Excavation of a Roman Industrial Building to the east of Harville Road, Wye, Kent

Site Code: HARV/2019

NGR Site Centre: 604783 146517

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Excavation of a Roman Industrial Building to the east of Harville Road, Wye, Kent by the Kent Archaeological Field School in 2019

Plates

Figures

Summary

In 2019 the cropmark (AP1 Google Earth 2003- red arrow) of a possible Roman building and leat (an open watercourse conducting water to a mill) east of Harville Road was investigated with permission of the landowner by students from the Kent Archaeological Field School directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson. The site is located to the west and south of the village of Wye and about four miles north east of Ashford. The area of investigation is located to the east of Harville Road and west of the Great Stour River. The OS location to the centre of the site is NGR 604783 146517 (AP 1). The Google Earth 2003 shows the leat and surveyed OD heights show that the OD height of leat bed to the north is 30m aOD whilst at 100m along to the south the OD height is 31m aOD giving a fall of one metre in 100m.

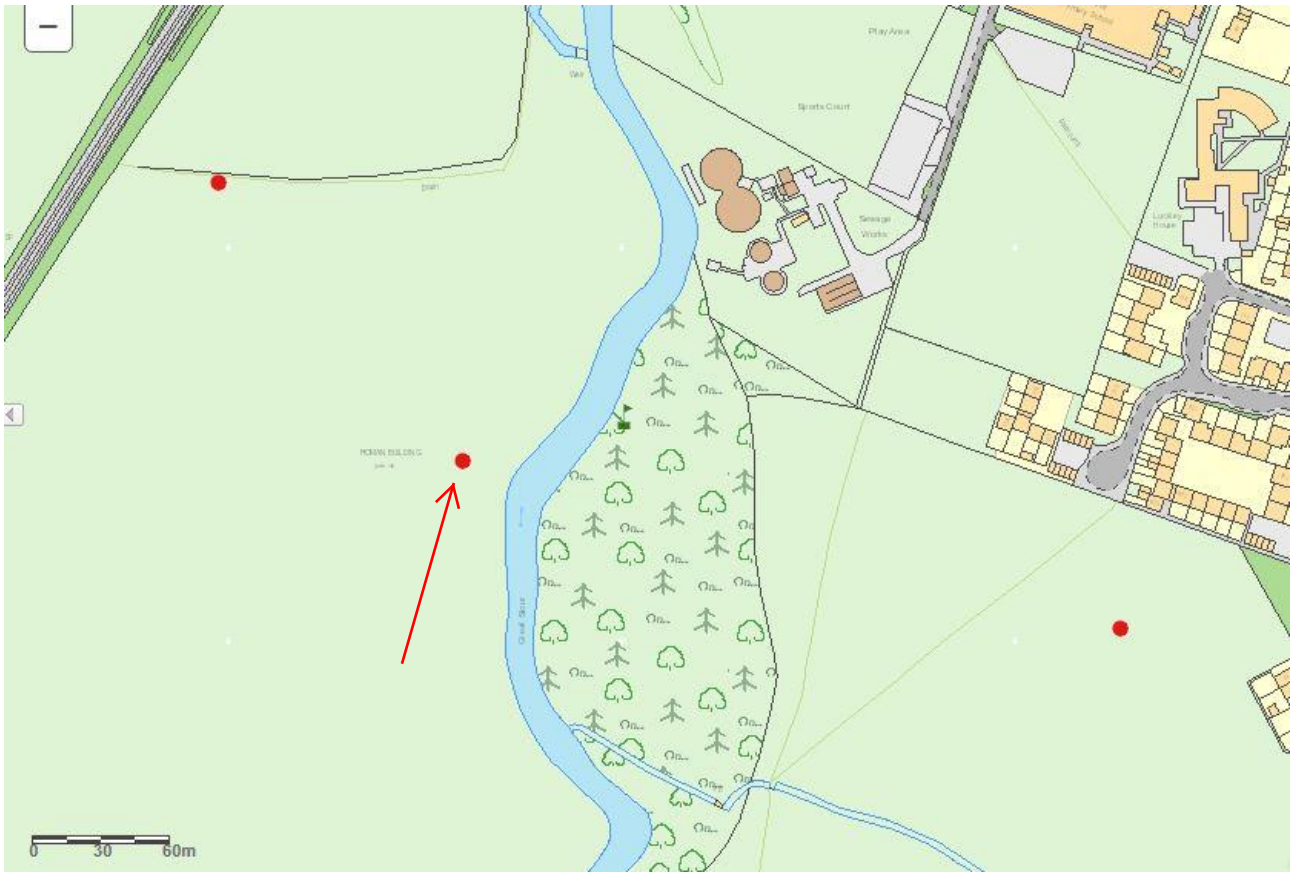
AP 1. Google Earth 2003 Red arrow points to the Roman building and red line to the Roman water course or leat. The direction of water flow to the sea is denoted by the red arrow.

The Roman building was part excavated after a geophysical survey and by about 25 students who attended the KAFS field school training week in April 2019.

The survival of the Roman building was good with stone walls, some areas of sandy gravel floors, all covered by a layer of collapsed Kent ragstone walls (Plates 5, 6).

On top of this collapsed strata and cutting through it were cill beam slots on a different alignment for a timber building identified by the pottery as belonging to the 5th-6th century AD (Plate 2).

The revealed Roman building is about 32m long and about 10.5m wide, built of mortared Kentish ragstone with the collapsed walls indicating a height of about 2.5m for the outer walls (Plate 15).



Map 1. Location of the Roman building on the KCCHER at NGR 604783 146517 (red dot & arrow)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 The Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) were given permission by the landowner to investigate the cropmark of a potential Roman building on land to the east of Harville Road, Wye in Kent (MAP 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the excavation by machine and hand excavation of an area measuring 32m in length and 10.8m in width (Areas 1 & 2) and was carried out over the course of ten days in April 2019. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Dr Paul Wilkinson prior to commencement of works and updated once the initial fieldwork was completed (Appendix 1).

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 604783 146517 and situated to the west and south of the village of Wye and about four miles north east of Ashford. The area of investigation is located to the east of Harville Road and on the west bank of the Great Stour River (MAP 1).

1.2.2 Ground levels are relatively level at a height of approximately 31m Ordnance Datum (OD). The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Gault Formation-Cretaceous Mudstone. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Superficial Fluvial alluviums, River Terrace Deposits. The geology revealed in the 2019 excavations was loamy and clayey floodplain soils.

1.3 Scope of Report

1.3.1 This report has been produced to provide information regarding the results of the 2019 season's archaeological investigations on land to the east of Harville Farm, Harville Road, Wye in Kent.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites that can be identified on the KCCHER database. The application site lies in an area of archaeological potential and there are known archaeological remains within the specified survey boundary.

2.2 Historic Environment Record (HER)

The KCCHER records show that there are designated assets in the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) including:

HER Number: TR 04 NW 47

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, River Stour

Several hundred sherds of "Belgic" and Romano-British pottery were recovered when examining weathered upcast removed during dredging work in the River Stour. The majority of this material has been dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries, there being a small quantity of later types.

2.3 A 4th century Romano-British building (TR 04 NW 19) located in Area 1 was excavated in 1972. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was also discovered adjacent to this (TR 04 NW 47). The route of the 'Pilgrims Way'

trackway crosses north-east to south-west across Area 1 (TQ 55 SE 124) and is thought to have dated to Prehistoric times.

2.4 Less than 2 miles to the south-west at Conningbrook Manor Pit, Ashford, gravel extraction led to the discovery of several Middle to Upper Palaeolithic vertebrate fossils, including mammoth remains (TR 04 SW 447). As aforementioned, the Pilgrim's Way / North Downs Way crosses Area 1 (TQ 55 SE 124). The trackway follows the ridge of the North Downs escarpment and is thought to have been used since Prehistoric times due to dated finds along the route.

2.5 There is a moderate to low potential for Prehistoric remains within the site. Late Iron Age 'Belgic' and Romano-British pottery was discovered in Area 1 (TR 04 NW 47).

2.6 In between the survey parcels, Iron Age lynchet field systems were recorded in 1937 and 1963 but no further evidence is available (TR 05 46).

2.7 A 4th Century Romano-British building, previously mentioned, is located within Area 1 (TR 04 NW 19). The remains also contained evidence of later additions to the structure as well as flint foundations of other walls to the north and north-west, along with the discovery of an associated bronze buckle and iron dagger.

2.8 280m to the south of Area 1, finds removed from a river dredging are thought to have derived from the Romano-British building and consisted of bone, pottery and coins dating to AD 330-370.

2.9 Find spots of late Iron Age copper alloy and gold coins are prevalent within a 1km search radius of the site. Several Roman silver coins and pottery vessel find spots have also been recorded.

There is a good potential for remains of an Iron Age / Romano-British age within the site. An early-medieval grave containing an inhumation of a male skeleton, sword, glass cup and smaller objects was also discovered just 280m south of Area 1 (TR 04 NE 11). Several Anglo-Saxon find spots of silver pennies have been found within a 1km search radius of the site.

Browning Bridge, located further south along the route of the Great Stour is thought to be early medieval or Anglo-Saxon in origin (TR 04 NW 218). A mill-race is shown to the north of Area 1, south of Wye railway station on the 1876, 1908 and 1934 Ordnance Surveys (Kent LV & Kent LV.SE).

2.10 A small coppice is shown adjacent to the road by Area 2 on the 1876 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps, although this had been cleared by 1934. A pinfold (animal pound) is recorded on 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps from 1862-1875, just to the east of Area 1 (TR 04 NE 278).

