



## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON LAND ADJACENT TO HUNTER AVENUE, ASHFORD, KENT**

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

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

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

# **Archaeological Investigations on Land Adjacent to Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent**

By Peter Boyer

with contributions by  
Barry Bishop and Mike Seager Thomas

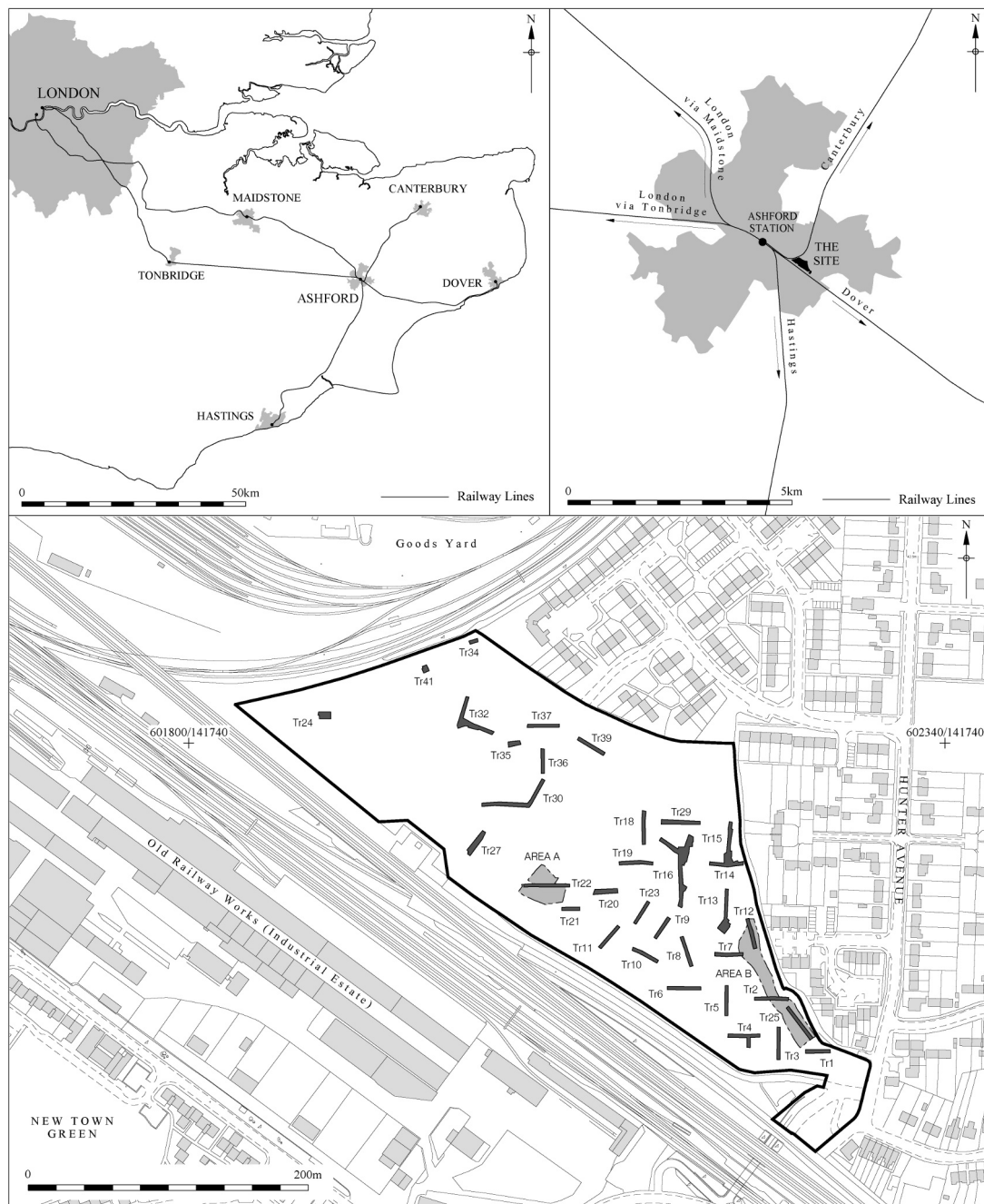
*A programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken on land adjacent to Hunter Avenue, Ashford between March and May 2009. An initial evaluation highlighted five trenches containing archaeological features, three of which were subsequently incorporated within two specific areas of excavation. The investigations revealed a number of phases of activity in the areas not affected by extensive modern disturbance. The earliest occupation of the site appears to have been during the Late Bronze Age, when a structured agricultural landscape was developed. The landscape continued to be exploited for agricultural purposes into the Middle Iron Age, though there was some subtle re-arrangement of boundary markings at this time. There was probably a continuity of utilization into the Late Iron Age, though this period was less clearly represented in the archaeological period. No features of Roman date were identified, though the finding of Roman roof tile suggests some occupation in the area. The medieval period was again represented by a small finds assemblage though few archaeological features of this date were identified. It was not until the early post-medieval period that there was a significant re-occupation of the site, though the area had probably been in constant use for agricultural purposes. Activity on the site continued through the post-medieval period, culminating with the development of the railways and the building of associated structures, which extensively truncated the bulk of earlier deposits.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In March 2009 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Hunter Avenue, Ashford (NGR: TR 021 417; Fig. 1), prior to the site being redeveloped for residential purposes. Thirty-four trenches were opened across the site, five of which revealed deposits of archaeological interest. Consequently targeted areas were opened up for more intensive archaeological excavation (Fig. 1). The excavation was centred on two specific areas, designated A and B, which were machine excavated to the level of the archaeological horizon. This was achieved using a 360° mechanical tracked excavator and was undertaken prior to detailed investigation by members of the archaeological fieldwork team.

Area A was located approximately 30m from the south-west site edge, approximately midway along the boundary. The excavated area measured approximately 625m<sup>2</sup> (25m x 25m) and was defined to the north-east, south-west and south-east by areas of extensive truncation, whilst to the north-west the extent was delineated by a designated green space, planned to form part of the new development and

consequently not earmarked for any activity likely to cause below-ground disturbance. Area B lay around 125m to the south of Area A and was located approximately 6m from the eastern edge and 45m from the south-eastern end of the site. The excavated area measured c. 1235m<sup>2</sup> (95m x 13m). This area was defined both to the north and west by areas of extensive truncation, to the east by the site boundary and to the south-east by a large infilled pond or quarry area.



**Fig. 1: Site location and trench and excavation area**

## **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The British Geological Survey of England and Wales (1:63,600 Series, Sheet 289, Canterbury, 1982) shows the site lies partly on Atherfield Clay, part of the Lower Cretaceous Lower Greensand Group towards the northern and eastern boundary, whilst the remainder lies upon Weald Clay, also of Lower Cretaceous age. The site is located to the east of the alluvial floodplain of the River Stour.

Geotechnical investigations confirmed the geological sequence of the site (Boxwood Laboratories 2007). Made ground was also identified and this was believed to increase in thickness towards the west. The archaeological evaluation which comprised thirty-five trenches was able to identify with greater accuracy these areas of made ground and it was possible to establish with greater clarity the likely nature of the site topography prior to the construction of the railway depot. The findings of the evaluation proved that made ground deposits increased in thickness towards the north across the site and it is possible to postulate that an east–west orientated ridge or spur would have crossed the southern part of the site. The highest part of this spur is likely to have been located around the area subsequently excavated as Area A and it is probable that the other end of this spur would have been within the vicinity of the excavated area designated as Area B. The topographic profile of the southern side of this spur is less well understood, although it is likely that the ground would have originally sloped gently down towards the south, probably as far as the River Stour.

The extensive terracing into the natural geology and deposition of made ground deposits was clearly undertaken to create a level surface for the Railway Works between 1909 and 1933. As a consequence the land is now relatively flat at a level of approximately 40.00m OD. At the time of the investigations the site appeared as an area of former industrial land with the visible remains of concrete access roads, embankments, terraced cuttings and the debris from both the railway depot and the recent demolition works. The site is bounded to the south-west and north-west by railway tracks and to the north-east, east and south-east by residential development. The site lies approximately 500m east of the north-flowing River East Stour, close to its confluence with the Upper Great Stour, from where the River Great Stour flows towards the north-east.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The archaeological and historical background for the Hunter Avenue area has been discussed in previous archaeological desk-based assessments (e.g. SWAT 2007; Gailey 2008), which summarised the known archaeological resource in the vicinity of the study site. However, in order more fully to understand the site within its broader landscape, evidence from a wider geographical area is required, integrating information from a number of records and archaeological investigations in order to place the site in its wider, regional setting:

## Palaeolithic to Neolithic

The evidence for Palaeolithic activity in the Ashford area is somewhat limited. Two Lower Palaeolithic hand-axes are reported to have been found at Ashford though their exact provenance is unclear (Wymer 1999), a Lower Palaeolithic *bout coupé* hand-axe from Ashford is illustrated by Wenban-Smith (2007, fig. 3.26) and at Westhawk Farm some 2.5km south-west of the Hunter Avenue site, a number of artefacts of this date were found during excavations in the late 1990s (Winton 2008). In the Park Farm area of Kingsnorth, to the south-west of the study site and approximately 1km south-east of Westhawk Farm, extensive residential development during the 1990s and early 2000s was preceded by a number of archaeological interventions, which yielded abundant information for a number of periods of activity. One of the earlier investigations in the area revealed limited evidence of Upper Palaeolithic activity (Hicks 1993). An Upper Palaeolithic blade point was also recovered from Conningbrook Manor Pit at Kennington, some 2km north-east of the Hunter Avenue site (Wenban-Smith 2007, 63).

One of the investigations at Park Farm recovered a flint assemblage comprising in excess of 10,000 artefacts from a 1% sample of the site. The vast majority of the finds were Mesolithic and the site probably represented a tool production area of the 7th millennium BC. A further small assemblage of Mesolithic flint was recovered during the excavations at Westhawk Farm (Barton 2008) and residual Mesolithic flints were also recovered during archaeological investigations at Brisley Farm, c. 1km WNW of Westhawk Farm. A possible Mesolithic site was identified during an archaeological evaluation at Faversham Road, Kennington, a little more than 4km NNW of the study site (James 1997) and approximately 1.3km west of this site, an assemblage of Mesolithic flint artefacts was found at Sandyhurst Lane (Wymer and Bonsall 1977, 144).

Ploughing during the 1930s to the south of Willesborough Church a little more than 500m east of the study site unearthed a Mesolithic flint knife and a polished greenstone axe of Neolithic date. A Neolithic flint arrowhead was also found in 1946 on the surface of a ploughed field nearby at South Willesborough. Numerous developments have taken place in the last twenty years in the Boys Hall area a short distance to the south-east of the study site, many of them associated with the Orbital Business Park. A number of the developments have been preceded by archaeological investigations, which have identified sites of interest and yielded some important finds assemblages. Although not extensive, these assemblages have included Mesolithic and Neolithic material (e.g. Found 2005; OAU 1993). Further to the south-east, in the valley of the East Stour, archaeological investigations at Smeeth, near Sellindge, in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), revealed two scatters of Mesolithic flints (Glass 1999, 218–9; Welsh 1998). Other interventions along the line of the CTRL have also revealed scatters of Mesolithic flints, indicating a human presence at this time throughout the East Stour and Upper Great Stour Valleys.

Fieldwalking and trial trenching at Park Farm (Plot 13) revealed a prehistoric settlement dating mainly to the Late Neolithic period. Additionally a small number of flint artefacts demonstrating Neolithic technical traits were recovered during the

excavations at Westhawk Farm (Lamdin-Whymark 2008), whilst much further down the valley of the Great Stour valley, to the south-east of Chilham, is the site of Julliberrie's Grave, a Neolithic long barrow situated on a promontory, where the river cuts through the North Downs (Ashbee 1996). Upstream of Ashford in the valley of the Upper Great Stour at Tutt Hill, a number of pits have been associated with ephemeral and temporary occupation during the Early and Middle Neolithic (Brady and Barclay 2006).

### **Bronze Age and Iron Age**

Although the earlier Bronze Age may be relatively well-defined, the nature of the transition from the later Bronze Age into the earlier Iron Age and subsequent developments in the Iron Age across Kent have been the subject of some debate in recent years, not least because of regional variations in the available evidence and the absence of a consistent chronology (e.g. Champion 2007a). Broadly speaking the evidence from the east of the county can be very different to that from central and western areas, and there has been no standardised chronological sequence for the broad period from the end of the Middle Bronze Age to the beginning of the Late Iron Age. Consequently contemporary material may be described differently with the result that certain phases may appear under-represented or even absent in some areas. Because of the large number of archaeological projects that have taken place in the last twenty years however, the broad chronology for the Ashford region is now becoming better understood, with terminologies being better standardised and more complete sequences becoming apparent.

Although evidence of Bronze Age activity within the immediate vicinity of the study site is limited to a couple of chance finds (a Middle Bronze Age dagger and a bronze palstave recorded on the Kent HER), recent archaeological interventions in the Ashford area, often associated with large construction projects such as the CTRL and intensive residential development, have begun to reveal evidence of a developed Bronze Age ritual and agricultural landscape of some complexity, interspersed with numerous small settlements and farmsteads. At Foster Road, a little more than 1km south-east of the study site, excavations revealed a settlement associated with field and enclosure ditches, that appeared to have been occupied during the Middle and into the Late Bronze Age, though there then appears to have been a break in occupation until the later Iron Age (Powell and Birbeck 2011). Excavations at Westhawk Farm revealed a possible Bronze Age field system, though no dateable finds were recovered (Booth and Lawrence 2000; Booth *et al.* 2008, 25). Less than 2km to the south-east a single, small posthole of Bronze Age date was found during an evaluation at Park Farm South (Wragg 2002; Powell 2012). At the neighbouring Park Farm East, two Bronze Age pits were identified. At Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, a little less than 2km south-east of the study site, extensive archaeological trenching revealed two well-defined areas of prehistoric habitation, including a probable farmstead, of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date (Bennett 1992; Rady 1992). Investigations in advance of the CTRL, west of Blind Lane, Sevington, approximately 1km to the north-east revealed ditches and a possible trackway of Middle to Late Bronze Age date (MoLAS 1998; OAU 1999a; Glass 1999, 217–8; Hayden 2001). Further upstream, investigations at Little Stock Farm, Evegate, Smeeth revealed intensive Late Bronze Age activity, which also

extended into the Iron Age, and comprised structural remains, enclosures, hearths, 'placed deposits' and refuse pits (Wessex Archaeology 1999b; Glass 1999, 195–6). The activity was concentrated on the brow of the slope, overlooking the valley, to the north of the river. The investigations on the line of the CTRL at Smeeth also recorded a number of Middle to Late Bronze Age ditches (Glass 1999, 218–9; Welsh 1998).

At Digg Farm, Potter's Corner, to the north-west of Ashford, an Early Bronze Age fluted ogival dagger was found, which may have derived from a burial beneath a since ploughed-out barrow (Ashbee 2005, 128). On land south of Beechbrook Wood, a little more than 1km to the north-west, investigations in advance of the CTRL revealed a cremation burial of Middle Bronze Age date (Glass 1999, 217; MoLAS 1999a; Brady *et al.* 2006). Less than 2km to the north-west of this, Early Bronze Age features including pits and postholes were identified during an evaluation on land adjacent to Hothfield works site, Watery Lane, to the north of Hothfield village (Priestley-Bell 2000). A short distance away, at Tutt Hill, at least four possible round barrows of Early Bronze Age date were recognised, which also served as a focus for secondary cremation burials in the Middle to Late Bronze Age (Brady and Barclay 2006). Bronze Age pottery was also found at Hurst Wood, Charing Heath, some 9km north-west of Ashford, again during investigations in advance of the CTRL (Glass 1999, 216–7).

