A report on the excavations at Smallhythe Place, Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent.

Site Code: KT SMA 21

NGR: 589370 130000

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1. Introduction and Summary

1.1 Seven Trenches comprising a total of approximately 74sq m along with eighteen auger holes were excavated in the garden of Smallhythe Place and the adjacent Forstal and Elfwick fields between the 2nd and 13th of August 2021. The excavations were commissioned by the National Trust, and the site staff comprised professional archaeologists, students and volunteers from Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG) and the National Trust. The project as a whole was directed by Nathalie Cohen, the field excavations by Eliott Wragg, the augering by Jane Sidell and the finds processing by Mathew J. Champion. This document forms an interim report which will be augmented and superseded by the results of the second phase of excavations currently planned for August 2022.

1.2 A small Romano- British settlement, represented by possibly two phases of robbed out building, possible grave, possible droveway and boundary ditch, probably dating from the later 1st to the later 3rd centuries AD, appears to have been associated with the supply, probably of iron and/or timber, of the *Classis Britannica*.

The presence of a Medieval brick kiln, first suggested by the 1998 Time Team excavations, was confirmed, along with a yard surface of similar date. No further structural evidence of shipbuilding or maritime industries was found although further finds of nails and roves continue to suggest the presence of such activity. A possible yard surface dating to this period was found in the north of site to the west of the Tenterden Road, suggesting occupation in this area. It appears that the Medieval shoreline comprised a sandy beach in the Elfwick Field, becoming dry land between c.40m and c.55m north of the Reading Sewer, while in the garden of Smallhythe Place and the Forstal Field no evidence of sand was found, it being suggested that this area may have been artificially wharfed probably along a line around 29m north of the Reading Sewer. No evidence of the 'great fire' of 1514 or 15 was recorded.

Evidence of later post- medieval made- ground and landscaping was recorded in the garden of Smallhythe Place and the Forstal Field, along with later 19th/early 20th century domestic refuse possibly associated with Ellen Terry and/or Edy Craig.

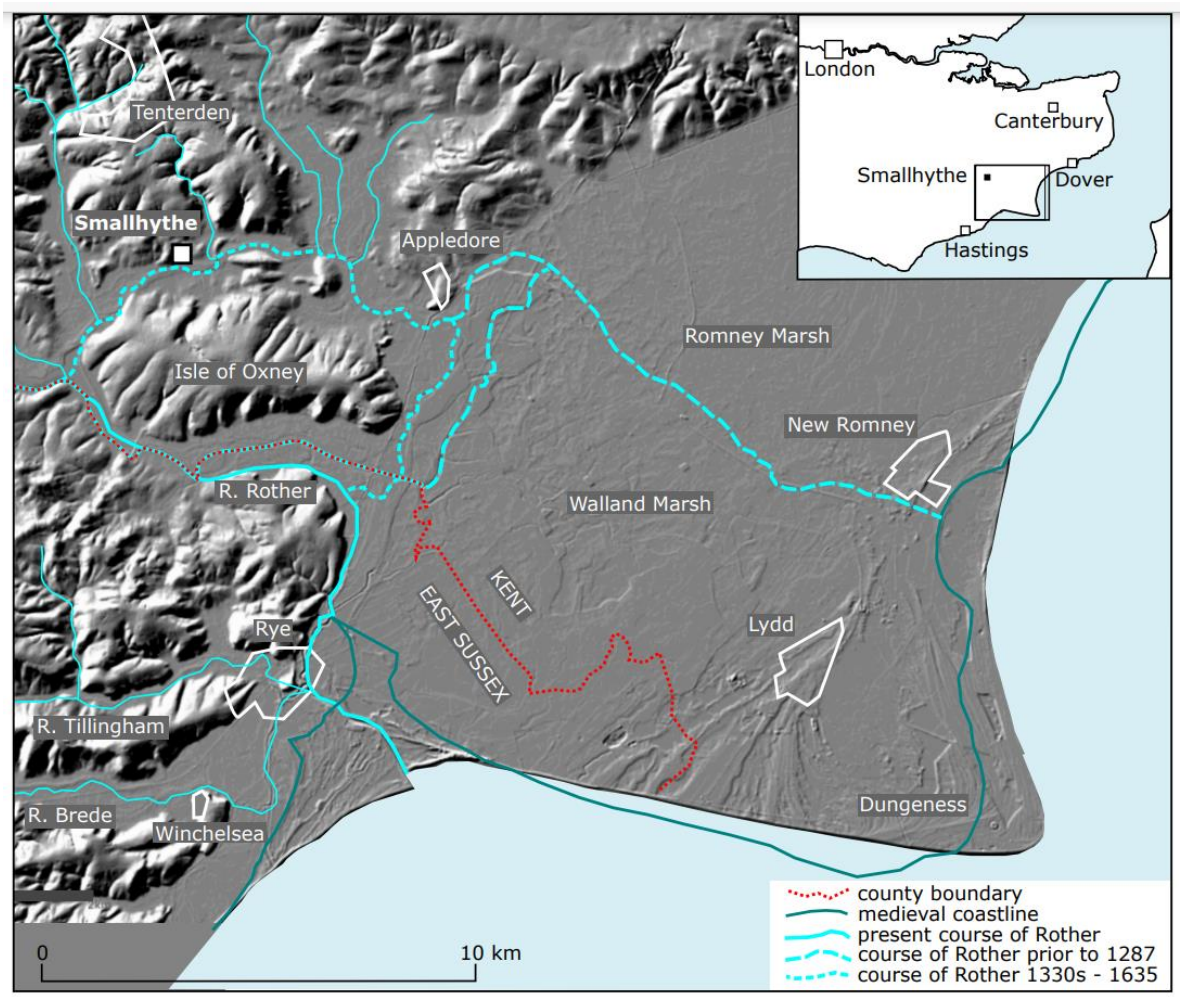

Figure 1: Site location

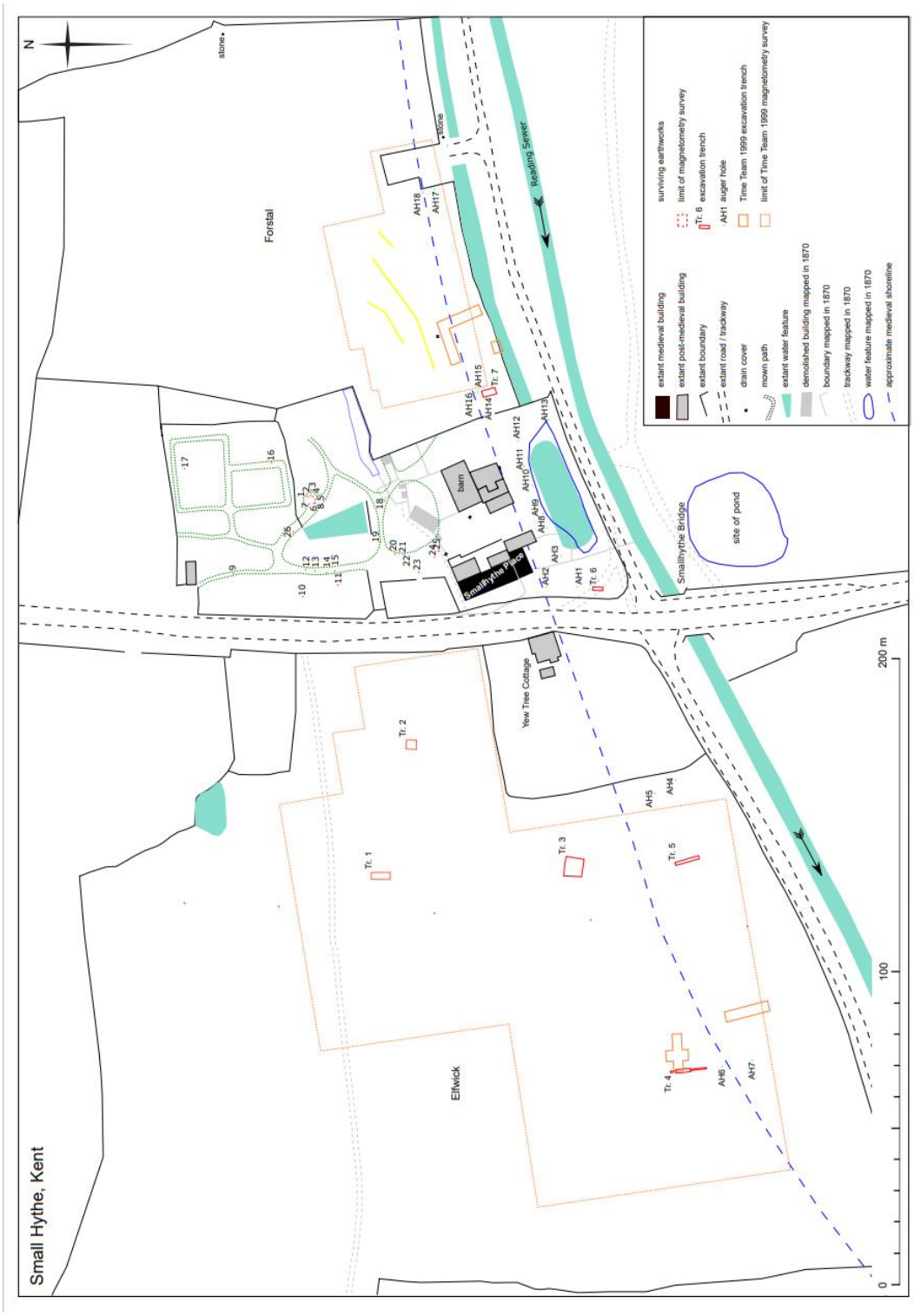

Figure 2: Trench and auger hole location

2. Geology and Topography

2.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying geology of the site comprises Wadhurst Clay Formation with possible tidal flat deposits.

2.2 The western part of the site in the Elfwick field sloped down from around 9.30m OD in the north to 3.70m OD in the south, while the eastern part in the garden and the Forstal field sloped down from around 5.00m OD in the northwest to around 4.00m OD in the south.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

3.1.1 There is sparse evidence for prehistoric activity across Romney Marsh as a whole, with the exception of the area of the Lydd shingle barrier, although there is some evidence of usage of the marshland to the east of Smallhythe (James *et al*, 2005: 10), while substantial evidence of Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/ Early Romano- British settlement was recorded in 2008 on the higher ground between Biddenden and Stubbs Cross, some 6 to 9km to the north.

3.1.2 There is no evidence for Romano- British activity within 2km of the site, although by the Late Iron Age/ Early Romano- British period the Weald was being exploited for iron, the marshland for salt extraction and a Romano- British military station has been recorded at Lympne (James *et al*, 2005: 10-11).

3.2 Medieval

3.2.1 Newenden, some 13km to the southwest was recorded in the *Domesday Book* of 1086 and developed as a crossing point of the River Rother to the west of the Isle of Oxney (James *et al*, 2005: 11).

3.2.2 The Great Storm of 1287 flooded New Romney and Old Winchelsea, dramatically altering the coastline and the course of the Rother so that it now met the sea at Rye rather than New Romney (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 12). The course of the Rother was deliberately further altered in the period 1289- 1348 from running through the Wittersham Level, west of Oxney, to running north and east of Oxney past Smallhythe which is first recorded around this time (Lutton 2006: 103), the main element of this work being the construction of the Knelle Dam in 1332 (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 11).

3.2.3 *The Black Book of St Augustine* possibly dating to the early/mid thirteenth century mentions Alan of *Smallide* (Smallhythe) along with a Henry and a John from either Hemelsham (part of Smallhythe) or Smallhythe itself, along with 'an unspecified number of "parceners" [sharers]'. Smallhythe at this period was part of the Manor of Snaves (Draper 2005: 18).

Smallhythe developed and prospered as the port of Tenterden, exporting cattle, wool, broadcloth, timber and charcoal, by the mid- fourteenth century enjoying an influx of population, particularly from the Low Countries and becoming a centre in its own right. (Lutton 2006: 105-6, Buttler *et al*, 2015: 13,38). Some indication of the prosperity and international trade links is given by ownership of what is now known as the Elfwick Field by the Knights Templar, while in 1364 a London ship owner and merchant had goods and £74 stolen from a ship at Smallhythe (Draper 2005: 15, 20). The settlement appears to have clustered along the road from Tenterden and around

Strand or *Stronde Syde* a road or track on the northern bank of the Rother (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 14, Draper 2005: 23).

3.2.4 It has been suggested that maritime activity at Smallhythe may have commenced as early as 1308, while the first mention of a vessel being built there occurs in 1342 (James *et al*, 2005: 12, Buttler *et al*, 2015: 12). Ship and boat building rapidly increased there and at Reading Street to the east, a number of known named vessels being built:

1364	*La Gabriel*	barge?		
1378	*La Saint Marie*	barge?		
1394	*Marie*		100 tons	
1400	*St Eneswythe*	barge		for New Romney
1410	*Marie*	barge	100 tons	
1416	*Jesus*	ship	1000 tons	
1416	*George*	ballinger	120 tons	
1486	*Regent*	ship	600 tons	built at Reading?
1497	*Mary Fortune*		80 tons	
1515	*Great Bark*			
1515	*Lesser Bark*			
1545	*Grand Mistress*	galleasse	450 tons	
1545	*Anne Gallant*	galleasse	450 tons	built at Reading?
1546	*Great Gallyon*	ship	300 tons	
?	*Lesser Gallyon*	ship	200 tons	built at Reading?

(Buttler *et al*, 2015: 33).

It seems likely that while the vessels were constructed at Smallhythe or Reading Street (or indeed at any suitable place between the two), the larger ones would be floated down the Rother as hulks to be fitted out at Winchelsea (Edison 2000: 107, Buttler *et al*, 2015: 19, 22).

3.2.5 Associated industries including brewers, salt manufacture, timber suppliers, haulage, iron smelters, blacksmiths, charcoal burners, rope, canvas and sailmakers became established (Lutton: 2006: 106, Buttler *et al*, 2015: 19).

3.2.6 Further impetus to Smallhythe's maritime and shipbuilding industries was given by the decline of the more traditional ports. At the beginning of the fourteenth century Winchelsea was an extremely prosperous port but by 1336 it was filling up with shingle and sand, and tolls were being levied on vessels to fund a breakwater. The exposed position of the coastal ports became a major problem during the Hundred Years. War when they became vulnerable to French raids- Winchelsea being

repeatedly burnt and sacked, while in 1360 the inhabitants were slaughtered. These assaults, combined with the effects of the Black Death, led to it being described in 1384 as 'once very well inhabited… but now so desolate and almost destroyed' (Edison 2000: 96). By the mid- fifteenth century Rye too had suffered so much from silting and enemy action that it could not meet its obligations as a Cinque Port and asked Tenterden to help, resulting in Tenterden (and thus Smallhythe) becoming a limb of Rye, confirmed by Royal Charter of Henry VI, 1st August 1449 (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 38).

3.2.6. Two Master Shipwrights' family names are known: Hoggskynes and Brygandine. In June 1421 Henry V visited Smallhythe and '…authorized a pension of 4d a day for John Hoggskynes, master carpenter, "because in labouring long about the ships he is much shaken and worsten of body". Roberts suggests that this may have come through the monumental effort to complete Smallhythe's largest ship, the *Jesus* of 1000 tons just five years earlier.', while Henry VII visited in 1487 '…but according to Roberts he made other visits to inspect the ships and is reputed to have had a friendly relationship with the shipbuilders.' (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 23-4).

Four related Brygandines are known to have worked at Smallhythe. Robert Brygandine, the most well- known, was Henry VII's Clerk of the King's Ships in 1495 at Portsmouth, where, amongst other duties, he oversaw the building of the first dry dock in England in 1496. He was also responsible for the construction at Woolwich of the *Henri Grace a Dieu* (launched 1514), her timbers being transported from Smallhythe, while a large number of shipwrights assembled at Tenterden before walking to Woolwich to work on her. Henry VIII visited Smallhythe on 28th August 1537 and was received by Master Shipwright John Brygandine. The Brygandines were local landowners and would lease riverside plots to their shipbuilding brethren as in 1497 for the building of the *Mary Fortune* (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 24). It appears that at this period Smallhythe had a permanent population of around 200, which would expand considerably when large vessels were under construction needing an influx of itinerant labour (Lutton 2006: 107, Buttler *et al*, 2015: 14).

3.2.7 On the 31st July 1514 or 15 (there is some discrepancy in the sources) a 'great fire' destroyed much of Smallhythe including the chapel. Such was the wealth of the community that they were able to pay for the rebuilding work, the chapel in 1516/17 and the remainder by the mid- 1520's (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 49-51, James *et al* 2005: 13)

3.2.8 In 1998 the site was investigated by Time Team, earthwork, geophysical and auger survey being undertaken and six trenches along with five test pits being dug (fig.3). A possible Medieval brick kiln was recorded, a number of iron roves associated with Medieval shipbuilding or repair were recovered along with a frame timber possibly from a small Medieval ship, while the presence of four slipways was suggested (Bellamy and Milne, 2003).

