

Archaeological Investigations on Land at Syndale Park 1999 to 2011 Faversham, Kent

NGR Site Centre 599834 160996



Assessment Report dated 5th January 2022

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SUMMARY

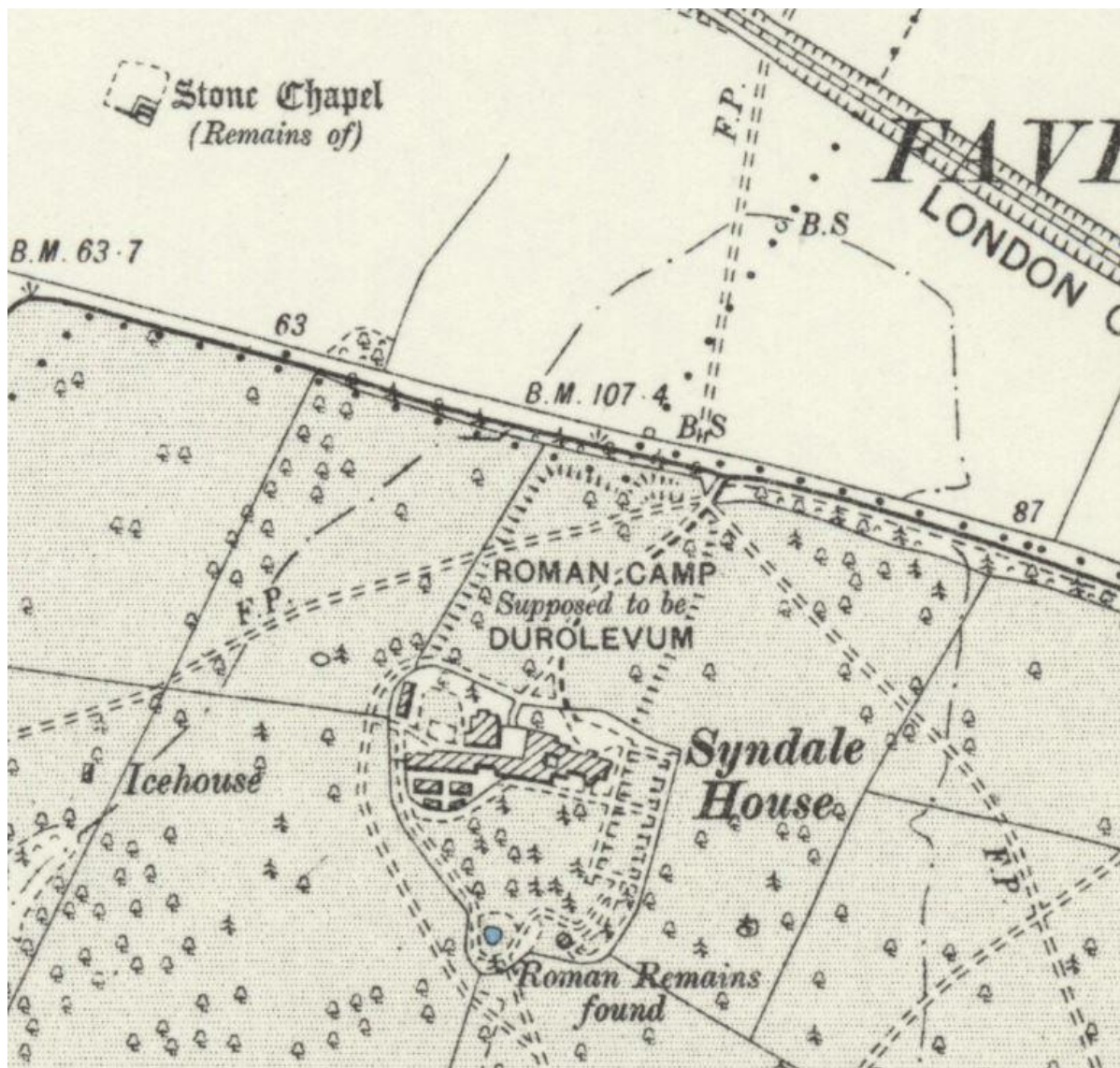
The 1999-2011 summer and Easter KAFS excavations took place on an area of land at Syndale Park, near Faversham, Kent. The land is in the ownership of trustees and was under pasture grazed by sheep. This report summarises the work so far and concludes that on the plateau of Syndale Hill a Late Iron Age fortified settlement probably existed which ended with the Roman invasion of c.AD43 and was replaced by a 1st century Roman settlement, down slope to the east and overlooking the fresh water springs located just to the south of the medieval and post-medieval village of Ospringe and where the medieval church of Ospringe is situated.

A major Roman road (Watling Street) is a feature of the site and was built from c.AD50, rebuilt in the 3rd century AD, and went out of use in the early years of the 5th century AD. This road will be subject to a separate KAFS report.

Either side of this road a Roman settlement and cemetery, possibly Durolevum was established from the early 2nd century which also went out of use in the early 5th century.

1. Description of the site

The site is in Syndale Park Estate, close to the Syndale Park Motel at National Grid Reference TQ 994 610. It consists of pasture used for sheep grazing, and was previously the grounds of Syndale House. To the north is the original route of the Roman road called Watling Street and running alongside to the north the A2 road from Sittingbourne to Faversham (MAP 1).



MAP 1. 1896 OS map showing the 'Roman Camp' and Syndale House and Park.

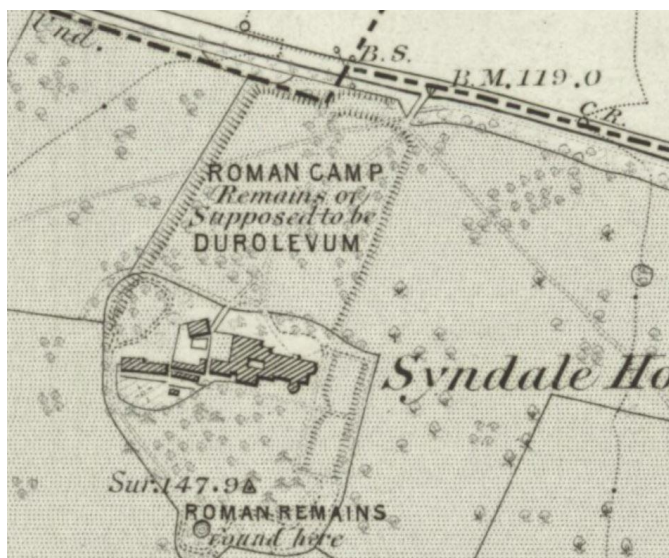
To the west and north of the Roman strip development along Watling Street at the Historic England site of 'Stone Chapel' a Romano-Celtic temple was built on an earlier Iron Age sacred site which in turn was demolished and rebuilt in the Roman style in the 6th century AD (Wilkinson 2013).

The area of the KAFS investigation is shown on early OS maps and annotated as ROMAN CAMP *supposed to be* DUROLEVUM and is on a spur of higher ground, rising from approximately 25m to 40m OD. The ground slopes steeply to the west with a shallower gradient to the north and east. A flatter plateau lies to the south at approximately 45m OD. The plateau and spur are capped with Head Gravel (BGS Sheet 273), which overlies a band of green-grey Thanet Sand

with shell beds and sandy clay. A thin band of Lower Greensand and Wealden Clay outcrops on the west side. To the north-west Oare Creek extends inland from the Swale estuary to within approximately 500m of the Roman settlement at Syndale Park which would most likely have enabled the Roman army and settlement to be supplied from the sea.

2. Previous archaeological work

Syndale Park has long been associated with the belief that it marked the location of a Roman fort. Godfrey-Faussett (1871) claimed the existence of a



Roman 'camp' that was 480ft from east to west and 400ft from north to south. He stated that the north eastern corner and eastern ditch of the camp were still traceable, and the south-eastern corner was still extant, including a part of the bank.

MAP 2. 1867 OS map showing the 'Roman Camp'

Edward Hasted writing in 1797 has some earlier pertinent information on what was known of Syndale in the late 18th century:

'Much has already been said in the former parts of these volumes, of the different opinions of learned men where the Roman station, called in the second iter of Antonine Durolevum, ought to be placed. Most of the copies of Antonine make the distance from the last station Durobrovis, which is allowed by all to be Rochester, to the station of Durolevum, to be xiii or xvi miles,

though the Peutingerian tables make it only vii. If the number xvi is right, no place bids so fair for it as Judd-hill, in this parish, which then would have every probable circumstance in favour of it.

The Romans undoubtedly had some strong military post on this hill, on the summit of which there are the remains of a very deep and broad ditch, the south and east sides are still entire, as is a small part of the north side at the eastern corners of it, the remaining part of the north side was filled up not many years since. The west side has nothing left of it; close within the southern part of it is a high mount of earth thrown up to a considerable height above the ground round it, the site of Judd house, and the gardens are within it.

The form of it seems to have been a square, with the corners rounded, and to have contained between three and four acres of ground within its area, the common people call it king Stephen's castle, but it is certainly of a much older date.

At a small distance from it, on the opposite, or north side of the high road, there are several breast works cast up across the field facing the west. At the bottom of the hill, in the next field to this, are the ruins of Stone chapel, in which numbers of Roman bricks are interspersed among the flints, and in the midst of the south wall of it, there is a separate piece of a Roman building, about a rod in length, and near three feet high, composed of two rows of Roman tiles, of about fourteen inches square each, and on them are laid small stones hewed, but of no regular size or shape, for about a foot high, and then tiles again, and so on alternately.

When the new road from the summit of Judd hill westward was dug down, quantities of fragments of Roman culinary ware, and a coin of Vespasian were found intermixed with many parcels of oyster shells and in the gardens of Judd

house, at different times, coins of Adrian M. Aurelius, Arcadius, and others, have been discovered. And at about a mile distance north-eastward, on Davington hill, almost adjoining to the town of Faversham, within these few years, a Roman burial place has been discovered, and many Roman coins, urns, and other relics of antiquity dug up there, as there have been at different times at Faversham, and places adjoining to it, especially along the London high road. Besides this, the vicinity of this place to the stream at Ospringe, a strong argument in its favour, and still more its nearness to Faversham, for Bede notes in several places, that the villæ regiæ of the Saxons were mostly placed on or near where in former ages the Roman stations had been before. And yet notwithstanding all these circumstances in favour of the Durolevum, having been here, there has been so much urged in favour of Newington likewise, that it will be but candid to leave the preference of either to the reader's option, to place this station at which ever place he thinks proper'.

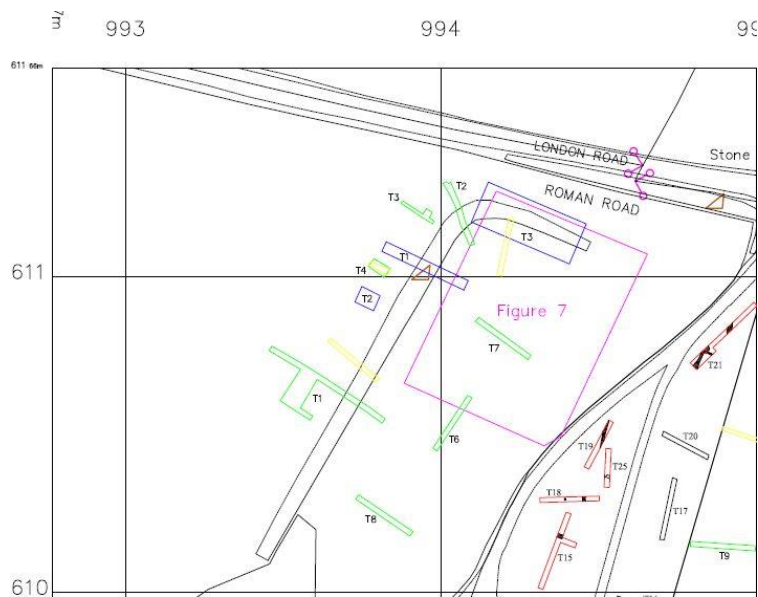


MAP 3. Andrews map of 1769



MAP 4. Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing dated 1798 and showing the ruins of 'an old chapel' (Stone Chapel) and the still recognisable route of the Roman Watling Street (red arrow). The road has a wet weather detour to enable travellers to ride up the hill to Ospringe

In 1938, the editors of the *Victoria County History* wrote all that was known about this site. "On top of Judd's Hill, 900 yards west of the Maison Dieu at Ospringe, the mutilated remains of a bank and ditch formerly enclosing an oblong area of about 400 feet from north to south and 480 feet from east to west (i.e. about 4 acres) adjoins Watling Street on its southern side. In the south-western quarter of the enclosure stands Syndale House."



