BRISLEY FARM
ASHFORD, KENT
(NGR TQ 992 401)

A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 1998-2002 WITH PROPOSALS FOR PUBLICATION

by
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with final additions and amendments by
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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, part of the Institute of Archaeology at UCL which is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

UCL Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, Archaeology South East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England, Archaeology South East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

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Terms and definitions

Area – This relates to the four Areas of excavation programmed to run with the phased progress of the development. Initially these were referred to as Phases I – IV, but this was thought to be confusing with the term phase for archaeological divisions of Periods, see below and Introduction. Thus the Areas of excavation are referred to in this document as Area 1, Area 2A, Area 2B, Area 3 and Area 4.

Period – This relates to the eight chronological divisions (with subdivisions) used to divide historic activity on the sites. These are presented in this document as Roman numerals, e.g. Period I et*c.*.

Cut contexts – These are shown in square brackets thus; [xxxx]
Fill contexts – These are shown in round brackets thus; (xxxx)

List of excavators

Robert Beck, Samantha Crawt, Gary Bishop, Robert De'Athe, Chris Derham, Anna Doherty, Giles Emery, Tina Green, Emma Green, Fiona Griffin, Neil Griffin, Casper Johnson, Guy Kendall, Daniel Lee, Simon Knight, Mark Leatherbarrow, Sarah Lepard, Andre Markowitz, Andrew Mayfield, Pauline Phillips, Mike Pritchard, Justin Russell, Richard Shepard, Jon Smith, Hannah Stevens, Elizabeth Stone, Alec Trevarthan, Mike Wood, Tristan Wood-Davis.

Justin Russell produced the figures for this report

The main report text was written by Casper Johnson prior to his departure from Archaeology South East. He has been involved in subsequent meetings and discussions with Jim Stevenson, Luke Barber and Ian Greig, following which the final additions and amendments were written by Jim Stevenson.

Terry Hammond carried out the extensive metal detecting surveys during the excavation of Areas 3 and 4

Summary
Evaluation and Excavations 1999-2001

Archaeology South-East carried out an evaluation and five excavations at Brisley Farm (now known as Chartfields), Ashford, Kent between 1998 and 2002 in advance of housing development. The funding for the project was provided by Ward Homes, the housing developer.

Part of a field system, probably of Late Bronze Age date and one pit (C14 date 2990 +/- 140 BP) was overlain by a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement which developed from *c.*150 BC through to the Roman Conquest in AD 43. The settlement included enclosed and un-enclosed elements as well as a possible cremation cemetery and other evidence for religious and 'ritual' activity. Between AD 10-50 two warrior-burials (of national significance) within square-ditched enclosures were placed within the settlement area. The warrior-burial graves became a focus for activity in the second half of the 1st century AD. During this time, occupation on the site generally appears to have diminished and little sign of activity can be recognised after the early to mid - 2nd century AD. It is thought likely that the population may by this time have moved to the new Roman settlement at Westhawk Farm, 750m to the east. Evidence for a farmstead dating from the 13th to the mid-16th century was located in Area 2A, where despite ploughing it was possible to define the location of four possible structure sites around a cobbled yard. Evidence for a 13th to 14th century metalled track and ditch was found in Area 1.

Acknowledgements

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Ward Homes and their staff (both from the main office and on site) for help throughout the project. The advice and assistance of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Unit and Dr. Sue Hamilton of UCL Institute of Archaeology is also gratefully acknowledged. We would like to thank Paul Booth of Oxford Archaeological Unit for information concerning the results of the Westhawk Farm excavation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Outline*

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by Ward Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological work, including evaluation and excavation, of land at Brisley Farm (now known as Chartfields), Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent (NGR TQ 992 401). The site of Brisley Farm, is located to *c.* 3km to the south of Ashford, within the parishes of Great Chart with Singleton and Kingsnorth. The site is bounded to the north by Chart Road and to the east by Long Length (Figs. 1 & 2).

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted by Archaeology South-East from 12th January to 3rd February 1999. The Area 1 excavation was carried out between 25th May & 25th June 1999 (BRF99/I). The Area 2B excavation was carried out between 16th August & 2nd September 1999 (BRF99/IIB). The Area 2A excavation was carried out between 26th January & 25th March 2000 BRF99/IIA). The Areas 3 & 4 excavations were run concurrently and took place between 4th June 2001 & 15th February 2002 (BRF01/III-IV). (Fig. 2). In addition a watching-brief was carried out over areas of groundworks not subject to full excavation.

1.1.3 Due to the perceived relative importance of Westhawk Farm to Brisley Farm, every attempt has been made to make this post-excavation report compatible in coverage and synthesis to that produced by OAU and the help of Paul Booth in supplying data is gratefully acknowledged.

1.2 *Geology and Topography*

1.2.1 The Site lies within the Weald Clay vale in the upper valley of the Great Stour. The North Downs lie 5 miles (8km) to the north and the former sea-cliff line bordering Romney Marsh 3 miles (4.8km) to the south. The underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey (Sheet No. 288-9/304/305/306, 1:50000) is Weald Clay. Immediately to the south there is an east west aligned deposit of Alluvium. The ground rises to the northwest where an outcrop of the Cretaceous Lower Greensand Hythe Beds and Atherfield Clay occurs.

1.2.2 The Middle – Late Iron Age occupation site (revealed in Areas 3 & 4) lies across the 40m OD contour. The Late Iron Age activity spread south and south-east onto the lower ground at *c.*39m OD. To the north-west of the Area 3 & 4 sites, the land rises initially gently and then steeply onto a hill above Colemans Kitchen Wood to between 60m and 70m OD. This area has not yet been evaluated. To the east of the site there is low, wet ground until one reaches the slight ridge of land at *c.*40m OD on which the Roman cross-roads settlement of

Westhawk Farm was sited, *c.*750m to the east.

1.3 *Planning Background*

1.3.1 Planning permission (97/1255/AS) was granted for the residential development of the site, including access roads and landscaping. Due to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the site it was considered possible that groundworks associated with the proposed scheme could damage or destroy important archaeological features and deposits. Consequently, a condition was attached to the planning consent, requiring an archaeological investigation of the application site to be carried out prior to the commencement of construction. The first stage of this archaeological work comprised the field evaluation (trial trenching) of Areas 1-4 by Archaeology South-East (Greatorex, 1999).

1.3.2 Following the results of the trial trenching, specifications for the stage 2 archaeological work (excavation) in development Phases or Areas 1, 2A & 2B were produced by Kent County Council and an Interim statement following the Area 1 and 2B excavations was produced (Johnson 1999). A single specification was produced for Areas 3 & 4 by Kent County Council dated July 1999. The KCC specifications are reproduced at Appendix 1.

1.4 *Archaeological Background*

1.4.1 Recent archaeological work in the south Ashford area has identified numerous sites dating from all periods of human history. These include Palaeolithic finds from Park Farm, Kingsnorth and from Westhawk Farm 750m east of the site (Booth *et. al*., forthcoming). Evidence for a Bronze Age field system has been found at Christchurch School (Stevenson, 2002 forthcoming) and at Westhawk Farm (*op. cit*.). Late Iron Age features have been recorded at Beechbrook Farm, Park Farm and at the Ashford Orbital Park, *c.*3km north-east of the Brisley Farm site.

1.4.2 The nationally important Roman crossroads settlement at Westhawk Farm (which lies *c.* 750m east of the site) may be of considerable importance for understanding the decline of the settlement at Brisley Farm, since evidence for activity at Brisley Farm dies out around the same time in the late 1st century to mid- 2nd century AD as the site at Westhawk Farm becomes fully developed. An understanding of both sites is critical for the understanding of the development of the south Ashford area in the later prehistoric and early historic periods.

1.4.3 Several sites of medieval origin are known close to the site but little detailed work has been carried out before this project. No desk based assessment was required for this project. As a result Gwen Jones has carried out an assessment of the potential for documentary investigation of the period and further work is recommended in this report. (See Section 2.10.4)

1.5 *Site Evaluation*

1.5.1 The evaluation involved the excavation of seventy machine-dug trenches, each 20m in length and representing approximately a 2% sample of the proposed development site. The evaluation was carried out over development Phase/Areas 1 to 4. The results indicated the likely presence of a Late Iron Age rural settlement site of local or regional importance as well as evidence of medieval activity dating from the 13th to the 16th centuries. The excavation of Areas 3 and 4 in particular showed that the 2% sample had been too small to accurately predict the true nature of the archaeology present.

1.6 *Excavation Objectives, Aims and Methodology*

1.6.1 The objective of the excavation(s) for Phase or Area 1 was defined in the KCC specification as '*To observe, excavate and record any archaeological remains revealed during machine stripping of the areas highlighted on the attached plan within the area of Phase 1, Brisley Farm'*. The aim of the work was defined as '*a) to clarify the character, nature, date and, if possible, the extent of any archaeological remains associated with the Late Iron Age occupation site; b) to clarify character, nature, date and extent of any other archaeological remains revealed during machine stripping'*. The methodology applied was '*Strip, Map and Record'*.

1.6.2 The objectives of the excavation(s) for Phase 2, Areas 2A and 2B were defined in the KCC specification as '*To observe, excavate and record any archaeological remains revealed during machine stripping of the areas highlighted on the attached plan within the area of Phase 2, Brisley Farm'*. The aim of the work was defined as Area 2A, '*a) to clarify the character, nature, date and, if possible, the extent of any archaeological remains associated with the 13th – 16th century remains located in Evaluation Trenches 16 & 18; b) to clarify if the medieval remains in Area[2A] are associated with those in Area [1B] identified in Evaluation Trenches 11 and 12b'*. For Area 2B, *'a) to clarify the character, nature, date and, if possible, the extent of further burial remains associated with the unurned cremation located in Evaluation Trench 27; b) to clarify the character, nature, date and, if possible, the extent of further remains associated with the burnt pits located in Trenches 30 and 22'*. The methodology in all cases was '*Strip, Map and Record'*.

1.6.3 The main general aim of the Phase or Areas 3 & 4 excavation was defined in section 4.2 of the KCC specification, excluding elements specifically relating to earlier stages of archaeological work and was '*…to clarify the character and nature of Late Iron Age activity across the whole of Brisley Farm site and…provide significant data for the interpretation of Late Iron Age activity in the south Ashford area, particularly in view of the proximity of* [the major Roman settlement site at] *Westhawk Farm'*.

1.6.4 The methodology defined in the KCC specification was followed for the Area 3 excavation. However, as a result of the complexity and importance of the features and deposits revealed in Area 4 a detailed project design was written in consultation with KCC, Ward Homes, Dr S. Hamilton of the Institute of Archaeology, UCL and Professor T. Champion of Southampton University, see Greig, 2001 (this document Appendix 1.4). The reader is referred to that document for full details of the background to the design and its requirements.

1.7 *Excavation Areas, Summaries, Methodologies & Statistics*

1.7.1 **Area I** – The site was divided into areas A-D and the ploughsoil machine stripped. A local site grid was established by EDM. The excavation lasted 23 days including seven days machine-stripping, no time was lost to weather. Excavation revealed one ditch of Roman date, two large pits with evidence for *in situ* burning and a further *c.*20 pits and postholes of similar date. There was some evidence for a track of Roman date. In addition two ditches, a cobbled surface forming part of a track, and ditch crossing and two pits of medieval date (13^{th} – 14^{th} century) were recorded along with two ditches and 16 pits of post-medieval/modern date.

Statistics:
BRF99 I Context Numbers [500-674] = 174
Plans: 10
Sections: 62
Levels 131,
Photographs: 6 colour and 6 B+W x 36 exposure films
Bulk Samples 10 contexts

1.7.2 **Area 2A** – The site was machine stripped and a local site grid established by EDM and theodolite. The excavation lasted 25 days of which three were rained out and used for finds processing. The machine stripping took three days and there were a further two days machine-stripping during the excavation. Following the initial strip the site was hand cleaned photographed and planned. All metalwork (nails), other small finds and stone scatters were planned in an attempt to establish building positions. Excavation revealed four possible structure sites, 14 ditches and gullies, two pit groups, a central cobbled yard and sundry other features all of medieval or post-medieval date (general date range 13^{th} – 16^{th}) century with some modern intrusive material, probably resulting from ploughing.

Statistics:
BRF99 IIA Context Numbers [2001- 2298] = 298 – NB overlap with later Areas 3 & 4. (Important that prefix BRF99 is used)
Plans: 22 plans at 1:50 + 2 other sheets at 1:100 & 2 at 1:200 = total of 26
Sections: 65 sections on 6 sheets
Levels: 278
Photographs: 6 colour and 6 B+W x 36 exposure films

Recorded Finds: 299
Bulk samples: 24 contexts

1.7.3 **Area 2B** – The site was divided into areas 1-3 and the ploughsoil machine stripped. A local site grid was established by EDM and theodolite. The excavation lasted 13 days, including 5 days machine-stripping with a team of 5. No days were lost to weather. Excavation revealed 11 features containing burnt bone and charcoal of which one was urned (Urn dated by M Lyne as 50BC-0), 11 pits with evidence for *in situ* burning (AMS and Standard C14 date Late Saxon), one pit cluster dated AD43+, sundry other undated features and one ditch of post-medieval or modern date.

Statistics

BRF99 IIB Context Numbers [1000-1074] – NB overlap with later Areas 3 & 4. (Important that prefix BRF99 is used)
Plans & Sections: 8 mixed plan and section
Levels: 95,
Photographs: 5 colour and 5 B+W x 36 exposure films
Recorded Finds: 31
Bulk Samples: 20 contexts

1.7.4 **Areas 3 & 4** – The site was initially machined stripped as two areas; A1 in Phase/Area 4 and area B in Phase/Area 3 as required by the KCC Specification. A contingency allowed area A1 to be added to by areas A2 and A3. Within Phase/Area 3 a contingency was used to increase the area exposed to link Area B with Phase/Area 4 contingencies A1-3. The Phase/Area 3 and 4 sites were excavated together with a priority to complete the Phase/Area 3 excavation first to allow development to follow. This was achieved by the end of September 2001. This was followed by three weeks of intersection and broad phasing excavation of the entire Area 4 site. 100% excavation then commenced on Area 4 following the production of a detailed project design (see below and Appendix 1). The Phase/Area 4 excavation was completed by mid-February 2002. Excavation revealed evidence for a Bronze Age field system, Late Bronze Age pit, Middle to Late Iron Age settlement, two Warrior-Burials dated AD10-50 and evidence provisionally interpreted as extensive ritual and feasting. Occupation of the site ended in the late 1st century or early 2nd century AD. No significant later Roman or post-Roman finds were made in Areas 3 & 4.

Statistics:

BRF01 III-IV Context Numbers [1000-4000] = 3000
Plans: 193 (in*c.* 137 box plans at 1:10)
Sections: 75 sheets average of 20 sections per sheet = 1,500
Levels: 2000
Photographs: 160 colour & B+W
Recorded Finds: 326
Bulk Samples: 368 contexts
The following is a provisional list of defined features;

(These definitions will be revised during final analysis and are here simply to act as a guide)
There were two human inhumation warrior burials and at least fifteen special 'burial' features or deposits and other features associated with cremation including at least one pyre site.

204 pits were sampled, three well/waterholes, one sump, two pits / kilns, one flue?, one oven? and six pits / hearths.

462 postholes, 59 stakeholes, five postholes / stakeholes, 29 postholes / pits and two scoops

171 ditches were sample excavated, 143 gullies, 27 gully-ditches, 16 ring gullies and 4 beam slots.

26 features were identified as being of possible natural origin, there were 27 spreads. At least one feature was looted, presumably by metal detectorists.

1.7.5 *Areas 3 & 4 Excavation Methods*

An excavation methodology was devised by Casper Johnson and Alec Trevarthan for Area 3 & 4. A site manual specifically for the site, to supplement the standard ASE procedures, was drawn up defining the required procedures and given to each of the excavators. The complex nature of the site, the poor condition of the features, the difficult nature of the clay substrate and the requirement to move rapidly around the site in order to meet the demands of the developer required a flexible approach. In order for the effective excavation to be achieved each individual team member was required to fully excavate and record his/her feature under the supervision of the director and supervisors and urged to make personal observations and comments. Excavation was carried out by small teams working together to complete features or groups of features. Regular meetings were held where the director outlined the progress of the excavation, the developing interpretation and research aims as well as revised targets and requirements. Specialists involved in the project, including S. Hamilton and M. Lyne made site visits. An atmosphere of openness and cooperation was developed and despite exceptionally difficult weather and ground conditions from October to February, the excavation was completed to the required deadline and standard.

In order for the planning to be achieved in a manner that would reflect the complex character of the surviving features the following methodology was established; A site grid was established using a total station to cover both the Phase/Area 3 and Phase/Area 4 excavations. This was carried out before the two areas were conjoined. Archaeological feature outlines were marked using spray paint and the machine-stripped surface was rapidly planned using tape

measures within a 10m grid at a scale of 1:200. Due to the fact that the site was machine stripped in June and July the clay substrate baked hard and white within a day. This baking created cracks up to 40mm wide and 250-350mm deep and may well have affected the reliability of certain data sets. The pre-excavation plans at 1:200 were digitized and reproduced as underlays at 1:50, thus allowing for two 10mx10m grid squares to be covered by one A3 permatrace drawing sheet. The excavation plan was drawn, using the pre-excavation underlay at 1:50. Where small and complex areas were excavated a series of 1m box square plans were drawn at 1:10 by individual excavators. Casper Johnson, Alec Trevarthan and Tristan Wood-Davis made the 1:200 plans and Alec Trevarthan was responsible for the entire 1:50 excavation plan. All sections were drawn at 1:10 by individual excavators. All objects of metal and other exotic materials were given recorded finds numbers. Discrete features or areas of concentrated artefact deposition within linear features that contained burnt bone and charcoal were given a 'burial' number. This was done when it was thought possible that much of the cremated bone would be human. Subsequently analysis has shown that the majority is animal, but the term 'burial' is still applied to the list name of special deposits. The methodology for the excavation of the two warrior-burials is given separately below (2.7.2).

1.8 ***Research Aims***

The research aims evolved from the KCC Specification when the full potential of the site was recognised following the strip. They were defined following discussions with Dr Sue Hamilton of the Institute of Archaeology, University Collage London (UCL) and Prof. Timothy Champion of Southampton University, see Appendix 1. The key aims identifified in the original KCC Specification and the Detailed Project Design that followed are outlined below, (see Appendix 1 for the entire documents). A discussion of the general research potential for the site which has arisen following excavation from these research aims is given at Section 5.1.

KCC Specification: Key Issues

- Clarify the character, nature and extent of any archaeological remains associated with the Iron Age remains located in the evaluation trenches

- Clarify any possible relationship with the Late Iron age activity identified during the phase 1 works

- General aim to clarify the character and nature of the Late Iron Age activity across the whole of the Brisley Farm site and...provide significant data for the interpretation of Late Iron Age activity in the south Ashford area particularly in view of the proximity of Westhawk Farm

Detailed Project Design: Key Issues

- In order to achieve the broad, general aim of the excavation (final bullet point, above) several basic aims were defined

- To establish broad phasing of the site and sub-phasing in order to ascertain the relative chronological development of the site

- To establish absolute dating of the various phases

- To establish form and function of the features and hence the nature of the activity with which they were associated

- Objectives raised by Prof. Tim Champion and Dr. Sue Hamilton which identify aspects of the site as being of national or even international significance and allow an opportunity to address detailed questions which are of importance in current archaeological thought (see Appendix 1)

- These issues relate to spatial distribution of cultural material, both within individual features and across areas of activity / occupation, the cultural phenomena underlying such patterns and the nature of change in such practices with time (see Appendix 1)

1.9 ***The Nature of the Archaeological Remains***

1.9.1 The soils developed on the Weald Clay substrate comprised clays and silts with fragments of iron-stained chalk flints and abundant 'spreads' of manganese and iron nodules. At the time of excavation the groundwater level fluctuated from *c.* 1m below the surface in July to ground-level in November to January. The soil at the time of excavation was tested for its PH value by ASE and found to be broadly neutral. It is thought that this is likely to be the result of past agricultural practices such as marling since it had been assumed that prior to this, the soil would have been generally acidic in nature. It is important to stress that the nature of the ground conditions will have affected the nature and type of archaeological evidence which has survived to the present day. For example very little un-cremated bone was visible and within the two warrior-burials it was hard to see the full extent of the skeletons. It is therefore certain that buried unburnt bone will not have been detected by the standard excavation methods used. In addition archaeological deposits had been severely truncated by ploughing (assumed to be recent given the heavy clay soils) across all areas of the site. Truncation is estimated to have damaged the top 250 – 300mm across the entire site and this material was machine-stripped away and therefore what remained for excavation had little in the way of surviving vertical stratigraphy. Details of the preservation of individual categories of finds such as burnt and unburnt bone and the likely processes involved in the formation of the archaeological record are given below (see also Fitzpatrick, 1997).

1.9.2 In order to reduce the complexity of recording and allow the excavation to be carried out with the necessary flexibility, single context numbers were given to cut features, e.g. a length of ditch. Along the lengths of discrete linear features

slot numbers were given, but with the same cut number used for the identified length. If there were clear continuations of layers or fill types from slot to slot then the same context fill number was used in more than one slot. Where there were doubts then a new context fill number was given. Each slot was fully recorded by the person excavating it. It is hoped that this method will compensate for any over-simplification inherent in the methodology. As a result there has been no attempt to give group numbers to related features, though clearly an enclosure, for example, will comprise several different cut numbers but rarely more than three or four. For descriptive purposes in this document the cut numbers are listed together in a sequence (e.g. [2305]/[2267]).

1.9.3 Movement of groundwater had blurred the boundary between 'natural' substrate and feature fills. This was especially the case with the Period II features, thought to be of Bronze Age date. Essentially the earth fills of archaeological features were all very similar and no detailed descriptions are given in this document. The following summary of fill types can suffice; Period II features exhibited very leached pale grey fills with no evidence for any internal structure. The margins of these features blended without defined contact into the surrounding substrate. Period III – VI features all exhibited mixed grey-brown mottled fills, generally only slightly greyer in colour than the surrounding light orange-brown substrate. Internal structure to features was very difficult to determine and finds were sometimes assigned a 'top', 'middle' or 'bottom' position within a feature or ditch slot.

1.10 A Resistivity Survey in Area 3

1.10.1 A resistivity survey was carried out by Archaeology South-East over that part of Area 3 which was not subject to open area excavation. A preliminary assessment of the results of the work demonstrated that excavated ditch features in Area 3 continued into that area forming an enclosure to the south. The general ground conditions were not conducive to this type of geophysical survey and in future it is recommended that magnetometry is used, as it was successfull in identifying a range of features such at Westhawk Farm. At Brisley Farm for example, some ditches gave high resistance readings relative to the surrounding substrate. However, it is recommended that the results of the survey are processed and added to the site plan for the final report.

1.11 *The Watching Brief*

1.11.1 A Watching Brief was carried out on groundworks during Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the development works. Due to the smearing of the clay substate by machine digger buckets only a single pit with a high charcoal content was recorded during the entire watching brief . Given the very wet conditions generally since 1998 it is considered unlikely that any archaeological deposits not recorded through excvation will have survived the subsequent groundworks. Some areas were cleaned and rapidly inspected and these areas are known not to have had

archaeological features. These areas and the pit discovered are shown on Fig 16.

2.0 PROVISIONAL EXCAVATION RESULTS & SITE SEQUENCE (Stratigraphic summary & factual Statement)

2.1 *Spatial Units*

2.1.1 The Site is divided into the Areas of excavation (Area 1, 2A, 2B, 3 & 4) for ease of reference, see Figure 2. For the cut feature numbers of principal features discussed in the text see Figure 15.

2.2 *Chronology*

2.2.1 The chronology of the site is provisionally considered under nine period headings for the Areas of excavations (1-4) so far undertaken: The features provisionally assigned to these periods are shown on figures 3 – 12. The period divisions are based on a combination of the ceramic dating for the assessment and the site sequence as derived from an assessment of the field stratigraphy. The latter is more complex in places than is allowed for by the ceramic dating, especially in Periods IV and V and there are discrepancies between the two (e.g. Phases III & IV) which will need to be addressed. Where dating of discrete features is based on only broadly diagnostic ceramic evidence, the features have either been given a general Later Pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) date (as distinct from the more positively dated Period V) features. In general the ceramic phasing and the provisional field stratigraphic sequence fit reasonably well together, and it is felt that a broad categorization at this stage is appropriate whilst attempting to suggest the likely subdivisions of the periods that may be achieved through detailed analysis.

2.2.2 PERIOD I: Earlier prehistory (Mesolithic – Neolithic)
PERIOD II: Bronze Age / Early Iron Age
PERIOD III: Middle/Late IA transition (*c.* 150-75 BC)
PERIOD IV: (*c.* 75-25 BC)
PERIOD V: (*c.* 25BC-AD50)
PERIOD VI: Roman: (AD43-200)
- VIA: *c.* AD50-AD70
- VIB: *c.* AD70-120
- VIC: *c.* AD120-200

PERIOD VII: Saxon
PERIOD VIII: medieval & post-medieval
- VIIIA: *c.*AD1100 – 1399
- VIIIB: *c.*AD1400 - 1550
- VIIIC: *c.*AD1550-1699

PERIOD IX: Modern (*c.*1700 – 2000)

NB BRF Periods I-V = Westhawk Farm (WHF) Period 1, BRF Period VI = WHF Period 2 BRF Periods VII & VIII (=WHF Period 3)

2.3 **PERIOD I –** Earlier prehistory, (Mesolithic – Neolithic)

2.3.1 ***Summary***

No features were recognized from this period during excavation of Areas 1-4 and human activity is represented by flint scatters only.

2.3.2 ***Statement of potential***

The relatively small and widely spaced flint assemblage is not considered to have any potential for detailed further analysis.

2.3.3 ***Further work***

No further analysis is required for this period. The final report will include a short statement on the flint assemblage from the site and its implications for evidence of activity at the site during this period.

2.4 **PERIOD II –** Bronze Age / Early Iron Age see Fig 7

2.4.1 ***Summary***

Area 1 excavation: No features of this period were recognized
Area 2A excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Area 2B excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Areas 3 & 4 excavation: The following features are provisionally assigned to this period;
Ditches: [2144], [2016], ?undated [2102], [2086]=[2059] + [2062], [2070], ? undated gully [2041]=2033]=[2022]=[1749]
[2742]=[1333]=[3804], [1277], [2269] + [3622], [2242]
[2261]? + [3993]? + [3994]?
[2259]
Pits: [3865] (subject to the re-examination of pottery)
Postholes: [3663], & possibly [2060] with gully [2059] + [2062]?
Structures: none

2.4.2 ***Statement of potential***

A total of nine ditches, one pit and a posthole have been provisionally assigned to this period on the basis of formal similarities and their relative stratigraphic position in relation to the Period III and later features. All the features were recognized in Areas 3 & 4. The ditches or rather gullies are generally thin (<350mm wide) with a pale grey leached-out uniform fill. They appear to form part of an extensive area of land clearance involving a possible droveway and enclosure. With the exception of one posthole, no evidence for structures was revealed. The single pit [3865] lay within the area of the enclosure at the northern end of the site on the higher ground, though it is not yet certain whether the pit and the ditches are of the same date. Ditches of broadly this period were revealed at Westhawk Farm on the same north northeast to south south-west alignment (where they were assigned a Late Bronze Age date – P.

Booth *personal communication*) and possibly also at Christchurch school where evidence for Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age activity has been recorded (J. Stevenson *pers. Comm.*). A c14 (standard radiometric) date was obtained on charcoal from context (3888) in pit [3865] of 2990+/- 140 BP (Beta – 171104) – The 2 Sigma calibration: Cal BC 1520 to 830 (Cal BP 3470 to 2780).
The calibrated age is given as Cal BC 1410 to 1000

Pit [3865], from which the C14 date has been obtained contained an important assemblage of flint-tempered pottery and a single 'doughnut' shaped clay loomweight. M Lyne will study this assemblage in greater detail as it has similarities with MIA/LIA pottery from the site. It is conceivable that the date is on a residual piece of charcoal.

The pollen evidence from the ditch samples suggests differences in the background vegetation between Period II and the later Periods, with an especially high value for fern present in a proposed Period II ditch [2742] fill (2743). (see the pollen assessment, section 4.2 for further details).

2.4.3 *Further work*

Further attempts need to be made to obtain an absolute date for the ditch system as well as clearly demonstrating the morphological similarities. The former will require a detailed checking of all the charcoal from potential features of this period. At present it is not known whether the ditch system is contemporary with the dated pit [3865] (the date of which is now called into question, see below). Detailed analysis should be carried out on pit [3865] and its section should be illustrated in the final report along with the nature of the finds deposition within it. For example, the central position and isolated nature of the clay loomweight at the bottom centre of the pit may suggest that the fill was deliberate and structured. Following the possible discrepancy between the C14 date and the pottery dating a review of the inherent problems of single entity dating is required and a thorough re-analysis of the small pottery assemblage undertaken.

The pollen data (4.1.3) should be analysed in greater detail to determine whether there are recognizable differences in the local environment between Period II and later periods.

Comparison should be made with features of this date from neighbouring sites, especially Westhawk Farm and Christchurch School to establish the extent of land clearance and field sustems of this period. It may be considered necessary to publish one ditch section of this period, since they are all very similar and show little evidence of internal structure. They do serve to illustrate the degree of alteration to feature margins caused by the ground conditions prevalent on the site. It is worth noting that no features of this period were recognised during the evaluation. It is clear that for features of this period to be recognised on these soils, large areas need to be stripped and mapped.

There would appear to be a gap in the sequence between the Period II activity and the Period III activity. This has been noted elsewhere in Kent. There is a question as to whether this represents a real break or simply a lack of evidence for this particular area / site. Further analysis will need to address this problem. It may be addressed in part by the detailed analysis of the flint tempered property.

2.5 **PERIOD III –** Middle Iron Age / Late Iron Age Transition (*c.* 150-75 BC) see Fig 8

2.5.1 ***Summary***

Area 1 excavation: No features of this period were recognized
Area 2A excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Area 2B excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Areas 3 & 4 excavation: The following principal features are provisionally assigned; (see Figs. 8 and 15)
Ditches: [2305] and [2267] [2305] with [2278] possibly around structure 9 as well as [2305] recuts [3562] and [3625].
[3286]
[3431]
[3698]
Pits: [3505] see structure 10, [3955]
Postholes: [3459], [3592], [3832]
Double posthole row: [3340]+[3322] et*c.*
Pit/Well: [2471]
Structures: ?14=[3080]

2.5.2 ***Statement of potential***

The site sequence developed from the field work concluded that the earliest enclosure was comprised of ditches [2305] and [2267], however, the ceramic evidence puts the more straight-sided linear enclosure [2244]/[2253]/2282] first and both possibilities are outlined here. It should be pointed out that whereas the field-developed sequence had a logical development sequence, there is no clear evidence for what defines the southern and eastern side of [2244] etc unless there is something there first from an earlier phase of activity. It is uncertain at this stage what the purpose of the northern enclosure was during this period. Period III covers the Middle/Late Iron Age activity on the site. This is focussed in the northern part of the Area 4 and would appear from the assessed dating of the ceramics, to comprise an enclosure [2244] et*c.* which becomes developed during the following Period IV.