2.11 A geophysical survey was carried out by Professor William Martin with a KAFS team with interesting results which include other Roman buildings in the vicinity of the Wilkinson Building.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (KAFS 2012) as stated below;

- The primary objective of the archaeological investigation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the Roman period and also any medieval, earlier and later archaeological activity.
- The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching.

  (KAFS 2012: Section 6)

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore to;

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- Establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- Place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- Make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the updated Specification (KAFS August 2020) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of one season area of archaeological investigation was excavated by machine under close control of an archaeologist (Plate 7). Each area was initially scanned by a metal detector for surface finds prior to machine stripping and hand excavation.

4.2.2 Each area was hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during hand excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling (Plates 4-14).

4.2.3 Backfilling was left to the landowner to carry out once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the investigated areas comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections)

was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and OD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography.

4.3.3 A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.4 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench or area with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches or areas (i.e. Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Area 3, 301+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The site, as shown on Figures 1 & 2, provides the seasonal area layout and distribution of archaeological features.

5.1.2 The photographic archive illustrates the results for each individual archaeological investigation along with sections for excavated features.

5.1.3 Plates 1-15 consist of photographs of features and selected areas that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of dark brown clay silt, moderate roots, and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of medium orange brown colluvial silt. Natural geology comprised mottled, brown, silty clay.

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Area 1 (Figure 1, Plates 1-15)

5.3.1 Within the southern extent of the site Area 1 was excavated on an NE-SW alignment and measured approximately 16m in length and 15.50m in width with a maximum investigation depth of 0.85m (Figure 3. Plates 2-15).

5.3.2 Archaeological finds and features were present in Area 1 and included robbed out Kentish ragstone walling in Test Pit 1 (1263) [1264] and surface finds of pottery sherds retrieved included fine 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware dating to c.25BC-AD200. Test Pit 2 [1266] included demolition deposits over Roman floors still in situ and the twelve sherds of pottery including Roman pottery from c.130-420 AD. Test pit 3 [1202] also had Roman pottery.

5.3.3 The south wall of the Roman building was also exposed in this area and was built of flint nodules set in an off-white mortar with small well-rounded gravel inclusions (Plate 6). The south wall measured about 16m in width and continued to the south-east beyond the exposed building.

5.3.4 The central area of Area 1 as excavated the remains of an oven were revealed (C2) with pottery sherds of Roman and Late Roman jars dating

from about AD 150-300 (Plate 9). In addition five fragments of worked lava stone were recovered one with a raised kerb which suggests a Roman origin. The diameter of one circumference fragment from (Context 37) measures about 650mm diameter indicating it was a millstone. All fragments are dressed with a pecked grinding surface.

5.3.5 Areas of sandy floor were revealed in Area [64A] and set on a base of yellow brown clay about 10cm thick (Plate 6}.

Area 2 (Figure 4, Plates 2-15)

5.3.6 Area 2 was located within the north area of the site (Figure 2) and was excavated on a N-S alignment. This trench measured 20m in length, 13m in width and a maximum depth of 0.42m (Figure 3). Natural geological deposits were recorded at a level ranging between 30.67m OD and 30.07m OD.

5.3.7 At the far northern end of the trench the internal and external n/s walls were revealed [78] and the internal flooring of sand [64A].

5.3.8 Running north-south but at a different angle to the Roman building a 23m x 0.40m (02B) cill beam slot (65) inside the main Roman building has been dated by pottery sherds to the Early Saxon period.

5.3.9 A Roman external room to the east (50, 52) overlaid the route of the waterway or leat and a section cut through the waterway or leat outside the building revealed a Roman cut waterway about 3.50m wide and 2m deep and with Roman pottery dating from c.43-250/300 (52) and sherds of Early Saxon pottery (ESI) retrieved from the bottom silt. The area was not fully excavated but the initial investigation did reveal some large quern stone fragments.

5.3.10 The excavation revealed the remains of a Roman industrial building with an later Anglo-Saxon timber structure built at the slightly different angle suggesting the earlier Roman building had been demolished but the water resource was utilised by later settlers in the area.

5.4

Overview

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation on land at Harville Farm, Wye in Kent has succeeded in clarifying the form and function of a stone built Roman industrial building which seems to have been rebuilt as an Anglo-Saxon building in the late 5th century presumably to utilise the surviving Roman watercourse or leat. The Roman building has been named by the historian Paul Burnham the 'Wilkinson Building' in 'Discovering Roman Wye' published by the Wye Historical Society in 2023 (ISBN 978-0-9546499-7-5).

6.2 Archaeological Narrative

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in identifying the form and function of a Roman industrial building with a later Anglo-Saxon use.

6.3 Conclusions

6.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Landowner of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include: paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1.1 The Kent Archaeological Field School would like to thank the landowners for commissioning the project and this report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA., FRSA.

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10 PROJECT DATA

File 1

SPOT-DATING OF THE POTTERY FROM FIELD WALKING AND EXCAVATIONS AT WYE, KENT

Malcolm Lyne

Fabrics

Late Iron Age-to-Early Roman

B2. Coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware
B2.1. 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with siltstone grog.
B5. 'Belgic' grog and sand tempered ware
B8. Fine black fabric with <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler. Folkestone area

Roman

R1. Grog-tempered 'Native Coarse ware'.
R3. Sand-tempered 'Native Coarse ware
R5. Canterbury Greyware
R6.3. Grey very-fine-sanded Canterbury fabric fired rough buff-brown
R16. North Kent Fineware
R17. Oxidised Hoo St Werbergh version of the above
R14. North Kent BB2
R33. Colchester Colour-coat
R42. South Gaulish La Graufesenque Samian
R43. Central Gaulish Lezoux Samian
R73. Miscellaneous greywares
R89. Silty pink fabric fired smooth cream
LR2.1. Fine-sanded Late Thameside greyware
LR2.3. Coarse-sanded Late Thameside greyware with reddened exterior.

LR13. Much Hadham Oxidised ware

Medieval

M1. Very-fine-sanded Medieval greyware
M2.Very-fine-sanded orange/black Medieval fabric, sometimes with splashed apple-green glaze.
M3.Sandy brown-black Medieval

Post-Medieval

PM1A.Unglazed earthenware
PM1B.Earthenware with external olive-green glaze
PM1C.Orange earthenware fired grey externally, with internal dark-green glaze
PM2.Earthenware with over all black glaze like Cistercian ware
PM3.Ginger-glazed earthenware
PM4.Salt-glazed stoneware

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm	Comments
Sub-surface finds unstrat	B2 B2.1 B5 B8 R1 R5 R14 R16 R33 R42 R43 R73	Jars Jars jar Jars jars Cl 5C bowlsx2 beaker etc biconical beaker beaker Dr 35 misc jars	c.25BC-AD200 c.25BC-AD200 c.25BC-AD200 c.50-80 c.170-250/300 c.80-175 c.150/70-250 c.43-250/300 c.43-130 c.130-250 c.43-110 c.120-200	23 23 2 1 5 6 7 7 1 1 1 2 2	303 335 82 5 78 88 80 46 16 2 8 15 24	
				81	1332G	
A1 Subsoil	B2 B2.1 R16 R73	Jar combed jar closed jars	c.25BC-AD200 c.25BC-AD150 c.43-250/300	2 1 4 4	12 14 14 26	
				11	66G	
A1 N (50)	B2 B2.1 R3 R14 R16 R73 LR13	Jars Combed store jar Cl 5C bowl Beaker jar closed form	c.25BC-AD200 c.25BC-AD150 c.170-250/300 c.150/70-250 c.43-250/300 c.200-300	4 2 1 1 2 1 1	33 37 6 18 6 6 7	
				12	113g	
A1 S (52)	B2 B2.1 R5 R16 MISC *GLASS*	Jars jars jar base closed *sack bottle*	c.25BC-AD200 c.25BC-AD200 c.80-175 c.43-250/300 *c.1600-1750*	5 7 1 2 1 2	15 47 13 4 6	
				16	79g	
A1 E (63)	B2 B2.1 R14	Storage-jar combed store jar	c.43-150 c.25BC-150 c.130-250	4 1 2	99 39 14	
				7	152g	
A1 W (18)	B2 B2.1	Combed storage jar	c.25BC-AD150 c.25BC-AD200	2 1	48 10	