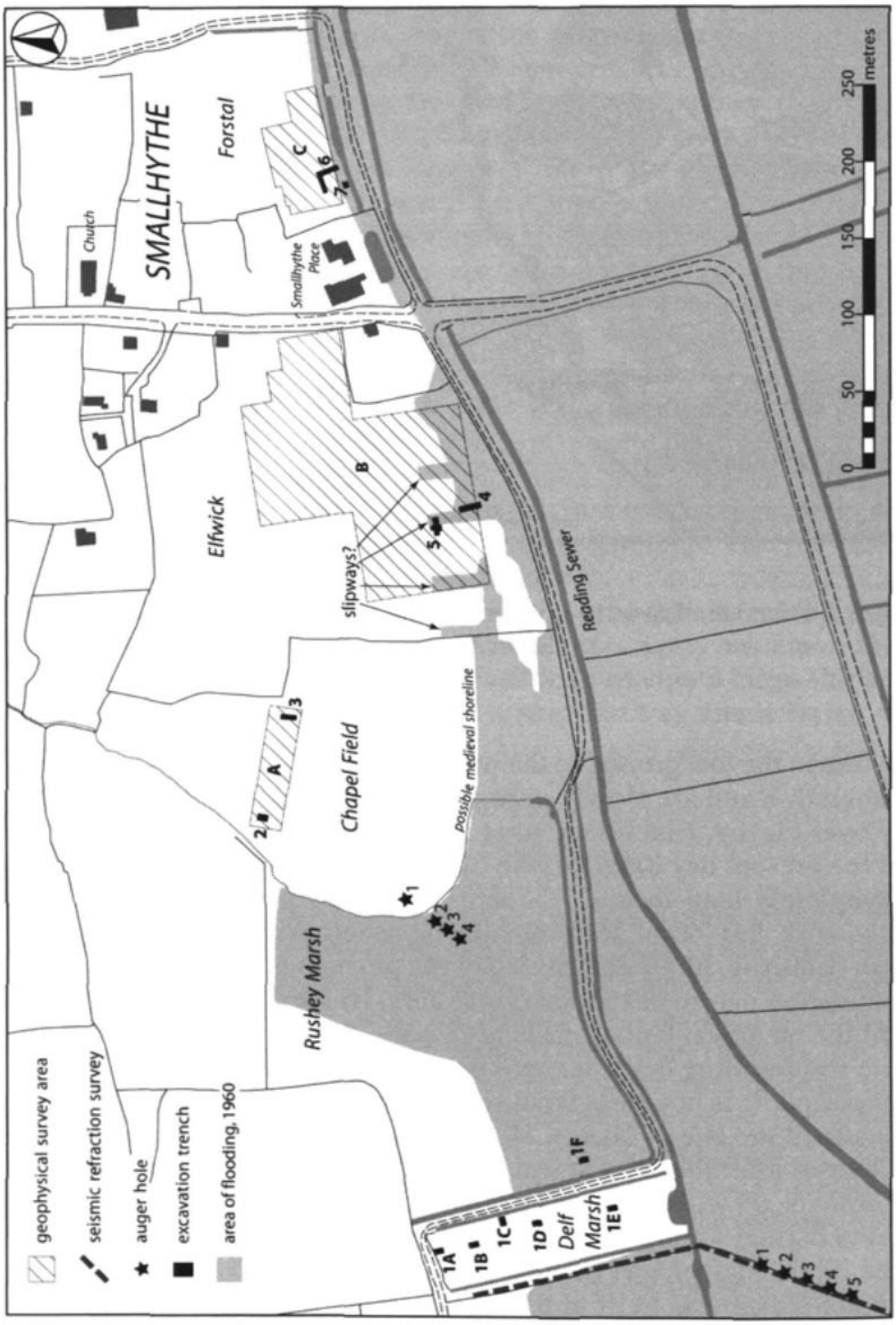

Figure 3: Time Team investigations 1998

3.3 Post-medieval

3.3.1 The 'great fire' was not the worst of Smallhythe's problems for the Rother was beginning to silt up. So much so that in 1561:

> Appledore which hath been a goodly town (is) now decayed by reason (that) the water is gone from it, and also from it, and also from Reading and Smallhythe, which (used to be) always replenished with shipwrights, (where) always a great number of ships, crayers and boats were made (but) at present there cannot be made a boat of 20 tons. (quoted in Eddison, 2000: 107)

3.3.2 A year later, the seaward end of the channel between Reading Street and Rye had reduced in width from c.60- 90m to 5-7m (Eddison, 2000: 107). In 1600 the Knelle Dam collapsed and was repaired, while in 1609 a Commission of Sewers was instigated to look into the maintenance of the waterway. Between 1613 and 1624, the enormous sum of £11,000, funded solely by the tenants and owners of the Upper Levels, was spent on futile attempts to keep the river open by dredging and diversions, culminating in the construction of a huge 200 acre indraught with a brick sluice, holding vast quantities of water to be periodically released to flush the silt away. Even this failed, during the winter of 1626-7 winds whipping up the waves and collapsing the walls. It was finally resolved to abandon these efforts and by May 1635 the Knelle Dam had been deliberately breached, the Rother now allowed to flow on its previous course to the west of Oxney (Edison 2000: 108-9).

3.3.2 The population declined, the main occupation becoming agricultural working, although small scale boat and barge building continued into the early twentieth century. Barges continued to trade between Rye, Smallhythe, Potman's Heath Wharf and Rolvenden until 1924 carrying coal and building materials upstream and wheat downstream. The ferry to the Isle of Oxney continued in use into at least the seventeenth century but a map of 1688 shows that a bridge had been built (Buttler *et al*, 2015: 15).

3.3.3 At the site itself, the Elfwick field had passed from Templar to Hospitaller ownership before being appropriated by the crown in 1540, while the *Kentish Carticulary* of 1558 stated that 'the whole of that croft or close and land of ours with the appurtenances now lately in the holding or occupation of William Brakenden or his assignees situate and being near Smalhed', and it was later recorded as Queen's Close in the Tenterden Tithe Map,. (Draper 2005: 20).

The current house at Smallhythe Place is believed to have been originally built in the early sixteenth century with numerous subsequent modifications and additions and is most well known as the residence of the Victorian actress Ellen Terry and her daughter Edy Craig.

4. Original Research Questions

4.1 The excavations were designed to address three main research questions:

- What was the Medieval topography of the shoreline of the River Rother?
- What evidence can be found of Medieval and early post- medieval shipbuilding?
- What evidence can be found for Romano- British activity?

5. Methodology

5.1 Much of the topsoil and overburden was stripped from trenches 1-5 and 7 by machine using a flat- bladed ditching bucket, before being further excavated by hand, while Trench 6 was de-turfed and dug entirely by hand.

5.2 Features and deposits were recorded using standard archaeological context sheets, while sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. A full photographic record was kept.

5.3 The trenches and auger holes were located by GPS.

5.4 All finds were retrieved, cleaned and recorded on site, before being passed to specialists for further analysis (see below Appendix 1).

5.5 A geophysical survey had previously been carried out by Kevin Cornwell and volunteers from HAARG which identified a series of anomalies (fig.4) and influenced the placing of Trenches 1 to 3.

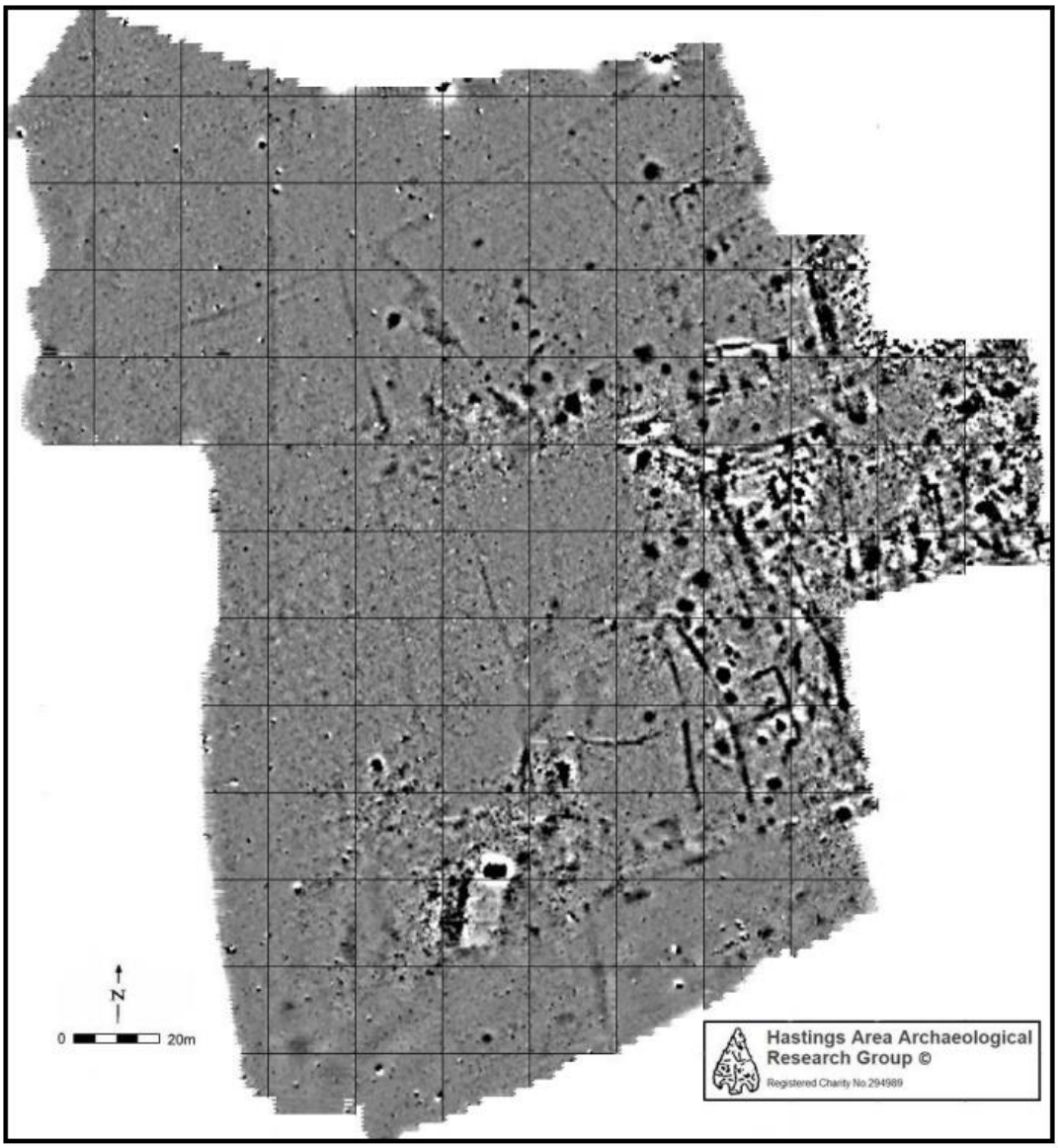

Figure 4: Geophysical survey of Elfwick Field

6. Results

3.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 at between 9.32m OD in the north and 8.96m OD in the south was (111) natural Wadhurst Clay.

6.1.2 In the north of the trench, this was cut by [103] a shallow ditch with an irregular base and moderately sloping sides, which was more than 2.20m long (continuing into both limits of excavation LOE), up to 0.55m wide and 0.21m deep. Running approximately ESE- WNW, it was filled by (104) a friable, light yellowish grey clay sand silt matrix with occasional small sandstones containing 42 probably residual sherds of Romano- British pottery and three High Medieval green-glazed jug sherds.

6.1.3 In the central area of the trench, the natural clay was truncated by [110] an approximately east-west running possible grave cut which was observed in a sondage to comprise possible human long bones, a possible skull fragment and Romano- British pottery within a plastic light orange mottled light greyish yellow sand silt clay matrix (109). As this feature was only observed on the last scheduled day on site, it was photographed and noted then covered with terram, hand backfilled and a further terram sheet laid above before machine backfilling. It is intended to re- expose, record and excavate this feature during the next season of investigation.

6.1.4 Grave cut [110] was truncated by [105] a possibly E-W running ditch or possible droveway with steeply sloping sides to the north, more gently sloping sides to the south, and an irregular to flattish base. More than 2.00m long and 3.20m wide (continuing into the E, S and W LOEs) and up to 0.48m deep, it was filled by (101) a plastic, orange mottled mid- brownish grey sand clay silt matrix with occasional charcoal containing 122 possibly residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD70 to AD300 along with later post- medieval (particularly c.1780-1830) wares.

6.1.6 Towards the south of Trench 1, [105] was truncated by an approximately E-W running ditch [106] with near vertical sides and a flat base, which was more than 2.00m long (continuing into both E and W LOEs), 0.46m wide and 0.62m deep. It was filled by (102) a friable mid- grey clay sand silt matrix with occasional charcoal, CBM and 356 possibly residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD70 to AD250.

6.1.7 The above features and deposits were sealed by topsoil (100) which was encountered at 9.68m OD in the north and 9.22m OD in the south and contained 67 residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD100 to AD270 and later post- medieval wares dating from the 14th to 18th centuries.

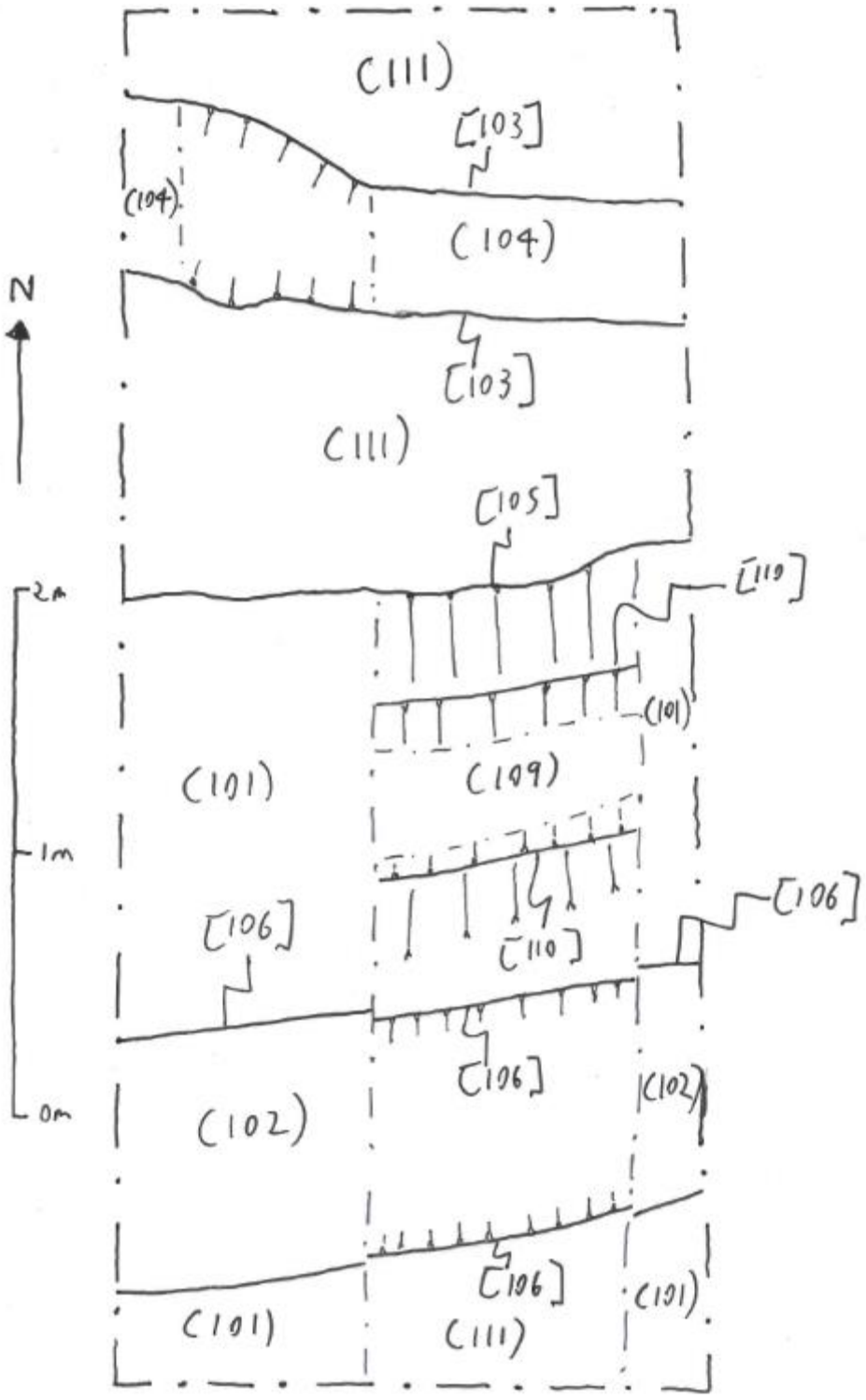

Figure 5: Sketch overview of Trench 1

3.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 2 at between 71.15 and 7.11m OD was natural Wadhurst Clay (203)/(210).

6.2.2 It was cut by [213] an irregular probable tree bowl which was filled by (204) a plastic very dark grey silt clay with charcoal, eighteen probably residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD43 to AD200, pottery and slag. This feature was not fully excavated.

6.2.3 The natural clay and the tree bowl were overlain by a mixed deposit (202)/(208)/(209)/(211)/(212) which was a matrix of re-deposited natural clay, silt, charcoal, iron smithing slag and possible iron ore. This deposit was up to 0.03m thick, encountered at 7.15m OD, contained four probably residual sherds of pottery dating from c.25BC to AD250, and may represent an external occupation horizon possibly dumped material.

6.2.4 This deposit was overlain by (207) a plastic greenish grey silt containing 26 probably residual sherds of pottery dating from c.25BC to AD200, along with wares dating mainly to c.1250-1350 and four dating to c.1350-1500, CBM, and frequent slag, which was up to 0.20m thick and encountered across the trench at between 7.33 and 7.26m OD. The upper part of (207) contained frequent chalk deposits (205)/(206) which may represent the remains of a yard surface, containing one probably residual sherd of Romano- British pottery. (207) may possibly represent an agricultural horizon such as ploughsoil or consolidation/levelling for the chalk surface.

6.2.5 The above deposits were overlain in the north of the trench by (201) a soft very dark greyish brown silt clay probable subsoil containing 37 probably residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD120 to AD200, along with further sherds dating to c.1200-1500, CBM, slag, possible iron ore, shell and animal bone which was 0.24m thick and encountered at between 7.27 and 7.28m OD.

6.2.6 The latest deposit encountered in Trench 2 at between 7.58m and 7.33m OD was topsoil (200) containing one sherd of pottery dating to c.1200-1400 and four dating to the 15th century.

6.3 Trench 3

6.3.1 The earliest deposits in Trench 3 encountered at between 5.30 and 5.17m OD were (305) and (311) natural Wadhurst Clay.

6.3.2 This was overlain in slots in the northwest of the trench by (303) a compact mid-yellowish greyish brown clay silt angular/sub- angular gravels/slag matrix, containing five large pieces of kiln/furnace/oven wall, and 282 sherds of Romano-British pottery with a suggested deposition date of c.AD100-280 (and one probably intrusive sherd dating to c.1250-1400) which was not fully excavated and probably represents an external yard surface.

6.3.3 In a sondage in the southeast of the trench the natural clay was overlain by a number of burnt deposits (306), (307), (308), (309) and (310) comprising friable dark yellowish purplish brown sand clay silts with frequent charcoal, burnt clay, one large piece of kiln/furnace/oven wall, CBM dated to c.AD160-260, slag and 184 sherds of pottery with a suggested deposition date of c.AD70 to 150/200 which was up to 0.05m thick.

6.3.4 Sondages in the northeast and west of the trench revealed two northeast-southwest running probable robber trenches [318] and [317] which were more than 6.00m long (continuing into both the eastern and western LOEs), up to 0.96m wide and 0.29m deep. They were respectively filled by (304) and (316) stiff to plastic dark grey silty clay with occasional sand, charcoal, small to large gravels, one large piece of kiln/furnace/oven wall, two sherds of CBM dating to c.AD100-180 and one dating to AD160-260, and 717 sherds of pottery with a suggested deposition date of c.AD120 to 270+.

6.3.5 The robber trenches were overlain by subsoils (301) and (302), a friable dark brown sand clay silt with frequent charcoal, burnt clay, one piece of CBM dating to c.1500-1800 and 206 residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD43 to 350, and a plastic greyish yellow sand silt clay containing CBM, 52 residual sherds of pottery dating from c.AD70 to 280 and animal bone.

6.3.6 The above features and deposits were sealed by topsoil (300) which was up to 0.50m thick and encountered at between 5.84m and 5.59m OD and contained 622 residual sherds of pottery dating fromc.AD43 to 250+, along with wares dating from the 14th to mid- 16th century.