An additional problem with the ceramic evidence concerns the proximity of the main pottery assemblage in ditch [2244] to structure 14, which is assigned on the ceramics in the ring gully to Period IV.

Despite occasional probably residual sherds of pottery (see [1562] & [1094]) there is no evidence for settlement of this period in the southern part of the site. There is no evidence for activity of this period in Area 1, 2A or 2B.

2.5.3 ***Further work***

Detailed study will need to concentrate on the discrepancies between the site sequence developed in the field and the dates assigned to the ceramic sequence outline above. (The soil conditions were so difficult on site that few intersections can be relied upon completely and this casts doubt on the field sequence. However, decisions were made in the field following considerable discussion of the key intersections and there is a certain logic to the sequence of development thus proposed. This does not appear to be the case with the proposal that ditch [2244] enclosure is first, what completes the enclosure? See Figures 8 & 9 and below for further discussion). It is recommended that all artefact categories are analysed to try and resolve these differences. Further AMS dating is not proposed as the potential range is not close enough to differentiate between Periods III and IV.

Detailed study of the artefacts in relation to the stratigraphy will need to be undertaken as the stratigraphic evidence from the field evidence indicates that either this or the subsequent period will need to be split up into at least 4 sub-periods (A-D) which appear to show a change from a curving enclosure ditches to a rectilinear system. By contrast the pottery evidence suggests that the abruptly angled enclosure with at least two straight sides [2244]/[2282] is the earliest enclosure with the possibility of [2305] et*c.* being added to enclose structure 9 (see Fig. 15 for location of structure). To resolve these problems a detailed study will need to be made of the phasing of the ditches and their recuts, this is especially the case for the area around the waterhole [2471] where it will be necessary to look critically at all the artefactual evidence to confirm the provisional phasing. In addition detailed analysis will need to address the question of function in this area of the site, where it is unclear at present to what degree the site is being used of occupation and/or or some other function.

2.6 **PERIOD IV** (*c.* 75-25 BC) see Fig.9

2.6.1 ***Summary***

Area 1 excavation: No features of this period were recorded.
Area 2A excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Area 2B excavation: No features of this period were recognized
Areas 3 & 4: The following principal features are provisionally assigned to this period; firstly in the north of the site -
Ditches: [2244]/[2253]/[2282], [2248], [3566], [3801]
[2307], [3812], [3948] and ?[3649]
[2257] and ? [1469]/[3675] forming a rectangular enclosure

Structures: 9 +10 (still continuing), 11, 12, 14, & 15

In the south of the site (Area 3)
Ditch: [1003]/[2315] = [1086] and possibly earlier [2824]/[1108]? & [2207], [2212] & [2214]? [1082] [2207]

2.6.2 ***Statement of potential***

There is no evidence for activity of this period in Areas 1, 2A or 2B and limited evidence for activity at the very south-west end of Area 3. The evidence from Area 3 suggests the potential for the location of a separate and possibly high status enclosure lying mostly beyond the boundaries of the site to the south-west. The possible high status of the enclosure is indicated by the ?Banjo-like antenna ditch [1003]/[2315] and ?[2207] but the relatively small assemblages from these ditches will likely make detailed further interpretation difficult.

Most activity of this period is recognized in the north of Area 4 where almost the entire sequence of activity would appear to be confined to this period. In this area there is some potential for interpreting the development sequence of enclsosures through detailed analysis of the stratigraphic evidence in conjunction with the ceramic and other artefact data. The area north of the 'axial' ditch line (made up of ditch [1469]/[3675] and the Period V ditch [3276]) would appear to have a number of repeating elements, the relative sequence of which is not fully understood as there are discrepancies between the field site sequence and the ceramic dating (see discussion above concerning Period III features). Firstly there appears to be a focal point, pit/well [2471], secondly there are enclosures with straight linear sides [2244] etc and [2257] etc. By comparison, there are the curving enclosure boundary ditches [2305] and [2267]. The western part of this latter group appears to be redefined around structure 9 by ditches [3286] and [2278], possibly also by [2288] and [3936]. In addtion there appear to be later linear divisions of this period e.g. [2307]. Lying outside the straight sided enclosures, but possibly inside the curving enclosure ditch [2267] are structures 11 and 12. This northern area of activity is clearly separated from other areas of the site and holds the potential to provide an explanation for the development of activity on the site. It is uncertain to what degree this activity is either 'occupation' and/or religious/ritual in nature. The intensely developed western part of this complex was subject to detailed excavation and holds the potential for a high level of analysis and interpretation despite the poor preservation of much of the artefacts..

2.6.3 ***Further Work***

Detailed analysis of the stratigraphy and artefact assemblages will be required to test the model for development constructed as a result of the field work and now questioned by the dating of the ceramics. A key area for scrutiny concerns the ditch intersections around pit/well [2471]. The pottery assemblages from ditches [2244], [2305] and the pit/well [2471] are highlighted by Malcolm Lyne

and detailed analysis will need to take into consideration the evidence for re-cutting and mixing of fill deposits. Final phasing will most likely depend on a critical interpretation of the ceramic evidence in conjunction with a 'logical' interpretation of the field sequence. The function of the structures and enclosures will be attempted primarily through analysis of the artefact categories, especially the pottery, their distribution and association with other artefact categories.

2.7 PERIOD V (*c.* 25BC-AD50) see Figs 10, 13 and 14

2.7.1 *Summary*

Area 1 excavation: No features of this period were recorded, all early features were dated to the Roman period, see below;
Area 2A excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Area 2B excavation: (Fig 5)
Cremation-related features; There are 11 possible burials or cremation-related features, some of which contain cremated human bone - of which [1016] was urned and [1111], [1002], [1010], [1012], [1028], [1030], [1034], 1036], [1038] & [1068] are un-urned and provisionally dated by association with [1016]. See section on human bone for details.

Areas 3 & 4 excavation: The following principal features are assigned to this period;
Ditches: [1028], [2372] southern area associated with structure 1?
[1230] & [1239] & [1379] 'enclosure' north of trackway
[1551] southern area
[1190], [1562]=[1680] large southern enclosure
[1896], [1934], [2051], [2106], [2183], [2185], [1344]
[2201]=/[1501] dug V filling VI +[2274]=[2226]/[2954]=[3082] enclosure to the south of trackway
[2644]=[2717]associated with structure 16
[2779] just to south of trackway
final fills of [2956] & [2961] replaced in this period by [2226] and [2223]/[2959] enclosure to south of trackway
E-W axis [3276] and subject to checking of relationships [3360], [3675] at intersection with [3190] only? Northern area enclosure just to north of B19 and B20

[1007]/[1082]
Pits: [1022], [1024], [1033], [1061], [1075], [1119], [1125], [1137], [1168], [1204], [1261], [1263], [1337], [1374]/[1285], [1560], [1694], [1822], [2084], [2196], [2605], [2677], [2704], [3009], [3149], [3159], [3282],
Postholes: [1053], [1079], [1127], [1133], [1135], [1158], [1160], [2020], [2187], [2322], [2331], [2350], [2391], [2494], [2533], [3144], [3146], [3424], [3467], [3529], [3790], [3795],

Structures:
Structure 1 (Area 3)=[2191] & [2372], [2420], [2449] tazza (0-AD50) in ph (deliberately placed) for 2nd Area of roundhouse 1
Structure 2=[2134]+ ?[2217]+[2219], 3=[2039], pit[1828]+ph[2004], [2074]
Structure 3 =[1875], [1959], [2004], [1873]
Structure 4=[1896]+[1905]+[1914]+[2009]+[1996]
Structure 5=[1506]
Structure 6=[1520]?
Structure 7=[1228], 8=[2842]+[3006],
Structure 8=[3208], [3006], [2892], [3225]
Structure 16=[2644], [2717]
Spreads : (1269), (1826), (2237), (2394) marking end of Area 1 of structure 1,
Burials : Warrior-burials B19 [1388] + [2807], [3099], [3110] et*c.* and B20 [1399] + [2806] et*c.* [2625]
Enclosure: [1374], [3132]-B19-[3190], [3162]re-cut of [1239], [3240]+[3265] added to [1239] or filled in this period,
Pyre site or hearth ?: [1701+2]
Well/shaft: [2748]

2.7.2 ***Statement of potential***

This period sees the major development of the entire site south of the 'axial' ditch [3276]. At present it is difficult to confirm any activity north of that ditch during this period. However, the double row of Period 3 post-holes [3340] [3322]etc lead to / from the northern area of the site and perhaps link the development of the warrior burial complex to this earlier phase of activity. This raises questions as to whether there was also 'special' /'ritual' activity in Period 3 in the northern area which has not been obviously reflected in the surviving archaeological evidence The present level of interpretation of features and artefacts from this period suggests a strong element of religious and funerary activity at the site. This includes a possible cremation cemetery or part of one, in Area 2B, a circular space of significance (*c.*25m diameter and possibly partly enclosed by ditch [1190] and [1680]) around which cremation-related features and pits with evidence for burning and containing complex and mixed assemblages of pottery and/or burnt bone are concentrated. In Area 3 there is a well/pit and other pits, also with complex and mixed assemblages within an enclosure to the south of a potential 'developing' trackway. It is likely that these features offer the potential to explore interpretations of ritual activity. To the north of the trackway and south of ditch [3276] is the space or enclosure in which first warrior burial B20 and later warrior burial B19 graves and enclosures were constructed. The relative sequence derived from the fieldwork in this area north of the trackway, suggests that structures 7 and 8 are early, followed by curving gully [1239] with abundant 'special' deposits and spur gullies (e.g. [1230] and [3240]). These features may be part of a pre-existing religious site or associated with the construction of the warrior burial B20 monument. It is suggested from the ceramic evidence that B19 was constructed later although further analysis is needed concerning the dates of the

two burials. B19 was constructed as part of a boundary ditch aimed, it seems, at enclosing the entire area north of the trackway and south of [3276]. This area was yet again redefined in the following period VI by a trapezoidal enclosure, see below. The evidence suggests that there was an increased awareness or necessity during this period to redefine boundaries, so that by the end of the period the landscape could be said to have become fully defined or enclosed (bounded). This period includes possibly the first evidence for special deposition which can be traced through into the following period, despite a major re-structuring or reconfiguration at that time (early post-conquest). Further analysis will need to address whether these deposits are indeed the first 'special deposits'. It is very likely that Period III and IV deposits may also be demonstrated to be 'special' or structured.

Structures 1, 2, 3 & 4 at the southern end of the site, suggest the presence of dwellings or occupation sites, with the additional complexity of apparent continued use of the southern enclosure from its Period IV origins. This is in contrast to the apparent lack of continuity into this period in the very north of the site.

In summary, Period V offers enormous potential for studying the development of a religious and funerary landscape and its relationship to possible areas of settlement / occupation as well as the nature of spatial definition and redefinition during a period of major change. An important aspect of this changing configuration is the potential to demonstrate and explain the development of the trackway from negative space between activity zones in the Period V to formalized routeway in Period VI. For example the presence of this trackway may suggest that the religious and funerary functions of this site were shared by a geographically dispersed community. However, of particular significance within this period are the two warrior burials and they are discussed below.

The Warrior Burials (See figures 13 & 14)

This period offers an unparalleled opportunity from Southern Britain to understand the contemporary setting and structure of the two warrior burial graves with their enclosing ditches. In addition there is considerable potential for understanding the nature of religious and funerary practice, possibly beginning during this period and which can be traced in the subsequent Period. VI.

Warrior Burial B20

Introduction

Warrior-burial B20 comprises a male inhumation with weapons and one pot within a square-ditched enclosure. It forms a pair with warrior-burial B19 5m to the east. Warrior-burial B20 is dated to *c.* AD10 on ceramic grounds (see

below). The two warrior burials were placed within a zone between a Middle/Late Iron Age settlement to the north and a Late Iron Age activity area with evidence for occupation and religious/funerary practices to the south. The position of the two warrior burials at this key junction offers the potential to understand the relationship between the Period III & IV activity to the north with the Period V activity to the south.

Method of excavation

The grave was excavated in July 2001 over a period of 15 days. A grid of metre squares (three) was laid over the area of the grave (box plans 13, 14 & 15). Vertical excavation was in individual spits *c.*20mm in depth and numbered A-J with A at the top and J at the bottom, e.g. 13A, 14A & 15A – 13J, 14J & 15J. Horizontal excavation and recording was carried out using a grid of 200mm squares and the use of extensive recorded finds numbering with direct plotting onto the above working plans. Where appropriate, fill material in close association with recorded finds was retained with the recorded find. The photographic record includes shots of individual recorded finds as well as a series of general shots of each area of the burial at appropriate stages during the excavation. Working drawings were made at 1:10 (Box plans 13, 14 & 15) at different spit levels. Since the grave was deep, 10 spit level plans of the grave fill were made with one final definitive plan of the skeleton shadow and warrior equipment at 1:5 (Plan sheet 91). Due to the very poor condition of the skeletal remains and artefacts all material was recovered separately in 10 blocks. (Plan sheet 93). This method, whereby each block was carefully lifted on wooden palettes, would allow detailed study of the remaining skeletal material and grave goods off-site as well as the possible reconstruction of the entire skeleton. Skeletal material was removed from the blocks, off-site by a specialist (see assessment of remains below).

The grave

The grave cut, which was centrally placed within a square-ditched enclosure, was orientated north northeast- south southwest. It measured 2.45m-2.55 in length by 997mm in width. The depth of the base of the grave below the machined excavation surface was 600mm, with *c.*250mm of ploughsoil having been removed by machine. It is estimated from observations elsewhere on the site that the Late Iron Age/Roman land surface was between 50-100mm below the present day surface level. If this were the case, the grave would appear to have been 800mm in depth. The outline of the grave was regular in shape with steep almost vertical sides. There was evidence in the form of a regular thin blue-grey line of clay to suggest that the body and the warrior equipment were buried within a container or coffin. The same form of the material was found in warrior-burial B19, where it was less regular. In both cases it is likely that the clay represents the decayed remains of a wicker or woven container. A section taken when block 6 was being lifted demonstrated that the blue-grey clay layer ran beneath the body. A single pot lay outside this ‘coffin’. The base of the grave was regular and the whole appearance suggested that the body had been

buried with care and clear planning. The grave contained a mixed fill in which were found broken pottery, stone and calcined bone.

The body

The grave contained the single body of an adult male, aged between eighteen and twenty-two years of age. The individual was relatively large in stature being around 5'10" – 6' (1.78-1.83 metres). The body was buried with the head at the north end, on its back with the right arm beneath the head and the left arm across the chest. The warrior equipment had been placed into the grave after the body. The skeleton survived in very poor condition as a soft bone residue. The poor condition of the bone is attributed to relatively acidic nature of the Weald Clay substrate combined with widely fluctuating ground water levels. At the time of excavation, the water table in winter lay at or just below the modern ground surface whilst in mid summer it had dropped to a metre below that level. The variation would see the complete grave varying between waterlogged and damp to semi-dry conditions. The teeth were in very poor condition with only the crowns surviving and no form could be made from the skull block. No pathology could be seen on any of the bone and all bone had to be lifted within soil blocks. Much of the material was non-recoverable.

The grave goods

Accompanying the individual was a series of artefacts. Within the 'coffin' was a long sword lying down the left (west side) of the body with hilt at the north end by the shoulder. Also within the 'coffin', it is probable that a shield had been placed over the body of which only a circular stain, thought to represent the shield boss could be determined above the area of the upper left leg. Three objects were recorded outside the 'coffin'; A long spear head, which had been thrust into the south-east wall of the grave just above the level of the body. A circular ring of bronze possibly associated with wood, which lay between the 'coffin' and the west wall of the grave and in the north-east corner of the grave a Gallo-Belgic butt beaker dated 10BC- AD10 (See Section 3.1 this report).

The square-ditched enclosure

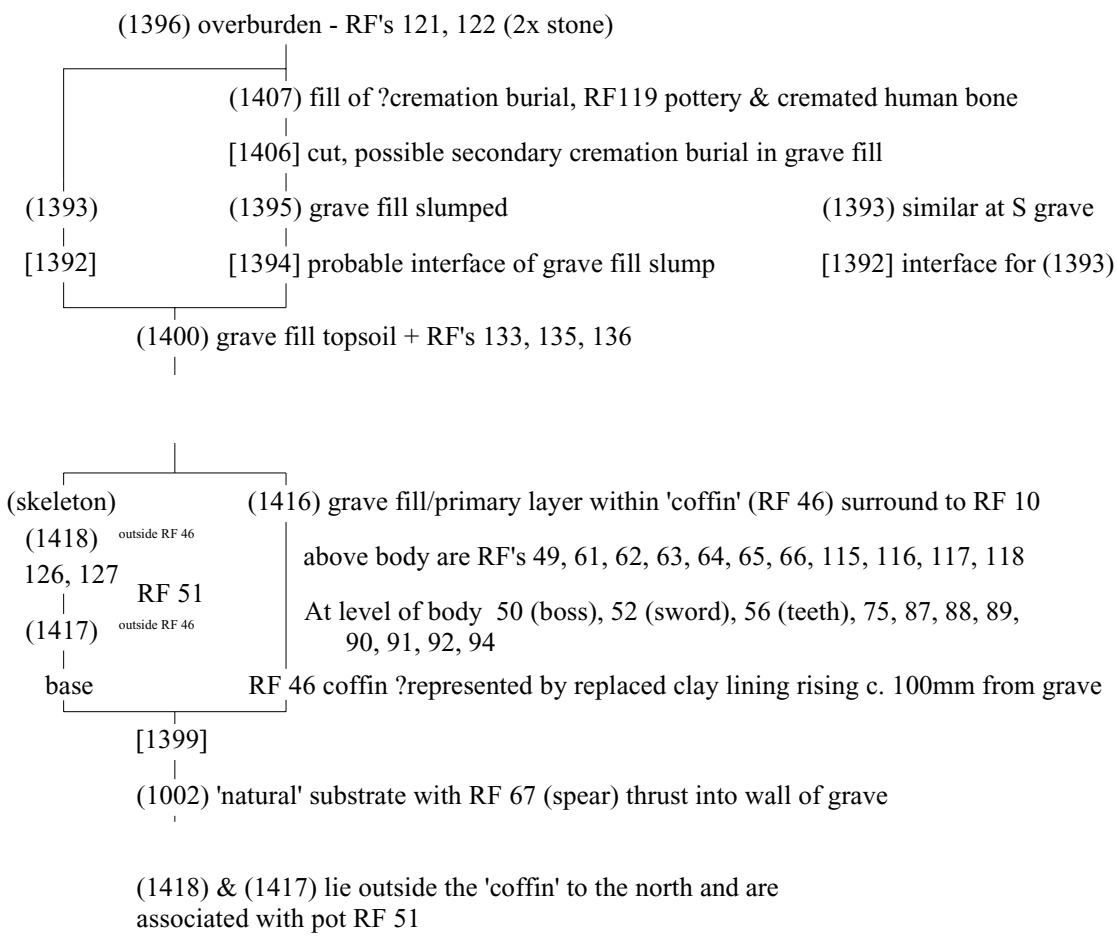
The grave lay at the centre of a ditched 'enclosure' 4.8m (east-west) by *c.*5.5m (north-south) orientated north south. The enclosure of warrior-burial B20 lay five metres to the west of warrior-burial B19. The west, north and east ditch components of the enclosure were typically 650mm wide and 350-400mm deep from the machine surface (i.e. allowing for a loss of 200mm of soil, the enclosure ditches would have been 700-800mm wide and 650-700mm deep. It is assumed that the earth from the ditches was piled over the central grave to form a low mound. However, due to ploughing no evidence for this could be found. The southern ditch was recut (probably soon after the construction of the barrow) to form an enclosure to the south. Into this southern ditch and along the connecting ditch [3196] to warrior-burial B19 were deposited broken whole pots and cattle jaws.

Dating

Pottery from the grave is dated to *c.*AD10 (M Lyne *pers. comm.*). Clearly the burial could be of a later date, the vessels having been curated before burial.

Matrix on next page

Warrior-burial B20 - Grave Matrix (RF = Recorded Find)

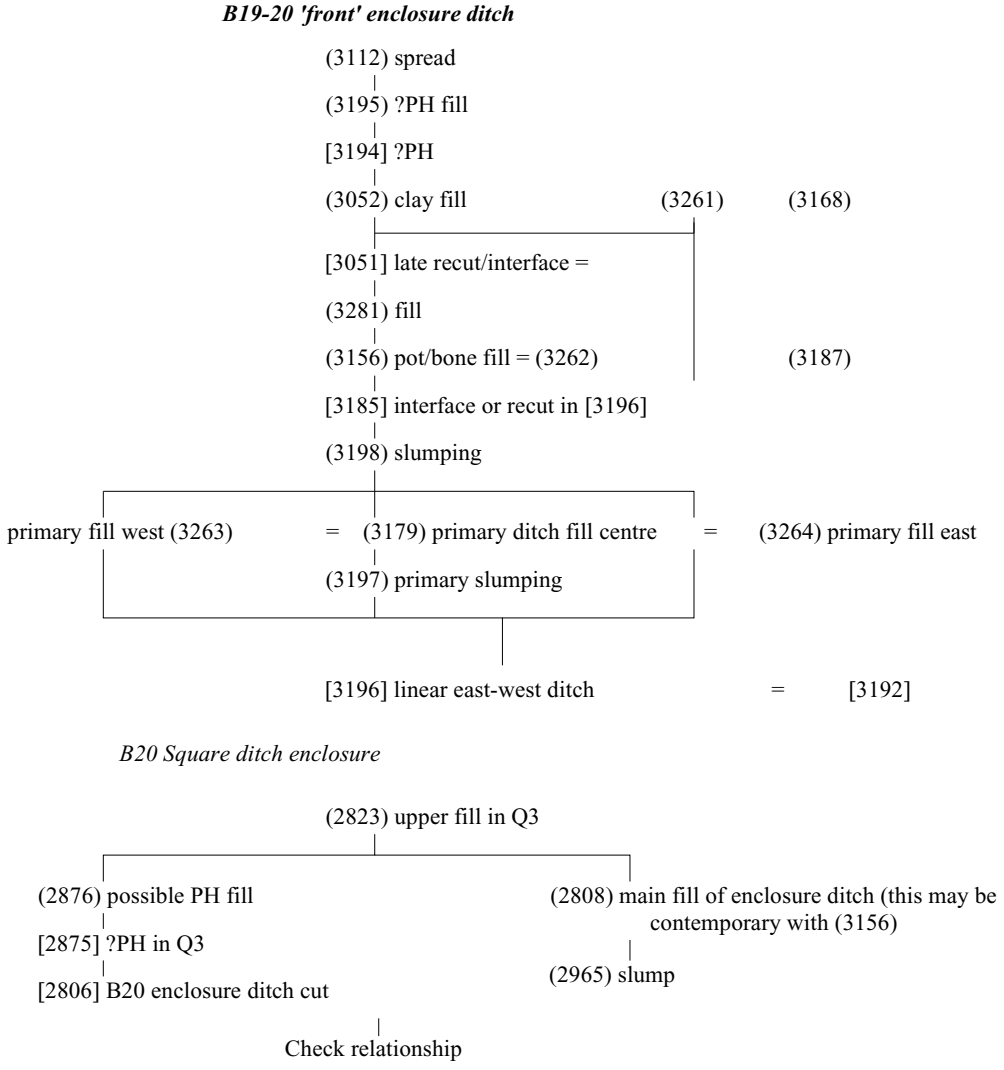


(1418) & (1417) lie outside the 'coffin' to the north and are associated with pot RF 51

Features within the enclosure

(3100) (2964) fill of possible secondary cremation burials

[3099] [2963] cut of possible secondary cremation burials (see also [1406]



Warrior Burial B19

Introduction

Warrior-burial B19 comprises a male inhumation with weapons and other artefacts within a square-ditched enclosure. It forms a pair with warrior-

burial B20 5m to the west. Warrior-burial B19 is dated to between AD30-50.

Method of excavation

The grave was excavated in July 2001 over a period of 4 days. The air temperature and drying of the site, coupled with the threat of looting necessitated a rapid response. Vertical excavation was in individual spits *c.*20-30mm in depth and numbered 1 (top) to 7 (bottom). Horizontal excavation and recording was carried out using a grid of 200mm squares numbered 1 (north) to 30 (south) and lettered A (east) to J (west). Soil samples were recorded in four quadrants A-E/1-14, A-E/15-20, F-J/1-14 & F-J/15-20 along with the relevant spit number. Recorded finds and other small finds were marked with individual grid references. Where appropriate, fill material in close association with recorded finds was retained with the recorded find. The photographic record was made with Pentax K100's and VHS video. The record includes shots of individual recorded finds as well as a series of general shots of each area of the burial at appropriate stages during the excavation. Working drawings were made at 1:10 (Box plans 16, 17 & 18) at different spit levels. Since the grave was shallow and only one context (1389) defined for the grave fill a single definitive plan of the burial was made at 1:5 (Plan sheet 67). All skeletal material was recovered separately from 5 blocks (off site) and given RF numbers; Skull (RF15), Left femur, part of right radius/ulna, pelvis and associated pigs head (RF38), Leg (RF39), Feet (RF30 + 30.1) & Thorax/arm (RF37). These blocks were sent back to the office where Lucy Sibun removed and bagged up the surviving bone.

Bone for analysis (see bone report below)

RF 15 skull (1 bag)
RF 30 feet (1 bag)
RF 30.1 feet (1 bag)
RF 37 left humerus & left radius/ulna(1 bag)
RF 38 pelvis and half pigs head (1 bag + 1 small bag of pigs teeth) also part of left femur (1 bag), right radius/ulna (1 bag), mis*c.* fragments
RF 39 right femur and tibia (1 bag)
Right humerus + sac? (1 bag) from RF 38 block
Spine fragments (1 bag) from RF 38 block
Additional bone material has been collected from the bucket flotation of bulk samples taken of grave fill (1389) from above and around the visible skeletal stain. This material is bagged and boxed under context order, see (1389) with grid location details. This material will be quantified separately by the specialist Jacqueline McKinley and can then be added to this group for further study or archive. This work will have to be done for detailed analysis of the grave groups.

The grave

The grave cut, which was centrally placed within a square-ditched enclosure, was orientated north-south. It measured 1.5m in length by between 500mm and 600mm in width. The depth of the base of the grave below the machined

excavation surface was 250mm and *c.*250mm of ploughsoil had been removed by machine. It is estimated from observations elsewhere on the site that the Late Iron Age/Roman land surface was between 50-100mm below the present day surface level. If this were the case, the grave would appear to have only been 400-450mm in depth. The outline of the grave is irregular in shape with a relatively narrow (450mm) wide cut for the feet and sword at the north end and a significantly wider (600mm) area for the head and grave goods at the south end. There was evidence in the form of an irregular thin blue-grey line of clay around the body and the grave goods to suggest that the body and associated artefacts were buried within a container. The same type of material was found in the grave of warrior-burial B20, where it was significantly more regular and coffin-like in shape. In both cases it is likely that the clay represents the decayed remains of a wicker or woven container. At the north end of the grave three stakeholes were noted either side of the 'container' and within the grave cut. The purpose of posts or stakes at this point is not understood but may be related to the presence of artefacts associated with the sword. The base of the grave was slightly irregular and the whole appearance suggested that the body had been buried in a hurry with little clear planning. The grave contained only a single fill in which were found occasional flecks of calcined bone and pottery.

The body

The grave contained the single body of a probable adult male, aged between eighteen and twenty-two years of age. The individual was relatively small in stature being around 5'2" (1.58 metres) based on measurements of the long bones. The body was buried with the head at the south end. The position of the body displayed a slight twist with the hips pushed over towards the east wall of the grave, the feet centrally placed but with the head in the south-west corner of the grave. The body had been placed in the grave on its back with the arms lying down by the sides of the hips. The weapons appeared to have been placed into the grave after the body whilst the grave goods in the form of ceramics had been placed in first. The skeleton survived in very poor soft plastic condition. In many places it was impossible to differentiate between bone and surrounding grave fill. The poor condition of the bone is attributed to relatively acidic nature of the Weald Clay substrate combined with widely fluctuating ground water levels. The grave has been exposed to similar ground conditions as B20. The teeth were in very poor condition with only the crowns surviving and no form could be made from the skull block. No pathology could be seen on any of the bone and all bone had to be lifted within soil blocks. Much of the material was non-recoverable.

The grave goods

Accompanying the individual was a series of artefacts. The first objects to have been placed in the grave, and within the ?wicker/woven 'container' appear to have been a butt beaker (AD30-70), a *terra negra* platter with stamp [CANICOS –SN-] (Made at Sept-Saux on the Marne AD20/25-40/45) and a small carinated cup or bowl (0-AD50) (M Lyne *pers. comm.*). The body then seems to have been laid in with the right arm resting above the platter. Along the left (west) side of the body, a long sword with three

suspension rings was laid with the hilt at the north (feet) end. A spear, the iron head of which had been bent almost at a right angle, lay across the upper chest and right arm. Over the left knee lay a shield boss of conical form, the full shape of the shield however is not known. At the north end of the grave a series of five iron objects were located lying in a line across the level of the ankles. A single brooch lay on the chest area just to the north of the spear head. Over the area of the groin a half pigs head had been laid, the head having been apparently split down the middle.

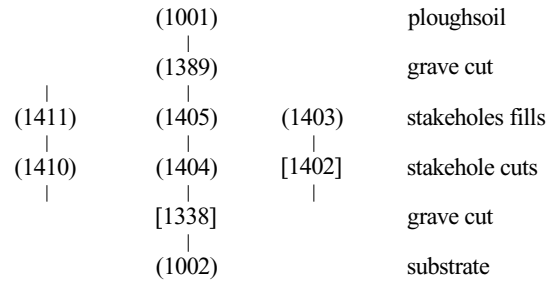
The square-ditched enclosure

The grave lay at the centre of a ditched 'enclosure' six metres square in extent and orientated north south. The enclosure of warrior-burial B19 lay five metres to the east of warrior-burial B20. The south and west ditch components of the warrior-burial B19 enclosure were well dug being typically 600mm wide and 300mm deep from the machine surface (i.e. allowing for a loss of 200mm of soil, the enclosure ditches would have been 700-800mm wide and 500mm deep). It is assumed that the earth from the ditches was piled over the central grave to form a low mound. However, due to ploughing no evidence for this could be found. The enclosure for warrior-burial B19 was constructed as part of a boundary formed by ditch [3132] to the south and [3190] to the north. The south-west corner of the enclosure ditch was cut by two later gullies; the first linking with warrior-burial B20 to form an enclosure to the south, cut [3196] ?/ [1381] and later by [1374]. See matrix notes below.