Downstream of Ashford, more evidence of Bronze Age funerary practices has been recorded along the Great Stour Valley. More than 7km downstream of the study site, an Early Bronze Age barrow is recorded at River Meadows, Wye, on the south-eastern edge of the valley. The Giant's Grave on Wye Downs is a pillow mound of unknown date, but possibly Bronze Age (Morris 1842, 13–14). On the other side of the valley, a Late Bronze Age barrow was excavated at Warren Farm, Boughton Aluph by the Ashford Archaeological Society in 1964. Cremated remains, probably of two children, were recovered from the primary burial pit and a number of later satellite interments had been deposited (Bradshaw 1965). Further downstream, two crouched inhumation burials of probable Middle Bronze Age date were excavated at Canterbury Road, Godmersham (Bradshaw 1966; 1968).

There are few records of Iron Age activity within the vicinity of the study site though an archaeological evaluation at North School, some 200m north-west of the site, recovered three worn pottery sherds of Late Iron Age/Roman date from a colluvial deposit (Parfitt and Corke 2005). Beyond the immediate vicinity of the study site, numerous Iron Age sites are recorded, in addition to those with Bronze Age origins, already discussed (above). An excavation at South Willesborough, c. 1km SSW of the study site, revealed a number of features of Middle to Late Iron Age date, including the urned cremation burial of an infant aged about six months old (Deeves 2002; 2007). Iron Age remains have been reported from a number of archaeological interventions in the Boys Hall/Orbital Industrial Park area to the south-east of the site. An evaluation in 1990 revealed an Iron Age enclosure (Wilson 1990), and excavations in the same year revealed a ditched enclosure and farmstead to have been present (Philp 1991). Monitoring of development groundworks on land off Crowbridge Road, also at Orbital Park, recorded Iron Age ditches and pits as well as later features (Rady 2000). Another watching brief at Orbital Park recorded finds of

Late Iron Age and medieval date, but no archaeological features (Linklater 1998) and excavations in 2001 revealed a possible Late Iron Age Structure (Eastbury and Blackmore 2010).

Excavation on the site of the medieval Sevington Moat (see below), revealed a number of Late Iron Age and Roman features, suggesting there was a domestic settlement nearby (Russell 1993; Booth and Everson 1994). Investigations in advance of the excavation of the Boys Hall balancing pond as part of the CTRL works, revealed Late Iron Age ditches and a cremation cemetery (OAU 1999b; Glass 1999, 217; Hayden 2000a). Monitoring of groundworks for the Ashford Eurotunnel terminal at Sevington, revealed two areas of Late Iron Age occupation (Bennett 1988), and in addition to the Bronze Age features identified during investigations west of Blind Lane, Sevington, Late Iron Age ditches were also recorded (OAU 1999a; Glass 1999, 217–8; Hayden 2001).

At Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green to the south-west of Ashford, large-scale archaeological investigations revealed extensive Late Bronze Age field systems overlain by extensive and intensive Iron Age and early Romano-British settlement, including hearths, cremation burials and burning pits (Johnson 1999; Stevenson 2003a; ASE 2006). Two Late Iron Age ‘warrior’ burials were also unearthed during the course of the investigations (Stevenson and Johnson 2004). A high status cremation burial of Iron Age date was also exposed during the excavations at Westhawk Farm (Booth *et al.* 2008, 27–34).

The evaluation at Park Farm East revealed extensive evidence of Mid-Late and Late Iron Age occupation. The evidence was interpreted as an Iron Age settlement comprising enclosure ditches and roundhouses, along with associated field systems (Wragg 2003; Powell 2012). Subsequent excavation revealed three broad phases of activity: Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead; a Late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure system with evidence of industrial activity; and continuation of settlement into the early Roman period along with alteration of the enclosure (Wessex Archaeology 2004; Powell 2012). Analysis of residues from within crucibles of Late Iron Age/early Roman date suggested that bronze smelting had been carried out on the site (Lucas and Paynter 2010). An evaluation at Kingsnorth Road also revealed Late Iron Age/early Roman activity (Wragg 2006; ASE 2009).

A number of Iron Age sites have been identified south-east of Ashford, upstream of the town in the valley of the East Stour. An evaluation in advance of proposed development on land east of Mersham recorded Iron Age finds, as well as later and undated features (CAT 1999). An evaluation in advance of proposed development at HM Prison Aldington revealed a possible prehistoric hearth and undated pits (James 2000). Another evaluation on the former prison site also identified possible prehistoric pits (Seddon 2005). The CTRL investigations at Smeeth revealed a number of features of Late Iron Age date and a limited occupation site dated approximately to 100 BC to AD 100 was suggested, though no structures were identified (Glass 1999, 218–9). Further work in advance of the CTRL at Smeeth revealed Late Iron Age ditches and other features on land at Park Wood Cottage (Wessex Archaeology 1999).

Archaeological investigations at Great Chart to the north-west of Ashford have revealed limited evidence of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British occupation, including possible iron-working activity (Boyer 2012). A number of Iron Age sites have been recorded further to the north-west, upstream of the town in the valley of the Upper Great Stour. An evaluation at Lodge Wood in advance of the CTRL recorded a number of Late Iron Age and Roman features, including pits and ditches (Parkinson 1999). At Hothfield Common limited excavation in 1942 revealed part of a Late Iron Age cremation cemetery (Brinson 1943), and the CTRL investigations south of Beechbrook Wood identified a Late Iron Age enclosure, surrounded by multiple ditches, along with associated pits, postholes and hearths (Glass 1999, 217; Brady *et al.* 2006; Champion 2007b, 120). Evaluation and excavation in advance of the CTRL at Parsonage Farm, Westwell, although revealing mostly medieval archaeology (see below), also exposed some Late Iron Age structural evidence (Heard 1997; Glass 1999, 213–4; MoLAS 1999b; 2000). An archaeological watching brief at a site between Tutt Hill and Westwell Leacon recorded small settlement enclosures that originated in the Late Iron Age and appear to have been utilised up to the middle of the 3rd century AD (Diez and Booth 2006a). An evaluation at Brett's Sand Pit, Charing recorded elements of a Late Iron Age/Romano-British field system and eleven bowl-shaped hearths. The subsequent excavation revealed a settlement site to have been present (Philp 1992; Keller 1993). A more recent excavation exposed prehistoric pits, along with Roman and undated features (Priestley-Bell 1999). Earlier work in the Charing area, south of the sand pit, had also revealed a Late Iron Age enclosure. Evaluation and a small excavation east of Newlands, Charing Heath, in advance of the CTRL revealed a trackway of Late Iron Age to Roman date (Glass 1999, 217; OAU 1999c).

To the north-east of Ashford, evidence for Iron Age activity has come from a number of locations in the Wye area of the Great Stour Valley. Excavations on Wye Downs in 1954 and 1955 revealed a number of Iron Age pits. An evaluation on the site of a medieval water mill on Bridge Street, Wye, found evidence of prehistoric ditches, as well as evidence of Roman occupation (OAU 1995). At Crundale lime works, to the north-east of Wye, excavations revealed a number of Late Iron Age features, including a ditch, postholes and a large pit containing the disarticulated remains of an inhumation burial (Bennett 1984; Anderson 1985).

## **Roman**

Few Roman findspots are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the study site, though interventions in the Boys Hall/Orbital Industrial Park area to the south-east have recorded material of this date. In addition to identifying an Iron Age enclosure, the 1990 evaluation at the Orbital Industrial Park, also recorded evidence of a small Roman settlement or farmstead (Wilson 1990). The 1990 excavations at the Park identified further elements of the farmstead and a number of Roman cremation burials (Philp 1991). In addition to the Iron Age features identified prior to the excavation of the Boys Hall balancing pond, Roman cremations and linear features were also recorded (OAU 1999b; Glass 1999, 217; Hayden 2000b). The excavations west of Blind Lane, Sevington also revealed a number of Roman features, including possible boundary ditches (OAU 1999a; Glass 1999, 217–8; Hayden 2001). An excavation at Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, revealed a Roman enclosure and settlement, with buildings (Bennett 1992; Rady 1992; 1996).

A cremation burial within a large cinerary urn and accompanied by a number of Samian vessels was found at Albert Road, some 1500m north-west of the study site in 1846 and numerous findspots of Roman material have also been recorded elsewhere in Ashford and the surrounding landscape. A watching brief at Millbank Road a little more than 2km south-west of the site recovered a quantity of residual Roman pottery, but only post-medieval features were identified (Hopkinson and Kenyon 1998). However, more substantial evidence for Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British settlement was found nearby at Millbank Place (Gollop 2003). What appears to have been quite a rich burial was found at Potter's Corner, to the north-west of Ashford, whilst widening a road there in 1929.

One of the most important series of excavations in the Ashford area in recent years took place at Westhawk Farm, to the south of the town (Booth *et al.* 2008). The site was of particular interest as it lay close to the junction of two Roman roads (Margary Routes 130 and 131); one which linked London and Lympne and a second which ran through the Sussex and Kent Weald, through Canterbury to Richborough (Lawrie 2004). The excavations revealed what appears to have been a Roman small town. A north-east to south-west road was marked by ditches. To the north of the road regular plots were laid out perpendicular to it, with rectangular buildings and areas of metal working being identified. Circular structures were also present. South of the road was a large open area which included a Roman shrine (Booth 2001). There was also evidence of intense metal working south of the road, at the eastern edge of excavations. A cemetery was located to the north of the town centre.

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

A number of Roman sites are recorded in the valley of the East Stour, to the south-east of Ashford. The excavations at Little Stock Farm, Evegate recorded a possible Roman field system (Glass 1999, 195–6), and nearby, watching brief and excavation at Bower Road revealed evidence of a small Roman agricultural settlement that probably had its origins in the Late Iron Age (Diez and Booth 2006b). The CTRL evaluation at Park Wood Cottage, Smeeth recorded a number of Roman ditches (Wessex Archaeology 1999). A Roman site, including ditches and other features was also identified during the investigations east of Station Road to Church Lane, Smeeth (Glass 1999, 218–9)

Further sites are recorded upstream of Ashford in the valley of the Upper Great Stour, to the north-west of the town. The excavation in advance of the CTRL, south of Beechbrook Wood, revealed a number of Roman features, including postholes, pits and ditches, within an enclosure (Glass 1999, 217; Stevens 1997; Brady *et al.* 2006). The excavations in advance of the CTRL at Parsonage Farm, Westwell, also recorded Roman structures (Heard 1997; Glass 1999, 213–4; MoLAS 2000). In the

1940s a Roman bath-house was identified and subsequently extensively excavated in a field to the west of the village of Little Chart (Eames 1957). An evaluation east of Newlands, Charing Heath, in advance of the CTRL revealed part of a Roman road and a number of ditches (Roycroft 1997). A Roman ditched enclosure and cremations were also identified during an excavation at Charing Sand Pit in 1990. Further features were recorded in 1999 (Priestley-Bell 1999). In 1975 a small Roman stone building of 3rd-century AD date was excavated at Charing. It appeared to have been used originally for metal working but was subsequently utilized for agricultural purposes. It was thought that other contemporary structures probably lay in the vicinity (Detsicas 1975).

To the north-east of Ashford, evidence of Roman activity was recorded during the evaluation at Faversham Road, Kennington (James 1997). Further downstream, Roman building material was noted on the north verge of Churchfield Way, Wye, outside numbers 70–72, and Roman material was recorded on the Bridge Street evaluation (OAU 1995). At Wye Meadow, about 1km north-west of the village, part of a small Roman settlement and industrial area were excavated in 1970. Smelting hearths were identified and the associated pottery and coins suggested a date of later 1st to early 3rd century AD (Bradshaw 1970a). A Roman industrial site was excavated on Wye Downs in 1950. In 1972 part of a Romano-British building was excavated on the west side of the Great Stour, and in the same year Romano-British occupation debris dating to the 4th century AD was revealed in a field drain (Bradshaw 1972). In the area around Crundale, to the north-east of Wye, a number of burials of Roman date were excavated in the 17th and 18th centuries. The excavations at Crundale lime works identified a Roman settlement and cremation burials (Bennett 1984; Anderson 1985)

### **Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

The first documentary record for Ashford was in the will of Wulfgyth, dated 1046: “...and to my daughter Ealdgyth I grant the estates of *Chadacie* and at *Essetesford* [Ashford] and the wood which I attach to the latter” (Bagg 1985, 1).

There are only a couple of entries on the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) recording Anglo-Saxon finds in the vicinity of the study site. A 6th-century buckle with associated beads and bronze fragments were found in South Willesborough in the late 19th century, though the exact provenance is unclear. Sometime prior to 1856 a 7th-century burial was found in the Ashford area, accompanied by weapons and a glass claw beaker, though again the exact provenance is unclear.

The number of records of Anglo-Saxon sites in the landscape around Ashford is also rather limited compared with the preceding periods. The excavation at Foster Road revealed two waterholes that contained wooden structures at their bases, which were radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 570–660. A possible sunken-featured building was also recognised on the site (Powell and Birbeck 2011). Excavation in advance of the CTRL adjacent to the parish church at Mersham revealed an early medieval metal working site, with suggestions of a Saxon origin (Glass 1999, 212–3; CAT 2000; Helm and Munby 2006). In a quarry beside Surrenden Park at Little Chart, the remains of at least three human skeletons were recovered in 1936. The associated finds suggested they were Anglo-Saxon in date (Cook 1936). The evaluation at the

watermill site, Bridge Street, Wye suggested there had been some early medieval activity there (OAU 1995). A group of about five barrows on Wye Downs are believed to have been those opened in the 19th century and identified as early medieval. One barrow in the area was excavated in the late 1930s, and although no grave goods were found accompanying the skeleton, it was believed to be Saxon in date (Ackroyd and Bellhouse 1939).

At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, Ashford lay within the *Langebrige* (Longbridge) Hundred, in the *Lest of Wiwarlet* (now Scray Lathe), land owned by Hugh de Montfort. The manor of Ashford (*Essetesford*) was held by a certain Maigno. There was land for four ploughs and it included a church, a priest and two mills. Maigno also held *Estefort*, believed to be South Ashford, a much smaller property lying to the south of the Great Stour River. The main developments in the centuries following the Conquest were at Ashford, north of the river, and a small market town became established.

On October 12th 1243 Henry III granted a charter to Simon de Cryol to hold a weekly market in Ashford on a Saturday, and an annual fair on the 'eve, day and morrow of the festival of the Decollation of St John the Baptist' (28th–30th August). In 1348 permission was granted to William de Clynton, Earl of Huntingdon and his wife Juliana to hold a yearly fair on the 'eve, day and morrow of the festival of St Anne' (25th–27th July) (Bagg 1985, 1–2).

There are a small number of entries on the KHER of medieval date. The first of these is the medieval town of Ashford itself (HER No. KE14508). The other entries all relate to medieval buildings. The College, Ashford (HER No. KE3946; NGR: TR 0105 4269) is a Grade II\* Listed building founded in the reign of Edward IV as the Vicarage, but most of this building was demolished and rebuilt in the 18th century. The Church of St Mary the Virgin is mainly 15th century, with some surviving 13th-century elements (HER No. KE3947; NGR: TR 0101 4274). Some additions and alterations were made in the 19th century. A row of buildings, some surviving from the 15th and 16th century are located at 51 to 55 High Street (HER No. KE3964; NGR: TR 0104 4277). Mummerys, at 18–20 Even East Hill is a building that dates to c. 1500 (HER No. KE8790; NGR: TR 0132 4277). Finally The College, Church Yard originally dates to the late medieval period, though was modified in the 19th century (HER No. KE8860; NGR: TR 0105 4269).