	R5 R16 *Tile* *Coal*	jar lid-seated jar ?biconical beaker	c.100-175 c.43-130	1 2 *1* *1*	20 14 *2*	
				6	92G	
A2 (15)	R14 PM3	Open form	c.130-250 18th-19th c	1 2	6 4	
				3	10g	
A2 (15)	B2 BL *?Asbestos sheet*	Closed form	c.25BC-AD200 20TH C	2 *1*	21	
				2	21g	
A2 (65)	B2 BL R5 R73 M2 *PM4* *Tile* *ES1*	Jar rod-handle *Water pipe* *imbrex* *jar*	c.25BC-AD70 c.80-175 c.1200-1350 *20th c* *Roman* *Early Saxon*	2 1 1 1 *1* *1* *1*	40 2 2 58 *234* *83* 97	
				5	102g	
A2 (unstrat)	PM4	Vessel *Drain pipe*	18th-19th c. *20th c.*	1 *1*	8 *3*	
				1	8G	
A2 (58)	B2 R5 PM1A *PM4* PM6 *Tile*	 Jar d*rain pipe* *peg-tile*	c.25BC-AD200 c.80-175 c.1450-1600 *20th c.* 19th-20th c. *c.1500-1900*	1 1 3 *2* 1 *2*	6 6 27 *270* 3 *45*	
				6	42G	
A2	R16	Closed	c.43-250/300	1	5g	
A2 (75)	B2 BL B2.1 R3 R14 R16 LR2.1 PM6 *Tile*	 Jar 	c.25BC-AD200 c.25BC-AD200 c.170-300 c.130-250 c.43-250/300 c.150-300 19th -20th c.	1 1 1 2 4 1 1 *1*	3 19 23 14 22 5 6 *27*	
				11	92G	
Oven area (34)	R1 LR2.1	Jar closed form	c.170-250/300 c.150-300	1 1	8 2	
				2	10G	
(77)	R5 R14 R16 R17 PM6	Jar Cl 5C bowl beaker flagon willow-pattern	c.80-175 c.150/70-250 c.43-250/300 c.43-250 19th-20th c.	1 1 1 1 1	4 3 1 4 4	
				5	16g	
(18)	B2.1 R5 R6.3 R14 R16 R43 ***GLASS***	Storage jar reeded-rim bowl lid-seated jar flagon handle open form closed Dr 31 Dr 36 *window glass*	c.25BC-AD150 c.130-175 c.100-175 c.70-200 c.130-250 c.43-250/300 c.150-200 c.120-200 *Roman*	1 3 1 2 2 5 *1*	19 28 21 8 9 54	
				14	139G	
(32)	B2 R5 R16 PM6	Jar Reeded-rim bowl beaker	c.25BC-AD200 c.80-130 c.43-250 19th-20th c	1 2 1 1	5 32 14 1	
				5	52g	

From corner near field boundary	B2.1	Jar	c.25BC-AD200	1	14G	
TP 1 500 Top 10cm	B2.1 R14 R42 R89 PM4	Jar chamfered base Dr 18 flagon	c.25BC-AD200 c.130-250 c.43-90 c.70-100 c.1600-1900	1 1 1 1 1	22 8 4 19 5	Sl abraded fresh fresh fresh fresh
			c.43-1900	5	58G	
TP 1 500	B2 BL	Combed jar	c.25BC-AD150	1	49G	
TP 1 506	B2.1 PM1C	Jar ?Pipkin	c.25BC-AD200 c.1500-1600	1 1	14 6	Fresh fresh
			c.25BC-AD1600	2	20G	
TP 2 600	R1 R43 LR2.1 MISC Tile	Jar Dr 33 Jar	c.170-300 c.120-200 c.150-300	1 1 1 2 1	9 8 3 14 7	Fresh sl abraded abraded lump
			c.120-300	5	34G	
TP 2 601	B2.1 R5 R73	Jar jar	c.25BC-AD.200 c.80-175	2 1 1	33 2 3	Fresh fresh fresh
			c.25BC-AD200	4	38G	
TP 2 602	B2.1 R5 R42 R73 MISC	Jar jar	c.25BC-AD200 c.80-175 c.43-110	3 1 1 2 1	26 20 1 11 1	 Fresh fresh fresh
			c.43-175	8	59G	
TP 3 700	B2 BL B8 *Tile*	Necked jar	c.25BC-AD100 c.50-80	1 1 *1*	7 12 *4*	Fresh fresh
			c.50-100	2	19G	
TP 4 800	R73	Jar	Early Roman	1	3g	
Water Mill Field Walking	B2 BL B2.1 R1 R5 R14 R16 R43 LR2.1 LR2.3 MISC M2 M3 PM1A PM1B *Tile* *Ironwork*	Necked jarsx2 storage-jar storage jar necked jar reeded-rim bowl jar rouletted beaker jar Dr.18/31 Dr.31 jar jar cooking-potsx2 bowl jug strap-handle pipkin etc tankard *combed box tile* *imbrex* *drain pipe* *nails* *key*	c.25BC-AD200 c.43-150 c.43-150 c.170-250/300 c.130-175 c.130-200 c.190-250 c.150-250 c.120-150 c.150-200 c.150-300 c.270-370 c.1250-1350 c.1250-1350 c.1250-1350 c.1250-1350 c.1450-1600 c.1500-1700 *Roman* *Roman* *Post Medieval* *Roman*	 8 8 1 2 3 2 4 1 1 5 4 1 5 1 *2* *1* *1* *12* *1*	 295 251 33 31 33 10 76 8 14 184 52 42 105 20 *242* *83* *28*	
				46	1154g	

PROJECT DATA 2

Geophysics Resistivity Surveys at Wye

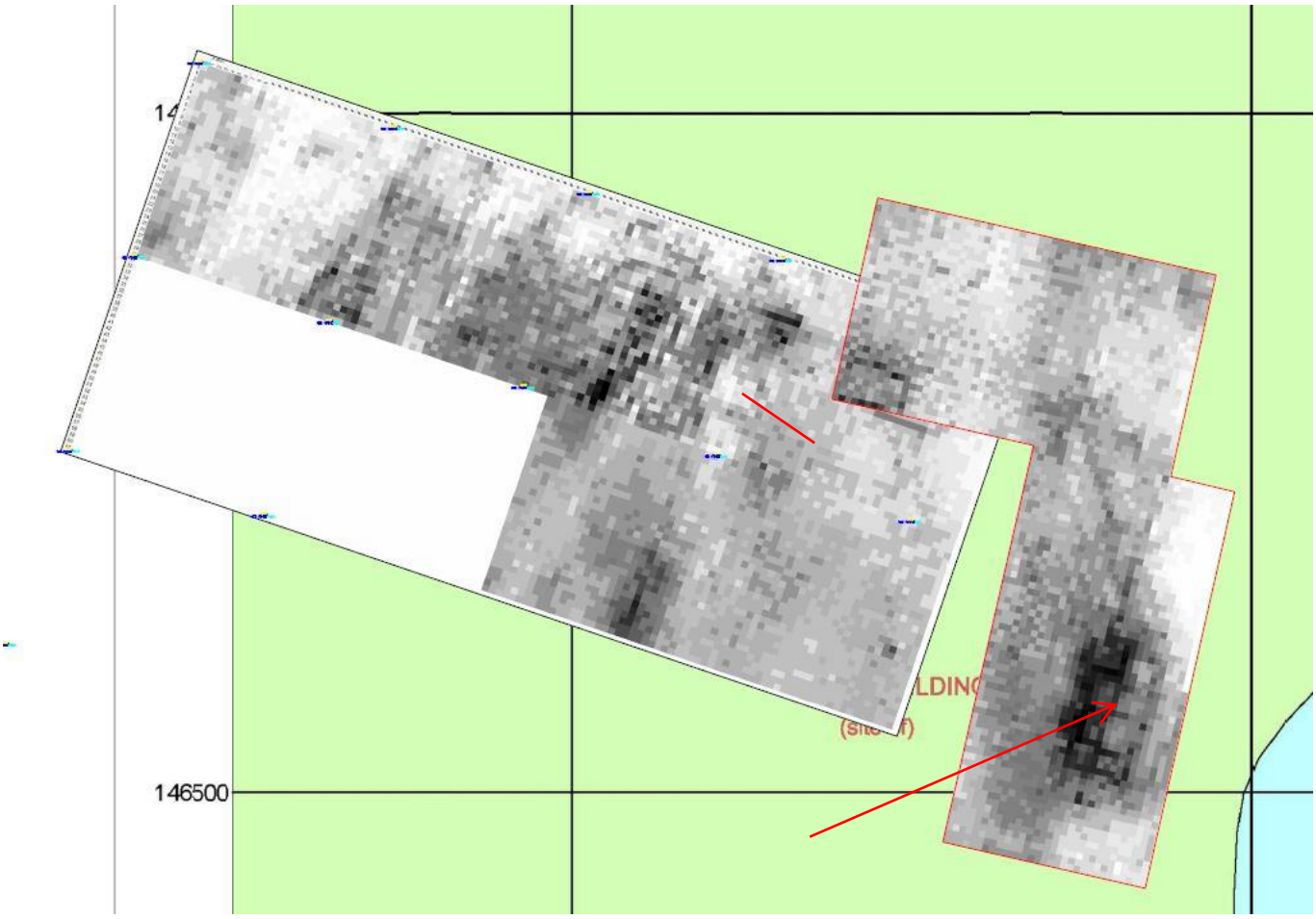
Three resistivity surveys in March 2019, September and October 2020 at a site near Wye in Kent by members of KAFS have uncovered evidence of significant Roman buildings including the possible site of a Roman mill (AP2-1).

The image shows an overlay of the three surveys in grey scale, dark is higher resistivity, light is lower resistivity. Darker areas of higher resistivity are often the result of stone, brick, and other dense building materials in walls and footings. The dark areas in the South East corner were excavated in 2019 by KAFS and proved to be a Roman era building thought to be the mill. All of the surveys were aligned on the NE/SW axis of the mill to make it easier to interpret the data. The two later surveys are consolidated in the central well shaped overlay. The rectangular pattern at the eastern edge of the overlay is probably an outbuilding or substantial enclosure of dimensions 5x10m. There may be other faint, much larger rectangular features around this possible enclosure. To the West is a dense range of features which are likely the remains of a significant building although much disturbed by deep ploughing. These may in part be the remains of a building partly excavated in CCCC containing a hypocaust floor This building may extend over an area 20x20m. Continuing to the North and West there is more evidence of linear features on the same alignment as the mill and these could be a further range of buildings. A previous magnetometry survey of the field showed some features at the NW edge but there are only faint signs in the resistivity.