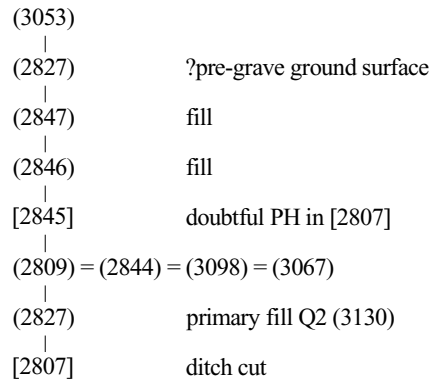
Dating

The pottery assemblage is dated to between AD30-50. (M Lyne *pers. comm.*)

B19 Grave Matrix



Enclosure Matrix



Potential by Ian Stead

Before this discovery only nine warrior-burials had been found in England south of the Humber: only four of those had been excavated on archaeological excavations, only three had been found with brooches (one incomplete) and only one with pottery. So the discovery of two more burials with sets of warrior equipment is rare indeed, and for one of them to be associated with a brooch and three pots is unique in Britain. The pots (perhaps the brooch, yet to be exposed) provide the closest dating for any warrior equipment from Iron Age Britain. Beyond that, the burial rite is most unusual. At the end of the Iron Age and the start of the Roman period

cremation was the standard rite in south-east England and adjoining parts of the continent and the occasional inhumation is extremely rare. Sets of warrior equipment have never been found with cremations in Britain. Small square-plan barrow ditches are equally unusual in south-east England though some cremations are within large square ditched enclosures. Small square barrows with inhumations are much more a feature of the Iron Age in Yorkshire, but the swords, shields, spears and pots at Brisley Farm are southern types not found in Yorkshire. In view of their date (AD30-50) it is tempting to think of the Brisley Farm warriors as 'foreigners' drawn to the south-east to face the invading Romans, but where they came from is a mystery. The nine other Iron Age burials with swords found in southern England are one each from Norfolk, Essex, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Dorset, Goucestershire, Scilly Isles [Kent, Mill Hill added by CJ] and Anglesey.

Scientific Analysis

The potential for the metalwork from the two graves is discussed in section 3 below. Sherds with possible residues from the graves have been kept for potential future analysis. CJ has sent emails to various contacts (see archive notes) requesting information about residue analysis but has received no reply to date (11/12/02). Following discussion with Dominique de Moulin (English Heritage Scientific Advisor) it is considered that there is no potential for study of DNA from the two sets of skeletal remains. This decision is based on the fact that there are only two and that the condition of the bone is so poor due to aggressive soil conditions that an expensive technique would produce no meaningful results. There is some potential for analysis of the Oxygen/Lead Isotope ratios from the teeth and CJ has requested information on this (see archive px file for addresses). However, no reply has been received. Details of the potential for each artefact type are given in Section 2, suffice it to say here, that it is recommended that both graves, the enclosure ditches and their assemblages are published in full. An initial report on the graves and their importance is in press (Johnson 2003).

Warrior-burial B20 and its relationship to B19 see Fig. 13

A key aim of the final analysis will be demonstrating a model for the sequence of burial and enclosure formation at the site. The present sequence suggests that B20 warrior burial grave and enclosure group are first. This is followed by B19 grave and enclosure ditch as part of a larger enclosure. Ditch [3196] was then cut as part of a trapezoidal enclosure. The following discussion looks at the evidence for this model.

The evidence suggests that ditch [3196] was cut after the B20 square-ditch [2806]. The evidence is not clear and will need further review, including relationships with following Phase VI.

The key evidence for ditch [3196] being later lies in the sections to the south

of B20, especially 47j (Fig. 13). The increased depth of [3196] in 'front' of warrior-burial B20 compared to the shallower profiles to the west and east is also strong evidence that square-ditch [2806] existed first. In addition the general alignments of [2806] and [3196] suggest that they are not exactly contemporary. The deeper profile of [3196] to the south of [2806] allowed it to act as a sump and this is seen by the presence of the water-deposited primary silt (3179). This material lies along the base of ditch [3196] and extends west beyond the end of [2806] as well as east towards B19. This fill contains no post-conquest pottery (and generally very little pottery or other artefacts), unlike the stratigraphically higher (3156), (2808) and grave fills (1416) et*c.* West and east of B20 the basal fill of ditch [3196] contains fills (3263) and (3264) neither of which contain well-dated post-conquest pottery. This may indicate that ditch [3196] was constructed before B19 but only filled finally (3156) at the time or shortly after, of B19. By contrast the upper fills, above layers of slumping contain clear post-conquest material. It is interpreted that a certain amount of rapid silting and slumping took place within [3196] before the main event of deposition denoted by [3156]. This single event is represented along the length of [3196] with particularly large amounts of material deposited in front of B20 and east to B19.

It is possible that B20 was constructed first within a general area of activity with no clear boundaries, save possibly [1239] and the east-west linear boundary [3902]/[3495]. By contrast, B19 was constructed as part of a boundary [3132] & [3190] and it is likely, though difficult to prove that [3190] was added to a pre-existing linear boundary made up of components [3902] & [3495]. By the re-cutting of the above ditches eg. [3904] and the addition also of the southern boundary ditch [1242]/[3122] & [3166] a large enclosure was created along the eastern boundary of which lay B19. It seems probable that the aim of this large irregularly shaped enclosure was to include pre-existing elements of a 'ritual' zone including the first warrior burial B20 as suggested above. It is argued that stratigraphically [1239] pre-dates these later enclosures but displays evidence in the form of special deposits of having acted as a place for 'ritual' deposition. B20 may have been this focus or alternatively B20 and later B19 were attracted to this area for some pre-existing religious significance. This is a key question to answer in the final analysis.

Later this same tendency to deposit pot and animal bone into gullies was concentrated within the more regular and rectilinear enclosure ditches that were developed to the south of B20 and B19.

It is possible that gully/ditch [3206] is contemporary with [1239]. Analysis of the artefact evidence may help to demonstrate this.

Once both B19 and B20 were established, the large irregular enclosure outlined above, was replaced by a sub-rectangular enclosure centred on the earlier and more monumental B20 with the entrance onto the developing trackway to the south. The rectilinear enclosure, the gullies of which received post-conquest artefacts, replaced the earlier gullies [1239] etc which

appear to have been receiving material between 0-AD50. Structure [8] is thought to have been enclosed by [1239] between 0-AD50 and both B19 and B20 may have been placed close to this structure. The evidence for the function of structures 7 and 8 will need to be studied to determine to what degree they were domestic or religious. It is assumed that when the rectilinear enclosure had been constructed, the activity within was solely concerned with the dead and there is some slight evidence for a possible line postholes to the south of B20, which may represent the remains of a building, fence or screen.

The rectilinear enclosure created to the south of B20 and B19 (Figs 11 and 13) comprised various elements – see below. Although [3196] could be traced on its return south as [3113], it is more difficult to say with confidence what happens at the corner of B19. The full depth of [3196] appeared to fade out at the corner with [2807], and it is assumed that it returns to the south as either [1285]/[1374] or [1381]. There is conflicting evidence as to which of these two gullies is the earlier. The overall evidence points to [1285]/[1374] being the earlier and related in some way to a phase of enclosure with [3166] – [3122] – and possibly [3132]/[3319], since [1285]/1374] could be traced to link in with [3166]. In addition [1285]/[1374] appeared to be linked to [3132] by a short length of gully [2987] which was itself cut by [1381]. It is possible that gully [1285]/[1374] was created within the first large enclosure but not as part of a rectilinear enclosure. It should be noted that [1381] runs parallel to [3132] and is connected to the B19, suggesting that it was part of the initial phase of square-ditch construction rather than part of the later enclosure focussed on B20 but also tying in B19 in a significant way. The change in alignment of [1285] suggests that it began at B19 and was dug in a southerly direction but altered course as a result of either the presence of the earlier ditch in some form, [1277] and/or to avoid significant features already in existence e.g. pits. This may indicate that significant ritual was taking place within the enclosure defined by [3132] and ? [1238] before the construction of [1285]. Gully [3206] was cut by [1285] adding weight to the interpretation of [3206] as part of the [1239] gully alignment.

That gully/ditch [1381] is the last phase of enclosure definition on the east side would appear to be confirmed by way in which the late trackway ditch [1270] turns in to the northeast at a point close to the southern end of [1381].

A single form of rectilinear enclosure defined by shallow gully/ditches would fit the evidence from the west side where gully [3113] has no sign of a recut and could, with some difficulty, be traced along the south side as [3157]/[1344]. It is assumed that a break in [1239]-[3206] persisted as a break in [3122] – [3166] , but was cut across by the last phase [3157]/ [1344]. Despite the fact that this later gully cuts across the former entrance, it still seems likely that this was the main entrance to the enclosure. The evidence for this lies in the area of trampling and re-cut of the Flavian (post AD70) trackway ditch [1299] et*c.*. immediately in front of the former entrance.

The east side of this late rectilinear enclosure was formed by [1381] with [3196] forming the northern limit 'in front' of B20 and linking to the corner of B19. The relatively deep profile of ditch [3196] and its more complex stratigraphy suggest that after it was cut, there was a period of initial silting and some slumping of the walls before a possible re-cut [3185] or interface followed by one significant episode of artefact deposition (sheep and pigs jaws and parts of whole pots) context (3156). There was no evidence to suggest that this activity was repeated. Some limited silting (3052) took place above layer (3156) within a possible recut [3051]. This last phase of activity which appears not to have resulted in any significant artefact deposition, marks the end of activity in this part of the site.

There is a possible secondary cremation-related feature [1406] in the grave fill of B20 and two other discrete features within the enclosure ditch of B20, see fig. 13 [3099] and [2963]. These features will need further analysis.

Either side of ditch [3190] to the north of B19 there are a series of paired postholes running north toward pit/well [2471]. These are assumed on spatial grounds to be either contemporary with, or later than B19. What their purpose is remains unclear, possibly a walkway or platform, possibly some form of fence. Detailed study of the form of the features will be necessary to determine whether they are in some way related to a similar apparent pairing of postholes *c.*20-20m to the north.

Detailed analysis of the structures and artefacts is required, but it seems probable that the central area, initially enclosed at some time between AD30-50 was already strongly identified with 'ritual' activity. It is quite possible that much of the site displays characteristics that indicate activities associated with religion and burial rather more than with a purely domestic settlement site. To what degree it was normal to incorporate religious activities within settlements is uncertain and this site offers the opportunity to address this and other related questions. There is some evidence to suggest that there may have been significant structures within the enclosure to the south of B19 and B20 and that it was around these that the two warrior-burials were placed. Only a full study of the burnt bone will show whether a number of the small features that follow may be interpreted as cremation burials and whether this site became a cemetery (*c.*f. Owlesbury in Hants.- where the warrior-burial was the first burial and followed by cremations).

2.7.3 *Period V - Further work*

Consideration needs to be given to gaining more absolute dates for this period. The opportunity to achieve this may be hampered by the lack of any useful amounts of charcoal other than oak. It may be that a more productive approach would be the detailed study of the artefactual evidence in conjunction with close scrutiny of the site stratigraphy and phasing.

Key aspects of study:

The religious/ritual nature of the site *vis a vi* settlement / occuption and domestic dwelling

The chronology and confirmed phasing of the evolution of the enclosed spaces
The precise relationship of the two warrior burials to and within this apparently rapidly changing and evolving setting.
The determination as to what degree the site in this period is the ceremonial centre for a more dispersed proto-urban settlement

Detailed analysis of the stratigraphy from this period should enable a series of sub-periods to be defined which chart the evolving enclosure of space evident during this period of rapid change. For example it is clear that ring gully 7 is dated to this period and it is cut by gully [1230]. It will be important to study the fills of gullies [1239] etc and the spur gullies [1230] and [1414] et*c.*. These gullies would appear to enclose structure 8 and possibly also the two warrior-burials within the larger enclosure [1242], [3904] et*c.*. Detailed analysis of the artefact groups and their morphology is required to determine the nature of deposition within these relatively narrow and shallow gullies. For example, the distribution of burnt animal bone / pottery may represent domestic disposal or more structured 'ritual' deposition. A key area for study is the trackway which represents the final stages of landscape development in the Late Iron Age and should help to understand aspects of communication and the separation / use of space during this period.

2.8 PERIOD VI (VIA: *c.* AD50-AD70, VIB: *c.* AD70-120, VIC: *c.* AD120-200)

2.8.1 *Summary*

Area 1 excavation: (see fig.3) The following features were recorded;
Period VIA *Ditches*: none
Pits: none
Postholes: none
Period VIB *Ditches*: [520]?
Pits: [546], [558], [564], [617], [647], [594], [590]
Postholes: [588], [619] poss. Asso*c.* with [562],
Spread: [606]
Period VIC *Ditches*: [520]
Pits: none
Postholes: none
Undated probably RB: [544], [542], [540], [536], [554], [631], [586], [560], [552], [592], [602], [596]

Area 2A excavation: No features of this period were recognized.

Area 2B excavation: (see fig. 5) The following features were recorded;
Ditches: Possible ditch [1074] below Period IX ditch [1004]
Pits: [1060] possibly associated with continued funerary activity
Postholes: none

Areas 3 & 4 excavation: The following principal features are provisionally assigned to this period;
Period VIA *Ditches*: [1094], [1101]=[2129], [1230]?, [1330]/[3166], [1381] + [1397], [1501], [1680], [1791], [1861], [1934] may have been recut at this date, see also VIB, [2181], [2201] dug V filling VIA, [2223]=[2959], [2224] poss. VIB, [2496], [2516], [2670] ?, [3051]/[3196], [3062], [3120], [3126] recut in [3190], [3185], [3190] filling, [3249],
[1272] northern area near trackway
Pits: [1164], [1175], [1200], [1208], [1349], [1528], [1682], [1692], [1828], [2798], [2937], [3135], [3282], [3481], [3568], [3578],
Postholes: [1514], [2391], [2465], [2634], [2694], [2957], [3741],
Feature?: [1281], [2208], [2683],
Kiln/Pit: [2680]/[2784]
Burial B19 & B20 enclosure ditches filling [2806], [2807] (south side only), 'ritual' enclosure ditch [3196]/[3185] cut and rapidly filled. For 'ritual' enclosure see [3122]/[3157]?/[3196]+[3185]/[3113]&[1344]
.
.*Spread*: B19 corner (3053)

Period VIB *Ditches*: [1155], [1270], [1299], [1632], [1934]?, [2227], [2680]/[2784], [2746], [2762], [3054], [3104], [3113], ?[1330], [3251] & [3253] recuts of track ditch [3249] at entrance to enclosure,
Pits: [1607], [1696], [2522], [2628], [2738], [2906], [2913], [2926], [3473], [3637],
Postholes: [1321], [1370], [2511], [2632], B20 [2875]
Structures: 17?=[2538] beamslot
Feature?; [2898]

Period VIC *Ditches*: trackway ditch [1267], [1299], [1302], [2496] these all appear to have late fills and be re-cuts to features cut in earlier periods and may represent revisiting of the site and/or closure of the site.
Pits: none assigned at present
Postholes: none assigned at present

2.8.2 *Statement of potential*

The Area 1 excavations revealed evidence for activity during Period VI*C.* It is possible that given the apparent general abandonment of the site in Areas 3 & 4 during this period, that Area 1 holds potential for understanding the relationship between the settlement at Westhawk Farm and the Brisley Farm site located as it is between the two. Significantly no Roman features or artefacts were recorded in the Area 2A excavation, which is the wettest and lowest lying zone today. One possible ditch truncated by a modern ditch and one pit, or series of pits were recorded in Area 2B. These may have been associated with continued use of the cemetery into the Roman period. The date of the cremation burials in Area 2B is at present based only on the date of the one cremation urn [1016], and that is of a grog-tempered variety which is not closely dateable (presently put at 50BC-0, but could easily be of a later date).

Areas III and IV during this period offer great potential for understanding the nature of change within a Late Iron Age site (Religious/Funerary/Occupation) following the transition to Roman authority. The site is clearly 'used' during the late 1st and early 2nd century and the nature and purpose of this use requires study. The initial assessment of the data strongly suggests that 'use' involved an initial restructuring of the site, with dramatically and regularly placed plots to the south of the trackway, the formalization of the trackway and a re-defining of the enclosed space to the south of the warrior burials. Within these areas there is a strong sense in which the 'use' of the site during this period was still primarily associated with religious and/or funerary concerns, though detailed analysis of the data will be required to demonstrate this in the area immediately south of the trackway where there is evidence for a structure (number 17 on Figure 15) and in the southern part of the site, e.g. Structures 1, 2?, 3 & 4 all of which appear to have been separated by the Period VI subdivision ditches [2151], [1861], [1155], [2181] and [2762].

Of particular interest here is the way in which ditch [1155] appears to perfectly bisect the possible circular religious/funerary area (origins in Period V?). The ditch [1155] avoids a possible pre-Roman pyre-base, bustum, [1173], shows signs of being interrupted by a feature (? Tree hollow) and broken at a position of features [1684] and [1686]. All of these aspects show a complex relationship to pre-existing features, at once slighting a space whilst at the same time respecting individual components that constitute that space. In addition, a number of the features that respect that space, e.g. pit [1692] are of Period VI date, suggesting continued use and respect into the post conquest period. A similar religious / funerary area was identified during excavations on the A27 Westhampnett Bypass (Fitzpatrick 1997).

2.8.3 *Further work*

The provisional sub-Periods assigned for this assessment will need to be tested by close analysis of the finds data and the site sequence. It is proposed that distribution plots are prepared for all artefact categories to allow interpretations of the nature of use of the site to be made. This period sees the introduction of the most closely dateable pottery groups at a time when the activity on the site begins to diminish, despite an initial attempt to redefine the settlement. Detailed analysis should also aim to demonstrate the final abandonment of the site and its date; a model for this should take into account the model for the development of the Westhawk Farm site.

2.9 **PERIOD VII** (Saxo-Norman)

2.9.1 *Summary*

Area 1 excavation: No features of this period were recognized.

Area 2A excavation: No features of this period were recognized.
Area 2B excavation: *Pits with in-situ burning*: There are 11 in total [99], [1006], [1014], [1018], [1020], [1022], [1032], [1040, [1050], [1056] & [1058].
Areas 3 & 4 excavation: No features of this period were recognized;

2.9.2 ***Statement of potential***
No evidence for structures of this date were revealed during any of the four Areas of excavation. The radiocarbon (C14) date from the burnt pit [1018] fill context (1019b) in Area 2B produced a Saxo-Norman date (Cal AD 1025 to 1185 (Cal BP 945 to 765) Beta 171102). This is an AMS date. To allow for the possibility that this piece of charcoal was intrusive, a standard C14 date from the large amount of oak present in the feature was also obtained. This also gave a Saxo-Norman date (Cal AD 770 to 1030 (Cal BP 1180 to 920) Beta 177294.

2.9.3 ***Further work***
No further work is recommended for this period.

2.10 **PERIOD VIII** (VIIIA AD1100-1399, VIIIB AD1400-1699, VIIIC AD1700-1800) see Figures 4 & 5

2.10.1 ***Area 1 excavation***: The following features were recorded;
VIIIA Ditches: [658]/[661], [580]
Structures: cobbled track / surface (572) and associated contexts
Pits: [550], [582]
Postholes: [654], [645]
VIIIB Ditches: No features are clearly dated to this period

Area 2A excavation: The following features were recorded:
VIIIA Ditches: [2249] and [2124] running approximately east west, they are parallel. These two ditches appeared to be cut by a roughly north-south ditch [2023]=?[2255]. To the east it is probable that [2249] and [2124] ran into another roughly north south ditch [2159], though this was recut later.

***Structures*:**

S**tructure 1**. The possible area of structure defined by clean area and stone scatters e.g. (2057) at the northern end of the site. Two gullies [2272] in Period VIIIA and [2275] in Period VIIIB (appear to be external to this feature).

Structure 2. The possible area of structure defined by line of stone packing along its north wall and part of the east wall (2068). This packing appears to sit in a shallow trench [2067] and may represent the sleeper wall for a timber construction. To the south and partly to the east the structure is defined by four postholes: pair [2243] and [2245], [2258] and [2277]. Feature [2255] with clay fills (2254) and (2257) is a possible ditch / foundation and may define the structure to the west. The fills of [2255]

contained 13th and 14th century pottery. The area of this building was used for a rubbish dump in the 16th century which may account for intrusive material in posthole [2258]. The structure has the appearance of a shelter shed.

Structure 3. A possible structure, although less clear than Structures 1 and 2. The 'structure' is defined by a clean area, part of a beam slot [2239] to the east and a possible beam slot [2289] to the south. To the west an area of stone cobbling may represent the remains of a sleeper wall [2028] or may be a causeway across ditch [2024]. Detailed analysis will need to consider whether this is evidence from a building or the remains of material infilling the edge of the ditch, perhaps for access to the site.

Structure 4. This structure lies south of ditch [2124] and comprises a possible beam slot forming the north wall [2011] with a posthole at western end [2199] and [2291] at east end. Other related features appear to include posthole [2187] at the west end of structure, posthole [2148] at the east end and a row of possible stakeholes. In addition there is posthole [2136] and at the east end of structure pit/depression [2134]. The south side of structure is covered by the baulk as site boundary.

Structure 5. There is a clear blank area to the south of the cobbled yard and this may be indicative of the presence of a former building.

Pits: [2134] at E end of structure 4 13th – 14th century, pit [2118] 14th – 15th century, pit? [2069] 14th century or later fill,

Postholes: see above related to structures where possible

Spread: To the south of structure 1 and north of structure 4 there is an area of very complex mixed fills dating from the 13th century to the 16th / 17th century. Part of this sequence, stone surface (2019) made up of tightly laid Ragstone pieces, represents an exterior yard. Structures 1-4 are located around this central hardstanding.

Period VIIIB *Ditches*: [2128] ? west boundary ditch to farmstead, up to 16th century, East ditch [2158] is recut in this period and a linking gully [2181]/[2241] links the two, and runs south of structure 1 and north of structure 2. Ditch [2023] becomes infilled in the early part of this period.

Structures: Structure 1 appears to continue in use right through this period. Gully [2275] from Structure 1 links into ditch/gully [2241].

Pits: Pit group in NW of site [2210], [2212], [2214], [2229]?PH & [2130] all 15th – 16th century. Pit group in southeast of site [2223], [2221]+[2233] & PH [2231] & {2251] all 15th – 16th century.
Pit [2025] 15th century, pit [2287] undated, [2282] 15th – 16th century fill, cut? By gully [2241],

Postholes: see above those associated with structures
Spreads: Extensive area of rubbish in northwest area (2171) partially overlying structure 2 area (although there is some evidence that the rubbish may have surrounded structure 2 rather than covering it). In addition there is a large spread of soil and rubbish throughout central / southern area of yard (2089) (2117).

Area 2B excavation: No features of this period were recorded see Period IX for animal burial [1042]

Areas 3 & 4 excavation: None are included here. Nothing of Period VIII-IX is closely dated.

2.10.2 ***Statement of potential***

Initial results from the excavation in Areas 1 and 2A indicate that this Period can be divided into three sub-Periods on the basis of the pottery. There appear to be a series of features dated to the 13th and 14th centuries in both Area 1 and Area 2A but whereas in Area 1 there is no obvious activity between the 14th and 18th centuries, in Area 2A activity continues from the mid-13th century through to the mid 16th century with a lull in the late 14th century. The Area 2A site would appear to begin in the mid-13th century with regular ditch divisions creating plots of roughly similar dimensions. Alternatively this may represent one plot (later the yard) with structures to the north, west and south. These early ditches appear to have become infilled and partially covered with a stone yard in the 14th century. Probably at this time the 'back' (west) of the site was extended west.

Artefact survival was relatively good, with animal bone, shell and metalwork as well as pottery. However, many assemblages are mixed. This is thought to result from the constant re-use of the same site as well as later ploughing.

Although very ephemeral, the careful excavation of the site has revealed evidence for the positions of structures. The combination of paln and artefact evidence will allow an understanding of the character and date of use of the site to be established providing important local information for the period *c.*1200-1750AD.

In-filled field ditches of this or Period IX were located in Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3 & 4 and as a result a relatively complete map of field boundaries can be drawn up for the later period (Period IX). Suggesting medieval dates for the Post-Roman ditches is more difficult as most of the later ditches were not subject to large sample excavation and little dating evidence was retrieved.

2.10.3 ***Further work***

Detailed study of the ceramic assemblages in relation to the provisional phasing and interpretation of the activity in both Area 1 and Area 2A is needed.

Following the assessment of the distribution of nails and other artefacts it is recommended that a more detailed analysis is made of the Area 2B plan to confirm the position of buildings, other structures and activity areas. It is also suggested that phosphate samples collected from the site are analysed to see if they can help in defining activity areas across the site and providing insight into their function. In addition it is recommended that more detailed study is made of the results of the excavation from the central area (i.e. south of the yard surface) to see if there is any evidence for a fifth building. It is recommended that the site plan and results are shown to David Martin and that he has some input to the final conclusions and interpretation of the site. Further more detailed analysis of the finds with the results of the excavation is required to date the laying down of the stone surface, thought to represent a yard. It is recommended that more detailed historical background research is carried out – see potential below.

2.10.4 Documentary Background *by Gwendoline Jones*

2.10.4.1 *Background Statement*

Excavation of four separate sites here has revealed part of a medieval landscape as well as elements of the Bronze Age, Late Iron Age and Romano-Britsh landscapes. The medieval landscape was in turn overlaid by a later post-medieval layout of roads and fields which to some extent will have followed the lines of roads and ditches laid out earlier. The local soils are formed on a basis of Weald Clay and easily become waterlogged.[1]

Hasted commented on this fact with some distaste, having no doubt become bogged down at some stage: 'the soil in it [Kingsnorth parish] is throughout a deep miry clay…'. He goes on to paint an interesting picture of the local countryside as it presented itself at the end of the eighteenth century: '… the whole face of the country here is unpleasant and dreary, the hedgerows wide, with spreading oaks among them; and the roads, which are very broad, with a wide space of green sward on each side, execrably bad…'.

The four sites appear now to fall within the boundaries of Brisley Farm, although this differs from the earlier picture revealed in the documents so far studied.

The field boundaries on the modern OS map do not differ from those shown on the Tithe map of 1840, but the Apportionment shows that the land presently covered by the farm was occupied by two different tenants. Fields 289, 290,291, 292 and 29(3?) were then part of a holding which extended north across the intersection and to have taken in the site of the present(?) Washford Farm. This tenement was owned by the heirs of John Swaffer and occupied by Stephen Bishop.

The property more or less equivalent to the present farm extended north on to the corner of Chart Road. This was owned and occupied by Fanny

[1] Geological map sheet 305

Barton.

A somewhat different subdivision is revealed by a map of 1766 drawn to show what is now called Willowbed Farm. On this the landowners of the fields adjacent to the northern boundary of Willowbed farm are shown and these indicate a different subdivision of the land: fields 280, 281, 282, 283, 284 and 287 belonged to Widow Sparrow; the fields 295, 294 and those further west were owned by Widow Carter. (outline tracing taken but not scanned for this draft).

Land Tax documents which would allow the properties to be traced back into the eighteenth century do not survive, but it is possible that the names Carter and Swaffer will give us a valuable link with earlier manorial documents.

The manorial picture is as usual complicated by the presence not of one, but of five separate manors within the land encompassed by the Kingsnorth parish boundary. The descent of these is covered by Hasted's account of about 1795. He gives some detail of each: West Halks or Hawks; Mumfords; Kingsnorth; East Kingsnorth and Moorhouse. Over all of these the royal manor of Wye claimed paramount.

2.10.4.2 ***Surviving documents***

Ordnance survey map coverage in the Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS) is poor, but this can be supplied from other sources.

The Tithe map and Schedule are both available on microfilm and the map, in addition, can be read from CD. This has the advantage of boundaries shown in colour. The parish records are in CKS.

No earlier estate maps which actually cover the land excavated have been identified, but the Map Library at the British Library might hold one or more.

The manorial record is sporadi*c.* CKS holds some 18th-century returns for East Kingsnorth and leases for West Hawks. East Sussex Record Office holds microfilm copy of the medieval Battle Abbey Cartulary – the royal manor of Wye was granted to the Abbey. The cartulary is said to contain information about Kingsnorth.

There are six documents regarding land grants in the British Library and the Public Record Office will hold taxation records and possibly other manorial records which catalogue search should reveal.

The Guildhall Library in London may be a further source as part of the parish came into the ownership of Haberdasher Aske's hospital.

2.10.4.3 ***Potential and Further Work***

The possibility of tracing the tenements further back can therefore be said to be moderately good and it is recommended that a more detailed study of the surviving maps and documents is carried out in order to find evidence of the nature of the medieval and post-medieval activity located in the excavations of Area 1 and 2A.

2.11 **PERIOD IX** (Modern AD1800-2002)

2.11.1 ***Summary***

Area 1 excavation: The following features were recorded;

Ditches: [611], [613], [578]

Pits: Animal burials [584], [570], [566], [637], [635], [568], [641], [643],

Small pits: [640], [508], [510], [512], [514], & [598], & [534], [548]

Postholes:

Area 2A excavation:

Ditches*:* [2225] 19th century roadside/field boundary, [2132] late 20th century sewer

Area 2B excavation: The following features were recorded;

Ditches: [1004]

Pits: [1042]

Areas 3 & 4 excavation: The following features were recorded;

Ditches: [2177] [2178] [2736] [2737] [2678]/[2293]/[2280]/[3338] [2309] [2240] ?[3416]

2.11.2 ***Statement of potential***

A total of eight post-medieval/modern animal burials were recorded in Area 1. All had been placed in a row along what is thought, from the presence of numerous roots to have been a former hedge or ditch boundaries. A single animal burial [1042] was recorded in Area 2B close to an infilled field ditch. The plotting of features of this period is useful in charting the development of the agricultural landscape through to the present day. The greatest potential for this period lies in a study of the existing maps and documents in relation to the mapped evidence from the excavations as outlined above (see 2.10.4.3).