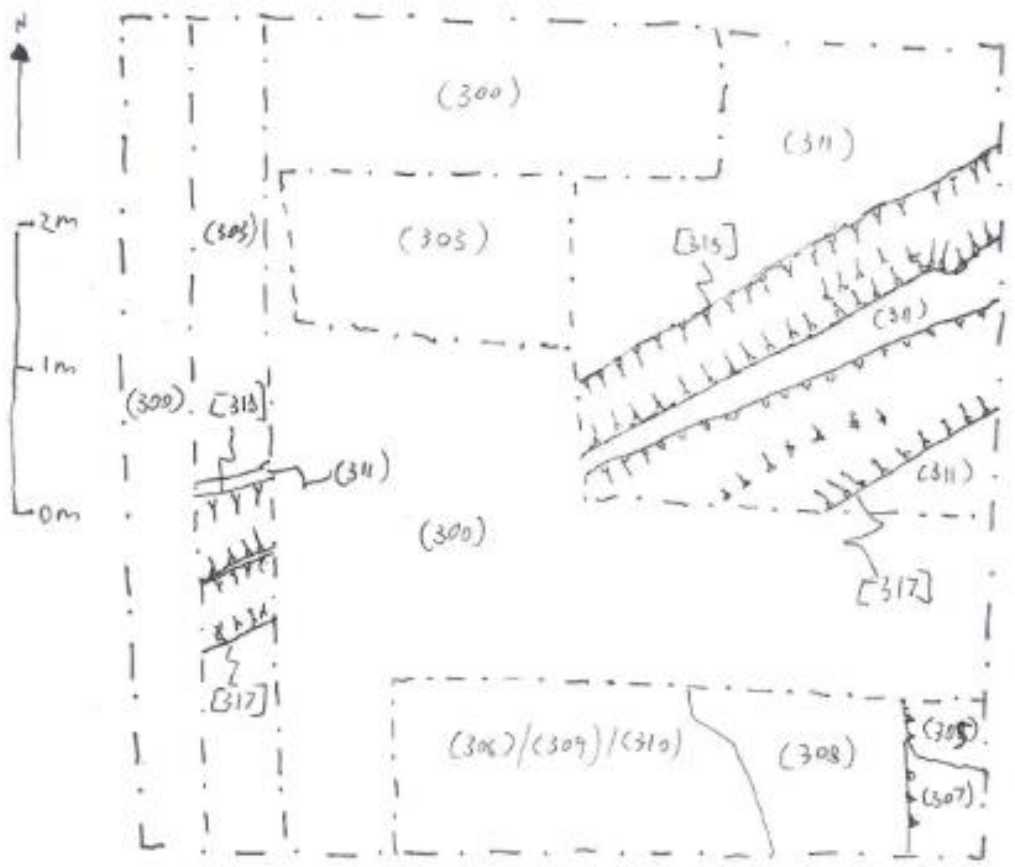

Figure 6: Sketch overview of Trench 3

6.4 Trench 4

6.4.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 4 at between 3.92m OD in the north and 3.88m OD in the south was (407) natural Wadhurst Clay.

6.4.2 This was truncated by Kiln cuts [403] (south) and [405] (north), which had vertical sides, an unknown though probably flat base, were more than 0.36m deep and were more than 1.10m long (continuing into both east and west LOEs). The earliest recorded fill was (409) a firm very dark grey charcoal deposit encountered at between 3.52 and 3.51m OD, which was more than 0.05m thick. Only observed in sondages, it was not fully excavated due to the trench filling with water. This was overlain by (408) again encountered in sondages at between 3.60 and 3.59m OD, a very compact pinkish red burnt clay brick deposit which was up to 0.08m thick. This was sealed by (406) a very compact light brownish white chalk floor with occasional charcoal flecks which was encountered at between 3.63 and 3.62m OD and was up to 0.03m thick. Kiln walls (402) (south) and (404) (north) had been built on top of the chalk floor and were up to 0.32m high, 0.21m wide and 1.10m long (continuing into eastern and western LOEs). Encountered at 3.89m OD in the north and 3.87m OD in the south, they comprised very compact mid- pinkish red burnt clay/brick deposits with occasional charcoal flecks. They were abutted, and floor (406) overlain, by (401) a moderately compact mid- brown with red brick/ kiln debris/ clay silt matrix with occasional charcoal flecks. Encountered at between 3.89 and 3.84m OD, and with a maximum thickness of 0.25m, it contained probably late Medieval CBM.

6.4.3 The above features and deposits were sealed by topsoil (400), which included the cut, terram covering and backfill of a 1998 Time Team trench in this part of the site, which was up to 0.25m thick, encountered at 4.44m OD in the north and 3.96m OD in the south, and contained one residual sherd of pottery dating to c.1450-1550.

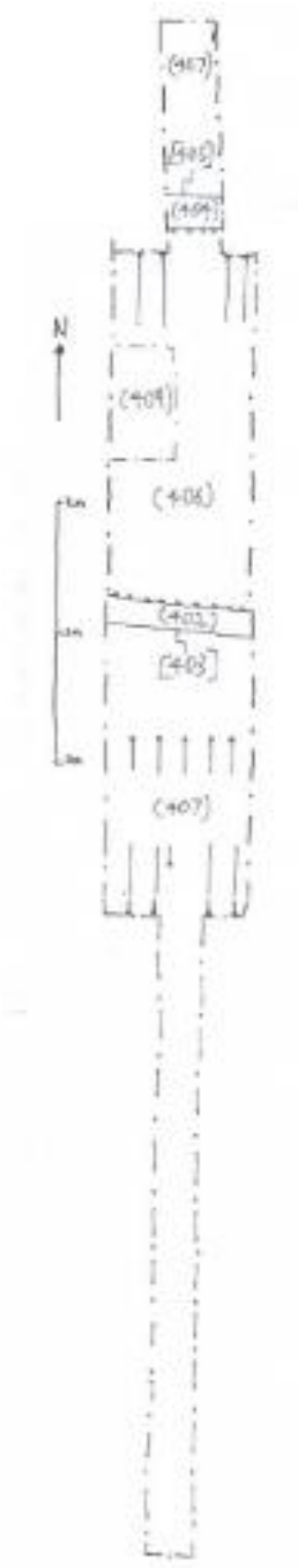

Figure 7: Sketch overview of Trench 4

6.5 Trench 5

6.5.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 5 comprised (501) a friable mottled mid to light yellowish brown natural clay sand. This deposit extended throughout the trench and was encountered at between 3.24m OD in the north and 3.16m OD in the south.

6.5.2 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (500), containing one residual CBM fragment probably dating to the late 15th to 16th centuries, which was encountered at between 3.75m OD in the north and 3.63m OD in the south.

6.6 Trench 6

6.6.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 6 at between 3.56 and 3.47m OD was (604) a soft greyish hued mid- brown silt clay with moderate iron panning, occasional charcoal, chalk, glass, iron, along with 18th- 19th century pottery and CBM. This deposit was interpreted as a possible flood/consolidation deposit.

6.6.2 It was overlain by (603) a loose mid- brown sand- silt- small to mid- rounded pebble matrix which was up to 0.20m deep, contained one sherd of pottery dating to c. 1800-1900, and was encountered at between 3.65 and 3.58m OD. This deposit appeared to be a consolidation layer.

6.6.3 Above (603) lay (602) a loose grey large pebble and flint nodule layer, which was more than 1.30m north-south and 0.66m east- west, extending into the northern and eastern LOE. Encountered at between 3.59 and 3.56m OD, and up to 0.07m thick this again was interpreted as a consolidation deposit.

6.6.4 This was overlain by (601) a weakly cemented dark brownish grey silt clay gravel, with occasional charcoal and oyster shell. Encountered at between 3.84 and 3.83m OD, up to 0.26m thick and present throughout the trench it contained pottery dating to c.1840-1900 This deposit was interpreted as further consolidation/levelling.

6.6.5 The above deposits were sealed by topsoil (600), containing one sherd of pottery dating to c.1800-1840, which was up to 0.13m thick and encountered at 3.95m OD.

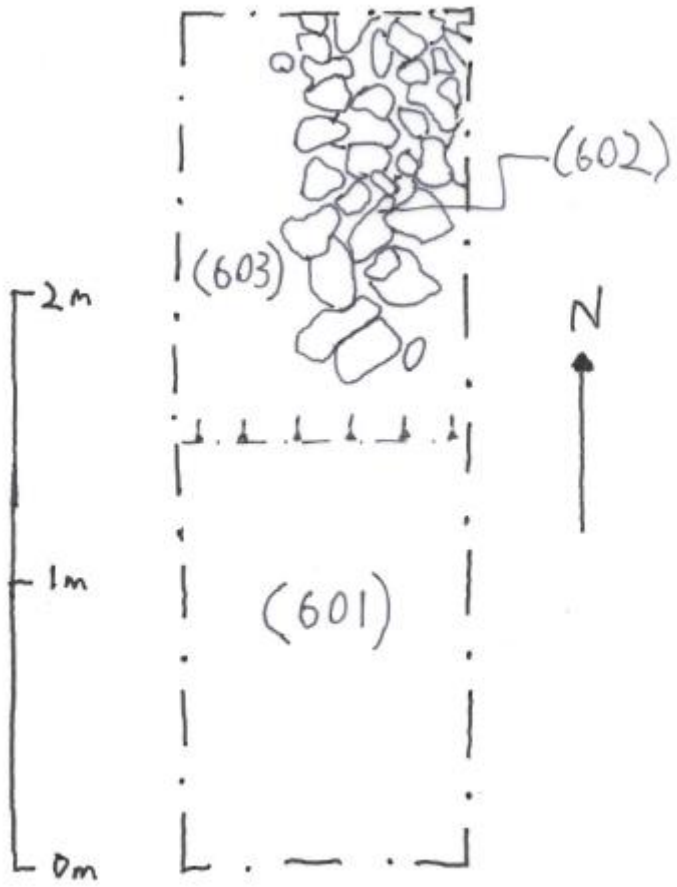

Figure 8: Sketch overview of Trench 6

6.7 Trench 7

6.7.1 The earliest deposit encountered in the north of Trench 7 at between 3.54 and 3.39m OD in Trench 7 was (711) a stiff blueish grey sand silt clay which was probably riverlain alluvium.

6.7.2 This was overlain by (708) a plastic mid- dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal which was probably a consolidation layer, was not fully excavated and was encountered at between 3.63 and 3.45m OD.

6.7.3 This deposit was in turn overlain by fragmented chalk and flint deposits (705), (702) and (703) which were up to 0.25m thick, encountered at between 3.60m and 3.56m OD and possibly represent the remains of a farmyard surface,

6.7.4 This possible surface was overlain by (707) a friable mid- dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal which was up to 0.30m thick and encountered at between 3.72m and 3.64m OD.

6.7.5 Subsoil (707) was truncated by a east-west running possible drainage ditch [709] which was more than 2.20m long, 0.80m wide (continuing into the western, southern and eastern LOEs), was filled by (710) a plastic dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal containing post- medieval pottery.

6.7.6 This feature was in turn truncated by possibly circular rubbish pit [704] which was 0.85m in diameter, at least 0.30m deep (it continued into the western LOE and was not fully excavated), which was filled by (701) a friable mid- dark greyish brown sand clay silt matrix containing frequent glass, pottery and other late 19th/ early 20th century refuse including tooth powder and a tooth brush.

6.7.7 The above features and deposits were overlain by topsoil (700) which was encountered at between 3.94 and 3.86m OD.

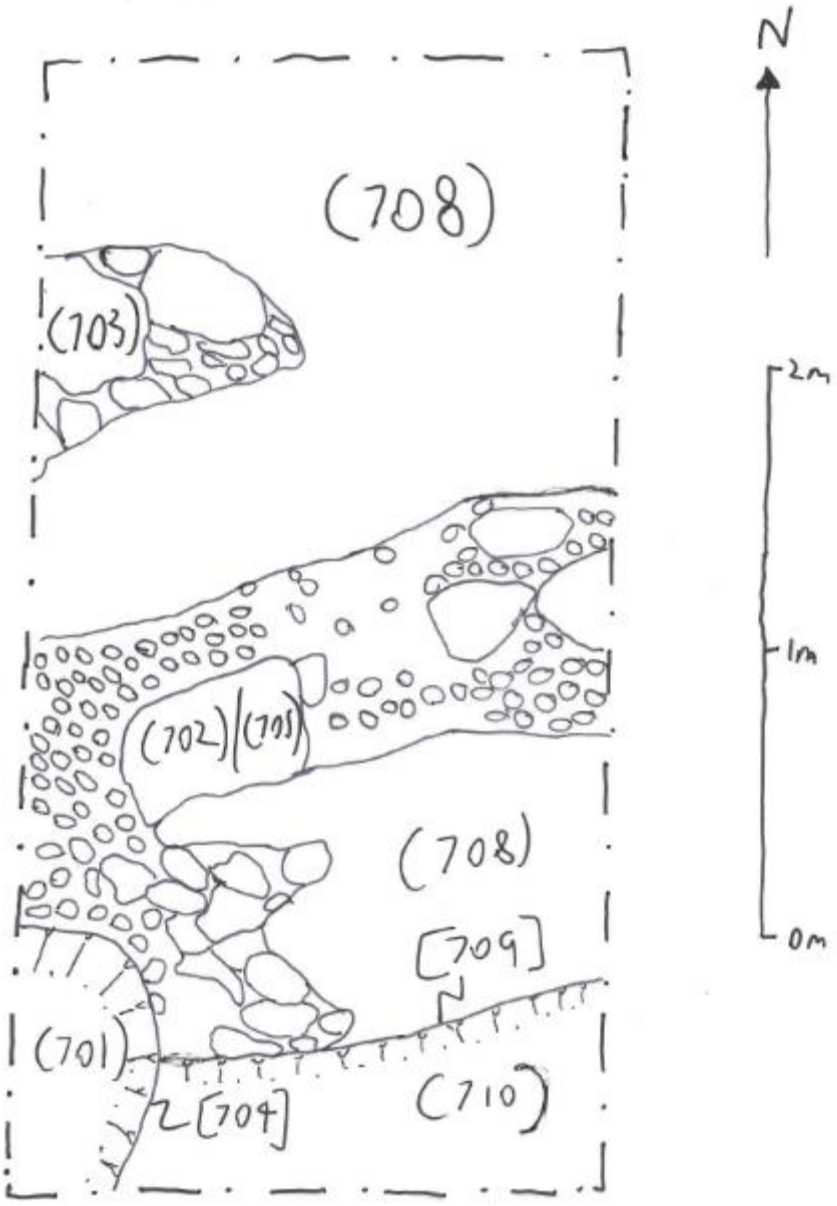

Figure 9: Sketch overview of Trench 7

6.8 Auger hole 1

6.8.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH1 at 1.03m Below Ground Level (BGL) was (A103) a firm orange hued dark brown silt clay with moderate chalk fragments and infrequent small gravels, which probably represented made ground.

6.8.2 It was overlain by (A102) a firm dark brown sand silt clay matrix with infrequent chalk, small gravels and shell, which was encountered at 0.59m BGL and again probably represented made ground.

6.8.3 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A101).

6.9 Auger hole 2

6.9.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH2 at 0.92m BGL was (A203) a firm slightly bluesish grey dark brown silt clay occasional chalk, charcoal and infrequent small gravels, which probably constituted made ground.

6.9.2 It was overlain by (A202), encountered at 0.46m BGL a stiff orange- mottled dark brown clay silt with infrequent charcoal and small gravels, again probably made ground.

6.6.3 This, in turn, was overlain by topsoil (A201).

6.10 Auger hole 3

6.10.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH3 at 0.20m BGL and more than 0.74m thick was (A302) a firm greyish brown sand silt clay with infrequent shell and CBM, which probably represented made ground.

6.16.2 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A301).

6.11 Auger hole 4

6.11.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH 4 at 0.35m BGL was (A402) natural sand.

6.14.2 It was overlain by (A401) topsoil.

6.12 Auger hole 5

6.12.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH5 at 0.39m BGL was (A502) natural sand.

6.14.2 It was overlain by (A501) topsoil.

6.13 Auger hole 6

6.13.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH6 at 048 BGL was (A602) natural Wealden Clay.

6.13.2 It was overlain by (A601) topsoil.

6.14 Auger hole 7

6.14.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH 7 at 0.40m BGL was (A702) natural sand.

6.14.2 It was overlain by (A701) topsoil.

6.15 Auger hole 8

6.15.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH8 at 1.00m BGL was (A803) a firm orange hued silt clay with moderate chalk fragments and infrequent small gravels, which probably represented made ground.

615.2.1 It was overlain by (A802) a firm dark brown sand silt clay matrix with infrequent chalk, small gravels and shell, which was encountered at 0.61m BGL and again probably represented made ground.

6.15.3 This was overlain by topsoil (A801).

6.16 Auger hole 9

6.16.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH9 at 0.20m BGL and more than 0.65m thick was (A902) a firm greyish brown sand silt clay matrix with infrequent shell and CBM, which probably represented made ground.

6.16.3 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A901).

6.17 Augur hole 10

6.17.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH10 at 0.15m BGL and more than 0.50m thick was (A1002) a stiff blue alluvial silt clay with charcoal and CBM fragments.

6.17.2 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A1001).

6.18 Auger hole 11

6.18.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH11 was topsoil (A1101) which was more than 0.15m thick.

6.19 Auger hole 12

6.19.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH12 was subsoil (A502) which was encountered at 0.20m BGL and was more than 0.13m thick.

6.19.2 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A501).

6.20 Auger hole 13

6.20.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH13 at 1.00m BGL was (A1304) a stiff yellow mottled grey silt clay with moderate sand and infrequent charcoal which was more than 0.20m thick which was interpreted as made- ground.

6.20.2 It was overlain by (A1303) encountered at 0.25m BGL, a firm yellowish orange silt sand clay matrix with frequent small gravels which was also interpreted as made-ground.

6.20.3 This was overlain by subsoil (A1302) which was encountered at 0.20m BGL.

6.20.4 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A1301).

6.21 Auger hole 14

6.21.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH14 at 0.40m BGL and more than 0.60m thick, was (A1402) a plastic greyish brownish green sand silt clay which was interpreted as made ground.

6.21.2 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A1401).

6.22 Auger hole 15

6.22.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH15 at 0.55m BGL was alluvium (A1504).

6.22.2 This was overlain by (A1503), encountered at 0.43m, a friable greenish grey sand clay silt.

6.22.3 This was, in turn, overlain by subsoil (A1502), encountered at 0.30m BGL.

6.22.4 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A1501).

6.23 Auger hole 16

6.23.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH16 at 0.59m BGL was natural Wealden Clay (A1603).

6.23.2 This was overlain by (A1602), encountered at 0.32m BGL, a plastic mid- greenish brown sand silt clay with occasional charcoal.

6.23.3 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A1601).

6.24 Auger hole 17

6.24.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH17 at 0.34m BGL was (A1702) a greenish light brown possibly alluvial silt clay.

6.24.2 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (1701).

6.25 Auger hole 18

6.25.1 The lowest deposit encountered in AH18 at 0.28m BGL was(A1803) natural Wealden Clay.

6.25.2 This was overlain by subsoil (A1802) encountered at 0.14m BGL.

6.25.3 This deposit was overlain by topsoil (A1801).

7. Original and Revised Research Questions

7.1 The excavations were designed to address three main research questions:

- What was the Medieval topography of the shoreline of the River Rother?

The auger survey and southern trenches indicate that in the Elfwick Field Natural Wealden Clay was found between some 52 and 64m north of the Reading sewer and natural sand between approximately 43 and 39m north. In the garden of Smallhythe Place made ground was recorded stretching at least between 35 and 20m north of the Reading Sewer. In the Forstal Field alluvium or made ground was recorded between 28.8 and 28m north of the Reading Sewer and natural Wealden Clay between 29.8 and 29m north. This suggests that the Medieval high water mark ran between Auger Holes 6 and 7, Trenches 5 and 3, probably just south of Yew Tree Cottage and the original part of the house at Smallhythe Place (ignoring the later southeastern extension), and between Auger Holes 15 and 16 and 17 and 18 (indicated on Fig. 2). The deposits found also suggest that in the Elfwick Field there was probably a sloping natural beach, while in the Garden and in the Forstal Field there was a much sharper delineation between land and water- possibly as a result of the construction of wharves.