3. The 1999 KAFS trenches

In 1999 The Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of the area to the north-west (Figure 1 left).

Three trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3) were excavated in an attempt to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, and to test the hypothesis that Judd's Hill was indeed the site of a Roman fort.

These excavations (Wilkinson 1999) revealed a V-shaped linear ditch (Plate 1) on the western and side of the putative military area. The ditch was approximately 1.5m deep and 2m wide. However, it seems that the Roman ditch has been truncated by later 18th century 'park' earthworks.

At the bottom of these ditches was a narrow square-cut channel, interpreted as indicative of a defensive Punic ditch (Plate 2).

A small quantity of pottery from the primary silts comprised wheel-turned grey-black ware, coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware; fired pottery of patchy brown, black and buff-brown fabric; fired rough blue-grey ware and other coarse fabrics, as well as a flake of a Dressel 20 amphora. The primary silting was overlain by rubbish including pottery of Late Iron Age to Pre-Flavian character (Lyne 2000). The tertiary fills contained sherds of similar date, although contaminated by sherds of 2nd century date (Plate 1).

The pottery assemblage suggested a very early Roman date for the ditches and according to Malcolm Lyne: "The presence of the Late Iron Age fabrics and the



fact that none of the datable forms have an inception date of later than AD 50 leaves little doubt that this assemblage accumulated in these ditches between c. AD 43 and 50/60".

Plate 1. Trench 1 showing V shaped Early Roman ditch

The evaluation established the alignment of the ditches on both the west and east side of the spur, but was unable to show that they formed part of a single continuous enclosure. On the western side the ditch ran parallel to an extant bank and, as on the east side, broadly perpendicular to the modern A2. It was suggested that these two ditches represented the western and eastern sides of a characteristic trapezoidal Roman defensive enclosure. These observations concurred with the historical descriptions.

The extant bank on the crest of the spur on the western side is the most substantial of a series of apparent terraces on the western slope.

A preliminary survey by Stuart Ainsworth (Time Team) suggested these terraces may be of pre-Roman date, and that the extensive extant bank at the top of the slope may be a later refurbishment of an earlier feature (Ainsworth pers. comm.). Additionally the apparent line of Roman Watling Street, immediately south of the modern A2, appeared to cut this earthwork, supporting the theory that the bank was of earlier origin (MAP 3).

In September 1999, The Kent Archaeological Field School had excavated three sections across what was hoped would be the rampart and ditch of a

Roman fort. The rampart, 5 metres wide, was of clay and still survived to a height of 1.5 metres. It sloped down to a ditch which is some 16 metres away. This ditch was excavated and found to be 1.68 metres deep, its base being a small square slot some 22 cm wide (Plates 1 & 2). This feature could be the proverbial “ankle-breaker” renowned in antiquity. The square shape of the channel is easy to clean out with a shovel, and increases its effectiveness as an obstacle: it is almost impossible to stand upright in the channel or to climb out, and it compels a man to have both feet parallel to the axis of the ditch, which was v-shaped or, as Hyginus calls it, "fastigated".

Two sections, 10 metres apart (T1, T2), were excavated and the survey showed that both sections of the ditch exactly matched each other in dimensions (Plates 1, 2. Figures 1, 2). The lower part of the ditch had infilled with alluvial sand, and few pottery sherds were found in this context which suggests the ditches were short lived and not part of an ongoing field system.

The top third of the ditch was filled by an earth, charcoal, pottery mix some 78cm deep. The pottery is consistent with the time frame of the Claudian invasion in AD 43.

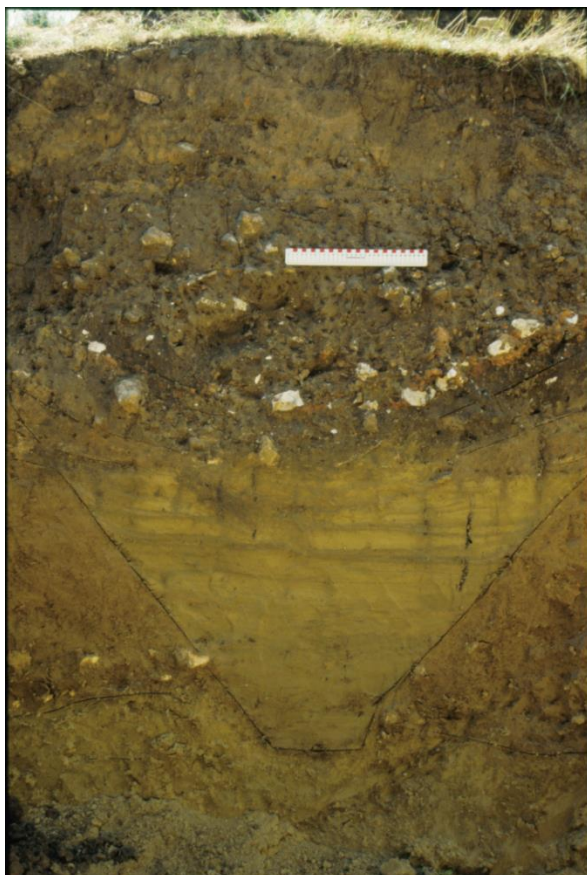
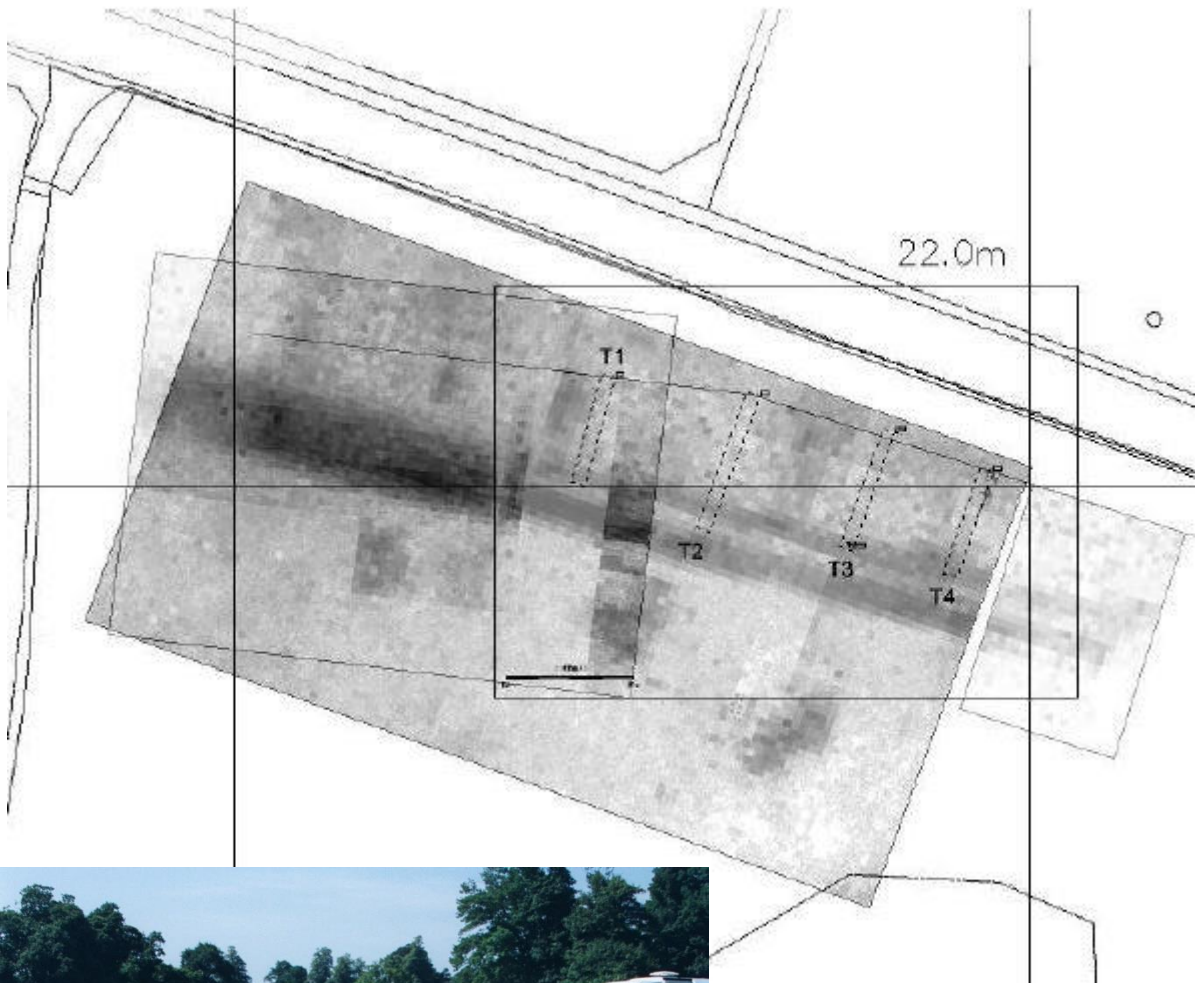


Plate 2 (left) shows the profile of Trench 1



MAP 4. Geophysical survey (above) by Bill Martin identified the route of the Roman Watling Street and adjacent Roman buildings and locations of archaeological trenches 1-4 excavated in 2010.

Plate 3. Trench 3 (1999) showing section across the metalled surface of the Roman road (Watling Street) looking south.

4. Geophysical survey

Preliminary geophysical work to east of the initial 1999 trenches was undertaken by Malcolm Davies, and his results (MAP 4) show a multitude of discrete features now known to be Roman buildings strung along the route of the Roman road (Watling Street) which does not follow the same route as the modern A2 which is just to the north.

The Time Team had been invited to Syndale and their geophysical survey concentrated on the plateau with the earthworks:

The gradiometer data from Area A were dominated by magnetic disturbance presumed to be modern and which masked any potential archaeological anomalies. However, a possible former field boundary was visible within the data.

Resistance data from this area were thought to reflect topographic and landscaping features.

Area B (Figure 1) was less disturbed magnetically and several responses were noted which could be of archaeological interest. Results from the resistance survey showed an area of high resistance to the west of the survey area. A subsequent excavation (trench 9) showed the anomaly to be due to natural gravel. Trends of both high and low resistance have been noted and could be archaeological, however such an interpretation is cautious.

While some of the magnetic results from Area B are consistent with settlement alongside Watling Street, no geophysical evidence was identified to indicate that the site at Syndale formed part of a Roman fort.