2.11.3 ***Further work***

It is recommended that detailed documentary research is carried out to trace back the agricultural and settlement activity on the site from this period into the preceding Period VIII. A very rapid analysis of the dating evidence for the Period IX field ditches and other features is recommended to see if, with the documentary and map evidence, they provide a picture or post-medieval and modern activity on the site and thus complete the final phase of the study of the developing landscape.

3.0 **FINDS** (Summary & factual statement, Statement of Potential, Further work)

Introduction

For ease of reading it has been decided to combine the three key elements of the post-excavation assessment under each artefact or ecofact type. Thus despite variations in layout adopted by the different specialists, the aim here has been to provide a simple factual statement or summary, a statement of potential and an outline for future work involving detailed analysis and publication.

3.1 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery *by Malcolm Lyne*

3.1.1 *Summary*

The site yielded a total of 29,515 sherds (237,479 gm.) of pottery from 1,375 contexts; ranging in date from Middle Iron Age to Roman with some evidence for Late Bronze Age activity: a further 1146 sherds (8,151 gm.) were retrieved during the excavations of Areas 1 and 2B in 1999 and 2,397 small fragments (4,465 gm.) came from the sieving of environmental samples. An exceptionally good sequence of transitional Middle Iron Age through non-Belgic Late Iron Age and Belgic Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery assemblages are present from an area where Middle to Late Iron Age pottery assemblages were hitherto virtually unknown.

Methodology

All of the numerous pottery assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabri*c.* Fabrics were classified using a x8 magnification lens in order to determine the natures, sizes, forms and frequencies of added inclusions: finer fabrics were further examined with the aid of a x30 magnification pocket microscope with artificial illumination source.

Only two of the assemblages, from Ditch 2244 and 'Kiln' 2680, are large enough for meaningful quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds (Orton 1975).

The Assemblages

Period II. Bronze Age to Early Iron Age.

The pottery of this period is confined to a few heavily-abraded calcined-flint tempered sherds residual in their contexts and probably derived from field marling. The exception to this is a pit [3865] at the northern edge of the site, which produced a small 11 sherd (124 gm.) assemblage of calcined flint tempered sherds. There are no rim or other form-diagnostic sherds. A c14 (standard radiometric) date was obtained on charcoal from context (3888) in pit [3865] of 2990+/- 140 BP (Beta – 171104) – The 2 Sigma calibration: Cal BC 1520 to 830 (Cal BP 3470 to 2780). The calibrated age is given as Cal BC 1410 to 1000

Period III. Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age 1. *c.*150 to 75 BC

Ditch 2244 towards the northern edge of the site produced a very large 3,691 sherd (16,290 gm.) pottery assemblage from a series of excavated slots along its length. The pottery sherds are very fresh and largely made of vessel fragments in a variety of non-Belgic fabrics. Forms include slack-profiled jars with expanded or simple rims and saucepan pots. What most of these vessels have in common is smooth, polished surfaces: very few of them, mainly storage vessels in a very-coarse multi-coloured grog-tempered fabric, could be described as lumpy and ill-formed. The wide variety of fabrics include silt-tempered, silt and siltstone-grog tempered, silt and crushed red haematite, silt and crushed calcined-flint et*c.* and suggest pottery supply from a variety of small suppliers.

Similar assemblages are known from Beechbrook Wood to the north-west of Ashford (Lyne Forthcoming A) and Hawkinge (Thompson 2000).

Apart from these local wares, there are also minute amounts of sandy black pottery from the production site at Dollands Moor, Folkestone and glauconitic pottery from the Medway valley. These imports make up only 1% of the assemblage: simple forms in 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware account for a slightly larger 3%.

The bulk of the pottery is restricted to ditch sections along the north side of the enclosure ditch close to roundhouse structures 14 and 15 inside the enclosure.

A smaller but significant pottery assemblage of similar character and date came from Ditch [2282] (38 sherds, 576 gm.).

Period IV. *C.*75-25B*C.*

Possible roundhouse structures 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 within and to the north-west of the enclosure formed by Ditches [2244], [2282], [2305] and [2267] produced small pottery assemblages of this period. None of these assemblages are particularly impressive and are somewhat deficient in rims and other diagnostic sherds.

The most significant pottery assemblage of this period comes from Ditch [2305], which together with Ditch [2278] forms an enclosure around Structure 9. This ditch yielded a 736 sherd (7,545 gm.) assemblage with Belgic grog-tempered wares now making up more than a quarter of all of the pottery by sherd count. The non-Belgic silt-tempered wares are still predominant and include similar forms to those present in Ditch [2282]. There are, however, a few saucepan pot variants which appear to be transitional and approaching Thompson (1982) Belgic Form C3 bead-rim jars in profile. Glauconitic wares from the Medway valley are more

significant than previously (6%) and somewhat smaller amounts of quartz-sanded wares from Folkestone are still present. Ditch [2307] produced a somewhat smaller 90 sherd (590 gm.) but similar assemblage as did recuts [3561] and [3625] of Ditch [2305].

Pit/Well [2471] at the junctions of Ditches [2305], [2278] and [2267] yielded 127 sherds (1280 gm.) of pottery. This assemblage has Belgic grog-tempered wares making up 40% of the pottery by sherd count and including Thompson Class B2-3 and C3 jars. The few glauconitic sherds include a rim fragment from a saucepan pot: the rest of the pottery is in the non-Belgic Late Iron Age 1 tradition. It would perhaps be reasonable to suppose that the well was filled in at the end of Period IV and that the breakdown of this pottery assemblage gives a picture of the pattern of pottery supply during the third quarter of the first-century B*C.*

A high percentage of the early Belgic wares are polished and undecorated but a sherd with square-toothed rouletted chevrons is known from a small assemblage of this date.

Period V. *c.*25BC-AD.50

The pottery from Ditch [3276] forms one of very few assemblages which can be dated to *c.*25-0B*C.* The 219 sherds (1292 gm.) of pottery are now totally dominated by Belgic grog-tempered wares (90%) and it can probably be assumed that the few sherds in the Late Iron Age 1 tradition are residual. Small numbers of sherds in glauconitic Medway valley and quartz sanded Folkestone fabrics are present, however, and are probably contemporary with the bulk of the assemblage.

This overwhelming predominance of grog-tempered wares continued well into the Roman period. Very little of the Period V material can be attributed to the Canterbury area: some, including a few eyebrow decorated jars, seems to have been traded in from East Sussex but the bulk comes from a local production centre or production centres. This local production is characterized by a dearth of open forms and the production of numerous small bead-rim jars or beakers of Thompson Class B5-5 and slack-profiled jars. Combing and furrowed decoration is less common than with contemporary Canterbury grog-tempered ware products and vessels with knife scoring imitating combing are known from Brisley Farm. One solitary bead-rim jar has spaced bosses on its shoulder.

A movement of activity on the site to the south seems to have taken place during this period. Ring gully Structures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 were constructed and used during the early-first century and all produced pottery assemblages with a total predominance of grog-tempered wares. Structure 1 yielded the largest assemblage (515 sherds, 5488gm.) much of which comes from Gully 2393. Virtually all of the pottery is grog-tempered and mostly comes from B5-5 bead-rim jars and other bead-rim varieties. Structures 3, 4, 7 and 8 produced similar but smaller assemblages although somewhat

deficient in rims. The assemblages from Structures 2 and 5 are insignificant.

There are numerous small pottery assemblages from the various ditches, gullies and pits of this period. The material from Gully [3162] is typical in consisting entirely of grog-tempered sherds. Another characteristic of this and other ditch groups of this period is the apparent deliberate placing of clusters of and single complete and partially-complete pots in some kind of ritual activity. Some of these deposits are associated with burnt bone and can be regarded as 'internments': others, however, lack such material. Six such part complete pots came from Gully [3162/1239]: at least 80 other examples are known from elsewhere on the site and include a number of truncated vessels with holes drilled in their bases.

The warrior graves and other burials

Warrior burial B20 appears to contain the earliest dated pottery. This inhumation was accompanied by a very early Gallo-Belgic butt-beaker of Stead and Rigby Form 1A1 (1989) dated *c.*10BC-AD.10 and from the Amiens region of North-East Gaul. Other examples are known from the Canterbury oppidum, the cemetery at Deal, Skeleton Green, Verulamium and Camulodunum. The grave also yielded the scattered sherds from an eyebrow decorated, narrow-mouthed East Sussex Ware jar broadly dated to the period *c.*50BC-AD.50. However it should be recognised that the presence of the Gallo-Belgic butt-beaker with burial B20 may be a curated or 'antique' object at the time of inhumation so that this vessel cannot provide a secure, early 1st century date for the burial. This inhumation can therefore probably be dated only to *c.*AD.10-50 at the present.

The enclosure gully around this grave yielded 957 sherds (8916 gm.) of pottery, including at least 18 apparently ritually deposited pots and partial pots. These include fragmentary grog-tempered butt-beakers, B1-3 and B5-5 jars and perforated bases. The presence of a fragment from a *c.*AD.43-120 dated Upchurch greyware bowl in one of these pot-clusters indicates continuing ritual activities around this grave for up to 50 years. (*The excavator [Johnson] notes that detailed analysis will need to focus on the amount and type of pottery in quadrants 1 & 2 compared with 3 & 4. In the latter case the south ditch of the enclosure was part excavated (lengthways, due to the constraints of the poly tunnel) and here some pottery will have been assigned to 2808 whilst later this material was elsewhere number 3156. At a glance the 3156 material appears to include later post-conquest material and if this is the case it would back up the stratigraphic hypothesis that the south side of the B20 enclosure ditch was recut by [3196] – the enclosure south of the warrior-burials.*)

Burial B19 by contrast appears to date to around the time of the Roman Conquest: the burial itself was accompanied by another Gallo-Belgic butt-beaker from the same source as that from B20 but of a later form, dated *c.*AD.30-60. Further analysis of the Gallo-Belgic ware will ascertain whether this close date range is indeed secure (see discussion on dating of B20

above). A Terra Nigra platter with the stamp of CANICOS (AD.20/25-45) and a grog-tempered Thompson Class F3-4 bowl (AD.10-50) were also present.

The enclosure gully around this grave yielded 413 sherds (2094 gm.) of pottery. There are only three partial pots which have been clearly ritually deposited. These comprise two truncated vessels with perforated bases and part of a butt-beaker copy in fine Upchurch greyware (*c.*AD.43-90).

The fairly precise dates given to these two warrior burials will be very useful in improving the dating of Belgic grog-tempered forms from the area as numerous fragments of such vessels were present as 'rubbish' in the fills of the enclosure ditches.

At least 42 possible cremation-related features came from the site: ten of these date to this period and had partially complete and/or small portions of pots associated. Four more such cremation-related features with fragmentary vessels show that this practice (which at present we do not fully understand) continued on the site into the late first century AD.

Period 6. *c.*AD.43-200

The trapezoidal enclosure to the south of the two warrior burials and enclosed by Ditches [1285], [3157], [3113] and [3196] yielded 419 sherds (4,050 gm.) from the fills of those ditches. Nearly all of the sherds are in Belgic and East Sussex grog-tempered wares and include eight ritually deposited fragmentary vessels including a perforated pot base and fragments from a fine Upchurch greyware bowl of Monaghan Type 4J1 (1987, *c.*AD.43-120).

Pit [3473] yielded a large fresh sherd from a South Gaulish Samian Dr.36 platter (AD.70-110) and Pit [1321] produced fragments from an oxidized Canterbury flagon (AD.70-200). These and other items suggest that these dead warriors were still being venerated in the last years of the first century.

Pit [1696] to the south of Ditch [1177]/[1155] produced a 214 sherd (1,518 gm.) pottery assemblage which includes some very unusual pieces. There are fragments from a ?grog-tempered patera or ladle, crucible fragments, a very unusual Dr.30 bowl copy in local superior-quality grog-tempered ware and, most surprisingly, a girth carinated Atrebatic Overlap bowl in soot-soaked sandy fabric from the Chichester area (*c.*AD.30-50).

The laying out of a series of rectangular enclosures along the east side of Ditch [1,680]/[1,101]/[2,129] seems to have taken place soon after the Roman Conquest. This linking ditch produced 261 sherds (4,062 gm.) of pottery which, like that from the trapezoidal ritual enclosure is made up almost entirely of grog-tempered wares with just one fragment of South Gaulish Samian and 11 tiny chips from an Upchurch closed form.

The 736 sherds (2775 gm.) of pottery from the fills of Ditches [1,155], [1,632], [2,201] and [2,181] surrounding the northernmost of these rectangular enclosures dates between AD.50 and 130 and has a higher percentage of Romanised wheel-turned pottery imports. These include a bowl of Monaghan Type 4H2-3 (AD.70-130) in fine grey Upchurch ware, a necked-jar and a lid in sandy grey Canterbury fabric (AD.70-175) and a sherd from a South Gaulish Samian Dr.27 cup.

Immediately to the north of this enclosure is a complex of post holes, pits and slots. This complex appears to represent a group of flimsy buildings. It produced very little pottery but beam slot [2538] yielded 9 fragments of pottery including seven from a closed form in fine grey Upchurch fabri*c.* An Early Roman, possibly pre-Flavian, date seems to be indicated.

Kiln or oven Pit [2680] a short distance to the north of this structure was packed with pottery. It is tempting to regard this structure as a pottery kiln but there are problems with this interpretation. Of the 2,642 sherds (29,275 gm.) of pottery from this feature 90% are made up of fragments from polished reddish-brown/ black jars in fine local grog-tempered ware Fabric B2.4 of post AD.70 date: this in itself might suggest that the structure was a pottery kiln but there is a complete lack of obvious wasters. The remaining 10% of the pottery includes fragments from biconicals in grey Upchurch ware (AD.43-130), oxidized Canterbury flagons (AD.70-200), salt containers, Canterbury greywares and South Gaulish Samian. The salt container fragments suggest that the kiln or oven was most likely used for cooking food. Nevertheless, the homogenous nature of most of the grog-tempered wares from the feature and their similarity to contemporary wares from the Roman settlement at Westhawk Farm a short distance to the east suggests very local manufacture.

The forms indicate a date of *c.*AD.70-100 for the assemblage and can be compared with those in identical fabric making up the bulk of an equally large mid-second century assemblage from Westhawk Farm. Only one of the jars from Pit 2680 is lid-seated, whereas nearly all of those in the Westhawk Farm assemblage are. Fragments from only two open forms are present in the Brisley Farm assemblage, whereas they are well represented in the Westhawk Farm material.

Another concentration of Roman features, mainly pits and postholes, was centred around Well 2748. The 302 sherds (4909 gm.) of pottery from this feature are largely made up of grog-tempered wares, with just a few fragments from Canterbury flagons and Upchurch closed forms.

Other features producing significant late-first to early-second century pottery assemblages are Ditches 1267, 2051, 2227, 2670 and 3014 and Pits 2680 and 2926. They all indicate continued supply of the bulk of the kitchen wares in use on the site by local concerns rooted in the Belgic grog-tempered ware tradition. Fineware open forms and beakers were supplied in small quantities by both the Upchurch ware producing kilns of North Kent and the South

Gaulish Samian kilns at La Graufesenque. Canterbury was another small scale supplier of wheel-turned pottery, in the form of lids, carinated bowls and jars in sandy grey fabric and oxidized flagons. There is evidence from other sites in East Kent, in the form of internal resin patches, that some at least of the flagons were traded in the form of packaging for wine from the Canterbury area.

There is very little late-second century pottery from the site. Pit 1164 produced a 135 sherd assemblage, including a Central Gaulish Samian Dr,31 platter fragment (*c.*AD.150-200) and another piece from a Cologne colour-coat beaker (AD.130-200+). It is interesting to see that just about the only other assemblage of this period comes from narrow gully 3251 cut to block the entrance from the trackway into the old trapezoidal ritual enclosure. This feature produced a small six sherd assemblage, including a fresh rim sherd from a BB2 everted-rim cooking-pot (*c.*AD.130-250), and seems to mark the abandonment of activities within this enclosure as well as occupation on the site in general.

3.1.2 *Potential*

The Brisley Farm site is of major importance for determining the development of and patterns of supply of pottery in South-East Kent from the Middle Iron Age to the Roman period. Ten years ago scarcely anything was known about the Iron Age ceramic sequence within the area but we now have both Beechbrook Wood and Brisley Farm in the Ashford area: Brisley Farm is by far the most important of the two and it is recommended that the pottery from it be fully published.

3.1.3 *Further work*

All of the assemblages described above should be published with an estimated 100-150 pottery drawings. A separate section should be produced for the burial pots in the form of information to be integrated in the reports on the burials with those by other specialists on other associated artefacts and environmental information. A further 35 pots and partial pots will need to be drawn for this section.

The report should include a section on the ritually deposited pot clusters from the various ditches and gullies with observations as to the pattern of deposition. A further section should discuss as to whether the form make up of any of the assemblages is indicative of anything other than ritual activity taking place.

3.1.4 *List of Fabrics*

Fabrics will use the same codes / correlate with those from Westhawk Farm.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Relevant codings from the fabric series created for the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site at Christchurch School just to the east of Brisley Farm (Lyne Forthcoming A) have been used here for the few sherds of this date.

BA/EIA1A. Handmade lumpy fabric patchy fired with moderate to profuse protruding and ill-sorted 0.10 to 5.00 mm. calcined-flint filler
BA/EIA1B. Similar but with sparse filler.
BA/EIA2. Handmade lumpy and patchy fired with moderate 0.20 to 2.00 mm.brown and black ironstone and sparse 0.50 to 5.00 mm.calcined flint filler.
BA/EIA3A. Handmade lumpy and patchy-fired with moderate to profuse up-to 2.00 mm. calcined-flint filler
BA/EIA7A. Handmade lumpy fabric with sparse up-to 2.00 mm.calcined-flint and brown grog filler

Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age 1

The codings created for the Beechbrook Wood site north-west of Ashford (Lyne Forthcoming B) are used here with additions.

MLIA1. Well laevigated fabric with profuse up-to 3.00 mm. calcined flint filler.
MLIA2. Well laevigated fabric with sparse to moderate up-to 2.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.
MLIA3. Fabric with very profuse up-to 1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler
MLIA4. Fabric with profuse up-to 2.00 mm. soft brown grog and very sparse up-to 0.50 mm. calcined-flint filler.
MLIA7. Fabric with profuse very-fine quartz, occasional coarser quartz and sparse red ferrous inclusions
MLIA8. fabric with large crushed red ferrous inclusions.
MLIA10. Fabric with up-to 2.00 mm. chalk and grog filler
MLIA11. Fabric with silt-sized quartz and occasional larger chalk inclusions
MLIA12. Fabric with calcined-flint and red ferrous inclusions
MLIA13. Fabric with silt-sized to 0.20 mm quartz sand and grog filler.
MLIA15. Fabric with silt-sized quartz and moderate up-to 5.00 mm. crushed black and white grog filler.
MLIA17. Polished black fabric with profuse silt-sized quartz filler.
MLIA18. Fabric with profuse very-fine sand, occasional calcined flint and grog filler.
MLIA19. Fabric with profuse ill-sorted silt-sized to 0.50 mm. quartz and occasional grog filler.
MLIA20. Fabric with profuse silt-sized quartz and up-to 3.00 mm. calcined flint filler
MLIA21. Lumpy fabric with profuse coarse multi-coloured grog and red ferrous inclusions.
MLIA22. Fabric with profuse silt-sized quartz and occasional calcined flint
MLIA23. Fabric with profuse silt-sized quartz and occasional coarse red ferrous inclusions.
MLIA24. Fabric with profuse up-to 0.20 mm.quartz and occasional larger rose quartz.
MLIA25. Grog-tempered fabric with occasional up-to 5.00 mm. siltstone grog.
MLIA26. Very-fine sanded brown-black with occasional 5.00 mm. white aggregate inclusion. A Dollands Moor, Folkestone product (Lyne Forthcoming C).
MLIA27. Soapy fabric with profuse up-to 3.00 mm. siltstone grog and occasional up-to 3.00 mm.angular white quartz.

Belgic Late Iron Age

'Belgic' grog-tempered wares first made their appearance *c.*100/75 BC but did not become totally predominant until *c.*25B*C.* The Canterbury Archaeological Unit codings are used for these and the Roman fabrics.

B2. 'Belgic' coarse-grog-tempered
B2.1 'Belgic' with both black and off-white siltstone grog.
B2.4 Superior quality grog-tempered ware fabric, probably tournetted and fired polished

patchy reddish-brown/black. *C.*AD.60/70-160
B3. ‘Belgic’ grog and calcined-flint tempered wares
B5. 'Belgic' grog and sand tempered
B8. 'Belgic' fine sandy
B9. 'Belgic' coarse sandy
B9.1. Glauconitic wares.
B14. Terra Rubra Fabric 1*C.*
BER5. Early Gaulish Whiteware: Rigby Fabric A
BER10. Early Gaulish White Ware: Rigby Fabric IIB
BER11. Flagon White Ware: Rigby Fabric WW1
BER12. Terra Nigra
BER15. Chaff-tempered salt container fabri*c.*

Roman fabrics

R5. Canterbury kilns greyware
R6.1 Canterbury oxidised sandy orange wares
R6.3 Canterbury oxidized sandy buff wares
R14 BB2
R16 Grey 'Upchurch' ware
R17 Oxidised 'Upchurch' ware
R25 Cologne colour-coated white ware
R42 South Gaulish Samian
R43 Central Gaulish Samian
R71 Oxidised sandy ware
R73 Thameside and miscellaneous greywares
R98 Miscellaneous amphorae

3.2 **The Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

3.2.1 *Summary*

The four stages of excavation at Brisley Farm produced a total of 4,061 sherds of pottery, weighing just over 39kg, from 166 individually numbered contexts. The size of each assemblage varied considerably between excavation phases (Table 1).

Area	No. of Sherds	Weight of sherds	No. of contexts
1	794	7,092g	34
2A	3,243	32,169g	128
2B	24	160g	4
3	0	0g	0
4	0	0g	0

Table 1: Post-Roman pottery quantification

Overall the material spans the mid 13th to 19th centuries though by far the majority dates to the 13th to early 16th centuries. Generally, sherd size is small and many sherds show signs of abrasion and/or deterioration from acidic ground conditions. The pottery from the different phases of excavation are summarised below.

The Area 1 assemblage consists of predominantly small abraded sherds which are usually only present in small groups: the largest context assemblages from this phase consists of 121 sherds (1,374g) from Context [659] and 85 sherds (474g) from Context [583] (both dated to the late 13th to 14th centuries). The pottery was found in both negative features and surface spreads/layers. By far the majority of the Area 1 assemblage dates to the mid 13th to 14th centuries. Fabrics for this period include the 13th- century sand and shell tempered Potter's Corner fabric though the majority consist of various sand or sand and grog tempered wares of the later 13th to 14th-centuries. Both cooking pots and jugs are represented though the glaze on most of the jugs has been adversely affected by abrasion and acidic ground conditions. A few isolated sherds of later date are present from this area. These consist of 17th- and 18th- century glazed earthenwares and a little 19th- century china none of which appear in any sizable groups. Most of the later material is intrusive into earlier features or relates to later post-medieval boundary ditches et*c.* Unlike the Area 2A excavations (see below), no 15th- to 16th-century pottery was noted in Area 1.

The Area 2A assemblage is, unsurprisingly, much larger than that from the Area 1. The condition of the pottery is varied, and includes both large unabraded sherds and smaller abraded examples. Most have been affected by the acidic ground conditions to varying degrees depending on the fabri*c.* Although most groups are small there are a number of larger groups: the largest including Context [2006] (250 sherds weighing 2,570g), Context [2072] (307 sherds weighing 3,648g), Context [2093] (178 sherds weighing 1,282g) and Context [2171] (128 sherds weighing 2,790g). These groups are

very variable in quality and most are composed of relatively abraded sherds with significant amounts of residual and/or intrusive material. This is partly the result of much of the pottery coming from layers/spreads of material which are obviously not closed. However, even the groups from closed features, although lacking intrusive sherds, contain a good scatter of residual sherds. This suggests that a good deal of mid 13th- to early 15th- century pottery was present in general spreads at the site to be incorporated into the later 15th- and early 16th- century deposits. As a result some of the smaller, sealed groups provide better dating and scope for study of the fabric sequence at the site. The assemblage from the Area 2A excavations spans the mid 13th to mid 16th centuries, with an intrusive scatter of predominantly 18th- and 19th- century material. Most relates to the mid 13th to 14th and early 16th centuries. At present the 15th century appears to be less well represented in the assemblage though closer examination of the fabrics may rectify this. The early fabics are similar to those discovered in Area 1. The later fabrics (15th to mid 16th century) consist of progressively higher fired fine and sandy local earthenwares together, in the 16th- century deposits, with some imported Raeren and Frechen stonewares. Forms include a range of cooking pots/jars, pitchers and bowls.

The assemblage from the Area 2B excavations consists of an unstratified scatter of 13th- to 15th- century material presumably from manuring the fields adjacent the occupation site.

Areas 3 and 4 produced no post Roman pottery.

3.2.2 *Potential*

The post-Roman pottery assemblage has the potential to help establish both the chronological range for occupation/activity at the site and the development of the settlement lay-out through time. It also has some potential in helping understand the sites status and trading links. The occupation site in Area 2A is interesting in that it carries the ceramic sequence through the later medieval into the early post-medieval periods. This offers a good opportunity to establish a preliminary fabric series for the area which will span the mid 13th to mid 16th centuries. It is unfortunate so many contexts have residual or intrusive sherds, however, enough ‘closed’ groups are present to establish at least a provisional sequence.

3.2.3 *Further work*

The post-Roman pottery from the Area 2B excavations and all later post-medieval pottery from the site does not warrant any further study as the assemblage is small and will not add any significant information. However, the medieval and early post-medieval pottery from the Area 1 and 2A excavations is considered to be worthy of further detailed analysis. Only limited further analysis is needed on the Area 1 material - most work is needed on the assemblage from the occupation site in Area 2A.

It is proposed that the assemblages are closely checked against their stratigraphic position in order to help refine the provisional spot-dating and in an attempt to help refine the chronological brackets placed on each fabric type. During this work fabric samples will be extracted and a fabric series produced covering the mid 13th to mid 16th centuries. These fabrics will be fully described in the final report. Following this a selection of the best context groups will be fully studied (using sherds count and weight per fabric) to show the changing fabrics and forms through time. The selected contexts will include a chronological range. Initially two Area 1 contexts have been selected for further study (Context [659], dated 1275-1350 and [665], dated 1250-1325). Initially 12 contexts groups have been selected for further study from the Area 2A work. These include contexts of 13th- to 14th- century date (ie Context [2073], dated 1250-1325) as well as later groups (ie Contexts [2171], dated 1500-1525/50). A concise report will be produced for publication outlining the nature of the whole assemblage, describing the fabric and forms present and showing the fabric ratios within selected groups of different periods. It is estimated that between 20 and 40 sherds may be illustrated for the report.

3.3 The Late Iron Age and Roman Metalwork *by Ian Stead and Vanessa Fell*

3.3.1 *Summary and factual statement*

Area 1 - No metalwork recovered (Site code: BRF99 I)

Area 2A – No Late Iron Age material recovered – (Site code: BRF99 IIA)

Area 2B - *c.* 55 iron artefacts plus numerous fragments of 'cremation' slag and other material. (Site code: BRF99 II B) from a series of small discrete features.

Area 4 - Grave 19: sword in organic scabbard with 3 copper alloy suspension rings, spearhead, shield boss, copper alloy brooch. (Site code: BRF01 IV)

Area 4 - Grave 20: sword in organic scabbard with some copper alloy components, spearhead, shield boss. (Site code: BRF01 IV)

Areas 3 & 4 - Other finds: *c.* 29 iron artefacts and 4 copper alloy. (Site code: BRF01 III-IV)

Condition

Area 4 excavation, Warrior-burials -The principal grave finds were lifted as soil blocks and all but one of these was packaged to retain moisture to facilitate controlled excavation in the laboratory. The poorly drained Weald Clay burial conditions have not assisted the survival of the metallic components or the associated organic materials. The metal artefacts are severely corroded and there is probably little or no metal surviving in any of

the artifacts. However, organic components are visible on some items where these have been exposed and it seems likely that sufficient will have survived to enable identification and to contribute to our understanding of the artefacts.

Area 2A, Medieval finds – see below Section 3.4

Area 2B, 3 & 4 excavation, all other finds - Finds from other features appear to be fairly robust although a few have fractured and exhibit partly hollowed interiors. Many of the finds from the possible cremation related features are covered with cremation slag and related material. The overall condition of the metalwork is fair and there is little post-excavation corrosion damage, probably due in part because there is no metallic iron surviving.

Means of collecting data
Soil blocks from Graves 19 and 20 were x-rayed intact (by Dylan Cox, CfA, Portsmouth). Finds from the cremation burials (BRF99) and from other features (BRF01 III & IV) were x-rayed and also the soil samples associated with the soil blocks from the graves where these were thought to contain metalwork. A selection of finds were examined at low-power microscopy.

Cox's report on the intial x-ray and conservation of the artefacts is included at Appendix 3.2

3.3.2 ***Statement of potential***
The metalwork from the excavation Areas 1 - 4 can be divided into three groups;

1) Metalwork from the two Late Iron Age warrior burials
2) Late prehistoric and Roman metalwork all excavation Areas 1-4
3) Medieval and post-medieval metalwork

General comments relating to the metal work groups 1, 2 and 3;

The potential for long-term survival is reasonable providing that metalwork is adequately packaged and stored in micro-climates and desiccation is maintained where appropriate.

Conservation potential for the metalwork relates principally to examination and scientific analysis through controlled examination of the soil blocks to enhance our understanding and interpretation of the grave finds.

The two swords (one from each warrior-burial) require detailed examination of the scabbards, suspension loops and hilts in particular, to clarify their materials and construction. The shield bosses require investigation to clarify method of construction. The long, slender spearheads are unusual and their form needs clarification; the sockets may retain evidence of the wooden hafts. Evidence of grave lining or wrappings may survive on any of the grave finds. The soil residues will require close examination to recover small artefactual evidence and degraded human (or other) bone.

The remaining metalwork, from possible cremation related features and other features, comprises mainly nails but a selection of the other metal artefacts will benefit from investigative conservation. For some artefacts this will involve only additional x-radiography. Other items may require more detailed investigation to clarify form (eg a two-pronged iron flesh-hook with chain) or to identify the nature of associated materials.

3.3.3 Examination and analysis will include:

1. Additional x-radiography of selected finds to clarify construction (following reconstruction where necessary, or removal of accretions)
2. Selective removal of accretions where appropriate to reveal form or surface detail, or to enable identification of materials through scientific analysis
3. Detailed examination of swords and shield bosses for materials and methods of construction
4. Examination of all grave finds and deposits for evidence of grave linings and wrappings or other associated organic materials or environmental remains
5. Identification of organic components by optical microscopy or scanning electron microscopy where appropriate. These will be identified to material type and to species where possible
6. X-ray fluorescence analysis to determine metal species where uncertain
7. Examination of spearhead sockets and other implements for types of haftings.