- What evidence can be found of Medieval and early post- medieval shipbuilding?

The evidence from Trench 4 suggests that Time Team had been correct in proposing that they had found a brick kin, the bricks most likely for use in ships' galleys. Four nails and one rove was found in Trench 4, 83 nails and twenty roves in Trench 5, 41 nails and eight roves were found in Trench 6, seven nails and seven roves in Trench 7 and two roves in a strip were recovered by metal detection from the garden of Smallhythe Place supporting the Time Team suggestion of shipbuilding (or at least ship repair) on the site, although no definitive shipbuilding structures such as slipways were identified.

- What evidence can be found for Romano- British activity?

In Trench 1 a probable grave dating to this period was recorded along with a large quantity of Romano- British pottery.

In Trench 3 it appears that possibly two phases of building were possibly involved in pottery making or hospitality, with a hardcore outside yard, with a pottery date range of c.AD100 to 280. Given the evidence for burning, it would seem that fire- safety was not a priority, yet the location was worth the rebuilding effort.

This suggests a small Roman settlement at Smallhythe, possibly occupied from the end of the first century until the later third, and probably concentrated towards the junction of the current road and the then shoreline, the funerary evidence from Trench 1 possibly marking the northern boundary of the settlement. The ten Classis Britannica stamped tiles found in Trench 3 suggest that Roman Smallhythe was a link in the Imperial

logistical chain, possibly supplying pottery vessels as containers or complete with local produce, or, more likely, the settlement was focussed upon the export of iron and timber, as vital a combination for the Imperial Roman provincial navy as for that of the Plantagenets.

7.2 Revised Research Questions

- What was the nature of the Medieval shoreline and what further evidence of shipbuilding/ breaking can be found?

In the next phase of fieldwork, trenches and augur holes should target the newly suggested areas of interface between land and water, in order to further understand their nature(s) and attempt to find further evidence of maritime activity.

- What was the nature and extent of the Medieval settlement?

A possible Medieval yard surface was recorded in Trench 2, further trenches should be dug to the east in order to establish whether it was associated with domestic and/or industrial structures of the same period, assumed to front onto the road.

- What was the extent of the 'great fire' of 1514 or15?

Documentary evidence suggests that much of Medieval Smallhythe was destroyed by this fire but no evidence consistent with this, such as ash or charcoal horizons, was found in any of the trenches or auger holes. Trenches should be dug south of the chapel to establish the extent of burning associated with this disaster.

- Can we further understand the nature and extent of the Roman settlement?

Further investigations should be made in the area of Trench 3, in order to establish the relationship of the Roman settlement with the river and/or road and to further understand its size and nature.

- Investigate and remove the possible inhumation in Trench 1

This trench should be re- opened and the possible burial be recorded and removed.

8. Conclusions

8.1 A small Romano- British settlement, represented by possibly two phases of robbed out building, and a possible grave, probably dating from the later 1st to the later 3rd centuries AD, appears to have been associated with the supply, probably iron and/or timber, of the Classis Britannica.

8.2 The presence of a later Medieval brick kiln, first suggested by the 1998 Time Team excavations, was confirmed, along with a yard surface of similar date. No further structural evidence of shipbuilding or maritime industries was found although further finds of nails and roves continue to suggest the presence of such activity. A possible yard surface dating to this period was found in the north of site to the west of the Tenterden Road, suggesting occupation in this area. It appears that the Medieval shoreline comprised a sandy beach in the Elfwick Field, becoming dry land between c.40m and c.55m north of the Reading Sewar, while in the garden of Smallhythe Place and the Forstal Field no evidence of sand was found, it being suggested that this area may have been artificially wharfed probably along a line around 29m north of the Reading Sewar. A possible droveway and field boundary ditch may also date to this period. No evidence of the 'great fire' of 1514 or 15 was recorded.

8.3 Evidence of later post- medieval made- ground and landscaping was recorded in the garden of Smallhythe Place and the Forstal Field, along with later 19th/early 20th century domestic refuse possibly associated with Ellen Terry and/or Edy Craig.

9. Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Finds processing methodology, Mathew J. Champion

1. Finds were manually recovered from all excavated areas, with individual items recovered in to finds trays, and bulk sampling of Ceramic Building Materials (CBM) and ferrous ironworking debris in buckets, by context.
2. The spoil heaps were also examined manually and with a metal detector, recovering a number of unstratified finds, which were assigned to the topsoil context of each excavated area accordingly.
3. Due to the possible presence of Roman stamped tile, the decision was made to wash all non-ferrous and inorganic finds, including all of the CBM. The bulk samples of ironworking debris were sieve washed where possible.
4. Following consultation with external specialists, the decision was made to retain the entire assemblage for specialist examination, superseding initial discard policies.
5. The entire assemblage of finds was subject to an initial triage on site, with each context being sorted into its component materials (CBM, Iron slag, Pottery, Metallic objects, Organic material, etc).
6. A sample of diagnostic pieces were removed from each context layer, and packed and labelled separately.
7. The bulk finds were bagged and labelled by material and context, and retained for further specialist analysis.
8. Unstratified metal detecting finds were recorded in the Small Finds Log, before being bagged and labelled.
9. A small number of ferrous finds and iron concretions were prepared and sent off for initial x-ray analysis.
10. The assemblage was retained on site at the end of the excavation, with the intention that it would be distributed for specialist analysis at a later date.

Appendix 2: Roman Pottery, Malcolm Lyne

1.Introduction

The site yielded 2739 sherds (31428 g.) of Roman pottery from 21 contexts. There is nothing which needs to be earlier than AD.70 and no ceramic evidence for any Roman activity on the site after the last quarter of the 3rd century.

2.Methodology

All of the pottery assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. The fabrics were identified using a x10 magnification lens with built in artificial illumination source, in order to identify the natures, forms, frequencies and sizes of added filler inclusions and those naturally present in the prepared potting clay.

Four fabric series drawn up by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust for pottery from East Kent sites (Macpherson Grant et al 1995) were used with the prefixes B, BER, R and LR for 'Belgic' grog-tempered, 'Belgic'/Early Roman, Roman and Late Roman respectively.

3.The Assemblages

Trench 1

The 122 sherd (1242 g.) pottery assemblage from the fill of the possible droveway (Context 101) suggests that the feature was in use throughout the Roman occupation of the site, with the latest sherd being from a beaker of Monaghan's Class 2C2 (1987, c.AD.250-80) in North Kent Fineware.

The somewhat larger assemblage from the fill of Ditch 106 running parallel with and to the south of the putative droveway (Context 102) does, however, indicate that this feature ceased to receive rubbish at some time between AD 150 and 170.

The 42 Roman sherds from the fill of Ditch 103 to the north of the droveway (Context 104) have a similar date range but the presence of three green-glazed medieval jug sherds suggests that the feature belongs to the high medieval period and that the Roman fragments are residual.

Trench 2

Nearly all of the 90 sherds of Roman pottery from this trench are unstratified from plough soil and subsoil horizons. One sherd, however, comes from chalk floor 205 and is of a bead-rim beaker in Thameside Greyware fabric LR2.1 (c.AD.230-280): this suggests a mid-3rd c. date for the feature. None of the rest of the pottery from the trench is later than AD.200.

Trench 3.

The considerable quantity of pottery from this trench (2065 sherds) includes nearly all of the 3rd c. pottery from the site.

Cobbled surface 303 yielded 282 sherds (2593 g.) of pottery, indicating occupation on its surface from c.AD.100 to the end of occupation during the late 3rd century. Most of the pottery (65%) consists of grog-tempered wares from a variety of sources, including three combed jar fragments in the 'Belgic' tradition (c.70-150): the rest belong to the East Sussex Ware tradition of Wealden Kent, with the latest including sherds from an everted-rim jar of Lyne type 5C.11 (2015, c.AD.270-400) and two dishes of type 5C.25 (c.AD.150-350) in siltstone-grog tempered fabric B2.1.

The most common other fabric is North Kent Fineware (11%) and includes fragments from a flask of Monaghan's type 1B.7 (c.120-190), a beaker of type 2I.3 (c.120-190) and a biconical beaker of type 2G.1 (c.90-130). Other wares include two fragments from a Dorset BB1 dish of Bestwall Class 8 (Lyne 2012, c.220-300) and an oval dish of Class 9 (c.200-270), as well as a mortarium of type M17 in Oxfordshire Whiteware (Young 1977, c.240-300).

Perhaps the most significant pottery assemblage from the site is that from Ditch fill 304: it is also the largest (717 sherds, 10194 g) and includes some of the most substantial and freshest sherds. As with the pottery assemblage from Context 303, grog-tempered wares account for the bulk of the material (70%) and include seven fragments in the late Roman Grog-tempered fabric LR1.1 with coarse crushed siltstone grog filler (c.270-400): these are the only sherds in this fabric from the site. The next most common fabric is Thameside North Kent Fineware (10%) and includes fragments from a beaker of Class 2C2 (c.250-280). The 13 fragments in Thameside BB2 include large fresh pieces from a beaded-and-flanged bowl of type 5A4 (c.240-350) and the 26 sherds in Thameside grey ware fabric LR2.1 include large fresh sherds from another example of the similarly-dated type 5A5.

Two sherds from a beaker in Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat fabric LR10 (c.240-400+) and two more from a New Forest Colour-coat example in fabric LR12.1 (c.240-340) are the only sherds in these two fabrics from the entire site and, together with the sherds in Late Roman grog-tempered fabric LR1.1, indicate that the pottery from this ditch includes the latest material in the total site assemblage.

The 184 sherds (1813 g.) of pottery from burnt deposits 306, 307 and 309 span the period AD.70-150/200 with no overtly 3rd c. material.

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Appendix 1

Fabrics

B2 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware

B2.1 Grog-tempered ware with siltstone grog

B2.3 Grog-tempered East Sussex Ware with profuse black and white grog filler

B2.4 Grog-tempered ware with white and orange grog filler

B2.5 Wheel-turned fine polished grog-tempered ware

B5 Grog and quartz-sand tempered ware

BER15 Chaff-tempered salt briquetage container fabric.

R5 Canterbury Greyware

R6.1 Sandy orange Canterbury fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

R6.2 Sandy red/pink Canterbury fabric with profuse <0.50 multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

R6.3 Sandy buff Canterbury fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

R8.1 Very-fine-sanded orange Canterbury fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

R9.2. Very-fine-sanded pink Canterbury fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.

R13 Dorset BB1

R14 North Kent BB2

R16 North Kent Fineware

R16.1 Hard silty North Kent Fineware variant

R17.1 Orange Hoo St Werbergh fabric with external white slip

R17.2 Red Hoo St Werbergh fabric

R23.3 Pompeian Redware Fabric 3

R32 Sinzig rough-cast beaker fabric

R33 Colchester Colour-coat

R35 Central Gaulish Black Colour-coat fabric

R36 Moselkeramik

R37 Central Gaulish Colour-coat (White-cream fabric)

R42 South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian

R43 Central Gaulish Lezoux Samian

R43.1 Central Gaulish Martres-de-Veyre Samian

R46 East Gaulish Samian

R46.2 Pulborough Samian

R47 Campanian Black sand amphora fabric

R50 Early Baetican Dressel 20 fabric

R50.1 Late Baetican Dressel 20 amphora fabric

R56 Cream Gauloise 4 amphora fabric

R58 Silty pink micaceous BIV amphora fabric with <0.10 mm. quartz-sand filler

R61 1A Silty white mortaria fabric

R62 ?Kent Fabric 2 mortaria fired red with alluvial flint, black ironstone and quartz-sand trituration grits.

R75 Miscellaneous sandy cream-buff fabrics

R95 North-east Gaul ‘bandes lustrees’ grey ware

R104 Silty grey ware

R116 Rough cream mortarium fabric with profuse <1.00 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand and sparse crushed black ironstone filler

R117 Rough cream-yellow mortarium fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

LR1.1 Handmade grog-tempered ware with coarse white siltstone grog filler

LR2.1 Thameside greyware with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

LR2.2 Similar fabric with terminal oxidation

LR10 Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat

LR11 Lower Nene Valley Colour-coat

LR12.1 New Forest pink fabric fired polished brown-black

LR23 Oxfordshire Whiteware.

Appendix 2

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm.	Comments
Garden find	B2.1	Storage jar	c.25BC-AD100	1	152G	Fresh
July 2019 HAARG	B2.1	Jars	c.25BC-AD250 but residual	3	32g	Abraded
100	R16	Beaker base	c.100-250	1	46	
	R43	Dr 37x2	c.120-200	3	118	
	Misc		c.150-270	63	454	
			Residual	67	624g	Top soil
101	B2	Misc jarsx3	c.70-200+	48	490	Fresh and abr
	B2 oxidised	Combed s'jar	c.70-150	1	14	Fresh
	B2.1	Jar				Fresh and abr
		Pedestal base		17	174	Fresh
	R5	Jars	c.80-175	7	69	Fresh
	R6.3	Flagon	c.70-200	7	78	Fresh
	R9.2	Reeded-rim bowl	c.70-150	1	5	Fresh
	R16	Beakers	c.43-280	8	23	Fresh
	R16.1	2C2 beaker	c.250-280	2	22	Fresh
	R43	Dr 18/31	c.120-150			Fresh
		Dr 37	c.120-200			Fresh
		Dr 46	c.120-150	8	53	Fresh
	R46.1	Curle 11	c.90-120	1	14	Fresh
	R50	DR20 amphora	c.43-250	2	19	Abraded
	R50.1	DR20 amphora	c.170-250	4	207	Fresh
	R75	Flagon	c.70-150	4	37	Fresh
	LR2.1	3H2 jar	c.150-250/300	1	10	Fresh
	Misc			11	27	
			c.70-250+	122	1242g	Fill of poss droveway
102	B2	Necked jarx5	c.50-150			
		C8-1 jar	c.20BC-AD150	88	1083	
	B2 ox	D1-4 bowl	c.50-200	9	291	
	B2.1	Necked jarx5	c.50-200			
		Flanged bowl	c.120-200			
		Lid		103	1251	
	B2.3	Jar		1	61	
	B2.5	Lid-seated jar	c.120-170			

		Necked jar	c.120-170	4	100	
	B5	Jar		1	20	
	BER15	Briquetage		2	13	
	R5	Pollard 68 jarx3	c.80-175			
		Lid	c.80-175	31	336	
	R6.1	Closed form	c.70-200	5	93	
	R9.2	Flagon	c.70-200	5	36	
	R14	5D0.5 bowl	c.120-180	1	23	
	R16	2B2 butt-beaker	c.50-90			
		2G0.4 biconical	c.70-120			
		4J1 bowl	c.43-120	31	240	
	R43	Dr 35	c.120-200	12	100	
	R50	DR20	c.43-250	26	1730	
	R56	GAUL 4	c.43-250	1	25	
	R62	Mortarium	c.100-150	1	110	
	R75	Flagon	c.70-200	2	11	
	R116	Mortarium	c.150-250	2	56	
	R117	Mortarium	c.80-150	1	198	
	RX			2	73	
	MISC			27	151	
			c.70-150/170	356g	6001g	Fill of Ditch 106
104	B2	Necked jarsx2	c.50-150			
		Bowl	c.50-150	12	129	
	B2.1	Jars		11	71	
	B2.5	Lid-seated jar	c.120-170	1	6	
	R6.1	Flagons	c.70-200	5	21	
	R14	5D0.5 bowl	c.120-180	1	22	
	R16	Biconical	c.43-130	2	14	
	R43	Dr 33	c.120-200			
		Dr 44	c.140-200			
	R46.1	Dr 37	c.90-120	3	17	
	MISC			7	24	
	MEDIEVAL	Jug	c.1250-1350	3	8	
			Either residual or med pot intrusive	45	312g	Fill of Ditch 103
200	B2			3	14	
	BER15	Briquetage		1	13	
			Residual	4	27g	Topsoil
201	R33	Beaker	c.120-200	1	3	
	R43	Dr 33	c.120-200	1	36	
	Misc			35	255	
			Residual	37	294g	Subsoil
204	B2	Jar		6	162	Fresh
	R5	Reeded-rim bowl	c.130-175	1	8	Abraded
	R6.1	Flagon	c.70-200	1	9	Fresh
	R16	Biconical	c.43-130			Fresh
		7A2 dish	c.43-120/140	6	140	Fresh
	R17.2	Rouletted bkr		1	3	Fresh
	R43	Dr37	c.120-200	1	5	
	R43.1	Dr 27	c.90-130	1	10	Fresh
	R56			1	22	Sl abraded
			c.70-200	18	359g	Fill of tree bole
205	LR2.1	Beaker	c.230-280	1	3g	Chalk surface
207	B2	Neck-cordon jar	c.25BC-AD100	10	78	Abraded
	B2.1	Jar		5	42	Abraded
	R5	Jarsx2	c.80-175	4	28	Fresh and abr
	R6.2	Flagon	c.70-200	1	9	Fresh
	R16	Biconcal	c.43-130	1	6	Fresh
	R43		c.120-200	2	3	Fresh and abr
	RX	Lid-seated jar		1	12	Abraded
	MISC			2	3	
			?residual	26	181g	?Ploughsoil/ consolidation
211	B2	Jars	c.25BC-AD250	4	38g	?Dumping
300	MISC		c.100-250+	548	3758g	Ploughsoil
301	B2 ox	Combed s.jar	c.50-150	2	37	
	B2 bl	jars	c.50-250	24	112	
	B2.1	5B6 jar	c.150-270			
		Misc jarsx3				
		5C.23 dish	c.200-350			

		5C.25 dish	c.150-350	108	1140	
	R6.1	Deep bowl		9	183	
	R6.3	Closed form	c.70-200	1	3	
	R14	5C3.4 bowl	c.170-250			
		5A5.2 bowl	c.240-350	5	81	
	R16	2C1 beakerx2	c.220-250	13	131	
	R17.1	Flagon		2	13	
	R43	Dr 30	c.120-200			
		Dr 31	c.150-200	6	43	
	R43.1			1	1	
	R50	DR20	c.43-250	4	714	
	LR2.1	Jars	c.150-300	7	49	
	LR2.3	Jar	c.270-370	1	11	
	LR11	Beaker	c.160-270			
		Box lid	c.160-270	4	9	
	MISC			19	79	
			c.100/150-270+ but residual	206	2606g	Subsoil
302	B2	Jar		15	76	
		Combed jar		1	15	
	B2.1	Jar				
		Lid		8	94	
	B2.5	Lid-seated jar	c.120-170	1	10	
	R5	Jar	c.80-175	2	11	
	R6.1	Reeded-rim				
		bowl	c.80-200	1	35	
	R14	Jar base		1	39	
	R16	Rouletted bkrx3	c.190-280	19	68	
	R17.1	Flagon		1	2	
	R42		c.70-110	1	17	
	R43	Dr 37	c.120-200	1	5	
	RX	Closed form		1	7	
			c.100-280 but residual	52	379g	Subsoil
303	B2	Misc jarsx3	c.200-270			
		5C23 dish	c.200-350	88	878	
		Combed jar	c.70-150	3	35	
	B2.1	Misc jarsx3				
		5C.11 jar	c.270-400			
		5C.25 dishx2	c.150-350			
		Lid		91	1000	
	B2.4	Jar		1	8	
	R5	Jars	c.80-175	4	28	
	R6.2	Flagon	c.70-200			
		Lid-seated bowl	c.100-200	4	51	
	R13	Cl.8 dish	c.220-300			
		Cl.9 Oval dish	c.200-270	2	44	
	R14	3J cooking-pot	c.170-250			
		5E1.6 dish	c.160-350			
		beaker	c.230-280	8	53	
	R16	1B.7 flask	c.120-190			
		2I3 beaker	c.120-190			
		2G1 biconical	c.90-130	31	88	
	R17.1	Flagon	c.43-250	4	12	
	R35	Beaker	c.150-200	1	4	
	R37	Roughcast bkr	c.60-130	1	2	
	R42		c.43-110	1	1	
	R43		c.120-200	8	18	
	R46	Curle 21 mort	c.150-200	1	9	
	R50	DR20	c.43-250	1	169	
	R104	Beaker		5	51	
	LR2.1	Necked jar	c.150-300	6	36	
	LR23	M17 mortarium	c.240-300	1	11	
	MISC			21	108	
			c.100-280	282	2593g	Cobbled surface
304	B2	Misc jars				
		Indented beaker	c.200-300			
		5C23 dish	c.200-350			
		5C25 dish	c.150-350			
		Bead-rim beaker	c.230-270	345	4399	
	B2 OX	Combed jars	c.70-150	13	291	
	B2.1	Misc jars				
		Lid		133	2177	