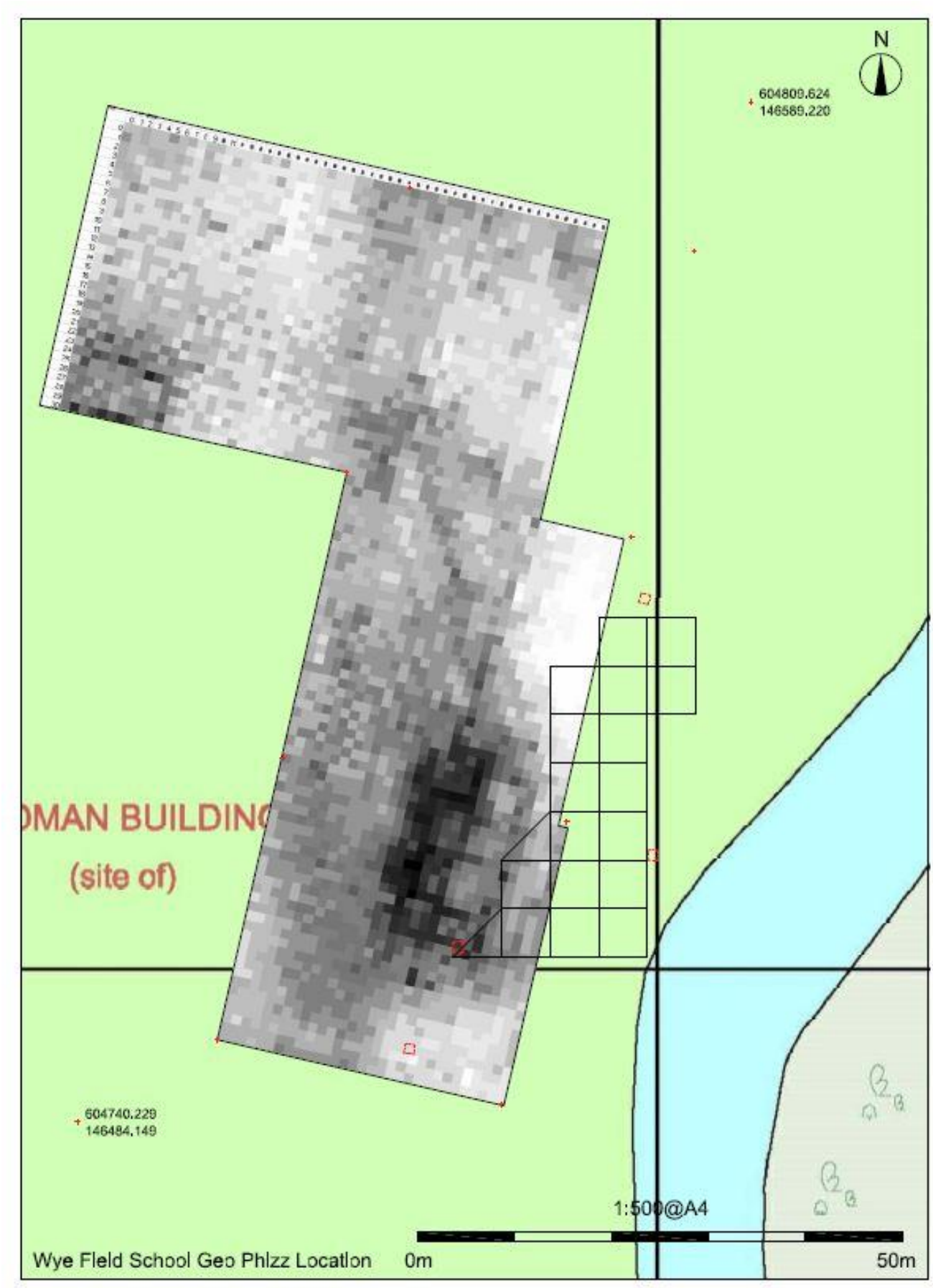
Finally there is an intriguing NE/SW linear feature at the edge of the overlay which seems to point to further demolished structures to the South on the same alignment as the mill and might be connected to the central features.

All in all this is a very exciting site and promises even more interesting results when we can survey more of the area to the South with the farmer's cooperation. Resistivity is highly revealing of buildings and buried structures but is hard work and frankly boring on large sites such as this. The KAFS members who participated in the three surveys in the cold and wind and rain will no doubt be rewarded in a future life. They were Rebecca Parr, Stewart Brown, Zoe Schofield, and Beatrice Nicholas.

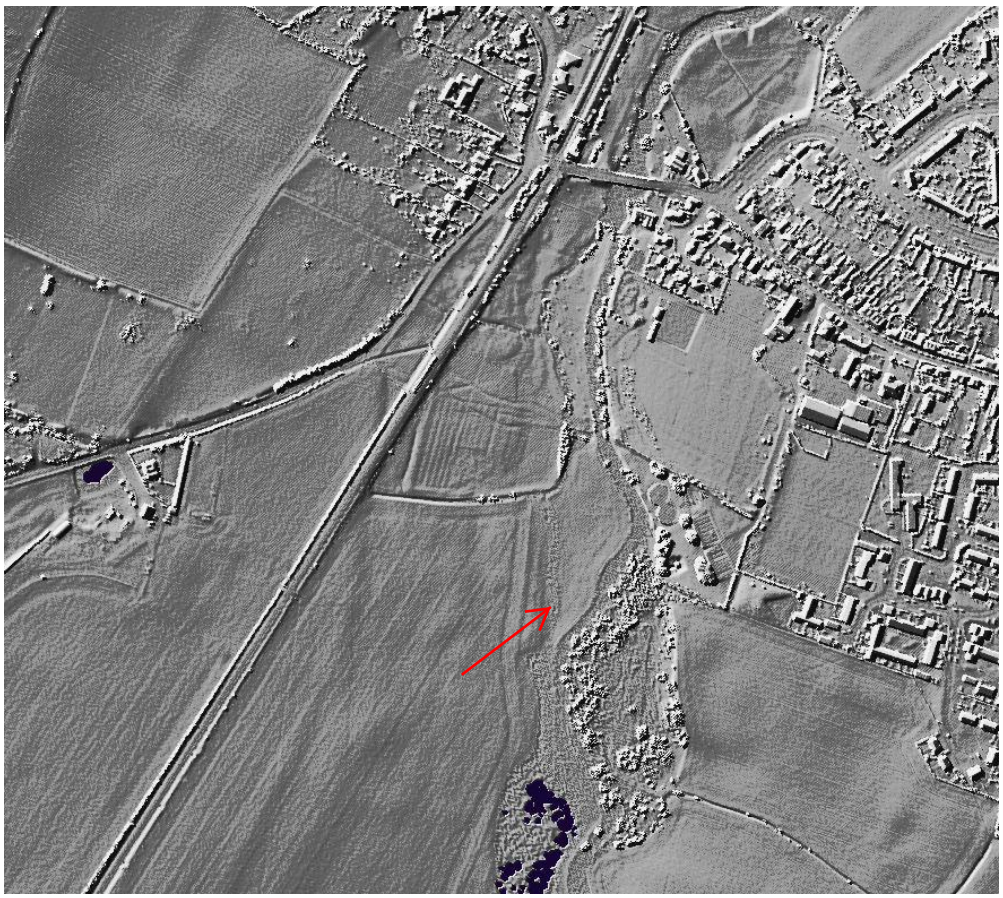
Professor William Martin



GEO 1. The W. Martin survey shows in some clarity the Roman Industrial Building (red arrow) the subject of this report and additional buildings to the NW (red line).



GEO 2. The W. Martin geophysical survey shows the Roman industrial building investigated by KAFS and the area of an earlier fieldwalking exercise (Appendix 1).



AP2. LIDAR survey of Wye (Red arrow marks the area of KAFS investigation)

AP3. The Google Earth 2003 shows the leat (water course) and surveyed OD heights show that at red arrow (left) the OD height of leat bed is 30m aOD whilst at red arrow (right) the OD height is 31m aOD giving a fall of one metre in 100m.

The Roman Industrial Building is to the right.

AP4. The 2003 aerial from Google Earth shows the site of Roman Industrial Building (red line) and the water leat running north and south with water flow strongest as it comes off the River Stour and a drop of 1m every 100m. Red arrows show course of the Roman leat (watercourse) to the north and the sea.