Storage requirements

The soil blocks are stored slightly damp (except sword from Grave 19 which has largely dried out), and these conditions will facilitate investigation. Other metal artefacts are stored in desiccated micro-climates. There are no immediate storage requirements for the metalwork other than maintenance of desiccated conditions (below 15% relative humidity for the ironwork; below 35% relative humidity for copper alloys). Long-term storage requirements for archaeological materials and archives are set out in Walker 1990 and MGC 1992.

Conservation requirements

The immediate conservation requirements are to excavate the soil blocks while these are still slightly damp. Medium-term requirements relate to the publication programme detailed above, plus repackaging as appropriate. Long-term requirements will include devising suitable supports for storing the fragile items (swords, spearheads, shield bosses and other items).

Resources

It is proposed to use facilities at the Centre for Archaeology (English Heritage), and elsewhere.

The metalwork from the two warrior-burials and from the Late Iron Age and

Roman contexts is of national significance and despite the poor condition of the material it is proposed that the Late Iron Age metalwork is published in full. All the artefacts from the two warrior burials will need to be illustrated, along with a selection of other artefacts from elsewhere on the site.

3.4 The Post-Roman Metalwork by Luke Barber

3.4.1 *Summary*

Iron

The five areas of excavations at the site (Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3 & 4) produced a moderately sized assemblage of post-Roman ironwork: 402 pieces, weighing approximately 8kg, from 65 individually numbered contexts. By far the majority of this assemblage came from the Area 2A excavations on the late medieval/early post-medieval farmstead. The other areas produced very little post-Roman ironwork: Area 1 yielded only three small pieces from three different contexts; Area 2B yielded two pieces from one context and Areas 3 & 4 produced 38 unstratified pieces of predominantly late post-medieval ironwork during searches undertaken by metal detector.

The iron from the site is not in good condition and is highly unstable - cracking and flaking is severe in many pieces and most examples can be described as being in an advanced state of decay. This is probably due to the acidic nature of the ground and the relatively shallow depth at which most of the material was buried (ploughing would easily allow oxygen into the medieval deposits). Despite the poor condition the objects have relatively little in the way of corrosion products adhering to them. As a result, the form of most objects is discernable without x-ray.

The assemblage from the Area 2A excavations comes from a number of different types of contexts, including ditches and layers/spreads, ranging in date between the 13th and mid 16th centuries. However, the majority of this assemblage, particularly the larger groups, comes from the 15th- to mid 16th-century contexts. The problem of residuality and intrusivness within contexts, as demonstrated by the ceramics, poses some problems with the ironwork due to the fact much is not closely datable in its own right.

The assemblage of 402 pieces of ironwork is dominated by nails and nail fragments. Some 303 are present, most of which are of general purpose types. A few farrier's nails, as well as a few larger examples for structural timbers are included in the assemblage. A number of diagnostic objects are also present. These include horse-shoes, tanged knives, two door keys (Context (2072)), a casket key and rowel spur (also Context (2072)) and various fittings including hinge pivots for doors (ie Context (2022)). The two largest assemblages from the site are from Contexts (2072) (40 nails and 20 objects) and (2171) (25 nails and 12 objects), both dated to the first half of the 16th century and from Area 2A.

Lead

The Area 2A excavations produced 12 pieces of lead, weighing 299g, from eight different contexts. A further 38 pieces of unstratified lead/pewter were recovered during metal detecting in Areas 3 & 4. All is in good condition with only light surface corrosion. The latter material is virtually exclusively of post 1700 date and most relates to the last century (including several lead toys). The Area 2A assemblage is dominated by waste (melted and sheet off-cuts) though some objects are present: a possible window cam from 2043, a rolled fishing weight (2076) and a spindle whorl from (2129). The largest groups are from Contexts (2072) and (2172) (each with three pieces of waste).

Copper Alloy

The Area 2A excavation produced 33 pieces of copper alloy, weighing *c.* 405g , from 33 different contexts. The majority of this material is in fair to good condition. In addition, 84 further pieces were recovered from metal detector searches of Areas 3 & 4. This latter material nearly all relates to post 1700 activity (it includes much 20th- century material, including WWII shell splinters and bullets). This unstratified assemblage is not considered further here. The Area 2A assemblage is of more interest as most is stratified. Although many pieces consist simply of sheeting fragments a number of recognisable objects are also present. These include buckles (Contexts (2072), (2171) and (2173)), a bridle boss (2171), keyhole escuchon (2171) and chafing dish handle (2171). By far the best group is from (2171) where twelve copper alloy objects are present. As with the ironwork, the majority of the copper alloy appears to be of 15th- to mid 16th- century date.

3.4.2 *Potential*

The post-Roman metalwork from the site is considered to hold some potential for limited further analysis. This additional work should be confined to the assemblage from Area 2A excavations. This material offers the opportunity to shed light on some of the building details of this settlement as well as the status and function of its material culture. It is possible some pieces will also allow a refinement of the ceramic dating.

3.4.3 *Further Work*

It is not proposed to try and conserve the majority of the post-Roman metalwork assemblage. Several pieces of ironwork require x-ray to help with their illustration (up to 10 pieces). Following this it is proposed to list all the metalwork on pro forma for the archive. The majority will then be discarded with only recognisable objects (or parts thereof) and a representative selection of nails being retained. The retained material will need careful passive conservation measures to ensure its long-term stability. A concise report will then be prepared for publication outlining the size and nature of the assemblage as well as commenting on the distribution of nails in the Area 2A excavation. The report will concentrate on contexts which have good groups of material dated by pottery. This will include Contexts (2022), (2072) and (2172) Parallels will be sought for the described and illustrated objects. It is proposed to illustrate up to 25 iron, one lead and up to 11 copper alloy objects.

3.5 The Human Bone *by Jacqueline I. McKinley*

3.5.1 *Summary*

Burnt and unburnt bone from 849 contexts and sub-contexts was received for assessment. The remains had been recovered from a variety of deposits of Mid Iron Age to Romano-British date from Area 2B (BRF 99) and Areas 3 and 4 (BRF 01) excavations of the Site. The types of deposit from which bone was recovered included the remains of two inhumation warrior-burials (dated on the ceramics to AD10-50), a possible urned cremation burial, a minimum of four cremation burials (Late Iron Age), one pyre site with burial and five other cremation-related deposits. Other contexts comprised spreads of material, and the fills of pits, ditches and post-holes.

Methods

The bone from each context and sub-contexts was subject to a rapid scan to ascertain whether it was human or animal, comment on condition (including if burnt or unburnt), and was quantified by weight (See Appendix 3). Species was attributed to the animal remains where this was easily discernible to the writer, but it was separated-out and returned to the client for full assessment by an archaeozoologist (see section 3.6 below).

The human remains were further rapidly assessed for number of individuals, age and sex, presence of pathological lesions and other inclusions. Observations on type of deposit were also made (See Appendix 3 Tables 1 and 2).

3.5.2 *Results and Potential*

The remains from 25 contexts/sub-contexts comprise cremated human bone and there are unburnt remains from two inhumation warrior-burials. Small quantities of very fragmentary bone from 16 deposits is considered to be possibly human (?human/?animal in Tables 1 and 2, see Appendix 3). Single fragments of unburnt human bone are present amongst the animal bone in two contexts.

The vast majority of the deposits (95%) comprise animal bone, including a minimum 150 contexts/sub-contexts containing unburnt bone and 183 contexts with a mixture of burnt and unburnt bone, the remaining deposits consisting of burnt bone. The unburnt material is predominently tooth enamel or fragments of, the majority being from cattle, with lesser quantities of horse, pig and sheep/goat; very little unburnt bone survives. The majority of the burnt animal bone appears to be from sheep/goat, with some pig, and at least some immature individuals; the quantities from each deposit are generally very small.

There has been substantial truncation to features in Area 2B resulting in very shallow depths of survival (300mm – 100mm) of the cremation-related features (Casper Johnson *pers. comm.*). This is likely to have resulted in the loss of bone and other archaeological components from the deposits, and will render the confident identification of deposit types difficult in some cases.

The cremated human and burnt animal bone is generally in good condition, though generally heavily fragmented and occasionally slightly chalky in appearance – both conditions probably related to the heavy clay (acidic) burial environment. The unburnt bone, both human and animal, is in very poor condition with little other than tooth enamel remaining in either case. The human bone from the two inhumation warrior-burials is highly degraded and it is most unlikely that it will be possible to salvage any of the bone – with the possible exception of one tibia shaft.

The cremated remains of a minimum of six individuals are represented (including one juvenile, one subadult/adult and two adults), and the unburnt remains of a minimum of three (one neonate – redeposited – and two adults). It is probable that more individuals will be represented amongst the cremated remains, but until the material is analysised together with the relevant site context data to ascertain the type of deposit numbers cannot be stated with any certainty. It was not possible to ascertain the sex of any of the individuals during the scan and no pathological lesions were observed.

The cremated and burnt bone generally showed a high degree of oxidation (white), with some slightly variation (blue/grey) amongst some of the animal bone.

3.5.3 *Further work*

The analysis of the human bone aims to cover several aspects of study;

- The nature of the cremation-related deposit if not already clear; the formation processes will be assessed from the data recovered in analysis in combination with the site context data
- More detailed demographic data should be obtained with further analysis. The question of the minimum number of individuals will need to be assessed together with the nature of the deposit. More detailed division of the age ranges should be possible and, although it is unlikely that all adults will be sexed, it should be possible to suggest the sex of some.
- No pathological lesions were observed in the assessment but some may be revealed though more detailed examination. Any diagnosis will be limited due to the nature of the assemblage (cremated, heavily fragmented, enamel only from inhumation burials) and it is unlikely that much comment on general health status will be possible.
- It will not be possible to calculate any skeletal indices
- Assessment of the mortuary rites and rituals of cremation, both from the material contained within the deposits and as represented by the various

types of deposit is potentially of great interest, particularly since cremation burials and related deposits of Iron Age date are relatively rare (Whimster 1980; Stirland 1989; Stead and Rigby 1989; McKinley 1990; Fitzpatrick 1997; McKinley 1997).

- Comparison in all areas of study with contemporaneous cremation cemeteries – including several small, rural cemeteries recently uncovered during the Channel Tunnel Railway Line construction - will assist in placing this site in its regional context and potentially widen our understanding of mortuary practice within this period.

Methods

Osteological analysis will follow the writer's standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone (McKinley 1994, 5-21; 2000). Any further non-human bone will be extracted and forwarded to the appropriate specialist for analysis. Age (cremated and unburnt bone) will be assessed from the stage of skeletal and tooth development (Beek 1983; McMinn and Hutchings 1985) and the general degree of age-related changes to the bone and teeth (Brothwell 1972; Bass 1987). Sex will be ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Efficiency of cremation will be monitored via the colour of the bone (Holden *et al* 1995a and b), and aspects of pyre technology and ritual following the writer's standard methodology (McKinley 1994, 5-21; 2000).

3.6 The Prehistoric and Roman Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

3.6.1 *Summary*

Excavation Areas III and IV produced a total of 10,549 grams of animal bone dating to the Iron Age and Roman Periods. This assemblage was recovered from 417 contexts from across the site and included pit and ditch fills as well as contexts associated with the area of cremation related features and the warrior burials. Both unburnt and burnt (mostly calcined) material is present. The unburnt material is in very poor condition. The majority of the unburnt assemblage consists of teeth from cattle, sheep horse and pig. Whilst in their current state they mostly appear to be groups of single, and greatly fragmented teeth, during the excavation it was noted and recorded in detail that these teeth were usually associated in complete mandibles and maxillas. Evidence for dental wear is visible on some teeth but poor preservation has greatly reduced the availability of this information.

In addition to the dental evidence the unburnt bone assemblage includes some longbone fragments as well as cranial fragments, vertebrae, and phalanges. The assessment noted the presence of cattle, sheep, and pig. There is not a large quantity of this material and the condition is extremely poor.

The burnt material is extremely fragmented. In many cases it has not been possible to distinguish between bone of animal and human origin. This assemblage however, contains longbone fragments with the addition of few

teeth, cranial fragments, vertebrae and phalanges. Cattle, sheep, and bird have so far been identified but the majority appear to be sheep.

3.6.2 *Potential*

The preliminary results of the excavation suggest that the Iron Age and Roman occupation of the site may not simply reflect domestic settlement but instead, that there is a funerary or ritual significance to many of the features investigated. It is hoped that the distribution of animal bone across the site can be studied in order to address this problem. This will be attempted in terms of which species are present in which features as well as their skeletal representation (i.e. which skeletal elements represent them) and in terms of their association with other artefact types. If the data is recoverable it may also be possible to include age distribution in this study. It is hoped that animal bone distribution can also be studied in relation to any phasing which is distinguishable on site in an attempt to examine possible changes in activity with time.

Of particular interest will be the contexts associated with the warrior burials (grave fills (1389), (1416) and enclosure ditch fills (2808), (2809), (3156), (3196)). Other significant contexts identified during excavation are ditch gully (3113) and pit (3282) both of which produced large quantities of animal bone.

It is also hoped that as a result of the studies undertaken it may be possible to draw some conclusions regarding animal exploitation and agricultural activity on the site and if any difference can be noted between 'ritual' and 'domestic' contexts.

3.6.3 *Further Work*

The Iron Age and Roman assemblage has been fully quantified by weight and recorded on computer spreadsheet. Full identification will be undertaken for both the unburnt and burnt material and these results will also be recorded on computer spreadsheet. It is thought that the poor preservation and fragmentary nature of the entire assemblage will hinder the identification process.

The most readily identifiable material will be the unburnt teeth, which form the majority of the assemblage. All associated teeth were carefully noted and recovered together during the excavation stage. As a result it should be possible to provide an estimated number of species per context despite the fragmentary nature of the material. Studies of dental eruption and wear will be attempted but the information available is thought to be limited. The assessment suggested that pig teeth may provide the best dental wear data. The remaining fragments of unburnt material will be studied for signs of butchery or pathology but very little data is expected.

Distribution plots of the animal bone across the site will be produced for a consideration of funerary or ritual significance. The results of the analysis will then be studied in terms of agricultural activity and animal exploitation.

3.7 The Post-Roman Animal Bone assemblage

3.7.1 *Summary*

The Post-Roman animal bone assemblage was recovered from Areas 1, 2A and 2B. The condition of the bone was generally poor due to the acidic nature of the sub-soils on site. Phase I produced a total of 1,129 fragments of bone weighing 5,368g. This material was recovered from 30 contexts dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Poor preservation conditions have resulted in fragile bone. Whilst the surface of the bone has not survived in most cases the assemblage does contain some large fragments. The medieval features date to the 13th to 14th centuries and consist of pit and ditch fills, spreads of material and deposits. This material is more fragmentary than that of the post-medieval period but most is still identifiable. From the preliminary assessment cattle, sheep, pig, dog and bird were identified. There is very little evidence for butchery. The post-medieval assemblage was recovered from pit fills and seems to represent a series of systematic burials. Cattle, sheep, pig and bird were identified but sheep seem to dominate the assemblage. Some complete long bones are present. There is no evidence for butchery.

The second phase of excavation was divided into two parts, 2A and 2B. Area 2A produced 1,378 bone fragments weighing 14,637g. This material was produced by 84 contexts that date primarily from the 13th to 16th centuries. These contexts include pit and ditch fills, deposits and floors and have been interpreted as a farmstead. The assessment identified cattle, sheep, pig, horse, red deer, dog, small mammal and bird but cattle, sheep and pig dominate the material. There are very few complete bones in the assemblage. There is evidence for butchery but this is not extensive. Single bone fragments show signs of carnivorous gnawing or pathology.

Area 2B produced only 241 fragments weighing 575g. This material was recovered from two post-medieval contexts. The first (1005), a ditch fill produced only five fragments. The majority were therefore recovered from (1043), believed to be an animal burial. This context contained fragments of cattle but the majority are sheep and include complete longbones.

3.7.2 *Potential*

The material from all three areas of excavation will be considered together but divided into medieval and post-medieval assemblages.

The medieval assemblage consists primarily of the medieval farmstead investigated in Area 2A but the medieval contexts from Area 1 are of the same date and might be related. Animal bone provides a valuable indicator of economic activity. Bone refuse reflects the animals kept, those hunted and those slaughtered for food. A study of bone from an agricultural settlement will therefore provide information of the site's economy as well as its

methods of animal husbandry. The relative importance of species within the assemblage will be examined. It is thought that this will be the main focus of the analysis and it is hoped that the material can be sub-divided into phases within the medieval period (13th -14th centuries, 14th -15th centuries and 15th - 16th centuries) in order to examine any changes with time. The butchery evidence can be examined for any patterns but the assessment suggests that such evidence is minimal. The full potential may be limited by the degree of mixing of some contexts as witnessed by the ceramic evidence

The post medieval assemblage consists primarily of the features interpreted as animal burial pits excavated in Area 1 and the burial pit and ditch fill from Area 2B. This assemblage is considered to be less important than that of the medieval period but is less fragmentary and more readily identifiable. It will be possible to examine the relative frequency of species within the assemblage but the assessment suggests that sheep comprise the majority. It is thought that the information available from further study of this assemblage will be minimal as the contexts are thought to represent a series of isolated burial pits.

3.7.3 *Further work*

Despite the poor state of preservation of the bone fragments, particularly those dating to the medieval period, it is hoped that a large percentage will be identifiable to species and skeletal element. Full identification will be undertaken and this will be recorded on a computer spreadsheet. There appears to be a relative lack of dental data available for providing age estimates in the medieval assemblage, as the majority of the teeth recovered are loose. Skeletal ageing will therefore largely depend upon epiphyseal fusion, which will be recorded where available. The medieval assemblage does not include many complete longbones available for estimating withers heights but those present will be measured and estimates provided. Age estimates will be calculated for the post-medieval assemblage and the complete bones will be measured in order to provide withers height estimates.

The full results of all analysis will be recorded on computer spreadsheet and a report summarising them will be produced for publication.

3.8 **The Prehistoric and Roman Stone** *by Mike Seager Thomas*

3.8.1 *Introduction*

Excavations of Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3 and 4 yielded 2837 stone finds weighing approximately 150 kilograms. In all 24 stone types are represented (Table 2). These can be divided into three overlapping groups. The first comprises ‘foreign’ stone. It includes Ardingly Sandstone, Folkestone Stone, Lodsworth-type Lower Greensand, and Hertfordshire Puddingstone. The second comprises ‘local’ stone. It includes Kentish Rag, which outcrops nearby, iron stained chalk flint and stones of Tertiary origin, notably flint

beach pebbles and iron-rich sandstone, and stone which is 'natural' to the Weald Clay underlying the site or which is pedological in origin. The third comprises 'artefactual' stone. It includes worked stone (eg quern fragments), stone which has been altered incidentally (eg polishing stones and burnt stone), and stone upon which a pattern of use has been imposed (eg post packing).

Table 2. Stone finds from Brisley Farm, Ashford. Geology, source and summary quantification. T/H = Tertiary/Head, LGS = Lower Greensand (Hythe or Folkestone Beds), WC = Weald Clay, TWS = Tunbridge Wells Sands.

Stone Type	**Archive code**	**Geology**	**Source area**	**Qty**	**Weight**
'Ardingly' sandstone	AS	TWS	central Weald	1	850
Bog iron	BI	pedological	Site	46	908
Silt stone with ferruginous rind	BOX	WC	site or local	82	3426
Greensand chert	C	T/H or LGS	Local	76	6854
	C/FSF	LGS	Local or East Kent	3	26
Coarse ferruginous sandstone	CFS	T/H or LGS	Local	17	4234
Flint	F	T/H	Local	332	12227
Flint beach pebble	FBP	T/H	Local	354	20042
Ferruginous concretion	FC	WC or pedological	Site	29	1149
Fire cracked flint	FCF		Local	1250	3834
Fine ferruginous sandstone	FFS	T/H	local	98	12221
	?FSF	?LGS	?East Kent	1	3
Coarse Folkestone Stone	FS	LGS	East Kent	8	2800
Fine Folkestone Stone (sometimes siliceous)	FSF	LGS	East Kent	53	2663
Hard silt stone	HS	WC	site or local	38	959
Kentish Rag	KR	LGS	Local	308	62009
Kentish Rag with quartz	KRQ	LGS	Local	1	872
Lignite	L	?LGS	unknown	2	1
'Lodsworth' greensand	LOD	LGS	West Sussex	1	428
Metamorphic quartzite	MQ	T/H or beach	local or beach	8	828
	MQ/F	unknown	unknown	1	553
Puddingstone	PS	T/H	Hertfordshire	1	663
Quartz	Q	LGS	Local	47	185
Quartz beach pebble	QBP	T/H or TWS	local or central Weald	14	646
Sarsen	S	T/H	Local	11	11073
Shale	SH		West Country	1	1
Slate	SL	unknown	West Country	1	1
Sandrock	SR	LGS or WC	site or local	42	1731
	SR/KR	LGS or WC	site or local	9	1846
Unidentified sandstone	SS	unknown	unknown	2	188
Total				**2837**	**153221**

3.8.2 *Potential*

Foreign Stone

Most of the 'foreign' stone from Brisley Farm is artefactual (see Table 3, below). As 'foreign' stone its principal interest lies in what it says about the

site's resource strategies, the relationship of these to other, regionally proximate sites, and how these changed over time. This can be established by putting the foregoing identifications in chronological context, and by comparing these to those of other sites. Irrespective of period all quern fragments from the site, for example, are 'foreign' but the actual sources change over time. Although actuated by a lack of suitable local stone, this is typical of contemporary sites within the region.

Local Stone

'Local' stone is divisible into four sub-groups all of which could be 'natural' to the site. The first comprises iron stained chalk flint, Tertiary beach pebbles, sarsen, and iron-rich sandstone. Sedimentologically it is characteristic of *in situ* Head but locally Head is not usually associated with the Weald Clay (Smart et al 1966, 207) and it is possible that it was deliberately imported onto site. The second comprises Kentish Rag. Brisley Farm is at the edge of its likely natural distribution. The third comprises a hard Wealden siltstone with an iron-rich rind, which, though natural to the Weald Clay, was present on a contemporary site off the geology and may have been specially valued.[2] The task of the specialist is to establish whether these groups were imported or curated on site. The only way this can be achieved is by plotting their distribution/on-site relationships. Are they always associated with one part of the site, one feature type, one category or date of find, or is their distribution completely random? Any patterning identified can then be placed in context. The fourth comprises stone types, such as Bog Iron (hydrated iron), which are from the immediate vicinity of the site and remain unaltered. This material is without archaeological potential.

Artefactual Stone

The assemblage incorporates fourteen whole or fragmentary stone tools (Table 3) and many more burnt and curated stones. The interpretive potential of these finds is considerable. Of primary interest is 'selection'. Irrespective of find category, selection narrows the possible range of activities represented. This can provide insights into site function, and, in so far as selection has a cost, help us to assess the relative importance of both it and the activities towards which it was directed (Seager Thomas 1999). The high proportion of 'foreign' stone in Table 2, for example, indicates that some stone using activities represented at Brisley Farm were important. For the meaning of this and other similar deductions to be fully realized it will of course be necessary to place them in clear chronological and functional context.

Table 3. Stone tools from Brisley Farm, Ashford (*see* table 2, columns 1 and 2, for abbreviations).

Tool type	Context	Stone type									
		AS	CFS	FBP	FSF	FBP	LOD	MQ	PS	QBP	SS

[2] St Anne's Road, Eastbourne, on the Middle/Lower Chalk.

Hammerstone	3327									✓	
Hone or rubber	2238		✓								
Hone or rubber	2392	✓									
Hone	3728										✓
Polishing stone	1571							✓			
Polishing stone	2148							✓			
Polishing stone	3418									✓	
Polishing stone	3894							✓			
Pounder	3087			✓							
Rotary quern frag and hone	2873						✓				
Rotary quern frag	2874				✓						
Rotary quern frag	3799								✓		
Quern frag	3333				✓						
Quern frag	3441										✓

3.8.3 *Further Work*

A complete catalogue of all stone finds will be compiled and a representative sample of each stone type taken prior to discard. Those stone finds which the specialist considers interpretatively useful will be contextualized in the manner described above. A report of between one and two thousand words summarizing the geological environment of the site, the importance stone finds generally, the method of study employed, and the results of this study and their implications for the understanding of Iron Age and Early Roman Brisley Farm is proposed. Five stone tools are recommended for illustration.

3.9 **The Post-Roman Stone** by Luke Barber

3.9.1 *Summary*

The excavations produced 85 pieces of post-Roman geological material, weighing just over 15kg, from 43 different contexts. A range of stone types are present. Most are of relatively local origin including flint, ironstone, various sandstones and Lower Greensand. However, some types are from further afield including Paludina limestone (Sussex or Purbeck), German lava and coal. The latter is quite common (15 pieces), though it is only present in small pieces: it is suspected that the coal is intrusive into medieval/early post-medieval contexts. No large groups of geological material are present and it is represented in contexts ranging in date between the mid 13th to mid 16th centuries. This causes accute problems in identifying what stone is residual in the later, early post-medieval, contexts. Virtually no worked stone is present with the exception of a large piece of German lava rotary quern from Context (2171), a sandstone rotary quern fragment from Context (567), part of a west country slate (Context (2281)) and part of a calcite vein in Lower Greensand with apparent incised lines along its surface (Context (2072)).

3.9.2 *Potential*

The post-Roman geological material assemblage is considered to have only limited potential for further study due to both its small size and the degree of residuality present in many of the contexts. However, if the later medieval and early post-medieval periods are considered together the latter problem can be erradicated. The main sources of supply can be identified to show the exploitation of the natural resource and further afield trade and a comparison made to the earlier activity at the site.

3.9.3 *Further Work*

It is proposed to fully list the stone for the archive. A sample of each type will be retained with the remainder being discarded. A short report will then be prepared for publication outlining the main types/sources of stone and describing all worked pieces. Only the sandstone quern is proposed for illustration.

3.10 **The Flint** by Chris Butler

3.10.1 *Summary*

A total of 181 pieces of worked flint weighing 3.485kg was recovered during the excavations of Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3 & 4 at Brisley Farm, see Appendix 3 and Table 4 below. Each piece in the assemblage was identified, and inspected for retouch and manufacturing characteristics, by eye and with the aid of a magnifying glass where necessary. Due to the relatively small number of flints, this assessment has been developed into a full report. Only

very limited further work is recommended following full analysis of all other aspects of the site data.

The Raw Material

The raw material comprises five types of flint. These have been categorised based on their colour, patination and cortex. The flint in this assemblage is quite variable, and it would have been possible to split them up into many more types, however, it was decided to restrict the flint to these five simple categories:

1. An orange-brown to buff coloured, heavily patinated flint with a creamy-buff
cortex. This type of flint has probably originated from river gravels or Head deposit.

2. A dark grey to black coloured flint, generally unpatinated, with a white to grey cortex. This flint could originate from Clay-with-flint deposits on the nearby Chalk, or other local Head deposits.

3. Light grey/white to blue grey patinated flint, with a smooth buff cortex. This flint originates from the Chalk.

4. A dark grey unpatinated flint with a rough grey cortex typical of beach pebble flint. Only a single pebble core of this type was recognised, however non cortical flakes would be easily confused with those of Type 2.

5. A single piece of light grey cherty flint is likely to have originated from the Lower Greensand.

The Debitage

The debitage includes both hard and soft hammer struck flakes and blades, together with numerous chips, fragments and shattered pieces (Table 4). Four flakes and two fragments have been retouched, whilst three fragments are fire-fractured. Most of the flakes are hard hammer-struck, having broad platforms and large bulbs of percussion. There are numerous hinge fractures, and the shapes and sizes of the flakes are very variable. This debitage is typical of that produced from the Later Neolithic through to the later Bronze Age, and it is difficult to assign the debitage to any particular period when there is so little of it in the assemblage. It is also possible that this debitage with its high incidence of chips, fragments, shattered pieces and chunks could be a result of continued flintworking into the Iron Age (Young et. al. 1999).

A small number of the hard hammer-struck flakes, both hard hammer-struck blades, and most of the soft hammer-flakes and blades have evidence of platform preparation, which would indicate that they were of Mesolithic or

Early Neolithic date. A microburin, which is a bi-product of microlith production, together with the seven fragments from blades or bladelets, and two blunted bladelet fragments, would suggest that microliths were being produced locally.

A single axe-sharpening flake, possibly from a Mesolithic Tranchet axe, appears to have been reused as a scraper.

Most of the cores are generally rough and without platform preparation indicating an unsystematic core reduction process. The exception is a two-platform core, which has had small flakes removed from one unprepared platform, and then bladelets removed from a second platform which has been prepared. This core is almost certainly Mesolithic, and may also have been associated with the manufacture of microliths.

The Implements

There is a high proportion of implements (9%) in the assemblage (Table 4). The flake implements include seven scrapers, a piercer[A], a fragment of a backed knife [B], a microdenticulate [C] and a notched flake. The scrapers comprise four end scrapers, one of which is broken [D]. Two of the remaining end scrapers [e.g. E] are small and manufactured on partly cortical flakes, and are therefore difficult to date, whilst the last one is fairly crude, and probably of Bronze Age date. The three end and side scrapers [F, G & H] are all nicely made, carefully retouched abruptly around the convex distal end and partly along one side, they could fit a Later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The backed knife fragment has been abruptly retouched along one edge, whilst the opposing edge has invasive retouch. The former edge would have been blunted to facilitate holding or hafting whilst the invasive retouch would allow the other edge to be used for cutting. The microdenticulate is manufactured on a small hard hammer-struck blade, which has then had one edge modified with saw-like teeth to create a cutting edge. Missing teeth and visible striations show that this tool had been utilised. The backed knife is likely to be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, whilst the microdenticulate and the soft hammer-struck notched flake are Mesolithi*c.*

A single blunted-down-one-side microlith [I], possibly broken at one end, was also found, together with a retouched fragment [J], which looks as if it has come from a bladelet or microlith. An almost complete barbed and tanged arrowhead [K] of Early Bronze Age date was also found.

The core tools include two fragments from different flaked axes, and a hammerstone. The first flaked axe fragment is manufactured from a patinated orange-brown, white speckled, gravel flint [L]. The fragment is too small to be able to establish exactly what date or type of axe it has come from. It is possible that it could be a fragment from a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe, but the remaining shape and knapping evidence suggests that it is more likely to be either a preform for, or finished flaked Neolithic axe. The second flake

axe fragment is from the butt end of a Neolithic axe or chisel in a light grey, probably Chalk, flint [M]. It has been finely flaked, and there is evidence of abrasion along the edges, suggesting that it was originally hafted, and broke during use at the point it was hafted into the handle.

