



F·S·A·R·G

The Faversham Society
Archaeological Research Group



Community
Archaeology

Understanding Ospringe

Report for Keyhole KP / OA61

4 Dawson's Row, Water Lane, Ospringe

Grid Reference TR 00169 60615

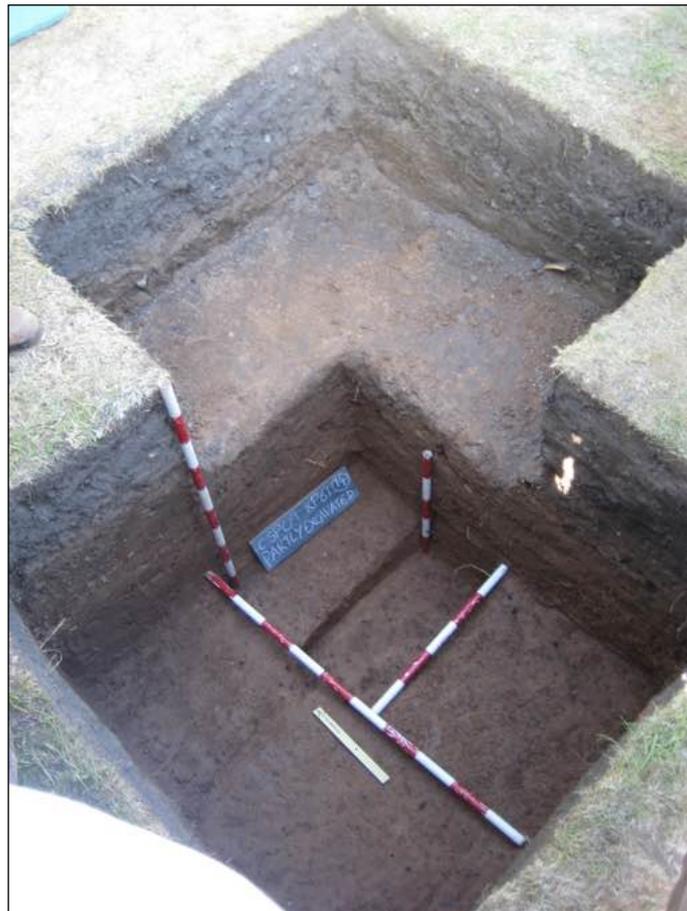
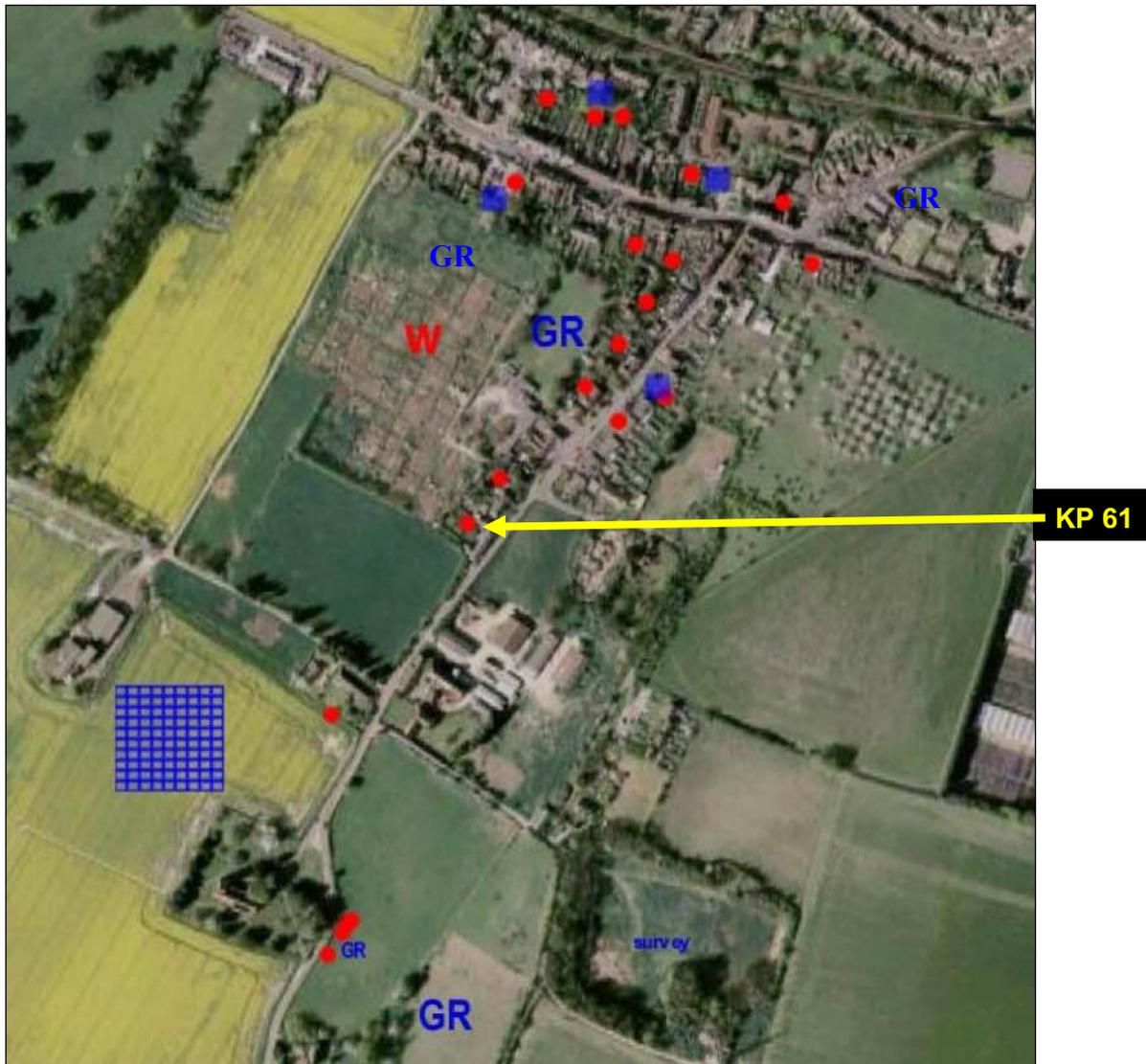


Fig 1: KP61 at the end of first season

1. Introduction

This excavation was part of a comprehensive programme running in 2008-9 to investigate the history and character of the Domesday listed¹ village of Ospringe. The detailed nature of this project, which included excavations, georesistivity surveying, field walking, street surveys and site surveys, can be seen below:



Red dot: Excavation
Blue square: 2008 Geo resistivity survey **GR:** 2009 Georesistivity survey
Blue grid: Field walking

Fig 2: FSARG activity in Ospringe 2008-9. KP/OA61 shown by arrow

The focus on Ospringe came from the fact that in 2003, the Kent Archaeological Team, working with English Heritage, produced a detailed archaeological assessment of Faversham in a volume on Kent's

¹ WILLIAMS A & G MARTIN (eds) 1992 *Domesday Book : a complete translation*. Penguin Books: London

Historic Towns² in which Ospringe was not included. This ignored the fact that the historic part of the village falls within the modern Faversham town limits. We did not think that the history of Faversham was understandable without Ospringe and planned to redress the problem. There were also numerous significant gaps in Ospringe's historical record, notably the early-mid Anglo-Saxon period and the prehistoric. Finally, we saw the small size and community strengths of Ospringe as enabling a great deal of contact with and involvement of local people. We planned to work with such groups as the school, church, allotment society and with local landowners.

2. Geographical and historical background

a) Geography

Ospringe is a large, mainly rural parish to the south of Watling Street (the A2, London-Dover Road). Part of the village of Ospringe lies along Watling Street and the other part stretches southwards up the valley of the Westbrook. Nowadays the valley through Ospringe itself is dry but until the 1960s a small but powerful spring-fed stream, the Westbrook, flowed through here, running northwards to empty into tidal Faversham Creek. This stream was harnessed at a number of points for water power.³ Insofar as there is any water left after extraction by Southern Water, it now runs underground through a culvert.

The valley itself is gentler on its western side, with a possible river terrace remnant.

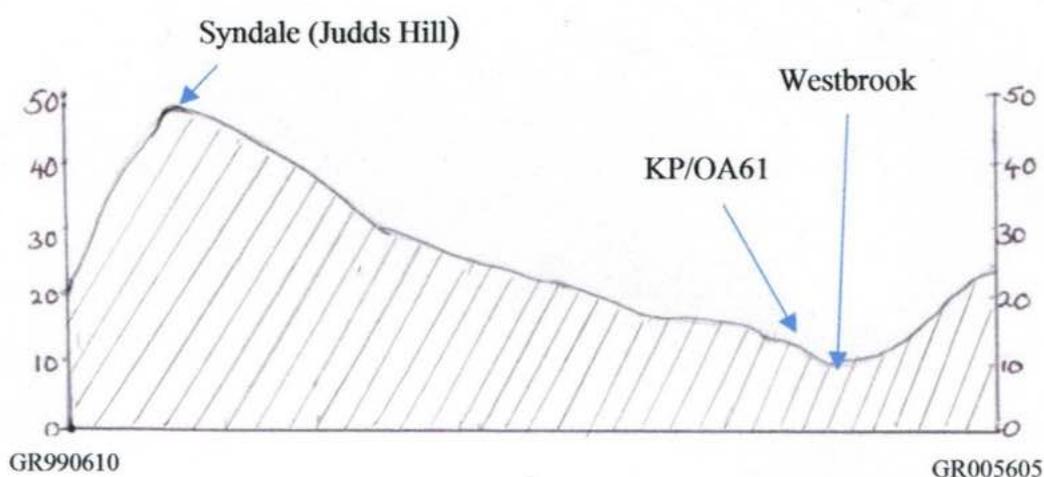


Fig 3: Cross section across the Westbrook Valley West to East through the location of OA61. The vertical interval is 10 metres.

See also Appendix 6 for a Lidar version of this section.

b) Geology

Ospringe village lies in a south to north chalk valley with abundant springs. The steeper eastern valley side has only occasional thin patches of brickearth and clay with flints and the Upper Chalk is much closer to the surface, showing through in places. The higher parts of the ridge to the west, Syndale, are capped with Thanet sands, a grey-green deposit that contains sandstone concretions known as sarsen stones: where the Thanet Sands have been worn away, sarsens often remain as residuals.