AP 5. Aerial of KAFS site showing the exposed Roman Industrial Building. April 2019 (Looking E)

PLATES

Plate 1. The site-looking NNE

Plate 2. Roman foundations and later Anglo-Saxon cill beam slot- red arrow (Looking NW)

Plate 3. Roman foundations (Looking NNE). River Stour on the right

Plate 4. Roman foundations (Looking West)

Plate 5. Width of Roman building, floors and section and a cut section through leat (Looking East)

Plate 6. Foundations and section through floor

Plate 7. Removal of topsoil under archaeological supervision (Looking South)

Plate 8. View of site (Looking North)

Plate 9. View of Roman foundations and cross wall (Looking East)

Plate 10. View of Roman watercourse or leat with Roman building beyond

Plate 11. View of section cut through Roman leat

Plate 12. Large sherds of Roman amphora

Plate 13. Extent of Roman building and exposed floors (Looking NNW)

Plate 14. Roman external wall (Looking NNW)

Plate 15. Extent of the 2019 excavation (Looking North)

Plate 16. Vertical view of final day of investigations

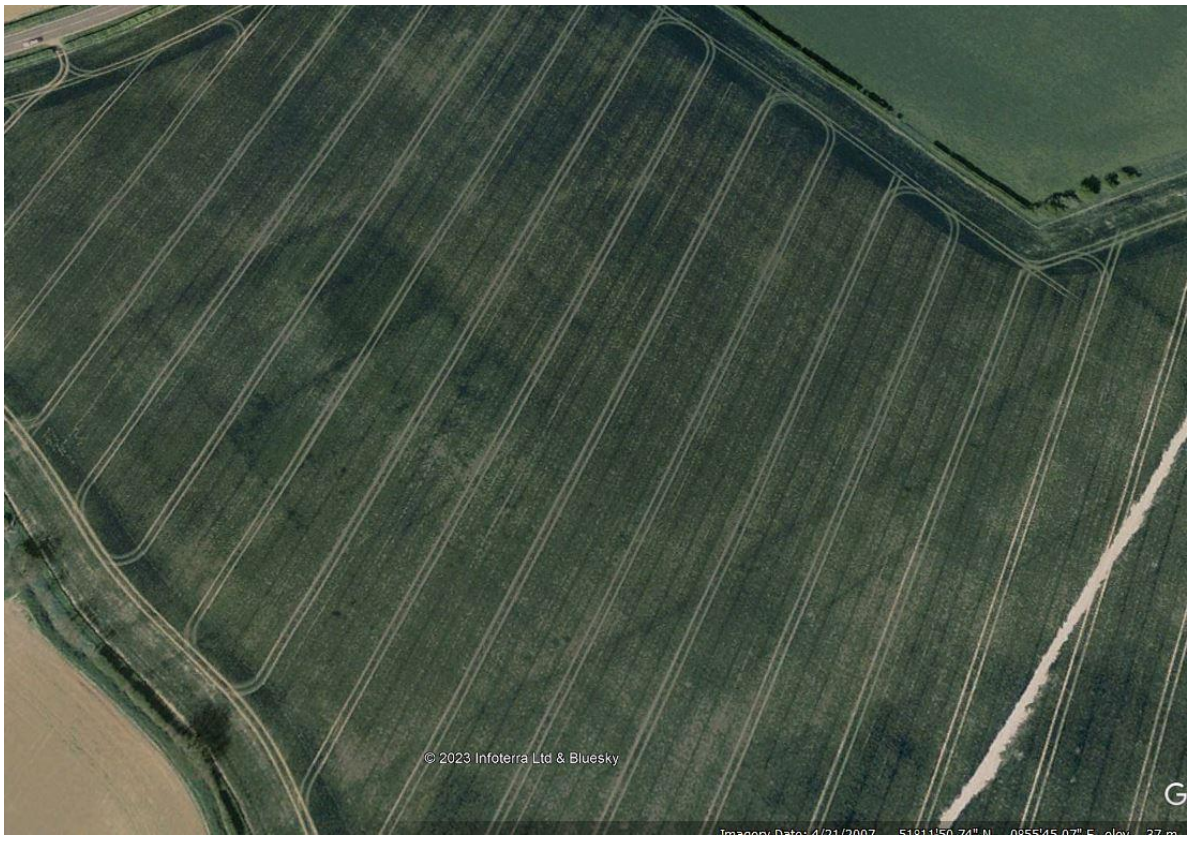
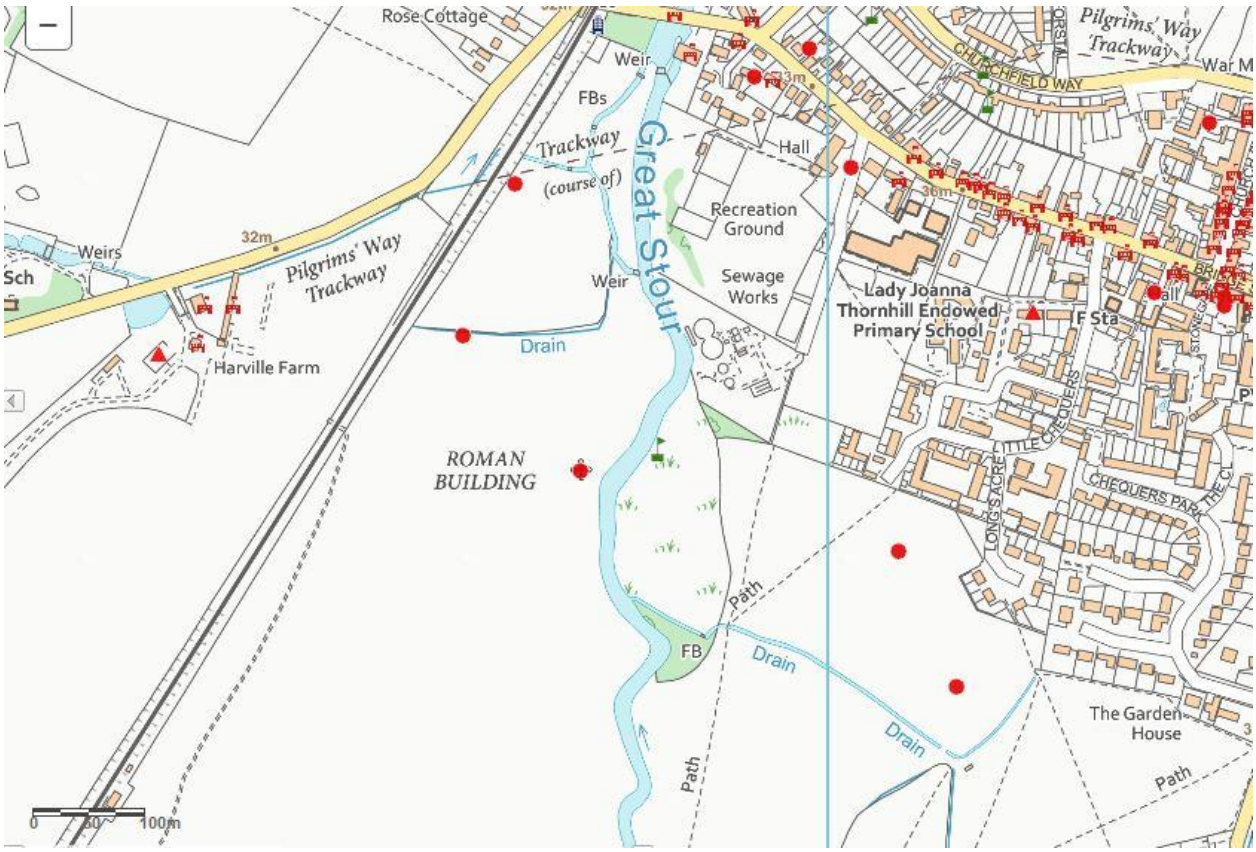


Plate 17. Aerial photograph of adjacent Roman villa (Google Earth 2007)



MAP 2. KCCHER map of the site of Wilkinson building (ROMAN BUILDING) and the entry reads:

The Roman building investigated by KAFS:

HER Number: TR 04 NW 19. A 4th century Romano-British building was (previously) excavated in 1972 after some tiles and pottery sherds were found in the area in the previous year. The building had evidence of later additions to its structure but was primarily dated on the basis of occupation debris found in a field drain (TR 04 NW 199). Amongst the finds removed from this drain were pottery sherds, bone, coins dating to AD 330-370 and other domestic items. Flint foundations of other walls were also found to the north and north-west and an unornamented gate-type bronze buckle and an iron dagger were found in association. There are no visible remains of this structure at the site.

Just to the east and on the east bank of the River Stour:

HER Number: TR 04 NW 47. Several hundred sherds of "Belgic" and Romano-British pottery were recovered when examining weathered upcast removed during

dredging work in the River Stour. The majority of this material has been dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries, there being a small quantity of later types.

To the north and results of the AOC geophysical survey:

HER Number TR 04 NW 233: A magnetometry survey in 2018 identified a number of probable archaeological features, including two possible structures, west of a known Roman building. The two 'structures' were on a NNW-SSW alignment and were accompanied by other possible features including a trackway and possibly the route of the Pilgrim's Way (1)