A number of medieval sites have been identified in the landscape around Ashford. On the north side of the town, an ornamental boss of 15th-century date was found in the garden of 16 Dunkery Rise (Bradshaw 1971). Excavation at Parsonage Barn Farm, Ashford (TR 013 434) located the site of a medieval moated farmstead. The moat was located on all sides, with a central causewayed entrance. Two possible internal buildings were identified. The limited finds evidence suggested a 13th- to 15th-century date, though there also appeared to have been a post-medieval industrial usage (Webster and Cherry 1980, 257–8). At Potters Corner to the north-west of Ashford a probable kiln site was identified in the 1950s and partly excavated. The pottery recovered suggested a 13th-century date (Grove and Warhurst 1952). A possible medieval metal-working site was identified during the excavations at Great Chart (Boyer 2012). A short distance to the north-east of Ashford, an excavation at

Chapel Bridge, Conningbrook, located a medieval well. Excavation on the reputed site of Conningbrook Chapel, Kennington found the north, west and south sides of a rectangular building. The chapel had probably been demolished before 1700 (Webster and Cherry 1976, 182). A record of the surviving masonry had also been made in the 1920s, following what appeared to have been some unofficial excavations on the site (Elliston-Erwood 1952). An evaluation at Ball Lane, Kennington found a probable medieval quarry or pond, backfilled with clay and weathered pottery dating to c. 1150–1200. Possibly associated with this, was a small platform made from green sandstone blocks and gravel. Pottery recovered from beneath this dated to the 13th century (Anderson 1994).

The excavation at Sevington Moat recorded a number of features relating to the moat, including part of a probable entrance road and a possible feeder channel (Russell 1993; Booth and Everson 1994). The 1990 evaluation at the Orbital Industrial Park recorded evidence of a medieval settlement (Wilson 1990). The CTRL investigations at Boys Hall balancing pond identified two large ditches and a contemporary cobbled surface, which were probably associated with the adjacent former medieval manor house or the attached post-medieval garden (OAU 1999b; Glass 1999, 217; Hayden 2000a). An extensive evaluation at Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, found traces of two medieval structures. One was the possible remains of a 15th-century watermill on the north-east bank of the east Stour River, and the other a possible timber-framed building alongside the Sevington-Bilsington road. Pottery dated to c. 1175–1225 was recovered from probable field boundary ditches.

To the south of Ashford, a number of medieval features were identified during the extensive evaluation at Park Farm East. These mainly comprised elements of field systems dating to the 13th/14th centuries, though contemporary pits were also identified (Wragg 2003; Powell 2012). A watching brief at Kingsnorth Manor, also on Park Farm, recorded and measured a moated site located here. An undated structure of loose Ragstone blocks was also recorded on the island surrounded by the moat (Ward 1995). The excavations at Brisley Farm identified a number of medieval features, including ditches and a possible trackway (Johnson 1999; Stevenson 2003a). An evaluation on the site of a proposed school to the north of Brisley Farm, revealed a number of medieval features suggesting there was a small farmstead here (Griffin 2003).

A number of medieval sites are recorded upstream of Ashford in the valley of the Upper Great Stour. The evaluation at the Hothfield Works Site recorded ditches of medieval date (Priestley-Bell 2000). Excavations at Pivington Moat near Pluckley have indicated that occupation commenced on the site during the 13th century and continued, perhaps sporadically until the 17th century, with a number of building phases being identified (Wilson and Hurst 1957, 160, 162; Rigold 1962). At Impkins Farm, Westwell, substantial quantities of iron slag and cinder were found in three areas. Subsequent trial excavation concluded that this had been a medieval smelting site (Bradshaw 1970b). Excavation at Parsonage Farm, Westwell, ahead of the CTRL showed that the earliest medieval structure was a possible mill, dated to the 11th to 12th century. This was superseded by a moated farmstead or manor house dated by pottery to c. 1150–1350. A number of buildings were excavated on the island surrounded by the moat, and two narrow causeways across the moat

were identified (Heard 1997; Glass 1999, 213–4; MoLAS 2000; Hill and Munby 2006). Excavations at Charing Sand Quarry identified a number of medieval features, including pits and ditches (Philp 1992; Keller 1993).

A number of sites are recorded to the south-east of Ashford, in the valley of the East Stour. The evaluation on land east of Mersham revealed a number of medieval ditches, possibly elements of a field system (CAT 1999). The CTRL investigations at Little Stock Farm, Smeeth, located the remains of a large medieval stone quarry, within a ditched enclosure, which was possibly used for some type of domestic or industrial activity. The site appeared to be associated with a field system, which extended to the west (Glass 1999, 195–6). The activity may have been contemporary with that identified during the CTRL investigations on land at Park Wood Cottage, to the east (Wessex Archaeology 1999).

The study site lay some distance from the medieval settlements of Ashford and Willesborough. Activity at this time is likely to have been focussed on the churches of St Mary the Virgin, Ashford and St Mary's Willesborough, whilst the site probably remained within agricultural land.

### **Post-Medieval and Modern**

Ashford continued to develop into the post-medieval period, initially in the area of the old town centre, though latterly there has been extensive outward expansion due mainly to population pressure. In 1793 it was agreed to establish a turnpike between Ashford and Ham Street, thus improving communications (Bagg 1985, 5). A much greater boost to communications and consequently to population increase came with the opening of the South Eastern Railway from London to Dover in 1842, which passed through Ashford (Bagg 1985, 8).

The Andrews and Drury Map of 1769 and an early Ordnance Survey Map of 1801 show the study site located within agricultural land, some distance from the settlements at Ashford, Willesborough and Alsop Green, and to the south-east of a farmstead at East Stour.

The original Ashford railway station was constructed to the south of the town in the 1840s and is shown on the Tithe Map of 1843. This map shows the area of the study site still in agricultural land, some distance to the east of the new railway line.

In 1847 the engineering workshops of the South Eastern Railway were established to the south and south-west of the study site, by which time a further railway line had been constructed to the south of the site. The engineering works continued to expand during the later 19th century when the South Eastern Railway amalgamated with the London, Chatham and Dover Railway.

However, the Ordnance Survey Maps of 1871, 1898 and 1907 show that the site remained within undeveloped agricultural land to the north of the railway line and engineering workshops. A small group of buildings is shown on these maps, towards the south-east corner of the site, and were possibly associated with a quarry that lay beyond the eastern boundary of the site. A number of small anomalies shown on the maps may be further areas of quarrying.

Ashford continued to expand during the early 20th century, the railway becoming increasingly important, and between 1909 and 1933 the Southern Railway Works expanded into the study site. The 1933 Ordnance Survey Map shows a substantial engine shed with several lines of railway track leading from the shed towards Ashford Station. To the north of the engine shed was a small tank and to the south the remains of a pond or quarry are shown. To the north-west a railway turntable is identified and towards the northern edge of the site a small engine shed or other structure is shown located along a piece of track on an embankment. Two small buildings continue to occupy the easternmost part of the site.

The town suffered greatly from bombing raids during World War II as it became an important industrial centre and the railway and railway works became key elements in the war effort. The legacy of this period still survives in parts of the town. There is a communal air raid shelter underneath the playground at South School and another underground shelter at the hospital. A gas decontamination plant was also built at the hospital, and is now used as the physiotherapy department. A final legacy of the war is the remains of a double and treble line of dragon's teeth (tank trap) located in the area of the railway line, hospital and Sackville Crescent.

After the war there was much rebuilding and expansion of the town. The 1960 Ordnance Survey Map shows additional buildings to the south of the engine shed and a further railway line crossing the south of the site.

During the mid to late 1960s the engine shed was partly demolished and two smaller rectilinear buildings were constructed. The 1975 Ordnance Survey Map shows little change to the study site and by the time of the 1985 Map, the site had become The South Eastern Steam Centre. Between 1993 and the commencement of archaeological works, the site was cleared apart from a few small derelict modern buildings and the land was left as waste ground. The location of the earlier railway turntable could still be seen on aerial photographs taken prior to the archaeological investigations.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

A total of 34 evaluation trenches was excavated out of 43 initially proposed for the evaluation, nine trenches being omitted from the evaluation due to site constraints and health and safety issues. The findings from trenches situated in the western portion of the site indicated areas of truncation to 1.20m and it was subsequently agreed that no further trench excavation should be undertaken in this area (Fig. 1).

The findings from the evaluation revealed a combination of made ground deposits, which overlay the post-medieval ground surface as well as areas of both heavy and minimal truncation of the underlying drift geology. From the evaluation trenching it was possible to establish with relative accuracy the likely nature of the site topography prior to the construction of the railway depot. This understanding of the buried topography was used to inform the strategy concerning both the evaluation and the areas of the site to be excavated as the next stage of the mitigation process.

Following the identification of potentially important archaeological deposits during the evaluation, extended excavation was carried out in two separate areas, designated 'A' and 'B', the former being located within the vicinity of evaluation Trenches 21 and 22, and the latter in the vicinity of Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7, 12 and 25 (Fig. 1). These areas were mechanically excavated until the top of archaeological deposits were revealed, after which all exposed archaeological features and layers were cleaned, excavated and recorded by hand. For the most part, this involved the excavation of ditch interventions, or the half sectioning of discrete features.

## RESULTS

The majority of the evaluation trenches revealed little of archaeological importance, though archaeological finds and features pre-dating the modern era were identified in five of the trenches. The results from these trenches are integrated with the material from the two extended excavation areas presented here and the modern material from the other trenches is briefly discussed in the final phase section.

### Drift Geology

The earliest deposits revealed within Area A comprised mixed clays and sandy clays containing frequent sub-angular pebbles. These sloped down towards the north-west, their surface elevations being recorded at levels between 41.73m and 40.94m OD. The mixed clays were interrupted by a series of typical 'ice wedge'-type features, indicative of a periglacial environment. In Area B the earliest deposits comprised mixed sands and clays containing frequent sub-angular pebbles. This material became noticeably sandier towards the south-east end of the site and increasingly clay-rich with depth. With the exception of deeply-truncated areas, the area was relatively flat, with recorded surface elevations of between 40.46m and 39.53m OD

### A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Field System? (Archaeological Phase 1)

Although the lithic evidence suggested that there had been a human presence on the site from as early as the Late Mesolithic, activity at this time is likely to have involved intermittent visits by a transient population and could not really be defined as a clear phase of occupation. The earliest period of settled occupation on the site was probably during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, defined by post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramics. A small number of features in both Areas A and B dated to this phase, along with a possible ditch in evaluation Trench 23 (Figs. 2 and 3).

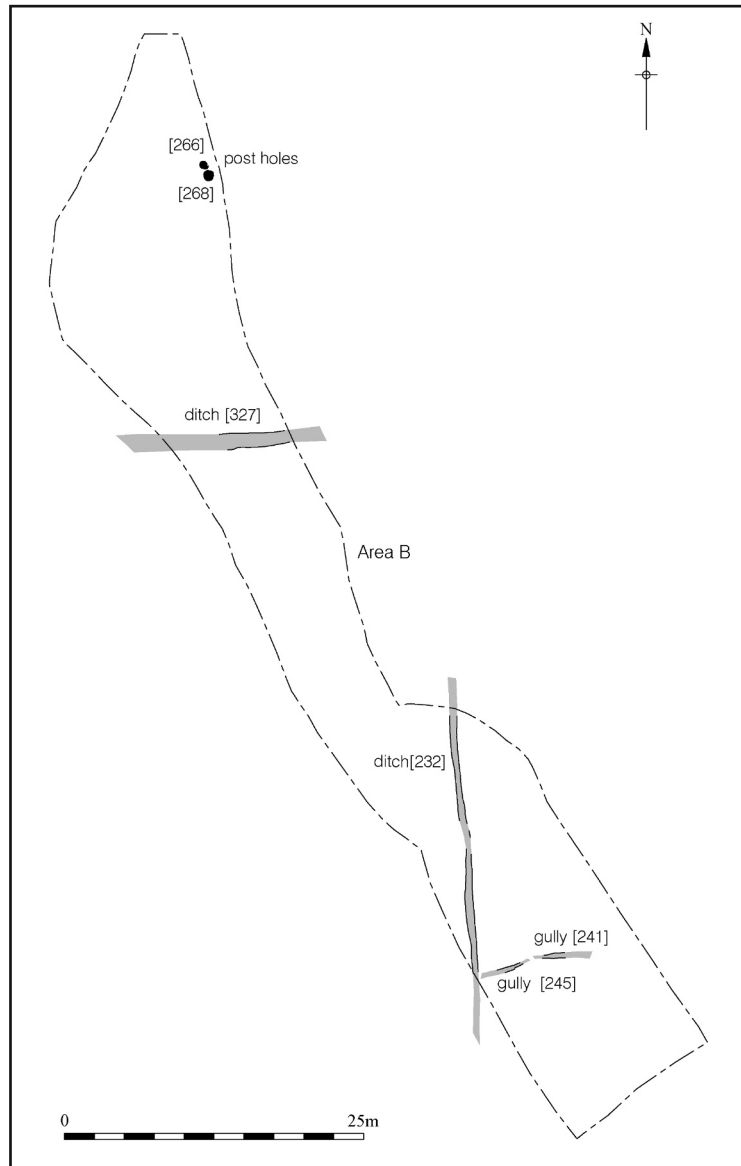
Ditch [217], located towards the eastern side of Area A (Fig. 2), was a north-south aligned feature that extended beyond the northern and southern limits of excavation. It was up to 1.15m wide and 0.37m deep, with moderately sloping, straight sides, breaking to a flat base. Excavation yielded a few sherds of pottery, most of which were in an undated, coarse sandy fabric, whilst a single sherd was in a PDR type fabric. The ditch was located on a slightly different alignment and to the east of a pair of apparently later features (see below), and was probably associated with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age land management.

Approximately 19m to the west was an irregular, but roughly linear feature [222] that ran alongside one of the later ditches. The feature was approximately parallel with [217] and measured 3.26m north–south by 0.80m east–west and was 0.19m deep. It was suggested by the excavator that this may have been an area of bioturbation, possibly root activity associated with a hedge line. Alternatively it may have been the remains of the base of an excavated feature such as a field boundary. No dating evidence was recovered, but it may have been associated with [217], the two possibly having been elements of the same field system.

Towards the southern end of evaluation Trench 23, approximately midway between Areas A and B, a short section of a NNW–SSE aligned feature [90] was exposed (Fig. 2), which was up to 0.49m wide and 0.36m deep. No finds were recovered and the feature was not stratigraphically related to any other, but its orientation may suggest it was associated with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features in Areas A and B.