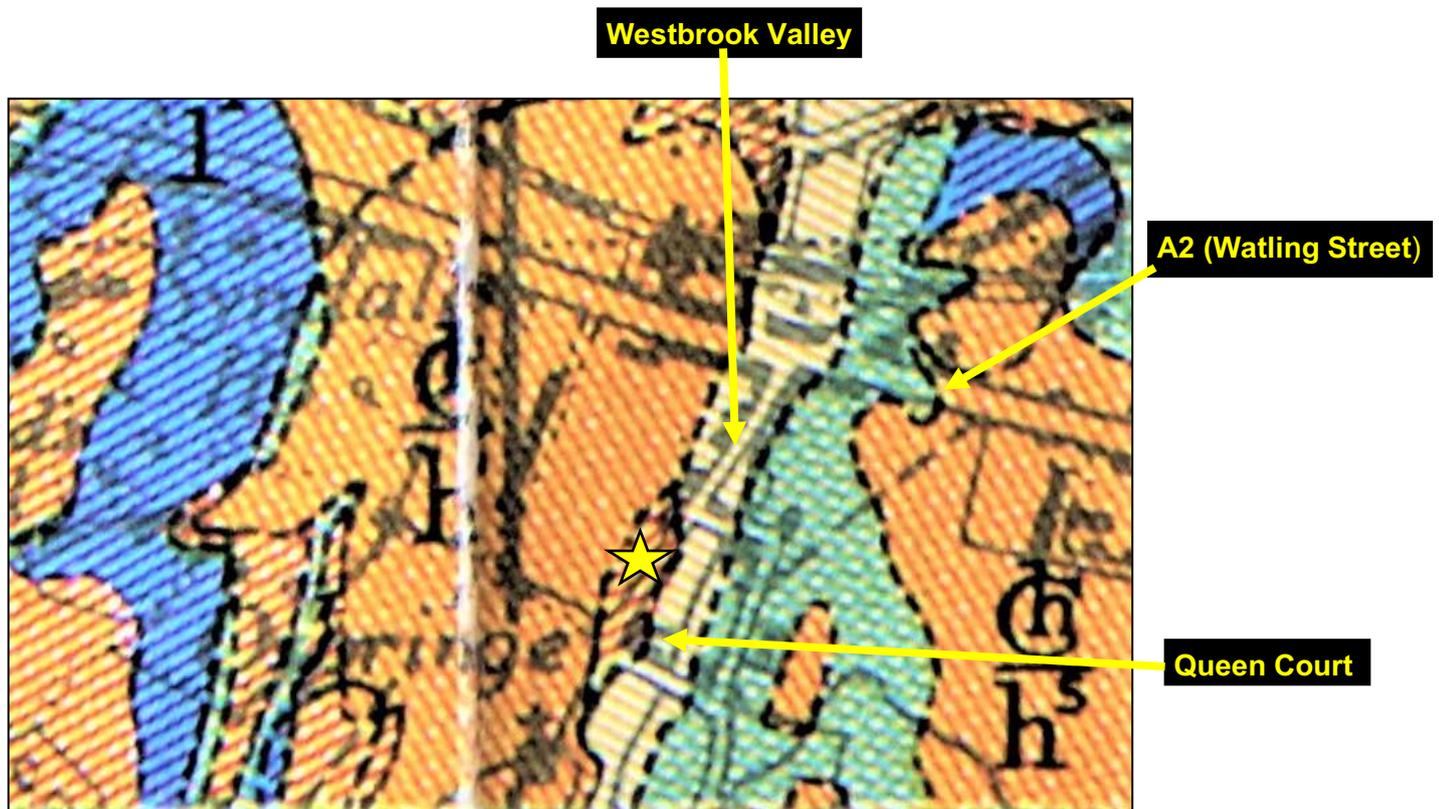
² KCC Heritage Conservation Group 2003 *Kent Historic Towns Survey: Faversham*. KCC: Maidstone

³ e.g. in PERCIVAL A 1986 *The Faversham Gunpowder Industry and its development* Faversham Papers 4 Faversham Society: Faversham

The valley floor has thick deposits of gravels, of glacial and immediate post glacial origin. Gravels sizes vary but can be up to 20cm diameter. These gravels would have been deposited as outcomes of solifluction and melt water streams. On the western valley side in particular is a mantle of brickearth, another recent superficial (drift) deposit, in this case a fine-grained deposit dumped by cold winds and sheet flooding and up to 2 metres thick in places.

At a few points in the valley are sarsen stones, e.g. next to the Bier House⁴ but close examination of these has shown that they are natural occurrences, as explained above.

Fig 4: Geology of the Ospringe area⁵



Key:

Blue: Thanet Sands (solid geology)
Pale Green: Upper Chalk (solid geology)
Orange and yellow: Brickearth (superficial deposit)
Orange and cream: Alluvium (superficial deposit)

 Location of OA61

⁴ [www.community-archaeology.org.uk/undestandingospringe/OA65 and KP66](http://www.community-archaeology.org.uk/undestandingospringe/OA65%20and%20KP66)

⁵ British Geological Survey: Faversham England and Wales. Sheet 273 Solid and drift Edition 1:50000

c) History

Up until the FSARG OSP projects, prehistoric Ospringe was a mystery. During the laying of a gas pipeline through the Westbrook Valley just south of the church in 1994, a tentative identification of Bronze Age deposits was made⁶ and a few isolated finds of palaeolithic flints have been recorded and feature on the Kent HER⁷ but nothing else exists in the detailed record for these early times.

The story as far as the Roman history is concerned is markedly different. Ospringe lies on Roman Watling Street, where it crosses the Westbrook stream. Just to the west are Roman cemeteries⁸, both cremation and inhumation in type and so many other signifiers of Roman activity that Syndale Hill (Judd's Hill), next to Ospringe, is thought to be the site of Durolevum.⁹ Durolevum is mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary as a small settlement midway between Canterbury and Rochester.

As far as Saxon Ospringe is concerned, we are back to mystery even though the village is close to an extensive and wealthy 6th - 7th century cemetery in Kingsfield, Faversham.¹⁰ In addition, in the Syndale valley to the west is a much-studied Early Anglo-Saxon church known as the Stone Chapel. This was built around either a Roman-style mausoleum or a Romano British temple (arguments rage about this).¹¹ By Domesday, however, a Manor of Ospringe existed in the middle valley, thought to be the present-day Queen Court Manor.¹² A church, presumably the present-day parish church of St Peter and St Paul, is also listed in Domesday, along with a mill, fishery and salt pan.

By the 13th century, the huge growth in pilgrimage traffic to Canterbury to pay reverence to the shrine of St Thomas Becket had led to the foundation of the Hospital of St Mary at Ospringe¹³: intriguingly, there are possible earlier links to the Knights Templar.¹⁴ Part of the Hospital, nowadays known as the Maison Dieu, survives to this day as a standing building. Ospringe at this time was part of a rural deanery.

The Hospital of St Mary was defunct by around 1515 and Becket pilgrimages were finally stamped out under Henry VIII, but the importance of the route way continues to this day for different reasons. Numerous inns grew up along its route and during the Napoleonic period a barracks existed briefly at the North West end of the village.¹⁵ Mills continued to flourish along the Westbrook, with one in the village itself and another just to the north. Windmills were also built in the area.¹⁶ The surrounding farmland produced hops, fruit and cereals, and industries using these, and also the willows lining the stream, grew up. Chalk was quarried just east of Queen Court and the brick industry flourished to the north using the abundant brickearth.¹⁷

The coming of the railway in 1861 cut the main village street of Ospringe off from the rest of Faversham and from this time on the village begins to dwindle. The mills were shutting down and the inns closing - nowadays only one survives. The agricultural industries are no more, the chalk quarry is disused and the brick works are gone. The hop pickers' settlements are disappeared or rusting away in the hedgerows. Only the traffic remains, thicker and more polluting than ever.

⁶ REID P. 2018 *Faversham in the Making* Chapter 3. Oxbow: Oxford

⁷ KCC HER items TR06 SW269 and TR06 SW321 in Ospringe parish

⁸ e.g. WHITING W. 1921 'A Roman Cemetery discovered at Ospringe in 1920' Arch. Cant. Vol 36 1-16

⁹ REID P. op.cit. Chapter 4

¹⁰ ROACH SMITH C. 1871 *A Catalogue of Anglo Saxon and other Antiquities Discovered at Faversham in Kent and Bequeathed by William Gibbs of that Town to the South Kensington Museum* Eyre and Spottiswood: London

¹¹ See, for example, WARD A 2008 'Review of KAFS Stone Chapel, Faversham, Excavations in 2007' Kent Archaeological Review 175 102-4

¹² WILLIAMS A. & G. MARTIN (eds) 1992 op.cit. 3.24

¹³ FROHNSDORFF M. 1997 *The Maison Dieu and Medieval Faversham* Faversham Society: Faversham

¹⁴ FROHNSDORFF M. op.cit.

¹⁵ www.community-archaeology.org.uk/investigations/excavations/KPs_46_and_48

¹⁶ VINER J. 1982 *Lost Windmills of Faversham* Faversham Society Vol 21; Faversham

¹⁷ TWIST S 1984 *Stock Bricks of Swale* Sittingbourne Society/Faversham Society: Faversham

3. Map Regression

This series of maps shows the change – or lack of it, in this area. This symbol  shows the location of Dawson's Row on the maps and aerial photograph:

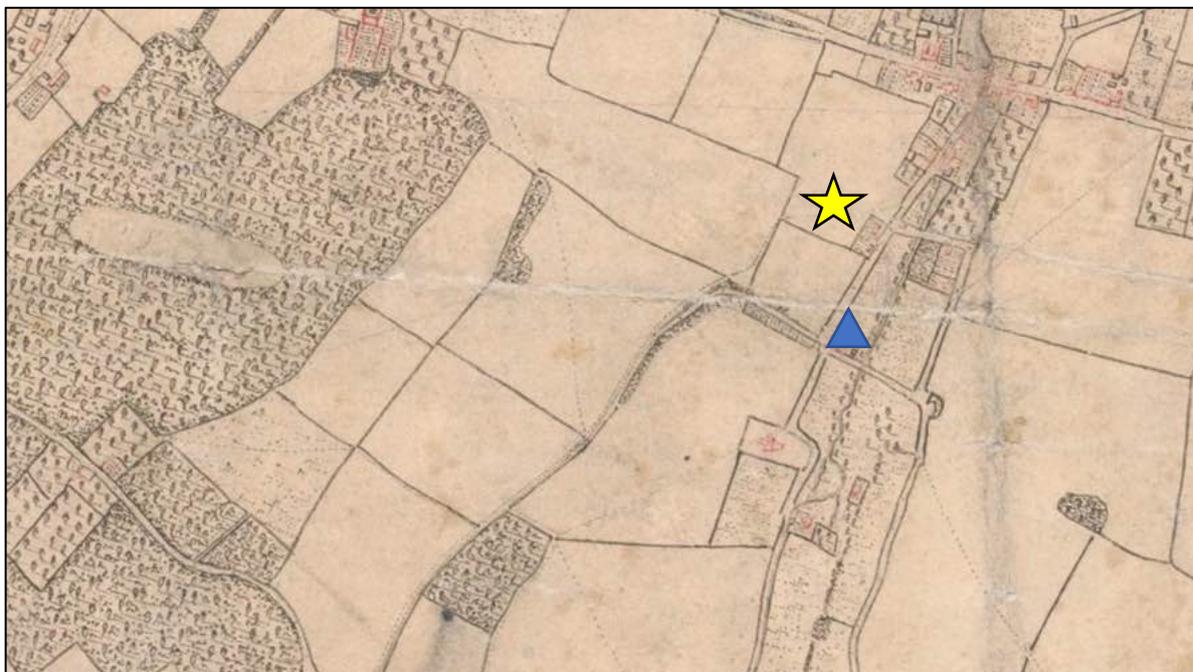


Fig 5a: OS trial map 1789

Although rather faded, this is a useful map. At the top, centre left is Syndale House and across the top right corner runs Watling Street. Water Lane runs from north to south and at a sharp right-angle corner sits the Parish Church, marked in red. The blue triangle shows Queen Court, the ancient manor, with a vestigial quarry to the right. The Westbrook, treelined, flows northwards. There is no school. The most surprising thing about this early map is that Dawson's Row already exists.

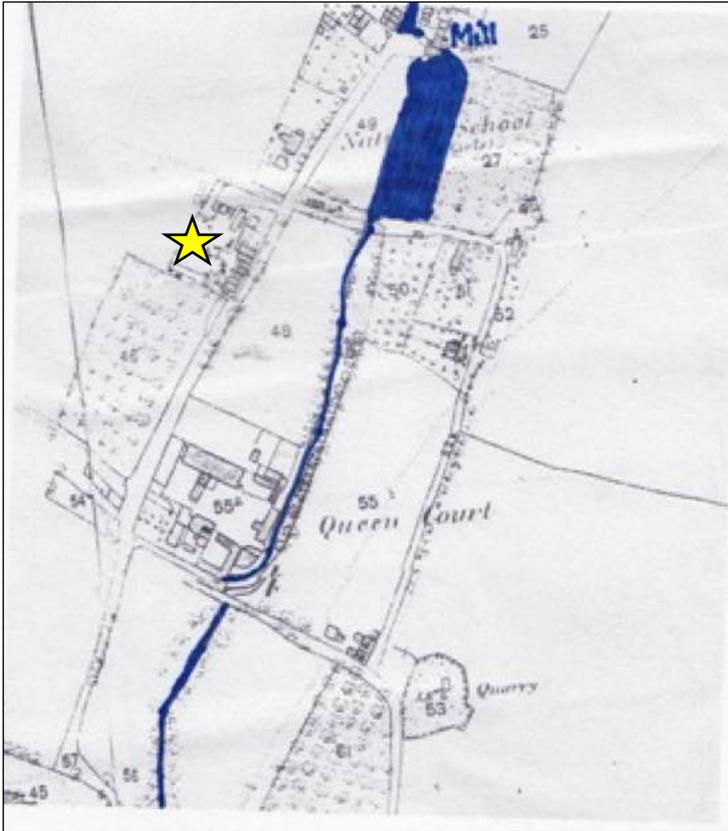


Fig 5b: OS 1865
15 inches to mile

Dawson's Row is in place, with a tiny National School to the north. The Westbrook is still flowing down the valley to the north and is dammed to create a mill pond. The chalk quarry on the corner of Vicarage Road is expanding but still small.