(Syndale Park: Wessex Archaeology May 2003 Ref: 52568.01)

5. The 2002 KAFS Investigations

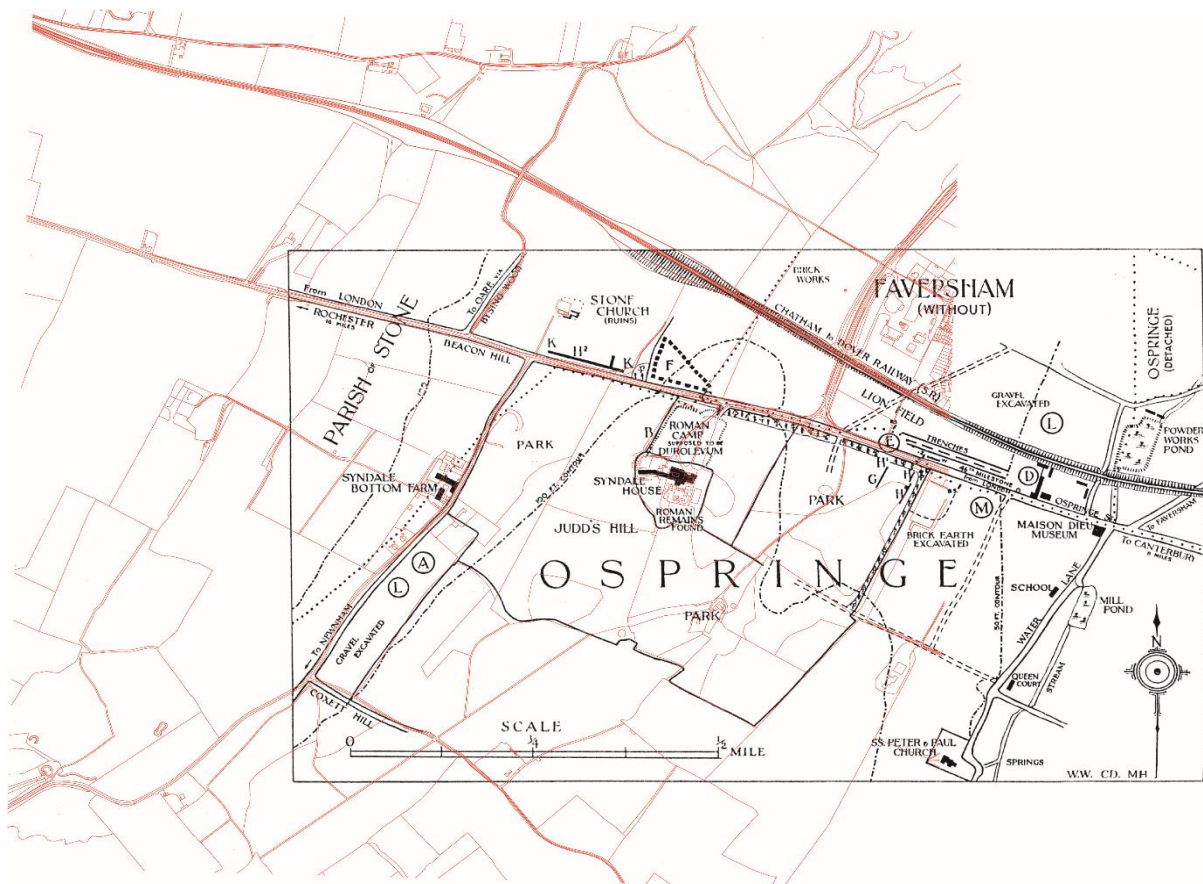
In 2002 the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) was invited back by the Trustees to investigate the park with a view to enabling them to be informed on the extent and quality of the archaeology surviving in the park. The study area was under a potential threat of development as plans did exist for KCC Highways to build a road bypass over the area under investigation and an extensive hotel development was planned for some areas of the park.

A programme of field survey and geophysical investigation supported by limited excavation by the KAFS in 2002 has now shed new light on the nature and extent of monuments within the park, which in turn has led to a wider investigation of the land north and south of the Roman road (Watling Street) which itself runs east/west through the park. The focus of attention was an



area located at the north and east edge of the park and south of Watling Street. The east area was originally investigated by Colonel Hawley in September 1922, where he reported that: “a paved hearth and wall foundations” had been revealed” (Whiting & Hawley 1931).

Plate 4. Trench 02/1 with cobbled surface of the Roman Road (Watling Street)



MAP 5. Hawley's map of archaeological investigations

On investigation of Hawley's trench (MAP 5) by KAFS the 'paved hearth' turned out to be a stone sarcophagus built out of Flint and Kentish Ragstone with a terracotta ceramic lid covering the grave slot. The monument is late, having been built over the remains of an earlier kiln.

The terracotta lid has been damaged sometime in the past, but the grave has



not been robbed and the burial is likely to be still in situ. Other features exposed were a Roman kiln or oven, Roman cremation burials, Roman Watling Street itself and a large Roman double ditch dated by coins and in the infill military horse harness items (left Plate 5).



Plate 6. Roman road and adjoining Roman buildings looking SE (4m scale)

The Roman road (Watling Street) was sectioned and found to be some 48 feet (14.60m) wide and about 4 feet (1.23m) thick. The road had been rebuilt at least seven times and the distinct building layers of gravel and sand overlaying a base of large flint nodules sitting on an artificial mound of clay about 50cm thick (Plate 8).

It seems a small amount of lime had been added which had set the mixture like concrete and within the strata's pottery and coins have dated the build of the road from the initial base foundation (462) of an almost complete platter of a locally made- possibly Upchurch- Terra Nigra form dating to the Claudian period. Above this layer was the profile of the first build road (456) which was about 12 feet (3.6m) wide. A Roman coin of Tiberius (AD14-37) was found in



this secure matrix and another 14 coins were retrieved from the final surface of the road (Appendix 2 Roman coins). The road (*Plate 7 left*) was covered by a 50cm layer of topsoil which had sealed Roman domestic debris laying on the surface of the road which included complete pots, hobnailed boots and part of a quern stone which fitted with another piece found in the adjacent building. Roman traffic on the road seemed to have suddenly stopped and adjacent buildings abandoned.



Plate 8. Photo of sections of Roman road (looking east)



Plate 9. The Time Team at Syndale 2003- from left to right- Stewart Ainsworth, Tony Wilmott, Neil Holbrook, Paul Wilkinson, Guy de la Bedoyere, Phil Harding, Malcolm Lyne and Carenza Lewis

6. Time Team investigations March 2003

The Time Team report of May 2003 wrote that:

“Syndale Park has long been associated with the belief that it marked the location of a Roman fort. Godfrey-Faussett (1871) claimed the existence of a Roman ‘camp’ that was 480ft from east to west and 400ft from north to south. He stated that the north eastern corner and eastern ditch of the camp were still traceable, and the south-eastern corner was still extant, including a part of the bank (ibid). The area has also been the subject of numerous excavations and watching briefs, both on Judd’s Hill itself and in the surrounding countryside. Drawings are retained at Faversham Museum of a watching brief undertaken during the installation of a gas main in 1994, although no location map or written records appear to survive.

More recently, Dr Paul Wilkinson and the Kent Archaeological Field School conducted an archaeological evaluation of the area in 1999.

Six trenches were excavated in an attempt to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, and to test the hypothesis that Judd's Hill was the site of a Roman fort. These excavations (Wilkinson 1999) revealed a V-shaped linear ditch on both the western and eastern sides of the putative fort. They were approximately 1.5m deep and 2m wide. At the bottom of these ditches was a narrow square-cut channel, interpreted (ibid) as indicative of a defensive Punic ditch.

1.2.3 A small quantity of pottery from the primary silts comprised wheel-turned grey-black ware, coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware; fired pottery of patchy brown, black and buff-brown fabric; fired rough blue-grey ware and other coarse fabrics, as well as a flake of a Dressel 20 amphora. The primary silting was overlain by rubbish including pottery of Late Iron Age to Pre-Flavian character (Lyne 2000). The tertiary fills contained sherds of similar date, although contaminated by sherds of 2nd century date (ibid).

1.2.4 The pottery assemblage suggested a very early Roman date for the construction of the site. According to Lyne: "The presence of the Late Iron Age fabrics and the fact that none of the datable forms have an inception date of later than AD 50 leaves little doubt that this assemblage accumulated between c. AD 43 and 50/60".

1.2.5 The evaluation established the alignment of the ditches on both the west and east side of the spur, but was unable to show that they formed part of a single continuous enclosure. On the western side the ditch ran parallel to an extant bank and, as on the east side, broadly perpendicular to the modern A2. It was suggested (ibid) that these two ditches represented the western and

eastern sides of a characteristic trapezoidal Roman defensive enclosure. These observations concurred with the historical descriptions.

1.2.6 The extant bank on the crest of the spur on the western side is the most substantial of a series of apparent terraces on the western slope. A preliminary survey suggested these terraces may be of pre-Roman date, and that the extensive extant bank at the top of the slope may be a later refurbishment of an earlier feature (Ainsworth pers. comm.).

Additionally the apparent line of Roman Watling Street, immediately south of the modern A2, appeared to cut this earthwork, supporting the theory that the bank was of earlier origin.

1.2.7 The results of a landscape survey (Wilkinson pers. comm.) and geophysical survey (Davies 1999) on the west side of the site suggested the presence of an entrance to the putative fort. Tentative interpretation of the geophysical results suggested the possibility of a timber gatehouse associated with this entrance.

1.2.8 The 1999 excavations also revealed evidence of later Roman occupation (Wilkinson 1999). In the centre of the putative fort, a set of post-holes containing pottery of Hadrianic date (Lyne 2000) was discovered. In addition, on the eastern edge of the putative fort, a trench designed to locate a northern continuation of the eastern enclosure ditch encountered a 2nd century building and rubbish dump (Wilkinson 1999) including 1st and 2nd century AD pottery.

1.2.9 Excavations have taken place elsewhere in the immediate area, including the likely site of the Roman town of Durolevum, to the east of Judd's Hill (TQ 998 610) and a section of Roman Watling Street (Wilkinson 2001). Several Roman buildings of 2nd and 3rd century date have been discovered, adjacent to the Roman road (ibid).

1.2.10 Directly associated with this settlement, an extensive Roman cemetery on the northern side of Watling Street was excavated in the 1920s (Whiting 1931). This contained evidence of 387 Roman burials dating from the 1st to 4th centuries, with both cremations and inhumations represented. More recently, seven cremations and four inhumations were found in the area aligned with a hollow way (Rady 2001), which apparently ran from Oare Creek in the north, directly to Judd's Hill. The depth of the hollow way (1.6m) suggested it was of some importance, and was in use for a long time, possibly spanning the entire duration of the putative Roman town of Durolevum.

In addition to the suggestion that terracing on the western side of Judd's Hill is of Iron Age date, some Iron Age material has been discovered in the immediate locality.

During the cutting of the gas pipe trench in 1994 a ditch containing characteristic Iron Age material was discovered in the north-west corner of the putative fort, running parallel to Roman Watling Street (Wilkinson pers. comm.).

2.3.2 Nine machine-excavated trenches of varying lengths, but all 1.6m wide, were dug (Figure 1) after consultation with the on-site director, Neil Holbrook and associated specialists. The precise location of individual trenches was made across topographic features or geophysical anomalies to answer specific aims and objectives of the project design”.

3.3 Time Team Archaeological evaluation

3.3.1 Archaeological features were overlain by mid grey-brown well-sorted silty clay topsoil, that averaged 0.35-0.40 m thick and represented a soil profile associated with well established unploughed pasture. Most features were filled

with dark brown or grey-brown silts and silty clays derived from the parent Thanet Sand and 'brickearth'.

In places the deposits were mottled with yellow or orange unaltered material, which was freshly eroded from the sides of features. Where domestic refuse was present in any quantity the accompanying matrix was more frequently dark-brown or black in colour and often contained charcoal.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 This trench (Figure 2), which measured 43 metres long, was aligned NW-SE on the west side of the site. It descended from 42.0 m OD on the crest of the spur to 37.2 m OD and was designed to section and date the bank, which it was thought may have been of Iron Age date, that ran along the crest of the spur perpendicular to Watling Street. The trench extended down slope to investigate the nature of the terracing on the west side of the site and to intersect with and extend the known alignment of the 'Claudian' ditch discovered in the 1999 evaluation.

3.4.2 The bank (102) comprised a lynchet type deposit, 0.60 m thick, of grey brown silty clay with large numbers of small and sub rectangular or rounded flint nodules and fragments of brick and medieval roof tile. It seems most likely that the feature, which accentuates the natural skyline along the edge of the spur relates to landscaping associated with the construction of Syndale Park.

3.4.3 There was no buried soil beneath the bank, which sealed a ditch (106), 3.70 m wide and 1.20 m deep, with shallow-moderately sloping sides that tapered to a narrow flat base 0.15 m across. It followed the edge of the spur and was filled with a series of naturally accumulated grey brown to yellow brown stone free silts and silty clays (107, 122, 113, 117, 118) containing pottery, which dated from the Late Iron Age to the 2nd century AD.

3.4.4 The bank deposit also sealed a shallow undated post-hole (108), which measured 0.4 m in diameter and 0.05 deep. It lay 7.5 m east of the crest of the spur, within the 'interior' of the spur, but was of insufficient depth to have held a large, load-bearing structural post.