Figures

Figure 1. Area excavated

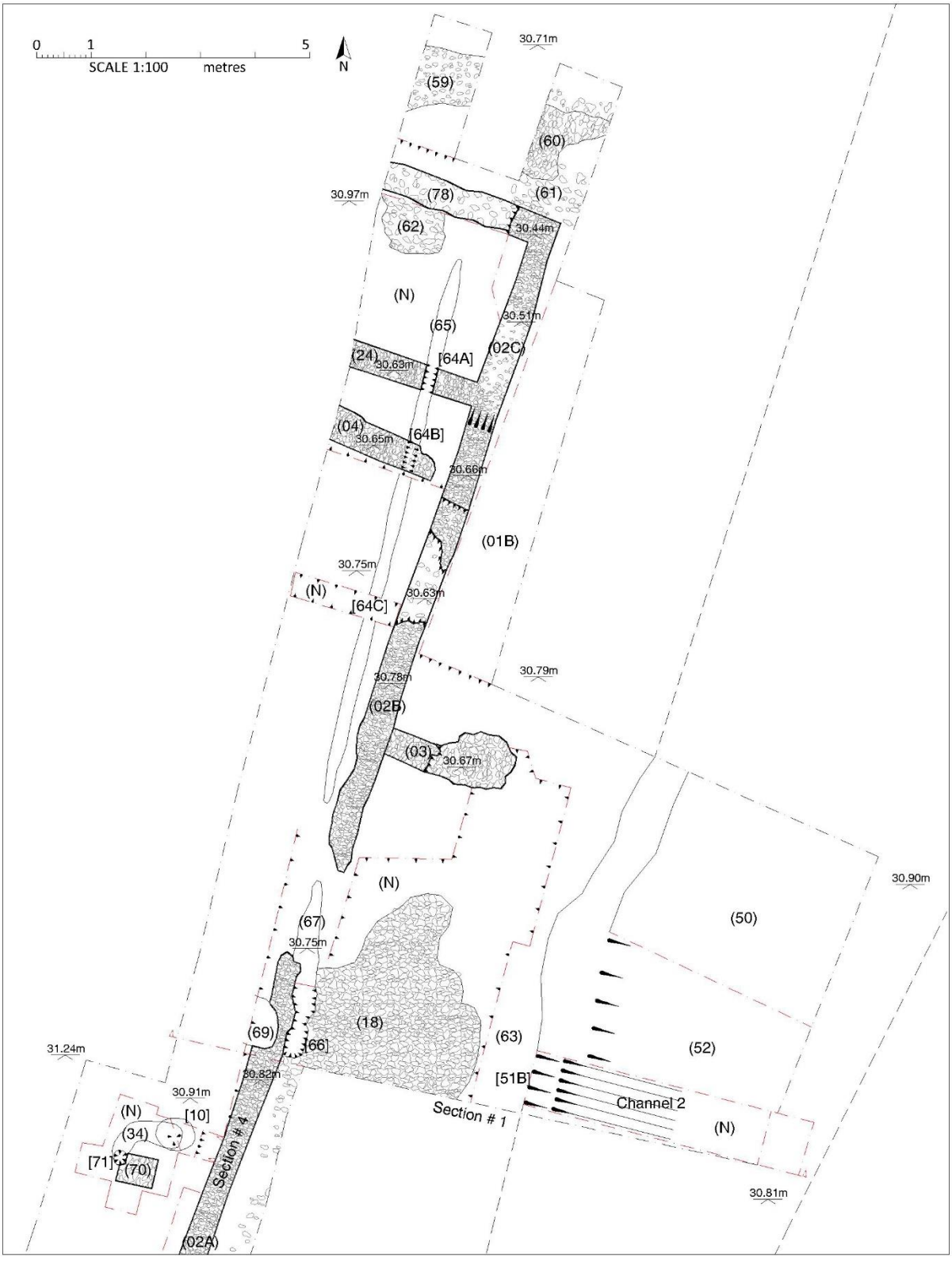


Figure 2. Area 1

Figure 3. Area 2

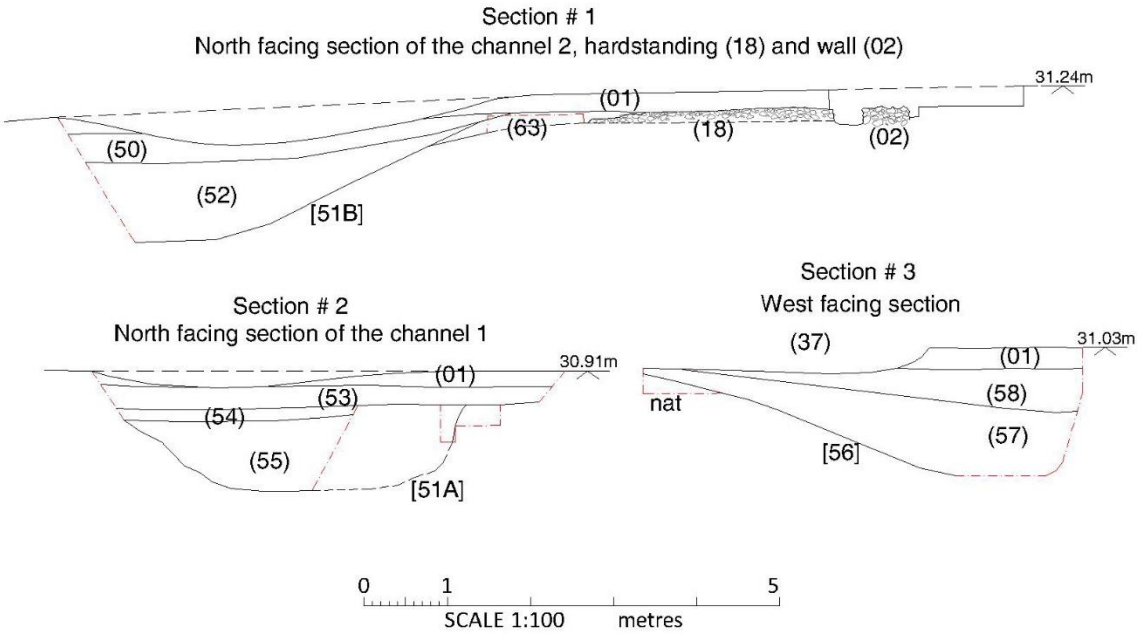


Figure 4. Sections

Plate 18. Jim Bradshaw c.1972 (no report)

Plate 19. Jim Bradshaw c. 1972 (no report)

Plate 20. Jim Bradshaw (no report)

Plate 21. Jim Bradshaw (no report) and Plate 22 metal detector find retained by the owner

Appendix 1

SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land to the east of Harville Road, Wye, Kent

1. Summary:

1.1 This specification covers an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Harville Road, Wye in Kent. The Kent Archaeological Field School has permission from the landowner to undertake a research archaeological evaluation in September 2022 to clarify the function and extent of Roman buildings identified in archaeological excavations in 1972 and April 2019 by KAFS. In addition recent geophysical survey work by the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) has identified substantial and important Roman buildings and infrastructure to the west and north of the initial investigations of the KAFS in April 2019 (Figures 1-2. Plates and AP's 1-10).

1.2 This archaeological evaluation will clarify the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the Research Area and guide the need for any additional detailed mitigation. Please note that the initial evaluation work is just the first stage of a phased programme of work and if archaeology is located the evaluation is Stage One and a Stage Two will be required of excavation/watching brief/preservation in situ which may be necessary. Stage Three will be post excavation and publication (Paragraph 199 NPPF).

2. Site Location & Description:

2.1 The proposed archaeological evaluation area is located to the west and south of the village of Wye and about four miles north east of Ashford. The area of investigation is located to the east of Harville Road and west of the Great Stour River. The OS location to the centre of the site is NGR 604783 146517 (Figures 1, 2).

3. Geological & Topographical Background:

3.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of Gault Formation-Cretaceous Mudstone. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Superficial Fluvial alluviums, River Terrace Deposits. The geology revealed in the 2019 excavations was loamy and clayey floodplain soils. The OD height is about 35m aOD.

4. Archaeological & Historical Background Potential

4.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database. The application site lies in an area of archaeological potential and there are known archaeological remains within the specified survey boundary.

4.2 A 4th century Romano-British building (TR 04 NW 19) located in Area 1 was excavated in 1972. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was also discovered adjacent to this (TR 04 NW 47). The route of the 'Pilgrims Way' trackway crosses north-east to south-west across Area 1 (TQ 55 SE 124) and is thought to have dated to Prehistoric times. Less than 2 miles to the south-west at Conningbrook Manor Pit, Ashford, gravel extraction led to the discovery of several Middle to Upper Palaeolithic vertebrate fossils, including mammoth remains (TR 04 SW 447).

4.3 As aforementioned, the Pilgrim's Way / North Downs Way crosses Area 1 (TQ 55 SE 124). The trackway follows the ridge of the North Downs escarpment and is thought to have been used since Prehistoric times due to finds dated along the route.

4.4 There is a moderate to low potential for Prehistoric remains within the site. Late Iron Age 'Belgic' and Romano-British pottery was discovered in Area 1 (TR 04 NW 47).

4.5 In between the survey parcels, Iron Age lynchet field systems were recorded in 1937 and 1963 but no further evidence is available (TR 05 46).
A 4th Century Romano-British building, previously mentioned, is located within Area 1 (TR 04 NW 19). The remains also contained evidence of later additions to the structure as well as flint foundations of other walls to the north and north-west, along with the discovery of an associated bronze buckle and iron dagger.
280m to the south of Area 1, finds removed from a river dredging are thought to have derived from the Romano-British building and consisted of bone, pottery and coins dating to AD 330-370.

4.6 Find spots of late Iron Age copper alloy and gold coins are prevalent within a 1km search radius of the site. Several Roman silver coins and pottery vessel find spots have also been recorded.
There is a good potential for remains of an Iron Age / Romano-British age within the site. An early-medieval grave containing an inhumation of a male skeleton, sword, glass cup and smaller objects was also discovered just 280m south of Area 1 (TR 04 NE 11). Several Anglo-Saxon find spots of silver pennies have been found within a 1km search radius of the site.
Browning Bridge, located further south along the route of the Great Stour is thought to be early medieval or Anglo-Saxon in origin (TR 04 NW 218). A mill-race is shown to the north of Area 1, south of Wye railway station on the 1876, 1908 and 1934 Ordnance Surveys (Kent LV & Kent LV.SE).

4.7 A small coppice is shown adjacent to the road by Area 2 on the 1876 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps, although this had been cleared by 1934. A pinfold (animal pound) is recorded on 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps from 1862-1875, just to the east of Area 1 (TR 04 NE 278).

5. Previous Archaeological Work by the Kent Archaeological Field School:

In May 2018 a number of archaeological trenches were excavated in Field 1 (Figure 1) by the KAFS to investigate features identified on the LIDAR survey.

