers, one standard between
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE II, CONSTANTIUS II or CONSTANS /
Period/Date: 337 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF013
Context No: Spoil
Trench No: 03
Obv Description: Bust to R. No beard. Diadem, draped
Obv Legend: Illegible

Rev Description: 2 soldiers, one standard between
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE II, CONSTANTIUS or CONSTANS
Period/Date: 337 – 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 15mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF014
Context No: Spoil
Trench No: 03
Obv Description: Bust to R. No beard. Diadem, draped
Obv Legend: ----- ALE-----S PF AVG
Rev Description: Victory moving L.
Rev Legend : ----- REIPUBLICAE
Ruler/Mint: VALENS
Period/Date: 364 - 378
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 18mm Weight:

Item Reference No: SF34
Context No: Spoil
Trench No: 05
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Legend: -----NINVS AVG PIV- TRP V COS III
Rev Description: Illegible
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: ANTONINUS PIUS /
Period/Date: 143 – 145
Material/Composition: Copper
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 32mm Weight: 24g

Item Reference No: SF65
Context No: 019
Trench No: 05
Obv Description: Head to R. Laureate
Obv Legend: -----TRAIA-----
Rev Description: Illegible
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: TRAJAN?
Period/Date: 98 - 117
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 25mm Weight: 8g

Item Reference No: SF079

Context No: 004
Trench No: 03
Obv Description: Bust to R. No beard. Diadem, draped
Obv Legend: -----*IVS PF AVG*
Rev Description: Votive wreath, inscribed "VOT X"
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINUS II or CONSTANTIUS II / Trier (TRP)
Period/Date: 337 - 361
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 18mm

Item Reference No: SF082
Context No: 001
Trench No: 02
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Legend: Illegible
Rev Description: Illegible
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: Unknown
Period/Date: Unknown
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 11mm

Item Reference No: SF083
Context No: Chalk surface
Trench No: 03
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Legend: Illegible
Rev Description: Illegible
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: Unknown
Period/Date: Unknown
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 11mm

Item Reference No: SF84
Context No: 002
Trench No: 01
Obv Description: Bust to R. Radiate
Obv Legend: Illegible
Rev Description: Single figure
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: Unknown
Period/Date: Unknown
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 22mm

Item Reference No: SF085
Context No: 002
Trench No: 01
Obv Description: Illegible
Obv Legend: Illegible
Rev Description: Victory walking L?
Rev Legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: Unknown
Period/Date: Unknown
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 21mm

Item Reference No: SF087
Context No: 019
Trench No: 05
Obv Description: Bust to R. No beard. Diadem
Obv Legend: *CONSTANTINVS AVG*
Rev Description: Two captives back to back against central standard – “*VOT XX*”
Rev Legend: *VIRTVS EXER---*
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I /
Period/Date: 318 - 324
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 18mm

Item Reference No: SF088
Context No: 019
Trench No: 05
Obv Description: Bust to R. Diadem, draped
Obv Legend: -- *HEL* -----
Rev Description: Pax to L. with olive branch and sceptre
Rev Legend: *PAX* ----- “
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE I (HELENA) / Trier (TRP)
Period/Date: 337 - 341
Material/Composition: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Fair
Diameter: 19mm

APPENDIX 7
BLACKLANDS FIELDWALK 2009 – COINS

<u>Item Reference No:</u>	01
<u>Context:</u>	B3. Unstrat
<u>Obv description:</u>	Bust to R. Beard. Radiate. Draped
<u>Obv legend:</u>	<i>IMP C ALLEC-----</i>
<u>Rev description:</u>	Galley
<u>Rev legend:</u>	<i>VIRTV-----</i>
<u>Ruler/Mint:</u>	ALLECTUS / Colchester (QC)
<u>Period/Date:</u>	293 – 296
<u>Material:</u>	Copper alloy
<u>Wear/Preservation:</u>	Fair
<u>Diameter:</u>	20mm
<u>Item Reference No:</u>	02
<u>Context:</u>	B9. Unstrat
<u>Obv description:</u>	Helmeted head to L.
<u>Obv legend:</u>	<i>-----OMA</i>
<u>Rev description:</u>	Wolf and Twins
<u>Rev legend:</u>	Nil
<u>Ruler/Mint:</u>	CONSTANTINE / Lyons (PLG)
<u>Period/Date:</u>	330 - 335
<u>Material:</u>	Copper alloy
<u>Wear/Preservation:</u>	Poor
<u>Diameter:</u>	14mm
<u>Item Reference No:</u>	03/04
<u>Context:</u>	'Bowl'. Unstrat
<u>Obv description:</u>	Bust to R. No beard
<u>Obv legend:</u>	Illegible
<u>Rev description:</u>	2 soldiers, 1 standard
<u>Rev legend:</u>	<i>----- EX-----</i>
<u>Ruler/Mint:</u>	CONSTANTINE /
<u>Period/Date:</u>	335 - 341
<u>Material:</u>	Copper alloy
<u>Wear/Preservation:</u>	Poor
<u>Diameter:</u>	14mm
<u>Item Reference No:</u>	05
<u>Context:</u>	D2. Unstrat
<u>Obv description:</u>	Bust to R.
<u>Obv legend:</u>	Illegible
<u>Rev description:</u>	Fort gate, 2 turrets
<u>Rev legend:</u>	Illegible
<u>Ruler/Mint:</u>	CONSTANTINE II or CONSTANTIUS II /
<u>Period/Date:</u>	324 - 330
<u>Material:</u>	Copper alloy
<u>Wear/Preservation:</u>	Poor

Diameter: 17mm
Item Reference No: 06
Context: D2. Unstrat
Obv description: Bust to R.
Obv legend: Illegible
Rev description: 2 soldiers, 1 standard
Rev legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: CONSTANTINE /
Period/Date: 335 - 341
Material: copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 10mm

Item Reference No: 07
Context: B3. Unstrat
Obv description: Bust to R. Beard. Radiate
Obv legend: ---C TET-----
Rev description: Illegible
Rev legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: TETRICUS? /
Period/Date: 270 - 274
Material: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 20mm

Item Reference No: 08
Context: C7. Unstrat
Obv description: Bust to R. Diadem?
Obv legend: Illegible
Rev description: Illegible
Rev legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: Unknown
Period/Date: Post 335
Material: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 17mm

Item Reference No: 09
Context: B3. Unstrat
Obv description: Bust to R.
Obv legend: Illegible
Rev description: Pax facing with sceptre and olive branch
Rev legend: Illegible
Ruler/Mint: HELENA? /
Period/Date: 337 - 341
Material: Copper alloy
Wear/Preservation: Poor
Diameter: 16mm

APPENDIX 8

SCHOOL FARM, FAVERSHAM: ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD AND LABORATORY ASSESSMENT

C.P. Green and N.P. Branch

*ArchaeoScape, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham Hill,
Egham, Surrey, TW20 OEX, UK*

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological field and laboratory assessment undertaken by *ArchaeoScape* in connection with the proposed development at School Farm, Faversham (National Grid Reference: TR 034 614). The site is in north Kent in a shallow valley that drains northwards to a tidal creek on the south side of The Swale, the seaway separating the Isle of Sheppey from the mainland of Kent. Present-day tidewater is about 1.25km downstream and The Swale itself about 3.25 km from the site. The bedrock at the site is the Upper Chalk which is shown by the British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Sheet 273 Faversham 1967) to be exposed on the lower slope of the east side of the valley. The upper slope and adjoining interfluvial area are mapped as Head Brickearth overlying Thanet Beds. The valley floor is mapped as Alluvium. The site is on the east side of the valley and takes the form of a shallow sub-circular depression, several tens of metres across, open towards the valley axis and with a floor at the level of the slope foot. Footings of Roman buildings have been uncovered upslope from and slightly to the north of the rim of the depression. During the historic period the valley floor adjacent to the site has been substantially modified, but to an extent unknown in detail. There are local records of watercress beds and physical evidence of excavation in the form of a pond and associated spoil heap. The marshy floor of the valley is c. 2.0m to 3.0m below the slope foot and locally separated from it by a steep bluff. Standing water was present on the valley floor in September 2008, when the field investigation was undertaken.