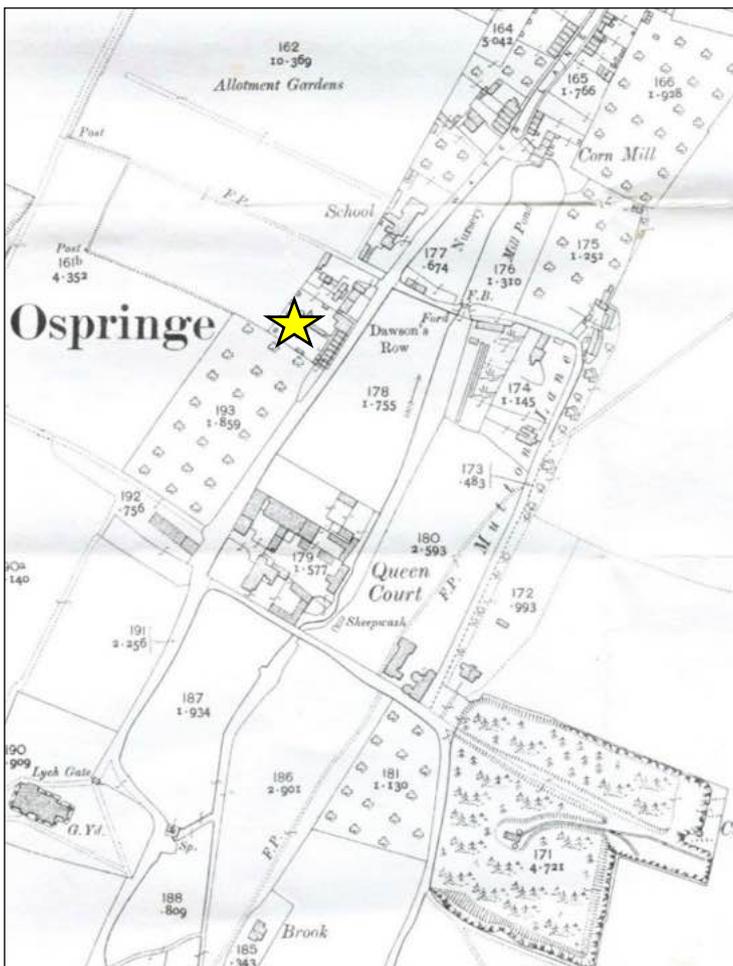


Fig 5c: OS 1907
15 inches to mile

Little has changed in the last 42 years. The school is a little larger, but Queen Court and the other buildings have hardly changed at all. Only the quarry is much larger with a lime works and access road.

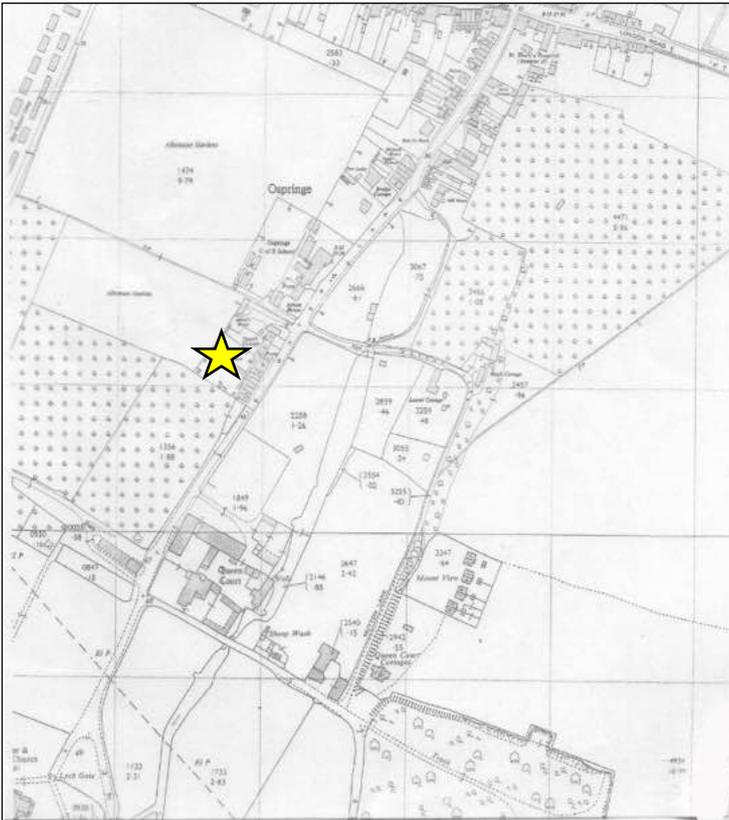


Fig 5d: OS 1960

The area is more built up, but again Dawson's Row and Queen Court have hardly changed. The mill pond and the Westbrook still exist – it is not until the later 1960s that the water is drained away. The edge of the large quarry can be seen lower right. Modern houses have appeared on the upper road to the east.

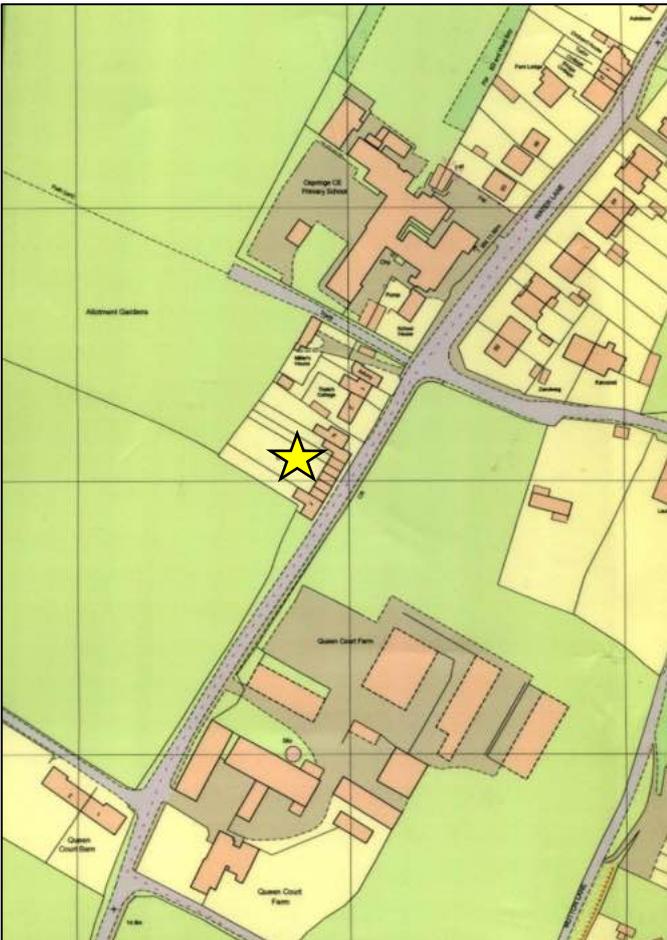


Fig 5e: OS 2008 1:1250

This recent map shows the startling absence of the Westbrook. The mill and pond have vanished and houses now line both sides of Water Lane up to the road junction. The school has grown enormously. The southern part of this sector, though, has again hardly changed at all. This is still true in 2021, the time of final write-up.



Fig 6: Aerial photograph from 2009

Houses have appeared along the northern section of Water Lane and the Westbrook and mill pond have disappeared. The southern end of Water Lane has, however, changed very little. The magnificent Queen Court continues in splendid isolation, and Dawson's Row still backs onto open land, albeit allotments nowadays. The quarry is overgrown but no larger than in 1907. Syndale Park still sprawls to the west.

There are, however, in 2021, drastic proposals for large housing estates in this area to meet Government requirements through the Local Plan – we shall wait and see.

4. Location of KP61

Dawson's Row is a row of small, terraced cottages facing on to Water Lane. As the maps show, the terrace faces onto the large plot occupied at the southern end by the ancient manor complex of Queen Court. The houses date from around 1780 and were built for farm workers. The rear gardens are long and very narrow (see **Fig 7**). Along with the terrace of houses, these gardens are stepped up from Water Lane by around 1-1.5 metres and the gardens levelled out.

An excavation spot was chosen on a grassed area in the rear garden about 2/3 of the way along the plot – see **Fig 7**.



Fig 7: Taken after final backfilling, this photograph of Nick (left) and Nigel the householder shows very well the location of the pit in the garden.

5. The procedures

A one metre square was pegged out using the planning square and the area delineated marked with string. The position of the square was recorded by measuring to mapped corners of the house. Turf was removed carefully from the square, rolled and set aside in plastic bags. The pit was then hand excavated using single contexts, each of which was fully recorded. The keyhole was excavated to the depth of 0.9 metres, with a 10cm sondage taking it to 1 metre. All excavated soil was sieved meticulously, and the spoil heap scanned using a metal detector. Finds were set aside for each context and special finds were given three dimensional coordinates, where possible, to pinpoint the exact find spot. Any features revealed were carefully recorded.

During the second day of excavation, an association of flints was found in the north east quadrant of the pit. A decision was made to extend that corner of the pit to find out more about this feature – see **Fig 8** below and the cover photograph **Fig 1**.

**Fig 8:**

The flint feature [9] that led to the opening up of the north east corner.

At the end of the Easter season the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the turf replaced. A decision was made, however, to return to this excavation in the summer season. The reopened pit was extended to 'square it off', making a 1.5 metre square pit and excavated for 10 days, using a complex measuring system for the locations of the abundant flints. Towards the end of this time, a decision was taken to extend the pit further, this time another 1 metre in the direction of the house, i.e. eastward. Return was made on a number of days over the autumn and a final return was made at Easter season 2015, after which the pit was backfilled and turf re-laid for good (see Fig 7).

**Fig 9:**

This shows the last extension, to the east. Two large postholes have been uncovered in the pit extension. The wooden bars are used in a methodology for measuring each flint location in 3 dimensions.

Suzanne and Carole trowelling.

6. The findings

a) The starting point

Giving an account of this excavation is complicated by the fact that it was opened up in 4 stages, as described above, and new numbers were given to the contexts of the new spaces. It is clear in retrospect, however that the main strata are continuous across the whole excavated area, so in this section the numbers given for the first phase KP61 will be used for the main layers that stretch across the excavation, absorbing the numbers from the later excavation. Pits, fills and features, however, are unique and will be dealt with using the assigned unique context numbers. Details of the amalgamations are given in **Appendix 1** along with the Harris Matrix for the whole excavation.

Beneath the turf layer [1] was an ashy layer [2] stretching across the whole area. This ash-laden context gave way quite abruptly to an underlying 'clean' clay soil layer at a depth of around 25cm, context [3]. At the eastern part (house end) of the pit two large circular holes were found, penetrating down through layer [3] into layer [4] below. One of these probable post holes [39] after removal of ashy filling [38], can be seen in **Fig 9**.

Below the clean, brown clay [3], at a depth of around 46cm was a yellowy-orange fine grained clay layer, [4] again across the whole pit. This was brickearth, familiar to excavators and gardeners in the Faversham area: a look at the geology map **Fig 4** shows that it is found in abundance, up to 2 metres deep on the west side of the Westbrook valley. The brickearth context [4] surface was penetrated by a number of pits of various sizes, some small and round, others broad and shallow: contexts [12] / [13], [10] / [11], [7] / [8], [5] / [6], [25] / [26] with cut context number stated first in each pair. The pit [5] / [6] exposed the substantial clump of flints feature [9] (see **Fig 8**), that prompted the extension of the pit in that corner. This feature [9] turned out to be an isolated collection held together by mortar. The contents of these pits were similar to that of Context [3] i.e. small fragments of coal, cinders and brick.