Trench 1 lay on a north-east south-west alignment and measured approximately 24.8m by 1.4m. The trench was sealed by a friable layer of black brown slightly sandy silt topsoil with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (100), which had a thickness of 0.3m. Below this was a subsoil layer (101) consisting of a moderately compact light greyish brown silt with frequent small flint inclusions and occasional CBM inclusions, with a thickness of 0.21m. This sealed a alluvial interface layer (102) comprised of a light grey sandy silt and loose fine gravel with occasional CBM inclusions and a thickness of 0.27m. Below (102) and cut into the natural ground (110) was a linear feature with moderate sloping sides situated at the south-west end of the trench, approximately 2m wide by 1.4m+, possibly a disused waterway, [106]. The upper fill of [106] is a moderately compact mottled grey and brown sandy silt with occasional water-logged plant material (103), which had a thickness of 0.11m. This sealed a fill within [106] consisting of moderately compact blue grey silty clay with pockets of sand, moderate water-logged plant material and CBM inclusions (peg tile) (104), with a thickness of 0.3m. This sealed (105) a layer of grey sandy clay and gravel, excavation of the feature stopped with this fill due to encountering the water table. 0.4m to the north-east of [106] was a modern field drain [108] filled with a ceramic field drain (107), cut into the natural ground (110). The natural ground in the trench consisted of two types of gravel (109) a blueish grey sandy silt with gravel and (110) an orange sand with gravel.

Trench 2 lay on a south-east north-west alignment and measured approximately 14m by 1.4m. The trench was sealed by a friable layer of black brown slightly sandy silt topsoil with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (200), which had a thickness of 0.25m. Below this was a subsoil layer (201) consisting of a moderately compact light greyish brown silt with frequent small flint inclusions and occasional CBM inclusions, with a thickness of 0.2m. This sealed an alluvial interface layer (202) comprised of a light grey sandy silt and loose fine gravel with occasional CBM inclusions and a thickness of 0.15m. Below this and cut into the natural ground (208)

is linear [205] situated in the north-west corner of the trench with very steep sides. The upper fill of [205] consisted of a moderately compact mottled grey and brown sandy silt with occasional water logged plant material (203), which had a thickness of 0.12m. Below this was (204) moderately compact blue grey silty clay with pockets of sand, moderate water logged plant material and CBM inclusions, with a thickness of 0.24m, excavation of the feature stopped with this fill due encountering to the water table. Approximately 9m to the south-east of [205] was linear [207] that had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.9m wide by 1.4m+. [207] was filled by (206) a moderately compact blue sandy clay and gravel with occasional CBM inclusions and a thickness of 0.3m. The natural ground in the trench consisted of two types of gravel (208) an orange sand with gravel and (209) a blueish grey sandy silt with gravel.

Trench 3 lay on a south-west north-east alignment and measured approximately 14m by 1.4m. The trench was sealed by a friable layer of black brown slightly sandy silt topsoil with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (300), which had a thickness of 0.26m. Below this was a subsoil layer (301) consisting of a moderately compact light greyish brown silt with frequent small flint inclusions and occasional CBM inclusions, with a thickness of 0.13m. This sealed a alluvial interface layer (302) comprised of a light grey sandy silt and loose fine gravel with occasional CBM inclusions and a thickness of 0.16m. Approximately 3.7m from the south-west of the trench was linear [304] cut into the natural ground, which had moderate sloping sides, concave base and was north-south aligned measuring 1.7m+ by 0.42m+. [304] was filled by (303) a dark blue sandy clay with moderate small rounded flint inclusions and a thickness of 0.14m. To the south-west of [304] and truncating it was a roughly east-west aligned linear [308] that measured 1.62m wide and 1.4m+. linears [106], [205] and [308] are most likely one continuation of a disused waterway. (305) was the upper fill of [308] and consisted of a moderately compact mottled grey and brown sandy silt with occasional water-logged plant material, which had a thickness of 0.13m. Below this was (306) moderately compact blue grey silty clay with pockets of sand, moderate water-logged plant material, with a thickness of 0.25m. This sealed (307) a layer of grey sandy clay and gravel, excavation of the feature stopped with this fill due to encountering the water table.

1.5m to the north-east of [308] but still cutting [304] was modern field drain [310] filled with (309) a ceramic drain. The natural ground of the trench was a blueish grey sandy silt and gravel (311).

Trench 4 lay on a north-west south-east alignment and measured approximately 15.5m by 1.4m. The trench was sealed by a friable layer of black brown slightly sandy silt topsoil with occasional angular flint and CBM inclusions (400), which had a thickness of 0.25m. Below this was a subsoil layer (401) consisting of a moderately compact light greyish brown silt with frequent small flint inclusions and occasional CBM inclusions, with a thickness of 0.16m.

This sealed an alluvial interface layer (402) comprised of a light grey sandy silt and loose fine gravel with occasional CBM inclusions and a thickness of 0.15m. At the north-west end of the trench, cut into the natural ground (405) and sealed by (402) was linear [404] a thin gully with steep inwards sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.2m wide by 1.4m+. [404] was filled by (403) a moderately compact mid brown clayey silt with occasional CMB flecks and a thickness of 0.13m. The natural ground in the trench consisted of two types of gravel (405) a light grey sandy silt with gravel and (406) an orange sand with gravel.

6. Fieldwalking in Field 2 by the Kent Archaeological Field School:

The fieldwalking grid was located on an east-west axis. Each grid was 5 metres square with the exception of D2 and C3 in order to avoid trampling on the crop. In all, the fieldwalking area totalled 18 square metres (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Location of Archaeological Evaluation trenches 1-4 in Field 1 and gridded area of field-walking and test pits in Field 2 over the aerial photograph of a postulated Roman building (Figure 3).

Grid A1 had 11 sherds ranging in date from c. 25BC to c,250/300AD primarily consisting of jars being a mix of 'Belgic' ware, sherds of North Kent Fineware and four sherds of miscellaneous greywares. There were also 17 and 16 small pieces of CBM in the form of tile and brick respectively.

Grid A2 had 12 sherds ranging in date from c. 25BC-250/30AD. Half of the sherds were 'Belgic' ware in the form of jars. There was also Roman fabric of native ware, North Kent Fineware and greywares in the form of bowl, beaker and jar. There was also Much Hadham Oxidised ware in a closed form. There were also 32 pices of CBM as well as 10 pieces of shell, 2 pieces of bone.

1.1.1 Grid A3 had 16 sherds and 75% were 'Belgic ware ranging from c. 25BC-200AD in the form of jars. Three sherds were Roman, one of a jar base Canterbury Greyware dating to c. 80-175D and two of North Kent Fineware from c43A-250/300AD of closed form. There were two pieces of glass from a sack bottle dating to c.1600-1750AD. There were 12 small pieces of CBM and 13 pieces of shell.

1.1.2 Grid A4 had 7 sherds, the majority of which was of 'Belgic' ware dated to c.43-150AD and of storage jar form. One sherd was of combed storage jar form from c.25BC-150AD and two sherds of North Kent Black-Burnished ware 2 from c.130-250AD, form unknown. This grid also include 13 pieces of CBM and six pieces of shell.

1.1.3 Grid A5 had 6 sherds, half being 'Belgic' ware of jars of which two sherds were of combed storage jar form of c.25BC-150AD, with the other dating to 25BC-200AD. The Roman sherds were a single sherd of a Canterbury Grey ware jar c. 100-175AD and two sherds of North Kent Fineware of a lid-seated jar dating to c.43-130AD. In addition, the grid revealed a small part of a tile possible of biconical beaker form undated and coal. There were 11 pieces of CBM.

1.1.4 Grid A6 only revealed three sherds. One of Roman North Kent Black-Burnished ware 2 open form dating to c.130-250AD and two sherds of Ginger-glazed earthenware of the Post Medieval period dating to 18-19th century. The grid also contained 13 pieces of CBM. And two pieces of shell.

1.1.5 Grid A7 has 2 sherds of 'Belgic' ware of closed form from c.25BC-200AD. A small piece possibly of 20th century asbestos sheet. There were 20 CBM small pieces and also charcoal.

1.1.6 Grid B1 contained two sherds of 'Belgic' ware dated c.25BC-AD70 of a jar from. The was a single sherd of Canterbury Greyware of date c.80-175AD of unidentified form and miscellaneous greyware undated of unidentified form. Other finds included a Neolithic flint scraper, a Roman imbrex tile, a piece of 20th century salt glazed stoneware water pipe along with a Medieval rod handle dating to c.1200-1350Ad of a fine sanded orange/black fabric. This grid also contained 51 pieces of CBM as well as a few pieces of bone and shell.

1.1.7 Grid B2 contained no pottery but it did include 41 pieces of CBM.

Grid B3 contained no pottery but it did include 8 pieces of CBM.

Grid B4 revealed a salt-glazed stoneware vessel of the 18-19th century and a 20th century drain pipe along with just three pieces of CBM and two pieces of bone.

Grid B5 had six sherds. One 'Belgic' ware of unidentified form from c.25BC-200AD, a Roman Canterbury Greyware jar dated to c.80-175AD. The was a sherd of Medieval unglazed earthenware of unidentified form from c. 1450-1600AD along with a peg-tile dating to c.1500-1900AD. The grid also revealed a drain pipe of Salt Glazed stone ware from the 20th century and also 19th-20th century piece of china. The grid also contained 15 pieces of CBM.

Grid B6 has a single Roman sherd of North Kent Fineware of closed form dating to c.43-250/300AD.There were also seven pieces of CBM.