3.10.2 *Potential*

The Mesolithic flintwork makes up some 15% of the assemblage and is distributed across the site with no obvious concentration in any one area. The Mesolithic pieces, which include evidence of microlith production, probably represents evidence for a hunter-gatherer short-term camp in the area. Neolithic activity is evidenced by the flaked axes and backed knife, whilst the finely made end and side scrapers and the barbed and tanged arrowhead suggest activity in the early Bronze Age. These pieces (from Contexts 1002, 1331, 3176, 3277, 3339, 3482 & 3623) seem to be concentrated into the central part of Area IV, and although probably largely residual in nature, may indicate where Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity was taking place. With the small size of the assemblage, it is not possible to differentiate the debitage from this period from that of the later Bronze Age, and therefore some debitage in features may be contemporary whilst others could be residual.

Posthole [3175] (currently undated?) produced one of the fine end and side scrapers from its fill (3176), but no other flintwork. Although this has some contemporary damage to the scraping edge, which also appears to be abraded through use, it is possible that this scraper was a ritual deposit. The side and end scraper in Ditch [3622] could be a similar deposit.

The flintwork from Pit [3865] represents the largest assemblage from a single feature, amounting to 12 pieces, plus some un-worked fire fractured flint. This comprises five hard hammer-struck flakes, a single soft hammer-struck flake, three chips, two shattered pieces and a single piece. Unfortunately there are no diagnostic pieces in this small assemblage however its character suggests a Bronze Age date. (A c14 (standard radiometric) date was obtained on charcoal from context (3888) in pit [3865] of 2990+/- 140 BP (Beta – 171104) – The 2 Sigma calibration: Cal BC 1520 to 830 (Cal BP 3470 to 2780). The calibrated age is given as Cal BC 1410 to 1000).

Whilst the remaining hard hammer struck debitage, cores and the numerous chips, fragments and shattered pieces could date from the later Neolithic through to the end of the Bronze Age, some might represent continued use of flint into the Iron Age.

Haselgrove *et. al.* have hightlighted the need to define these industries and shed light on later prehistoric technology. Residual flintwork in Iron Age contexts will make further work difficult although some attempt should be made to address the issue of 'Iron Age' flint.

3.10.3 *Further work*

No further descriptive analysis of the flint is required. However, it is recommended that the results of this work are re-evaluated following more detailed analysis of the Period II field system and pit [3865] for which there is now an AMS date. The small but concentrated group of Early Bronze Age flintwork should be discussed in relation to the Period II layout. A short report will be prepared for publication from this report and it is suggested that 13 pieces are illustrated for that final report.

Table 4 – The Flint from Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3 & 4

Hard hammer-struck flakes	69
Soft hammer-struck flakes	9
Hard hammer-struck blades	2
Soft hammer-struck blades	5
Blade/bladelet fragments	7
Blunted bladelet fragments	2
Axe sharpening flake	1
Microburin	1
Chips	13
Fragments	25
Shattered pieces	23
Chunks	2
One platform flake cores	4
Two platform flake core	1
Two platform flake/bladelet core	1
End scrapers	4
End & side scrapers	3
Piercer	1
Backed knife fragment	1
Microdenticulate	1
Microlith	1
Barbed & tanged arrowhead	1
Flaked axe fragments	2
Hammerstone	1
Total	**181**

3.11 The Burnt Clay *by Luke Barber*

3.11.1 *Summary*

The excavations at Brisley Farm produced a relatively large assemblage of burnt clay: some 8,035 pieces, weighing a little over 42kg, from 540 individually numbered contexts. The quantity of burnt clay from the different phases varies quite considerably. This probably reflects the type of activity in a particular area but could also be due to the sample strategy. The totals are tabulated below in Table 5.

Area	No. of Contexts	No. of pieces	Weight (grams)
1	22	492	3,213g
2A	26	85	484g
2B, 3 & 4	492	7,458	38,457g
Total	*540*	*8,035*	*42,154g*

Table 5: Burnt Clay from the different phases of excavation.

The burnt clay from the Area 1 excavation comes from a mixture of medieval and Roman contexts. The assemblage consists virtually exclusively of amorphous undiagnostic lumps, however, at least one piece has a smoothed surface (Context (557)) and another has a wattle mark (Context (591)).

The Area 2A excavations produced a very small assemblage of burnt clay. This is certainly a result of the contexts in this area relating solely to the later medieval period, though why this should be the case is uncertain as it is likely that many of the medieval buildings would have utilised daub in their construction. This is confirmed by a few pieces with smoothed surfaces and one with a single wattle mark.

The majority of the burnt clay was located in the Area 3 & 4 excavations. The material was located in a range of features covering the Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, though the majority relates to later Iron Age and Roman contexts. Undiagnostic amorphous lumps of varying size dominate the assemblage, however, there is a spread of pieces which exhibit smoothed/flattened faces. These are almost certainly pieces of daub from huts or fragments of oven/hearth lining. Very few wattle impressions were noted during the assessment; however, a notable concentration is present in Contexts (3657) a fill of Period IV ditch [2278] (x1 wattle mark), (3983) fill of pit/kiln? [3970] (x6 wattle marks) and (3986) a second pit/kiln [3984] adjacent to [3970] (x4 wattle marks). Both are Period III or IV features.

A small number of pieces of burnt clay are less dense and appear to be sparsely tempered with organic material. These frequently exhibit curved surfaces and are usually a pale cream to grey or pinkish colour. Only small pieces are present, but it is almost certain these are from briquetage vessels.

They occur in Late Iron Age and Roman contexts, but never in large concentrations.

A number of burnt clay objects, or fragments thereof, are present in the assemblage. These consist of examples of nine different loomweights, five spindle whorls and two sling-shot. With the exception of the loomweight pieces, which are very fragmentary, the majority of objects are in good condition. The two sling-shot contexts (3130) and (3626) are typical of the baked clay shot of the Later Iron Age. The spindle whorls are from a variety of Late Iron Age and Roman contexts. Due to the fragmentary nature of the loomweights it is frequently difficult to ascertain their form with certainty. However, triangular weights appear to be the most common, though some rounded examples also appear to be present.

3.11.2 *Potential*

The burnt clay from the Area 2B, 3 & 4 excavations is considered to have some potential for further study as it sheds light on building construction (daub, wattle marks etc), but more importantly on crafts (cloth production as represented by loomweights and spindle whorls) and other activities (salt-working and hunting/fighting as represented by briquetage and sling-shot respectively). The distribution of such material around the site has the potential to illuminate any spatial organisation of activities. The burnt clay from the Area 1 and 2A excavations is not considered to hold any potential for detailed further study.

3.11.3 *Further work*

It is suggested that the burnt clay is subjected to some further analysis. Initially all the material will be fully listed on Burnt Clay record forms for the archive. The majority of the material will then be discarded – only objects and a representative sample of daub and briquetage will be retained. Further work will then be undertaken on plotting the distribution of the daub, spindle whorls/loomweights and briquetage, by period, onto the Area 2b, 3 & 4 site plan in order to identify any meaningful distributions to the different categories of artefact, in addition the distribution by phase will be compared with other artefact types. A report will subsequently be produced for publication outlining the size and nature of the assemblage with a discussion of the different categories of artefact represented and their distribution around the site. The latter will be supplemented with illustrations of a selection of the loomweights, spindle whorls and sling-shot.

3.12 The Prehistoric and Roman Metallurgical Remains *by Sarah Paynter*

3.12.1 *Summary*

The assemblage from Brisley Farm Areas 3 & 4 (BRF01 III-IV) totalled 4.5kg of material from 49 contexts and was comprised of 3.5kg of iron-working slag (waste from iron working), 0.2kg of vitrified clay and 0.9kg of

geological material. On the basis of the pottery, the site has been dated to the Late Iron Age. For a full quantification see Appendix 3

Iron-working overview

Iron working involves two types of process: extracting the metal from the ore (smelting) and shaping the metal (smithing or forging). The waste slag generated by both processes is compositionally similar but slag from the different processes can generally be distinguished on the basis of its shape and texture (Bayley et al, 2001). The metal working waste from Brisley Farm was examined and assigned to the categories described below. In Appendix 3, the weight of material in each category is listed by context.

Tap slag is a by-product of bloomery smelting. The slag runs from the smelting furnace whilst fluid at high temperatures and cools with characteristic flow lines on the surface, resembling lava.

Smithing hearth bottom slag (SHB) is formed in a smith's hearth. These slags have a characteristic convex bottom surface and concave upper surface.

Vitrified clay is a by-product of both smelting and smithing since furnaces and hearths respectively were generally partly or entirely clay built. The structures were subjected to high temperatures and the clay reacted with ashes from the charcoal fuel used in both processes and other waste products to produce a glassy, vitrified surface on the clay. However many high temperature processes can cause clay to vitrify so it is not necessarily diagnostic of metalworking.

Undiagnostic slag describes waste, particularly small fragments, lacking sufficient diagnostic features for it to be confidently attributed to a particular group.

Geological material is a category for stone, iron-pan, clay or agglomerates included in the assemblage. Iron-rich material allocated to this category will be investigated further to identify potential types of iron ore for smelting.

Fired clay was also found amongst the assemblage but the fragments did not have vitrified surfaces and the fabric was different to that of the vitrified clay. Although the fired clay was recorded in Appendix 3, it is not diagnostic of a metalworking process.

Iron-working at Brisley Farm

The assemblage included some large fragments of tap slag, which are indicative of smelting activity. One definite smithing hearth bottom slag and two other probable examples were also identified.

3.12.2 *Potential*

The site is on the outskirts of the Weald, where iron-working took place on a large scale in the Roman period (Cleere and Crossley 1985), and is very close to known Romano-British smelting sites (Paynter 2002). Therefore any information that can be gained on the raw materials used and the products and by-products of the process in the Late Iron Age will enable comparisons to be made with later technology in the same area.

Slag, which is a robust material, was generated in large quantities during iron-working so it was often moved from where it was produced for dumping or re-use. The slag from Brisley Farm was recovered from pits and ditches; no iron-working features were found at the site. Therefore it will not be possible to determine where the metalworking took place, other than that it was probably nearby, although the spatial distribution of the slag may provide more information.

3.12.3 *Future work*

Spatial and chronological patterns in the metalworking activity can be investigated, although because of the relatively small amount of diagnostic waste it is unlikely that detailed conclusions can be drawn. Any iron-rich stone amongst the assemblage should be identified, as it may be typical of local sources of ore for smelting. As ore was generally roasted before smelting, material categorised as burnt stone should also be examined.

3.13 **The post-Roman Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

3.13.1 *Summary*

The excavation of the late medieval/early post-medieval farmstead in the Area 2A excavation produced a small assemblage of slag: 21 pieces, weighing 426g, from 13 different contexts. The material consists mainly of small pieces of iron forging slag though undiagnostic pieces of fuel ash slag are also represented. The material comes from medieval and early post-medieval contexts but too little is present to make meaningful comment on its distribution across the site.

3.13.2 *Potential*

The post-Roman slag is not considered to hold any potential for futher analysis.

3.13.3 *Further Work*

It is proposed to list the material for archive, discard it, and write a very short summary for publication.

3.14 **The Late Iron Age and Roman Glass** *by Luke Barber*

3.14.1 *Summary*

No glass of this period was recovered from the Area 1 Area 2A or Area 2B excavations.

A total of 11 pieces of glass were recovered from the Area 3 & 4 excavation, (all of it from features within the Area 4 excavation). The glass is all from contexts dated to Periods V or VI (Late Iron Age or Roman – pre-Flavian) with the exception of context (2945) from a post-Roman ditch. The glass consists of pale mauve, green-tinged clear and creamy blue pieces. All appear to be fragments of vessels, including part of a substantial bottle RF 155 from context (2749) within waterhole/well [2748]. Although in good condition all the pieces are small and no feature sherds are present.

3.14.2 ***Potential***

It is not considered that the Roman glass from the Area 3 & 4 excavations has potential for further detailed analysis due to the size and undiagnostic nature of the assemblage. However, its presence at the site is of some interest given the proximity of the represented contexts to the two warrior-burials and the apparently structured nature of some of the deposits.

3.14.3 ***Further work***

The Roman glass will be listed for archive and a short note will be prepared for publication outlining the size, number and nature of the assemblage as well as a discussion of the potential significance of the material in relation to the two warrior burials and the apparently significant depositional context.

3.15 The post-Roman Glass by Luke Barber

3.15.1 ***Summary***

The excavations of Area 2A recovered 30 pieces of post-Roman glass, weighing *c.* 168g, from 16 different contexts. With the exception of part of an 18th- century wine bottle in Context (2001), all the material is very fragmentary and few diagnostic pieces are present. These consist of part of a wine-glass stem from Context (2196) and the base of a small bottle or phial from Context (2171). The material is in variable condition. Most is in a good state of preservation, however, much of this material is almost certainly intrusive into earlier contexts. A few, probably later medieval or early post-medieval scraps are present but these are in a very poor state with surfaces opaque and flaking.

3.15.2 ***Potential***

The post-Roman glass is not considered to hold much potential for further analysis as the assemblage is small, undiagnostic and contains a high degree of intrusive (probably 17th to 19th century) material.

3.15.3 ***Further Work***

It is proposed to simply list the glass for archive and produce a brief summary note for publication.

3.16 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

3.16.1 *Summary*

The excavations produced nearly 40kg of ceramic building material (CBM). The majority of this is tile, though some brick is also present. Virtually all of the material is from the earlier areas (I to IIa) of excavations: only five contexts in the Area 3 & 4 excavations produced CBM and most of this material is unstratified or intrusive. Only four probable pieces of Romano-British tile were noted during the assessment of all phases of work. All of these came from the Areas 3 & 4 excavations, but only a single piece of floor tile, weighing 323g Context (3252) was stratified in a 2nd century AD context.

The Area I excavations produced 153 pieces of CBM, weighing just under 5kg from 22 individually numbered contexts. The largest quantity of CBM was recovered from the medieval farmstead in Area 2A where 1,031 pieces, weighing just over 33kg, were recovered from 74 different contexts spread across the whole area. The material was in a variety of deposits ranging in date between the 13th/14th and 16th centuries.

The majority of the assemblage appears to consist of late medieval and early post-medieval (15th to mid 16th century) tile. Although a little earlier (13th to 14th century) and later (17th to 19th century) material is present it does not appear to be in any quantity though this will need confirmation following more detailed analysis. By far the most common tile type is plain peg tiles with round, or more commonly square/diamond, fixing holes. Other tile types are also represented, but in far smaller quantities: ridge, valley, bonnet roof tiles as well as a couple of examples of floor tiles. One possible nib tile was also noted.

The majority of tile is in one of two related fabrics. The earlier is a low to medium fired fine sandy/silty fabric with occasional iron oxide inclusions. The later fabric is very similar but is consistently fired to a higher temperature. It is probable that the latter fabric relates to the early post-medieval period.

The brick from the site appears to be very late medieval, or more probably, post-medieval. Some of the brick is likely to be intrusive late 16th- to early 18th- century material.

Two notably large context groups are present: Contexts (2171) (early 16th century) and (2242) (16th century). The former contains 57 pieces weighing 3,685g, while the latter contains 79 pieces weighing 6,685g, including a

complete peg tile and the complete width of at least one other.

3.16.2 *Potential*

Only the CBM from the Area 2A excavations is considered to be worth further analysis as it has the potential to clarify the fabric of the medieval/early post-medieval buildings as well as the technology of manufacture and supply of tiles etc in this part of the Weald. The distribution of the CBM around the site may also help the interpretation of the positioning of buildings, particularly considering the ephemeral traces of building footings located during the excavations.

3.16.3 *Further Work*

It is proposed to list all the CBM for archive on post-Roman tile and brick record forms. This will fully quantify the material by type and fabric. The majority of material will then be discarded: complete examples and a representative selection of types and fabrics will be retained. Further work will then concentrate on the CBM from the Area 2A excavations only. This will involve the plotting of the position of tile in order to try to clarify the siting of buildings or demolition spreads and detailed quantification of the larger groups. A concise report will then be produced for publication. This will outline the size of the assemblage, the range of fabrics present, the date of tile use and any observations (both positive or negative) regarding the distribution of the material. No material is proposed for illustration.

For Areas 3 and 4 a small assemblage will be described and archived and the distribution of material checked against other artefact types to see if any pattern emerges.

3.17 **The Shell** *by David Dunkin*

3.17.1 *Summary*

The excavations of Areas 1, 2B, 3 & 4 produced no marine molluscs. The excavation of the 13th – 18th century site Area 2A recorded 24 contexts which contained marine molluscs. The entire assemblage consisted of just one species *Ostrea edulis* (Common oyster). The 24 contexts containing *Ostrea edulis* from Area 2A are: (2007)*** (2009)*** (2018)*** (2022)** (2026)** 2029** (2043)** (2072)** (2076)** (2090)** (2091)*** (2092)*** (2093)** (2104)* 2141** (2160)** (2164)** (2170)** (2171)** (2196)** (2208)* (2256)** (2257)* (2266)**.
(*= VIIIA, ** = VIIIB, *** = mixed deposit, mostly VIIIB)

3.17.2 *Potential*

The vast majority of the shell comes from Period VIIIB contexts, mostly of broadly 16th century date. There are suggestions of use in the 14th and 15th centuries e.g. contexts (2026) & (2029) and possibly even in Period VIIIA,

13th and 14th centuries e.g. contexts (2104), (2208) and (2257). At this stage accurate quantification of the assemblage was not undertaken. However, the small amount of oyster remains from each of the 24 contexts would indicate that no significant patterning would be detectable. 22 of the contexts in fact had five or less specimens represented (left or right valves) where the umbo was in tact. Contexts (2076) and (2093) were represented by six and fifteen specimens respectively.

In formal food preparation it is usually the left or lower valve (concave) which is served. This means that in terms of rubbish disposal there may be some patterning in the occurrence of upper and lower valves. Clearly the low numbers of valves represented here would be of no statistical value and would not benefit from further analysis.

Furthermore, the overall assemblage was characterised by the fact that *c.* 70% of the individuals were juveniles (ie <4/5 years old). Oyster is therefore unlikely to have been targeted as a serious food source where represented in these contexts. Also, of the small number of older individuals (>5years) and particularly those from context (2076), there is evidence of shell distortion and small size relative to age (aged by counting growth layers at the umbo/hinge). These two latter facts together with evidence of infestation of the older individuals (eg polychaete worms (*Polydora ciliata/hoplura*) and burrowing sponge (*Cliona celata*)) suggests that local oyster was being exploited from overcrowded colonies and was not being 'farmed'.

The largest sample was retrieved from context (2076) (15 individuals represented). Context 2076 is the fill of a Period VIIIA ditch which underlies a cobbled surface. This assemblage may suggest that prior to the construction of the yard surface, oyster was being exploited as a secondary food resource. The nature of the later samples from the VIIIB contexts suggests that the main period of exploitation was during the 16th century but the small number of examples present and the condition of the shell indicates that it was a diminishing resource and of no great significance as a food resource.

3.16.3 *Further work*

It is not recommended that any further detailed analysis is undertaken and that a short report is prepared from this analysis to be included in the final published report. No material requires illustration.

3.18 **The Coins and Tokens** by Luke Barber

3.18.1 *Summary*

The excavations at the site produced a small assemblage of coins. Only two were found stratified, both coming from the Area IIa excavations. These consist of a cut short cross farthing from Context (2043) (this 13th- century coin must be residual in this context) and a Nuremburg jeton from Context

(2089) (dated 16th century). Both these items are in good condition.

The remaining 16 coins and tokens came from metal detecting in Areas III and IV. All this material is unstratified but is of interest in giving a general picture of past activity in the area. With the exception of the two silver coins and the lead token, all the coins in this area, which are of copper alloy, are in very poor condition. This is likely to be due to the fact they have not been in a sealed context for a considerable period of time and chemical fertilizers and ploughing have accelerated their decay - even the early 20th- century examples are in poor condition.

The earliest coins consist of one possible Late Iron Age bronze (very badly corroded) and two probably 2nd- century Roman sesterti. A single silver penny of ?Edward I (Canterbury mint) is also present along with an Elizabeth I silver half groat and a cross and pellets lead token. The remaining coins relate to mid 18th- to 20th- century activity.

3.18.2 *Potential*

The coins and tokens are considered worthy of limited further study as they shed light on the early economy of the site (there are no stratified coins from this period) as well as showing the general spread of later activity in the area.

3.18.3 *Further Work*

It is proposed to fully identify and list the coins for the archive. Some cleaning may be required on the possible Late Iron Age example, however, it is felt that cleaning is unlikely to help identification of the Roman coins as they have lost their original surfaces. All coins and tokens (stratified/unstratified) of the 16th century or earlier will be fully published in the final report with references to the standard numismatic catalogues (RIC, North etc). A note on the later coins will be included in the publication but they will not be described in any detail.

3.19 **The Clay Pipe** by Luke Barber

3.19.1 *Summary*

The excavations produced 10 pieces of clay pipe (six stem and four bowl fragments) from eight different contexts. The pipes range in date between the mid/late 17th century and 19th century. Although most appear in 15th- to early 16th- century contexts most of them are certainly intrusive: their small size making it easy for them to travel down cracks et*c.* They are frequently accompanied in these contexts by 18th- and 19th- century pottery.

3.19.2 *Potential*

The clay pipes are not considered to hold any potential for further analysis.

They serve to demonstrate the degree of intrusiveness at the site and this is considered to be their only value at Brisley Farm.

3.19.3 *Further Work*

It is proposed to list the pipes for archive but not to produce a report for publication.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE (Summary & factual statement, Statement of potential, Further work)

4.1 The Pollen *by* Robert G Scaife

4.1.1 *Summary*

A pollen assessment was carried out on sediments filling a pit and ditches dated to the late Iron Age from Areas 3 & 4 during the excavation in accordance with a previously designed sampling strategy. It was anticipated that these features might contain sub-fossil pollen from which the past environment of the site could be reconstructed. The assessment was carried out during the site fieldwork so that the sampling policy could be reviewed if appropriate.Thus, the principal aims of this assessment study comprised the following:

1. to ascertain if pollen and spores were present in these sediments.
2. if present. to provide an indication of the plant taxa, vegetation, environment and changes present during the time span represented by the ditch sediment accumulation.
3. to examine the potential of the material for a fuller/more detailed study over and above the assessment analysis presented.
4. to recommend contexts for further sampling

Whilst pollen has been obtained from all of the samples/profiles it can at the outset, be stated that the pollen was generally poorly preserved. This is attributed to the fact that the sediments were low in organic content and may have been subjected to periods of wetting and drying causing oxidation (gleying) and destruction of the pollen. However, some useful pollen data have been obtained and the results of this study are presented here (see also Appendix 3).

Pollen Method

Samples for pollen analysis were obtained from the open faces of trenches. The most important contexts, 2497. 2606, 2610, 2617, 2619 and 2743, were sampled during excavation using metal box monolith profiles. Sub-samples of 2ml volume taken from these monoliths were prepared in the laboratory using standard procedures for the extraction of sub-fossil pollen and spores (Moore and Webb 1978 and Moore *et al.* 1991). A total of 8 samples have been examined with counts of up to 250 grains per level (the pollen sum)

plus all extant marsh/aquatic taxa and spores of ferns. Identification and counting was carried out using an Olympus biological microscope (BH) fitted with Leitz optics. Pollen counts obtained are presented in Appendix 3.

Taxonomy in general follows that of Moore and Webb (1978) modified according to Bennett *et al.* (1994) for pollen types and Stace (1992) for plant descriptions. The pollen diagrams were plotted using Tilia and Tilia Graph. These procedures were carried out in the Department of Geography, University of Southampton.

The Pollen Data

Pollen has been recovered from all of the samples analysed. However, as might be expected from such archaeological contexts, the pollen preservation was very variable with some evidence of differential preservation in favour of more robust taxa (e.g. Lactucoideae and fern spores). In spite of this, some useful information has been forthcoming from this preliminary study. The pollen assemblages are, without exception, dominated by herbs and in particular Poaceae (grasses). The assemblages comprise taxa typical of pasture and also some associated with disturbed ground and arable cultivation. Trees and shrubs are largely subordinate to the herbs with percentages of 10-15% and in one sample only, to >20%. *Quercus* (oak) is the principal tree taxon in all samples with lesser/sporadic numbers of *Betula* (birch), *Tilia* (lime), *Fraxinus* (ash), *Alnus* (alder) and *Corylus avellana* type (hazel). The characteristics of the individual ditch profiles are as follows.

Context 2497 (Ditch; one sample) Period VI: Poaceae are dominant (62%) with *Sinapis* type (9%) and Lactucoideae (7%). Occasional cereal pollen and other herbs are present. Tree/shrub pollen comprise *Quercus* (8%) and sporadic occurrences of *Alnus* and *Sorbus/Crataegus* type.

Context 2606a (pit; top of profile) Period VIA: Poaceae (63%) are dominant also with large (the highest recorded) cereal values (20%). There are few trees with only occasional *Quercus* (3%) and few herbs.

Context 2606b (pit; base of profile) Period VIA: Poaceae and cereal percentages are smaller (54%) than in the uppermost sample (2606a). There are more trees with *Quercus* (10%), *Alnus* and *Corylus avellana* type (5%). There is a greater herbaceous diversity with Lactucoideae (16%), Chenopodiaceae and *Plantago lanceolata*. *Pteridium aquilinum* (21%) has its highest values in this profile. The small numbers of Cyperaceae contrast with other samples.

Context 2611 (primary fill of ditch 2610): Poaceae are dominant (71%) with small cereal values and relatively few other herbs (sporadic *Plantago lanceolata* and Asteraceae types). Trees comprise *Quercus* (10%) with occasional *Fraxinus* and *Alnus*. Fern spores include *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris* type and *Polypodium vulgare.*

Context 2612 (secondary fill of ditch 2610): The pollen spectra are

essentially similar to the primary fill of this ditch i.e. dominant Poaceae (62%), but with slightly higher cereal percentages, herb diversity and spores of *Polypodium vulgare* (17%).

Context 2617 (ditch fill) Period VI: Poaceae are dominant (62%) but cereals are absent. Other herbs include occasional taxa which are typical of grassland environment-*Plantago lanceolata* and Asteraceae types. Trees/shrubs include *Quercus* (13%) and *Corylus avellana* (3%) with occasional *Betula* and *Alnus*.

Context 2679 (ditch fill) Period VI: This sample contains the highest tree/shrub pollen values. *Quercus* (23) attains its highest values in samples examined with *Corylus avellana* (6%). Herb values are correspondingly small (80%) but remain dominant with Poaceae (49%), Lactucoideae (14%) and *Plantago lanceolata* 7%) being the most important taxa.

Context 2743 (ditch fill): Pollen preservation was found to be poor and a sum of only 100 grains was counted. Poaceae (55%) are dominant with Lactucoideae (20%) and *Plantago lanceolata* (5%). The herb diversity is, however, small. Trees and shrubs include *Quercus* (11%) with occasional occurrences of *Tilia*, *Fraxinus* and *Corylus avellana* type. Of particular note are the greatest number of fern spores of *Polypodium vulgare* (59%) with monolete *Dryopteris* type (15%) and *Pteridium aquilinum* (6%).

Subsequent to the intial phase of assessment a series of monoliths were taken from the Area 3 & 4 excavations for more detailed analysis, see below. The following monoliths were taken (and are presently with the specialist);

Monolith 1 Cut [1680] Fills (2045) (2044) (2043) (1983) (1982) (1955) (2024), Section 22A, Plan 51/105, Top level <778> ,Type: Ditch – **Period VIA**

Monolith 2 Cut [2024], Fills (2052) (2053) (2024), Section 22A, Plan 51/105, Top level <780>, Type: Ditch - **Period VI**

Monolith 3 Cut [2610], Fills (2611) + (2612), Section 33Z, Plan 117, Top level 39.59, Type: Ditch – **Period V**

Monolith 4 Cut [2496], Fills (2617) + (2497), Section 32L, Plan 118, Top level 39.47, Type: Ditch – **Period VI**

Monolith 5 Cut [2636], Fills (2637) + (2682) + (2649), Section 34, Plan 144, Top level <1044, Type: ?Kiln/oven – **Period V**

Monolith 6 Cut [2748], Fills (2749) + (2774), Section 34AA, Plan 121, Top level <1171> 39.09m OD, Type: Pit/well – **Period V**

Monolith 7 Cut [2748], Fill (2775), Section 44A, Plan 121, Top level <1229> 38.45m OD, Type: Pit/well **-Period V**

Monolith 8 Cut [2742] slot 1, Fill (2743), Section 35L, Plan 148, Top level < > 39.57m OD, Type: Ditch - **Period II**

Monolith 9 Cut [3622] slot 4, Fill (3623), Section 67C, Plan 138, Top level < > 39.87mOD, Type: Ditch - **Period II**

Monolith 10 Cut [2305] slot 17, Fills (3626) + (3627) + (3628) + (3629), Section 67R, Plan 138, Top level < > 39.93mOD, Type: Ditch - **Period III**

Monolith 11 Cut [3811], Fills (3842) (3845) (3844) (3842?) (3843) (3809) (3841) (4840), Section 69A, Plan 138, Top level <1834>Type: Pit – **Period V**

4.1.2 *Potential*

Existing pollen data spanning the late-prehistoric and early historic periods from Kent come from the early work of Godwin (1962) at Wingham and Frogholt, and more recently from Thurnham Roman Villa Well (Scaife 2000a unpublished) and east End, Ash (Scaifeb 2000 unpublished). These may act as comparisons with data from Brisley Farm.

In spite of the rather poor pollen preservation in the contexts examined, useful information has been obtained since this is a region of the country where there are few pollen data. This paucity of data is due to a range of factors which include absence of peat forming environments, alkalinity of the bedrock geology and resultant calcareous groundwater, the latter is detrimental to pollen preservation. Furthermore, the pollen taphonomy in ditches and pits may be complex with the possibility of pollen being reworked from earlier soils/sediments and the fact that the pollen catchment may be of only local origin rather than the more regional portrayal which may be obtained from the analysis of peat mires. This, may, however, be considered of value in specifically elucidating the on-site vegetation and environment.