From a depth of around 55cm onwards the number of smaller flints in the deposit increased markedly so a new layer was identified, context [14]. At a depth of around 60 - 85cm the frequency of flints became extremely high and another new layer context was defined [15]. Of the nearly 2,000 flints measured meticulously into this excavation, 20% were in [14] and 80% in [15]. Context [15] which had been defined by its content, came to an abrupt horizontal end as the brickearth continued with no flints and was labelled context [16]. A slot cut into [16] to a depth of 10cm showed no man made finds whatsoever and [16] is thought to be the natural.

Apart from the flints, of which much more later on in this report, the finds in the upper layers of [2] (ashy) and [3] (clayey) and the fills of the various small pits into [4] were of 19th- early 20th century date. The few small pottery sherds found were transfer printed blue and white ware or redware, and more abundant in [2] than [3]. A clay pipe fragment was found in [3], along with small pieces of clinker, and small amounts of red brick and peg tile. Context [4] however had a sprinkling of small, abraded medieval pottery sherds, small animal bone fragments and shell fragments, typical of midden scatter. These finds, however, seemed commonplace beside the flints that were being found.

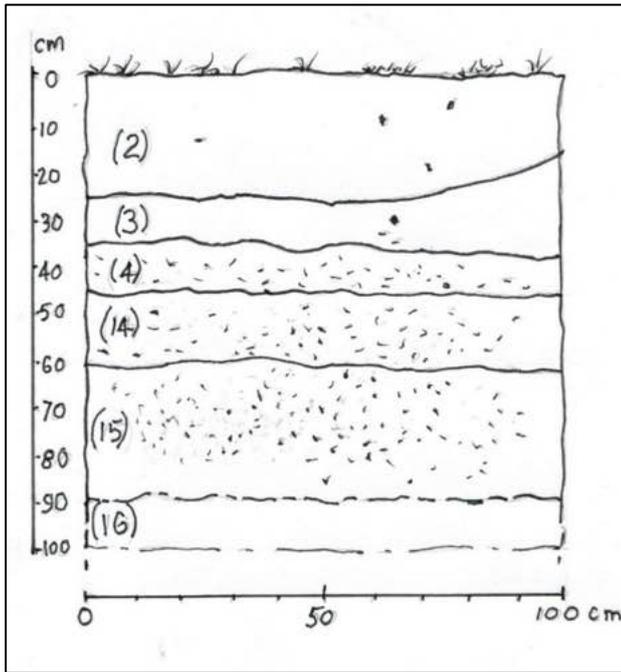


Fig 10: Section drawing showing south wall of KP61 at the end of excavation.

Depth and width are each exactly 1 metre.

Context [2] is the densely ashy layer. Context [3] is the 'clean' clay layer. Context [4] is brickearth where the presence of flints first becomes noticeable.

Context [14] still brickearth but with many more flints.

Context [15] still brickearth, but with the highest density of flints, especially heat stressed flints (pot boilers).

Context [16] still brickearth but natural, no man-made deposits.

The lower layer of Context [4] in the original pit KP61 had nearly 4kg of flint, all as relatively small pieces. **Fig 11** shows a selection from what at this stage was being called context [4L], with 'L' for lower. Later in the excavation process, [4L] was re-named [14] with layers [15] then [16] below that (see earlier explanation). This selection shows flints, fresh from the pit, ranging in age from Mesolithic (blades, microlith) to Bronze Age (piercers). In the upper tray, small pot boilers (heat stressed flints) can be seen. The Faversham area is quite rich in prehistoric flints, especially Mesolithic¹⁸ but this was an exceptional concentration.

After taking advice from Keith Parfitt, one of Kent's leading archaeologists, we set up a formal excavation procedure for the rest of this dig, a new experience for FSARG and a procedure that led to a lot of very gratifying results.



Fig 11:

Worked flints from KP61, the initial small pit, before cleaning.

¹⁸ REID P 2018 op. cit. Chapter 3 pp 35-39

b) The recording of the prehistoric flint.

We were advised to record the location of each flint in the ground in 3 dimensions – to two sides of the pit, giving a right angle and a vertical measurement for depth. The vertical measurement was made using a suspended tape measure from a cross bar (seen in **Fig 12**) down to the in-situ flint, with the horizontal measurements at right angles to the pit walls. The position of all flints larger than a cubic centimetre were established. 1,974 flints were recorded in this way – this did not, of course, include the nearly 4kg of flint from KP61 which had already been taken out. Each flint was given a number and bagged separately with context labelled. This process, along with the pit enlargement, lasted well beyond the end of our summer season into the Autumn.

Over the winter the group met to clean the flints and to sort them. **Appendix 2** shows the classification system applied to each flint to measure a) size, and b) type. With actual flint tools, a detailed type and age were assigned. The results were then put into a database and analysed to produce fascinating results.

7. Interpretation

The first step was to examine the layering of this excavation. The topmost ashy layer [2] was clearly associated with fireplaces of the houses from the late 1700s onwards and probably ceased the 1970s. This was the layer containing by far the greatest variety and number of finds – pottery and glass sherds, fragments of building materials, iron nails and cinders / coal fragments. Much smaller amounts of similar finds were found in the clay layer [3]. [4], which is the layer where flint items began to be noticed - 3,779g from [4], compared with 2g from [2]! At this stage of this initial excavation, the [4] context included both [4] and [4L]: 4L was later labelled as context [14]. Below this, from around 65 to 85cm down was the main flint-bearing layer [15]. Below 85-90cm, context [16] appeared devoid of finds and was labelled as Natural.

Further examination of lower levels involved measurement of location of all flints larger than one cubic centimetre, as described above and in **Appendix 2**. Finds categorisation by context became redundant once the measuring system began.

A series of graph and map representations of the findings was then drawn up. The first item shows the categories using capital letters into which the flints were assigned during post excavation, totals shown in **Appendix 2**. They were also sized using the measuring device shown in the same Appendix. This uses seven categories of size based on the longest axis of the flint piece. These procedures were applied to all 1,951 flints.



Fig 12: Suzanne measuring in a flint.

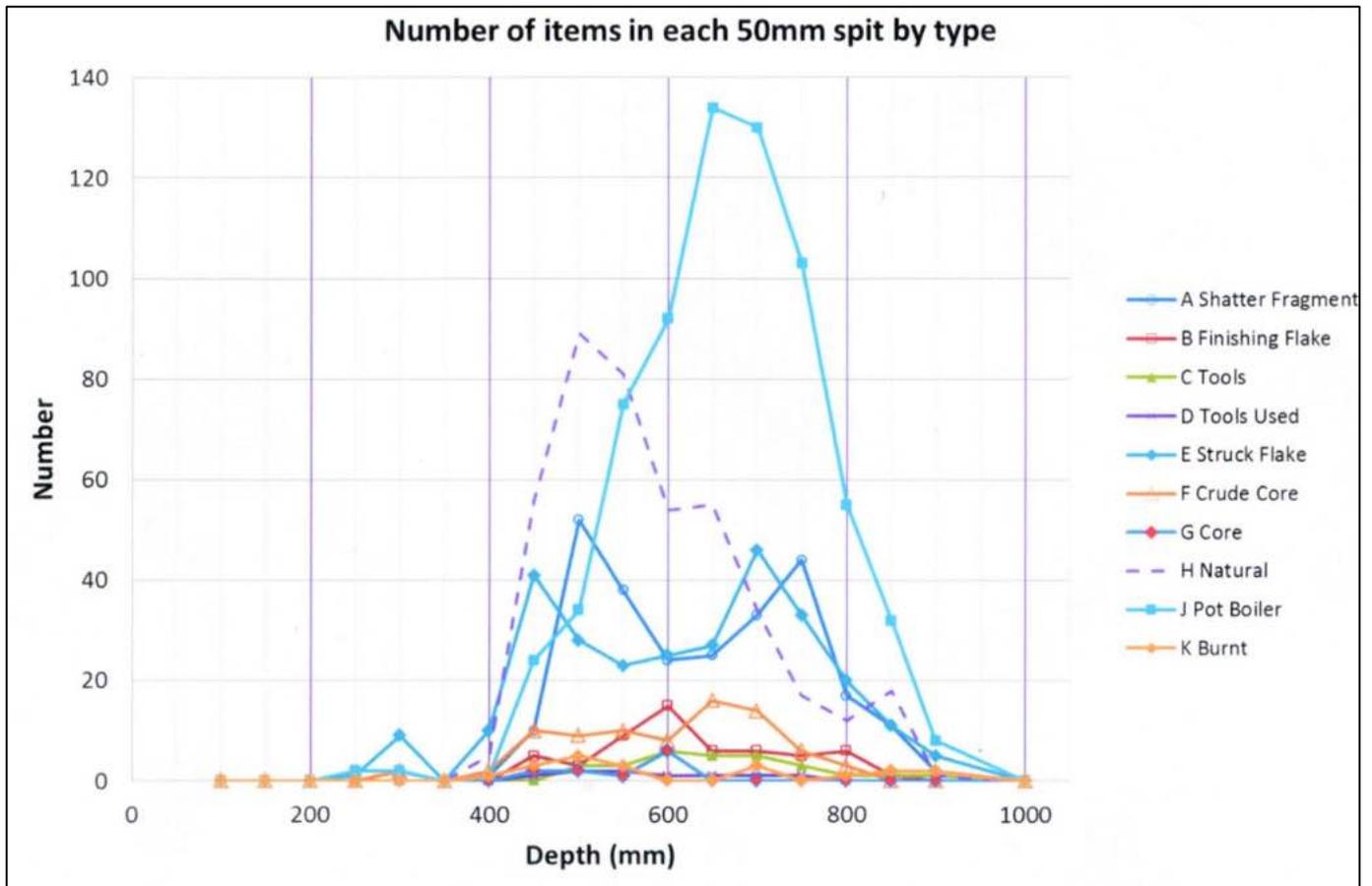


Fig 13a: Vertical distribution of all of the ten types

The sudden increase in flint numbers from a depth of 40cm onwards, peaking between 60cm and 80cm is very clear. Beyond 90cm deep, the flints become extremely rare. The concentration of the pot boilers (heat stressed flints), with the highest peak between 60cm and 80cm down, is very conspicuous: they form 36% of the total assemblage, with burnt flint only 1%.

The natural flints (dotted line) which are completely unworked, peak at a higher level, between 40cm and 50cm down, matching up with context [4] rather than [14] – see **Fig 13g** for confirmation of this.

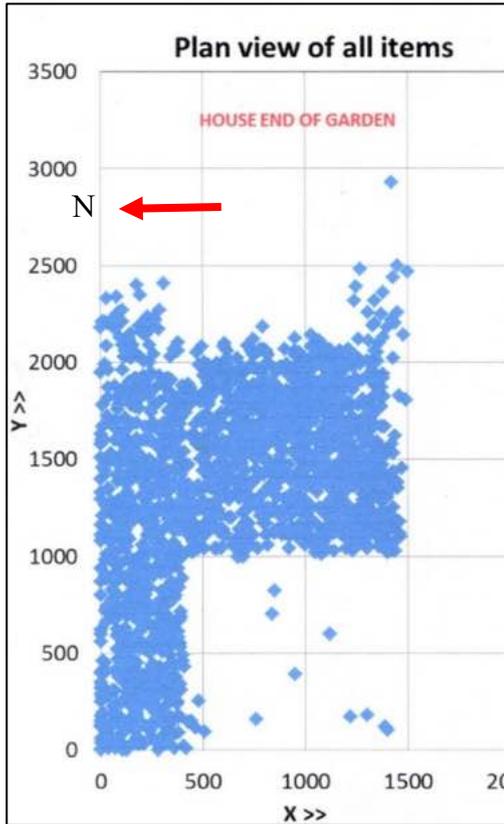


Fig 13b: Plan

The almost empty square lower right is KP61, with a few flints remaining on its floor.