	B2.3	Necked jar				
		5C36 jar	c.50-270	3	172	
	BER15	Briquetage		3	8	
	R5	Lid	c.80-175			
		Reeded rim bowl	c.100-175	14	108	
	R6.1	Flagon	c.70-200	3	12	
	R6.3	Flagon	c.70-200	1	130	
	R13	Cl 8/3 dish	c.200-270			
		Cl 9 Oval dish	c.200-270	5	190	
	R14	5A4 bowl	c.240-350			
		5C bowl	c.170-250			
		5D bowl	c.120-180			
		5F dish	c.130-270	13	153	
	R16	2A2 beaker	c.90-120			
		2A3 beaker	c.100-150			
		2C2 beaker	c.250-280			
		2D2 beaker	c.190-230			
		2G0 biconical	c.70-100			
		2I3 beaker	c.120-190			
		Bead-rim beaker	c.230-280	73	350	
	R17.1	1A1.1 Flagon	c.180-300	1	24	
	R36	Beaker	c.200-275	1	3	
	R42	Dr 18	c.70-90	1	2	
	R43	Dr 18/31	c.120-150			
		Dr 27	c.120-150			
		Dr 31	c.150-200			
		Dr 37	c.120-200			
		Dr 45	c.170-200	11	44	
	R46		c.140-260	1	5	
	R50	DR 20	c.43-250	8	173	
	R50.1	DR 20	c.170-250	2	850	
	R62	Mortarium		1	68	
	R75	Flagons		7	28	
	R95	Bandes lustrees		1	4	
	R58	Biv amphora		3	23	
	R32	Roughcast bkr	c.130-200	1	2	
	LR1.1	5C2 jar	c.270-300			
		5C7 jar	c.270-400			
		5C11 jar	c.270-400	7	404	
	LR2.1	Jars	c.150-300			
		5A5 bowl	c.240-350	26	262	
	LR2.2	Jar	c.180-300	1	6	
	LR10	Beaker	c.240-400	2	16	
	LR12.1	Beaker	c.240-340	2	24	
	MISC			35	266	
			c.120-270+	717	10194G	Ditch fill
300	B2	Misc jarsx6	c.50-150			Fresh and abr
		Lid	c.50-200	46	416	
	B2 OX			2	18	Abraded
	B2.1	Jar		4	75	Abraded
	B5	5C36 store jar	c.43-270	1	41	Fresh
	R5	Jar	c.80-175	2	14	Abraded
	R16	Poppyhead bkr	c.100-200	12	54	Fresh
	R17.1	Closed form		1	8	Abraded
	R23.3	Platter	c.43-100	1	5	Fresh
	R43		c.120-200	1	45	Abraded
	R47	Amphora	c.70BC-AD150	1	118	Abraded
	LR2.1	Str-sided dish	c.160-370	3	14	Fresh
	MISC			2	12	Abraded
	Tile		roman	1	11	Abraded
			c.100-200 much residual	76	820g	Natural Wealden clay
306	B2	Jars	c.50-250	19	177	Fresh and abr
	B2 OX	Combed store j	c.70-150	2	14	Abraded
	B2.1	Ev rim jar	c.150-400	9	44	Fresh and abr
	B2.5	Lid-seated jar	c.120-170	7	103	Freshest 1 pot
	R6.2	Jar	c.70-200	2	17	Fresh
	R6.3	Flagon	c.70-200	1	5	Fresh
	R13	Open form	c.120-300	1	18	Fresh
	R14	Closed form	c.120-350	4	29	Fresh
	R16	4J1 bowl	c.43-120	11	33	Fresh
	R17.1	Flagon base	c.43-150	1	3	Fresh

	R17.2			2	2	Fresh
	R42	Dr 18/31	c.90-110	2	11	Fresh
	R43	Dr 37	c.120-200	2	8	Fresh
	R43.1	Dr 27	c.90-130	1	6	Fresh
	R50	DR 20	c.43-250	1	185	Abraded
	R56	GAUL 4	c.43-250	14	129	Sl abraded
	LR2.1		c.150-300	1	6	Fresh
	MISC			4	11	
			c.70-150+	84	801g	Burnt deposit
307	B2.1	Necked jar	c.50-100			
		Handled pot		20	190	
	B2.3	Jar	c.43-150	1	80	
	B5	Jar basal	c.43-100	1	8	
	R6.1		c.70-200	1	3	
	R14	Open form	c.120-250	2	48	
	R16	Beakers				
		4H1.1 bowl	c.90-130	4	16	
	R35	Beaker	c.150-200	1	3	
	R43		c.120-200	1	3	
	RX			2	7	
	MISC			2	2	
			c.70-150/200	35	360g	Burnt deposit
309	B2	Necked jarsx3	c.50-150	8	65	Fresh
	B2.1	Jarsx2	c.50-250			Fresh
		5B.10 bowl	c.150-270			Fresh
		Dish	c.160-350	29	333	Fresh
	R5	Jar	c.80-175	2	18	Fresh
	R6.2	Flagon	c.70-200	1	21	Fresh
	R6.3	Flagon	c.70-200	3	32	Fresh
	R16	4H1 bowl	c.70-130			Fresh
		4H2.3 bowl	c.70-130	10	78	Fresh
	R35	Beaker	c.150-200	1	11	Abraded
	R43	Dr33	c.120-200			Fresh
		Dr37	c.120-200	2	13	Fresh
	R56	GAUL 4	c.43-250	6	71	Fresh
	LR2.1	Jar	c.150-300	2	8	Fresh
	MISC			1	2	
	Tile		Roman	1	5	
			c.70-150/200	65	652g	Burnt deposit

Appendix 3: Post Roman Ceramics, Luke Barber

Context	Spot date	Comments
31	c. 1600-1750	unwashed. GRE quite developed
42	c. 1830-1860	unwashed. GRE, v late PEAR TR, TPW2
50	c. 1850-1940	Unwashed. REFW
Auger hole 1	C18th-19th (resid medieval slate)	Unwashed. Mixed peg tile, stone, iron, bone
Auger hole 2	C18th-19th	Unwashed. Mixed peg tile & coal
100	Mixed: C14th, C15th/16th pot but C18th-19th peg tile	Sandy medieval, HFSE, off stoneware
101	c. 1780-1830 (low resid C15th/mid 16th	CREA, PEAR, ctp, HFSE. Late C18th-19th CBM
102	stone only (not datable)	
200	Mixed: x1 mid C13th-14th, x4 C15th-mid 16th, x2 late C17th-mid 18th	sandy medieval, HFSE, GRE early, LONS etc
201	Mixed: some C13th-14th, most C15th-mid 16th, x2 mid C16th-17th	Sand & shell, medieval sandy, much HFE & HFSE,
		BORDY dish
204	Burnt clay/hearth lining only	adhering slag/vitrification
207	Most c. 1250-1350 but x4 c. 1350-1500	Winchelsea Black shelly type, Rye, Rye buff, sand
		& shell, HFSE
212	slag only (not datable)	Unwashed. Iron smithing slag
300	Mixed: a few C14th, most c. 1450-1550, x1 C17th-18th	Sandy greyware, HFE, HFSE, GRE early
301	x1 CBM C16th-18th	
302	Iron only (not datable)	
303	c. 1250-1400	x1 sandy greyware ungl jug handle
304	stone only (not datable)	
305	stone only (not datable)	
306	stone only (not datable)	
307	x1 ambiguous pot RB or poss C13th/14th	Grey sandy ware base. Probably RB but slightly
		sagging suggests C13th/14th. Check fabric later
400	c. 1450-1550	x1 HFSE only
500	CBM only - prob late C15th-16th	
600	c. 1800-1840	GRE late, YEL, SUND, PEAR TR late
601	c. 1840-1900	
602	c. 1830-1920	x2 small sherds only PEAR TR & REFW HP
603	c. 1800-1900	x1 small sherd - YELL
604	CBM only - C18th-19th	
700/701	c. 1900-1925	range of ate industrial wares inc REFW/TPW3 Keiller & Coer Keiller & Cooper PJARS
700/702	c. 1850-1930	Bisque/por figurine (girl in bonnet with dog at feet)

Appendix 4: Roman Ceramic Building Material, Kevin and Lynn Cornwell, HAARG

Quantification

A total quantity of 397 identifiable Romano-British brick and tile fragments weighing 53.4 kg were recovered from 15 contexts during the excavations. They can be divided into four main forms as suggested by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Material Group (ACBMG 2002) and Warry (2020, 349) (see Table 1). Special forms (ie. chimneys, ridge tiles) will be listed separately.

Form	Quantity	Weight (g)
Tegula	222	31,216
Imbrex	37	4,303
Box-Flue	48	6,029
Brick	90	11,618
Unclassified	1,937	32,293
Totals	**2,334**	**85,459**

Table 1 – Roman-British tile form, quantification (fragment count) and weight in grammes.

Fabrics

The recognisable tile form fragments have been studied to identify fabric groups based on visual assessment alone. The following fabric numbers and descriptions are based on an earlier report for this site (Cornwell & Cornwell May 2020b) and have been expanded following the identification of new tile fabrics from the excavation. It should be noted that it is the writers of this article's opinion that Fabrics 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 are quite possibly all derived from the same Wealden clay source and produced at the same British Fleet (*Classis Britannica)* tile production site that has been identified at Northiam, East Sussex (report forthcoming). Fabrics 3 & 4 are similar to each other and are likely to have originated from another tile production site, location currently unidentified.

It should be remembered that tile fabric should not be confused with colour (Brodribb 1987, 136) as variations in firing and the position of the tiles within the kiln can alter the final colour. Some of the material from Smallhythe Place is darker than other examples so the assemblage has been assessed using feel, clay type and composition of the fabric material. This method has led the authors to the conclusion that this assemblage comprises of seven fabric types.

Fabric 1 Pale pink in colour, this fabric has small iron stone and creamy white inclusions under 5mm in size and has a soapy feel. A similar fabric was identified by

Peacock (1977, 237-42, fabric 2) as originating from the Weald. It is one of two fabric types Peacock attributed to tiles bearing the letters CLBR (stamps of the *Classis Britannica*).

Fabric 2 Pale orange in colour this fabric is a very well fired version of Fabric 1. This fabric has small iron stone and creamy white inclusions under 5mm in size, however it is not as 'soapy' as Fabric 1.

Fabric 3 Dark salmon pink/grey sandwich effect with very small iron stone inclusions. This fabric has a 'sandy' feel.

Fabric 4 Similar to Fabric 3, with small rounded flint inclusions less than 1mm in size.

Fabric 5 Soft orange fabric with iron stone inclusions up to 1mm in size.

Fabric 6 An orange coloured well fired fabric similar to Fabric 5, but with iron-rich inclusions up to 8mm in size and fragments measuring up to 5mm diameter of pale grey coloured fine sandstone.

Fabric 7 A variant of Fabric 5 and resembles it in every way except that it contains rounded flint inclusions, measuring up to 2mm in diameter.

A summary of the excavated Romano-British ceramic building material from Smallhythe Place by fabric types, weight and fragment count can be seen at Table 2.

Table 2 – Romano-British brick and tile: fabric type, form, weight in grammes and quantification (fragment count in brackets).

Fabric type	**Tegulae**	**Imbrice**	**Box-Flue**	**Brick**	**Unclassified**	**Total by fabric**
1	8,267 (53)	977 (11)	181 (3)	1,362 (9)		**10,787 (76)**
2	9,066 (59)	416 (4)	856 (7)	1,042 (7)		**11,380 (77)**
3	157 (3)					**157 (3)**

4		325 (3)	4,595 (32)			**4,920 (35)**
5	12,498 (100)	1,221 (12)	167 (4)	8,901 (71)		**22,787 (187)**
6	1,087 (5)	1,324 (6)		313 (3)		**2,724 (14)**
7	52 (1)	40 (1)	230 (2)			**322 (4)**
-	89 (1)				32,293 (1,937)	**32,382 (1,938)**
Grand Totals	**31,216 (222)**	**4,303 (37)**	**6,029 (48)**	**11,618 (90)**	**32,293 (1,937)**	**85,459 (2,334)**

Roofing Tiles

Tegulae

From previously studied assemblages, the average thickness of the tegulae body varies between 21 and 24mm, (Warry 2006, 53-54) with thickness decreasing over time (Warry 2006, 136). During the analysis of finds excavated at Hartfield, Rudling (1986, 205) concluded that only bricks with a thickness of less than 28mm could be fairly attributed as tegulae with those above this dimension being considered as 'true' brick. Previous research by the authors for Kitchenham Farm, Ashburnham (Cornwell & Cornwell Summer 2008, 2) confirmed the average thickness of 20mm and a range of between 10 and 31mm. However, it should be noted that a single example with a partial flange and body thickness of 39mm was recovered at a subsequent date. Brodribb (1987, 13) states that it is rare to find a tegulae body thickness of less than 20mm.

Material from the Smallhythe Place excavation has only been recorded as tegulae if a distinguishing feature such as a flange or a cutaway is present or if the body section fragment has a maximum thickness of up to 32mm.

In total 222 tegula fragments were recovered, with a total weight and percentage of the assemblage at 31.2Kg/36.5%.

Upper and lower cut-aways

Upper and lower cut-aways act to interlock the tegulae into position when fixed on a roof, with the two top corners of the tegulae flange (upper cut-away) and the underside of the two lower corners (lower cut-away) being removed, probably with a knife while the tile clay is partially dry and prior to firing (Warry 2006, 33).

Warry (2006, 63) has been able to attribute four date ranges to the lower cut-aways and five different designs for the upper cut-aways, some with social implications, military or civilian (Warry 2006, 20-22) although these are not helpful for dating. A summary of the Smallhythe Place assemblage cut-aways by type can be seen at Table 3.

Lower cut-aways Group	**Quantity**
A 40-120AD	0
B 100-180AD	3
C 160-260AD	2
D 240-380AD	0
Upper cut-aways Group	
G1	4
G2	0
G3	0
G4 (military)	0
G5	0

Table 3 - Tegulae characteristics from Smallhythe Place, Kent (Warry 2006, 20-22 & 63). All examples were recovered from Trench 3.

Imbrices

The identification of Imbrex relies on the presence of curved tile. Ridge tiles are a slightly different form but with broken tile fragments it is very difficult to distinguish between the two forms (Brodribb 1987; Warry 2006). The examples from the Smallhythe Place excavations were all fragmentary so identification of tile form relies on the piece being curved or from an obvious imbrex in accordance with descriptions by The Archaeological Ceramic Building Material Group (ACBMG 2002). The 37 imbrex examples represented a total weight and percentage of the assemblage at 4.3Kg/5.0%.

Bricks

All the bricks have been catalogued as 'bricks' due to their thickness (33mm or greater). On examination of the 90 brick fragments**,** 4 have evidence of an impressed comb design with the tile being marked during part of the manufacturing process. The combing is thought to be undertaken so to act as a 'key' for bonding using mortar. No mortar is present on any of these samples.

There are no full-length/width dimensions or structural features on the tile fragments so the analysis is based solely on the material not belonging to any of the other categories.

Total weight of the bricks and percentage of the assemblage is 11.6Kg/13.6%.

Mammatae

Three round and shallow Type A mammatae (Brodribb (1987, 62) were identified in the assemblage which are all associated with bricks. Brodribb (1987) suggests this type of mammatae were used to assist in bonding when a brick was used in courses or for flooring.

Box-Flue Tiles

In total, 48 box-flue tile fragments with a total weight and percentage of the assemblage of 6.0Kg/7.1% were recovered. All are fragmentary but with many examples bearing lattice design scoring carried out with a sharp pointed implement, such as a knife, during the manufacturing process. No mortar is present on any of these examples. Two of the box-flue tile fragments in the assemblage can clearly be classified as half box-flue tiles (Brodribb 1987, 65-67). No relief patterned tile has been identified or recovered from Smallhythe Place to date.

Signature Marks

Two signature marks (one on a tegula fragment, the other on a section of box-flue) were recorded during the analysis of the ceramic building material. These were both identified as Warry's (2006, 149) Type 'S'. Their purpose is unknown; however, they may have been for decoration, good luck, quality indicators, size indicators, a dryness test. Warry (2006) suggests they may correlate to a tile maker or tile production site.

Footprints on tiles

Footprints of animals or people are often found on the upper surface of tiles and were impressed when the tile was drying face up as part of the manufacturing process and prior to firing (Warry 2006). Two examples of animal pawprints have been identified in the Smallhythe Place assemblage from the summer 2021 excavations. No human footprints or from footwear (hobnail imprints) have been identified.

During the excavation of Trench 3, fragments of tile bearing partial stamps of the *Classis Britannica* were recovered. These have been catalogued at Table 4 (page 13) with photographs and graphic interpretations at Figures 1-10.

Tile Stamps of the *Classis Britannica* ('British Fleet')

Figure 1 - Smallhythe stamp No. 1 (Smallhythe stamp Type 1). Stamped retrograde: CLS[..] – cl(a)s(sis) [Br](itannica) with only the CLS remaining on this example. It matches RIB 2481.76 (Frere & Tomlin 1993) and is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Figure 2 - Smallhythe stamp No. 2 (Smallhythe stamp Type 2). Stamped: [.]LBR – [c]l(assis) Br(itannica). This is a new design not previously recorded (Frere & Tomlin 1993) and is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Figure 3 - Smallhythe stamp No. 3 (Smallhythe stamp Type 3). Stamped CL[..] – cl(assis) [Br](itannica) with only the CL remaining on this example it matches RIB 2481.81 (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Figure 4 - Smallhythe stamp No. 4. Stamped C[...] – c[l](assis) [Br](itannica) with only the C remaining on this example. Due to the lack of information, it is not possible to match this

design to examples previously recorded. (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2). The stamp frame differs from Stamp No. 7, seen at Figure 7.