3.4.5 The side of the spur, which revealed natural deposits of 'brickearth' below the turf, fell away sharply to the west of the ditch to the terrace feature below. The true extent of this terrace is unknown, however the geophysical survey traced its probable edge from the excavation and suggested that it might be a discrete feature 60 m long and at least 20 m wide. This suggests that it may be a quarry type feature for the extraction of 'brickearth', rather than an agricultural terrace, running the length of the spur. The base of the terrace was reached approximately 1.20 m below the modern ground surface. It sloped away gently to the west and was filled with a series of dark to mid grey-brown silty clay colluvial deposits (111, 115, 126), which dated from the Late Iron Age to the 1st and 3rd century AD. A thin layer of dark brown clay silt with chalk fragments (104) immediately below the topsoil provided evidence of medieval or post medieval marling to reduce soil acidity levels and demonstrated ploughing on the side of the spur. The back edge of the terrace curved round to the west and formed a steep break of slope, 1.30 m deep, that descended into a shallow curving ditch-type feature (114). This measured 0.60 m wide at the base and was dug 0.20 m into the natural 'brickearth' below the base of the terrace. The excavated evidence is unclear whether this ditch is a curving continuation of the 'Claudian' ditch located in the Kent Archaeological Field School evaluation trench 1 of 1999 and relocated in Time Team trench 4 or is a drainage gully exclusively related to the terrace feature.



MAP 6. Plan of the Time Team trenches with archaeological features shown in black

The primary fills of both the 'Claudian' ditch and ditch 114, which produced no pottery, are composed of sand that may have been water lain, suggesting that they may be drainage ditches. However the base of the 'Claudian' ditch lies approximately 2.5 m lower than the base of ditch 114, a gradient of 1 in 15. A layer of dark yellow redeposited 'brickearth' (120) seen in the recorded north section of trench 1 also suggested that ditch 114 may have been cut or recut through the edge of the terrace, although there was no clear visible edge

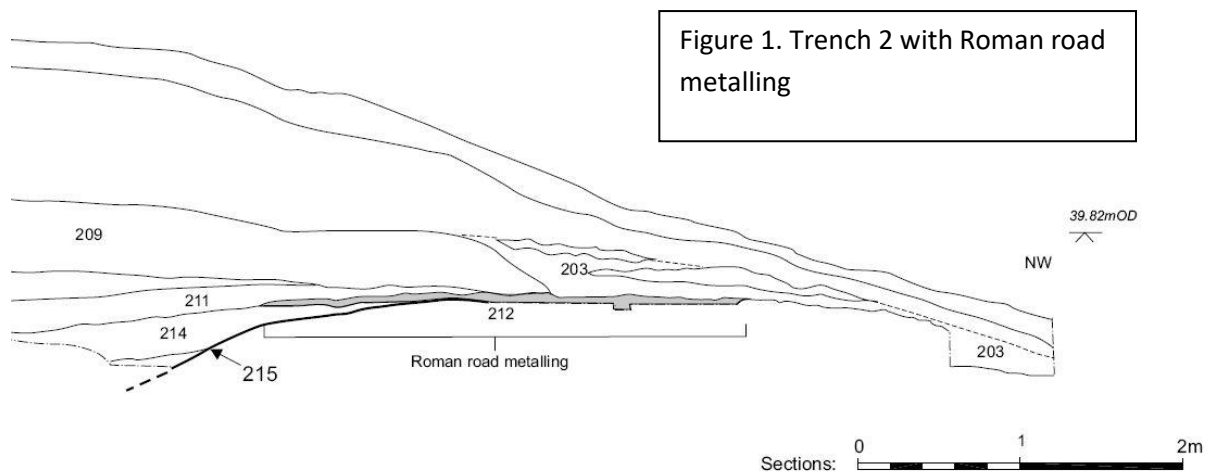
through the fill of the terrace. The stratigraphic sequence was also not repeated in the opposing south trench section to confirm this.

3.4.6 The terrace feature overlay a second terrace or broad ditch (125), which was filled with pale grey-yellow silty clay (124) and which contained Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery of pre-Conquest/Conquest date. The upper fill of this feature was sampled by hand in a slot 0.5 m wide and 0.30 m deep against the north section, at which point it was considered unsafe to continue excavation. A single auger hole through the lower fills established that archaeological deposits continued for at least 0.90 m without reaching natural deposits. An auger transect was unable to achieve consistent penetration and failed to establish a complete profile and depth of the feature.

3.4.7 An area approximately 8 m by 8 m was subsequently stripped to the south of feature 114 to examine whether there was any trace of the 'Claudian' ditch beyond the terrace or any other evidence to prove or disprove the evidence for the Roman fort. The stripped area exposed the continued curving edge of the terrace but no other archaeological features.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 This trench was aligned SE-NW across the north-west corner of the site (Figure 3) and was also positioned to examine the corner of the putative fort. It measured 21 m long and was aligned across the bank at the edge of the spur at 39.4 m OD beyond which the land fell away steeply into a deep hollow at 33.3 m OD. 3.5.2 The excavation confirmed that the bank (202) was approximately 0.80 m thick and of post medieval construction. It also showed that beyond the edge of the bank the side of the spur had undergone extensive post medieval quarrying and had been backfilled with layers of redeposited 'brickearth'. The bank overlay a layer, approximately 0.40 m thick, of dark brown to black humic



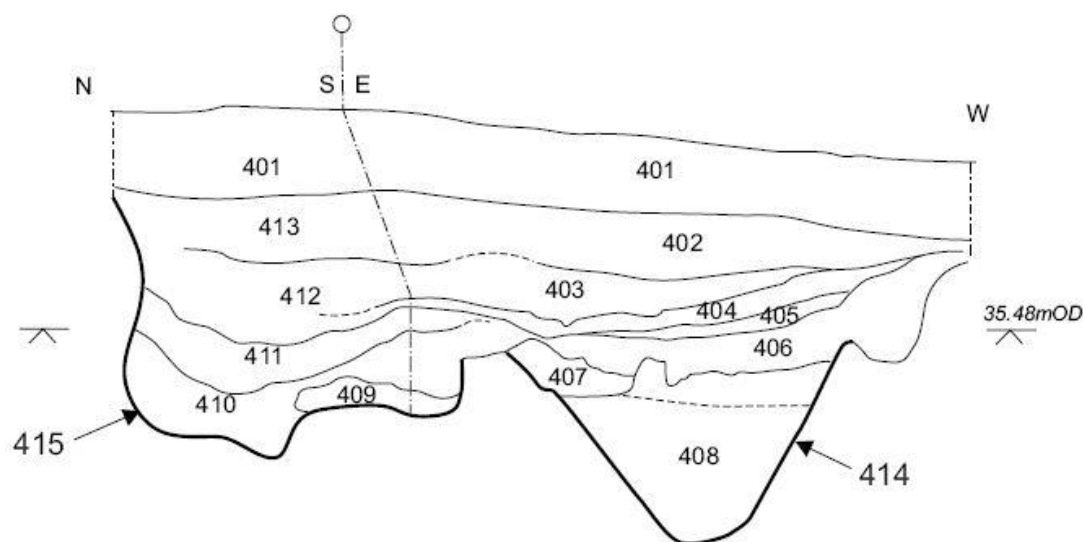
silty loam (209), with 4th century AD coins and Roman pottery. However post medieval finds were also present in the upper parts of this layer and an adjacent band of loose gravel (203), which may be related to the landscaping of the park or to bioturbation. A series of well-preserved stratified Roman deposits were preserved below these deposits including layers (213, 211) of dark brown/black humic silty loam, 0.24 m and 0.20 m thick that dipped away to the south east. They were of similar composition and date to 209 and contained pottery, animal bone and oyster shell and probably represent a dump or midden of domestic refuse.

3.5.3 The 4th century AD midden deposits overlay a compact, worn cobbled surface (212) approximately 4.4m wide but only 0.06 m thick. It is probably related to one exposed in a trench, 16 m to the east, that formed part of the Kent Archaeological Field School 1999 evaluation. Finds from the surface, which may mark the line of a minor road or track, included a coin, a hob nail and other metal fragments (Figure 1).

3.5.4 The cobbled surface overlay the north-east edge of a large ditch (215) that was filled with yellow grey silty loam (214), which contained fragments of 3rd century AD pottery. It was not possible to establish the full profile and construction date of this ditch or to speculate whether it may be related to ditch 106 that ran along the edge of the spur in trench 1.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 This trench measured 5.6 m NW-SE (Figure 3) and was excavated to intersect with the proposed alignment of the 'Claudian' ditch located in the 1999 evaluation. The trench revealed a natural soil profile of well-sorted topsoil overlying a silty clay subsoil. The trench was subsequently extended to the SE by 7 m to confirm the absence of the ditch. The extension exposed an oval linear feature (305) that extended 2.20 m NE from the south baulk. The feature, which may represent an elongated pit or terminus of a shallow ditch, was 0.90 m wide and 0.35 m deep with rounded sides and base. It was filled with dark grey-brown/black silty clay with oyster shell and contained pottery of the 2nd century AD or later date. Part of an additional feature, which was filled with similar material, was visible in the south east corner of the extension, but was not excavated.



3.7 Trench 4 (above)

3.7.1 This trench measured 6.5 m long (Figure 2) to relocate the 'Claudian' ditch discovered in Trench 1 (seen here as [414] of the Kent Archaeological Field School 1999 evaluation and re-expose the section. It confirmed that the ditch (414) was filled with laminated, horizontally bedded lenses and bands of

sand and clay (408), which appeared to be water lain in character. There were no finds. The profile (414) was also similar to that recorded in the original evaluation, 1.10 m wide at the top and 0.70 m deep, with moderately sloping sides that tapered to a narrow rounded base. There was however no 'ankle breaker' at the base. The upper part of the ditch was truncated by pit 415, so that there was nothing to indicate from what height the ditch had been cut.

3.7.2 The pit had an irregular base and may have formed part of a pit complex. It contained a deposit of charcoal-rich (405) material at the base that was overlain by a tip of fired clay fragments (404) towards the west edge that thinned to the east. This material may represent the remains of a kiln or oven, with its ashy residue, that was demolished and discarded. These refuse/demolition deposits were overlain on the east side by a layer of dark grey brown silt and silty clay (411) that was mottled yellow with redeposited 'brickearth'. This may indicate a phase of deliberate backfill. This material contained associated pottery of the Early Roman period. The upper fills (403, 412, 413) are likely to represent phases of natural silting, probably from the higher slopes, into the top of the pit, with subsequent bioturbation.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 This trench (Figure 4) was aligned E-W across the east side of the spur to intersect the projected line of the east ditch of the putative fort, 30 m S of the ditch section recorded in the 1999 evaluation. The trench measured 55 m long and descended from 41 m OD in the W to 37.5 m OD in the E.

3.8.2 The excavation revealed a linear ditch (503), 0.77 m wide and 0.37 m deep, with sloping sides and a narrow tapered base that was aligned N-S in the east of the trench.

It was filled with mid brown gravelly silty clay (502). A second ditch (505) of similar dimensions and fill (507), but with a narrow flat base, was located approximately 20 m west of and perpendicular to the first ditch. It is likely that these ditches form part of the general field layout present on the crest of the spur.

3.8.3 A cluster of features was present at the west end of the trench, which was widened to establish the full extent of these features. Limited excavation indicated the presence of a ditch (516), approximately 0.30 m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a rounded base that was filled with mid grey gravelly silty clay. The feature was apparently aligned NW-SE although the south edge had been cut away by the construction of a larger, parallel ditch (512). This ditch, which was not sectioned, measured 3 m across and contained very dark grey-black silty clay with very little gravel (*Plate 10. Below*)



3.8.4 The ditches were cut, on the north side, by a large oval feature (514) 2.8 m E-W and 3.7 m N-S, which was probably a Roman well. The section indicated that there were large quantities of gravel in the dark grey/black silty matrix (513) of a central shaft (513), 0.80 m across, which was probably once timber or wattle lined. The backfill around the shaft (517, 518) was less stoney, but did include clearly defined tip-lines of gravel dipping in towards the central fill. The feature was partially excavated by machine to 2.5 m deep, after which excavation ceased. Large quantities of Roman refuse, including pottery of both early and late date, fragments of a repaired Samian bowl, a bronze ring and a bone pin were recovered.