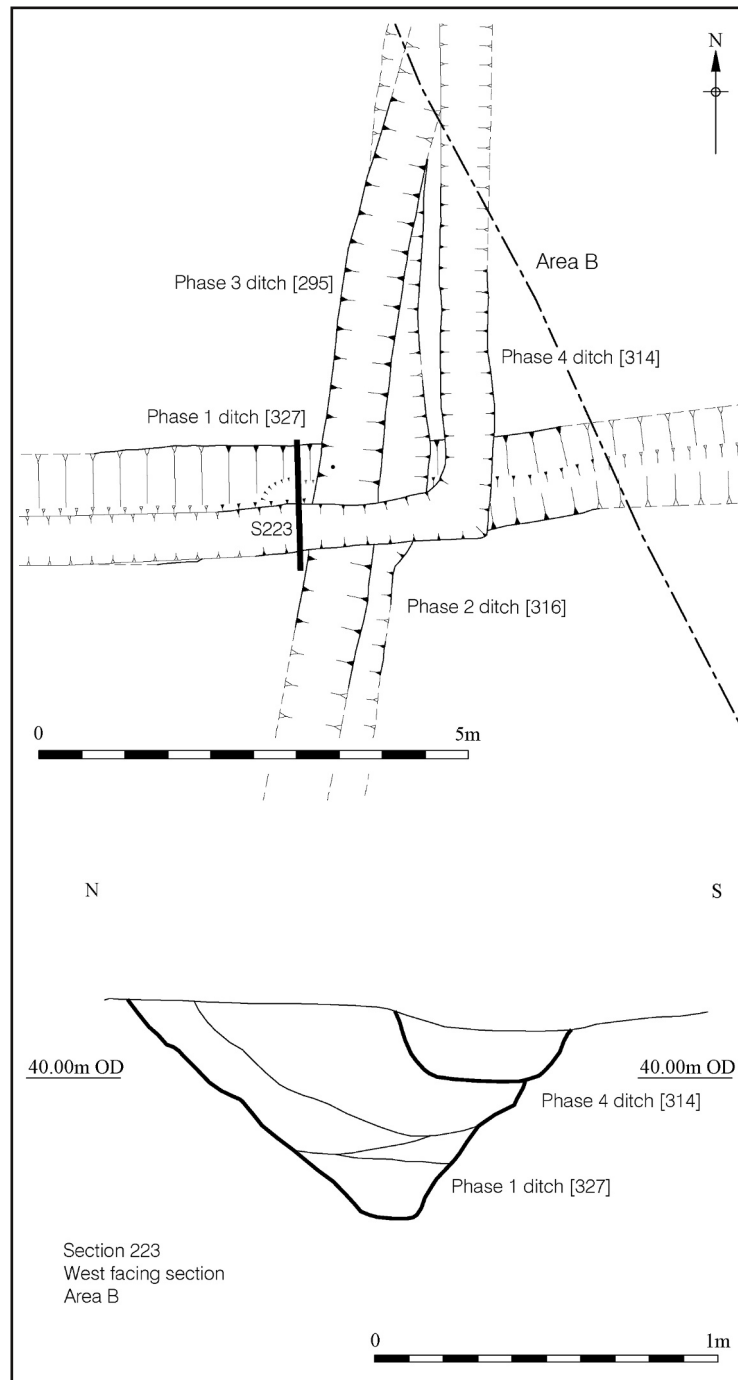
**Fig. 2: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features, Area A and Trench 23**



**Fig. 3: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features, Area B**

Possibly the earliest activity in Area B was north–south aligned ditch [232], located towards the south of the area (Fig. 3). A 22m-long section of this feature was exposed within the area of excavation and it extended to the north beyond this. To the south it was truncated by east–west aligned ditch [238] (see below), though it may have extended south of this beyond the edge of excavation. It was also truncated midway along its exposed section by east–west aligned gully [254] (see below). The ditch was up to 0.66m wide and 0.22m deep with excavation producing a small assemblage of struck flint and undated coarse pottery. It was aligned approximately parallel with [217] in Area A and the two may have been elements of the same field system, though the distance between them means that this suggestion can only be tentative. A stratigraphically early, though heavily truncated

east–west aligned, possible curvilinear gully [241]/[245] was recognised to the east of [232]. The function of the feature(s) was unclear and no dateable finds were recovered (a single sherd of pottery was undateable), though it has been assigned to this early phase because of its position within the site stratigraphy.



**Fig. 4: Detail and section of prehistoric ditches, Area B**

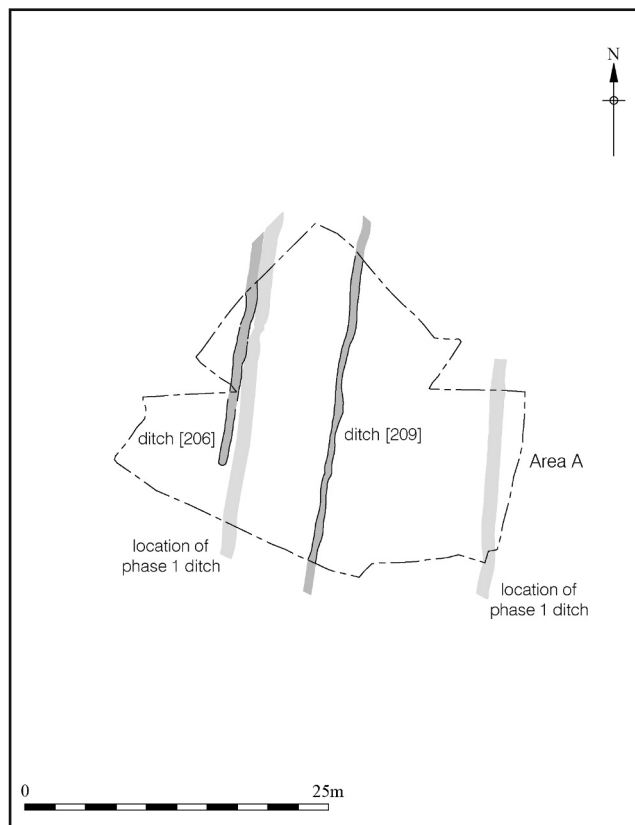
A little more than 25m north-west of the northernmost recorded point of ditch [232] was a somewhat truncated, though more substantial, east–west aligned feature [327], which was the earliest in a sequence of four intercutting ditches (Figs. 4 & 5). The ditch extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation whilst it was totally truncated to the west by modern disturbance. A surviving 5.50m length was exposed within the area of excavation, which was up to 1.34m wide and 0.62m deep. The ditch produced a small assemblage of PDR pottery along with struck flint exhibiting later prehistoric flaking technology. Although only a short section of this feature was exposed and recorded, its orientation and finds assemblage suggested it was contemporary and therefore possibly associated with the features to the south-east.



**Fig. 5: Intercutting prehistoric ditches, looking south. Scale 1m**

Clean sandy primary fills observed within the ditch may have provided possible evidence for the presence of a bank to the north; the exposed sections certainly showed that material had slumped in from this direction. The possible presence of a bank may suggest that it was internal to an enclosure ditch or part of a banked boundary at the side of a field system ditch.

Towards the northern end of Area B were two sub-circular small pits or postholes [266] and [268], the former of which produced a single sherd of PDR type pottery. These two features appear to have been related and were possibly elements of the same structure which probably extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation. Further postholes a short distance to the south, whilst initially appearing to be related, have been dated to a later phase (see below).



**Fig. 6: Middle Iron Age features, Area A**

### **Middle Iron Age Occupation**

(Archaeological Phase 2)

Features dating to this phase were again present in both excavation areas, along with a single feature in evaluation Trench 15. In Area A two parallel, NNE–SSW aligned ditches were recorded to the west of earlier linear feature [217] (Fig. 6). Westernmost ditch [206] was up to 0.22m deep with steep to moderately sloping sides and a flat base that sloped down from SSW to NNE. A shallow terminus may have defined the southern end of the ditch, though this may equally have been a result of later truncation - the ditch certainly extended beyond the northern limit of excavation. The only anthropogenic material recovered from the slots dug through the ditch was a single struck flint. Ditch [209] to the east extended beyond the northern and southern edges of excavation, measured up to 0.73m in width and was 0.22m deep.

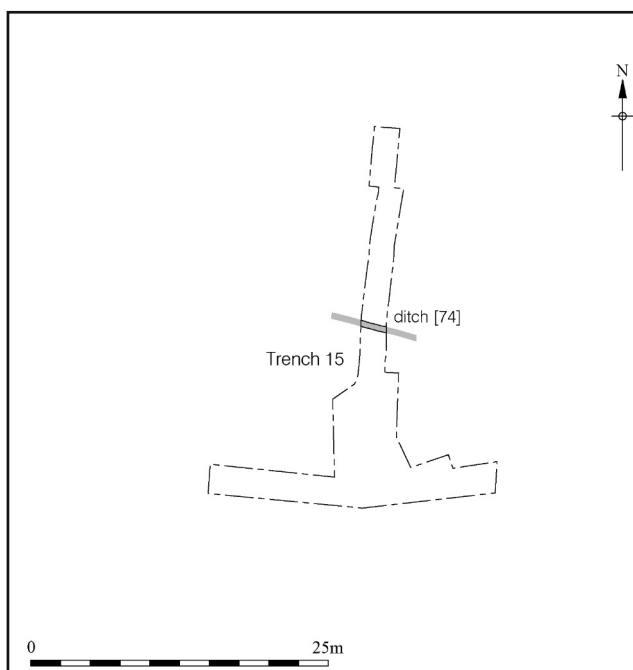
The base sloped down from SSW to NNE and a single sherd of pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age was recovered.

Both ditches were visually very similar and followed parallel alignments and it is possible that they may have marked either side of some type of droveway that extended to the NNE and SSW. Given their orientation, it appears that there may have been a subtle re-alignment of the landscape between the Early and Middle Iron Age compared to that suggested by earlier ditch [217] and possibly feature [222].

A little less than 120m north-east of Area A, a WNW–ESE aligned ditch [74] was recorded in Trench 15 of the evaluation (Fig. 7). This extended beyond the eastern and western limits of the evaluation trench. It was 0.50m wide and 0.50m deep, with steeply-sloping, straight sides and a flat base. It produced three sherds of pottery exhibiting a sandy fabric and dated as Middle Iron Age. Although only a small section of this feature was exposed and it was spatially, somewhat disparate from the features in Area A, it appeared to be on a perpendicular alignment to [206] and

[209] and produced contemporarily dated material. It is therefore tentatively suggested that ditch [74] may have been part of a Middle Iron Age field system, with which the possible driveway in Area A was also associated.

Towards the north of Area B, oval pit [234] was located a short distance south-west of earlier postholes [266] and [268] (Fig. 8). It measured 1.44m east-west by 1.10m north-south and was up to 0.44m deep. It contained one of the largest assemblages of prehistoric pottery on the site and has been dated to the Middle Iron Age, though some residual earlier sherds were also present. Unfortunately a sample collected from the feature yielded no discernable biological remains (Allott 2011), thus limiting any further interpretation from an environmental point of view.

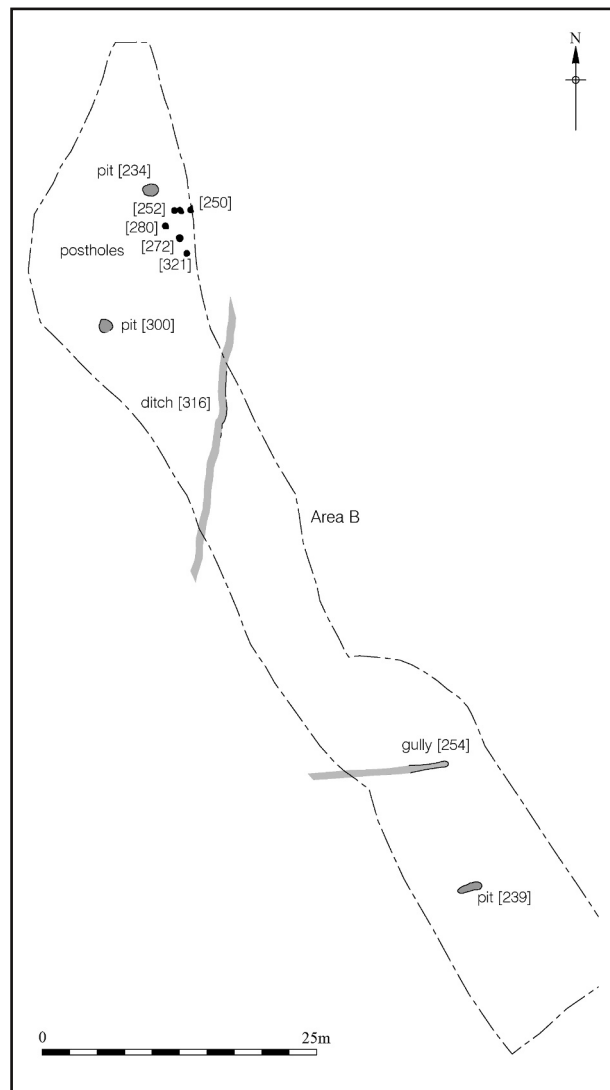


**Fig. 7: Middle Iron Age feature, Trench 15**

Located a short distance to the south-east was a group of postholes, the two most northerly of which were double features [252] and [250]. The former contained a moderate assemblage of pottery (Fig. 9), mostly dated to the Middle Iron Age, with a single residual sherd of earlier date, whilst posthole [250] lay approximately 0.40m to the east and was probably of similar overall dimensions. Sub-circular small posthole [280] was located 1.10m to the south-west of posthole [252] but contained no dating evidence and located just 0.80m to the south-east was almost circular posthole [272], which contained a single sherd of apparent Middle Iron Age pottery. Located a further 0.90m to the south was posthole [321], which also contained no dating evidence.

Pit [300] was located within the northern half of Area B, some distance south-west of the posthole group and appeared oval in plan but was partly truncated to the south by a post-medieval feature. The surviving pit measured 0.80m north-south by 1.24m east-west but was just 80mm deep. Quantities of burnt material were present and extensive reddening of the underlying natural soil suggested the likelihood that *in situ* burning had occurred within the feature. As no dating evidence was recovered it has been difficult to phase this feature, though it has tentatively been grouped with the Middle Iron Age features to the north-east.

Further to the south, earlier east-west ditch [327] was cut on an almost perpendicular alignment by a less substantial linear feature [316] (Figs. 4 & 5). A surviving element measuring 6.04m in length, up to 0.58m wide and 0.35m deep was recorded. It extended beyond the northern edge of excavation whilst it was extensively truncated to the south by modern disturbance. Two natural silting deposits were present, the upper of which contained a small assemblage of pottery dated to the Middle Iron Age. The western edge of the ditch had been partly truncated by the cutting of a similarly orientated ditch [295] (see below), which may have been a later recut.



**Fig. 8: Middle Iron Age features, Area B**

Further to the south-east, gully/ditch [254] that cut earlier north–south ditch [232] on a perpendicular alignment, appeared to date to this phase. The extant ditch segment measured 3.86m in length, was up to 0.60m wide and 0.16m deep. Both ends were characterised by possible termini, though given its shallow nature and the likelihood of extensive horizontal truncation, it may have extended further east and west. As such it may have been a field boundary ditch, contemporary with other linear features in Areas A and B and Trench 15, though its alignment was not quite parallel or perpendicular to these.

Towards the southern end of Area B, earlier gully [241]/[245] was truncated by an elongated oval pit [239], which measured 2.60m east–west by 0.80m north–south and was up to 0.34m deep. It had steeply sloping, concave sides and a flat base. It contained no artefactual dating evidence and was cut by a later ditch [231] (see below).



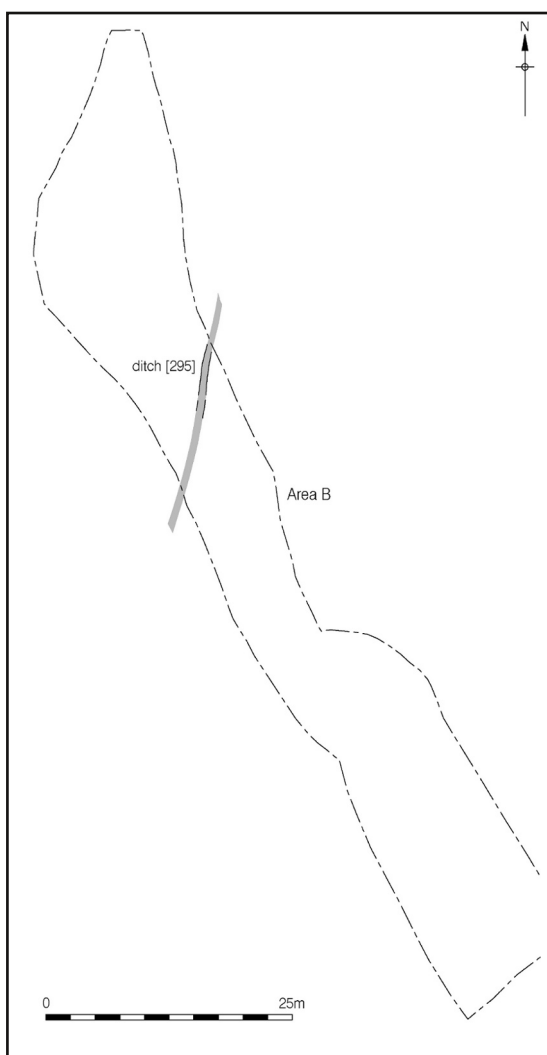
**Fig. 9: Prehistoric pottery in posthole [252], looking south. Scale 0.5m**

#### **Mid to Late Iron Age (Archaeological Phase 3)**

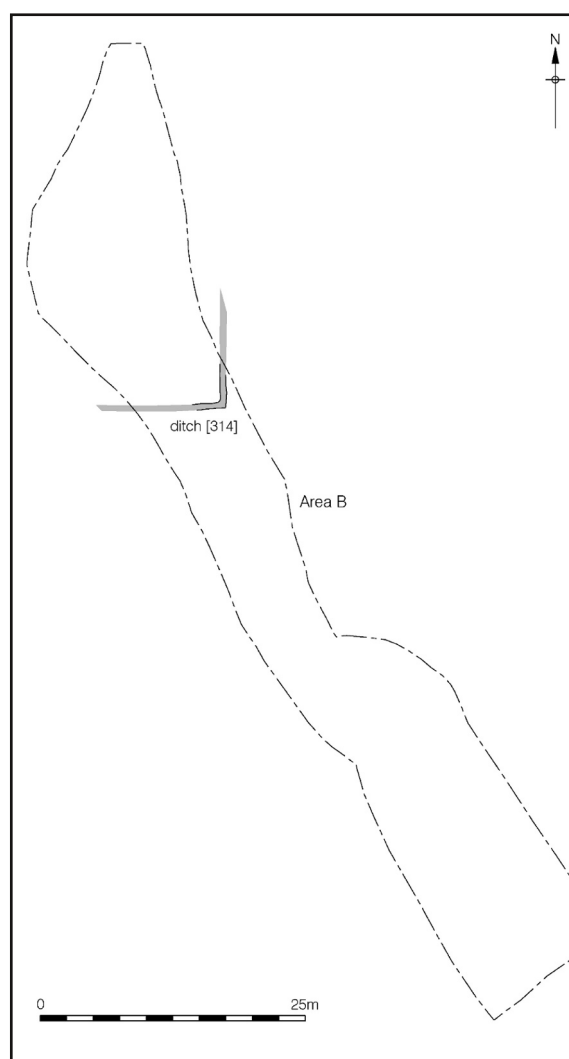
This phase was represented by a single feature in Area B which has been dated on stratigraphic criteria rather than finds, as the only material present was an apparently intrusive sherd of medieval pottery. Ditch [295] was aligned parallel with, and slightly truncated, the earlier backfilled ditch [316] which it may have replaced (Fig.10). A 5.80m length of the ditch was present within the excavated area and it extended beyond this to the north though was heavily truncated by modern disturbance to the south. It was also partly truncated by later prehistoric ditch [314] (see below). It was up to 0.72m wide and 0.23m deep.