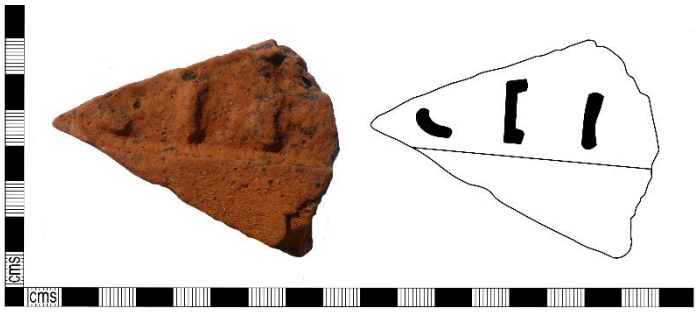

Figure 5 - Smallhythe stamp No. 5. Stamped with unclear lettering – [cl](assis) [Br](itannica). Due to the lack of information, it is not possible to match with stamp examples previously recorded. (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Figure 6 - Smallhythe stamp No. 6. Stamped [...]R – [cl](assis) [B]r(itannica) with only the R remaining on this example. Due to the lack of information, it is not possible to match this design with examples previously recorded. (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Figure 7 - Smallhythe stamp No. 7. Stamped C[...] – c[l](assis) [Br](itannica) with only the C remaining on this example. Due to the lack of information, it is not possible to match this design with examples previously recorded. (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2). The stamp frame differs from Stamp No. 4 at Figure 4.

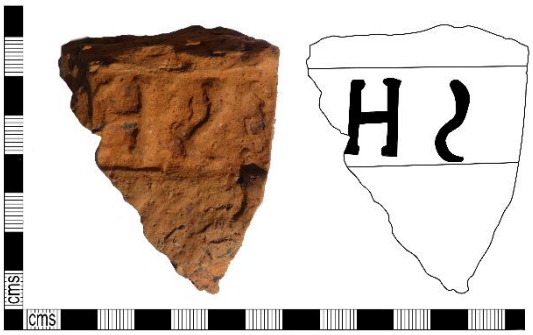

Figure 8 - Smallhythe stamp No. 8 (Smallhythe stamp Type 1). Stamped retrograde: [..]SB[.] – [cl](a)s(sis) B[r](itannica) with only the SB remaining on this example, however it matches with RIB 2481.76 (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Figure 9 - Smallhythe stamp No. 9 (Smallhythe stamp Type 4). Stamped circular retrograde: C[.]B[.] – c[l](assis) B[r](itannica) with only the CB remaining on this example, however it matches with RIB 2481.92 (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

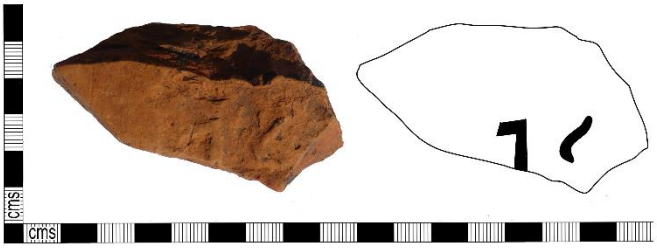

Figure 10 - Smallhythe stamp No. 10 (Smallhythe stamp Type 1). Stamped retrograde: [..]SB[.] – [cl](a)s(sis) B[r](itannica) with only the SB remaining on this example, however it matches with RIB 2481.76 (Frere & Tomlin 1993). It is made from Peacock's (1977) Fairlight fabric (Fabric 2).

Burnt Clay

The excavations produced a total of 244 fragments of burnt clay from 10 different contexts, weighing 3.8Kg in total (see Table 5). The assemblage was in relatively poor condition with the majority of the material comprising abraded, amorphous oxidised fragments.

Table 5 - Smallhythe Place, Kent summer excavation 2021 burnt clay (including 'furnace' wall) recorded by context, weight in grammes, quantity (no. of fragments in brackets), maximum and minimum sizes.

Context	Quantity/weight in grammes	Max. size (mm)	Min. size (mm)	Comments
100	60 (4)	46x35x26	16x13x9	
101	220 (40)	39x24x21	17x12x7	
102	427 (54)	49x42x22	22x13x11	
104	69 (14)	36x27x18	10x10x8	
300	46 (10)	25x22x20	12x11x6	
303	538 (17)	67x58x37	18x14x11	5 large pieces of 'furnace/oven wall'
304	2,249 (92)	86x78x46	16x11x6	1 piece of 'furnace/oven wall'
305	93 (8)	51x36x26	12x10x6	1 piece of 'furnace/oven wall'
306	68 (4)	34x27x23	26x23x20	
309	49 (1)	47x36x35		
Total	**3,819 (244)**			

Burnt clay can result from a number of domestic and industrial activities. This small assemblage would suggest a small-scale industrial processes or domestic activity, possibly a small oven - like structure for food production. The fragments of 'furnace/oven wall' were identified by the presence of a thin layer of green 'glazing' or vitrification to one side of the burnt clay. No evidence was identified within the burnt clay assemblage to indicate iron production in the excavated area of the site.

Discussion

Analysis of this limited Romano-British ceramic building material assemblage (2,334 pieces weighting 85,459g) has only produced 15 'dateable fragments'. The majority (just over 94% by weight) was recovered from Trench 3 with over 50% of the overall assemblage originating from Context 304. The brick and tile analysis by context, fabric, form, weight and quantity can be seen at Tables 6-9.

The dating of this material is difficult, only giving an approximate date range for the production of the ceramic building material. The Smallhythe Place assemblage included 10 partial stamps of the *Classis Britannica* and 5 lower cut-aways on tegula. A summary of these can be seen at Tables 4 and 10.

Table 10 - Tegulae lower cut-aways from Smallhythe Place, Kent summer 2021 excavation recorded by context, quantity, fabric type, lower cut-away group and date range (Warry 2006, 63).

Context	Quantity	Fabric Type	Lower cut-aways Group	Date Range
301 (top soil)	1	2	B	100-180AD
304	1	2	B	100-180AD
	1	5	B	100-180AD
	1	5	C	160-260AD
306	1	5	C	160-260AD

The five lower cut-aways, all on fabrics associated with the '*Classis Britannica'* (Peacock's (1977) Fabric 2) were recovered from Trench 3 and suggest a production date range of 100-260AD (Warry 2006).

The accepted production date range for the '*Classis Britannica'* stamped tiles is between 120-270AD (Philp 1981; Brodribb & Cleere 1988). Pottery from the '*Classis Britannica'* tile production site at Northiam has been reported by Dr. Malcolm Lyne (2017) which supports this date range. With the exception of one '*Classis Britannica'* stamped tile fragment, all the examples from Smallhythe Place were recovered from Context 304.

All four of the main Romano-British ceramic building material tile/brick forms (ie. tegulae, imbrex, box-flue and brick) are represented in the assemblage. No worked stone for walls or roofing was identified during excavation suggesting a timber framed building with a tiled roof (tegulae and imbrex) and a brick floor stood close to the location of Trench 3. Context 304 from which a majority of the ceramic building material and 9 out of the 10 partial stamps of the *'Classis Britannica'* were recovered was a very dark brown/black charcoal containing deposit which also contained a number of iron nails. Context 304 may relate to the demolition of a timber framed building. This building method was used routinely until fairly recent times

in the High Weald. Examples can be seen at Smallhythe Place itself and the Priest's House, Smallhythe.

Research undertaken by the authors of this report has identified other timber framed Romano-British buildings in the High Weald. These types of buildings were present at the port and roadside settlement on Kitchenham Farm, Ashburnham, the tile production site at Castle Croft, Ninfield and the iron production site on Chitcombe Farm, Brede (Cornwell & Cornwell 2017). To date the only Romano-British masonry buildings identified in the Weald are bathhouses, as identified at Beauport Park, Battle (Brodribb & Cleere 1988), Little Farningham, Cranbrook (Aldridge 2001) and Chitcombe Farm, Brede (Cornwell & Cornwell 2017).

The presence of box-flue tiles is normally associated with a hypocaust system or bathhouse however the presence of these tiles on site does not mean that these features were present as Brodribb (1987) states that tiles and bricks were used for many different purposes and construction. It must also be remembered that buildings are altered, refined and repaired over time plus there is historical recycling of materials (Cornwell & Cornwell 2014), all practices still in use today.

The remains of the Saxon Shore Fort known as 'Stutfall', near Lympne (location 22.8km to the east) was constructed between 270-280 AD. There have been a number of excavations at this site originally investigated back in 1893 (Eddison 2000, 48). 'CLBR' stamped tiles were found built into the walls and are considered to have been recycled material from an earlier fort site close to the Saxon Shore Fort, location not identified to date (Eddison 2000). The tile stamps illustrated in Eddison (2000, 48) match with some of the stamps found at the 'tile manufacturing' site at Northiam.

The Northiam tile production site was identified in December 2016 by Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group and is situated on the southern bank of the River Rother 7.6km to the south west of Smallhythe Place. A program of limited fieldwork (mainly fieldwalking and magnetometer surveys) took place and over 2.5 tonnes of ceramic building material was recovered including 162 partial stamped tiles of the '*Classis Britannica*'. Other material included Roman glass, pottery, burnt clay and furnace lining. The subsequent magnetometer surveys confirmed the location of two large Romano-British tile kilns and a large ancillary building measuring approximately 38m x 6m with wings protruding 22m at each end (report forthcoming). Analysis of the partial 'CLBR' stamps and ceramic building material assemblage from Smallhythe Place (see Table 4, 11 & 12) has confirmed a direct link. Given the rarity of Romano-British tile production sites in the South-East of England (Cornwell & Cornwell Summer 2008; Peveler 2016; Cornwell & Cornwell 2017) and the accessibility of the Northiam site by water (via the River Rother) it is strongly suggested that these stamped tiles and a majority of the other ceramic building material (99.0% by weight, excluding box-flue fragments) originated from the production site in Northiam. A majority of the box-flue (76.2% by weight) originates from another unknown site.

Table 11 – Romano-British brick and tile: production site, fabric type, form, weight in grammes and quantification (fragment count in brackets).

Production site	Fabric type	Tegulae	Imbrice	Box-Flue	Brick	Total by fabric
'CLBR' fabric	1, 2, 5, 6 & 7	31,073 (219)	3,978 (34)	1,434 (16)	11,618 (90)	**48,103 (359)**
Others site(s)	3 & 4	157 (3)	325 (3)	4,595 (32)	none	**5,077 (38)**
	Grand Totals	**31,216 (222)**	**4,303 (37)**	**6,029 (48)**	**11,618 (90)**	**53,180 (397)**

Table 12 – Romano-British brick and tile: production site percentages by site, fabric type, form.

Production site	Fabric type	Tegulae	Imbrice	Box-Flue	Brick	Overall
'CLBR' fabric	1, 2, 5, 6 & 7	99.5%	92.4%	23.8%	100.0%	**90.5%**
Others site(s)	3 & 4	0.5%	7.6%	76.2%	0.0%	**9.5%**

Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group have identified a further four tile kilns at Castle Croft, Ninfield, East Sussex (TQ 681116) and these are also associated with the '*Classis Britannica'* evidenced by stamped tiles (Cornwell & Cornwell 2018).

The quantities of ceramic building material fragments and relative size (see Table 7) is highly suggestive of a building on site being demolished and the tiles/bricks recycled. The ratio of tegula to imbrex by weight at Smallhythe Place is 7.3:1 (tegula:imbrex) compared to the expected ratio of 2.4:1 (Warry 2020, 349). This relates to three times as much tegula than would be expected in an assemblage, and could suggest selective tile type recycling; a use for tegula other than as a roof tile or the imbrex is more fragile and breaks into smaller pieces therefore are represented in the 'unclassified' material. There are seven tile fabric types identified from the Smallhythe Place assemblage. However, 5 are considered to be of Peacock's (1977) Type 2 suggesting that tiles from more than one source have been used on site.

This report raises as many questions as it answers. Further excavation and recovery of more 'CLBR' stamped tiles may help to link this site to other well-known installations of the *'Classis Britannica'* as demonstrated at Table 4. The different stamp dies suggest links to the Dover and Lympne Forts, iron production sites at Beauport Park, Battle and Little Farningham Farm, Cranbrook and the tile production site at Northiam.

The photographs and illustrations of the previously unrecorded '*Classis Britannica'* tile stamps will be submitted to the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies for inclusion in the 'Inscriptions' section of the journal *'Britannia'.*

Table 4 - Smallhythe Place, Kent summer excavation 2021 catalogue of *Classis Britannica* stamped ceramic building material.

Smallhythe Place Type No.	Stamp ID No(s)	CBM Form	Peacock (1977) Fabric Type	Comments	Previously Found at (No. of examples)	Reference(s)
1	1, 8 & 10	Tegula	1	RIB2481.76 - Retrograde stamp with the letters 'CLSBR'. Smallhythe fabric Type 2 & 5.	Dover (3)	Philp (1981), Frere & Tomlin (1993)
2	2	Imbrex	1	New design not seen or recorded previously in Britain. Smallhythe fabric Type 6.		Frere & Tomlin (1993)
3	3	Tegula	1	RIB2481.81 – Stamped 'CLBR' with the 'BR' inverted. Smallhythe fabric Type 1.	Cranbrook (1) & Dover (8)	Brodribb (1980), Philp (1981), Frere & Tomlin (1993)
4	9	Tegula	1	RIB2481.92 - Circular retrograde stamp with the letters 'CLBR'. Smallhythe fabric Type 6.	Beauport Park (41), Dover (19), Lympne (3) & Northiam (3)	Brodribb (1980), Philp (1981), Frere & Tomlin (1993), report forthcoming
unallocated	4, 5, 6 & 7	Tegula, Imbrex and Brick	1	Various stamp dies with unclear lettering. Smallhythe fabric Type 2 & 6.		

Table 6 - Analysis of Romano-British ceramic building material fragments from Smallhythe Place, Kent summer excavation 2021 by context, fabric, tile form, weight and quantity [weight in grammes (no. of tile fragments in brackets)]

Context	Fabric	Tegulae	Imbrice	Box-Flue	Brick	Unclassified	Totals by context
100	4			123 (1)			
	5	762 (6)			74 (1)		
	-	89 (1)				303 (21)	
Total		**851 (7)**		**123 (1)**	**74 (1)**	**303 (21)**	**1,351 (30)**
101	1	841 (4)					
	3	62 (1)					
	4			25 (1)			
	5	91 (2)	137 (1)				
	-					705 (29)	
Total		**994 (7)**	**137 (1)**	**25 (1)**		**705 (29)**	**1,861 (38)**
102	1	530 (3)					
	5	126 (1)			194 (2)		
	-					381 (21)	
Total		**656 (4)**			**194 (2)**	**381 (21)**	**1,231 (27)**

104	5	138 (1)					
	-					186 (11)	
Total		**138 (1)**				**186 (11)**	**324 (12)**

201	1	54 (1)			108 (1)		
	-					64 (3)	
Total		**54 (1)**			**108 (1)**	**64 (3)**	**226 (5)**

Context	**Fabric**	**Tegulae**	**Imbrice**	**Box-Flue**	**Brick**	**Unclassified**	**Totals by context**
300	1	689 (4)	533 (7)	181 (3)	294 (2)		
	2	1,107 (8)		192 (2)	92 (1)		
	4		64 (1)				
	5	1,312 (17)		84 (2)	1,283 (13)		
	6	570 (1)					
	7	52 (1)	40 (1)	46 (1)			
	-					6,971 (562)	
Total		**3,730 (31)**	**637 (9)**	**503 (8)**	**1,669 (16)**	**6,971 (562)**	**13,510 (626)**

301	2	845 (5)	70 (1)		102 (1)		
	3	44 (1)					
	4			1,008 (2)			
	5	180 (2)	53 (1)	29 (1)	1,285 (13)		
	6				56 (1)		
	-					1,891 (237)	
Total		**1,069 (8)**	**123 (2)**	**1,037 (3)**	**1,443 (15)**	**1,891 (237)**	**5,563 (265)**

302	5	30 (1)			62 (1)		
	-					70 (5)	
Total		**30 (1)**			**62 (1)**	**70 (5)**	**162 (7)**

Context	**Fabric**	**Tegulae**	**Imbrice**	**Box-Flue**	**Brick**	**Unclassified**	**Totals by context**
303	1	912 (5)			129 (1)		
	2	1,303 (7)			172 (1)		
	4			714 (4)			
	5	2,804 (37)	168 (1)		3,129 (19)		
	-					5,882 (382)	
Total		**5,019 (49)**	**168 (1)**	**714 (4)**	**3,430 (21)**	**5,882 (382)**	**15,213 (457)**

304	1	5,022 (34)	444 (4)		831 (5)		
	2	5,705 (38)	346 (3)	664 (5)	676 (4)		
	4		261 (2)	2,495 (23)			
	5	4,018 (18)	806 (8)	54 (1)	2,178 (15)		
	6	484 (3)	1,324 (6)		257 (2)		
	7			184 (1)			
	-					14,569 (596)	
Total		**15,229 (93)**	**3,181 (23)**	**3,397 (30)**	**3,942 (26)**	**14,569 (596)**	**40,318 (768)**

305	1	120 (1)					
	3	51 (1)					
	4			230 (1)			
	5	1,185 (6)			625 (6)		
	6	33 (1)					
	-					891 (54)	
Total		**1,389 (9)**		**230 (1)**	**625 (6)**	**891 (54)**	**3,135 (70)**

Context	**Fabric**	**Tegulae**	**Imbrice**	**Box-Flue**	**Brick**	**Unclassified**	**Totals by context**

306	1	99 (1)					
	5	1,117 (3)					
	-					265 (9)	
Total		**1,216 (4)**				**265 (9)**	**1,481 (13)**

307	5	225 (2)			71 (1)		
	-					2 (1)	
Total		**225 (2)**			**71 (1)**	**2 (1)**	**298 (4)**

309	2	106 (1)					
	5	367 (3)	57 (1)				
	-					113 (6)	
Total		**473 (4)**	**57 (1)**			**113 (6)**	**643 (11)**

500	5	143 (1)					
Total		**143 (1)**					**143 (1)**

Totals		**31,216 (222)**	**4,303 (37)**	**6,029 (48)**	**11,618 (90)**	**32,293 (1,937)**	**85,459 (2,334)**

Table 7 - Analysis of Romano-British ceramic building material fragments from Smallhythe Place, Kent summer excavation 2021 by tile form, average weight, percentage of assemblage by weight and percentage of assemblage by quantity.