3.9 Trenches 6, 7 and 8

3.9.1 These three trenches (Figure 1) were excavated to evaluate the broad archaeological potential of any deposits on top of the spur especially with regard to activity within the interior of the putative fort. The trenches measured 20 m long and were laid out at 90° to one another to maximise the chance of intersecting any linear features. The results indicated that truncated archaeological features were cut into the natural gravel and 'brickearth' immediately beneath the plough soil. Features were sampled in trench 6 but those in trenches 7 and 8 were plotted and recorded but not excavated. Details are available in archive.

3.9.2 Trench 6 was excavated from NE-SW in the central area of the spur and was located to coincide with a geophysical anomaly. The trench revealed a surface of yellow mottled silty clay 'brickearth' (603) into which a sequence of features had been cut near the east section. However this material also overlay an archaeological deposit (609), which filled a small pit or post hole (608) near the section. At least some of the 'brickearth' is therefore likely to have been

redeposited. It was not possible, in the time and area of the trench available, to resolve the extent of the redeposited material or to fully define feature 608.

3.9.3 Part of a shallow gully (607), cut into the 'brickearth' (603), extended approximately 0.60 m into the trench from the east baulk. It was 0.15 m deep and was filled with mid brown silty clay (606) and contained 3rd century AD pottery and bone. This feature was cut by a gully (605) with a similar fill (604), which was aligned E-W across the trench and 0.65 m wide and 0.15 m deep.

3.9.4 The line of a land drain or water pipe (610) was recorded towards the north end of the trench. There was nothing to indicate the source of the geophysical anomaly.

3.9.5 Trench 7 was located approximately 20 m N of trench 6 and was aligned NW-SE. Two probable post-holes (703, 705), approximately 0.35 m in diameter and 1 m apart, were present near the central part of the trench. They were aligned NE to SW and ran parallel to a linear gully (707), 0.60 m across, which lay 5.5 m to the West of the postholes.

There is nothing to suggest that these features indicate wall lines but are more likely to represent field boundaries and fence lines on the spur.

3.9.6 Trench 8 was excavated approximately 20 m S of trench 6 and was aligned NW-SE. It revealed that the underlying deposits sloped down from 43.4 m OD to 42.5 m OD towards the edge of the spur. Natural deposits were exposed in the base of the trench at the east end, however the west end of the trench contained the fill of a large feature (805). The edge of this feature was aligned approximately SE-NW and enclosed a series of layers (808, 807, 803/6, 804) composed of grey-brown to yellow-brown clay silt. The feature was cleaned, which produced a small assemblage of later prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery, and recorded but not excavated.

3.9.7 The feature at the end of the trench was cut by a linear ditch, approximately 0.60 m wide, which was also aligned SE-NW and filled with dark grey brown silty clay.

3.9.8 It is possible that the large feature at the west end of the trench is of a similar date and function to the feature underlying the terrace/quarry at the west end of trench 1, or to the terrace/quarry itself. The edges of these features were only seen in a limited extent, however neither is aligned parallel to the line of the spur, which suggests that they may represent discrete quarry features. The earliest features in both trench 1 and 8 were filled and cut by later Roman features. The shallow linear ditch in trench 8, although undated is of a similar size and alignment to the gullies exposed in trenches 6 and 7 and probably formed part of a network of field boundaries.

3.10 Trench 9

3.10.1 This trench was located across a linear geophysical anomaly of high resistance on the east side of the spur. It was 21 m long and aligned E-W. The excavation revealed a sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying a broad band of compacted natural gravel, which accounted for the geophysical results.



*Plate 11. Final day of
Time Team
investigation with
Phil Harding and
Paul Wilkinson*

7. KAFS Archaeological investigations July/August 2003

For four weeks in July and early August excavating, in the hottest weather under cloudless skies (later to be told the hottest temperature ever recorded in Britain happened just down the road at Brogdale). The weeks were structured into five-day training sessions. They were well attended by students from around the world, and although working in extremely hot conditions everybody managed to complete the courses.

The archaeology was, as always, exciting. We continued the work that *Time Team* started with a deep ditch and pit (well?) located in the Time Team Trench 5 and located another long section of the same Roman ditch (40.20m aOD) to the south of the main settlement (Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8).

The 2-metre deep ditch (Plate 12) was sectioned in all trenches and found to be full of Roman pottery, animal bones and tile kiln debris. The pottery is late 1st century and the massive ditch has not been recut, suggesting it is unlikely to be a Roman property boundary.

Plate 12. Trench 5 (Looking west)





Plate 13. Trench 4 (looking east)

KAFS Trench 4

This trench was aligned-E-W and parallel to the modern A2. The trench measured 19m x 12m and was level with an OD of 37.30m aOD. The topsoil was about 21cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with frequent inclusions of fragments of Roman brick and tile (401) a layer of oyster shells and Roman pottery set in a matrix of black charcoal loamy soil (402). Below this layer we found a finely laid surface of well-rounded cobbles 12 to 15cm set in a yellow brown grey silty clay tamped down to provide a fine floor surface (403). Running east to west at the south end of the trench was a large slot 42 x 12cm in the cobbled surface which has been interpreted as a cill beam slot (404) for the foundations of a large Roman timber building which would have fronted the Roman road, Watling Street.

The edge of the Roman road was uncovered by excavation and consisted of large flint cobbles set in a matrix of lime and mortar (405).

Behind the Roman building there was a 'backlot' comprising post pads 17 x 20cm of a possible large lean-to building which overlapped an enormous Roman rubbish pit 2.4 x 3m filled with all the detritus of Roman life (406).

Loom weights were recovered and large numbers of forged iron objects.

Roman pottery, including decorated Samian ware, were found in abundance, as well as imported fine ware from Trier and the Rhine.

Numerous examples of Roman amphora were also retrieved, some with the Roman estate name stamped on their handles (Figure 3).

It is a fascinating thought that wine and olive oil from an estate, located in southern Spain, should find its way to a small Roman town in south-east England. Other rubbish pits [407, 408, 409] were filled to the brim with thousands of used oyster shells and discarded Roman pottery, which suggests that the Roman building was a shop selling its wares to passers-by.



Figure 3. Amphora stamps, such as above allow the origin, manufacturer and give archaeologists date of production of important information about amphora's and their contents.

8. KAFS Archaeological investigations March/April 2006

The area of Trench 5 was dog-legged so to investigate the berm and also expose an area of the Roman road and aligned-E-W. The trench measured 13.6m x 2.0m and was on a slope with OD heights of 37.18m aOD and exposed part of the Time Team trench 2.

The topsoil was about 25cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with frequent inclusions of fragments of Roman brick and tile (501) and Roman pottery set in a matrix of black charcoal loamy soil. Below this layer we found a finely laid surface of well-rounded cobbles 12cm to 15cm set in a yellow brown grey silty clay tamped down to provide a good road surface (502). The dog-leg trench adjacent on the south side revealed that the Roman road was set in a hollow-way of about 2.5m at its lowest point (Plate 14 below).



Plate 14. KAFS archaeologists cleaning back Roman cobbled surfaces in Trench 5

9. KAFS Archaeological investigations March 2007

Trench 6 was located to the north of the now known Roman road and to enable an understanding of the geophysical survey which showed features of high resistance.

Unfortunately Easter that year was a little challenging with snow showers and freezing conditions. (Plate 15). The area stripped was rectangular and measured 21m x 6m (Plate 17) with fourteen 3m x 3m squares to be reduced by hand trowelling. Almost immediately human bones were revealed in square 3 of Trench 6 (Plates 18, 19). The report on the human remains from 2008/T 6 stated that:

Cremated remains SYN 07 T4, was interred in a large ceramic vessel. This vessel was intact, while the cremated remains were within, holding it together. Once the soil, and cremated remains were removed, the vessel broke into five large pieces. All cremated remains were found within the vessel, where fragmentation of bone ranged from very small (2mm) to fragments of long bone (115mm). Image 1 shows the first evidence of bone within the vessel. In the image there is animal bone, a rib, and cranial fragment showing through the soil.



Image 1: Vessel with first evidence of cremated human and animal remains.



Plate 15. Easter 2007 Trench 6 (looking east)



Plate 16. Cremation pots Trench 6 Area 4

KAFS Trench 6

Area 1 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0m aOD. The topsoil was about 25cm - 27cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with few fragments of Roman brick and tile (601/1). Below the topsoil was a grey brown sandy clay with few inclusions.

Plate 17. Trench 6 Area 1 (looking SSW)



Area 2 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22m aOD. The topsoil was about 26-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with a few well rounded flint pebbles. Below the topsoil was a well-made surface of flint nodules set in a clay matrix.

Plate 18. Trench 6 Area 2 (looking NNE-50cm scale)



Area 3 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 26-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot and two Samian platters

Plate 19. Trench 6 Area 3 (looking SSW)



Area 4 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot and two North Thameside pots and a platter sealing the cremation pot

Plate 20. Trench 6 Area 4 (looking SSW- 50cm scale)



Area 5 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot and another North Thameside crushed pot

Plate 21. Trench 6 Area 5 (looking west-50cm scale)



Area 6 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot and quern stone

Plate 22. Trench 6 Area 6 (looking NW-50cm scale)



Area 7 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained an inhumation (below)

Plate 23. Trench 6 Area 7 (looking SSW-50cm scale)



Area 8 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot and two North Thameside pots

Plate 24. Trench 6 Area 8 (looking SSW-50cm scale)



Area 9 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained an inhumation with grave goods

Plate 25. Trench 6 Area 9 (looking SSW-25cm scale)



Area 10 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot and two North Thameside pots and a platter sealing the cremation pot (Area 11 no archaeology)

Plate 26. Trench 6 Area 10 (looking SSE- 50cm scale)



Area 12 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a pit full of oyster shells and two Samian platters (Area 13 no archaeology).

Plate 27. Trench 6 Area 12 (looking SSW)



Plate 28. Trench 6 Area 12 (looking SSW) two Samian platters



Area 14 measured 3m x 3m and the OD height is 22.0 aOD. The topsoil was about 27-28cm thick of grey brown sandy loam with and cutting the subsoil was a pit which on investigation contained a cremation pot

Plate 29. Trench 6 Area 14 (looking SW)



Plate 30. Trench 6 Area 14 (looking NE)



10. KAFS Archaeological investigations March 2008

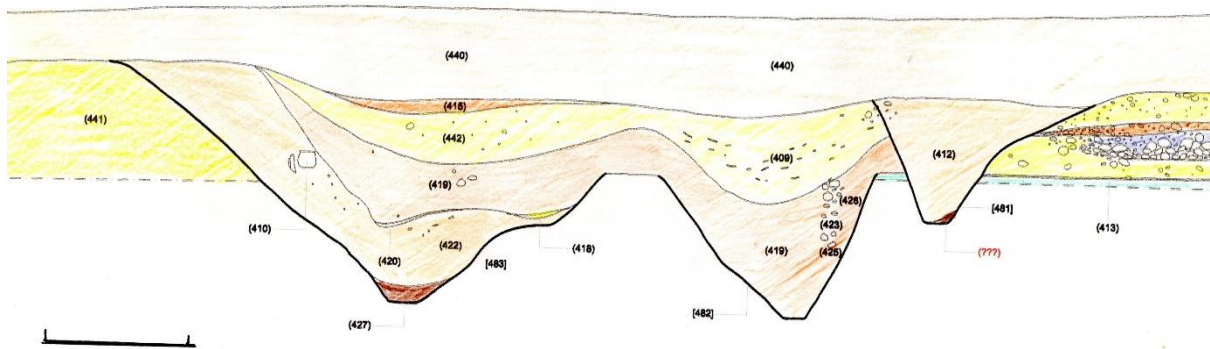
The research plan for 2008 was to investigate and record a complete section across the Roman road discovered by KAFS in Syndale Park and investigated in previous seasons but no full section had been exposed and recorded. Map 3 is the Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawings held at the British Library in London which shows quite clearly the route of the defunct Roman road running east west across the northern area of Syndale Park and Map 4 shows the original geophysical survey carried out by Malcolm Davies and re-surveyed by Prof. Bill Martin. Through the Roman settlement a major Roman road (Watling Street) was built from c.AD50, rebuilt in the 3rd century AD, and went out of use in the early years of the 5th century AD. Either side of this road a Roman settlement and cemetery, possibly Durolevum was established from the early 2nd century which also went out of use in the early 5th century. The Roman road –Watling



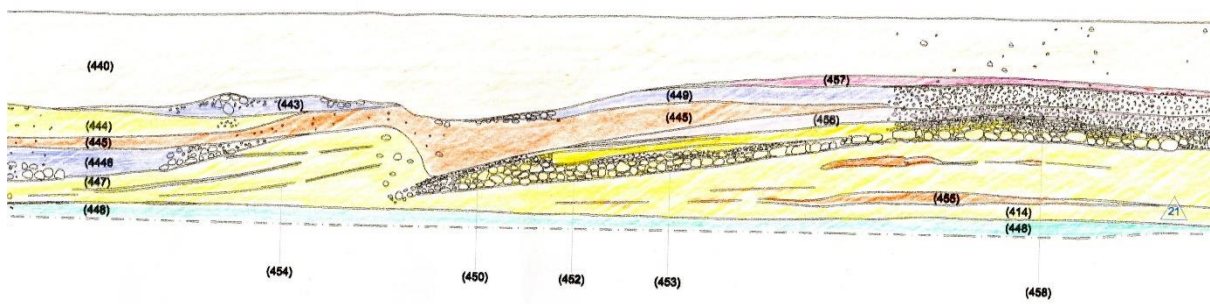
Street Section 1B- Canterbury to Rochester is 25 and half miles with later Parish boundaries following it at intervals for nearly 7 miles out of the 19 in this section. The investigation of the Roman road will be published as a stand-alone report.