METHODS

Field investigations

Two N-S trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) were opened across the sub-circular depression and approximately parallel with the valley axis. A third (W-E) trench was extended from Trench 4 to the steep bluff separating the valley-side slope foot from the marshy valley floor. A column sample, 0.2m in length, was taken from the dark greyish brown unit (Unit A) immediately overlying bedrock chalk in Trench C. Four bulk samples were taken at 5cm intervals through Unit A in Trench 4.

Lithostratigraphic descriptions of the trenches and column sample

The lithostratigraphy of all the trenches (B, C and the W-E trench) was described in the field, and the column sample described in the laboratory, using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter), unit boundaries and inclusions (e.g. artefacts) (Table 1).

Bulk sample assessment

The bulk samples were wet sieved to provide residues of >2mm, 1-2mm and 250µm. A sub sample of each bulk sample was soaked in hydrogen peroxide (5%) and then sieved through a 125µm mesh. A low power binocular microscope was used to examine the residues for Foraminifera, Ostracoda, Mollusca and charcoal (Table 2).

Pollen-stratigraphic assessment

Six sub-samples were extracted from column sample for assessment of the pollen content. The pollen was extracted as follows: (1) Sampling a standard volume of sediment (1ml); (2) Deflocculation of the sample in 1% Sodium pyrophosphate; (3) Sieving of the sample to remove coarse mineral and organic fractions (>125µ); (4) Removal of finer minerogenic fraction using Sodium polytungstate (specific gravity of 2.0g/cm³), and (5) Mounting of the sample in glycerol jelly. Each stage of the procedure was preceded and followed by thorough sample cleaning in filtered distilled water (Moore *et al.*, 1991; Reille, 1992). The assessment procedure consisted of scanning the prepared slides at 2mm intervals along the whole length of the coverslip and recording the concentration and state of preservation of pollen grains and spores, and the principal pollen taxa. Unfortunately, no pollen grains or spores were recovered.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FIELD INVESTIGATION

Trench 4

Trench 4 cut into the floor of the depression at its lowest level and exposed, in the centre of the depression, 1.50m of sediment overlying bedrock Chalk. In the centre of the depression, the following sequence was recorded.

Table 1: Description of Trench C, School Farm, Faversham

Depth (m from ground surface)	Unit	Description
0.00-0.30		Dark brown; topsoil; <i>well marked transition to:</i>
0.30-1.09	Unit C	Medium brown, slightly sandy clayey silt with numerous clasts of chalk and broken flint; charcoal; CBM; oyster shells (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>), cockle shells (<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>), periwinkle shells (<i>Littorina littorea</i>); <i>sharp contact with:</i>
1.09-1.30	Unit B	Chalk rubble; <i>sharp contact with:</i>
1.30-1.50	Unit A	Dark greyish brown; gritty silt with scattered mainly small (<10mm) clasts of chalk and broken flint ; <i>sharp contact with:</i>
>1.50		Broken bedrock Chalk

Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned upslope from Trench 4, but still within the sub-circular depression. Trench 4 exposed a thicker layer of sediment overlying bedrock chalk. Beneath the soil layer, the sediment resembled closely Unit C in Trench 3. In the centre of the depression, this unit rested directly on bedrock chalk but towards the margin of the depression, it rested on a yellowish brown sandy unit - possibly weathered and displaced Thanet Beds. No sediments comparable with Units A and B in Trench C were present.

W-E Trench

In this trench, bedrock appeared to rise slightly, away from Trench 4, in a westerly direction before falling gently towards the valley axis. At the western extremity of this trench, adjacent to the bluff, remains of a cobbled surface were uncovered at a depth of c. 1.1m beneath the ground surface.

COLUMN SAMPLE ASSESSMENT OF UNIT A

The column sample through Unit A was examined in the laboratory. Clasts of chalk and flint are present throughout in a rather uniform matrix of dark greyish brown

slightly sandy silt. The flint includes small (2-3mm) very sharp impact flakes. Bedding is indicated by horizontal partings, which are not otherwise marked by variation of colour or texture. Root channels, root fibre, and faunal burrows are present and numerous worm granules. Charcoal, CBM and small, abraded chips of bone are present. Mollusc remains are present throughout. In a small sub-sample of sediment, several examples of the subterranean species *Cecilioides acicula* were noted and two specimens of *Vallonia eccentrica*.

BULK SAMPLE ASSESSMENT OF UNIT A

>2mm

Larger components are mainly pieces of pottery and CBM and pieces of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*). Charcoal and bone fragments are also common. Seeds are present. Particles of flint or chalk are comparatively scarce.

1-2mm

Residues consist largely of chips of mollusc shell with CBM/pottery and charcoal, and common and numerous complete mollusc shells including many specimens of *Vallonia pulchella* and *Vallonia eccentrica*. *Pupilla muscorum* is also present and *Trichia hispida*. Both *P. muscorum* and *V. eccentrica* inhabit open, usually dry calcareous places, *V. pulchella* also occurs in open calcareous habitats but usually in wetter places than *V. eccentrica*. *Trichia* is quite catholic in its preferences. A few particles of burnt flint and many sharp flint flakelets are present. Fossil remains from the Chalk, namely Ostracoda and Foraminifera, are also present (Table 2).

0.5-1mm

Residues consist largely of grains of chalk, flint and quartz, with chalk dominant in the uppermost sample (0-5cm) and probably the main component in the lower samples but less dominant. Worm granules are very common and charcoal, bone, mollusc remains, CBM/pottery and seeds are also present. Fossil remains from the Chalk are present, namely Ostracoda and Foraminifera (Table 2).

0.5-0.25mm

Residues consist largely of quartz grains with subsidiary amounts of flint and chalk. Chalk is more common in the uppermost sample (0-5cm). Mollusc remains include

many specimens of the minute and fragile subterranean species *Cecilioides acicula*. Charcoal, CBM/pottery, bone, plant remains and worm granules are present. Fossil remains from the Chalk include Foraminifera and Ostracoda (Table 2).

Table 2: Bulk sample assessment, School Farm, Faversham

Depth (m from top)	Total sample volume (l)	Fraction	Foraminifera	Ostracoda	Mollusca	Charcoal
0.00-0.05	2	2mm	n/a	n/a	4	1
		1mm	n/a	n/a	4	2
		250µm	3	2	4	n/a
0.05-0.10	1.5	2mm	n/a	n/a	3	1
		1mm	n/a	n/a	4	2
		250µm	2	2	3	n/a
0.10-0.15	1	2mm	n/a	n/a	4	2
		1mm	n/a	n/a	4	3
		250µm	1	1	4	n/a
0.15-0.20	2	2mm	n/a	n/a	4	2
		1mm	n/a	n/a	4	3
		250µm	1	1	4	n/a

Key to abundance

1	Low
2	Moderate
3	High
4	Very high

INTERPRETATION

Unit A

At the base of the sediment sequence within the sub-circular depression and immediately overlying the bedrock Chalk, the silty deposit forming Unit A in Trench C seems most likely to have accumulated in a small temporary or intermittent water body surrounded by terrestrial surfaces with contemporary or previous human occupation nearby. The horizontal bedding of the sediment suggests episodic in-wash of material, but with only short intervals between in-wash events. The common presence of worm granules, the presence of the molluscs *Vallonia pulchella*, *Vallonia eccentrica*, *Trichia hispida* and *Pupilla muscorum*, all terrestrial species preferring open habitats, and the presence of the subterranean mollusc *Cecilioides acicula*, found mostly in calcareous soils, suggest that sediment was being derived from disturbed calcareous soil surfaces in open grassland. The mollusc remains, especially *C. acicula* and the worm granules are fragile and are easily comminuted or destroyed during transport, so the source of the sediment must have been close to the site of deposition, probably on the adjoining hillslope. Although root channels and faunal burrows are present in the sediment, they could be related either to soil

formation at the present ground surface or to earlier phases of soil formation. In either case, there is no indication that the sediment forming Unit A has been affected or disturbed to any significant extent by soil forming processes.