The stretch 2500mm to 3000mm was not taken down to the main flint levels.

The gap at the eastern end (House end) between 2000mm and 2500mm is due to those two large, deep postholes.

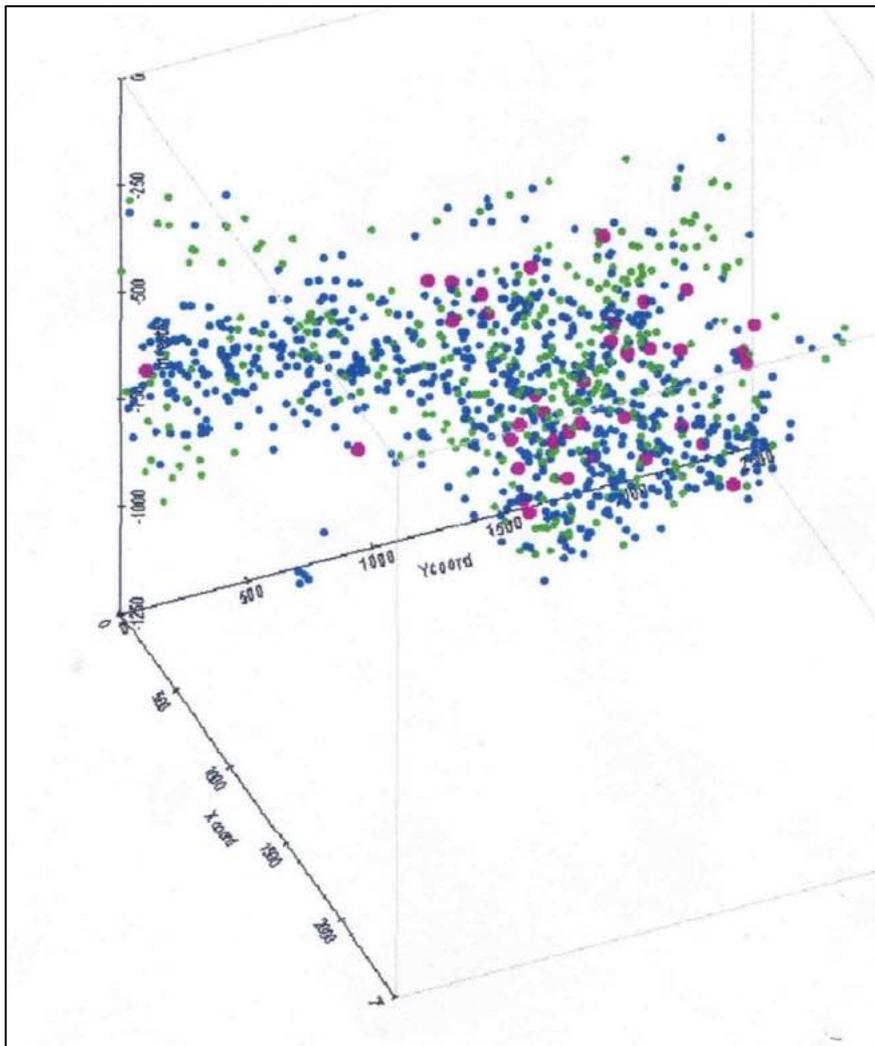


Fig 13c: 3-D plot from angled side

Key:

Blue: Heat stressed flints – pot boilers and burnt flints (37%)

Green: Finishing flakes and struck flakes (17%)

Magenta: Tools (2%) *not* including cores (5%)

Depth exaggerated by a factor of 2.

The pot boilers have the widest distribution in all three dimensions along with the struck flakes. With the finished tools, there is a hint at a two - level distribution which needs further investigation.

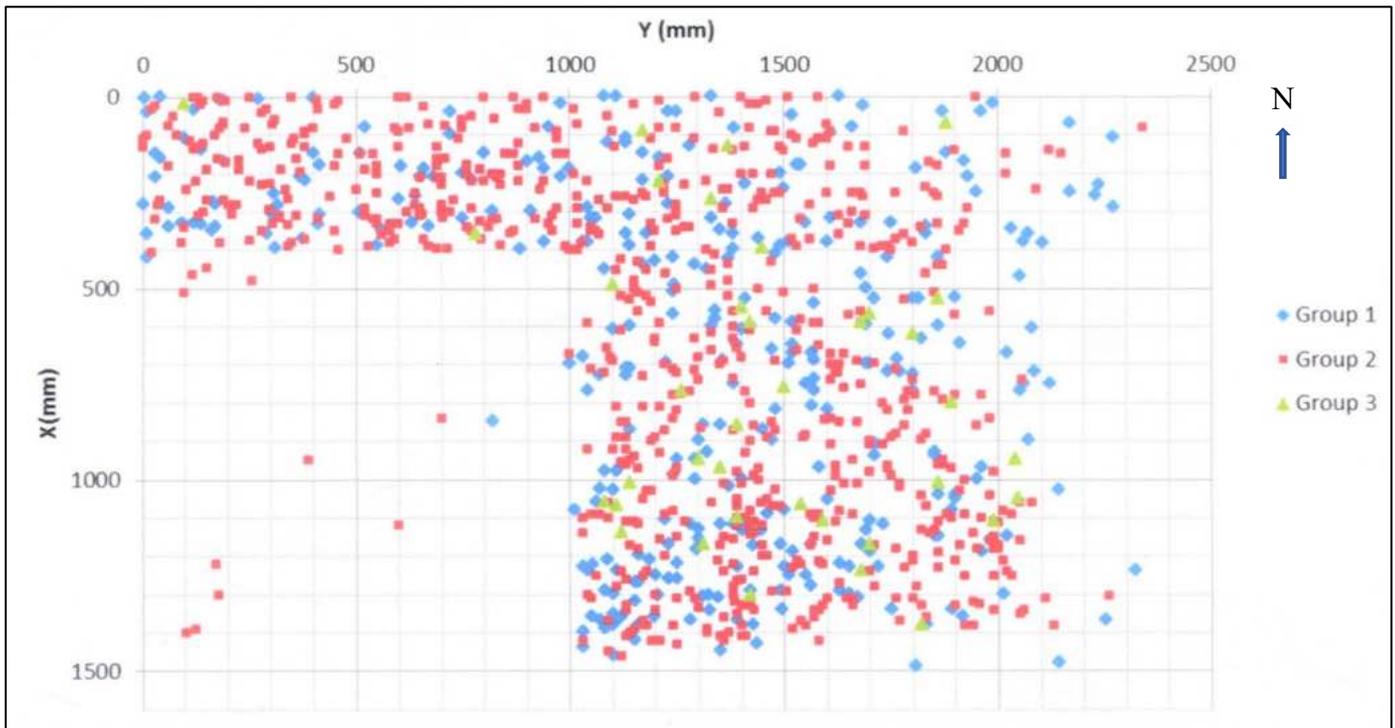


Fig 13d: Plan view of distribution of main types

Blue: waste flakes **Red:** pot boilers and burnt flint **Green:** tools and used flakes

The waste flakes appear to have the most general distribution, with the pot boilers (heat stressed flints from hot water) seeming to form curious chains. The tools are scattered evenly in this horizontal distribution.

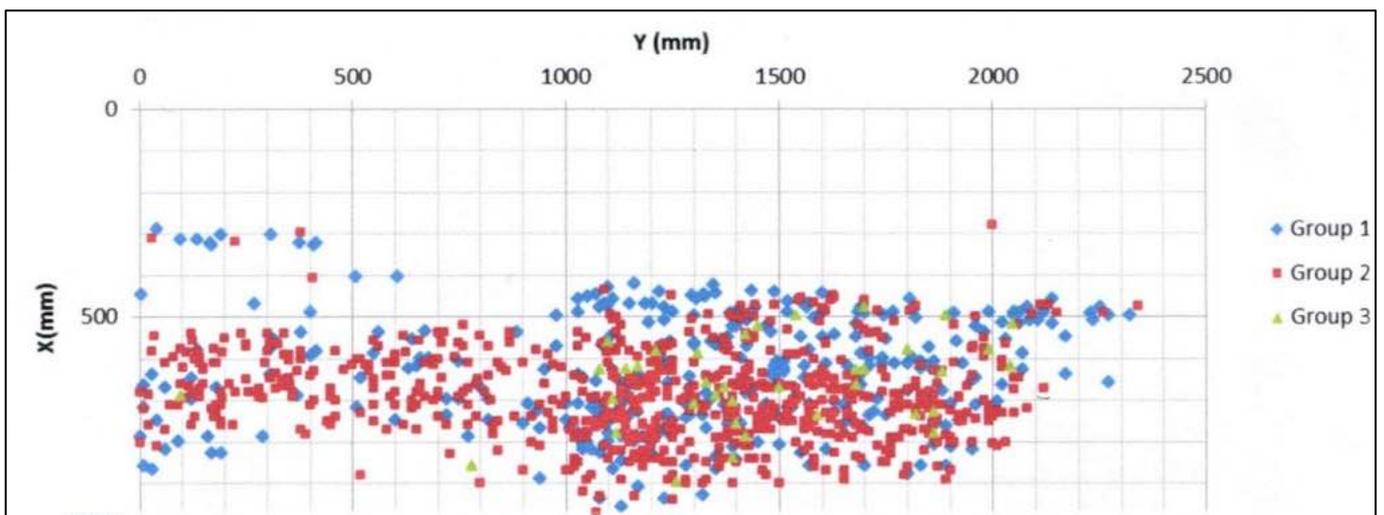
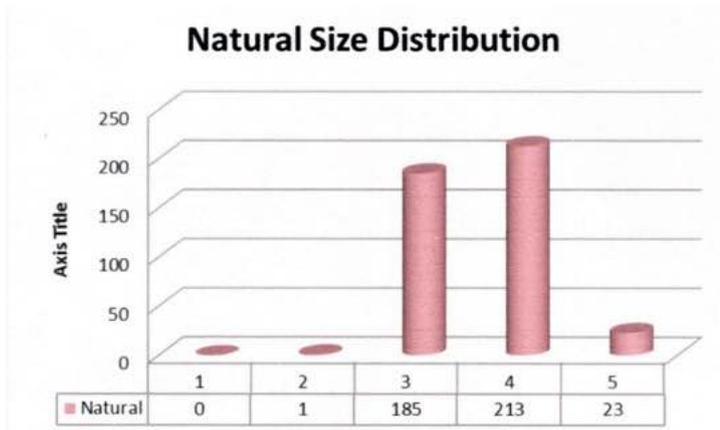
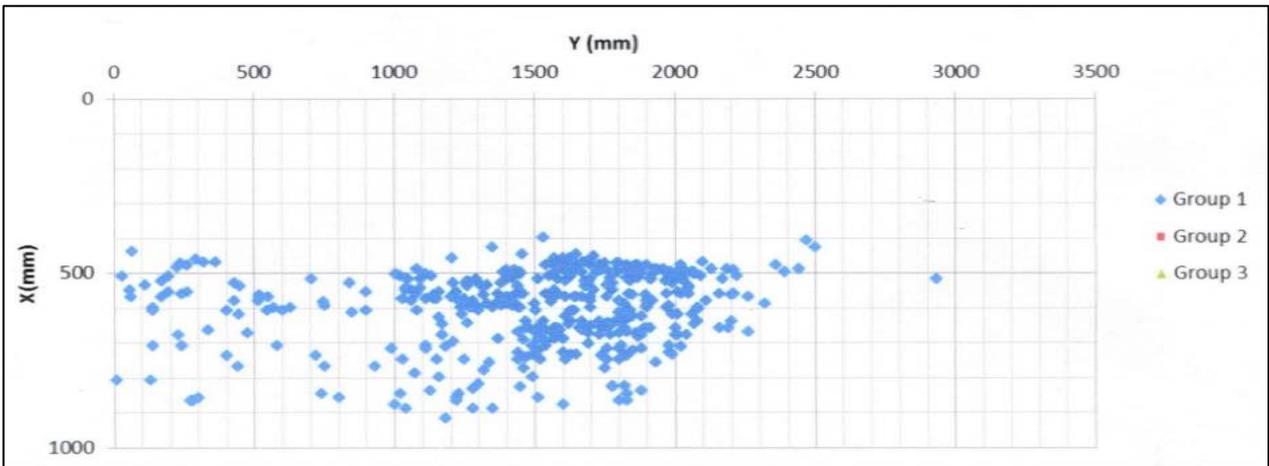
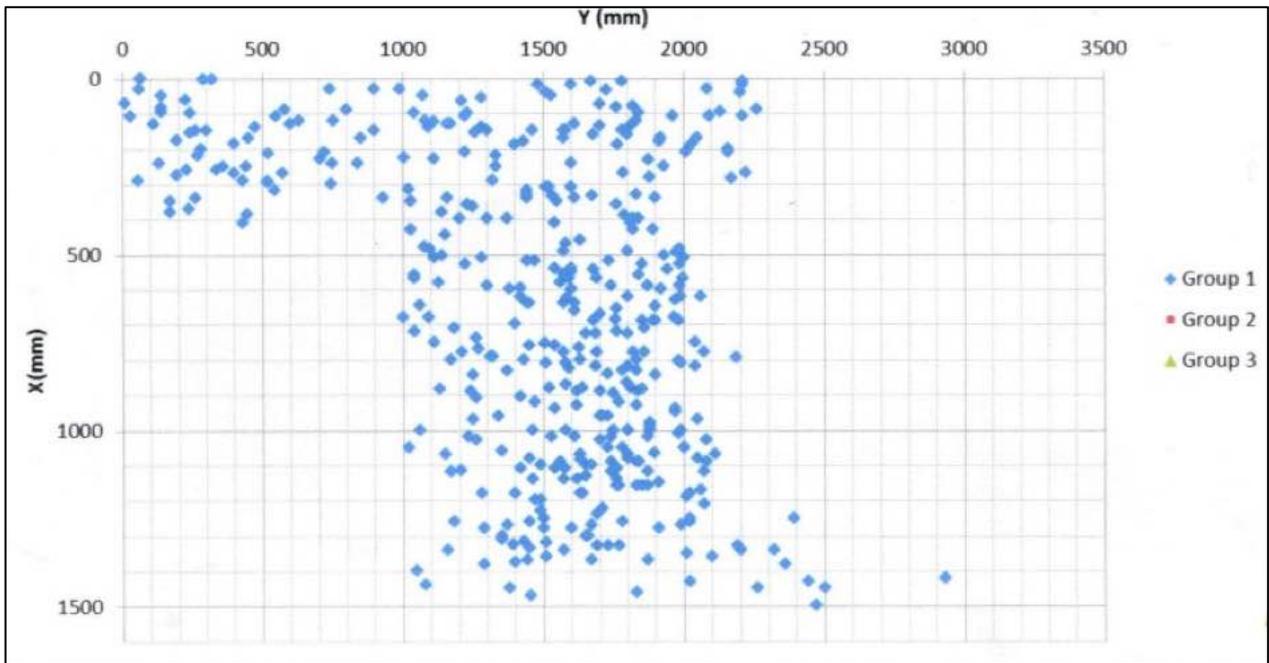