#### **Late Iron Age Activity (Archaeological Phase 4)**

Again, only a single feature dating to this phase was recognised in Area B. Earlier ditches [327], [316] and [295] were truncated by ditch [314], the south-east corner of which was recorded within the area of excavation (Figs. 4, 5 & 11). The ditch extended for 4.00m southwards from the northern edge of excavation before turning c. 90° to the west, cutting across the backfilled earlier features (Fig. 6) and extending for a further 3.20m before being truncated by extensive modern disturbance. The ditch was up to 0.62m wide and survived to a depth of 0.34m. A small quantity of pottery was recovered, including a single sherd of Late Iron Age ('Belgic') type ware, though most of the material was Middle Iron Age. The ditch probably represented a re-alignment and/or replacement of earlier boundary/enclosure features.



**Fig. 10: Mid-Late Iron Age feature, Area B**



**Fig. 11: Late Iron Age feature, Area B**

### The Medieval Period (Archaeological Phase 5)

A small number of features dating to this phase were recognised in Area B, along with a single example in evaluation Trench 23. At the northern end of Area B (Fig. 12), pit [264] partly truncated earlier pits [266] and [268]. It was almost circular in plan, measuring a little more than 1m in diameter, was 0.23m deep and contained fragments of medieval ceramics. Pit/posthole [286], located immediately to the south-east, appeared circular in plan with a diameter of 0.54m and a depth of 0.21m. A single sherd of medieval pottery dated c. 1175–1300 was recovered (Jarrett 2011).

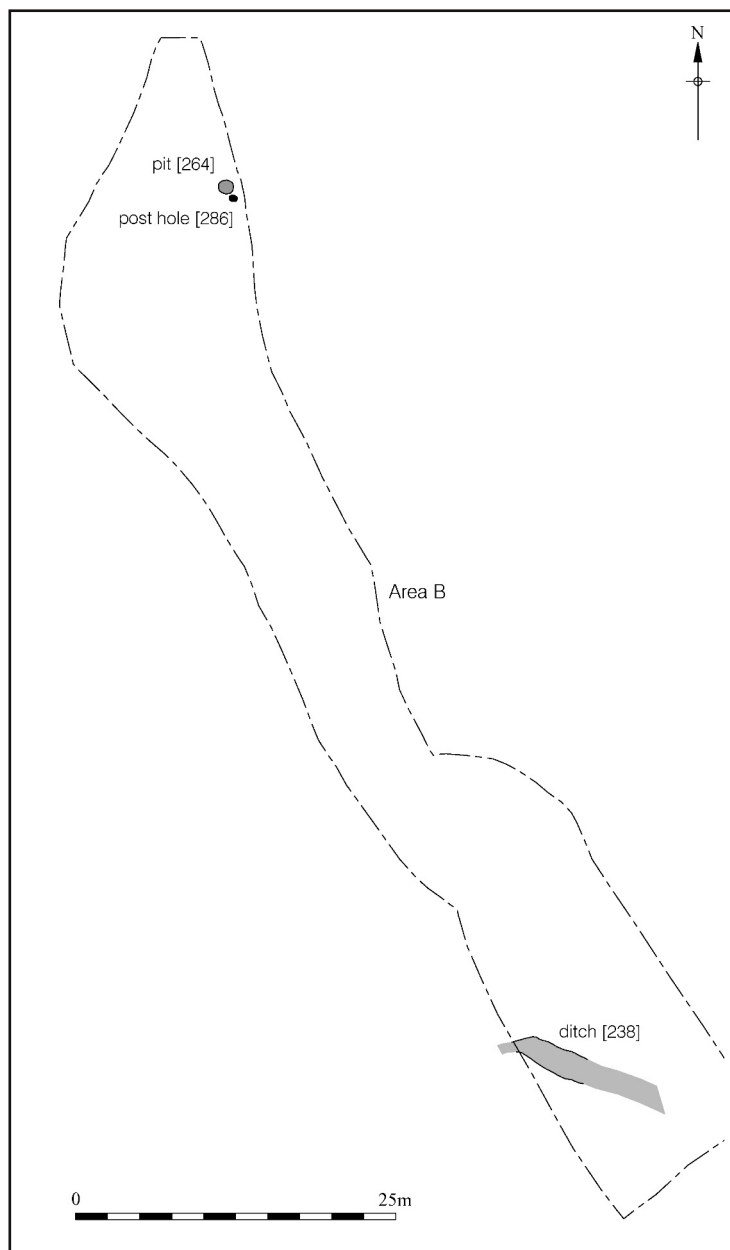
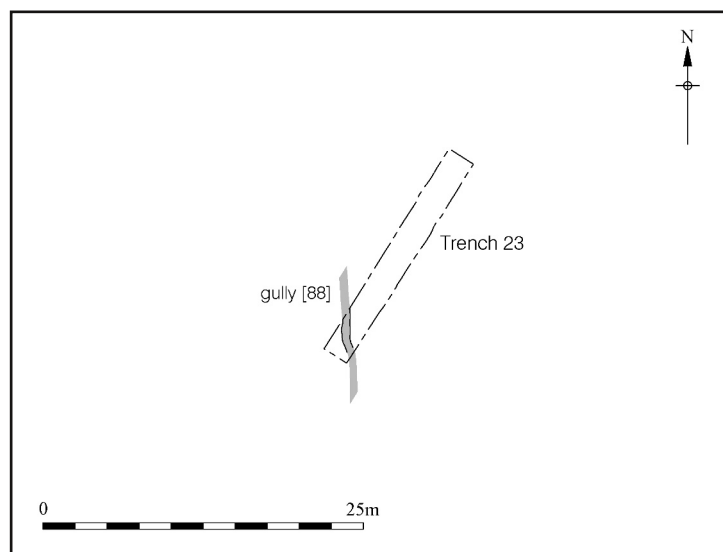


Fig. 12: Medieval features, Area B

NW–SE aligned ditch [238] located within the southern half of Area B was up to 1.54m wide and 0.30m deep and extended beyond the north-western edge of excavation, whilst to the south-east it was truncated by post-medieval pond [246] (see below). The ditch itself partly truncated prehistoric curvilinear gully cut [245] and contained struck flint and two sherds of medieval pottery. It is unclear what function the ditch performed, but it may have represented a channel that fed an earlier pond to the south-east.

A short distance to the south of prehistoric ditch [90] in Trench 23 was a similarly aligned, though rather more sinuous gully [88] (Fig. 13). A 1.32m length of the feature was recorded within the trench and it extended further to the north-west but was truncated by later activity to the south-east. The gully was up to 0.28m wide and 0.12m deep, and contained a small assemblage of pottery, mostly derived from a single medieval jar (Jarrett 2011). The feature has therefore been phased together with the medieval features in Area B. It also followed a similar or parallel alignment to ditch [238] in that area.



**Fig. 13: Medieval feature, Trench 23**

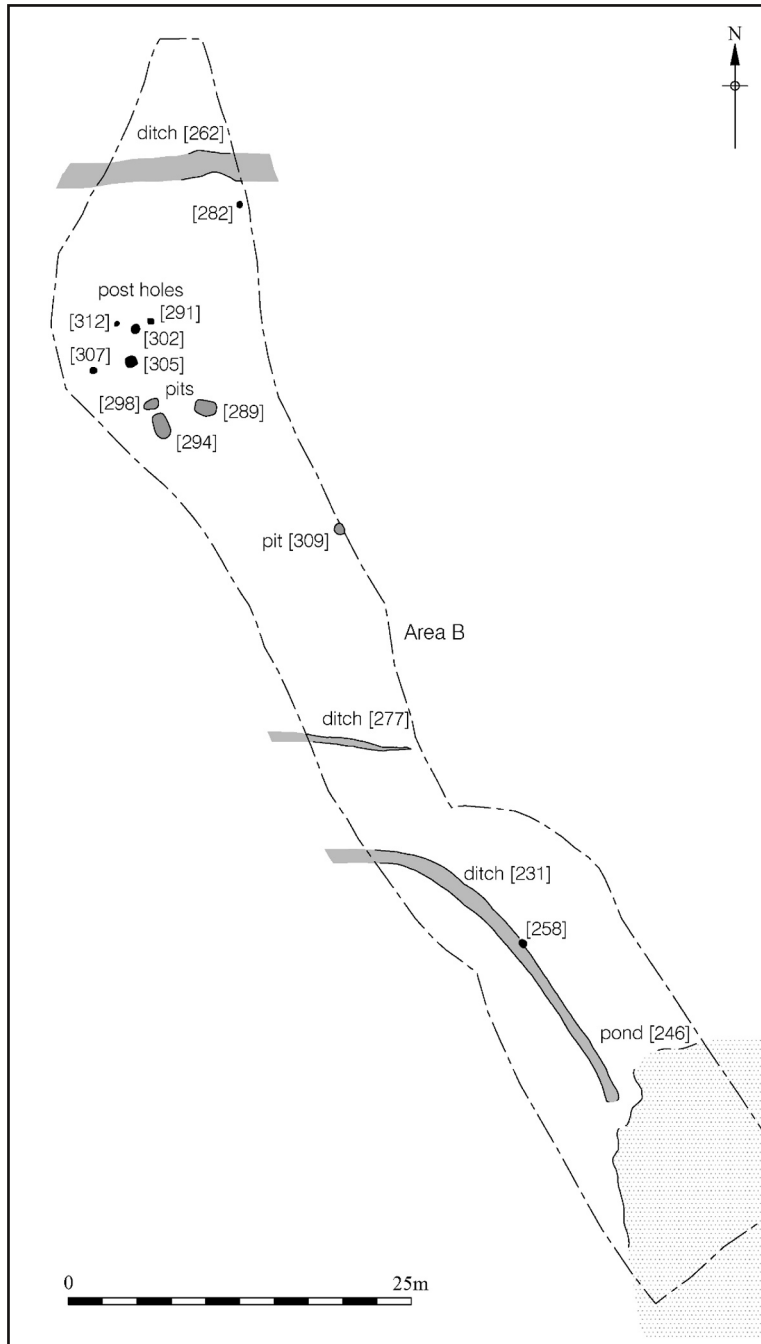
### **The Site in the Post-Medieval Period (Archaeological Phase 6)**

A number of post-medieval features, pre-dating modern activity, were recorded mostly within Area B (Fig. 14). The biggest concentration was a group of pits and postholes towards the western side of the area. At the north of this group were three postholes [312], [302] and [291], which between them produced a small assemblage of broadly-dated, post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), though Roman brick was also present. The three postholes, although differing in size and form, appeared to be broadly contemporary and may have been elements of a structure that formerly extended into the truncated areas to the north and west. To the south were two further postholes, the westernmost of which [307] was almost circular in plan, measuring up to 0.50m in diameter but just 90mm deep, containing a small assemblage of CBM broadly dated between 1500 and 1700 (Hayward 2011). Posthole [305] located some 7m to the east was sub-circular in plan, measuring up to 0.85m in diameter and 0.31m deep. Half-sectioning of the feature revealed what may have been a post-pipe [303] and it produced fragments of peg tile which have been broadly dated between 1500 and 1700 (Hayward 2011). Although contemporary, it was unclear whether these two features were associated with one another or the small group to the north.

To the south of the postholes were three small pits arranged in a broad triangle. The north-westernmost of these [298] had partly truncated prehistoric pit [300] and was broadly oval in plan, measuring 1.08m east–west by 0.84m north–south and was 0.17m deep. It contained CBM and ceramics broadly dating to the 16th to 18th centuries, and a small pewter shoe buckle of 15th- to 16th-century date (Gaimster 2011). The other two pits [289] and [294], produced pottery and CBM of 15th- to 17th-century date (Hayward 2011; Jarrett 2011). The original function of the three pits was unclear, though they did appear to have been broadly contemporary and may have been further postholes.

A further, somewhat isolated post-medieval posthole [282] was located some distance to the north-east of the main feature group, where it partially truncated prehistoric posthole [268]. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring up to 0.46m in diameter, with a depth of 0.15m and produced a single sherd of pottery dated to the 16th- to 18th-century (Jarrett 2011). A short distance to the north was east–west aligned linear feature [262], a 4.40m long section of which was present within the excavation area, though it extended further to the east and was truncated by modern disturbance to the west. It was up to 1.90m wide but just 0.15m deep, the profile appearing wide and flat bottomed with moderately sloping sides. Fragments of daub and a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered though the feature appeared to much more recent. Its function was unclear but it may have been a field boundary ditch.

Located some distance to the east of the main pit and posthole group was a small oval pit [309], measuring 0.90m north–south by 0.76m east–west and up to 0.14m deep. At the base of the pit was a partially complete articulated calf burial (Fig. 15). Analysis of the bone suggested this was an older calf and there were a number of skeletal parts missing, most notably the skull. Along with a possible cut mark to a metatarsus this evidence may suggest that the animal was beheaded and skinned before burial (Rielly 2011). Ceramic building material, broadly dated between 1480 and 1800 was recovered from the fill of the pit (Hayward 2011).



**Fig. 14: Post-medieval features, Area B**



**Fig. 15: Post-medieval calf skeleton in pit [309], looking east. Scale 0.5m**

Some distance to the south-east of the main pit and posthole group was east–west aligned ditch [277], which extended beyond the western and probably eastern edges of excavation. It was up to 0.54m wide, with the depth varying between 0.24m at the western side to 10mm at the eastern limit, beyond which it is likely to have been lost to horizontal truncation. No artefactual evidence was forthcoming but the ditch was probably associated with land management and may have formed part of a field boundary or even housed an early land drain.