Unit B

Given the likely origin of the sediment forming Unit A, outlined above, the overlying chalk rubble forming Unit B is likely to derive from a natural or artificial exposure of nearby bedrock chalk. Its emplacement could have been the result of natural processes but it is equally likely to represent a dump deposit. It seals Unit A and may account for the survival and undisturbed nature of this unit.

Unit C

Unit C is a typical chalkland foot-slope deposit representing a long period of colluvial sedimentation in an area with an extended history of agricultural land-use and nearby occupation.

CONCLUSIONS

The focus of interest in this investigation - Unit A in Trench 4 - seems likely to have been deposited in a short-lived series of episodes in a small water-body deriving sediment from nearby areas of disturbed calcareous soil in open grassland. There is no obvious indication in the evidence outlined above that the water body formed, either permanently or intermittently, part of any local fluvial or estuarine environment. The fact that the sediment resting directly on bedrock chalk incorporates anthropogenic debris suggests the possibility that the bedrock surface may itself have an artificial origin. Could the sub-circular depression be a prehistoric/Roman chalk quarry?

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Appendix 9

The Roman Wall Plaster

Fragments of painted plaster from Context (27, 28) Building 1 were sent to Dr Morgan of University of Leicester for analysis -

"The samples supplied were too small for detailed chemical and physical analysis so it was only possible to carry out micro-chemical tests and microscopic examination. Three or possibly four different types were distinguished. They were all lime plasters with varying structures and compositions.

The colour order starts from the upper surface down, showing which colours were applied first and the *intonaco*, if present, is the layer of lime on which the paint was applied.

The numerical values refer to the thickness of that particular layer in mm."

Type 1; paint on white *intonaco* on buff - pink sandy plaster.

- 1) red, 0.1mm, on white, 0.4mm, on sandy plaster, 8mm thick.
- 2) red on light orange - red, 0.2mm, on white, 0.75mm, on buff sandy plaster, 8mm thick.
- 3) green on red, < 0.1mm, on white, 0.5mm, on buff sandy plaster, 7mm thick.

Type 2, [being distinguished from Type 1) only in the lighter colour of the sandy plaster]; colour on white *intonaco* on light sandy plaster.

- 1) orange - red, 0.2mm, on erratic white, 0.1 - 0.5mm, on sandy plaster with some lime lumps, 10mm thick.
- 2) orange - red line on light orange - red, - < 0.1mm, on white, 0.5mm, on sandy plaster, 7mm thick.
- 3) roughly painted pink, 0.1 - 0.4mm, on white, 0.1 - 0.4mm, on sandy plaster, 7mm thick.
- 4) pink, 0.2mm, on white, 0.5mm, on sandy plaster, 6mm thick.
- 5) dark purple line on light purple, <0.1mm, on white, 0.1mm, on grey, 0.4mm, on white, 0.74mm, these last three making an unusually complex *intonaco* layer, on sandy plaster, 7mm thick.
- 6) roughly painted red - brown, 0.1mm, on white, 0.4mm, on sandy plaster, 0.5mm thick.
- 7) rough orange - red, 0.1mm, on white, 0.3mm, on sandy plaster, 7mm thick.
- 8) translucent white lime wash or a calcite film, < <0.1mm, on dark red, 0.1mm, on white, 0.3mm, on sandy plaster, 4mm thick.
- 9) green band on yellow, < 0.1mm, on white, 0.4mm, on sandy plaster, 8mm thick.
- 10) purple, <0.1mm, on pink, 0.1mm, on white, 0.3mm, on sandy plaster, 7mm thick.
- 11) light blue and dark red patches, < 0.1mm, on pink, 0.2mm, on white, 0.3mm, on sandy plaster, 9mm thick.
- 12) pink line, 5mm wide, on green on pink, 0.1mm, on white, 0.3mm, on sandy plaster, 10mm thick.

Type 3; colour directly on white plaster with lime or chalk lumps and little sand.

- 1) pink, 0.1mm, on white plaster, 10mm thick.
- 2) rough orange pink with blue specks, 0.2mm, on white plaster, 6mm thick.

Type 4; colour directly on white sandy plaster with lime or chalk lumps, possibly similar to Type 3).

1) white with blue specks, 0.2mm, on white sandy plaster, 8mm thick.

2) dark red, < 0.1mm, on pink, 0.2mm, possibly on *intonaco*, on white sandy plaster, 7mm thick.

All the samples appear to be painted in the true or *buon* fresco method, the pigment slurry being applied directly to the wet lime. The quality seems to be rather poor with a generally roughly painted surface and no burnishing, but with such a small selection this may not be typical. The colours represented are those commonly found in Roman Britain, being mainly natural earth colours; light red to dark red and purple being red ochre - haematite, with the possible use of brick or tile dust, yellow ochre - limonite, green earth - glauconite, white lime, grey - lime with soot or charcoal with the addition of the synthetic, probably imported blue pigment Egyptian blue. Lighter shades were made by mixing white lime with the basic colours.

The thickness of the samples, about 8mm on average, suggests that they are all flaked upper layers of a painted wall. Normally there are at least two layers from 10 to 30 mm in thickness on top of the basic wall structure. This may imply that a painted surface was removed prior to redecoration. The visual impression of the composition suggests up to four plaster mixes, but, once again, without larger samples for proper comparative analysis this may be due to the heterogeneities within the plaster mixes. The sand and lime / chalk should relate to the local geology of the site.

Dr G.C. Morgan MPhil, PhD, FSR, FIIC, Principal Curator, School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester.

Blacklands, Faversham, Kent The Roman Small Finds

Ian Riddler
January 2013

Introduction

The 2008 evaluation produced a total of 64 objects, all recovered from dump deposits, which provide an intriguing assemblage, largely of second- to third-century date. Copper alloy objects dominate the collection but bone items are well represented and there are objects of glass frit, iron, stone and lead alloy. The objects have been grouped according to the functional categories developed by Crummy (1983), which allows them to be usefully compared with similar assemblages from Kent, including small finds from recent excavations at Canterbury, Ickham, Monkton, Springhead, Thurnham Villa and Westhawk Farm at Ashford (Blockley *et al* 1995; Mould and Riddler 2010; Bennett *et al* 2008; Biddulph *et al* 2011; Booth *et al* 2006; 2008). They are summarised by material and category in Table 01.