Plate 31. Trench 7. Section across the Roman road (looking north) towards the A2

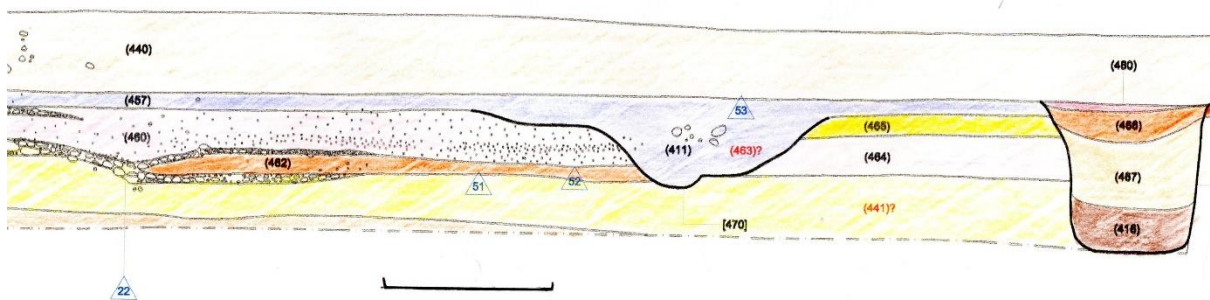
Figure 3. Drawn sections across the Roman road (Watling Street)



Section 1 (looking east) north end (1m scale)

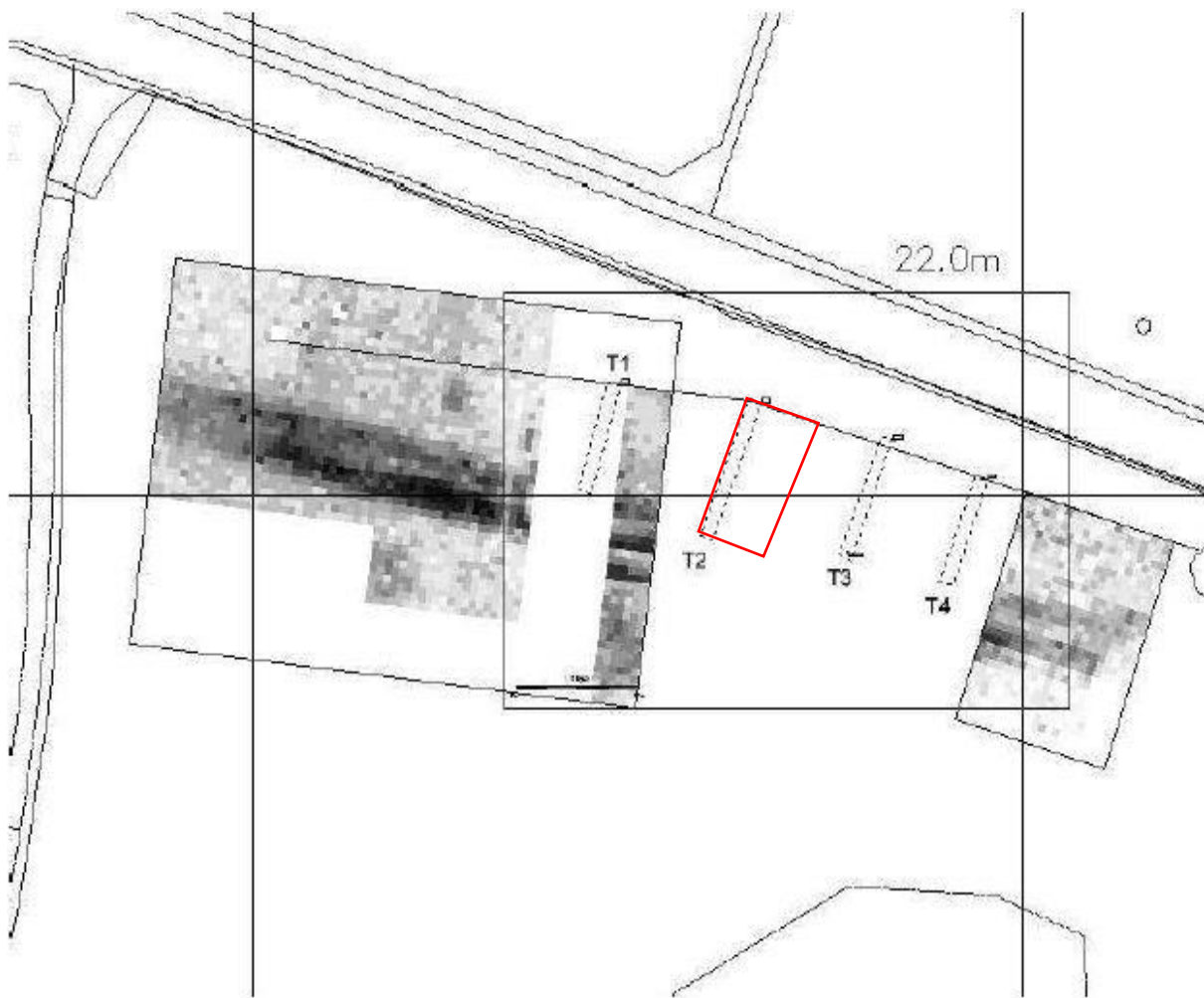


Section 2 (looking east) middle section



Section 3 (looking east) south end (1m scale)

Figure 4. Location of the 2010 trenches



11. KAFS Archaeological investigations August 2010

Four archaeological evaluation trenches were cut by machine to the subsoil then excavated by hand to help clarify the geophysical survey in this area of Syndale Park. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 were located about 28m from the access road to the west and about 7m from the park fence to the north (Figure 4 above). All trenches revealed Roman archaeology including cremations and in Trench 2 an intact stone mausoleum was discovered and this area was subsequently enlarged and revealed quern stones, kilns and an early Roman ditch.



Trench 1 is 16m long and 1.50m wide and the OD height on the grass at the north end was 22.33m aOD. Trench 1 exposed at the north (depth 1.2m BGL) end a large (3.2m wide) pit [803] with the fill comprising layers of oyster shell (804), layer of charcoal (804) and layer of burnt daub and burnt clay (805). Adjacent and to the south (Figures 00) a layer of cobbles (806) under which two ditches

[817] with vertical sides and a flat bottom and [828] with infills (829) of redeposited soils with sherds of Roman pottery, Roman tile, door hinge, iron buckle, copper alloy bracelet, stylus, decorated samian ware and Roman coins.

Plates 32, 33. Trench 8 (1) showing one of the ditches running parallel to the Roman road (1 m scale)





Trench 9 (2) is 21m long and 1.50m wide and the OD height on the grass at the north end was 22.16m aOD. Topsoil in all four trenches was about 0.53m thick of a grey brown sandy loam overlaying a subsoil about 0.68m thick of dark grey brown sandy clay with few inclusions of natural flint.

The north end of the trench (1.3 BGL) exposed the natural (904) a mid brown fine, soft, slightly sandy silt with occasional small, medium and large angular flints with occasional Roman pot sherds and daub. Cut into the natural were two linears (ditches) [903,907] with linear [903] vertical sides east-west aligned (Figures 000) with a flat base with infills (904) of redeposited soils with sherds of Roman pottery including a fragment of a 'Face' pot (050). Roman tile and flint stones from the adjacent Roman road. Small finds include Iron brooch, bone hair pin and iron rings. In the centre area of the trench a stone mausoleum was uncovered (Plate 34 (top) and adjacent on the west side two quern stones with quern A five cm thick with a radius of 17cm and diameter of 49cm. Quern B a radius of 15cm and a thickness of 15cm.



Plate 35 (left) shows Quern B with chalk, flint, Kentish rag stone blocks. Scale is 30cm



Trench 10 (3) is 18m long and 1.50m wide and the OD height on the grass at the north end was 22.06m aOD. Topsoil in all four trenches was about 0.53m thick of a grey brown sandy loam overlaying a subsoil about 0.68m thick of dark grey brown sandy clay with few inclusions of natural flint (Plate 36 left).

The north end of the trench (1.2 BGL) exposed the natural (1004) a mid brown fine, soft, slightly sandy silt with

occasional small, medium and large angular flints with occasional Roman pot sherds and daub. Cut into the natural was a cremation pit (309) much disturbed (Plate 37). At the south end of the trench the excavation revealed two ditches and the north edge of the Roman road. Small finds include Roman coins, part of a bone pin, lead loom weight and Roman glass.



*Plate 37
View of
cremation
pit about
to be
excavated
30cm scale*



Trench 11 (4) is 18m long and 1.50m wide and the OD height on the grass at the north end was 22.07m aOD. Topsoil in all four trenches was about 0.53m thick of a grey brown sandy loam overlaying a subsoil about 0.68m thick of dark grey brown sandy clay with few inclusions of natural flint.

The north end of the trench (1.2 BGL) exposed the natural (1004) a mid brown fine, soft, slightly sandy silt with occasional small, medium and large angular flints with occasional Roman pot sherds and daub. To the south flint nodules and gravel from the edge of the Roman road were exposed.

Plate 38 (top) View of trench (looking north). Plate 39 (below) south end of trench 11 (4) with the north edge of the Roman road revealed in linear 1107



12. KAFS Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample investigations August 2010

The four archaeological evaluation trenches that were cut by machine to the subsoil then excavated by hand to help clarify the geophysical survey in this area of Syndale Park. Trenches (T1), (T2), (T3) and (T4) were located about 28m from the access road to the west and about 7m from the park fence to the north.

All trenches revealed Roman archaeology including cremations and in Trench 2 an intact stone mausoleum was discovered and this area was subsequently enlarged to an area of 13.50m in length and 5m in width.

The original evaluation trench exposed the remains of a wall some 38cm thick and built of flint nodules set into a clay matrix (257). At the north end a post hole 20cm in diameter and an additional posthole 1m to the west of similar dimensions (215) and about 1.60m to the south a larger posthole of about 40cm in diameter (216).

To the east the KAFS excavation revealed earlier archaeological work which may have been the 1921 excavations by Hawley with re-deposited subsoil which had cut through the Roman flint walled building (257) but beyond chalk surfaces of the Roman building had survived (219).

Within the building was a cremation deposit (217) cut through the Roman floor surface (227).

To the south the cut for a Roman kiln (250) was identified and built later into the kiln area was a substantial rectangular mortared flint structure identified as an intact Roman mausoleum of about 2.20m in length and 1.20m in width [251]. The mausoleum is intact and capped by three large terracotta tiles measuring about 40cm two of which have later damage (Plates 40 & 41).