Further to the south the most dominant post-medieval linear feature in Area B was ditch [231], which appeared as a curvilinear cut that was generally orientated SE–NW, though gradually turned westwards towards the north. The visible length within the excavation area measured 26.00m, the ditch being up to 0.96m wide and 0.25m deep. It continued beyond the western limit of excavation, whilst a shallow terminus defined the south-eastern limit, approximately 1.20m to the north-west of pond feature [246]. The terminus partly truncated prehistoric pit [239], whilst the ditch also truncated prehistoric features [254] and [232]. A quantity of pottery dating no later than the Middle Iron Age was recovered from the area where the ditch cut these features and was probably derived from them, though towards the southern end of the ditch a sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery and part of a medieval jar were recovered. A later posthole [258] was also cut into the backfilled ditch in the area where it truncated the earlier features. The ditch was probably associated with land management, though its apparent respect for pond [246] suggests it may have been associated with an earlier phase of this feature.

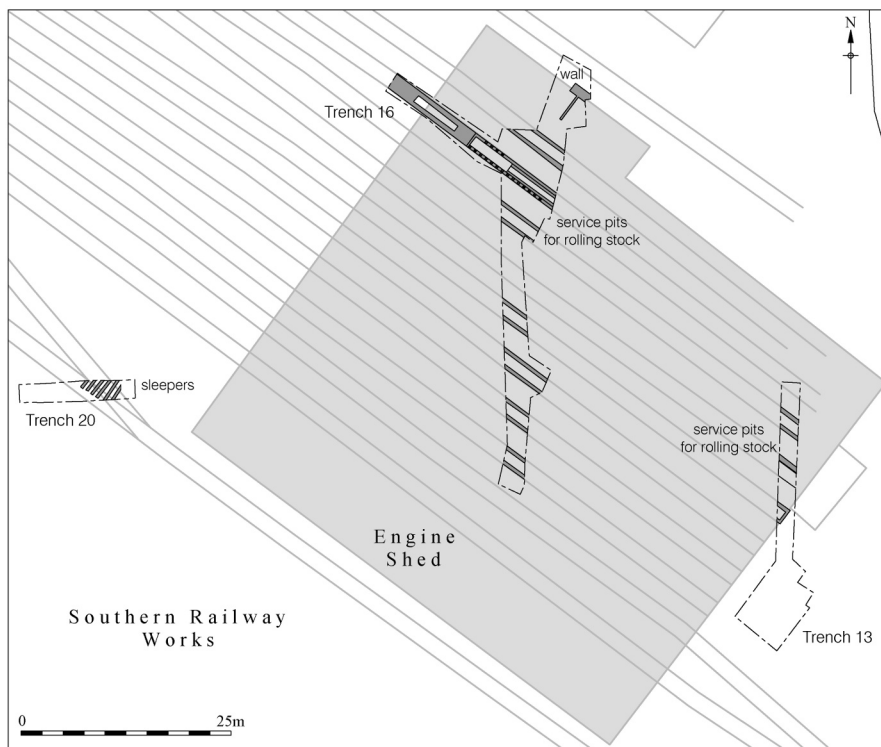
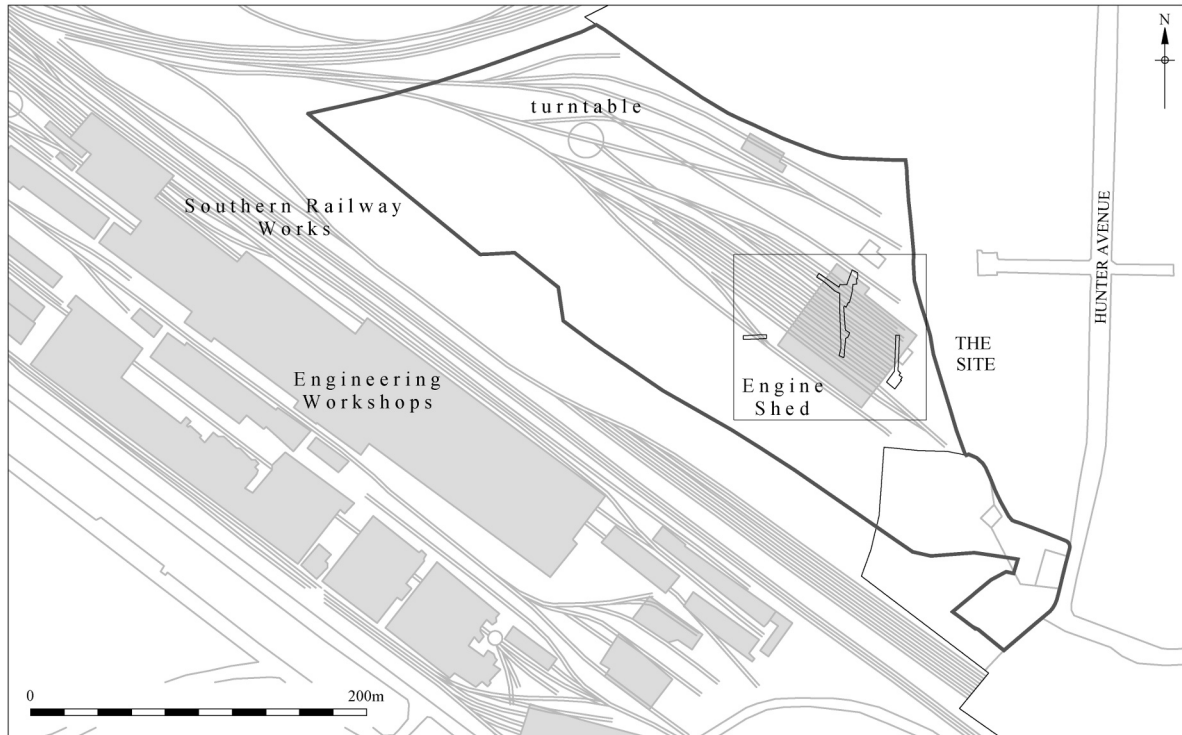
All of the above features were sealed by subsoil [229], which extended along the eastern side of the site, whilst to the west much of it had been removed by truncation from the industrial phase of development. It was around 0.12m thick with a surface elevation of between 41.31m OD and 40.40m OD. Cut into the subsoil in Area B was pond [246], located at the southern end of the site and only partly extant within the excavated area. Only the western side of the feature was revealed, which appeared as a curved cut extending from the eastern limit of excavation in a curvilinear arc that continued across site as far as the southern corner of the excavation. All of the area to the east comprised fills of this feature. Because of restrictions on excavation depths the feature was only revealed in plan. Two broad fills were recognised, the earliest of which was a light yellowish-green silty sand, which extended around the edge of the feature and is thought to represent episodes of natural deposition. Infilling the central part of the feature and dating to a later phase was a dark, almost black organic sandy silt that contained modern detritus, the interface between the two deposits being defined by a series of irregular wood fragments that may have represented a heavily disturbed revetment structure of recent date. The subsoil in Area A extended across all of that area and was approximately 0.35m thick with a surface level of c. 41.32m OD.

#### **Modern Topography (Archaeological Phase 7)**

Overlying the subsoil across Area A was a dark sandy clay topsoil [216] up to 0.35m thick and recorded at a surface level of around 41.32m OD. The subsoil in Area B was overlain by topsoil [310], which was up to 0.70m thick and had a surface level between 41.52m OD and 41.03m OD. Infilling the area to the west of the site and partly overlying the topsoil was a layer of demolition debris contained within a mixed soil matrix, which was between 0.30m and 0.50m thick and represented the most recent activity on the site prior to the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork.

Modern structural evidence comprising the remains of a range of structures and features associated with the previous function of the site as a railway goods yard was recorded in a number of the evaluation trenches. Although most of the site had been levelled and all above-ground material removed, extensive sub-surface material remained and in the centre of the site (Trenches 13, 16, 18, 19 and 20) the alignments of former buildings and railway tracks could be traced.

[See Fig. 16 below]



**Fig. 16: Railway features with 1933 Ordnance Survey map**

## THE LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE

by Barry Bishop

### Introduction

Archaeological excavations at the site resulted in the recovery of 29 pieces of struck flint. The struck pieces were recovered from a number of features provisionally dated to the Later Bronze Age and Iron Age periods and with some unstratified pieces also present. Few diagnostic implement types are present, although typological and technological traits indicate that the assemblage was probably manufactured during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and the later prehistoric periods. All metrical information follows the methodology established by Saville (1980).

### Quantification

A total of 29 struck flints was recovered (Table 1). Most of these were recovered from ditches and other features dating from between the Later Bronze Age and the Later Iron Age periods, with five coming from medieval or later features and deposits. Eleven of the pieces were recovered from a single feature, ditch [316] with the remainder being present in single or low numbers amongst other features.

### Raw Materials

The struck assemblage was all made from flint but two distinct types were identified. The most common, accounting for over 60% of the pieces, consisted of a fine-grained glassy flint of black, brown or grey hues containing frequent opaque grey inclusions. This includes at least one piece of 'bullhead bed' flint. The less common type consists of a coarser-grained mottled brown, grey and yellow 'cherty' flint that has a sugary texture. The glassy flint is of better knapping quality and has a thick and rough texture, indicating that it was probably obtained from sources close to the parent chalk, the nearest outcrops of which lie a few kilometres to the north of Ashford. The 'cherty' flint is of a lesser knapping quality although still clearly capable of making useable, if somewhat coarse, flakes. Its precise source is uncertain but it may have originated from the greensand, as present in the locality, and its somewhat lesser knapping qualities may have been off-set by it being more readily available in the vicinity of the site.

### Condition

The condition of the assemblage is varied, although most pieces do show some evidence of post-depositional damage. It is likely that most of the pieces were discarded on to contemporary surfaces and entered the features either from surface cleaning or through erosion. No *in situ* working or knapping foci were identified.

### Typology, Technology and Dating

No typologically diagnostic pieces were identified but the assemblage is clearly the product of two distinct flintworking traditions based on their technological attributes. This distinction is further emphasised by the use of the two differing types of raw materials, with the earlier material utilising the better quality 'glassy' flint and the later relying on the 'cherty' flint.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>
3	Decortication flake
16	Flake
2	Flake fragment
1	Blade-like flake
2	Blade
4	Retouched
1	Core
<b>29</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material**

The earlier material consists of a number of blades, blade-like flakes and flakes that are the product of a considered and systematic reduction strategy geared towards the manufacture of standardised flake forms. These pieces tend to be thin, have parallel dorsal scars and narrow, usually extensively edge-trimmed, striking platforms. Such techniques and attributes are typical of those of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic industries. The only retouched piece potentially belonging to this collection consists of an irregular blade from context [317] (Ditch [316]) that is possibly edge-trimmed along part of one of its lateral margins.

The later material consists of thicker and more crudely struck flakes that mostly have wide and obtuse striking platforms. They appear to be randomly struck from cores with unprepared striking platforms. A large burnt 'cherty' cobble from ditch [316] appears to have had a number of flakes removed on various alignments from around its perimeter although, due to the severity of its burning, it is not certain whether they were deliberately removed. Five of the 'cherty' flakes appear to be retouched although this was irregularly undertaken and no formal implement types are present (Table 2).

Interestingly, four of the retouched pieces from this phase of flintworking were recovered from ditch [316] and this may have been used to discard used implements from specific flint using activities. They all consist of flakes that have at least part of one edge steeply blunted and it is possible that they were all used as scraping tools. The techniques and implements representing this phase of flintworking are most characteristic of later prehistoric industries, particularly those dating to the late second and first millennia BC. Although it is difficult to refine the dating more precisely than this, it is quite possible that this material is at least broadly contemporary with the later prehistoric activity represented by the structural record.

## **Discussion**

Although the assemblage from Hunter Avenue is small, it represents at least two periods of flintworking. The earliest material is likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic although it is difficult to further elaborate upon the precise dating and nature of this activity because of the size of the assemblage and the lack of diagnostic implements.. The quantity of material present would suggest that occupation during this period was limited and perhaps involved task-specific activities by transient communities.

The remainder of the material is typical of later prehistoric industries and probably contemporary with the Later Bronze Age or Iron Age structural evidence. It includes flakes and expediently made tools. This material would be consistent with flintworking patterns noted for the later prehistoric period. Typically these are small in quantity, have a high utilization rate and are present in low densities scattered within settlements or across the field-systems. They represent opportunistic and short-lived knapping episodes whereby pieces of readily-to-hand raw materials were struck with little overall strategy or proficiency until suitable edges were procured. Once the task was completed, the flint would be discarded with little formality (cf. Young and Humphrey 1999; Humphrey 2003; 2007).

Context	Description
313	Squat flake with fine blunting or scraping type retouch around around much of its perimeter
317	Moderate convex retouch around distal end and moderate inverse steep flaking along part of right ventral - irregular/improvised scraper
317	Squat flake with irregular convex shallow to steep retouch around distal end
317	Deliberately broken - distal missing. Possible shallow retouch on left dorsal
317	Has odd 'keeled' striking platform - a type of retouch?

**Table 2: Details of 'Later' Retouched Implements**

## THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE

by Mike Seager Thomas

### Introduction

The prehistoric pottery from Hunter Avenue, which consists wholly of small context assemblages, comprises 111 sherds weighing just over one kilogram (see Table 3 in Appendix p. 49). It can be divided into three traditions/period groups: post Deverel-Rimbury, here probably dating to the Late Bronze Age but possibly incorporating some slightly later material; saucepan pot and so-called 'Wealden', dating to the Middle Iron Age; and 'Belgic', dating to the Late Iron Age. The bulk of the material (and probably the bulk of the features as well) are Middle Iron Age, with the post Deverel-Rimbury tradition represented by a handful of sherds only, most certainly from later features, and the Late Iron Age by a single distinguishable sherd.

### The Fabrics

The post Deverel-Rimbury pottery, most of which is heavily weathered, comprises a suite of just four flint-tempered fabrics ranging from fine to medium (*FMF*), to coarse (*MCF* and *CF1* and *CF2*):

Fabric *FMF* — 3–5% <0.5–2 mm burnt flint inclusions

Fabric *MCF* — 5% <0.5–3 mm burnt flint inclusions; fine sandy matrix

Fabric *CF1* — 3% <0.5–6 mm burnt flint inclusions. Surviving roughly burnished surfaces

Fabric *CF2* — 10–15% <0.5–4 mm burnt flint inclusions with some softer unidentifiable inclusions (chalk or grog)

Owing to a lack of feature sherds, not a single one of which was recovered, and the small size of the group overall, it is not possible to date it with certainty, but, while possibly an artefact of survival, the small number of fabrics, the apparent emphasis on flint-tempering and the mostly thin bodies of the sherds recovered, are together characteristic of an early, so-called 'plain ware' or 'undecorated' phase of the tradition, dateable to Late Bronze Age, and it is to this period therefore that it is attributed. Pottery belonging to the earlier post Deverel-Rimbury tradition is not particularly well known from the immediate area, but is widely and closely paralleled in assemblages from elsewhere in Kent and the surrounding counties, so the primary importance of the assemblage here is as yet another dot on the Late Bronze Age distribution map.

The Middle Iron Age pottery comprises a regionally distinct suite of one grog-tempered (*G*) and four quite similar burnished fabrics containing siderite nodules, one sandy (*FeQ*), two sandy with rare flint inclusions (*FeQF1* and *FeQF2*) and one with what looks like local Kentish Rag inclusions (*FeR*):

Fabric *G* — Unquantifiable grog; and nodular Fe inclusions. Roughly finished surfaces with a soapy feel

Fabric *FeQ* — 5% nodular 1–2 mm Fe inclusions; fine sandy matrix. Burnished surfaces

Fabric *FeQF1* — 5% nodular 1–2 mm Fe and 1–2% <0.5–1 mm burnt flint inclusions; fine to medium sandy matrix. Burnished surfaces

Fabric *FeQF2* — 5–10% nodular 1–5 mm Fe and 1–2% <0.5–1 mm burnt flint inclusions; fine sandy matrix. Burnished surfaces

Fabric *FeR* — Unquantifiable Fe and <1% 0.5–2 mm possible Kentish Rag inclusions. Burnished surfaces

In addition, a coarse sandy fabric from the site (*CQ*), which was not reliably associated with this suite but which has contemporary parallels elsewhere may also be of Middle Iron Age date.