All of the contexts and samples suggest that the local environment was one of grassland, possibly pasture with little local woodland. This is in agreement with other data from southern England which shows that the late-prehistoric period was the period of major woodland clearance and especially lime/lindens (*Tilia)* which had remained widespread and important until the Bronze Age. After the middle to late-Bronze Age 'lime decline' (although asynchronous and earlier at some southern English sites), which saw widespread (asynchronous) removal of this previously dominant woodland, oak and hazel woodland remained which may have been managed. The representation of oak and hazel here is commensurate with this background remaining woodland and is seen in other Kentish sites noted above

The presence of cereal pollen and associated arable weeds demonstrates use of, and possibly some local cereal cultivation on drier ground adjacent to the

site. However, pollen may also come from secondary derivation coming from grain storage and/or on-site processing such as winnowing or threshing which liberated and dispersed pollen trapped in the cereal husks (Robinson and Hubbard 1979). The top of context (2602) has highest cereal pollen values and the fact that this is a pit suggests crop storage as noted or that the fills contain waste material from domestic contexts or processing waste.

Poaceae (grasses) are the most important taxon with pollen of other grassland plants such as ribwort plantain (*Plnataso lanceolata*). This reflects the dominance pasture on and around the site. This is not surprising given the low lying nature of the site and its present day character.

4.1.3 *Further work*

Although there are few pollen data pertaining to this period in this region and especially from on-site archaeological contexts, the largely poor preservation of the pollen and its paucity negates extensive, detailed analysis of more than one or two features/contexts. Useful information has been obtained from this preliminary assessment study which puts the site into an environmental context.

To this end it was suggested that one of the ditch profiles and the pit might be examined in more detail and to publication level. Pit [2606] with its higher cereal pollen values and the fills of one of those ditches with marginally better pollen preservation offer most potential for a more detailed investigation. This assessment has examined spot samples from the principal contexts and thus give no temporal perspective. Samples should be taken/analysed at a standard interval of 4cm and pollen counts of 300 grains per level minimum (where possible) should be obtained. This would enable production of a pollen diagram and a more detailed examination of the environment of the site.

As a result of the initial assessment discussed above a series of representative monoliths were taken from features within Areas 3 & 4, see list above. It is proposed that since monoliths have been taken mostly from ditches, the primary fills only of these features are studied in detail and that these are compared and contrasted across the range of samples regardless of period. It will be important to compare samples from the same Period as well as from different periods. A report will be prepared for publication detailing the methodology and results and this work will make reference to the results of the carbonised seeds and charcoal analysis. The reasons that primary fills are chosen is that they closely relate to the cutting of the ditches and can be well dated.

The Charred Plant Remains by Wendy J Carruthers

The results will be prepared for publication with the report in the form of a possible model for the environmental context of the site between the Late Bronze Age and the Romano-British periods.

4.2.1 *Summary*

Excavations were carried out by Archaeology South-East at Brisley Farm, Ashford, Kent from 1999 to 2002. Features dating from the Bronze Age to the Post-Medieval period were excavated, including Iron Age and Roman cremation graves and pits, two warrior-burials, settlement features and a medieval farmstead.

Soil samples were taken from a wide range of features for the recovery of environmental remains. The local soil is Weald clay, which is normally acidic and very poor-draining (Casper Johnson, pers. comm.). Because of the clay soils, sample processing was problematic. Much of the charred material was heavily impregnated with silt and was reluctant to float. Sample processing was carried out by Archaeology South-East staff using bucket floatation, in order to maximise the recovery of charred material (flot mesh size = 500 microns, residue mesh size = 1mm).

The flots from around four hundred samples were sent to the author for charcoal extraction and assessment of the charred plant macrofossils. Large, identifiable charcoal was removed from the flots using a 2mm sieve. After checking the charcoal for seeds, it was sent to Rowena Gale for assessment. The remaining finer fractions of the flots were all scanned under a low-power microscope for charred plant remains. Where flots were small and only a few remains were observed, the flots were fully sorted and the remains were quantified. Where larger numbers of grain, chaff and weed seeds were noted and the flots were large, the remains were roughly characterised and estimations of quantity were made, rather than being fully sorted and quantified. For very large flots (generally > *c.*150ml) a subsample was scanned. These details are given in the assessment table, Appendix 3.

Each sample was graded according to its potential for further analysis (Appendix 4.3).

- Grade A samples produced large enough quantities of charred plant remains to be important from an archaeobotanical point of view alone.
- Grade B samples produced enough material to be of some interpretative value, and if more unprocessed soil is available, further processing is highly recommended.
- Grade C samples produced so few remains that further analysis of these flots would not be worthwhile. However, if more unprocessed soil is available and the deposits are considered to be important in answering specific questions, further processing may be worthwhile.
- NFP (No Further Potential) samples produced no charred plant remains so further work is not required.

4.2.2 *Potential*

State of preservation and problems of contamination –
As noted above, most of the charred plant remains were impregnated with

silt as a result of being buried in heavy, clay soils for many centuries. It is likely that the fluctuating water table (Casper Johnson, pers. comm.) exacerbated this problem, carrying minerals through the soil profile. Modern, uncharred fibrous roots and seeds were fairly frequent in some samples, and the frequency of modern blinks (*Montia fontana*) seeds in areas 3 and 4 provided evidence of the damp nature of the habitat. Blinks is particularly common in soils that are seasonally waterlogged.

Many of the cereal grains were recovered in a poor state of preservation, being eroded and fragmented. Again, the fluctuating water table may have caused abrasion of the seed surface. This may have made more grains fall into the 'Not Further Identifiable' category, but is unlikely to have been the main reason for the recovery of so few charred cereal remains (see discussion below).

The presence of modern seeds and roots is not a great problem in dry archaeological deposits, since charred remains are easily differentiated from modern uncharred ones. However, it does give a warning that material has moved through the soil profile, so where deposits from different periods are located close to each other, there is the possibility that charred remains may have moved. In some of the multiperiod areas of Brisley Farm residuality is also a possibility. The presence of an emmer/spelt glume base (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) in the medieval context (2012) may be an example of this, since there is very little evidence to suggest that hulled wheats were still cultivated at this time.

Quantity and quality of the remains –
The samples from Brisley Farm are notable in producing so few charred cereal remains, considering the number of samples processed. In some cases the sizes of the assessment samples were small. However, in the author's experience, when compared with many Iron Age and Roman settlement sites, the concentrations of charred fragments per litre were still very low.

Although poor preservation may have contributed to this scarcity, it is unlikely to be the main factor, since charcoal was very frequent in many samples. Very similar results have been obtained from the nearby Hadlow to High Halden pipeline site (HHH 01, Network Archaeology, archaeobotanical work in progress by the author). Floatation was also a problem on this site, charred plant remains were scarce but charcoal was often abundant. Many of the sites along the pipeline trench were involved in metalworking and dated from the Iron Age to medieval periods. It is possible that this industry, which relies on a ready supply of fuel, had been sited in the area because woodland still survived on the heavy clay soils. Similarly, there may be some significance in the location of the cremations and burials at Brisley Farm.

Heavy, clay soils are not easy to cultivate, and most cereals prefer lighter, less acidic soils. The main cereals grown during the Iron Age and Roman periods were emmer and spelt wheat, and hulled barley. Of the three cereals, spelt can grow on heavier soils, but free-threshing wheats such as bread

wheat are far better suited to this type of soil. Bread wheat, oats, rye and barley were all grown during the medieval period. Rye is well suited to acidic, poor soils, but is more often found on sandy rather than clay soils. Oats are well-suited to heavy clays as they have a high water requirement (Bell, 1948).

The scarcity of charred cereal remains at Brisley Farm, therefore, may be a true indication of the low level of cereal cultivation in the area during the Iron Age and Roman periods. In addition, many of the deposits may have involved ritual activity associated with the burials and cremations, and for this reason are unlikely to contain domestic waste such as cereal processing debris.

Looking at the assemblages from the site as a whole, only three or four samples contained concentrations of crop processing waste. These were the LIA-AD150 pit [1966], the recut [3625] of ditch [2305] and a small amount in waterhole [2748] and the adjacent pit [2779]. Emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) glume bases, spikelet forks and rachis fragments (i.e. chaff fragments) were present in these contexts, in addition to a few weed seeds. This type of material is often widely scattered around later prehistoric settlement sites, having been removed from the grain during preparations for cooking. Crop processing waste from hulled wheats (emmer and spelt) is fairly robust (Boardman & Jones, 1990) and recognisable, so its absence from the other areas of the Iron Age and Roman site, Area 3-4, is likely to be significant.

The remaining scattered charred plant assemblages primarily consisted of a few cereal grains, with the occasional large weed seed such as chess (*Bromus* sect *Bromus*). Hulled barley and emmer/spelt grains were fairly common in the prehistoric samples, and bread-type wheat was an occasional find. The medieval samples produced bread wheat, barley, oats and rye, as is typical for most sites of this period. The range of arable weed seeds was also different from the prehistoric samples (including corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) and thistles (*Cirsium/Carduus* sp.)) and typical of the medieval period. Corn marigold is an arable weed of more acidic soils, suggesting that at least some of the cereals had been grown locally. The same cannot be said for the prehistoric cereals, since the few weed taxa recorded (mainly chess, vetches (small-seeded *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and docks (*Rumex* sp.)) have too wide a habitat range to be useful.

It is notable that many of the assemblages containing just a few cereal grains came from 'special' deposits such as placed pots containing burnt animal bone and flint (Casper Johnson, pers. comm.). The presence of these remains, therefore, could be of ritual significance, and this is an observation that is worthy of further study. It may be worth selecting as many of these 'placed' deposits as possible and comparing them to other productive samples that have a more domestic origin. An additional observation that could be followed up is that most of the oat or cf. oat remains appear to come from these contexts. Oats were a relatively new crop in the Iron Age, though they

may have grown as crop weeds back into the Bronze Age. Very few substantial deposits of oats have been found prior to the Roman period, when they were valued as a fodder crop, particularly for horses.

There is some evidence to suggest that ritual deposits often contain newly introduced crops which are likely to have been more highly valued e.g. the large deposit of Middle Bronze Age Celtic Beans (*Vicia faba* var. *minor*) recovered from the ritual site Le Pinacle, Jersey (Carruthers, in press?). Perhaps oats were being placed with the animal burials as fodder for the afterlife? Full analysis of some of the samples from Brisley Farm may show whether the distribution of oats is significant. However, a note of caution should be added because oat awn fragments are very small and could have passed down through the soil profile very easily.

4.2.3 *Further Work*

In Appendix Table 4.2, four Grade A samples and 13 Grade B samples have been recommended for further analysis. If more unprocessed soil is available from any of these samples it would be worthwhile processing it and adding the flots to the material for full analysis.

Although the Grade C samples appear to have little potential, if more soil is available and if the contexts are particularly important in helping to answer a specific question, some of these samples may be added at the Project Manager's discretion.

4.3 **The Charcoal** by Rowena Gale

4.3.1 *Summary*

This report includes the assessment of charcoal and wood from 319 contexts (many of which included multiple samples):

BRF 99 (Areas 1, 2A and 2B) – 47 contexts
BRF 01 (Areas 3 and 4) - 269 contexts
Watching Brief – 3 contexts

The condition of the charcoal was generally extremely poor although material from Areas 1, 2A and 2B was more degraded than that from the west side of Areas 3 & 4. Therefore, despite the frequency of charcoal across the site, much of the material was unsuitable for identification and yielded poor results. Identification was undertaken to assess the potential of the charcoal to provide environmental data, evidence of woodland management and changes in the exploitation of woodland resources from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman to the medieval periods. This assessment is based on the examination of each sample as a whole and the identification of up to 3 randomly selected fragments of charcoal from each sample.

Methodology

The samples included handpicked pieces of charcoal (washed and dried) and charcoal from bulk soil samples (processed by flotation and sieving). The charcoal was poorly preserved and often very fragmented. Intact segments of roundwood were not present (although some fragmented pieces are recorded on Table 1). When possible, 3 fragments of charcoal were selected from each sample and prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale and Cutler 2000). These were supported in washed sand and examined using incident light on a Nikon Labophot-2 microscope at magnifications up to x400. The anatomical structures were matched to reference slides of modern wood. The 2 wood samples consisted of small slivers of degraded wood and were prepared for examination using similar methods to those for the charcoal.

Results

The taxa identified are presented in Appendix 3, which also shows the quantity of charcoal per sample and the potential of each sample for further work. Key/prioritized samples are indicated in bold type. These are recommended for further identification work; in the few instances where samples are inadequate for further work the current identifications should be included in the final report for comparative purposes.

The taxa identified included (classification is based on *Flora Europaea* (Tutin, Heywood *et al*.1964-80).

Aceraceae. *Acer campestre* L., field maple
Betulaceae. *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertner, European alder; *Betula* spp., birch; *Carpinus*
betulus L., hornbeam
Either Cornaceae. *Cornus sanguinea* L., dogwood, or Caprifoliaceae. *Viburnum* sp.
wayfaring tree or Guelder rose.
Corylaceae. *Corylus avellana* L., hazel
Fagaceae. *Quercus* sp., oak
Oleaceae. *Fraxinus excelsior* L., ash
Leguminosae. *Cytisus scoparius* (L.) Link, broom or *Ulex* sp., gorse
Rosaceae. Subfamilies:
Pomoideae, which includes *Crataegus* sp., hawthorn; *Malus* sp., apple; *Pyrus* sp., pear; *Sorbus* spp., rowan, service tree and whitebeam. These taxa are anatomically similar; one or more taxa may be represented in the charcoal.
Prunoideae, which includes *P. avium* (L.) L., cherry*; P. padus* L., bird cherry,
and *P. spinosa* L., blackthorn. In this instance the broad heterocellular rays suggest *P. spinosa* as the more likely.
Salicaceae. *Salix* sp., willow, and *Populus* sp., poplar. In most respects these taxa are anatomically similar.
A conifer – too degraded to identify to genus.

4.3.2 *Potential*

The initial examination of the samples indicates that the wide range of wood species were used at the site and probably reflect the character of the local woodland. Oak charcoal was extremely common throughout all the periods represented. Some species appear to have been used very rarely, for example, hornbeam, was only recorded from medieval contexts. It is not possible to comment at the present time on woodland management, and the lack of intact roundwood may make this problematical.

4.3.3 *Further Work*

It is recommended that 79 samples (indicated in bold type on Table in Appendix 3) should be included in the final analysis. These relate to the excavated Areas as follows:

BRF 99Area 1 – 3 samples
BRF 99 Area 2A – 3 samples
BRF 99 Area 2B – 11 samples
Watching Brief Area – 3 samples
BRF 01 Areas 3 and 4
Period II – 6 samples
Period III – 6 samples
Period IV – 4 samples
Period V – 7 samples
Period VI B and C – 6 samples + 30 mostly Period V - VI

Forty three of these samples have already been examined in full, thus further identification is only required for 36 samples.

The results of the charcoal analysis should be presented in a full report with reference to the following topics/ questions:

1. What are the species represented and do they reflect the local woodland?
2. Is there evidence of woodland management?
3. Is there evidence for differential use of species throughout the periods of occupation?
4. Area 1 and 2A: is there evidence of specific selection in the medieval period?
5. Area 2A: are there any discernable differences between the 13th-14th century and 15th-16th century?
6. Area 2B: Does the charcoal from the pits differ from that in the burials?
7. Areas 3 and 4

Period II: C14 samples required to secure dating for this phase.
Periods III and IV: Is there evidence of structural components as opposed to fuel debris?
Period V: Does the charcoal originate from pyre fuel or feasting debris.
Period VI B and C: The selection of wood for pyre construction.

5.0 **POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS** (statement of potential) **and ADDRESSING OF RESEARCH ISSUES (1.8)**

5.1 *The Archaeological Data*

The Late Iron Age data are well recorded generally and detailed recording of artefact locations and associations can be closely integrated with the site stratigraphic sequence. The soil conditions and the truncation of the deposits have led to poor preservation of all artefact and ecofact classes. It is hoped that the level of recording and the relatively large percentages of each feature excavated in the central area of the site, as a direct result of the detailed excavation programme (see Appendix 1.4) will compensate for this. Because of the relatively poor preservation, the Middle/Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery assemblages stand out as the artefact category with most potential.

5.2 *The Chronological Periods*

The specific methods by which the research issues highlighted in section 1.8 will be addressed for each chronological period are outlined below.

Period I (Mesolithic to Late Neolithic/Bronze Age).

- The potential for this period lies in areas 1-4
- A distribution plot of the flint scatters
- Little other potential for this period therefore only summary results reported

Period II (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age).

- Potential for this period lies in areas 3 & 4
- Check and justify phasing by: form of feature, fill analysis, stratigraphic relationships (probably taken no further than the field results), pollen / environmental evidence – comparisons across site, stratified flint may be able to resolve some dating issues
- Interpretation Issues: confirm and justify that all features are of the same period, layout of the ditch system merits comparison with other sites (Westhawk Farm and Christchurch School) where similar systems are known
- Full reporting and analysis of pit [3856]

Period III (Middle Iron Age/Late Iron Age Transition).

- This period has significant potential for areas 3 & 4 with concentrated activity in the north and south of the site(s)
- The research potential for this period should focus on the landscape / settlement history, the nature of enclosure and ring gully function, the general function of the site (domestic, religious, ritual or aspects of each?)
- The discrepancy of the site stratigraphic sequence and the dates given in the pottery assessment needs to be addressed by examining the form of features / ditches, ditch fill sequences and re-cuts

- Artefactual distributions need to be completed and analysed which may highlight areas of use / function that are not immediately apparent

Period IV

- This period has significant potential for areas 3 & 4 with concentrated activity in the north and south of the site(s)
- The research potential for this period should focus on the landscape / settlement history, the nature of enclosure and ring gully function, the general function of the site (domestic, religious, ritual or aspects of each?)
- There is potential to compare assemblages with the Period III enclosure ditches to address the phasing problems and to test the ideas raised in the Pottery Assessment about fabric type dating and to compare the assemblages in the south and north of the excavation areas
- A significant aspect is the development of the rectilinear enclosure in the northern area
- The relationship of structures 14 and 15, waterhole [2471] to the enclosure need examination

Period V (Late Iron Age Pre-Roman).

- This period is considered to have very significant potential. Activity is concentrated in Areas 2B, 3 & 4
- There is evidence of occupation and religious / funary activity (in the same enclosure?) which offers the potential for further investigation
- The key attributes and assemblages of / from structures / small enclosures should be investigated with the use of comparative data from other sites
- Artefactual distributions need to be completed and analysed which may highlight areas of use / function that are not immediately apparent
- Considerable potential for documenting the changing of defined space by small ditches over short periods of time
- Potential to examine the larger scale changes of the landscape by its apparent full enclosure during this period
- The religious / ritual / funary aspects offer potential particularly the possible 'ritual circle' with close parallels to Westhamptnett

Warrior Burials

- The two warrior burials of this period are part of an enigmatic burial tradition, of great rarity in Southern Britain (with only nine previously known examples south of the Humber)
- They offer the opportunity to study the context for such burials in

great detail and can therefore be compared and contrasted with those from Yorkshire and with that from Mill Hill, Deal in East Kent (Parfitt, 1995) and Owslebury, Hants. (Collis 1977)

- The close dating of the two warrior burials and the presence of a range of imports will allow a more refined understanding of the grog-tempered pottery of the period
- Of particular importance and potential are the special deposits of material, not considered to result of random rubbish accumulation, which have been found across the entire site, with particularly important groups at ditch intersection, entrances and ditch terminals as well as in concentrations within ditches close to other structures, e.g. in ditch [3196] in front of warrior-burial B20

Period VI (Roman)

- Activity is concentrated in areas 1 2B, 3 & 4
- There is potential for understanding the continued use of the site from the previous period in relation to the nature of enclosure which is redefined in this period and the nature of religious / funary practices
- Artefactual distributions need to be completed and analysed which may highlight areas of use / function that are not immediately apparent
- Comparisons to Westhawk Farm should be made as there appears to be a chronological overlap with areas 3 & 4

Period VII (Saxon).

- There is not thought to be any potential for further work for this period. The pits with in-situ burning in Area 2B produced an AMS and standard c14 date of late Saxon

Perriod VIII (Medieval).

- This period has considerable potential for understanding the medieval use of the site through a detailed study of the probable farmstead site exposed in Area 2A, and features of similar date near Brisley Cottage in Area 1

5.4 *Specific themes for detailed analysis*

1 Ritual – the nature of ritual deposition on site, both within discrete features and within gullies, spatial and temporal distribution

2 Burial – the nature of the cremation burials, urned/unurned, relationship to 'pyre pit bases', the extent of the cemetery, is it a formal cemetery or are there clusters of which 2B is just one? Nature of similar features within areas of 3 & 4 possibly overlain by later settlement activity?

3 Warrior-burials (two) within square ditched enclosures – chronology, development, parallels and significance. The position of the two burials within the developing settlement. The nature of

the activity in the area before the burials and following them. The nature of the deposition of bone and pottery within the grave fills, square enclosure ditches and within the ditches that surround the small enclosures to the south. A wider theme here of ritual activity across the site, see 1 above. More detailed work is needed on square-ditched barrows.

4 Environment – environmental background – agricultural practice – tree species for fuel, for building et*c.*

5 Agriculture – prevalence of stock farming – animal species etc, the possibility of local pre-industrial parallels to be used

6 Chronology – Through use of detailed pottery study and absolute dates, in combination with studies from other 'local' sites, to provide a sequence for the period MIA to RB.

7 Settlement – To establish to what degree the site is primarily either a settlement site or religious site, how this might change between the MIA and RB periods. Key types- e.g. open settlement, enclosed et*c.*.

8 Spatial Units – redefinition of space, e.g. circular space

6.0 POST EXCAVATION OBJECTIVES

6.1 *Publication*

The results of the excavations (1999-2002) at Brisley Farm (Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3 & 4) 'merit' full analysis and publication, though some areas of excavation, for example, Area 1 and some artefact / ecofact types will require little additional work.

The analysis and publication of the evidence will make a significant contribution to the archaeology of Kent in general and specifically to the Ashford area, but given the presence of the two inhumation warrior burials, cremation burials, cremation-related features and possible evidence for sacred or religious spaces, elements of the site should be considered to be of national importance.

It is important that the results are presented in a single monograph with a publisher commensurate with its recognised national and international importance as outlined in the previous section. It is suggested that this monograph would be in two volumes, the first would contain the text for such a report (see Report Layout below) and the second would comprise the Site Atlas and reproduce the site plans, Area plans and selected sections. Artefact illustrations et*c.* would accompany the text in volume one.

It is essential that the finds reports are closely integrated into the interpretation of the site and are fully contextualised. Within *volume one* all periods will be reported with a particularly detailed analysis of the Late Iron Age and Early Roman features.

The publication will bring together all of the archaeological work on Areas 1–4 of Ward Homes development at Brisley Farm (now known as Chartfields). Subsequent phases of development will be published separately, although they will refer to the previous work as necessary. It is not considered necessary or desirable to refrain from publication until all phases of associated development are completed, as this would lead to an unacceptable delay in publication. It is acknowledged that some elements of the interpretation may need to be refined or changed in the light of subsequent work, but this disadvantage is outweighed by the desirability of reasonably prompt publication. (Greig, 2001 – see Appendix 1.4)

In addition to the above a short paper on the warrior-burials has been written (Johnson, 2003) and a synthetic paper concerning the wider research issues of the site is also in preparation (Hamilton and Johnson, 2003 forthcoming).

6.2 *Publication Synopsis*

Working Title:

Excavations at Brisley Farm, Ashford, Kent 1999-2002 by Johnson and Stevenson with major contributions by Hamilton and Lyne

VOLUME ONE (estimated word lengths in brackets)

Contents

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Summary (abstract) – major themes (500)
Resume (500)
Zusammenfassung (500)
Acknowledgements (150)
Presentation of results (200)
Volume One and Volume Two – the latter comprising the Site Atlas (100)
Numbering systems used (50)
The report structure
(due to the relatively small amounts of evidence from Area 1 & 2B, and the almost exclusively medieval nature of the evidence from Area 2A it has been considered appropriate to present the results by Period rather than by Area)
The archive *(200)*

Project background *(250)*
Geology, soils and topography *(250)*
Site Conditions and preservation *(500)*
Excavation Methods *(1500)*

The Archaeology of the area *(200)*
Research Aims *(550)*

PART 2: THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

This section will deal with individual periods area by area. The evidence for each period will be presented, with feature descriptions being integrated with the artefact and ecofact evidence. A general discussion of the evidence and its relevance within a wider context will be discussed in Part 5.

Undated Features
Summary Statement *(300)*

Mesolithic to Bronze Age (Period I)
Summary *(250)*

Later Bronze Age (Period II)
The field system *(250)*
The pit (3865) *(250)*

Selected plans and Sections (integrated throughout)

Late Iron Age (Period III & IV)
The main features will include:
The NE enclosure [2305] / [2267] etc *(200)*
The NE enclosure ditch [2244]/[2282] *(200)*
The NE enclosure ditch [2257] *(200)*
Structure 9 [3486] *(100)*
Structure 11 [2265] *(100)*
Structure 12 [3905] *(100)*
Structure 14 [3080] *(100)*
Structure 15 [3890] *(100)*
The water hole [2471] *(200)*
Ditch [2307] *(100)*
Ditch [3649] *(100)*
Double post-holes [3340], [3322] etc. *(200)*
Other features *(500)*

The SW enclosure ditch [1003] etc *(200)*
Discrete features *(200)*

Selected plans and Sections (integrated throughout)

Pre-Roman Late Iron Age (Period V
The main features will include:
The Area 2B excavation
The cremation burials (*300)*

The Areas 3 & 4 excavations

The 'axial' ditch [3276] *(250)*
The Central Enclosure ditch [1190] *(400)*
The Central Enclosure north of the 'trackway' *(800 all elements below)*
The east side comprising ditch [3132], Burial 19 enclosure ditch and ditch [3190]
The north side comprising ditch [3276] etc
The west side comprising ditch [1242]/[3904]
The south side comprising ditch [1242]/[3122], [3166] and [3101]
Structure Seven *(200)*
Structure Eight *(200)*
Burial 19 grave and enclosure ditch (summary only, refer to Chapter 4) *(100)*
Burial 20 grave and enclosure ditch (summary only, refer to Chapter 4) *(100)*
Gully [1239]*(150)*
Gully [1230] *(150)*
Gully [3240] etc *(150)*
Gully [1344]/[3206] *(150)*
Gully [1285]/[1374] *(150)*

The Central Enclosure south of the 'trackway' *(300)*
Structure Three *(100)*
Structure Four *(100)*
Structure Five *(100)*
Enclosure ditch [2956] and [2961]/3086] *(150)*
Enclosure ditch [2670], [2223]/[2959] *(150)*
Enclosure ditch [2226]/[3082] *(150)*

The SW Enclosure *(150)*
Enclosure ditch [1005]
Structure One (Area 1) *(100)*
Structure Two *(100)*

The circular space and associated features *(500)*
Structure 6 *(100)*

Selected plans and Sections (integrated throughout)

Roman Period (Period VI)
Land subdivision, ditches *(300)*
The enclosure south of the trackway *(150)*
Pit [2680] and other features *(150)*
The trackway *(250)*
The trapezoidal enclosure north of the trackway etc. *(300)*.

Selected plans and Sections (integrated throughout)

Saxon (Period VII)
Pits with *in situ* burning from Area IIB excavation *(200)*

Selected plans and Sections (integrated throughout)

Medieval (Period VIII)
Area 1 Ditches, cobbled trackway *(200)*
Area 2A 'Farmstead' *(2,500)*
Area 3 and 4 Summary description *(100)*

Selected plans and Sections (integrated throughout)

Post-medieval and Modern (Period IX)
Summary only *(200)*
Historical evidence *(600)*

PART 4: THE WARRIOR BURIALS
Full descriptions of B19 and B20 integrated with relevant specialist reports and illustrations. *(6,500)*

PART 5: THE FINDS & ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Finds and Environmental remains (excluding material from the warrior burials)

Specialist Reports as listed below.
Selected Artefact Distribution Plots to be included in text as necessary.
Number of other illustrations (sherds etc.) in brackets after word length where relevant, otherwise none proposed.

The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by M Lyne and S Hamilton *(7,000; 100-150 illus.)*
The Medieval Pottery by L Barber *(2,500; 20-40 illus.)*
The Clay Pipes by Luke Barber *(100)*
The Slag and Metalworking Material by S Paynter *(350)*
The Iron Age and Roman Metalwork (excluding material from the warrior burials) by I Stead and V Fell *(350)*
The Medieval Metalwork and Metallurgical Remains by L Barber *(1,500; max. 40 illus.)*
The Coins and Token by D Rudling *(200)*
The Ceramic Building Material by Samantha Crawt *(750)*
The Burnt Clay by Samantha Crawt *(550; 6 illus.)*
The Flint by C Butler *(400; 10 illus.)*
The Burnt Flint (100)
The Prehistoric and Roman Stone by M Seager Thomas *(2,000; 5 illus.)*
The post-Roman Stone by L Barber *(350; 1 illus.)*
The Glass by L Barber *(100)*
The Human Bone by J McKinley *(3,000)*
The Animal Bone by L Sibun *(2,000)*
The Shell by D. Dunkin *(100)*
The Charcoal by R Gale *(3,000)*

The Charred seeds by W J Carruthers *(2,000)*
The Pollen by R Scaife *(2,500)*

PART 6: DISCUSSION (Hamilton, Johnson, Stevenson) ***(3500?)***

This section will discuss in broader terms the excavated data and the key issues relating to the site.

A: Summary Discussion of the Site and Landscape History ***(3,500)***

B: Themes ***(3,500)***
Time
Space
Religion
Death
Etc
(relevant aspects of the finds reports and distribution plots to be integrated here)

The context of present and future work in Kent with specific reference to Late Iron Age and Roman tradition. Future work should focus on the issues raised by this site.