Category	Copper Alloy	Iron	Lead Alloy	Glass	Bone	Stone
Dress Accessories	13			1	13	
Toilet, Surgical, Pharmaceutical	2					
Household	2	1	7		1	1
Written Communication		1				
Textile Implements	2				3	1
Religious Belief	2					
Transport		1				
Buildings and Services		3	1			1
Uncertain Function	1				6	

Table 01

Object Categories and Materials

There are few early Roman objects, aside from a melon bead, which may in any case be of second-century date, and a bone hinge+ cap, which could be contemporary. The dress accessories fall neatly within the time frame established by the coins and ceramics and there are several items of third- to fourth-century date, including a fragment of a copper alloy bracelet, a number of bone pins and a set of copper alloy tweezers. When viewed against the coins and ceramics, it appears that the latest items present in the assemblage belong to the early part of the fourth century.

The three brooches are broadly contemporary and reflect Romano-British dress styles of the second to early third century. Bow brooches ceased to be worn *c* 150/75 and plate brooches went out of use by *c* 225, after which time brooches were worn only by those of official rank (Mackreth 2011, 236). The dating of the assemblage as a whole may therefore be the reason for the relative scarcity of brooches within it, but the means of recovery is also significant. The contemporary site of Hacheston in Suffolk provided 211 brooches, but only 27 were from excavated contexts and the others were recovered from metal detecting (Blagg *et al* 2004, 87). The most notable feature of the small collection is the absence of any first-century types, which are very common in Kent.

It is unfortunate that the heads do not survive from the copper alloy hairpins, particularly when specific north Kent forms have been identified (Booth *et al* 2008, 150; Schuster 2011, 231–5). The bone hairpins are dominated by Greep types A1 and B1, forms of the second to fourth century, with type A1 most common in the third century and type B1 growing in popularity across that century and continuing well into the fourth century (Greep 1995, 1114 and 1117). A transition can be seen within the two groups, not only in their form – with the development away from headless pins to those with clearly defined heads and swollen shafts – but also in their size. Pins of type A1 are longer than earlier

types of the first century, but give way in the third century to shorter pins once again, conceivably reflecting a change in hair styles. The presence of a single fragment of a copper alloy bracelet again reflects the dating of the assemblage, given that the majority of bracelets come from fourth-century contexts. If bracelets are scarce, mounts are surprisingly common. They include tanged belt mounts of common types, as well as an openwork mount and a figurative mount of a bird, both of which have possible military overtones. The settlement at Ickham has produced the largest quantity of official and military material across north-eastern Kent, but most of those objects are late Roman in date. A number of military items from Ickham are earlier, however, and contemporary with those from Blacklands (Mould and Riddler 2010, 148–52). Ickham's proximity to Canterbury and Richborough forms an obvious explanation for the presence of military material there at this time. Why would military material be present at Blacklands? One simple explanation is that the small number of items simply reflects an occasional and limited military presence for policing or tax duties (Booth *et al* 2006, 30). Alternatively, a comparison can be drawn with the situation in Suffolk, where contemporary military finds from Flixton and Hacheston have been linked to the initial development of the Saxon Shore Fort system, with these sites providing goods and services to that system, notwithstanding their distance from the forts themselves (Blagg *et al* 2004, 197).

There are few toilet items in the finds assemblage but this is not unusual for a site in north Kent. Only seven items were recovered from Thurnham Roman villa and just eight came from Monkton (Booth *et al* 2006, 17; MacDonald *et al* 2008, 195–6). At the same time, the relatively small excavation of Roman settlement remains at Saltwood produced three fragments of mirrors, a set of tweezers and a stone palette (Riddler and Ager 2006, 7–8). The two items from Blacklands are common, ubiquitous forms of implement and they contrast markedly with the situation at Saltwood, and also at Westhawk Farm, where at least three mirrors were present, alongside a glass stirring rod and a set of forceps (Booth *et al* 2008, 151). A large collection was recovered from Springhead, as might be expected (Schuster 2011, 242–5).

Household items are also scarce at Blacklands, despite the presence of structures nearby. The knife, hone, copper alloy ring and key are all ubiquitous items, whilst the glass assemblage is a little more interesting. The absence of any fragments of stone querns is surprising, when these are so common in Roman Kent, and there are no tools or agricultural implements present in the assemblage. The lead alloy net weights are a welcome addition to a growing corpus of these items from stratified Roman contexts in Kent, with examples known also from Ickham, Saltwood and Worth. By analogy with late medieval examples they can be associated with nets, but not necessarily with fishing practices; the small groups from Roman contexts are quite different in scale to the large assemblages of the late medieval world. The bone hinge cap is a rare find for Roman Britain, although these objects are well known on the Continent. A single iron stylus is an indication of literacy and a fortunate find for a rural site. They occur in some numbers at Canterbury, Ickham and Springhead (Blockley *et al* 1995, fig 463.686; Mould and Riddler 2010, 220–3; Schuster 2011, 251–2) but are otherwise scarce in Kent, with a single example from Monkton (MacDonald *et al* 2008, fig 2/64.3144) and none at all from Thurnham or Westhawk Farm.

Implements used in the manufacture and repair of textiles are limited to needles of copper alloy and bone, which occur in the two common forms of the Roman period. A chalk weight may have served as a loomweight and brings up the awkward question of where evidence for the warp-weighted loom is to be found in Roman Britain. Ceramic loomweights of triangular form are known from Iron Age contexts in Kent but there are virtually no examples, of whatever form, from Roman contexts. It is possible that settlements in Kent moved to the vertical two-beam loom (which requires no loomweights) at an early date in the Roman period, under the influence of practices in neighbouring Gaul; or that the triangular loomweight remained in use, much as in eastern England (Anderson 2012, 71 and fig 4.7; May 1996, 330).

Objects associated with religious practices include a miniature composite pickaxe and a figurative mount showing a horse in profile. The pickaxe is an unusual miniature, but it belongs with a small series of composite implements, all related to axes of different types. The copper alloy mount showing

a horse includes elements of harness, and the horse may have been accompanied by a rider, recalling contemporary horse and rider brooches. The mount is flat on the reverse and was probably attached to a box, casket or item of furniture. Figurative depictions of horses are known also from Springhead (Schuster 2011, 288–9). The structural materials were undoubtedly discarded from a building nearby, and they include a segment of *Campan Vert* wall veneer which, although the most common imported inlay of the mid Roman period, was still reserved for prestigious structures. A fragment of lead sheet suggests that a structure nearby had been equipped with lead guttering, in the manner of comparable finds from Lullingstone and Springhead (Schuster 2011, 252).

DRESS ACCESSORIES

Brooches

All three brooches are of second– to third–century types. An enamelled brooch in the form of a fish (000) includes the vestige of a sprung iron pin on the reverse. The fish represented may be a salmon or a trout. It is very similar to an undated brooch from Wicklewood in Norfolk (Mackreth 2011, 184–5 and pl 127.11693). As an enamelled plate brooch, it is likely to be of second– or third–century date. Part of a second plate brooch (113) survives in poor condition. It is oval in form with a lightly raised decorative bands and it may originally have included an oval insert, although the central cell is frequently left empty with this series of brooches. It resembles an example from Springhead (Schuster 2011, fig 99.130) and probably belongs with the series of gilded and stamped plate brooches (Mackreth 2011, 160–3) and can be placed broadly in the second to fourth century. A trumpet brooch (119) came from the same context. It includes decayed remains of enamel on the bow and has a straight tapering bar to the foot, and it can be placed in Mackreth’s type 1.2b, which is largely of second– to third–century date (*ibid*, 119).

000

Near complete enamelled plate brooch in the form of a fish, the enamel surviving in poor condition, now devoid of colour. The fish has a large tail and two fins and resembles a salmon or trout. Part of a sprung iron pin survives on the reverse, as well as a damaged catchplate.

Length:	39.1mm	Width:	11.9mm
Trench 4	Context 519		

113

Fragmentary cast copper alloy plate brooch, surviving in poor condition and consisting of an oval plate with lightly raised elliptical decoration. No catchplate or pin mechanism.