These fabrics are quite friable and sherds in them have suffered considerable fragmentation, but, with the exception of fabric *CQ*, they are much less weathered than the post Deverel-Rimbury sherds with which they were associated, most retaining traces of their original burnished surfaces. Their Middle Iron Age credentials are established by the following:

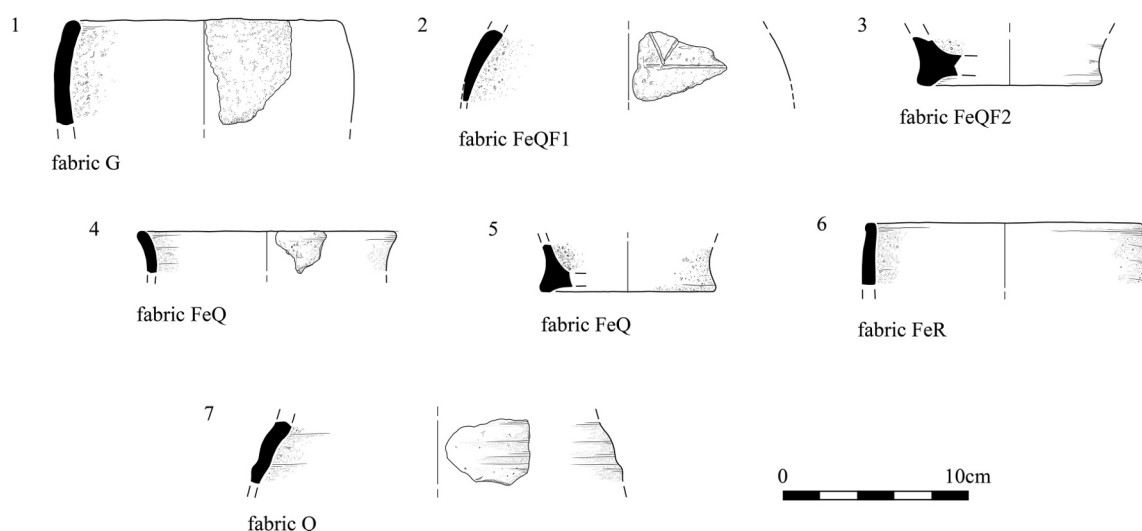
Firstly, they occur on site in reliably dated Middle Iron Age forms, including the saucepan pot (Figs 17.1 & 17.6), which, outside Kent, is widely distributed across southeast and south central England; two common so-called 'Wealden' or southeastern forms; the S-profile jar (Fig. 17.4) and what I have described elsewhere as the curviform jar, in this case with characteristic Middle Iron Age linear decoration (Fig. 17.2); and three foot-ring or pedestal bases (Figs. 17.3, 17.5 and an

unillustrated vessel from context [313]), a form with earlier Iron Age credentials but also very much part of the foregoing 'Wealden' Middle Iron Age koine. (For parallels and an up to date discussion of these vessel types see Seager Thomas 2010).

Secondly, a similar suite was present at nearby Hawkinge, where it was stratigraphically separated from large assemblages of so-called 'Marnian' pottery, south-east Kent's predominant Early Iron Age tradition, and 'Belgic' Late Iron Age pottery.

Lastly, they are distinguishable from earlier and later pottery from the immediate neighbourhood (e.g. from Park Farm East and Brisley Farm, the assemblages from which were dominated, respectively, by later post Deverel-Rimbury and 'Atrebat' Late Iron Age pottery).

The distinguishable Late Iron Age sherd comprises a 'Belgic' rippled shoulder (Fig.17.7). It is in a fine sandy fabric (Q) with a slightly soapy feel probably indicative of the presence of a fine grog fraction invisible to the unaided eye.



**Fig. 17: Prehistoric pottery**

## Discussion

The interest of the assemblage is two-fold. Kent Middle Iron Age pottery has not often been recognized as such and, as a result, is poorly understood (Champion 2007a). The recovery of an assemblage, albeit small and fragmented, that can be related to and clearly distinguished from (typologically and in terms of the fabrics comprising it), earlier and later pottery both from the site and nearby, is an essential first step towards its accurate characterization, both locally and regionally. Of particular note in this respect is the absence from the assemblage of 'Marnian' types, the dating of which has sometimes been stretched into the Middle Iron Age, perhaps in order to fill

the apparent gap, and the close association within it of saucepan and 'Wealden' types, the chronological attribution of which has been, if anything, even more flexible.

In addition, the assemblage places the Middle Iron Age locally in a wider regional context. Despite an alleged absence of saucepan pottery from the county during the period, it is significant that it incorporates sherds from two pots that are best reconstructed as such, albeit in local fabrics (a possible implication of this is that where saucepan pottery and/or the types of pottery with which it was associated at Hunter Avenue is absent locally, so is the Middle Iron Age). Similarly, the shift away from flint tempering at this period has analogues in immediately surrounding regions (specifically East Sussex, Greater London and parts of Surrey). There is no evidence however that, in terms of pottery, Hunter Avenue was integrated into a regional exchange/procurement network, the contemporary existence of which is indicated by the export of stone from the county and the movement of saucepan pottery outside it (Morris 1994; Seager Thomas 2005; 2010).

## **DISCUSSION**

Whilst by no means extensive, the limited archaeological evidence derived from the investigations at Hunter Avenue has added to the expanding dataset of information concerning the prehistoric and historic development of Ashford and the surrounding region. The evidence for Mesolithic and/or Early Neolithic activity has merely added another site to the list of those where occupation during these periods has been detected, whereas the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age evidence is important as it adds to a growing body of information concerning the development of agricultural landscapes within the vicinity of Ashford, the broader Stour valley and the still wider later prehistoric landscape of Kent. Of particular importance here is the evidence for activity during the Middle Iron Age, which until relatively recently has seldom been recognised on archaeological sites across Kent (Champion 2007a). The evidence from Hunter Avenue therefore is useful in further understanding the development of the Ashford area and the Stour Valley, but is also important in filling in one of the gaps in understanding of county-wide later prehistoric developments.

Although the extent of actual archaeological evidence from the Hunter Avenue site is somewhat limited as a result of extensive truncation across the site, it has been possible to define four broad phases of later prehistoric activity from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age. Most, if not all of the evidence suggests the succession of field system features laid out across the site over these phases, with little evidence of domestic occupation. A number of sites in the area have demonstrated field systems or other activity originating in the Middle or Late Bronze Age, as has been shown at Hunter Avenue, but in most cases there has been an apparent hiatus in activity after the Late Bronze Age, with landscape exploitation not being detected again until the Late Iron Age. This hiatus in activity has been recognised at Foster Road, for example, a little more than 1km to the south-east (Powell and Birbeck 2011) and some sites on the CTRL (e.g. Hayden 2001; OAU 1999a). The evidence for the Early and Middle Iron Age from Hunter Avenue, therefore has partly plugged what is still quite a large gap in the later prehistoric chronology of the area. Little

Stock Farm, Mersham is one of the few sites in the area where evidence from these periods has been forthcoming; a small number of features dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age were recognised along with a settlement area, droveways and possible waterholes, dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age (Ritchie and Fitzpatrick 2006). One of the most significant investigations of the CTRL programme, in terms of this period, was at Beechbrook Wood to the north-west of Ashford, where evidence of a rare Middle Iron Age settlement was identified (Brady *et al.* 2006).

Although somewhat sparse, the evidence for continuity and development subsequent to the Middle Iron Age provides supplementary data to the growing body of evidence that is shedding further light on the later prehistoric development of the Stour Valley. Again, the continuity from the Middle to Late Iron Age in Kent has until relatively recently, not been well understood or the evidence not recognised, though a few sites, albeit with limited evidence, are coming to light. For example, at Lodge Wood approximately 1km north-west of Ashford, a pit and a ditch containing transitional Mid-Late Iron Age pottery were recorded during the CTRL programme (Hayden 2000a), and further to the north-west, evidence of Mid-Late Iron Age metal-working was recorded at Tutt Hill, also as part of works associated with the CTRL (Brady and Barclay 2006). The site at Beechbrook Wood is again important here as there was some continuity from the Middle to Late Iron Age, the earlier settlement occupation being followed by industrial and funerary activity (Brady *et al.* 2006). At Park Farm East there was also some later prehistoric continuity, with a Late Iron Age enclosure being associated with an earlier, Mid-Late Iron Age farmstead, and settlement continuing into the Romano-British period (Wessex Archaeology 2004). Only a single feature of Late Iron Age date was recognised at Hunter Avenue but it is likely that evidence was more extensive prior to widespread modern truncation across the site. Numerous sites in the area have demonstrated the existence of Late Iron Age field systems, and in many cases these continued in use into the Roman period. Foster Road (Powell and Birbeck 2011), Boys Hall balancing pond (Hayden 2000b) and Blind Lane Sevington (Hayden 2001) are just three nearby examples of this phenomenon, but at Hunter Avenue, whilst the earlier continuity was detected, the continuity into the post-conquest period was not.

The lack of evidence for activity between late prehistory and the medieval period at Hunter Avenue may be due to one or more factors; there may have been a real break in occupation, activities may have taken place that left little or no visible archaeological trace, or recent developments may have destroyed evidence of activity during the 'missing' periods. These periods are probably of less importance in relation to the site than those preceding and subsequent developments, but they have been detected elsewhere in the vicinity. The evidence for occupation in the Roman period is widespread around Ashford, particularly to the south of the town where archaeological investigations at Park Farm and Westhawk Farm, for example, have recorded extensive evidence of occupation. At other sites such as Foster Road and further examples in the Boys Hall area, less intensive Romano-British activity has also been detected, so it is perhaps surprising that evidence from this period is largely absent from Hunter Avenue. The evidence for activity during the Anglo-Saxon period however, is rather more limited in the Ashford area so the absence at Hunter Avenue is perhaps not unexpected. However, evidence of Early/Middle Saxon activity was detected at Foster Road (Powell and Birbeck 2011) and settlement and

metal-working on land to the south of the Church of St John The Baptist, Mersham originated in the Late Saxon period (Helm and Munby 2006).

The evidence of medieval activity at Hunter Avenue was sparse but gave an indication of the exploitation of the landscape at this time. It is therefore useful in supplementing the data concerning activity and development in the Ashford area and the Stour Valley during the Middle Ages. This data has come not only from site-specific investigations as outlined above but also from more general surveys such as watching briefs carried out early on during the CTRL projects. The scant remains of medieval field ditches at Hunter Avenue are therefore probably comparable with such features observed widely during watching briefs, such as those at Sevington, to the south-east of the site (Diez 2003). The site was located between the medieval settlements of Ashford and Sevington so evidence of activity in their hinterlands is probably to be expected.

Evidence for early post-medieval activity at Hunter Avenue was rather more extensive than for the medieval period and has provided information not only suggesting a continuity of landscape exploitation, comparable perhaps with the findings from CTRL sites such as Park Wood Cottage, Mersham (Wessex Archaeology 1999a) and east of Station Road, Smeeth (OAU 1999d), but possibly also of the early development of Ashford in the 16th to 18th centuries. Finally, the development of the railway depot, although seriously compromising earlier archaeological deposits, was important in the expansion of Ashford in the recent past. The railways were after all an important factor in the expansion and development of the modern town.

The archaeological findings from Hunter Avenue are of importance at a local and possibly also at a regional level. They have demonstrated a continuity of landscape exploitation for a considerable time during later prehistory, which is of use in furthering an understanding of the development of the Ashford area and more widely the Kent landscape. An apparent break in occupation between later prehistory and the medieval period may be explained by a number of possible factors relating to site modification and truncation. There was certainly activity in the area in the medieval period, again probably dominated by agricultural exploitation of the landscape. This continued into the earlier post-medieval and is important in understanding the early development of Ashford. Finally the site was largely developed in the 20th century as a railway goods depot, which has its own unique place in Ashford's history.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of his client, Fairview New Homes, who funded the fieldwork. Thanks also Wendy Rogers, who monitored the archaeological fieldwork on behalf of Kent County Council.

The authors would like to thank the project manager Tim Bradley and Jon Butler for post-excavation management and support. Further thanks are extended to all

members of the post-excavation assessment team who have contributed to the post-excavation assessment and this report: Lucy Allott, Barry Bishop, Märit Gaimster, Kevin Hayward, Chris Jarrett, Kevin Rielly and Mike Seager-Thomas. Also many thanks to Hayley Baxter for her work on the illustrations in this report; to Nathalie Barrett for surveying; to Strephon Duckering for photography; to Rob Nicholson for finds processing and to staff at QUEST for environmental processing.

Finally, thanks to all those who worked on the site, whose contribution is greatly appreciated: Jim Heathcote, Stuart Holden, Chris Rees, Guy Seddon, Stuart Watson and Sophie White. Thanks also to Lisa Lonsdale for technical support.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ackroyd, L. J. and Bellhouse, R. L. 1939 'A Round Barrow on Wye Downs'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 51, 215–7.
- Allen, T. 2000 *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Court Lodge Farm, Kingsnorth, near Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2000/187.
- Allott, L. 2011 'Appendix 9: Charred Plant Macrofossil and Wood Charcoal Assessment', in P. Boyer and J. Payne, *Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on Land at Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report, 103–5.
- Anderson, I. 1985 'Crundale Limeworks'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 102, 242–3.
- Anderson, I. 1994 *Archaeological Evaluation, Ball Lane, Kennington 1994*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 1994/3.
- ASE 2006 *Brisley Farm, Ashford*. Archaeology South-East website <http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk/04-projects/Kent/Brisley-Farm/index.htm> (accessed 23rd April 2012)
- ASE 2009 *Archaeological Investigation of Land at Missenden, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford: Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design for Publication*. Archaeology South-East unpublished report.
- Ashbee, P. 1996 'Julliberrie's Grave, Chilham: Retrospection and Perception'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 106, 1–33.
- Ashbee, P. 2005 *Kent in Prehistoric Times*. Stroud: Tempus.
- Bagg, S. c. 1985 *A Chronology of Ashford 866 AD–1984*, 1. Kent County Library Service.
- Barton, R. N. E. 2008 'Mesolithic Flint' in P. Booth, A-M. Bingham and S. Lawrence, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, 23–4.

- Bennett, P. 1984 'Crundale Limeworks'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 101, 285–9.
- Bennett, P. 1988 'Archaeology and the Channel Tunnel'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 106, 2, 4.
- Bennett, P. 1992 'Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, Ashford. Interim Report'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 110, 375–6.
- Booth, P. 2001 'The Roman Shrine at Westhawk Farm, Ashford: A preliminary Account'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 121, 1–23.
- Booth, P., Bingham, A.-M. & Lawrence, S. 2008 *The Roman Roadside Settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: Excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2.
- Booth, P. and Everson, P. 1994 'Earthwork Survey and Excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington, Ashford'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 114, 411–34.
- Booth, P. and Lawrence, S. 2000 'Westhawk Farm'. *Current Archaeology* 168, 478–81.
- Boxwood Laboratories Ltd 2007 Geotechnical Investigation at Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent. Boxwood Laboratories Ltd, unpublished report.
- Boyer, P. 2012 *Archaeological Investigations on land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent*. [www.kentarchaeology.ac](http://www.kentarchaeology.ac)
- Bradshaw, J. 1965 'Late Bronze Age Barrow, Boughton Aluph'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 80, 258.
- Bradshaw, J. 1966 'Godmersham'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 81, liii.
- Bradshaw, J. 1968 'Godmersham'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 83, 253.
- Bradshaw, J. 1970a 'Wye'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 85, 177–8.
- Bradshaw, J. 1970b 'Westwell'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 85, 179–80.
- Bradshaw, J. 1971 'Ashford'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 86, 237.
- Bradshaw, J. 1972 'Wye'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 87, 233.
- Brady, K. and Barclay, A. 2006 *The prehistoric landscape at Tutt Hill, Westwell, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Brady, K., Barclay, A. and Fitzpatrick, A. 2006 *The prehistoric and Roman landscape at Beechbrook Wood, Westwell, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).