Fig 13e: Vertical section along longest axis. (Key as in Fig 13d)

The difference in *density* between right and left ends is simply due to the existence to the left of the near-vacant former KP61. The difference in *distribution* of types, however, is consistent at both ends, with the potboilers and finished tools more centrally distributed than the waste flakes.

Figs 13f, g & h: Natural flints.



These show the distribution of natural flints, using the same approach as in Fig 13c and d. The natural flints comprised around 22% of the assemblage and are clustered mainly towards the top of the flint-rich zones. The graph Fig13h (left), shows the relatively small size of these items. i.e. between 3mm and 4mm - see Appendix 2c for details of sizing.

Figs 13j & k help us with dating these flints. Only finished tools can be dated with confidence, although large amounts of small pot boilers do have certain implications (see below).

The first chart shows distribution by time period of the 37 finished tools found in the whole of KP / OA61. Sadly, these cannot be compared for exact location as some of them came from the original KP61 and were excavated by context. In KP61, contexts [14] and [15] contained most finished flints with a few in context [3] (see Harris Matrix in **Appendix 1**).

The dominance of Mesolithic flints is very obvious. Only one is classified as a microlith, but the rest were small and elegant awls, burins, scrapers and blades. Next came Bronze Age flints, mostly Late Bronze Age with three characteristic heavy piercers. Neolithic flints were seen in several very distinctive leaf shaped arrowheads. A carinate smoother was identified tentatively as Late Palaeolithic.

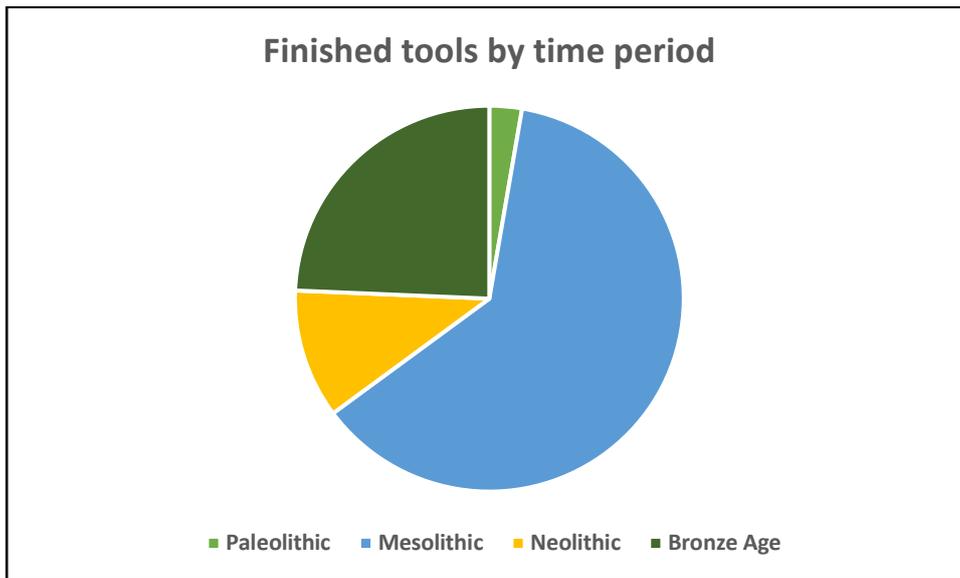


Fig 13j:
Breakdown of 37 tools found in KP61 by Time Period.

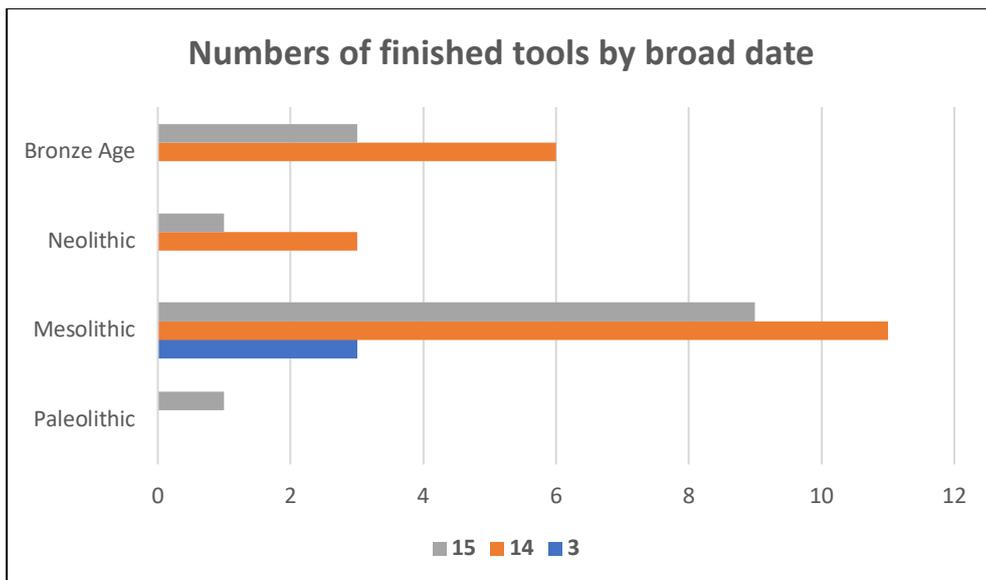


Fig 13k:
The Mesolithic and Bronze Age (all late Bronze Age) are well mixed in the dominant contexts, as indeed are the neolithic arrowheads.

Finally, there is the question of the largest group of flint items, the objects known in the past as pot boilers but nowadays called simply heat stressed flint (HSF for short.) We have seen above that not only are they the most numerous but also cluster in the middle of the main deposit. Plotting of the size of the widest dimension on these mostly rounded items gives the following pattern:

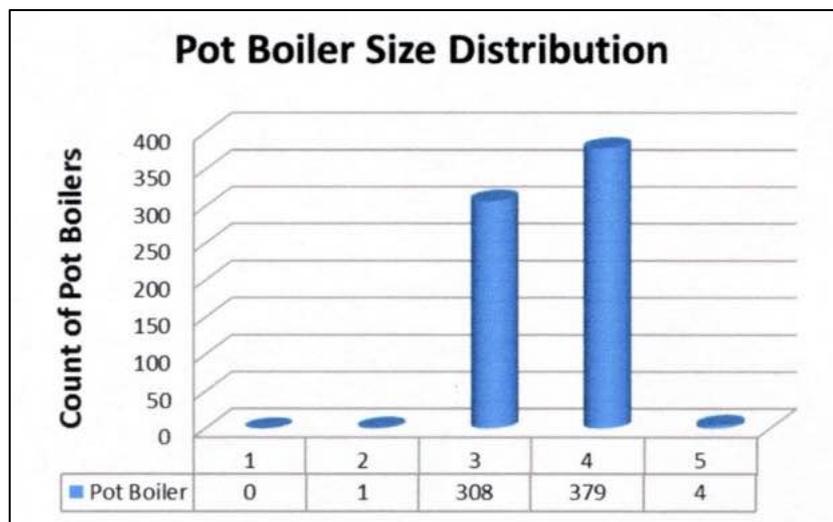


Fig 13L:

In this case all of the heat stressed flint is of similar small size. i.e., between 6mm and 60mm – See **Appendix 2c** for details of sizing.

Mike Seager Thomas, one of the experts on prehistoric stonework, tells us '*It is remarkable...how little attention these [heat stressed flints] have received and how poorly they are understood by archaeologists*'.¹⁹ Until recently it was taken for granted by archaeologists that these stones had been heated in a fire and then dropped into water in a pot to make it boil, hence the name (this was assumed to be happening in the long period before the use of metal for cooking pots).

Experimental archaeology has shown that this is not perhaps the answer – the water becomes bitter and gritty and anyway it takes, we are told, two hours to boil an egg with this method.²⁰ So other uses for heated stone have been suggested – maybe in a sauna under an animal skin tent? Straightforward heated stone for cooking in a pit? Or maybe (and this is a popular kind of theory nowadays) some kind of ritual significance linked to funerary cremation rites.²¹

The trouble with this kind of archaeological deposit, Mike Seager Thomas goes on to say, is that we are forced to theorise without much of an evidentiary base. In the case of OA61, although we have done the most we can, we are limited by the relatively tiny size of the excavation itself – it simply is not possible to know the boundaries of the deposit laterally, whether it is associated with ditches, or what are known as burnt mounds and so on.