	Tegulae	Imbrice	Box-Flue	Brick	Unclassified
Average Weight by Form	**140.6g**	**116.3g**	**125.6g**	**129.1g**	**16.7g**
Percentage of Assemblage by Weight	**36.5%**	**5.0%**	**7.1%**	**13.6%**	**37.8%**
Percentage of Assemblage by Quantity	**9.5%**	**1.5%**	**2.1%**	**3.9%**	**83.0%**

Table 8 - Smallhythe Place, Kent summer excavation 2021, summary by context of ceramic building material recorded by form, weight and quantity [weight in grammes (no. of tile fragments in brackets)]

Context	Tegulae	Imbrice	Box-Flue	Brick	Unclassified	Total by context
100	851 (7)		123 (1)	74 (1)	303 (21)	**1,351 (30)**
101	994 (7)	137 (1)	25 (1)		705 (29)	**1,861 (38)**
102	656 (4)			194 (2)	381 (21)	**1,231 (27)**
104	138 (1)				186 (11)	**324 (12)**
201	54 (1)			108 (1)	64 (3)	**226 (5)**
300	3,730 (31)	637 (9)	503 (8)	1,669 (16)	6,971 (562)	**13,510 (626)**
301	1,069 (8)	123 (2)	1,037 (3)	1,443 (15)	1,891 (237)	**5,563 (265)**
302	30 (1)			62 (1)	70 (5)	**162 (7)**
303	5,019 (49)	168 (1)	714 (4)	3,430 (21)	5,882 (382)	**15,213 (457)**
304	15,229 (93)	3,181 (23)	3,397 (30)	3,942 (26)	14,569 (596)	**40,318 (768)**
305	1,389 (9)		230 (1)	625 (6)	891 (54)	**3,135 (70)**
306	1,216 (4)				265 (9)	**1,481 (13)**
307	225 (2)			71 (1)	2 (1)	**298 (4)**
309	473 (4)	57 (1)			113 (6)	**643 (11)**
500	143 (1)					**143 (1)**
Totals	**31,216 (222)**	**4,303 (37)**	**6,029 (48)**	**11,618 (90)**	**32,293 (1,937)**	**85,459 (2,334)**

Table 9 - Smallhythe Place, Kent summer excavation 2021. Summary by trench number for the ceramic building material, recorded by form, weight and quantity [weight in grammes (no. of tile fragments in brackets)]

Trench No.	Tegulae	Imbrice	Box-Flue	Brick	Unclassified	Total by Trench
1	2,639 (19)	137 (1)	148 (2)	268 (3)	1,575 (82)	**4,767 (107)**
2	54 (1)			108 (1)	64 (3)	**226 (5)**
3	28,380 (201)	4,166 (36)	5,881 (46)	11,188 (86)	30,654 (1,852)	**80,323 (2,221)**
4						
5	143 (1)					**143 (1)**
6						
7						
Totals	**31,216 (222)**	**4,303 (37)**	**6,029 (48)**	**11,618 (90)**	**32,293 (1,937)**	**85,459 (2,334)**

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Appendix 5: Medieval brick Kiln Samples, Mathew J. Champion

Re-opening of the Time Team trench in Elfwick field excavated by Phil Harding in 1998 allowed the project to further examine the reported kiln structure, confirming that it was for the manufacture of bricks (Bellamy & Milne, 2003). Samples were taken from the base of the kiln, below the level of the earlier excavation in a largely undisturbed context. Three samples of material were retained, all of which were recovered from the lower contexts of the kiln feature.

1. Sample of fired brick. Approximately half a brick used as part of the kiln floor, of red/orange fabric, displaying a number of inclusions.

2. Sample of fired brick. Approximately half a brick used within the kiln structure. The material showed extensive evidence of being over-fired, leading to extensive discolouration and vitrification at one end. The fabric directly beneath the vitrification severely blackened, perhaps suggesting multiple firings.

3. Sample of Kiln lining. A composite fabric formed of multiple layers of clay and grog inclusions. All heavily discoloured during the firing process.

The brick waste used to form the base of the kiln were all of a similar size, with little variation in thickness. No hack marks were discernible on the available samples, although straw marks were clearly visible, both suggesting a pre mid-sixteenth century date for the feature (Brunskill, 1990).

The recovered sample of kiln lining displayed two clear faces, set at right angles, indicating that it came from the junction between the main body of the kiln and the stoke hole. The material showed extensive evidence of heat discolouration at multiple levels. There was also visible evidence of multiple layers of clay being applied to the lining, with visible grog inclusions, suggesting repair or rebuilding, and extended use of the kiln. This is supported by the features of the heavily vitrified brick, which suggests multiple firings.

Although no independent dating evidence was recovered from the trench, the size of the brick samples is consistent with a C15th or C16th date range (Wight 1972). The brick dimensions also perfectly match those recorded in the southern face of the plinth of Smallhythe place, which dates to the same period.

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Appendix 6: A preliminary assessment of iron fastenings recovered from excavations in 1998 and 2021, Gustav Milne

Archaeological interventions took place in Smallhythe in June 1998 over a three-day period to assess possible evidence for the site of the major medieval shipyards thought to have operated in that location from at least the 15th to the 16th century (Friel 1995, 52-3; Friel 2020, 180-3; Moorhouse 2005). The recovery of a variety of metal vessel fastenings and the identification of slight earthworks perhaps representing slipways associated with shipbuilding seemed to confirm that assumption (Bellamy & Milne 2002; Bellamy & Milne 2003). In August 2021 a further series of seven trenches were excavated by the National Trust assisted by the Hastings Archaeological Research Group.

Iron fastenings that could be associated with shipyard activities were recovered from excavations in both campaigns from the Elfwick as well as the Forstal Fields (ie to east and west of Smallhythe Place, the National Trust property on the B2082 road to Tenterden). The metalwork recovered from these interventions have been studied, adopting the methodology and approaches suggested by Professor Sean McGrail (1993) and Jan Bill (1994). Of these fastenings, the roves are arguably the most diagnostic artefacts associated with ships of clinker construction. From the 1998 excavations as well as fragments of 92 nails (Bellamy & Milne 2002, 35; Plates 11 & 12) and 36 single roves were recovered (Bellamy & Milne 2002 34; Plates 9 & 10). The majority came from Trenches 98/5 (Elfwick Field), 98/6 and 98/7(Forstal Field).

The largest concentrations of 20 roves came from Trench 98/5, from the fills of a linear earthwork initially identified as a possible slipway. A further 15 roves were recovered from silty loams in Trenches 98/6 and 98/7. This was in the approximate location where a fragment from a clinker-built vessel was recorded. It was a joggled frame, badly damaged but from a vessel incorporating frames some 0.2m wide with hull planking 20mm thick and 0.15m wide, and thus a small ship rather than a boat (Bellamy & Milne 2002,32; Plates 5 & 6). It was also from this area that an assemblage of iron finds was recovered and analysed by Dana Goodburn Brown. Her X-radiographs revealed a rare strip of unused roves (context 98/601) as well as nail tip offcuts (context 98/ 603), debris associated with clinker shipbuilding in the immediate vicinity (Bellamy & Milne 2002, 40).

Taken as a whole, the 1998 iron fastenings represented a range of different-sized parent vessels. Some of these were clearly of a larger class-size (ie from ships rather than boats) when compared with similar data

from the seaport of Dublin before 1200 (McGrail 1993) and late medieval working barges on the Severn (Nayling 1998) and from London (Marsden 1996, 68).

The excavations at Smallhythe in 2021 have added to the 1998 assemblage, but although many iron nail fragments were recovered, none came from sealed medieval contexts (as had been the case with some of the 1998 material), but were variously associated with Roman, mixed medieval, post-medieval or modern domestic activities. Some of nails recovered in 2021 may indeed relate directly to the medieval shipyards, but it would require further analysis and study to confirm this. Nevertheless, there were significant finds in this season, including roves representing a range of different-sized vessels and activities:

Eight roves, all diamond-shaped 2 x 40mm; 2 x 45mm; 2 x 50mm; 2 x 60mm;

One clenched nail & rove attached 60mm, fastening planks with joint thickness of c. 30mm;
(21/T7: a characteristic of ship-breaking)

Two unused roves in an uncut strip, each c 60mmx 50mm
(21/035- a characteristic feature of shipbuilding)

From study of the iron fastenings in both seasons, it is clear that at least two major activities that would have taken place in this general location are represented, shipbuilding, ship-breaking and possibly also ship repair. Today vessel-building, vessel-repair and vessel-breaking are often conducted on different sites with different facilities and personnel. In the medieval period, these processes may have been far more closely linked, as was seen in the Poole Foundry site, excavated in 1986-7 (Watkins 1994). Here, some sixty timbers were recorded *in situ*, laid out over what had once been the open foreshore in the early 15th century. Keels, floor frames, futtocks and stem posts were all represented. It was clear that some of these elements were derived from dismantled vessels, while others were partially-worked fresh timbers in the process of being cut to shape, presumably using the older timbers as templates. Thus, at a time when fully drawn up ship plans were not in use by ship builders, timbers recovered from a dismantled vessel of a similar size to the proposed new vessel could serve as a guide or blueprint, while also providing a cost-effective recycling alternative to the supply of new timber.

It has also been noted that the recovery of reused ship timbers from sealed archaeological deposits from the London medieval waterfront could also be indicative of the locations of shipyard activities (Milne 2003 165-174, see also Fig 81). It is noticeable that on many of the possible shipbuilding sites of medieval date provisionally identified in northern Europe, older reused ship timbers are frequently found. At Fribrodre A

on the Danish island of Falster, for example, a thick deposit of vessel parts and discarded wood was recovered clearly representing shipbreaking activities, but there were also many wood chips and unused treenails, equally clearly representing ship building or repair (Madsen & Klasen 2010).

Again, from Bergen in Norway, the large assemblage of timbers from dismantled vessels subsequently recycled in medieval waterfront structures included evidence from boat-builders clamps as well as a huge knee, roughed out but never finished (Christensen 1985, 257). A similar picture was observed in Dublin, where large groups of ship timbers were recycled in a series of waterfront structures dating from the 10th to the 13th centuries, suggesting shipyard activities, possibly in the area of the Strand to the west of Wood Quay (McGrail 1993, 86-7).

It was not just ship timbers that could be recycled: so too could old iron fastenings. A particularly pertinent example of direct relevance for Smallhythe in the 15th century, is the fate of Henry V's *Grace Dieu*, which was built in c. 1416 and all but abandoned by 1440. By then, ten men had stripped her of all her ironwork, including 7840kg of clench nails, a most valuable asset (Friel 1993, 11). The modest group of nails and roves recovered from Smallhythe therefore represents not just the very much larger assemblage that did not escape the recyclers, but also a clear indicator of the location of ship building and its close contemporary associate, ship dismantling.

It can thus be argued that evidence clearly compatible with ship handing activity was recovered at Smallhythe, over a distance of at least 250m along the ancient shoreline that once bounded the tidal River Rother. At present, the roves, the nail tips and the joggled timber all relate to clinker-constructed vessels, and thus to activities in the 14thor 15thcenturies. It is possible the four so-called slipways, the linear depression cut into the river bank at right angles to the Rother, may have been temporary berths for dismantling or repairing vessels rather than for vessel construction. The actual location for the building of Henry V's fleet may perhaps have been to the east, on what was once termed Foreland Marsh, an area yet to be examined. As for the location of the 16th-century sites where carvel-constructed vessels were built, this has yet to be confirmed archaeologically.

The potential of this site to significantly illuminate the neglected subject of medieval shipyards has been proven. although much remains to be established. That said, there is no other site in the country that boasts documentary evidence for both clinker and carvel construction sites (and thus the crucial transition of the two significantly differing technologies) as well as a largely undeveloped landscape, a proportion of which

could well be still waterlogged. If we are ever to understand the layout and development of medieval shipyards, and how the change to carvel construction impacted that industry, this is arguably the only surviving English site that could best address the archaeological issues involved.

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Appendix 7: Landscape Investigation and Analytical Earthwork Survey, Al Oswald (Dept. of Archaeology, University of York), Bob Clifford (Map Anomalies and Curiosities Facebook Group) and Margot Lautrey (Dept. of Archaeology, University of York)

Introduction

Early in the three-day investigation undertaken by Channel 4's Time Team in June 1998, a series of three or four possible medieval slipways were identified by the programme's field surveyor, Stewart Ainsworth. These were initially recognised as shallow, rectangular depressions at the lower end of the field known as Elfwick (to the west of Smallhythe Place), extending at right angles to the ancient shoreline and approximately parallel to each other, though spaced well apart (Bellamy and Milne 2003, fig. 2). Unfortunately, a bereavement prevented the normal level of earthwork analysis and recording (Stewart Ainsworth pers. comm.), so only a rapid inspection could be completed. A 12.2m-long trench (Time Team Trench 5) was sited perpendicular to one of the more obvious depressions, partly to examine a strong geophysical anomaly lying close to its western edge. By the end of the filming, this excavation had showed the anomaly to represent a clamp kiln for brick manufacturing, apparently of late medieval date. The kiln, thought to have been linked to ship-building, was only partly and inconclusively excavated in 1998, but further excavation in 2021 confirmed the interpretation and fully investigated the feature. In 1998, the eastern side of the kiln was judged to have been cut by the linear hollow interpreted as a slipway, suggesting to the excavators that ship-building activity may have migrated eastward along the shoreline as natural silting occurred (Bellamy & Milne 2003, 374-5). On excavation, the c.12mwide hollow proved to be up to 1.0m deep below the current ground surface, with gently sloping sides, and its fills contained metalwork thought to relate to the repair of medieval ships of different sizes. Another trench (Time Team Trench 4) was sited at the mouth of the same hollow, at right angles to the first trench, in an attempt to characterise the adjacent shoreline.

The field survey undertaken over three days in August 2021 had four principle objectives, in addition to accurately locating the various invasive interventions undertaken in the course of the fortnight of excavations. These objectives were:

1) To complete a detailed, large-scale analytical earthwork survey of the earthworks identified as slipways in 1998;
2) To complete a detailed, large-scale analytical earthwork survey of various slight earthworks in the garden immediately surrounding Smallhythe Place;
3) To deliver training in traditional 'lo-tech' taped survey techniques to any members of the project team who were interested;
4) To undertake a rapid 'walkover' field survey of the environs of Small Hythe, making use of Lidar data (which was not available in 1998).

The first two of these objectives were mainly thwarted, the first because the tenant farmer was unable to mow the hay in Elfwick field prior to the intended start of the survey, and the second

because of prolonged torrential rain. However, the last two objectives were completed satisfactorily, although it emerged that it would be useful to undertake walkover survey over an even wider area.

Elfwick field

Since circumstances did not allow a detailed survey, two of the authors carried out a rapid inspection similar to that undertaken by Ainsworth in 1998. In essence, this did not improve on the earlier conclusions, but in this report the term 'dry-dock' is preferred over 'slipway', because the form of the earthworks suggests confined, sunken, level platforms, rather than the ramp-like structure normally implied by the latter term. In addition, it appears that the ground on one or both sides of the linear hollows has been built up to some degree, presumably using spoil gained by digging out the adjacent hollows. The resultant mounds seem to project for some metres beyond the current interface between the natural valley side and floor; in other words, perhaps onto the ancient beach. This perhaps suggests that the earthworks were intended to facilitate access to the sides of ships cradled in the hollows and/or to keep lightweight scaffolding safely above the high-water mark.

A quarry pit of moderate size lies directly upslope from the earthworks described above, with a hint of a trackway leading down from it. The pit is not marked on historic Ordnance Survey maps, indicating that is likely to be of some antiquity. Since the location of the pit seems at odds with the historic field pattern, it may be the source of the clay used to make bricks in the excavated clamp kiln.

The question of whether arable agriculture has taken place in the lower part of the field was considered. The Time Team research concluded that ploughing was responsible for truncating the excavated clamp kiln (Bellamy & Milne 2003, 374) and this also seems the most plausible mechanism for the levelling of the various Roman features in the field, including several boundary earthworks. Ridge and furrow is not a symptom of medieval agriculture in Kent, so the surface traces are seldom diagnostic. A positive lynchet about 1m high, which runs east - west about half-way down the valley side, seems to indicate that there was fairly prolonged or intensive arable agriculture upslope from the lynchet, but the intensity of agricultural activity downslope is less clear. Lidar imagery suggests that this substantial lynchet was the lowest of three closelyspaced, parallel boundaries which may represent the boundaries of medieval tofts, the other two surviving as much slighter earthworks.

The gardens of Smallhythe Place

Numerous slight earthworks were observed within the gardens, all apparently relating to the use of the house and its later farmyard. The Second and Third Edition 25-inch scale maps, respectively surveyed in 1897 and 1906 (Ordnance Survey 1898; 1908), offer useful insights into the changes made by Ellen Terry immediately after she purchased the house late in 1899. Until the purchase, what is now the south-western corner of the gardens was an open area alongside the Small Hythe Road, crossed by a curving track, which branched away from the road to join the track running eastwards along the north side of the Reading Sewer. The curving branch of the track, now within the garden, is still discernible as an earthwork in the lawn. Several boundaries marked on the historic Ordnance Survey maps can also be detected as earthworks, the clearest being those introduced or abandoned soon after Ellen Terry's purchase. To the north of the barn, Terry swept away two open-

fronted cart-sheds and several small pens; the sites of these are recognisable as conspicuously levelled ground (and as building rubble/hard core present in several of the holes dug to retrieve metal objects found by systematic metal detecting).

It may be possible to draw some inferences from the existence of an oriel window in the south wall of the solar of Smallhythe Place. It is evident that the building has undergone major changes, including the relocation of the cross-passage to the opposite side of the hall and thus the 'reversal' of the socio-economic divisions inherent in the design of a medieval house, as well as (probably) the addition or relocation of the bay in which the oriel sits. The southern ends of the north - south ceiling joists of the solar rest on top of a wall-plate, rather than being tongued into its side in the conventional way, and although some attempt has been made to carve the lower edge of the wall-plate to match the decorative mouldings below the window, the quality of the wood-working is less good. This may indicate that an attempt was made to counteract the subsidence that this end of the building clearly suffered by inserting a new wall-plate directly below the original one. Since the current wall-plate is covered in a painted design dated to the earlier 16th century, the structural changes would seem to have been made well before that date, undoubtedly placing the construction of the original house well before the aftermath of the fire that devastated Small Hythe in 1514. The 'reversal' of the layout of the original house is not unique, but may be significant. In facing south, the solar and its large window would obviously have been well-placed to capture more light and sunshine, but it seems unlikely that this consideration was a primary driver for change. Rather, the change perhaps indicates an intention to create a symbolic link between the house and activity on the river. It has been suggested that the oriel window in particular may have been placed here to present an impressive architectural feature towards the river and/or the ship-building zone itself, perhaps reflecting the role of an early occupant as Port Reeve. This last proposal finds no support in the documentary evidence, but may find a little more in the archaeological evidence.

While the analysis of the building indicates that the oriel window must have been in place here while ship-building was still active at Small Hythe, it seems doubtful to the current investigators that the window of the most high-status room in a high-status house would have been designed to offer views of workmen involved in any of the noisy, smelly, messy tasks related to ship- building, breaking and repair. In this context, it is worth making two basic observations about the long rectangular pond to the south of the house, which, according to local tradition, served as a possible medieval dock (a theory ultimately rejected by the Time Team). First, the pond appears to have formed part of a much longer catch-water drainage ditch that follows the northern side of the floodplain, though whether this wider section pre- or post-dates the rest of the watercourse is unclear. Second, it would be typical for a medieval solar to overlook a small, enclosed, private garden and, in the light of this, it is worth considering whether the medieval pond served as a fishpond, perhaps with ornamental qualities.