Length:	31.5mm	Width:	27.8mm
Trench 2	Context 5/19		

119

Near complete cast copper alloy bow brooch of trumpet form, now in several pieces, with traces of decayed enamel on the upper part of the bow, near to the spring mechanism. Lower part of the foot is straight, whilst the centre of the bow is petalled.

Length:	59.6mm	Width:	17.7mm
Trench 2	Context 5/19		

Bead

A complete frit melon bead (43) of turquoise colour is a common Roman form, occurring mainly on sites of first– to mid second–century date, and with military sites in particular (Booth *et al* 2008, 151; Cool and Philo 1998, 181). Crummy (1983, 30) suggested that smaller melon beads were earlier in date. This example falls roughly into the middle of the size range seen at Castleford (Cool and Philo 1998, fig 65) and may therefore be of second–century date, on typological grounds.

Complete frit melon bead of turquoise colour with a large axial aperture of oval section.
Height: 16.5mm Diameter: 20.3mm
Trench 2 Context 5/19

Pins

The assemblage of pins is dominated by the thirteen bone examples, which can be set against two copper alloy examples. A further six fragments of bone shafts could belong to pins or needles. The two copper alloy pins (42 and 94) both lack their heads, although the shafts are almost complete, and it is not possible to assign them to specific types. Seven of the bone pins belong to Greep's type A1, a form that first appears around the middle of the second century (Greep 1995, 1114). The heads are either flat or lightly rounded at the apex and the shafts are of circular section and taper evenly to pointed terminals. Drawknife marks are visible along some of the shafts. Four complete examples vary from 100mm to 124mm in length. There is some variation in the width of the heads at the apex, the four thicker, heavier examples (000, 049, 093 and 096) ranging from 6mm to 8mm in diameter, whilst the thinner pins (086, 099 and 122) are only 4mm to 5mm in diameter. Six of the seven pins of this type came from Trench 2. A single example (120) of a Greep type A2.1 pin also came from Trench 2. The type occurs in first-century contexts but continues in use across the second century (Crummy 1983, 21; Greep 1995, 1117; Rees *et al* 2008, 43). Given that this example came from the same context as some of the type A1 pins, it is likely to be a second-century pin. This group can be compared with the assemblage of bone pins from Monkton in Kent, most of which came from second- to third-century contexts (Riddler 2008, 190–3).

Five further bone pins have shafts of circular section that taper to either side from the centre. All five can be placed in Greep's type B1, subtle distinctions in the head shapes allowing them to be assigned to specific sub-groups, although it is generally acknowledged that the head forms of type B pins are variable and do not fit easily into typological schemes (Crummy 1983, 21–2; Greep 1995, 1117). Three pins (44, 106 and 118), all of which come from Trench 2, have knife-cut, lightly rounded heads that are almost globular in form. These correspond with Greep's type B1.1 and Crummy's type 3A (Greep 1995, 1117; Crummy 1983, 21–2), the most common form of bone pin, seen elsewhere in Kent at Canterbury, Dover and the Mount Roman Villa at Maidstone, amongst other sites (Riddler 1999, 105). Two of them are complete, with shafts of 66mm and 74mm in length, but in both cases the shafts have been recut. Cortile tissue on the head of one pin (044) indicates that it is made from bone, rather than antler. A small pin (047) has a tiny discoidal head, which rises to a point at the apex. It bears some resemblance to Greep's type B1.5. A carefully manufactured pin (038) has a head with a pointed apex of Greep type B1.2. The pin is complete and extends to 65mm in length, but the shaft has once again been recut.

Crummy (1983, 22) suggested that this type was not in common use before the third century and this was endorsed by Greep (1995, 1117) with the caveat that a small number of examples come from contexts of the second half of the second century. All five of the pins described here come from Trench 2, suggesting that they are contemporary with the type A pins described above. The entire assemblage of bone pins can be given a broad dating of *c* 150 – 400, with the likelihood that they are of second- to third-century date.

Copper Alloy Pins

42

An incomplete copper alloy pin, now lacking its head, with a long shaft of circular section, gently curved over its lower part and leading to a rounded point.

Length: 102.3mm Diameter: 5.9mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

94

Fragment of the shaft of a copper alloy pin, circular in section and bent towards one side as it tapers evenly to a point.

Length: 88.9mm Diameter: 2.7mm
Trench 2 Context 019

Bone Pins:

Greep Type A1

000

Complete bone pin with a thick, lightly rounded apex, cortile tissue apparent on one side, shaft of circular section tapering to a bevelled point. The point may have been recut. Polished throughout with some drawknife marks on the shaft.

Length: 100.4mm Width at head: 8.0mm
Trench 4 Context 5/13

049

Complete bone pin with prominent drawknife marks on the shaft, thick head with lightly pointed apex, shaft of circular section tapering evenly to rounded point. Polished throughout.

Length: 115.9mm Width at head: 6.6mm
Trench 2 Context 019

093

Complete bone pin with a shaft of circular section tapering evenly to a rounded point, the head lightly rounded with cortile tissue on one side. Polished throughout.

Length: 122.8mm Width at head: 6.1mm
Trench 2 Context 5/19

096

Complete bone pin with a broad, lightly rounded apex, shaft of circular section tapering to a point. Polished throughout. Now in two pieces.

Length: 123.7mm Width at head: 7.2mm
Trench 2 Context 019

099

Fragmentary bone pin with a shaft of circular section tapering evenly towards the point, which is missing. Lightly rounded apex, polished shaft with drawknife marks visible along its length.

Length: 75.7mm Width at head: 4.9mm
Trench 2 Context 019

086

Fragmentary upper part of a bone pin, the apex lightly rounded, shaft of circular section tapering to a point, now missing. Polished throughout.

Length: 58.1mm Width at head: 4.3mm
Trench 2 Context 5/19

122

Fragmentary bone pin, the apex oval in section and lightly rounded, the shaft circular in section over the lower part, tapering towards a point, now missing. Polished throughout.

Length: 78.3mm Width at head: 5.1mm
Trench 2 Context 5/19

Greep Type A2.1

120

Fragmentary bone pin with a pointed apex, the shaft of circular section tapering evenly towards the tip, which is missing. Slight traces of cortile tissue near the apex on one side; polished throughout.

Length: 100.9mm Width at head: 4.6mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

Greep Type B1.1

044

Complete bone pin, the shaft of circular section widening towards the centre and tapering to a bevelled, recut point. Knife-cut head rounded in form but discoidal in section with cortile tissue on one face.

Length: 73.8mm Width at head: 5.3mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

106

Complete bone pin with a shaft of circular section widening towards the centre and tapering to a bevelled, recut point. Knife-cut head, circular in section and lightly rounded at the apex. Polished throughout.

Length: 65.6mm Width at head: 5.1mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

118

Fragmentary bone pin, split in half along its surviving length, the shaft widening towards the centre. Globular head with pointed apex. Polished throughout.

Length: 59.9mm Width at head: 6.4mm
Trench 2 Context 019

Greep Type B1.2

038

Complete bone pin with a highly polished globular head and a pointed apex, the shaft of circular section widening from the head before tapering lightly to the recut point.

Length: 64.8mm Width at head: 5.5mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

Greep Type B1.5

047

Fragmentary bone pin with a thin head of discoidal section, knife-cut with a point apex. Shaft of circular section widens from the head before tapering towards the point, which is missing. Polished throughout.