Plate 40. View of the Roman mausoleum

Plate 41(below)
View of kiln and adjacent sarcophagus

To the south-east of the sarcophagus an area of burning and scattered lumps



of burnt daub (246) and adjacent to the area of burning an area of burnt cobbled floor surface (211) capped by four large terracotta tiles (211) all of which are the remains of a kiln. To the south remains of a mortared flint wall (230) with a posthole inserted into the structure (229).



Plate 42. The north edge of the Roman road (Watling Street)



To the south the north edge of the Roman Watling Street (214) was revealed and recorded (Plate 42). Running parallel to the Roman road on the north side the initial KAFS evaluation trench had identified and excavated a ditch (206, 207) running parallel to Watling Street in which the lower fill (207) a Roman coin of Claudius (41-54 AD) was found. (SF 088).

Plate 43. Recording features

13. The archaeological evidence accumulated by Time Team, the Kent Archaeological Field School and SWAT Archaeology

This postulated Roman fort, adjacent to the later Watling Street, dominated the surrounding area, and had access to the sea via Oare Creek. Further research has shown that it was situated outside and down slope of a fortified Iron Age township of significant size (SWAT Archaeology 2008).



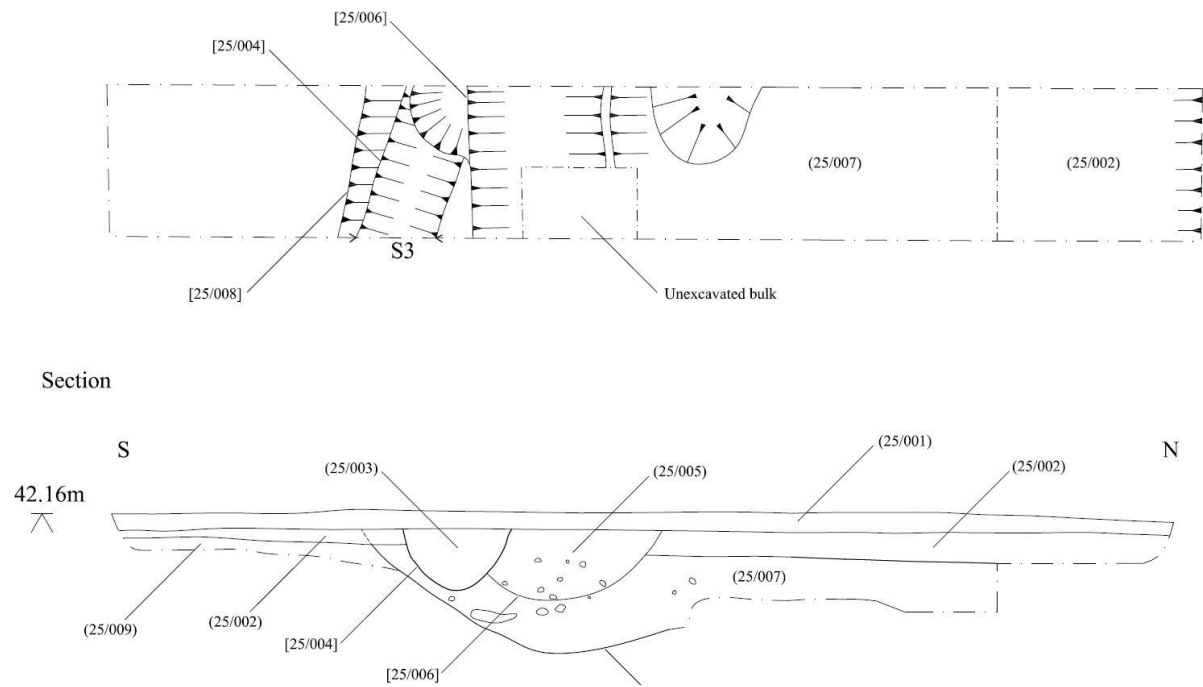
The finding of Roman military stamped tiles in the vicinity (Plate 44 above) of the possible fort, along with the geophysical data, the known Roman cemeteries, and the Roman standing monument at Stone Chapel, confirms that this indeed could be the lost Roman town of *Durolevum*. Professors Frere and Rivet in 1971 suggested that names prefixed by “Duro” were transferred to Roman towns from neighbouring comparatively short-lived forts of the early Roman period. Professor Rivet in 1980 suggested that *Duro* is a “specifically Belgic linguistic peculiarity”, and ascribed its appearance in Britain to the Belgic

migration recorded by Caesar. The geophysical survey by Malcolm Davies has also recorded large features to the east of the fort and future investigation may reveal a *mansio*, or inn, used by the Roman imperial postal system. These inns were for state use and were spaced some 25 miles apart along major Roman roads. One is known to exist at the Roman town of Dover (25 miles to the east of Syndale) and at the Roman town of Springhead (25 miles to the west of Syndale). The system, organised by Augustus, consisted of relays of post-carriages travelling between *mansios*, and covering about 50 miles a day. The *mansios* often developed into villages or small towns with baths, shops, etc. They form a definite class of Roman settlement, of which *Durolevum* may be one.

Archaeological evaluation by SWAT Archaeology (2008)

Archaeological investigations in 2008 by SWAT Archaeology prior to development have revealed the presence of significant archaeological remains. Earthworks were targeted and theories as to the nature of the archaeological significance of Syndale were tested.

From the outset, it was clear that the hypothetical 'Roman Fort' dominated the archaeological record, coupled with the presence of later, and earlier occupation of the site. The archaeological investigations carried out during the summer of 2008 can now offer some explanation as to the definition, character, significance and importance of archaeological deposits located on the area of the postulated Roman fort and with some surprise extensive defensible ditches dated to the late Iron Age were revealed.



Trench 25 (above) was an additional trench located in order to chase the extensive features within Trench 19 to the immediate west. This trench measured approximately 10m in length and successfully identified the smaller Roman ditch **[25/004]** overcutting the larger and earlier Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch **[26/008]**.

In addition, this trench also revealed the presence of a third ditch **(25/006)** that had been truncated by **[25/004]** and was cut into **(25/007)**. Whilst not on the same scale as the underlying ditch, finds associated with the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods suggested a close contemporary date, possibly a later recut.

Trench 25 possessed up to 11 fills **(19/018-19/028)**, had a distinctly concave and undulated profile and was over 7.5m wide and over 2m deep. As previously mentioned, the full extents of the feature(s) could not be determined at this stage. A single post hole **[19/033]** was recorded adjacent to the northern extent of the ditches.



A later undated ditch was also recorded within the northern extents of this ditch [19/015] and is most likely associated with a similar ditch recorded in Trench 18 (above).

There is without doubt Roman and Iron Age activity at the north end of the site consistent with a small Roman town which has been previously investigated both to the east and west by SWAT, the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS), Time Team/Wessex Archaeology and others. This may or may not be *Durolevum*. This activity falls sharply away as one moves towards the main house with the

exception of the truncated Roman ditch which runs east west beyond the boundaries of the development site. The large Iron Age truncated ditch within Trench 19 (dated by secure fresh Iron Age pottery) and bank on the north side with posthole is likely to be in its final phase of a late Iron Age defended settlement which has not, to date, been picked up by previous archaeological investigations within the proposed development site.

However, the ditches and banks were mentioned by Hasted. Field walking in that particular area by the KAFS has produced copious amounts of Iron Age pottery which is indicative of prehistoric archaeological activity. The large ditch which circumnavigates the eastern extent of the site, as shown on the 1760 Jacob map and annotated 'ancient ditch', is present, albeit still undated.

The Iron Age ditch (Trench 19 and 25) has been investigated within (and potentially beyond) current parameters, however, to be absolutely certain of a provenance one should consider the possibility of further, more extensive investigations in order to understand completely the physical character of this feature (see recommendations below). What is evident is the fact that this particularly feature is extensive, possibly echoing known archaeological records associated with prehistoric defensive structures.

The archaeological evaluation at Syndale Park by SWAT Archaeology has confirmed and emphasised the frequency of archaeological deposits dated predominantly from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period within the proposed development area. From the outset it was clear that archaeological remains were present on site. This report has attempted to further define the archaeological features encountered, although it must be

stated that further work will be required to fully examine and provide an understanding for the complex settlement patterns present at Syndale Park.

Appendix 1. Roman small finds

Over one thousand Roman coins have now been found at Syndale, recently identified as the lost Roman town of Durolevum by the KAFS. All of these coins have been dated by Dr Richard Abdy of the British Museum.

The number of artefacts recovered during KAFS excavations has been staggering and includes large amounts of iron military equipment, horse harnesses and agricultural equipment. Quantities of Roman pottery recovered from the site runs into tens of thousands of sherds, dating from the late Iron Age up to the early 5th century.

An interesting feature of the site is the large numbers of amphora sherds of a type called Dressel 20.

These amphoras, the jerry cans of antiquity, carried anything from olive oil to a type of fish sauce called garum. The Roman estate stamps on the amphora sherds from Syndale show that they originated from southern Spain, and it seems control of this lucrative trade in the early years of conquest was firmly in the hands of the Roman military. So many amphora were found at Syndale that there must have been port facilities attached to the Roman town.

Durolevum was built astride the great Roman road, now called Watling Street, which connected the port of entry to Britain, Richborough, with the lowest crossing point of the Thames at London. Any supplies from London needed for the Roman town of Canterbury would have been landed at Durolevum and taken by road to the city.

Although the Dressel 20 amphoras date from the early years of the Roman conquest, other amphora sherds are of eastern Mediterranean origin and date from the mid-5th century. But we are told by our history books that Roman life and trade had stopped years earlier.

This is why archaeology is important — material artefacts can be dated, and alter our preconceptions of history. Our work at Syndale has revealed when Watling Street was actually built. Also, because we have sectioned it and planned in the pottery and coins found in the various layers, we can tell how many times the road was rebuilt and when. The last layer dates to the early 5th century, but the last people to use it were Romans. We found in the houses and shops that fronted on to Watling Street signs of destruction and chaos. Shoes and other items were scattered across the surface of Watling Street. This was not a town that had been abandoned by its occupants but rather a town that had died violently and had never been reoccupied. The great road too was abandoned, and the new settlers of the district, presumably Germanic tribes, had no need of Roman roads, villas or even towns. Civilisation in south-east Britain paused for decades, and little history was written until St Augustine landed in Kent with sixty Roman monks to start rebuilding the country.

Land was allocated to the church and of course had to be recorded, and so history restarted. But what fills the gap? It is of course archaeology. Year by year other pieces of the missing history are put into place by archaeologists working on sites like Syndale.

APPENDIX 2. Fabrics

The fabric series is divided into two groups; with the coarse kitchen wares having the prefix C and the fine table wares that of F.

C.1. Handmade grey-black with profuse ill-sorted up-to 2.00 mm crushed calcined flint filler.

C.2. Fine 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware. There are fragments from both handmade and wheel-turned vessels in this largely Late Iron Age fabric. These fine grog-tempered native wares did not survive long into the Roman occupation before being superseded by vessels in fine Romanised wheel turned fabrics such as Upchurch ware (Fabric F.2).

C.3. Coarse handmade or tournette-finished 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware. The use of this fabric persisted long into the Roman period in East Kent; developing first into Transitional Belgic/Native Coarse Ware (c.AD 70-200) and then into Native Coarse Ware (c.AD 170-300).

C.4. Brown to black wheel-turned fabric with a mixture of very-fine quartz sand and grog filler.

C.5. Coarse brown wheel-turned fabric with profuse up-to 0.50 mm quartz filler and occasional tiny shell inclusions, fired rough brown-black. An early Thameside fabric of mid to late first century.

C.6. North Kent Shell-tempered ware. Wares in this fabric are more characteristic of West Kent and were manufactured at Higham and on the Isle of Sheppey from the Late Iron Age onwards. Production after the late first century became largely confined to storage vessels which continued to be made until some time after AD 170. Some storage jars from the London area have traces of resin sealant on and under their rims, indicating that these vessels were used as packaging for some unspecified product such as salt. The Faversham sherds are all from one such storage vessel and confined to the upper fill of the fort ditch in Trench 2.

C.7. Very fine quartz-sanded grey Thameside industry fabric with rough finish and external 'scorching'.