- Brinson, J. G. S. 1943 'Two Burial Groups of Belgic Age, Hothfield Common, Near Ashford'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 56, 41–7.
- CAT 1999 *Archaeological Evaluation Report: East of Mersham*. Canterbury: Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- CAT 2000 'Mersham Metal-Working Site'. *Current Archaeology* 168, 466.
- Champion, T. 2007a 'Settlement in Kent from 1500 to 300 BC', in C. Haselgrove and R. Pope (eds.), *The Earlier Iron Age in Britain and the Near Continent*. Oxford: Oxbow, 239–305.
- Champion, T. 2007b 'Prehistoric Kent', in J. H. Williams (ed.) *The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press/Kent County Council, 67–133.
- Cook, N. 1936 'Anglo-Saxon'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 48, 235.
- Deeves, S. 2002 *Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at South Willesborough, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report.
- Deeves, S. 2007 'Excavation of an Iron Age and Saxon Site at South Willesborough, Ashford'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 127, 237–47.
- Detsicas, A. P. 1975 'A Romano-British Building at Charing'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 91, 107–10.
- Diez, V. 2003 *CTRL Project Area 440, Archaeological Watching Briefs ARC 440 99*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Diez, V. and Booth, P. 2006a *The Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Leda Cottages, Westwell, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Diez, V. and Booth, P. 2006b *The Roman settlement at Bower Road, Smeeth, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Eames, J. 1957 'A Roman Bath-House at Little Chart, Kent'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 71, 130–46.
- Eastbury, E. and Blackmore, L. 2010 'Excavations at Boys Hall Road, Willesborough, Ashford'. Museum of London Archaeology. *Kent Archaeological Society eArchaeological Reports* [www.kentarchaeology.ac](http://www.kentarchaeology.ac) (accessed 23rd April 2012)
- Elliston-Erwood, F. C. 1952 'Plans of, and Brief Architectural Notes on, Kent Churches'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 65, 140–9.

- Found, B. 2005 *An archaeological Watching brief at 'Site J2', adjacent to Boys Hall Moat, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2005/53.
- Gailey, S. 2008 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Addendum: Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. CgMs Consulting, unpublished report.
- Gaimster, M. 2011 'Appendix 6: Metal and Small Finds Assessment', in P. Boyer and J. Payne, *Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on Land at Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report, 98.
- Glass, H. J. 1999 'Archaeology of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 119, 189–220.
- Gollop, A. 2003 *Archaeological Evaluation of land at Millbank Reception Centre, Millbank Place, Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2003/113.
- Griffin, N. 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation at the Site of the Proposed Ashford Singleton Church of England (Aided)/Methodist primary School, Singleton, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report.
- Grove, L. R. A. and Warhurst, A. 1952 'A thirteenth-century kiln site at Ashford'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 65, 183–7.
- Hayden, C. 2000a *Boys Hall Balancing Pond Post Excavation Assessment Report*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Hayden, C. 2000b *Lodge Wood, Ashford, Kent ARC 430/87+300–87+800/99. Watching Brief Assessment Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Hayden, C. 2001 *West of Blind Lane, Sevington, Kent ARC BLN 98. Detailed Archaeological Works Assessment Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Hayward, K. 2011 'Appendix 5: Building Material Assessment' in P. Boyer and J. Payne, *Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on Land at Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report, 93–7.
- Heard, K. A. 1997 *West of Station Road, Parsonage Farm ARC PFM97. An archaeological evaluation*. London: Museum of London Archaeological Services (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Helm, R. and Munby, J. 2006 *Medieval ironworking evidence at Mersham, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).

- Hicks, M. 1992 *Archaeological Assessment, Park Farm, Ashford, TR011395, Land Parcel 13*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 1992/10.
- Hicks M. 1993 'Park Farm, Ashford'. *Canterbury's Archaeology 1992–1993*, 41–2. Canterbury Archaeological Trust 17th Annual Report.
- Hill, J. and Munby, J. 2006 *The medieval moated site at Parsonage Farm, Westwell, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Hopkinson, D. and Kenyon, D. 1998 *Millbank Road, Ashford, Kent: Watching Brief Report*. AOC Archaeology, unpublished report.
- Humphrey, J. 2003 'The Utilization and Technology of Flint in the British Iron Age' in J. Humphrey (ed.), *Re-searching the Iron Age: selected papers from the proceedings of the Iron Age research student seminars, 1999 and 2000*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 11, 17–23.
- Humphrey, J. 2007 'Simple Tools for Tough Tasks or Tough Tools for Simple tasks? Analysis and Experiment in Iron Age Flint Utilisation', in C. Haselgrove and R. Pope (eds.) *The Earlier Iron Age in Britain and the near Continent*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 144–59.
- James, R. 1997 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Faversham Road, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report.
- James, R. 2000 *An Archaeological Evaluation at HM Prison, Aldington, Kent*. Archaeology South-East Report No. 1320.
- Jarrett, C. 2011 'Appendix 4: Post-Roman Pottery Assessment' in P. Boyer and J. Payne, *Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on Land at Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report, 90–2.
- Johnson, C. 1999 *Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent: Phase I: Interim Statement*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report.
- Keller, P. 1993 'Excavations at Charing 1992'. *Kent Archaeological Review* 112, 36–7.
- Lamdin-Whymark, H. 2008 'Neolithic and Bronze Age Flint' in P. Booth, A-M. Bingham and S. Lawrence, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, 24–5.
- Lawrie, L. 2004 *Ashford. A History and Celebration*, 11. Salisbury: Frith Book Company Ltd.

- Linklater, A. 1998 *Ashford Orbital Park: archaeological watching brief*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, unpublished report.
- Lucas, V. A. L. And Paynter, S. 2010 *Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent: Analysis of crucibles from the Iron Age Settlement*. Portsmouth: English Heritage Research Department Report Series no. 30-2010.
- MoLAS 1998 *West of Blind Lane ARC BLN 97. An Archaeological Evaluation*. London: Museum of London Archaeological Services (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- MoLAS 1999a *South of Beechbrook Wood ARC BWD 98. Archaeological Excavation Interim Report*. London: Museum of London Archaeological Services (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- MoLAS 1999b *Parsonage Farm ARC PFM 98. Archaeological Excavation Interim Report*. London: Museum of London Archaeological Services (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- MoLAS 2000 'Parsonage Farm, Westwell'. *Current Archaeology* 168, 465.
- Morris, E. 1994 'Production and distribution of pottery and salt in Iron Age Britain: a review', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 60, 371–93.
- Morris, W. 1842 *The History and Topography of Wye*. London.
- OAU 1993 *Excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington*. Oxford Archaeological Unit, unpublished report.
- OAU 1995 *Land at Bridge Street, Wye, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation*. Oxford Archaeological Unit, unpublished report.
- OAU 1999a *West of Blind Lane, Sevington, Kent ARC BLN 98. Detailed Archaeological Works Interim Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- OAU 1999b *Boys Hall Balancing Pond, Sevington, Kent ARC BHB 99. Strip Map and Sample Archaeological Works Interim Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- OAU 1999c *East of Newlands, Charing Heath, Kent ARC NEW 98. Detailed Archaeological Works Interim Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- OAU 1999d *Church Lane, Smeeth, Kent ARCCHL 98 & East of Station Road, Smeeth, Kent ARCSTR 99. Detailed Archaeological Works Interim Report Final*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Parfitt, K. and Corke, B. 2005 *The North School, Ashford, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Report No. 2005/8.

- Parkinson, A. 1999 *Lodge Wood, Ashford, Kent: archaeological evaluation report/ environmental statement: Route Window No. 31*. Oxford Archaeological Unit, unpublished report.
- Philp, B. 1991 'Excavations on the Orbital Park Site – Ashford'. *Kent Archaeological Review* 104, 74–7.
- Philp, B. 1992 *Excavations at Brett's Sand Pit, Charing: Draft Report*. Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, unpublished report.
- Powell, A. 2012. Excavations South-East of Park Farm, Ashford, Kent. *Kent Archaeological Society eArchaeological Reports* [www.kentarchaeology.ac](http://www.kentarchaeology.ac)
- Powell, A. B. and Birbeck, V. 2011 'Excavation of a multi-period site at Foster Road, Ashford, 2006'. Wessex Archaeology. *Kent Archaeological Society eArchaeological Reports* [www.kentarchaeology.ac](http://www.kentarchaeology.ac) (accessed 23rd April 2012)
- Priestley-Bell, G. 1999 *Post-excavation assessment of Brett's Charing Sand Pit, Tile Lodge Farm, Charing, Kent*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report.
- Priestley-Bell, G. 2000 *An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Hothfield Works Site, Watery Lane, Westwell, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report No. 1196.
- Rady J. 1992 'Waterbrook Farm, Ashford'. *Canterbury's Archaeology 1991–1992*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust 16th Annual Report, 32–4.
- Rady J. 1996 'Waterbrook Farm, Ashford'. *Canterbury's Archaeology 1994–1995*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 38–9.
- Rady, J. 2000 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Crowbridge Road, Orbital Park, Ashford, Kent*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, unpublished report No. 2000/9.
- Rielly, K. 2011 'Appendix 7: Animal Bone Assessment' in P. Boyer and J. Payne, *Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on Land at Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report, 99–101.
- Rigold, S. E. 1962 'Excavation of a Moated Site at Pivington'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* 77, 27–47.
- Ritchie, R. and Fitzpatrick, A. 2006 *The prehistoric settlement at Little Stock Farm, Mersham, Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (London and Continental Railways).
- Roycroft, N. 1997 *East of Newlands: an archaeological evaluation*. MoLAS, unpublished report.
- Russell, M. 1993 *Archaeological Excavation at Boys Hall Moat, Sevington, Ashford, Kent*. Oxford Archaeological Unit, unpublished report.

- Saville, A. 1980 On the Measurement of Struck Flakes and Flake Tools. *Lithics* 1, 16–20.
- Seager Thomas, M. 2005 'Understanding Iron Age Norton', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 143, 83–115.
- Seager Thomas, M. 2010 'A re-contextualization of the prehistoric pottery from the Surrey hillforts of Hascombe, Holmbury and Anstiebury', *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 95, 1–33.
- Seddon, G. 2005 *An Archaeological Evaluation of land at the former HM Prison, Aldington, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report.
- Stevens, S. 1997 *South of Beechbrook Wood ARC BWD97. An Archaeological Evaluation*. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Stevenson, J. 2003a *An Archaeological Evaluation of Phases 6 & 7 at Brisley Farm (Charterfields), Chilmington Green, Ashford*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report.
- Stevenson, J. 2003b *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Bilham Farm, Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent*. Archaeology South-East, unpublished report.
- Stevenson, J. and Johnson, C. 2004 'Brisley Farm, The last Iron Age warriors of Kent?'. *Current Archaeology* 191, 490–6.
- SWAT 2007 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Hunter Avenue, Ashford, Kent*. Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company, unpublished report.
- Ward, A. 1995 *A Watching Brief at Park Farm Moated Site, Kingsnorth, Nr Ashford*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, unpublished report.
- Webster, L. and Cherry, J. 1976 'Medieval Britain in 1975'. *Medieval Archaeology* 20, 158–201.
- Webster, L. and Cherry, J. 1980 'Medieval Britain in 1979'. *Medieval Archaeology* 24, 218–64.
- Welsh, K. 1998 *Station Road to Church Lane, Sellindge, Kent ARC SCL 97. Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Wenban-Smith, F. 2007 'The Palaeolithic archaeology of Kent', in J. H. Williams (ed.), *The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press/Kent County Council, 25–65.

- Wessex Archaeology 1999a *Archaeological evaluation at Park Wood Cottage (ARC PWC99), nr Mersham, Kent. Environmental Statement Window Route 34. Final Fieldwork Report*. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Wessex Archaeology 1999b *Archaeological evaluation at Little Stock Farm (ARC LSF99), nr Mersham, Kent. Environmental Statement Window Route 34. Final Interim Report*. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology (Union Railways (South) Ltd.).
- Wessex Archaeology 2004 *Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent: Post-excavation assessment report and updated project design*. Wessex Archaeology, unpublished report.
- Wilson, D. M. and Hurst, J. G. 1957 'Medieval Britain in 1956'. *Medieval Archaeology* 1, 147–71.
- Wilson, J. 1990 *Orbital Industrial Park, Boys Hall, Ashford, Kent. An Archaeological Evaluation*. Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit Report No. 1990/22.
- Winton, V. 2008 'Palaeolithic Finds,' in P. Booth, A-M. Bingham and S. Lawrence, *The Roman roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent: excavations 1998–9*. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 2, 17–23.
- Wragg, E. 2002 *Park Farm South, Ashford, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report.
- Wragg, E. 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation: Park Farm East, Ashford, Kent*. CgMs Consulting, unpublished report.
- Wragg, E. 2006 *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Missenden, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., unpublished report.
- Wymer J. J. 1999 *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*. Wessex Archaeology/English Heritage.
- Wymer, J. J. and Bonsall, C. J. 1977 *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales with a gazetteer of Upper Palaeolithic sites in England and Wales*. London: CBA Research Report 20.
- Young, R. and Humphrey, J. 1999 'Flint Use in England after the Bronze Age: time for a re-evaluation?' *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 65, 231–42.

## APPENDIX

**Table 3: Prehistoric Pottery Quantification and Dating**

Context	Fabric	Number of sherds	Weight in grams	Diagnostics	Pottery date(s)
45	<i>U</i>	1	1	Too small	ND
75	<i>FeQ</i>	3	6	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
210	<i>G</i>	1	1	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
215	<i>FeQ</i>	1	5	Fabric with MIA associations; quartz grade similar to <i>FeQF</i>	MIA
219	<i>CQ</i>	5	5	None	ND
221	<i>CQ</i>	3	20	None	ND
	<i>MCF</i>	1	6	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA
227	<i>FeQF</i> 1	1	8	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
233	<i>G</i>	5	45	Fabric with MIA associations; rim of MIA plain saucepan pot or EIA open mouthed convex-sided jar — (Fig. 17.1)	MIA
	<i>FeQF</i> 1	6	42	MIA grove decorated body sherd — (Fig. 17.2)	MIA
	<i>FeQF</i> 2	3	45	Fabric with MIA associations; EIA or MIA pedestal/ foot-ring base — (Fig. 17.3)	MIA
	<i>FeQ</i>	11	38	Rim of MIA S-shaped jar — (Fig. 17.4)	MIA
	<i>CF1</i>	1	55	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA
	<i>MCF</i>	3	35	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA
244	<i>U</i>	1	1	None	ND
251	<i>FeQ</i>	20	250	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
	<i>MCF</i>	1	21	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA
255	<i>U</i>	1	1	None	ND
261	<i>CF2</i>	1	3	PDR-type fabric	LBA
265	<i>CF2</i>	1	1	PDR-type fabric	LBA
271	<i>FeQF</i> 1	1	5	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
279	<i>FeQF</i> 2	3	15	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
284	<i>CF2</i>	2	30	PDR-type fabric	LBA
296	<i>G</i>	1	25	Fabric with MIA associations	MIA
	<i>FeQ</i>	10	105	Fabric with MIA associations; EIA or MIA footring/ pedestal base — (Fig. 17.5)	MIA
	<i>FeR</i>	3	13	Rim of thin-bodied MIA saucepan pot — (Fig. 17.6)	MIA
	<i>MCF</i>	1	1	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA
313	<i>Q</i>	1	15	LIA-type (Belgic) rippled shoulder — (Fig. 17.7)	LIA
	<i>FeQ</i>	8	145	Fabric with MIA associations; EIA or MIA pedestal base	MIA
317	<i>FeQ</i>	1	5	Fabric with MIA associations; rim of MIA (?)S-shaped jar (possibly same vessel as pedestal base from 317)	MIA
	<i>CF2</i>	7	130	PDR-type fabric	LBA
319	<i>FMF</i>	1	5	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA
	<i>CF</i>	2	11	PDR-type fabric	LBA–EIA

U = unknown; ND = not dated. Otherwise see main text