Length: 57.1mm Width at head: 4.1mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

Bracelet

A small fragment of a copper alloy strip bracelet (007) is decorated with well-spaced transverse lines and includes part of a splayed terminal with horizontal line decoration. The main part of the design equates with Swift's type C5, whilst the terminal belongs to her type 93 (Swift 2000, figs 204 and 213). The decoration of the main body of the bracelet can be compared with a complete example of fourth-century date from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 44.1689). Strip bracelets form one of the most common types of bracelet to be found in fourth-century Roman Britain, although the earliest examples may go back to the late third century (Crummy 1983, 37; Swift 2000, fig 143; Mould and Riddler 2010, 197).

7

Small fragment of a copper alloy strip bracelet, rectangular in section and decorated with bands of horizontal and vertical incised lines.

Length: 19.9mm Width: 10.7mm
Trench 3/03 East Floor

Mounts

Copper alloy mounts form one of the largest categories of object within the assemblage and they include a variety of objects, from tanged and figural belt mounts to openwork designs possibly of

military origin, as well as an enamelled example. Two copper alloy tanged mounts (*104* and *112*) belong to common forms of the Roman period. The smaller mount (*104*) is hollow domed and was originally fastened by a single, central tang. It is similar to an example from Castleford (Cool and Philo 1998, fig 23.255). A larger, discoidal mount (*112*) also has a single tang at the centre and resembles an example from Colchester (Crummy 1992, fig 5.52.1671). Both forms are represented at Lullingstone (Meates 1987, fig 31). A cast copper alloy mount (*33*) is rectangular in shape with a hollow centre and domed rivets in each corner. It was probably used on a belt and is broadly similar to an example from Dover (Williams and Parfitt 1981, fig 39.192). A pelta-shaped sheet metal mount (*95*) bears some resemblance to strap-mounts from Richborough (Cunliffe 1968, pl XXXVIII.130–1) although it carries a perforation at the centre, suggesting that it may have been applied directly to a surface with a central rivet, rather than being secured with studs on the reverse. A larger example of a curved mount perforated in the same manner came from Verulamium (Frere 1972, fig 49.154). Mounts of this type may have been applied as decorative strips to boxes and caskets.

A fragmentary openwork mount of copper alloy (*64*) can be compared with several examples recovered from Richborough (Bushe–Fox 1932, pl XIV.53; 1949, 145 and pl LII.191; Cunliffe 1968, pl XXXVII.127), as well as a sheet metal fragment from Catterick (Wilson 2002, fig 265.282). No means of attachment survives and it is not clear whether this was originally a large belt mount, or was used for a slightly different purpose. Openwork mounts of second- to third-century date are associated with military equipment (Bishop and Coulston 2006, figs 100, 118 and 124).

A copper alloy ring (*54*) has enamel of a single colour inset into the flat surface. The enamel is degraded and the original colour is uncertain. Mounts of this form are not common although a comparison can be made with the more elaborate buckle and loop fasteners, some of which are also enamelled, as with an example from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, fig 51.145).

The most elaborate mount has been cast in the form of a bird (*56*) with a large tail. The upper part of its wings are bound by a lateral moulding. It was originally secured by two studs on the reverse, suggesting that it was worn as a belt mount. The large tail, in particular, suggests that it may be intended to represent an eagle, a bird associated with Jupiter, which also has military associations (Henig 1995, 97; Green 1986, 188–9).

104

Near complete hollow domed belt mount, originally fastened by a single, central tang, the end of which is now missing.

Diameter:	13.1mm	Height:	7.1mm
Trench 5	Context 519		

112

Incomplete copper alloy mount of flat, discoidal form, originally secured by a tang of square section, set at the centre and now bent over.

Diameter:	33.1mm
Trench 2	Context 5/19

33

Complete cast copper alloy belt mount of rectangular shape with a hollowed area at the centre, and single incised lines around the inner and outer edges of the frame. Domed rivets set in each corner, with lightly raised decoration between them along the short sides.

Length:	50.3mm	Width:	22.5mm
Trench 3	Context 05/10		

95

Fragmentary copper alloy sheet metal pelta-shaped mount, fractured across the upper section and pierced at the centre by a circular perforation.

Length:	30.6mm	Width:	40.5mm
Trench 2	Context 019		

64

Fragmentary cast copper alloy openwork mount, with a peltaform extension to one side, the central part D-shaped with a trefoil-like lobe above and an oval bar across its lower part.

Length: 49.3mm Width: 48.5mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

54

Fragmentary copper alloy ring, filled with a micaceous single-colour enamel on one side, now in degraded condition.

Diameter: 31.5mm Thickness: 5.3mm
Trench 2 Context 06/05

56

Complete cast copper alloy mount in the form of a bird with a large tail, the head set to the side and the upper part of the wings bound together with a plain, lateral moulding.

Length: 35.9mm Width: 19.9mm
Trench 2 Context 08

TOILET, SURGICAL OR PHARMACEUTICAL IMPLEMENTS

Tweezers

Part of one arm of a set of copper alloy tweezers (35) survives, the sides widening towards the indented terminal. The arm can therefore be described as ‘flared’, a characteristic seen with a small number of Roman tweezers. Thinly-incised framing lines are visible along the sides. Most examples of Roman tweezers are undecorated and have parallel sides to the arms. Where tweezers are flared and have ring-and-dot decoration they are of Anglo-Saxon date (Eckhardt and Crummy 2008, 50; Riddler forthcoming). Undecorated or sparsely decorated tweezers with lightly flared arms have been found at Gestingthorpe, Ilchester and Nettleton, confirming that this example is of late Roman date (*ibid* figs 91.420, 95.729 and 101.1024). There is also an example that forms part of a toilet set from Springhead (Schuster 2011, fig 106.173).

35

Fragment of the lower part of one arm of a set of copper alloy tweezers, undecorated, with the sides lightly flared. Thinly-incised framing lines are visible along the sides.

Length: 29.1mm Width: 8.2mm
Trench 4 Context 519

Spatula

A complete copper alloy spatula (25) has a lightly curved shaft and a small flat, oval bowl. It has similar proportions to an example from Canterbury which, however, ends in a collar and a leaf-shaped blade (Blockley *et al* 1995, fig 427.327). A spatula or unguent spoon from Catterick has a flat oval bowl, which is a little longer than this example and a close parallel is provided by an example from Castleford (Wilson 2002, fig 282.19; Cool and Philo 1998, fig 32.398). These objects belong to Riha’s variante E, defined as an undecorated form with a small bowl of circular or oval shape (Riha 1986, 60). Riha suggested that these implements were used mainly as toilet instruments, although they could also be employed in medicinal practices, and this suggestion has been reiterated for Romano-British examples (Eckhardt and Crummy 2008, 39).

25

Complete copper alloy spatula with a lightly curved shaft of circular section ending in a pointed terminal, and a narrow, flat bowl of oval form.

Length: 116.7mm Width: 5.2mm
Trench 2 Context 5/09

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

Hone

A fragmentary hone (*00*) of a fine-grained grey micaceous stone, includes three smoothed sides and was probably rectangular in section originally. It can be compared with similar examples from Canterbury, Ickham and Springhead, all of a similar stone type, which is Kentish in origin (Blockley *et al* 1995, 1210; Mould and Riddler 2010, 227–8; Shaffrey 2011, 369).

00

Fragmentary hone, produced from a fine-grained grey micaceous sandstone with three neatly-trimmed sides. Fractured at both ends and probably rectangular in section originally.

Length:	32.1mm	Width:	12.0mm
Trench 4	Context 019		

Knife

Sufficient survives of an iron knife (*16*), including the blade and a small part of the tang, to be able to assign it to Manning's type 18b (Manning 1985, 117 and fig 29). The type includes some examples of early Roman date but extends into the late Roman period.

16

A complete blade and part of the tang of an iron knife, the back rising in a light curve before descending to a rounded point. Straight cutting edge and broad tang, now fragmentary.