TOTAL WORD LENGTH 61,950

VOLUME TWO

Contents
Site Atlas
Full Set of Plans
Selected Sections
Context Summary List

6.3 Programming and Resources

Team Member	Experience	Task
Luke Barber	Excavation, Evaluation, Publication, Project Management, Finds Specialist	Project Manager, Pottery and metalwork analysis and specialist report preparation
Jim Stevenson	Excavation, Evaluation, (Director level), Publication	Project Supervisor, Prepare report for publication
Lucy Kirk	Excavation, Evaluation (Director level)	Bone analysis and specialist report preparation
Justin Russell	Archaeological Illustration	Illustration
Chris Butler	Specialist in flint	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Samantha Crawt	Finds supervisor	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Vanessa Fell	Specialist in conservation and metalwork	Conservation, Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Sue Hamilton	Academic advisor in Later British and European Prehistory with specialisation in ceramic studies	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Wendy Carruthers	Specialist in Carbonised Plant Remains	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Malcolm Lyne	Specialist in Romano-British Pottery	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Jaqueline McKinley	Specialist in bone	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Sarah Paynter	Specialist in slag	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Mike Seager Thomas	Specialist in stone	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Rowena Gale	Specialist in Charcoal and Wood	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Rob Scaife	Specialist in pollen	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Shepherd?	Specialist in glass	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Ian Stead	Specialist in Iron Age weapons	Selected analysis & specialist report preparation
Rowena Gale	Specialist in Charcoal	Charcoal analysis and specialist report preparation
David Dunkin	Specialist in Shell	Shell analysis and specialist report preparation
David Rudling	Specialist in Coins	Coin analysis and specialist report preparation
Gwen Jones	Documentary Specialist	Historical analysis and report preparation

The report preparation will be undertaken as follows (items in italics already completed):

Task	Team Member	Time Requirements (days)
Production of Post-Excavation Assessment Report (THIS DOCUMENT)		
finds and sample processing	*various*	*completed*
preparation of text and illustrations, editing	*CJ / JS / JR LB / IG / specialists*	*completed*
SUB-TOTAL		
Preparation of main report text and illustrations		
Report text	CJ/JS	110 days
Illustrate plans and sections	JR	50 days
Illustrate artefacts	JR-FEG	64 days
Project management	LB/IG	30 days
Materials and travel		-
SUB-TOTAL		
Analysis & preparation of specialist reports		
Regional / national context	SH	fee
Pottery analysis (Prehist/RB)	ML SH	fee fee
Pottery analysis (Post-Roman)	LB	12 days
Stone analysis (Prehist/RB)	MST	fee
Post-Roman stone analysis	LB	3 days
Burnt clay	SC	8
Metalwork conservation	VF	N/A
Metalwork (warrior burials) analysis and report	IS	fee
Other Iron Age and RB metalwork analysis and report	LB	3 days
Post-RB metalwork and metallurgical remains analysis and report	LB	9 days
Prehist/RB metallurgical remains	SP	fee

Flint	CB	fee
Prehistoric and Roman bone (human)	JMcK	fee
Animal Bone Analysis Prehistoric and Roman	LS	15
Ceramic Building Material	SC / LB	8 / 3
Animal bone analysis – medieval	LS	9
Shell analysis	DD	fee
Coins & Tokens	DR	1.5
Clay Pipes	LB	0.25
Pollen analysis	RS	fee
Charred Plant Remains analysis	WC	fee
Charcoal and wood analysis	RG	fee
Late IA/RB glasss	LB	1
Post-Roman glass	LB	0.5
SUB-TOTAL		
Report Production		
Secretarial work	JB	8
Editing, Corrections and proof-reading	JS LB / IG	10 10
SUB-TOTAL		
Archive Preparation		
Preparation of illustrations for archive	JR	15
Completion and deposition of archive	SC	8

CJ-Casper Johnson: JS-Jim Stevenson; LB-Luke Barber: ML - Malcolm Lyne: SH-Dr Sue Hamilton: VF-Vanessa Fell; IS-Dr Ian Stead; JMcK-Jacqueline McKinley; LS-Lucy Sibun: RS-Rob Scaife: RG-Rowena Gale: WC-Wendy Carruthers: HD-Helen Dixey: JR - Justin Russell: FEG – Fiona Griffin: DD- David Dunkin: SC- Sam Crawt: Jayne Brooks

7 ARTEFACT & ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

On completion of the post-excavation work, the artefacts recovered during the excavation and the site archive will be placed in suitable repositories, to be agreed with the Landowner, the County Archaeologist for Kent and Kent County Council.

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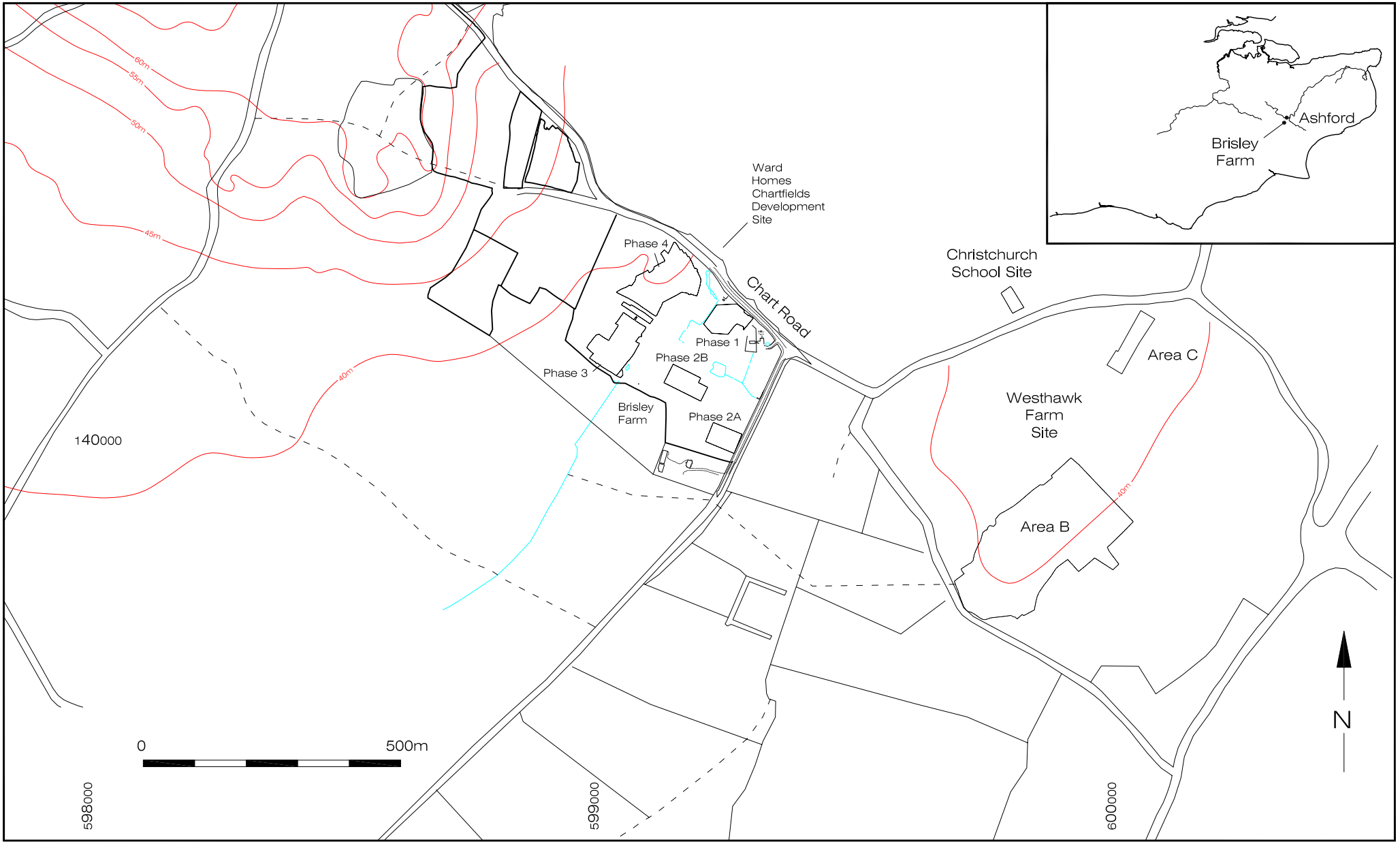


© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 1
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Site Location	

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 2
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Site Plan (Phase 1 - 4)	

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 3
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Area 1 Provisional Phased Plan (All Periods)	

N

Structure 1
Structure 2
Structure 3
Structure 4
Structure 5
Burnt timber
Cobbled Yard

Period I (Mesolithic/Neolithic)
Period II (Bronze - Age/ Early Iron Age)
Period III (150-75 BC)
Period IV (75-25 BC)
Period V (25 BC - AD 50)
Period VIA (AD 50-AD 70)
Period VIB (AD 70-AD 120)
Period VIC (AD 120-AD200)
Period VII (Saxon)
Period VIIIA (Medieval)
Period VIIIB (Post Medieval)
Period IX (Modern)
Undated

0 5m

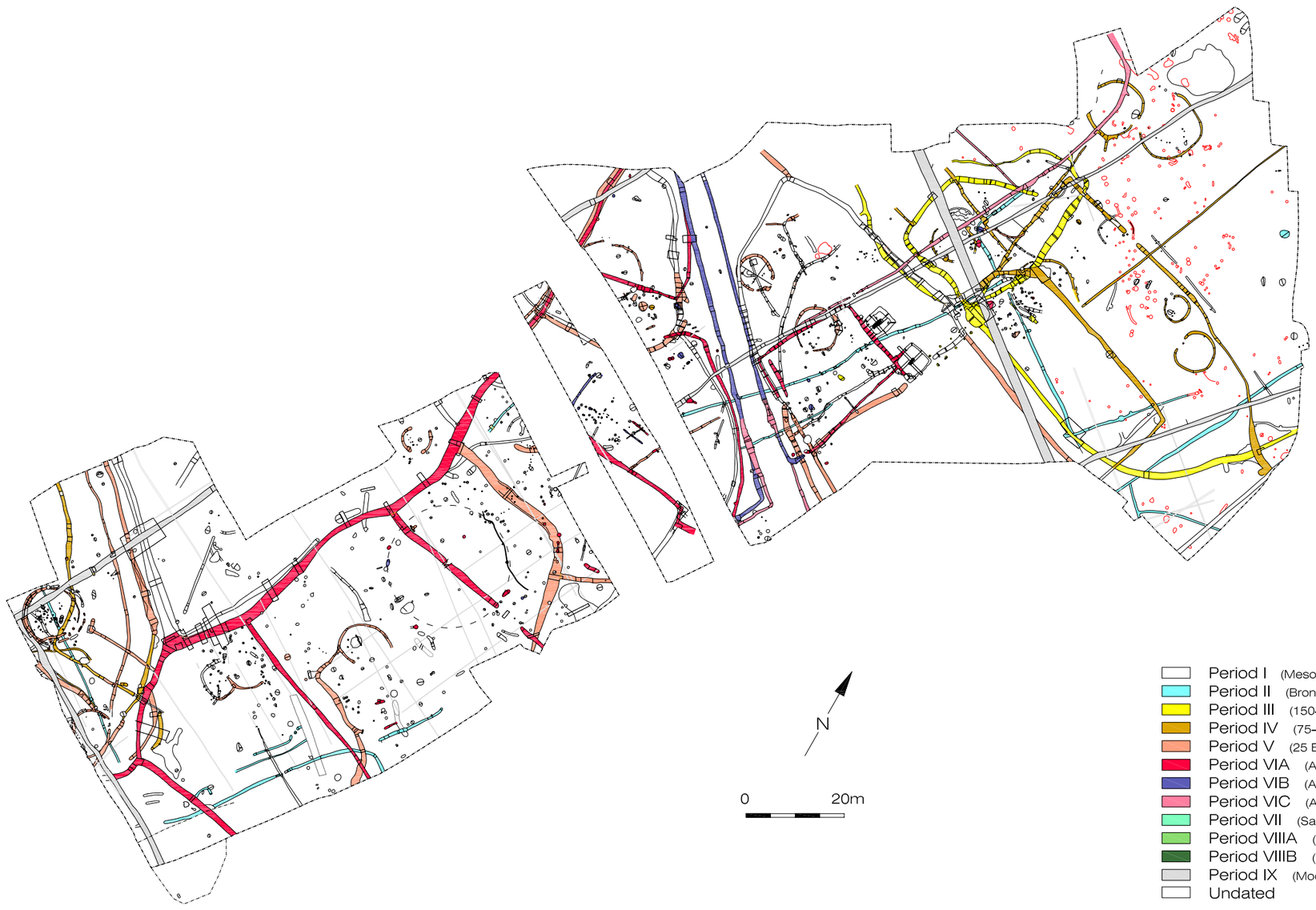
© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 4
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Area 2A Provisional Phased Plan (All Periods)	

Period I (Mesolithic/Neolithc)
Period II (Bronze-Age/Early Iron-Age)
Period III (150-75 BC)
Period IV (75-25 BC)
Period V (25 BC-AD 50)
Period VIA (AD 50-AD 70)
Period VIB (AD 70-AD 120)
Period VIC (AD 120-AD 200)
Period VII (Saxon)
Period VIIIA (Medieval)
Period VIIIB (Post Medieval)
Period IX (Modern)
Undated

N

0 5m

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 5
Ref: 1372	Dec 2003	Area 2B Provisional Phased Plan (All Periods)	



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 6
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 Provisional Phased Plan (All Periods)	

Period II (Bronze-Age/Early Iron-Age)

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Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 - Period II (Bronze-Age/Early Iron-Age)	

Period III (150-75 BC)

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 8
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 Period III (150-75 BC)	

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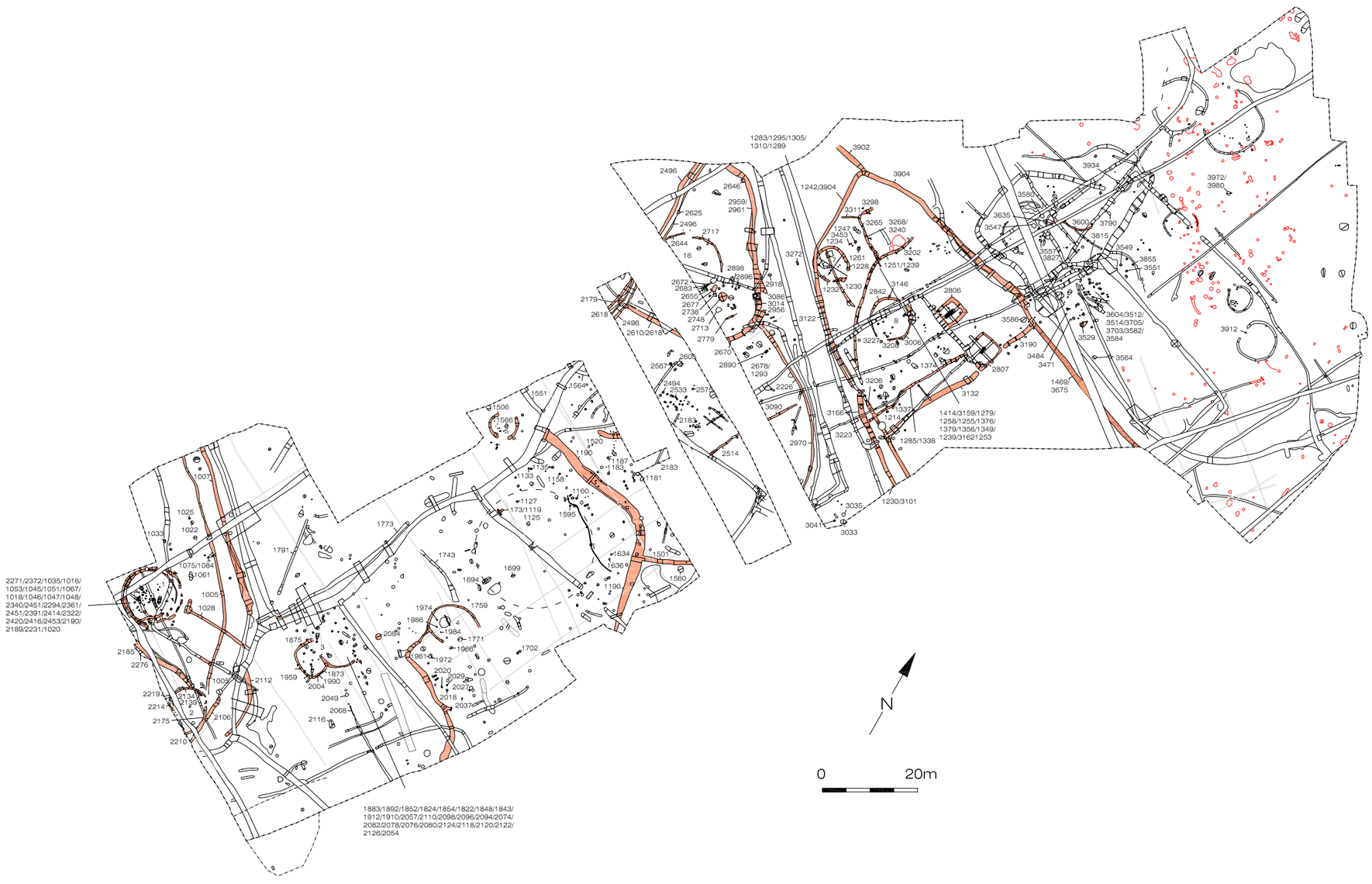
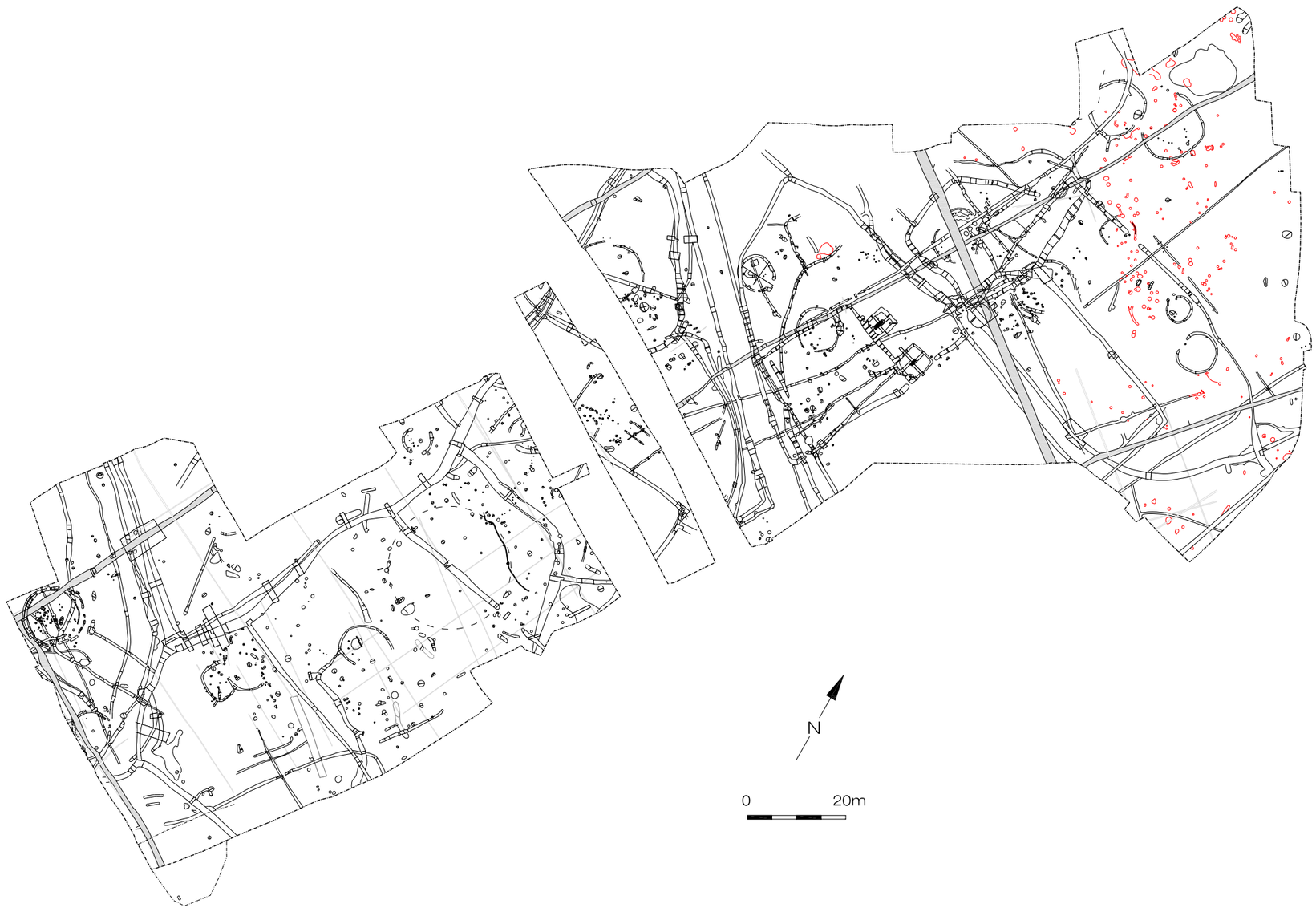
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 - Period IV (75-25 BC)	

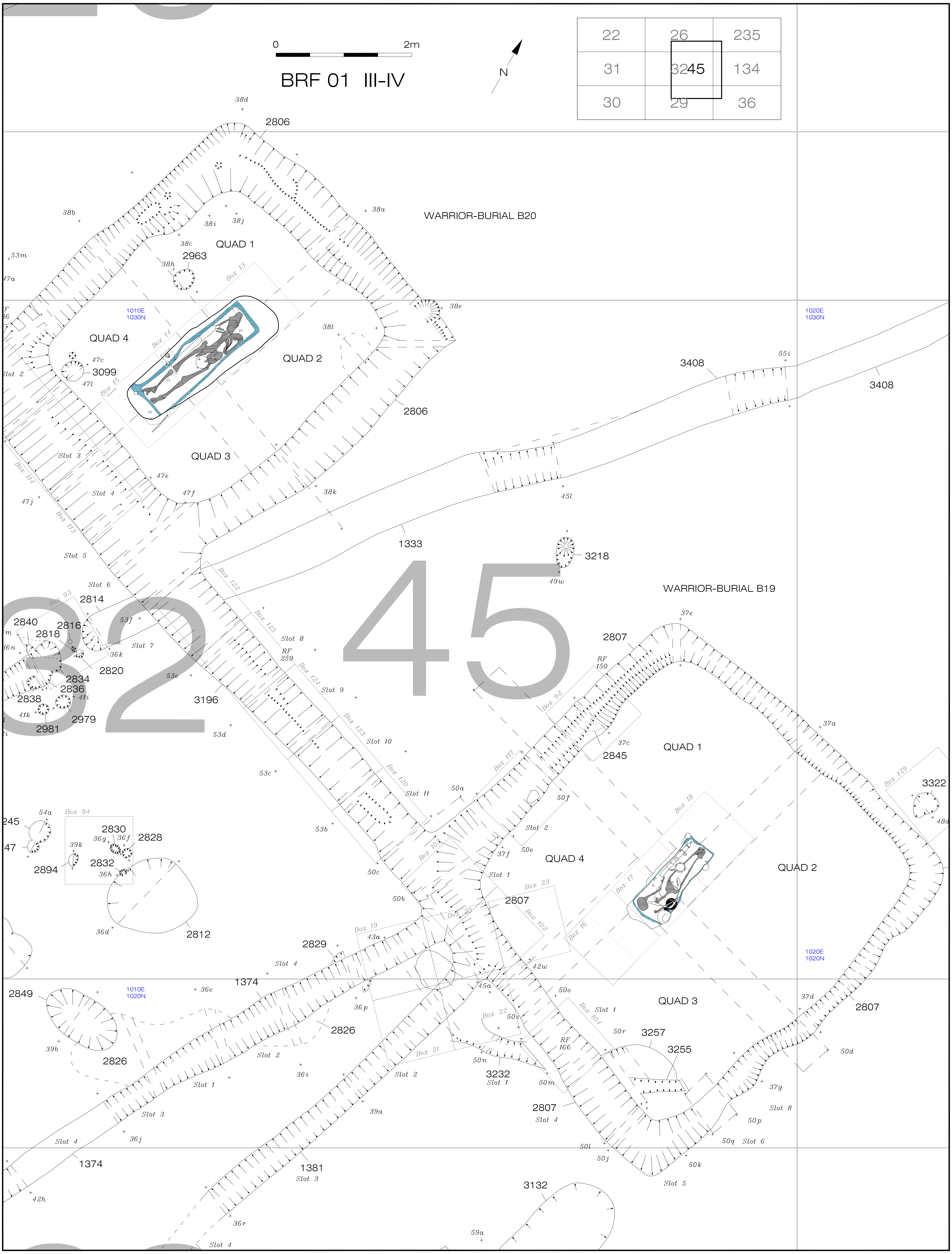


© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 10
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 - Period V	

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 11
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 - Period VI (AD 50-200)	



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 12
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 - Period VII - IX (Saxon - Modern)	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WARRIOR-BURIAL B19
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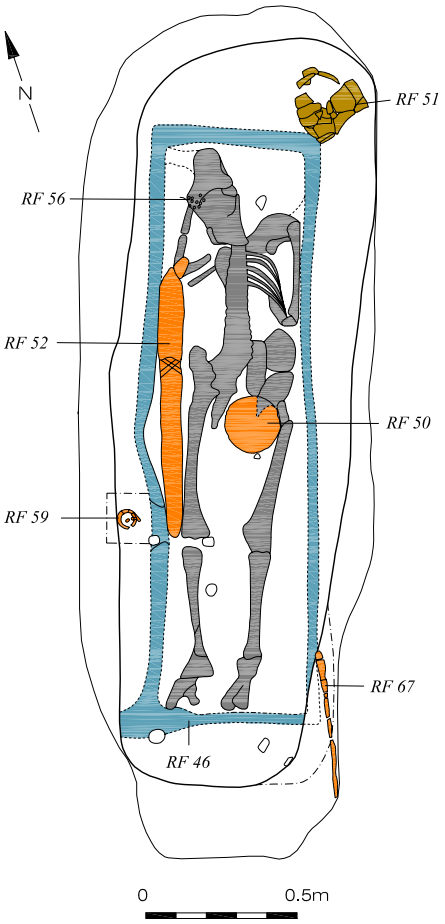
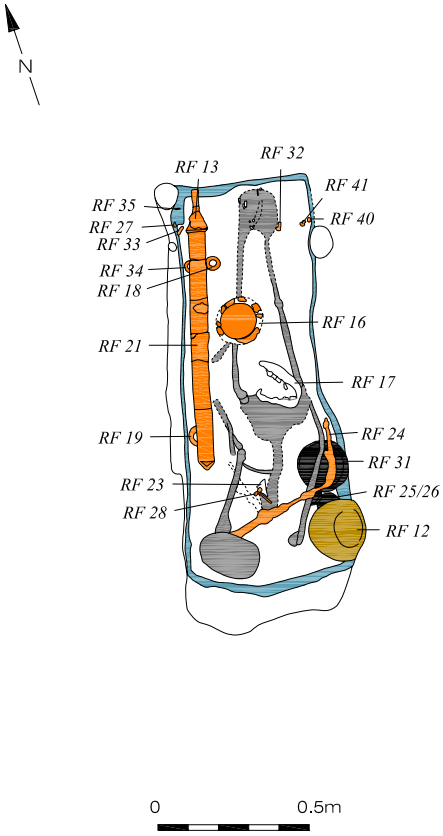
RF 259

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 13
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Warrior Burials B19 & B20 enclosure and grave plan (sheet 45)	

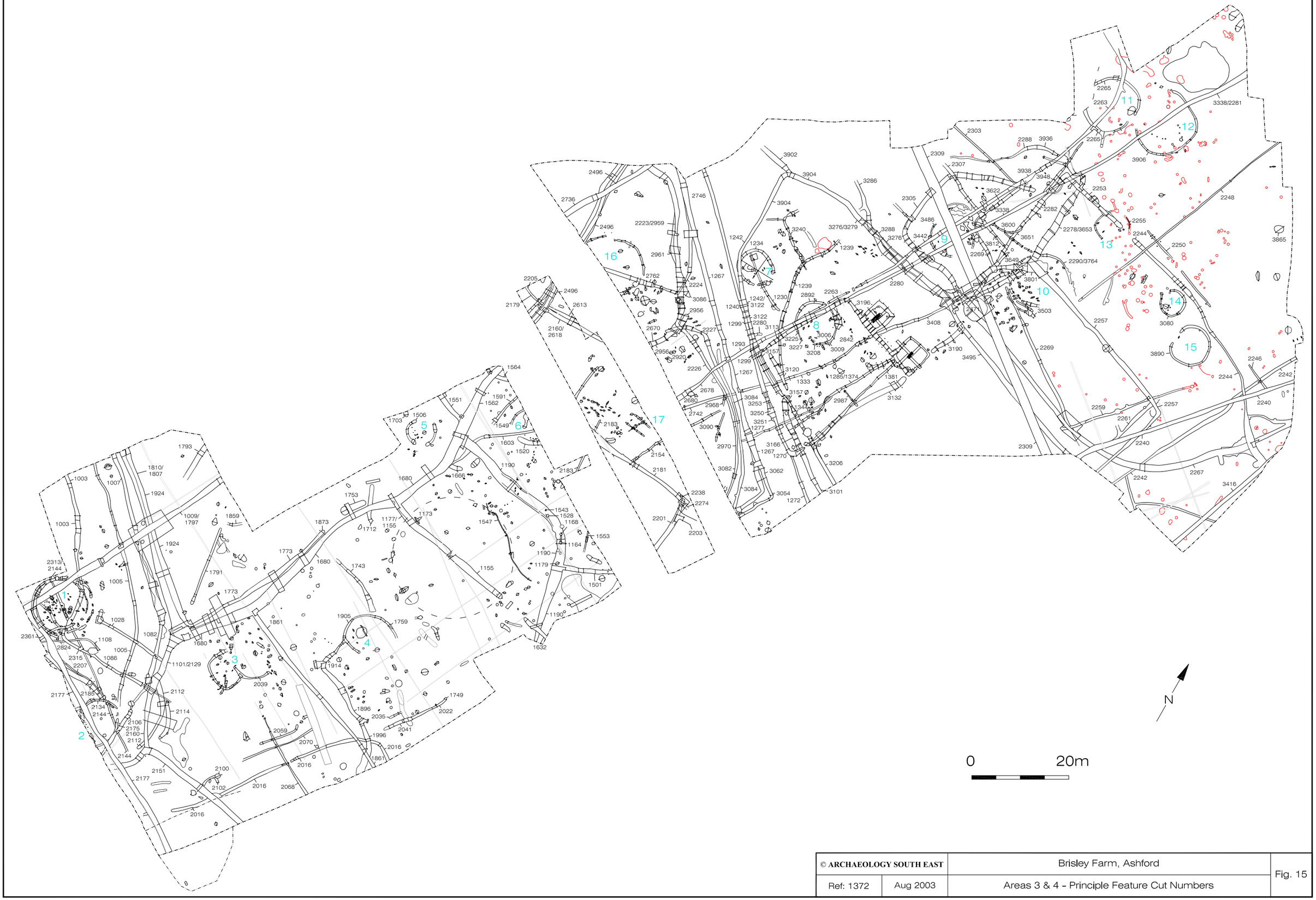
B 20



B 19



© Archaeology South East		Brisley Farm, Ashford	Fig. 14
Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Warrior-Burials B19 & B20 grave plans	



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Ref: 1372	Aug 2003	Areas 3 & 4 - Principle Feature Cut Numbers	