The wider landscape

In Forstal field, to the east of Smallhythe Place, a series of low lynchets, first identified on lidar imagery, define a pattern of small, irregular, but generally quadrangular, fields reminiscent of a premedieval field system. What appears to be a hollowed trackway skirts the south-eastern side of these fields, arcing away from the current eastern boundary of the field before turning to run southwards, with no obvious destination apart from the ancient foreshore. Intriguingly, historic Ordnance Survey maps show that three 'stones' - presumably disused boundary markers - once stood alongside this earthwork, apparently surviving until at least 1960. Since such boundary

markers occur elsewhere in the area (for example, a comparable line of three stones is marked some 600m south-west of Smallhythe Place, crossing a field on the south side of the Reading Sewer), it would be unwise to place too much importance on their presence. Given the coincidence of the stones in Forstal field with the trackway, however, it is tempting to speculate that the stones may have been comparable to 'meerstones' in the context of industrial landscapes, perhaps marking the limit of land potentially available for ship-related activity. This raises the possibility that this activity was sporadic or seasonal, and that the land was only turned over to ship building 'on demand', a theory that receives support from documentary references to 'sojourners' or itinerant workers.

The heavy volume of traffic that once used Small Hythe Road is evidenced by the great depth of a hollow way about 1km north of Smallhythe Place, where the road encounters a relatively steep slope. Approaching Small Hythe Bridge straight from the north, the last 50m of the road takes a slight, but anomalous, turn westward. Beyond the bridge, it continues across the floodplain (known by the 17th century as the Upper Levels) for a further 190m, on a slightly different alignment, running along the top of a low causeway whose alignment exactly matches all the post-medieval drainage ditches/field boundaries in this part of the valley. Then, near the middle of the floodplain, the road turns a right angle westward, here running along the top of a much more substantial embankment more than c.1m high. Beyond the right-angled turn, another broad causeway up to c.1m high resumes on approximately the same north - south line as the rest of the road, and continues for another 370m, as far as the dry ground on the northern side of the Isle of Oxney. Five observations about this last causeway seem important:

1) it is on a slightly different alignment from the slighter causeway that extends southwards from the bridge, an alignment that directs it towards the point where Small Hythe Road would meet the ancient shoreline, were it not for the slight deviation as it approaches the bridge;
2) this alignment of this causeway does not correspond so closely to the adjacent field boundary ditches as does the slighter section that extends south from Small Hythe Bridge;
3) its northern end does not meet the slighter causeway, but is actually off-set by more than 10m to the east;
4) The substantial embankment followed by the east - west stretch of Small Hythe Road does not extend any further east than the northern terminus of this causeway;
5) a footpath, still a Public Right of Way, followed the top of this causeway by at least the late 19th century (Ordnance Survey 1873).

In the view of the current investigators, the most plausible reading of all this evidence together is that the causeway is the earliest visible feature in the landscape here, probably dating to the period between the 1330s and the 1630s when the flow of the River Rother was directed north of the Isle of Oxney, but perhaps originating at an even earlier date. It must represent a route across the marshy inter-tidal margin of the former estuary, and its well-defined northern end implies that a ferry must have operated between its terminus and a point immediately east of Small Hythe Bridge, some 200m away. The existence of a 'ferry station' at Small Hythe was posited during the Time Team show, but it is unclear whether this assertion was based on any documentary evidence. The substantial embankment along which the east - west stretch of Small Hythe Road now runs seems to represent a 'levee' or sea wall, constructed to reclaim or 'inn' the marshy land already traversed by the causeway. If it is assumed that this reclaimable land lay upstream of the pre-existing causeway, then it follows that the usual direction of the water's flow was from west to east; in other words, the opposite of the present-day flow in the Reading Sewer, again indicating that the inning was carried out in the period between the 1330s and the 1630s. A map made in 1720 appears to show that what

is now called the Reading Sewer was then called the New Cut, while the main watercourse, running close to the middle of the floodplain, was called the Appledore Channel. Local tradition holds that the channel of the River Rother was almost half a mile wide at this point, but our reading of the evidence tends to suggest that the main channel was no more than c.200m wide, with a broad margin of marshy ground on the southern shore. This tallies reasonably with the breadth of up to 180m suggested by seismic refraction survey undertaken in 1998, although the proposed depth of c.30m - comparable to much of the Amazon - seems implausibly great (Bellamy and Milne 2003, 359).

Two more parallel embankments, first recognised on lidar imagery, potentially relate to the features described above. Each embankment is c.30 m wide and up to 0.7 m high, with an intervening channel c.20m wide, but only marginally lower than the ground beyond the embankments. These earthworks survive best in an apparently unploughed meadow c.370m south-west of Smallhythe Place, but they can be traced in a ploughed-down condition extending both west and east of the meadow, apparently continuing somewhat further east than the line of the causeway described above. This seems to represent an artificial canalisation of the River, presumably, but not certainly, post-dating its diversion to the south of the Isle of Oxney in the 1630s. If contained between the parallel banks, the river's breadth would have been similar to the canalised sections maintained today.

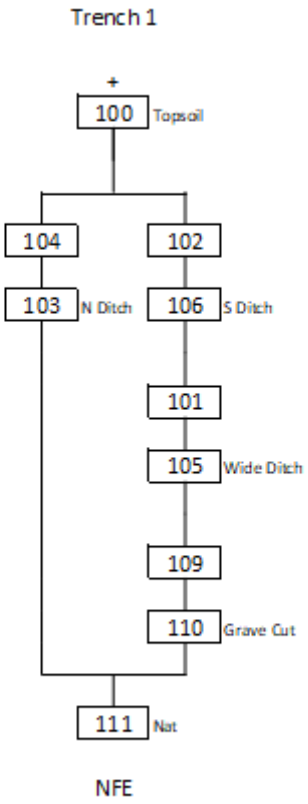
Suggestions for future research

The interpretation of the putative dry-dock earthworks in Elfwick field remains insecure; both the hollows and the adjacent raised platforms therefore remain very attractive targets for detailed, large-scale earthwork survey as well as subsequent excavation. As the Time Team recognised, there is potential for the preservation of timbers, for example wooden rollers, in the base of the supposed dry-docks; these in turn might offer the potential for dendrochronological dating of the installations themselves, rather than the ships that used them. It is worth noting, however, that Time Team's Trench 4 did not unearth any such timbers close to what seems to be the mouth of the example investigated, despite being aligned longitudinally to the earthwork. Although the Time Team investigations recovered artefactual evidence for ship-building at depths well below the effective range of metal detectors, there is a strong case for plotting the distribution of any detectable artefacts here before considering where exactly to place a trench.

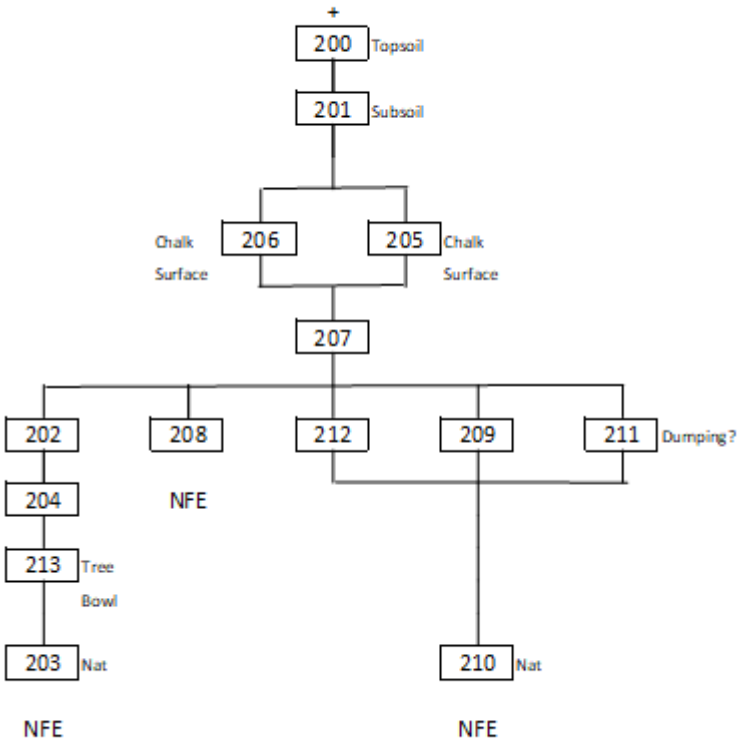
The evidence described above, namely the identification of a trackway that appears to serve the foreshore area and the presumed boundary stones nearby, strengthens the case for more extensive invasive investigations along the southern edge of Forstal field. Again, metal detecting seems a sensible first step.

Although not located on National Trust land, the causeway leading from the Isle of Oxney northwards towards Small Hythe emerges as a potentially important target for future non-invasive research and excavation. If, as was usually the case, the causeway was constructed by packing clay around a framework of branches and timber posts, dendrochronology may offer an opportunity not only to date the trackway itself, but to understand the development of the local estuarine landscape, and to address the question of why Small Hythe became such an important location for ship construction, breaking and repair.

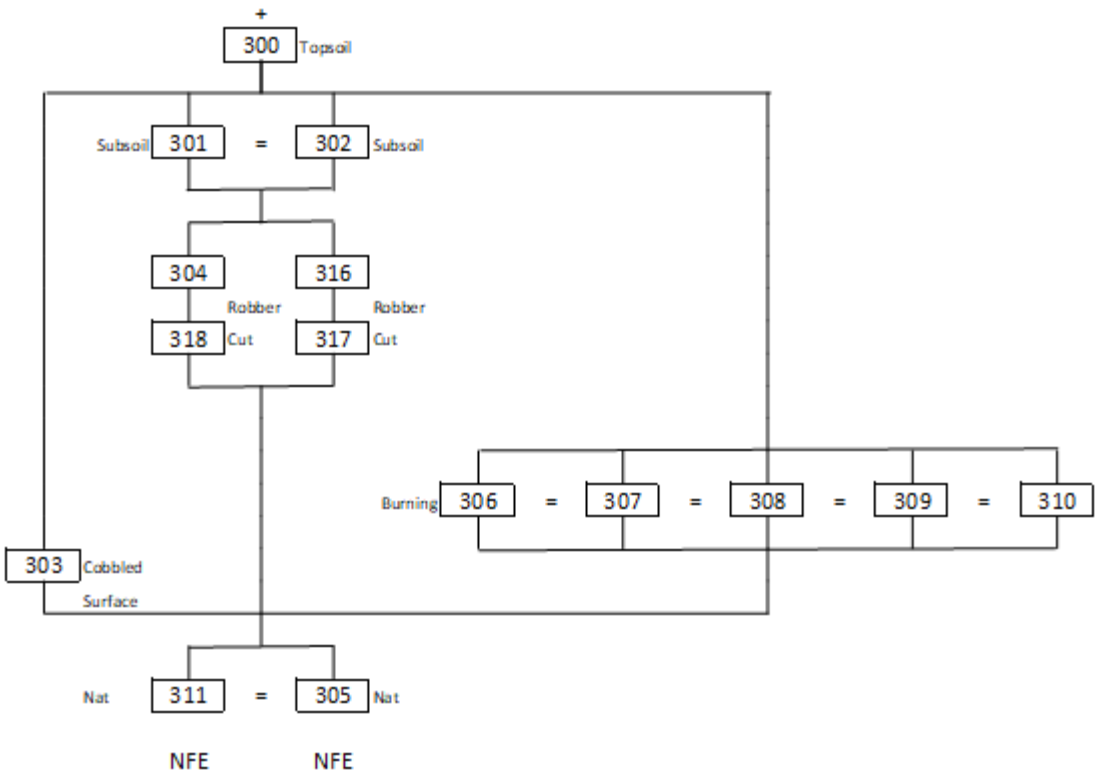
Appendix 8: Site Matrices



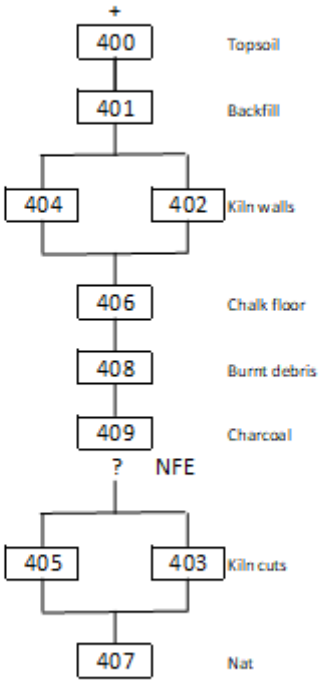
Trench 2


200
Topsoil
201
Subsoil
Chalk
Surface
206
205
Chalk
Surface
207
202
208
212
209
211
Dumping?
204
NFE
213
Tree
Bowl
203
Nat
210
Nat
NFE
NFE

Trench 3

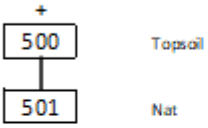

300 Topsoil
Subsoil 301 = 302 Subsoil
304 316
Robber Robber
318 Cut 317 Cut
Burning 306 = 307 = 308 = 309 = 310
303 Cobbled Surface
Nat 311 = 305 Nat
NFE NFE

Trench 4



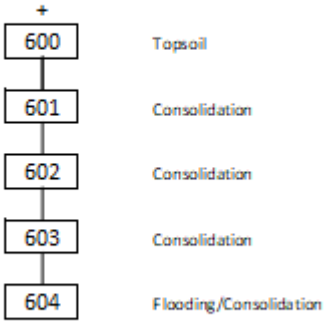
NFE

Trench 5



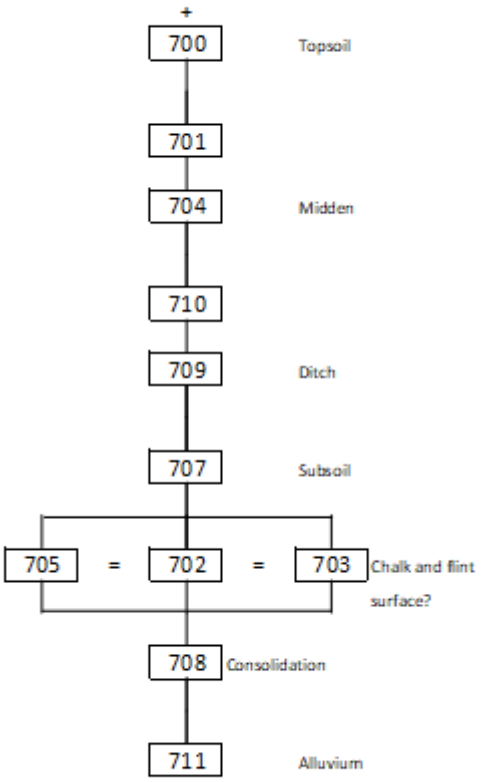
NFE

Trench 6



NFE

Trench 7


+
700
Topsoil
701
704
Midden
710
709
Ditch
707
Subsoil
705
=
702
=
703
Chalk and flint surface?
708
Consolidation
711
Alluvium

NFE

Appendix 9: Context Index

Context Number	Type	Area/ Trench	Description
100	Layer	1	Topsoil
101	Fill	1	Fill of [105]
102	Fill	1	Fill of [106]
103	Cut	1	Ditch
104	Fill	1	Fill of [103]
105	Cut	1	Possible droveway
106	Cut	1	Ditch
107	Void		
108	Void		
109	Fill	1	Fill of [110]
110	Cut	1	Possible grave cut
111	Layer	1	Natural Wealden Clay
200	Layer	2	Topsoil
201	Layer	2	Subsoil
202	Layer	2	Dumping?
203	Layer	2	Natural Wealden Clay
204	Fill	2	Fill of [213]
205	Layer	2	Chalk surface
206	Layer	2	Chalk surface
207	Layer	2	Ploughsoil/consolidation?
208	Layer	2	Dumping?
209	Layer	2	Dumping?
210	Layer	2	Natural Wealden Clay
211	Layer	2	Dumping?
212	Layer	2	Dumping?
213	Cut	2	Tree bowl
300	Layer	3	Topsoil
301	Layer	3	Subsoil
302	Layer	3	Subsoil
303	Layer	3	Cobbled surface
304	Fill	3	Fill of [318]
305	Layer	3	Natural Wealden Clay
306	Layer	3	Burnt deposit
307	Layer	3	Burnt deposit
308	Layer	3	Burnt deposit
309	Layer	3	Burnt deposit
310	Layer	3	Burnt deposit
311	Layer	3	Natural Wealden Clay
312	Void		
313	Void		
314	Void		

Context Number	Type	Area/ Trench	Description
315	Void		
316	Fill	3	Fill of [317]
317	Cut	3	Robber trench
318	Cut	3	Robber trench
400	Layer	4	Topsoil
401	Backfill	4	Time Team backfill
402	Structure	4	Kiln wall
403	Cut	4	Kiln cut
404	Structure	4	Kiln wall
405	Cut	4	Kiln cut
406	Layer	4	Chalk floor
407	Layer	4	Natural Wealden Clay
408	Layer	4	Charcoal
409	Layer	4	Burnt debris
500	Layer	5	Topsoil
501	Layer	5	Natural sand
600	Layer	6	Topsoil
601	Layer	6	Consolidation
602	Layer	6	Consolidation
603	Layer	6	Consolidation
604	Layer	6	Flooding/consolidation
700	Layer	7	Topsoil
701	Fill	7	Fill of [704]
702	Layer	7	Chalk and flint surface
703	Layer	7	Chalk and flint surface
704	Cut	7	Midden cut
705	Layer	7	Chalk and flint surface
706	Void	7	
707	Layer	7	Subsoil
708	Layer	7	Consolidation
709	Cut	7	Ditch
710	Fill	7	Fill of [710]
711	Layer	7	Alluvium

Context Number	Type	Area/ Trench	Description
A101	Deposit	AH1	Topsoil
A102	Deposit	AH1	Made ground
A103	Deposit	AH1	Made ground
A201	Deposit	AH2	Topsoil
A202	Deposit	AH2	Made ground
A203	Deposit	AH2	Made ground
A301	Deposit	AH3	Topsoil
A302	Deposit	AH3	Made ground
A401	Deposit	AH4	Topsoil
A402	Deposit	AH4	Natural sand
A501	Deposit	AH5	Topsoil
A502	Deposit	AH5	Natural sand
A601	Deposit	AH6	Topsoil
A602	Deposit	AH6	Natural Weslden Clay
A701	Deposit	AH7	Topsoil
A702	Deposit	AH7	Natural sand
A801	Deposit	AH8	Topsoil
A802	Deposit	AH8	Made ground
A803	Deposit	AH8	Made ground
A901	Deposit	AH9	Topsoil
A902	Deposit	AH9	Made ground
A1001	Deposit	AH10	Topsoil
A1002	Deposit	AH10	Alluvium (redeposited?)
A1101	Deposit	AH11	Topsoil
A1201	Deposit	AH12	Topsoil
A1202	Deposit	AH12	Subsoil
A1301	Deposit	AH13	Topsoil
A1302	Deposit	AH13	Subsoil
A1303	Deposit	AH13	Made ground
A1304	Deposit	AH13	Made ground
A1401	Deposit	AH14	Topsoil
A1402	Deposit	AH14	Made ground
A1501	Deposit	AH15	Topsoil

Context Number	Type	Area/ Trench	Description
A1502	Deposit	AH15	Subsoil
A1503	Deposit	AH15	Made ground
A1504	Deposit	AH15	Alluvium
A1601	Deposit	AH16	Topsoil
A1602	Deposit	AH16	Subsoil
A1603	Deposit	AH16	Natural Wealden Clay
A1701	Deposit	AH17	Topsoil
A1702	Deposit	AH17	Possible alluvium
A1801	Deposit	AH18	Topsoil
A1802	Deposit	AH18	Subsoil
A1803	Deposit	AH18	Natural Wealden Clay