Length:	134.0mm	Blade Length:	106.7mm
Trench	Context 5/09		

Copper Alloy Ring

A complete cast copper alloy ring (*41*), 26mm in diameter, is a common find from sites of Roman date, comparable with published examples from Dover, amongst other sites (Williams and Parfitt 1981, fig 35).

41

Complete cast copper alloy ring of oval section.

Diameter:	26.6mm	Thickness:	4.5mm
Trench 2	Context 5/019		

Key

A fragmentary copper alloy key (*91*) now lacks the key bit but includes an oval handle and retains a square moulding at the junction of the loop, a feature of keys intended for lever or tumbler locks. It differs from the normal shape of Roman keys (Manning 1985, fig 25.4–7) but is very similar to a fragmentary lever lock key from Dalton Parlours (Wrathmell and Nicholson 1990, fig 31.71).

91

Fragmentary copper alloy key, including an oval handle, thickened across the lower edge, and a square mount that forms part of the shaft of the key itself. The remainder of the key has fractured away.

Length:	38.5mm	Width:	27.0mm
Trench 2			

Hinge Cap

A near-complete bone disc (110) has a prominent oval perforation at the centre and two lathe-turned framing lines on the edge of the dished surface on one side. Discs of this type occur in second- and third-century contexts at Augst, as well as in a late second- to early third-century cremation grave at Winchester (Deschler-Erb 1998, 191; Rees *et al* 2008, 108), which accords well with the likely dating here, but there is a problem over their functional interpretation. Objects of a similar form were used as spindle whorls, as seen notably with an example from Lyon (Béal 1983, pl XXVII.355). With a weight of just 3.1g, however, this example would have been a very light whorl. Equally, it closely resembles a component of bone hinges, used to cap them at either end and to retain a central spindle (Fremersdorf 1940, abb 13). The oval perforation of the object may have resulted from wear obtained from this function. Bone hinges tend to come from early Roman deposits, but this could have been discarded after long use. The Winchester grave included both the hinge caps and several small pegs, but no hinges. A third alternative, again utilising objects of the same form, is that the object formed a part of a composite cover for a bone pyxis (Deschler-Erb 1998, 180 and taf 45). The Winchester pegs are more likely to have served this purpose. Most of these objects are once again of early Roman date, with few extending into the second century (Béal and Feugère 1983). The disc may have been used for one or more of these functions, but is most likely to have served as a hinge cap. It is, in any case, a rare example to have come from a Romano-British context. Comparable discs are known from Catterick, Northfleet and Winchester (Wilson 2002, fig 319.52; Allen 2011, 402 and fig 151.13; Rees *et al* 2008, fig 54.593-4).

110

Near complete bone lathe turned disc, flat on one face and rising lightly to the centre on the other, with a prominent axial perforation and framing lines near the edge on the raised side.

Diameter:	27.2mm	Weight:	3.1g
Trench 4	Context 05/019		

Net Weights

Seven lead alloy net weights were recovered, with one exception, from Trench 3. They consist of rectangular strips of lead alloy, folded into cylinders with a simple seam visible along one side. They enclose an internal space of 5-6mm in diameter, and several of them have been flattened to an oval section. Lead alloy net weights are common finds of late medieval date, occurring in large assemblages from the fourteenth century onwards (Pieters 2006, 44; Riddler 2009, 103), but they are also found in Roman contexts. Within Kent, they have been recovered at Ickham, Saltwood and Worth (Mould 2010, 258; Riddler and Ager 2006, 6; Parfitt 2000, 000). In contrast to the late medieval finds, the Roman assemblages consist only of small numbers of weights. The seven examples from Blacklands can be compared with 00 from Worth and eighteen from Ickham. Net weights could be used to hold down the underside of net openings (Devenish 1979, 129), their lengths reflecting the size of the mesh of the net. This particular assemblage varies from 37-47.5mm in length, and 19.5-27.6g in weight.

93

Complete lead alloy rolled sheet metal net weight, oval in section and widened lightly at one end, the seam running off-centre along one side.

Length:	42.0mm	Weight:	20.1g
Trench 3	Context 19		

Complete lead alloy rolled sheet metal net weight, lightly curved in profile and oval in section.

Length:	41.1mm	Weight:	22.1g
Trench 3	Context 19		

Complete lead alloy sheet metal rolled net weight, oval in section, widened at one end.

Length:	44.5mm	Weight:	19.9g
Trench 3	Context 19		

Complete lead alloy rolled sheet metal net weight, flattened to an oval section and widened at both ends.

Length: 47.1mm Weight: 27.6g
Trench 3 Context 19

015

Complete lead alloy rolled sheet metal net weight, flattened to an oval section with a seam running along one side.

Length: 47.5mm Weight: 24.4g
Trench 3 Unstratified

115

Complete lead alloy sheet metal rolled net weight, lightly curved in profile with a seam visible along one side. Widened at one end to allow cordage to be removed.

Length: 43.6mm Weight: 20.3g
Trench 3 05/019

Complete lead alloy rolled sheet metal net weight, oval in section and tapering lightly towards one end, with a seam along the centre on one side.

Length: 35.2mm Weight: 20.1g
Trench 4 Context 127

OBJECTS OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Stylus

An incomplete iron stylus (23) can be assigned to Manning's type 3 and to type 2c within the revised typology established for the assemblage from Ickham (Manning 1985, 85; Mould and Riddler 2010, 220–3). The eraser is rectangular in shape and clearly distinguished from the shaft, which widens towards the point. The type is essentially of mid to late Roman date and is well-represented at both Ickham and Canterbury in Kent (Mould and Riddler 2010, 223).

23

Incomplete iron stylus with a rectangular eraser and shaft of circular section; now lacking its tip.

Length: 103.5mm Width: 9.1mm
Trench Context 5/06

OBJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH TEXTILE MANUFACTURE

Needles

Five needles recovered from the site include two of copper alloy and three of bone. One of the copper alloy needles is fragmentary but the remaining examples are complete. A copper alloy needle (100) has a lightly curved shaft of circular section and a spatulate head with a rectangular eye. It is 111mm in length, with a width at the head of just 3.3mm, and it belongs to Crummy's type 2 (Crummy 1983, 65). A second copper alloy example (26) consists merely of a section of the shaft and part of the rectangular eye, with a woollen thread still surviving there, wrapped around the shaft and caught in the lower part of the eye. The three bone needles are all complete or near-complete. The shortest bone needle (22) extends to 81.5mm in length and can be assigned to Crummy type 1 and Greep type 3.1 (Crummy 1983, 65; Greep 1995, 1123). It has a tapering shaft of circular section and a pointed apex, with a rectangular slot forming the eye. The type is common from the mid second century onwards and, as Crummy (1983, 65) has noted, its form is similar to pins of her types 1 and 2. The other two bone needles (27/8 and 121/117) both belong to Crummy's type 2 and Greep's type 3.2, the other common type of Roman bone needle (Crummy 1983, 65; Greep 1995, 1123; Rees *et al* 2008, 75–6). They extend to lengths of 112mm and 120mm. Both have shafts of circular section that widen to spatulate heads with rounded apices, and the eyes are rectangular. The type was current throughout

the Roman period, although there are few bone examples of first-century date and most are of second-century or later date (Crummy 1983, 65).

26

Fragment of a copper alloy needle, consisting of part of the shaft of circular section, and the lower part of a rectangular eye. A woollen thread is wound around the shaft and the lower part of the eye.

Length: 44.1mm
Trench 2 Context 519

100

Complete copper alloy needle with a long, thin shaft of circular section, lightly curved towards the point. Spatulate head with a rectangular eye.