C.8A. Very fine quartz-sanded grey to brown Thameside BB2 fabric fired polished black, c.AD 110-300.

C.8B. As above but with grey surfaces. The classic Thameside greyware, c.AD 110-300.

C.9. 'Native Coarse Ware' (Pollard 1988). Highfired grit and grog tempered fabric used mainly for knife-trimmed everted-rim jars between c.AD 170 and 300 and largely confined to East Kent. This fabric dominates pottery assemblages of that period at Ickham and Monkton, suggesting coastal manufacture along the western end of the Wantsum Channel.

C.10. Coarse-sanded wheel-turned Thameside greyware with a rough pimply finish, c.AD 100-300.

C.11. Very fine sanded Canterbury grey ware with profuse up to 0.50 mm multi-coloured quartz filler and rough surfaces.

F.1A. Terra Rubra TR1(A). Sandfree nonmicaceous cream fabric with internal red colour coat (Stead and Rigby 1989,121). One sherd from an open form is present in the assemblage from Trench 1 Layer A, c.15 BC-AD 25.

F.1B. Terra Rubra TR2. Self-slipped bright orange fabric with polished surfaces (ibid.,126). One sherd is present in the Trench 1 Layer A assemblage, c.AD 1-65.

F.1C. Gallo-Belgic Whiteware. Fragments from an assemblage from Trench 2.

R2. Wheel-turned grey, sandfree Upchurch ware with brown to dark-grey grog inclusions and surface polish, c.AD 43-300.

F.3. Oxidised orange version of the above fabric with or without external white slip.

F.4. Very fine wheel-turned reddish-brown fabric with silt-sized quartz filler. One sherd from a bead-rim beaker with vertical burnished body lines is present in the assemblage from Trench 1.

Found in layer A:

F.5. Sand-free orange fabric fired burnished honey-brown with occasional up-to 2.00 mm white chalky inclusions. Two sherds from a vessel of uncertain form are present in the assemblage from Trench 2 Layer A. F.6. East Gaulish Samian.

16. Assemblage 1

From the primary silting of the military ditch in Trenches 1 and 2.

This material is of key importance in dating the postulated fort but unfortunately lacks rims and other diagnostic sherds. The primary silting 30 cm above the base of the ankle-breaker slot in Trench 2 produced one sherd from a closed form in wheel-turned grey-black Fabric C.4: six sherds from closed forms in coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered Fabric C.2 fired patchy brown/black/buff-brown came from a similar horizon in Trench 1. A further group of six sherds were retrieved from higher up in the primary ditch silts of Trench 2. Once again, these consist entirely of body sherds: three from a jar in coarse Fabric C.2, one from a jar with carinated shoulders in brown Fabric C.4 fired rough blue-grey and another in very fine sanded orange fabric fired grey with patchy superficial reddening. A flake from a Dressel 20 amphora is also present.

The lack of rim fragments makes any closer dating than c.AD 43-70 difficult for this assemblage but the nature of the material from the overlying Assemblage 2 in Trench 1 implies that the postulated fort is Claudian.

17. Assemblage 2

From the rubbish dumped in the top of the partially silted up Trench 1. This deposit produced 70 sherds (564 gm) of pottery of Late Iron Age to Pre-Flavian

character. The lower part of the topsoil above produced 111 sherds (1,022 gm) of very similar material, although contaminated by 12 sherds of second-century character. This assemblage breakdown indicates its early date. The presence of sherds in fabrics which scarcely outlived the Late Iron Age, such as flint-tempered Fabric C.1, the fine grog-tempered Fabric C.2 and Terra Rubra Fabric TR.1A, may represent a pre-Roman element in the assemblage which was perhaps residual in use. The fact that none of the datable forms have an inception date of later than AD 50 leaves little doubt that this assemblage accumulated between c.AD 43 and 50/60. What this assemblage also indicates is that vessels in the classic Upchurch wheel-turned greyware began to be made within a very few years after the Roman Conquest. The handmade fine grog and silt tempered Type B2-1 jar is in a fabric not much different to but less well-prepared than wheel-turned Upchurch ware, and the Monaghan Type 3A1-3 jar in the latter fabric is clearly a development of that type. We may perhaps see in these two vessels the transition from a Late Iron Age native fineware to a Romanised one during the first five years or so of the Roman occupation.

The presence of this late material is reflected in the percentage breakdown of the assemblage: 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares are well down to 24% by sherd count, whereas the percentage of Upchurch grey and oxidised fabrics from the Medway marshes and Isle of Sheppey remains at 35% and is joined by appreciable quantities of BB2 and Thameside sand-tempered wares from the same area, 22%.

The early material differs little from that recovered from Trench 1, although Terra Rubra is absent: three fragments from a butt-beaker in Gallo-Belgic Whiteware are, however, present. The Upchurch greyware includes examples

of Monaghan's Type 5B6 and 7A2 platters (c.AD 70- 130 and 43-140 respectively) and a jar of Type 4A2 (c.AD 110-200). Upchurch oxidised wares include an example of flagon type 1E4-1 (c.AD 120-190): a further example of this flagon type in Fabric F.5 is also present.

From the rubbish dumped in the top of the partially silted-up military ditch in Trench 2. The assemblage from this deposit is considerably larger than that from Trench 1 (304 sherds, 4,184 gm) and was also quantified by the number of sherds and their weight per fabric: The presence of this late material is reflected in the percentage breakdown of the assemblage: 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares are well down to 24% by sherd count, whereas the percentage of Upchurch grey and oxidised fabrics from the Medway marshes and Isle of Sheppey remains at 35% and is joined by appreciable quantities of BB2 and Thameside sand-tempered wares from the same area, 22%. The early material differs little from that recovered from Trench 1, although Terra Rubra is absent: three fragments from a butt-beaker in Gallo-Belgic Whiteware are, however, present. The Upchurch grey ware includes examples of Monaghan's Type 5B6 and 7A2 platters (c.AD 70- 130 and 43-140 respectively) and a jar of Type 4A2 (c.AD 110-200). Upchurch oxidised wares include an example of flagon type 1E4-1 (c.AD 120-190): a further example of this flagon type in Fabric F.5 is also present.

Thameside forms include a jar of Monaghan's Type 3H2-2 in 'scorched' Fabric C.7 (c.AD 160- 230), a necked-bowl of Type 4G3 (c.AD 50/70-100) and a 'pie-dish' of Type 5C4 (c.AD 150/170-250) in Fabric C.8A, and a re-fired Type 5D3 in the same fabric (c.AD 120-190). A number of sherds from a storage jar of Monaghan's Type 3D3 in North Kent Shell-tempered ware (c.AD 50-150) and fragments of Canterbury greyware are also present, as is a post AD 170 sherd of Pollard's 'Native Coarse Ware'. The following sherd is of particular interest: a

fragment from bead-rimmed bowl with traces of a handle, in white-slipped Fabric F.3. The external rim of the bowl has a diameter of 140 mm.

18. Time Team investigations May 2003

The 1999 KAFS evaluation established the alignment of the ditches on both the west and east side of the spur, but was unable to show that they formed part of a single continuous enclosure. On the western side the ditch ran parallel to an extant bank and, as on the east side, broadly perpendicular to the modern A2. It was suggested that these two ditches represented the western and eastern sides of a characteristic trapezoidal Roman defensive enclosure. These observations concurred with the historical descriptions.

The extant bank on the crest of the spur on the western side is the most substantial of a series of apparent terraces on the western slope. A preliminary survey suggested these terraces may be of pre-Roman date, and that the extensive extant bank at the top of the slope may be a later refurbishment of an earlier feature (Ainsworth pers. comm.).

Additionally the apparent line of Roman Watling Street, immediately south of the modern A2, appeared to cut this earthwork, supporting the theory that the bank was of earlier origin.

The results of a landscape survey (Wilkinson pers. comm.) and geophysical survey (Davies 1999) on the west side of the site suggested the presence of an entrance to the putative fort. Tentative interpretation of the geophysical results suggested the possibility of a timber gatehouse associated with this entrance.

The 1999 excavations also revealed evidence of later Roman occupation (Wilkinson 1999). In the centre of the putative fort, a set of post-holes containing pottery of Hadrianic date (Lyne 2000) was discovered. In addition,

on the eastern edge of the putative fort, a trench designed to locate a northern continuation of the eastern enclosure ditch encountered a 2nd century building and rubbish dump (Wilkinson 1999) including 1st and 2nd century AD pottery.

Excavations have taken place elsewhere in the immediate area, including the likely site of the Roman town of Durolevum, to the east of Judd's Hill (TQ 998 610) and a section of Roman Watling Street (Wilkinson 2001). Several Roman buildings of 2nd and 3rd century date have been discovered, adjacent to the Roman road (ibid).

Directly associated with this settlement an extensive Roman cemetery on the northern side of Watling Street was excavated in the 1920s (Whiting 1931). This contained evidence of 387 Roman burials dating from the 1st to 4th centuries, with both cremations and inhumations represented. More recently, seven cremations and four inhumations were found in the area aligned with a hollow way (Rady 2001), which apparently ran from Oare Creek in the north, directly to Judd's Hill. The depth of the hollow way (1.6m) suggested it was of some importance, and was in use for a long time, possibly spanning the entire duration of the putative Roman town of Durolevum.

In addition to the suggestion that terracing on the western side of Judd's Hill is of Iron Age date, some Iron Age material has been discovered in the immediate locality.

During the cutting of the gas pipe trench in 1994 a ditch containing characteristic Iron Age material was discovered in the north-west corner of the putative fort, running parallel to Roman Watling Street (Wessex Archaeology 2003)

The current focus of attention was an area located at the eastern edge of the park and south of Watling Street. This area was originally investigated by

Colonel Hawley in September 1922, where he reported that: “a paved hearth and wall foundations” had been revealed (Whiting & Hawley 1931). On investigation of his trench by KAFS the ‘paved hearth’ turned out to be a monumental sarcophagus built out of chalk blocks and Kentish Ragstone with a terracotta ceramic lid covering the grave slot. The monument is late, having been built over the remains of a 3rd century kiln. The terracotta lid has been damaged sometime in the past, but the grave has not been robbed and the burial is still in situ. Other features exposed were a Roman kiln or oven, Roman cremation burials, Roman Watling Street and a large Roman double ditch dated by coins, military horse harness and pottery to the 1st century and dug before Watling Street, itself dated by investigation at Syndale Park to about AD 50.

The study area under investigation lies within a rich archaeological landscape. To the west the standing remains of Stone Chapel are a Scheduled Monument and were subject to a recent investigation by the KAFS who concluded it was built as a Romano-Celtic temple, and then probably rebuilt as an early Christian church. Investigation by Hawley in 1926-31 within Syndale Park to the west found the remains of Roman houses alongside the A2 (Watling Street). In Syndale Park itself he found the remains of two skeletons (Whiting & Hawley 1931).

In 2004-7 the KAFS found a number of Roman cremations, the remains of Watling Street and adjacent Roman buildings which is likely to be the Roman small town of Durolevum (Practical Archaeology Issues 2-7).

To the east of the area under investigation is the Anglo-Saxon cemetery of Kings Field which in the 19th century was destroyed by workmen constructing

the railway. Our only survival, from what is probably the most important Anglo- Saxon cemetery in Kent, is what Mr Gibbs, the local grocer, managed to buy from the workmen.

Of particular interest at Kings Field was the variety of the grave goods which ranged from late Roman pottery, gold Anglo-Saxon jewellery, probably made at Faversham, to Christian British made hanging bowls from western Britain. This diversity of material culture was recognised at Kings Field in the 19th century and was again clearly in evidence during the 2007 investigation of the study area.

One of the Roman cremation pots retrieved from the study area had Christian graffiti on it and, close by, a gilded copper alloy decorative mount was recovered probably dating from the early Anglo-Saxon period (c.450-650). Interestingly, the gilded repousse decoration had a symmetrical design of what appears to be two opposed animals or birds which is reminiscent of designs found on late Roman or early post-Roman buckles.

Work by the KAFS has located a small Roman town, possibly Roman Durolevum, the associated cemeteries, confirmed the route of Watling Street, clarified the function of Stone Chapel as a Romano-Celtic temple and located an late Iron Age fortified settlement and a possible early Roman marching camp.

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