A suggestion, nevertheless, can be made covering the c7000BC to 800BC time span. This would suggest that the Mesolithic material was already distributed through the then upper ground levels when the late Bronze Age folk came along. There have been many Mesolithic assemblages found in the Faversham area with more settled / craft tools in the brickearth / springs settlements²² and hunting equipment on the higher ground.²³ The concentration of heat stressed flints could be the contents of a pit – the excavation of the underlying mesolithic deposits would explain why some of these earlier items are found high up in context [3], higher up than the Late Bronze Age items. When the pit went out of use this became a crafting area of the settlement, overlooking the stream below whilst they made their flint tools. The Neolithic arrowheads could be the chance debris of hunters in the late Neolithic – about 700 metres away we found a deposit of grooved ware, a beautiful flint scraper and a toothed saw and,

¹⁹ THOMAS M S 2010 'Potboilers Reheated' Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society **Vol 76** pp357-366

²⁰ THOMAS M S op.cit p361

²¹ BRUCH J 2006 'Fragmentation, Personhood and the Social Construction of Technology' Cambridge Archaeological Review **Vol 16** 297-315

²² ALLEN T & B SCOTT 2000 *An archaeological excavation on land at Abbey Fields, Faversham, Kent*. Unpublished report from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust

²³ WOODCOCK A 1975 'Mesolithic discoveries at Perry Woods, Selling, near Canterbury, Kent' Arch. Cant. **Vol 91** pp169-177

amongst other animal bone, two teeth of an aurochs.²⁴ Perhaps the arrowheads were dropped by the Neoliths as they hunted aurochs up the Westbrook valley?

8. Final comments

In the fifteen years of FSARG, no pit has caught the attention of the group for as long as KP / OA61. This was not only because of the meticulous excavation itself, which went on through the Autumn of 2009 but also the Sundays spent between January and March cleaning, describing and databasing nearly 2,000 flints. The delay in write up has been to do with the complexities of this pit. Even now I have to say that if analysing this assemblage would be useful and interesting for a student or specialist in prehistoric North Kent, they would be very welcome indeed to revisit the archive.

9. Acknowledgments

Firstly, enormous thanks to Nigel Peart, the householder at 4, Dawson's Row for allowing us to take over the end of his garden for such a long time. We are so grateful. Secondly, thanks and respect to Keith Parfitt for the excellent advice he gave us about recording such a large flint assemblage. Finally, and above all, tributes to the wonderful small team who worked on though the wind and the rain – especially Suzanne Miles, Pat Wheatley, Carole Mandeville, Nigel Mannouch and Nick Wilkinson for their huge time and effort input. Also, great credit to John Clarkstone for the sophisticated databasing and graph production with a skill that surpasses anything the rest of us have got. FSARG at its best!

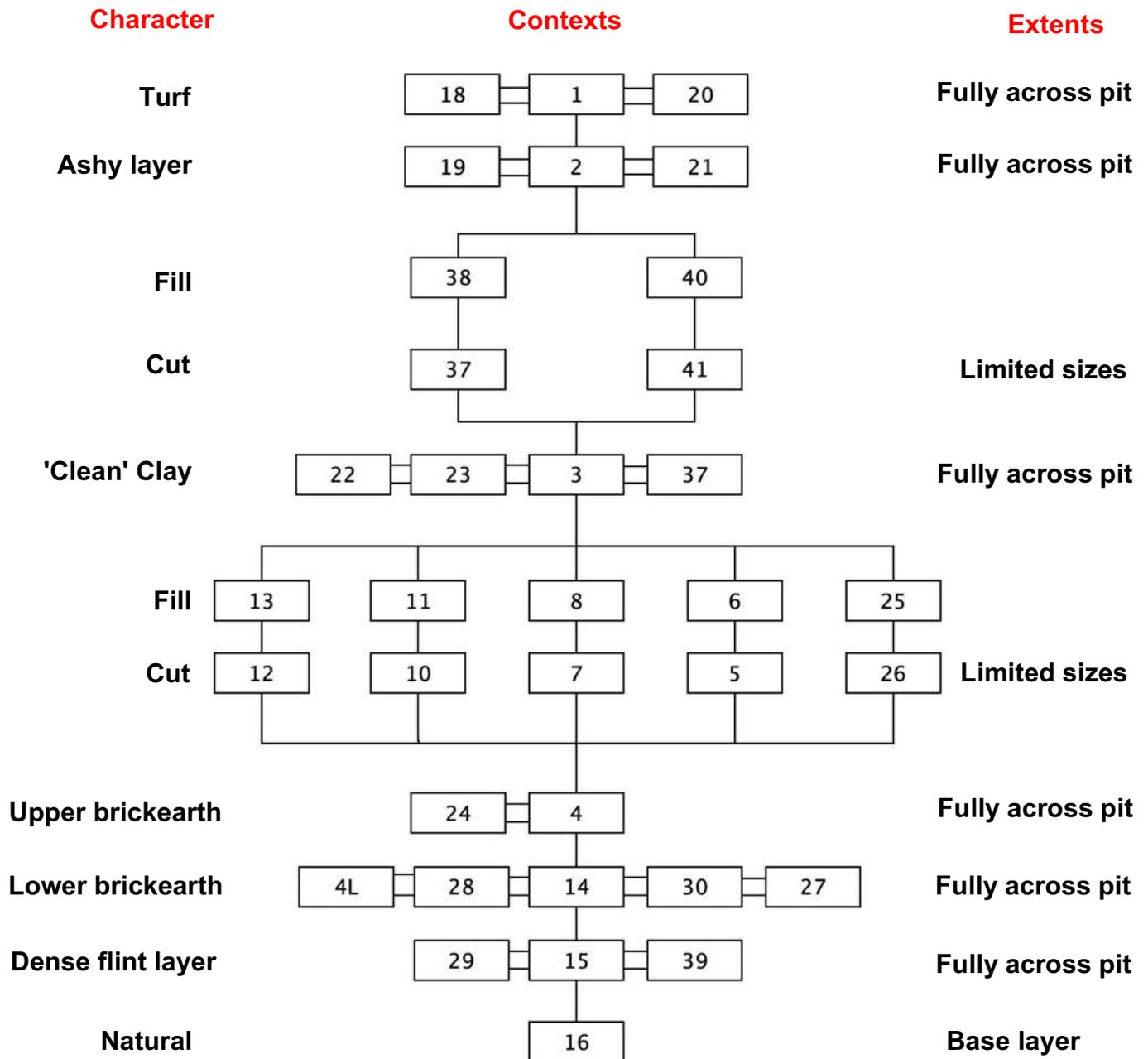


Fig 14: Goodbye OA61!

**Nick, Keith, Jim, Suzanne,
Carole, Caroline**

²⁴ [www.community-archaeology.org.uk/understandingospringe/ KP59](http://www.community-archaeology.org.uk/understandingospringe/KP59)

Appendix 1: Harris Matrix for KP61 / OA61 merged



Appendix 2: Flint measurement and classification

a) Types with numbers recorded for OA61

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N
Depth (mm)	Shatter Fragment	Finishing Flake	Tools	Tools Used	Struck Flake	Crude Core	Core	Natural	Pot Boiler	Burnt	Building Material	Missing	Unknown Cause Split
100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
250	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
300	2	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
400	1	0	0	0	10	2	0	5	1	1	0	0	0
450	10	5	0	1	41	10	2	56	24	3	1	3	6
500	52	3	3	2	28	9	2	89	34	5	0	3	11
550	38	9	3	2	23	10	1	81	75	3	1	0	12
600	24	15	6	1	25	8	6	54	92	0	0	3	13
650	25	6	5	1	27	16	0	55	134	0	0	3	15
700	33	6	5	1	46	14	0	34	130	3	0	0	5
750	44	5	3	1	33	6	0	17	103	0	0	1	9
800	17	6	1	0	20	3	0	12	55	1	0	0	3
850	11	1	1	0	11	0	0	18	32	2	0	0	3
900	2	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	8	2	0	0	3
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	259	56	28	9	279	80	11	422	692	20	2	13	80
	13.3%	2.9%	1.4%	0.5%	14.3%	4.1%	0.6%	21.6%	35.5%	1.0%	0.1%	0.7%	4.1%

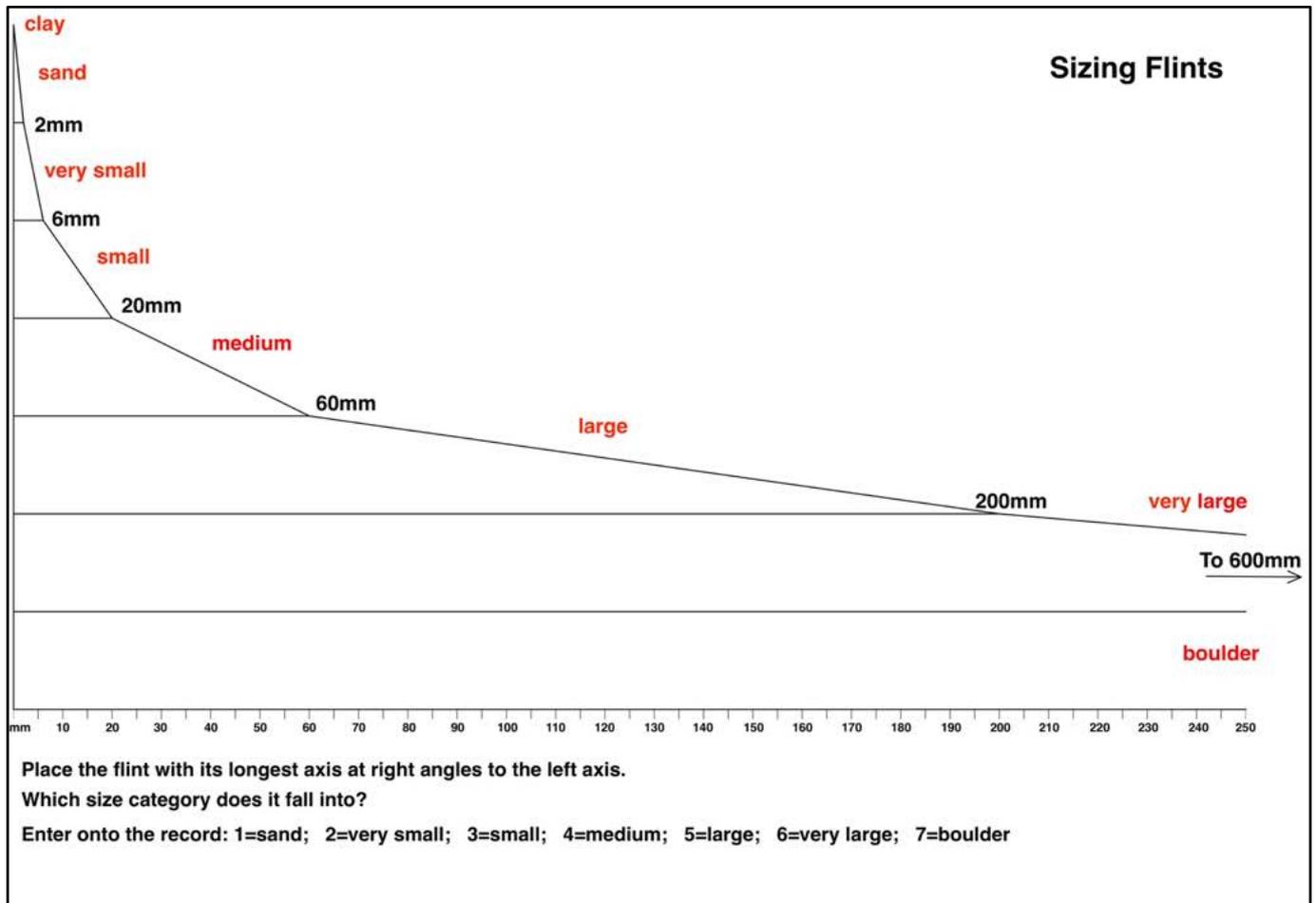
Flints from contexts [4], [4L] ([14]) and [15] were not measured in 3-dimensionally because they came from the original pit KP61. From the extensions, the locations of nearly 2,000 flints were measured in individually in 3-dimensions.

b) Descriptions of categories

Flint category codes for database

- A Shatter fragment (slivers split off when working is taking place).
- B Finishing flake (flake produced at last stage of making. Looks good but no retouch or signs of use).
- C Tools (fully shaped and retouched. N.B. further codes will be needed to assign names e.g. scrapers, arrowheads: this will go onto **another table** which has only C / D items).
- D Tools with no retouch but with signs of use-wear (see above for C).
- E Struck flake (man struck flake but little sign of working - true waste flakes. Often have cortex).
- F Test piece / crude core (large part - nodule of flint, often still with cortex, which has been split open. Might have had a few flakes detached).
- G Core. (Shaped nodule, often without cortex, from which flakes have been removed, has at least one flat surface to give a striking platform. May have more than one platform).
- H Natural flint - unmodified by man.
- J Pot boilers, also known as heat-stressed or calcined flint. (White / light grey with crazing).
- K Burnt flint (blackened / reddened in fire)

c) Device for giving a size category using maximum length.