Grid C1 has 11 sherds of pottery of predominately unidentified form being a mix of 'Belgic' ware and Roman. The Roman sherds included sand-tempered Native Coarse ware dating to c.170-300Ad. And North Kent Black-Burnished ware dating to c.130-250AD. There was also 4 sherds of North Kent Fineware dating to c.43-200/300AD. A single sherd from a jar of Fine-Sanded Late Thameside Greyware from c.150-300AD. The grid also has a single sherd of 19-20th century china and an undated tile. There were also eight pieces of CBM and a piece of shell and two pieces of bone.

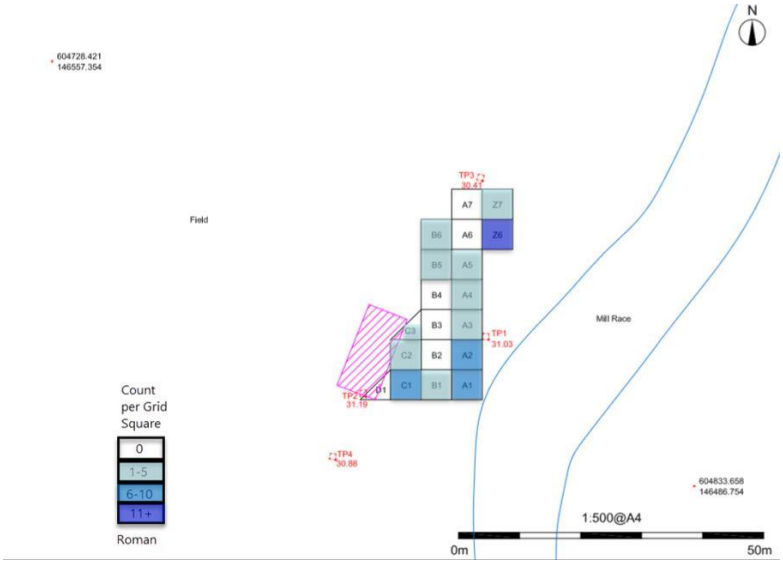


Figure 3. Pottery distribution heat map- Roman

138 surface finds were obtained from Field 2. Half of the sherds identified were 'Belgic' ware jars dating to c.25BC-200AD. There were also five sherds of grog tempered Native Coarse ware from c. 170-250/300AD and six sherds of Canterbury Greyware dated to c.80-175AD, all jars. Seven sherds were North Kent Black-Burnished ware in the form of CI 5C bowls and seven sherds of North Kent Fineware of beakers from c. 43-250/300AD. The other Roman single sherds were of Colchester Colour-coat, South Gaulish Samian, Central Gaulish Samian of type Dr35, Dr.18/31 and Dr.31, as well as a rouletted beaker and miscellaneous greyware jars. Roman combed box tile and imbrex were also found. A small find of a Roman key was discovered.

6. Specific Aims of the Archaeological Work:

6.1 The primary objective of this archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise with two archaeological evaluation trenches 25m x 2m wide the results from the geophysical survey (Figures 3, 4, 5) and to establish the function of the Roman building located through aerial photography (AP 1) and investigated by the KAFS in 2019 as to whether a Roman watermill with four 10m x 2m wide archaeological trenches, two to straddle the postulated Roman water leat and one to straddle the part of the Roman building that straddles the same leat (Figure 6).

6.2 The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach

and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

6.3 This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.

7. Methodology:

7.1 The initial evaluation will comprise three machine excavated trench (25m x 2m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist. The area of investigation will be two archaeological evaluation trenches 25m x 2m wide the results from the geophysical survey (Figures 3, 4, 5) and to establish the function of the Roman building located through aerial photography (AP 1) and investigated by the KAFS in 2019 as to whether a Roman watermill with four 10m x 2m wide archaeological trenches, two to straddle the postulated Roman water leat and one to straddle the part of the Roman building that straddles the same leat (Figure 6). A suggested plan of trenching is attached (Figures 6,7). The trenches will be machine excavated down to the archaeological horizon or natural geology.

7.2 In addition a RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) will be produced before the work starts on site and issued to all interested parties with itemised additional safeguards during the present pandemic of Coronavirus.

7.3 There will also be an allowance of c.5m of contingency trenching which could be used if it would help address the aims set out above. Contingency trenching can be activated following agreement with the County Archaeologist. Further requirements

are set out in KCC Spec Manual for Trial Trenching Part B (attached).

7.4 A soil sampling programme will be put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 9. Archaeological Science and Environmental Sampling).

8. Site Recording and Archiving:

8.1 The report will be in accordance with the KCC part B generic requirements and will include a detailed analysis of the archaeological deposits on the site and how they may potentially be impacted by development as proposed. The significance of the archaeology should be fully assessed and set out with reference to national criteria for assessing significance of archaeological remains. In particular the KCC Specification Part B Trial trenching Requirements will be adhered to including sections: 10. Recording, 12. Reporting and 13. Archive Preparation & Deposition.
In addition for burial remains sections 7.5-7.10 will be followed.

9. Monitoring:

9.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, following the completion of fieldwork and when submitting the report the Archaeological Contractor will complete and submit the relevant portions of the Fieldwork Notification Form.

9.2 These proposed archaeological works will be inspected by the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 14. Monitoring and Liaison).

10. General:

10.1 Appropriate security will be agreed and provided, with particular attention given to the protection against loss of data by unauthorized excavation for archaeological artefacts.

Figure 3. Location of trenches

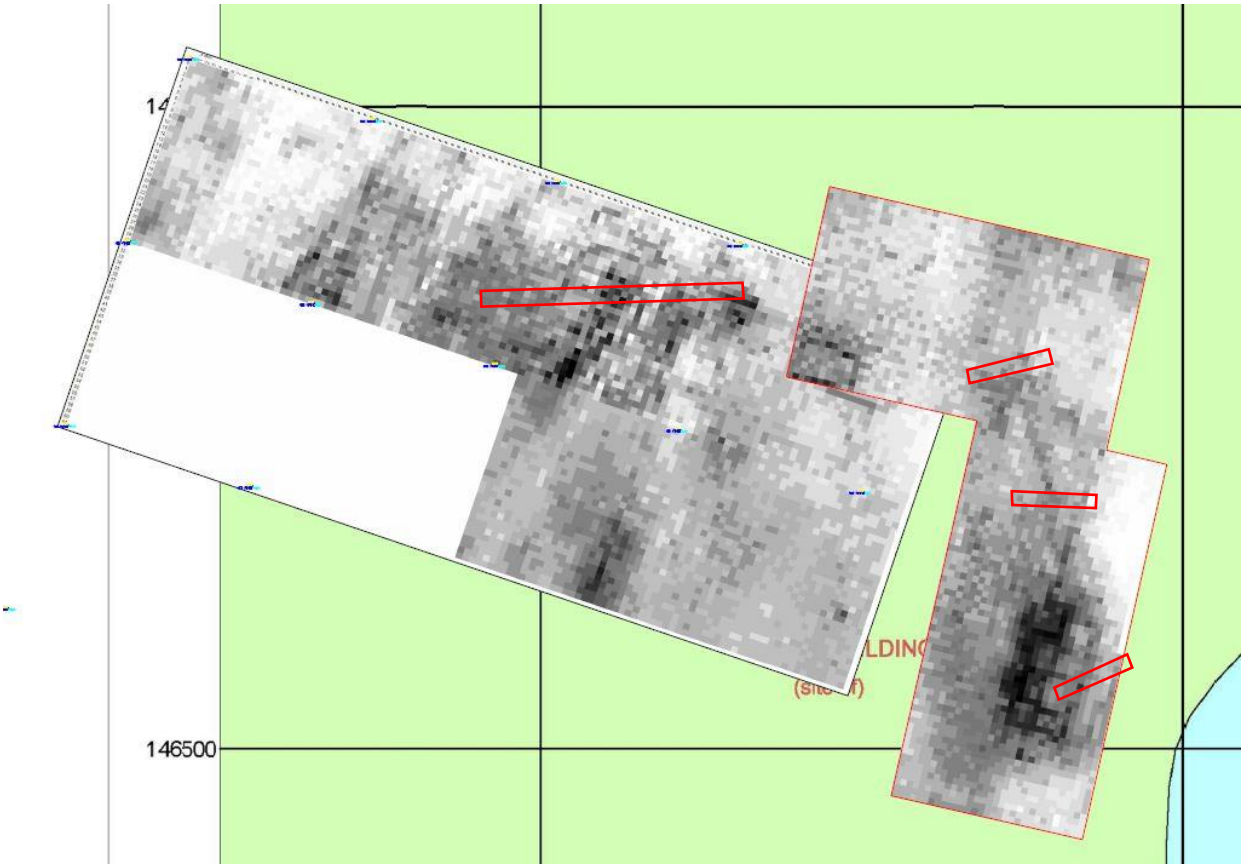


Figure 3. Location of trenches

10.2 It is possible that poor weather conditions may halt archaeological excavation temporarily; this may necessitate the provision of protection and covering of exposed archaeological features and deposits. As a result of this consideration, it is suggested that time should be allowed for delays due to adverse weather.

10.3 A calendar detailing the time scheme and planned works for the archaeological evaluation will be organised between the archaeological contractor and the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 18. General).

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent and dated 6th August 2022

Figure 4. Geophysical survey overlaid on aerial photograph

Figure 5. Aerial photograph of Roman building prior to investigated by KAFS in 2019 (looking north)

AP 1. Aerial photograph of KAFS 2019 investigation on possible Roman water mill (looking east)

Plate 1. Initial archaeological investigations (looking SSE)

Plate 2. Area strip, map, sample (looking north)

Plate 3. Excavating Roman walls (looking NNE)