Length: 111.3mm Head Width: 3.3mm
Trench 2 Context 019

22

Complete bone needle, shaft of circular section tapering to a rounded point, possibly recut. Head indistinguishable from shaft, with rectangular eye and pointed apex. Polished throughout.

Length: 81.5mm Head Width: 4.3mm
Trench 2 Context 5/09

27/28

Complete bone needle with a shaft of circular section tapering to a knife-cut point, and a spatulate head with a rectangular eye and lightly rounded apex. Now in two pieces. Polished throughout.

Length: 111.9mm Head Width: 5.9mm
Trench 2 Context 516

121/117

Near complete bone needle, shaft of circular section tapering evenly to a rounded point. Spatulate head with rectangular eye and lightly curved apex.

Length: 120.2mm Head Width: 9.6mm
Trench 2 Context 05/019

Chalk Weight

An incomplete chalk weight (52) includes an axial perforation, 19mm in diameter, set towards one end of the object, which would originally have weighed 240–250g. It may possibly have been used as a loomweight, suspended from a warp-weighted loom. Roman loomweights are thought to have been largely ceramic and pyramidal in shape, a development in form beyond the triangular loomweights of the Iron Age (Wild 1970, 62–3). Yet few loomweights of this shape and material have been found in Roman Britain and there are scarcely any at all from Kent. It is possible therefore that local materials and forms were adopted for loomweights for the warp-weighted loom in different regions of the country. Equally, however, their absence may reflect a preferred use of the two-beam vertical loom, which does not utilise loomweights at all. Stone weights were used for a variety of other purposes and chalk weights are reasonably common in Kent, although most examples have come from post-Roman contexts.

52

Incomplete chalk weight, roughly cut to an oval form with an axial perforation set off-centre. Smoothed on both broad faces.

Diameter: 80.6mm Weight: 195.5g
Trench 4 Context 519

OBJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Miniature Pickaxe

A complete miniature pickaxe of lead alloy (90) includes a perforation at the centre that would originally have retained a shaft, probably not of the same material. Miniature axes were often cast in one piece, but there is also a small number of composite examples. A model pioneer's axe from Poultry in London has an iron head and a copper alloy shaft, and a miniature axe from Tiddington has an iron head and a wooden shaft (Wheeler 1946, 111 and fig 36.2; Green 1986, 222). A copper alloy axehead from Stonea includes a perforation for the shaft, which is missing (Jackson 1996, 350 and fig 112.102).

The shape of this implement differs from the customary Roman miniature form of axe, as illustrated by Kirk (1949, fig 8.2–5), which is rectangular in profile and has a triangular section. This example bears more resemblance to a pickaxe and has two heads in effect, set perpendicular to each other, comparable with full-sized examples from Künzing (Bishop and Coulston 2006, fig 121.1–2). Although miniature axes could have been used as toys, it is much more likely that they were votive objects, deposited in shrines (Kirk 1949, 32; Green 1986, 222). This example is a carefully made miniature, probably replicating an existing implement, quite possibly of military origin, and intended for ritual use.

90

Complete miniature lead alloy pickaxe, with two blades of the same, triangular shape, each terminating in a rounded edge. Axial perforation of circular form at the centre.

Length:	40.7mm	Width:	9.1mm
Trench 3	Context 05/019	Rear of Stage	

Horse Mount

A fragmentary cast mount (50) includes the front part of a horse, seen in profile. The shape of the head, in particular, recalls horse and rider brooches of second- to third-century date (Mackreth 2011, 181 and pl 124). The presence of a diagonal band across the body of the horse suggests that it is shown in harness, and it may possibly have included a rider. However, this is a fragment of a large, heavy mount and it comes from north Kent, which is well beyond the main distribution areas of horse and rider brooches, in Somerset/Wiltshire and East Anglia (*ibid*, 182). It does suggest an affiliation with a cult of the horse, reflected also in Kent with clay and metal figurines of horses from Springhead (Green 1986, 172; Schuster 2011, 288–9).

50

Fragmentary cast copper alloy mount showing a profile horse, including the head and neck, and a part of the body, with traces of harness in the form of narrow raised bands across the body. No means of attachment survives.

Length:	56.6mm	Width:	42.6mm
Trench 4	Context 519		

ITEMS OF TRANSPORT

Hobnails

An assemblage of hobnails (080) consists of nine separate fragments, one of which is accreted to the base of a greyware vessel. The assemblage includes both long rectangular lengths of hobnails and curved groups, arranged much in the manner of nailed shoes of early to mid Roman date, although the specific arrangement of the shoe or shoes is unclear (Rhodes 1980, fig 59; Mould 2012, 43 and fig 41).

80

Nine separate groups of iron hobnails, including a group from the front of a shoe, now attached to the base of a greyware vessel. A second group is attached to a segment of lime mortar and plaster.

Trench Context 05/020

BUILDINGS AND SERVICES

Inlay

A fragment of a green marble *Campan Vert* inlay or wall veneer (63) is an unusual find in a rural context. Inlays of this quality are normally found within villas or on urban sites, as at Colchester and London, for example (Pritchard 1986). It has been suggested that coloured marble inlays were not utilised in Britain until the second or third century, with *Campan Vert* from the Pyrenees imported at that time on a large scale from Gaul and Spain, and used on high-status structures (Sudds 2008, 37; Crowley 2005). Several fragments were identified at Springhead (Shaffrey 2011, 367).

63

Segment of dark green *Campan Vert* inlay, smoothed to a flat, polished surface on one face.

Length: 36.9mm Thickness: 4.8mm
Trench 2 Context 05/010

Binding Strips

Two rectangular iron binding strips (46 and 105) are of similar dimensions, although the longer example (46) is lightly curved and has a nail accreted to it on one side. The smaller example (105) may be almost complete, with a length of 93mm, and two nail holes. As with most binding strips, it is impossible to say whether they were used as structural ironwork, or were attached to wooden objects (Manning 1985, 142).

46

Near complete iron binding strip of rectangular section, lightly curved in shape and now slightly bent in section, with a nail accreted to one end. Fastened by at least two nail holes.

Length: 132.2mm Width: 37.1mm

105

Near complete iron binding strip, rectangular in shape with two nail holes, slightly damaged at one end.

Length: 94.3mm Width: 34.0mm

Hook

An incomplete iron hook (20) is fractured at both ends so that it no longer has a lateral bar at the top to secure it to a wall, and the pointed terminal at the opposite end is also missing. It is similar to examples from Verulamium (Frere 1972, fig 68.87–8).

20

Incomplete iron hook, fractured at either end, square in section with the shaft curving outwards towards a pointed terminal, now missing.

Length: 158.1mm Width: 12.4mm
Trench Context 5/09

Lead Guttering

A folded segment of lead sheet (17) includes several nail holes, set along one edge. It was originally rectangular in shape, with most of the nail holes set towards one end. It can be compared with similar folded sheets from Lullingstone and Springhead, which have been interpreted as elements of lead guttering (Schuster 2011, 257).

17

Segment of lead alloy sheet, folded in half. Nail holes are clustered towards one corner of the sheet.

Length:	93.8mm	Width:	108.2mm
Trench	3/06		

OBJECTS OF UNCERTAIN FUNCTION

Copper Alloy Mount

A fragmentary cast copper alloy mount (92) includes a curved arm of D-shaped section with a finial projecting from it. The function of the mount is unclear, although it is possibly a part of an openwork fitting.

92

Fragmentary copper alloy openwork mount, including a curved stem of D-shaped section, with a finial extending from it.

Length:	43.5mm	Width:	21.9mm
Trench 2	Context 5/19		

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