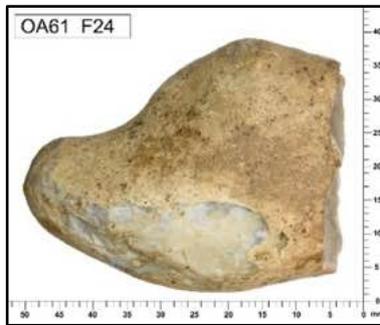
Appendix 3: Lithics table for finished flint tools

Catalogue No.	Context	Type	Qualifier 1	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Period
23	4	scraper		BA	BA	BA
24	15	piercer		LBA	LBA	BA
73	4	knife	broken	LBA	LBA	BA
74	4	awl		M	M	M
75	4	arrowhead	oblique	LN	LN	N
91	3	burin		M	M	M
92	4	truncation burin		EN	EN	N
93	4	piercer		LBA	EIA	BA
94	4	burin		M	M	M
95	4	utilised flake		LBA	EIA	BA
129	4	point	Horsham	MM	LM	M
146	4	scraper	end	LBA	LBA	BA
164	4	adze		LBA	EIA	IA
978	15	point		M	M	M
979	15	knife		M	M	M
980	15	blade		M	M	M
981	15	blade		M	M	M
1311	n/k	fabricator		LN	EB	BA
1313	4	knife	notched	M	M	M
1314	4	scraper	side	M	M	M
1315	4	scraper	end	M	M	M
1316	4	scraper	end	M	M	M
1317	4	knife		M	EB	M
1319	4	core	blade	M	M	M
1320	4	arrowhead	large, leaf shaped	EN	EN	EN
1321	4	burin	elegant	M	M	M
1323	4	awl		M	M	M
1325	15	scraper	side	LBA	EIA	EIA
1326	15	smoother	carinate	LP	LP	LP
1327	15	knife	micro	M	M	M
1328	15	arrowhead		LN	LN	N
1329	15	meche de foret		M	M	M
1330	15	burin		M	M	M
1331	15	scraper	nose	M	M	M
1332	15	piercer		LBA	EIA	IA
1333	29	awl		M	M	M
1334	37	microlith	leaf shaped	M	M	M
1335	37	waste flakes		M	M	M

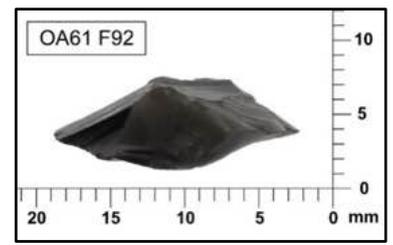
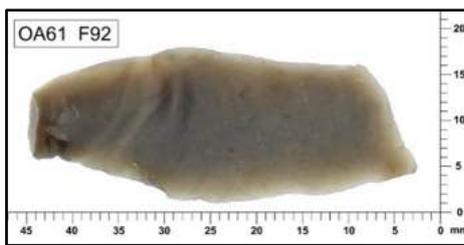
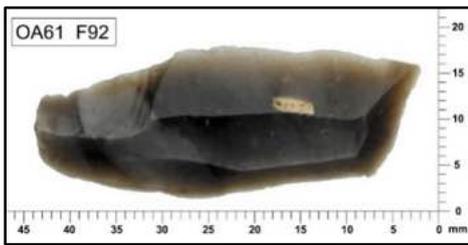
Appendix 4: Photographs of examples of finished tools with dates suggested

Left to right: upper surface, base, lower surface

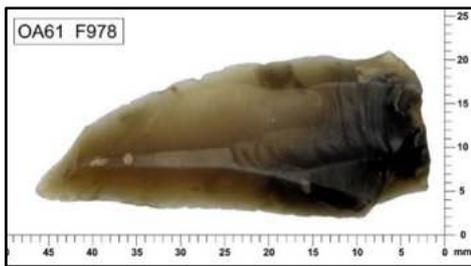
1. F24: Late Bronze Age piercer



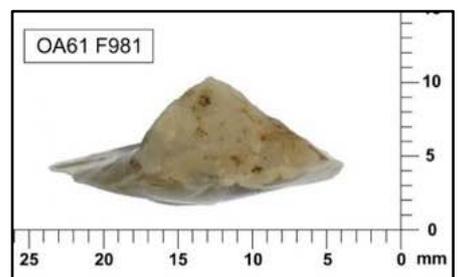
2. F92: Early Neolithic truncation burin



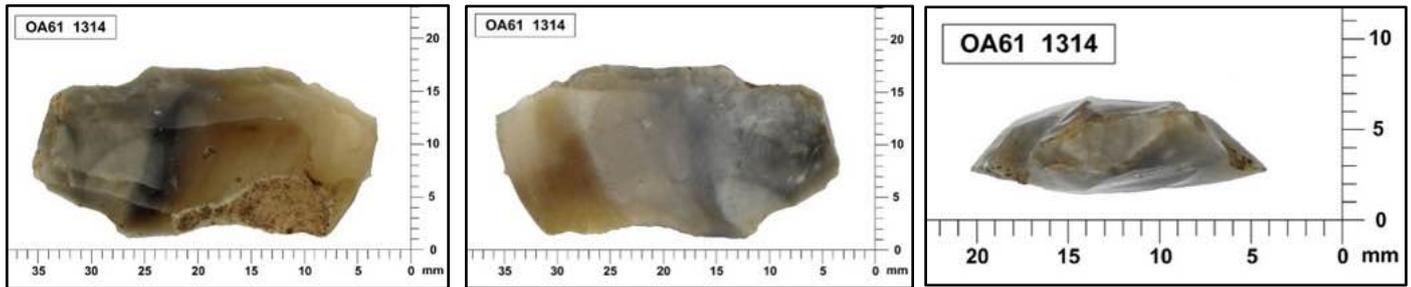
3. F978: Mesolithic point



4. F981: Mesolithic blade



5. F1314: Mesolithic side scraper



Photographs of the other flints listed in **Appendix 3** will be available shortly through the contact archaeology@favershamsociety.org

Appendix 5: Pottery NB the table applies only to KP61

Number	Context	R	EMS	MLS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	UNIDENT
233	2						14	3		63	501	
234	3						12			11	147	
235	4					28	86	11		26	74	
236	6									2	2	
237	8					2				16	16	
238	9						2			0	2	
239	11						3			0	2	

Quantities: (weight in grams)

In the later parts of OA61 [4] was divided horizontally into [4], [14], [16] according to flint content.

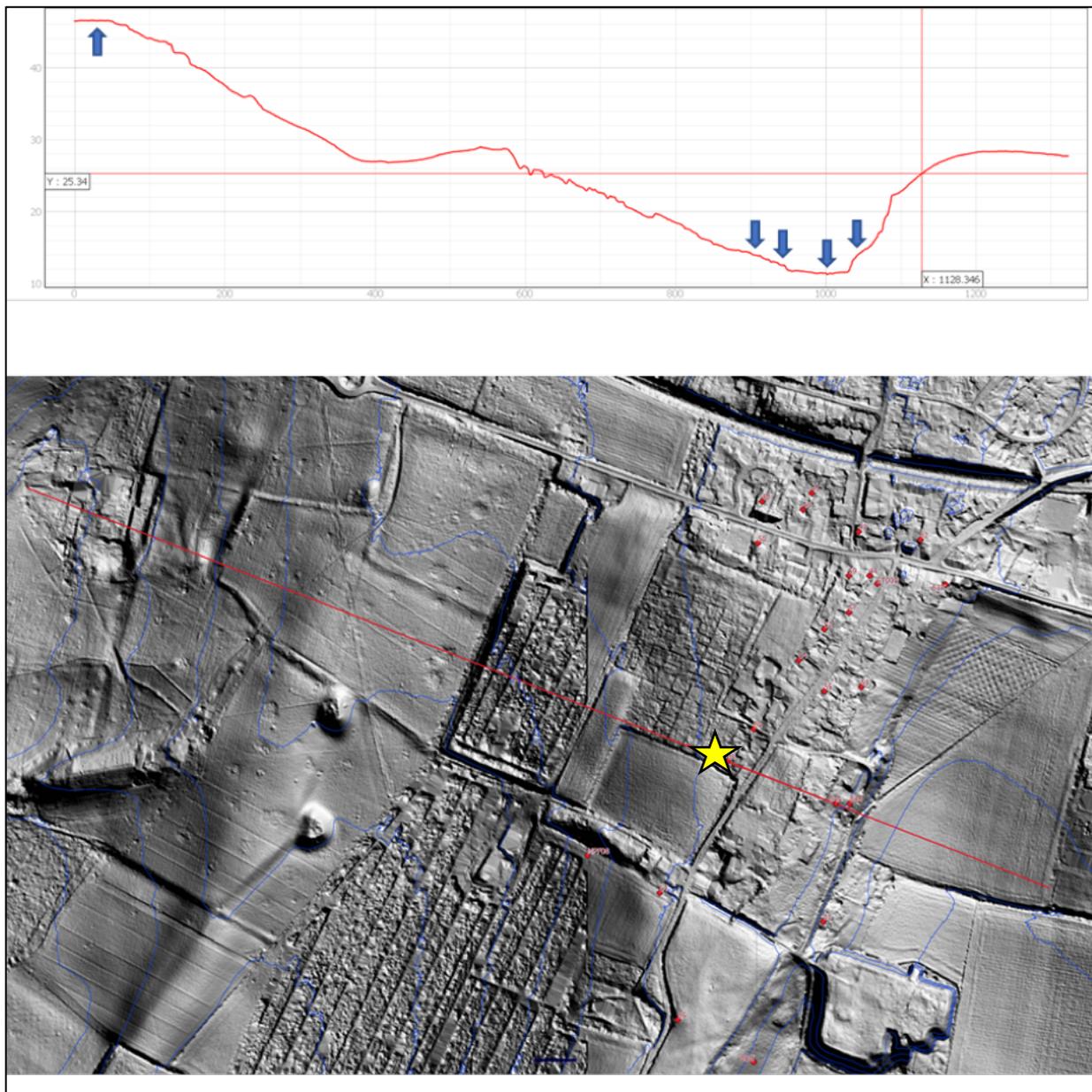
Key to pottery dates:

This is composed of the codes and dates used by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. We have inserted a new category pre for prehistoric – up to AD43 - but have another form for a more detailed recording of the prehistoric pottery: this latter was not used here.

Code	Name	Dates (all AD)
R	Roman	43 - 410
EMS	Early-mid Saxon	410 - 700
MLS	Mid-late Saxon	700 - 850
LS	Late Saxon	850 - 1050
EM	Early medieval	1050 - 1225
M	Medieval	1225 - 1400
LM	Late medieval	1400 - 1550
PM	Post medieval	1550 - 1800
LPM*	Late post medieval	1800 - now

*We continue to use this because we think it is amusing but we do really know it is Early Modern / Modern.

Appendix 6: Lidar (laser aerial scanning) view of the Westbrook Valley



The red line is the line of the section across the Westbrook Valley and passing through the site of OA61. ★

Other excavated sites in the Ospringe 2008-9 and 2011 project *Investigating Ospringe* are shown with red dots. Contour lines are in blue.

Lidar plots are indispensable for seeing the lie of the land - unlike ordinary cameras, the lasers penetrate trees and even buildings to show the bare bones of the land. There are some very intriguing ups and downs revealed.

Great thanks to John Clarkstone for producing this plot.