



F·S·A·R·G  
The Faversham Society  
Archaeological Research Group

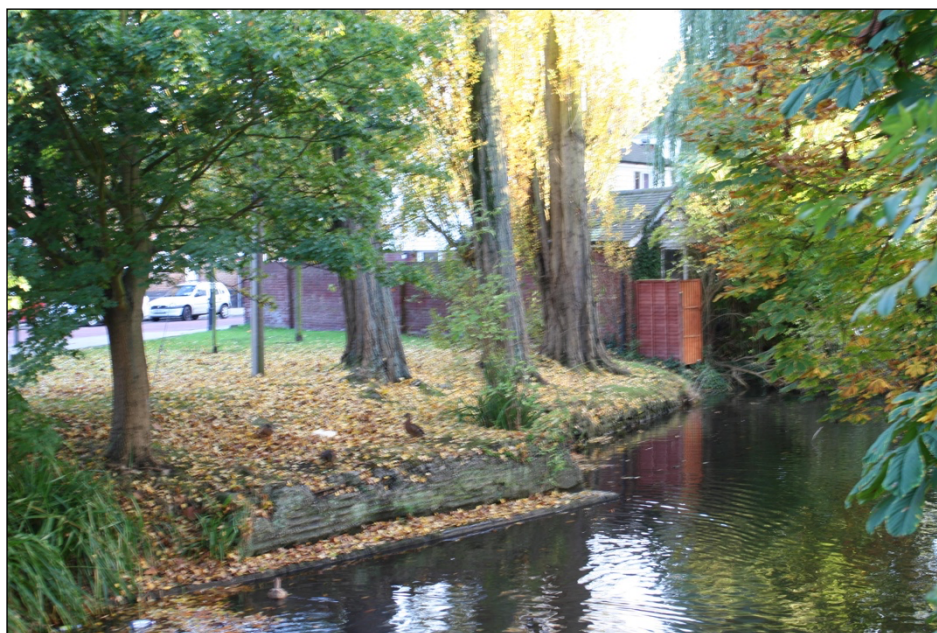
Community  
Archaeology

## **Investigating the Stonebridge Crossing SBC15**

**Report on Keyhole Pit 129 at 52 Tanners Street,  
a survey in and around 53 Tanners Street and a resistivity survey  
on the open ground between 53 Tanners Street and the  
Stonebridge Crossing.**

### **Grid References:**

<b>KP129:</b>	<b>TR 01128 61409</b>
<b>Survey:</b>	<b>TR 01128 61430</b>
<b>Georesistivity survey:</b>	<b>TR 01133 61449</b>



**Viewing southwards in 2008 from Stonebridge, with the open ground in the foreground,  
and Numbers 53 then 52 Tanners St visible through the trees.**

## 1. Introduction

In FSARG's first year, 2005, we excavated a small pit (in those days, misleadingly, we called them 'test pits') in the garden of No. 51 Tanners Street, TP17<sup>1</sup>. The house was the middle one of three handsome terraced properties erected in 1770 to house officials of the Royal Gunpowder Works which were right next door. TP17 yielded a remarkable amount of post medieval pottery, one of which bore the 17<sup>th</sup> century hand painted blue mermaid which has become our logo. So interesting was this pit that we returned the following Easter and dug an adjacent second pit, TP17A<sup>2</sup> hoping to find the one missing part of the mermaid carinated bowl. We did not find it but instead found stone masonry debris and an astonishing number of cattle metapodials.

Full accounts of these excavations are given on the FSARG website, but, in short, the deposits seemed to have been created by the demolition of earlier properties of medieval and early post medieval age. Therefore, in 2015, in our return to the area, we were keen to investigate the garden of this block that was closest to the actual Stonebridge crossing. We were also very interested in the garden of the new property (1977) next door built over a former inlet, in the actual remains of the Kings Mill gunpowder works visible through vegetation on the Westbrook itself and in the open area stretching from No. 53, the new property, northwards to the crossing itself (see cover photograph).

This time we were determined to excavate down to the water level of the Westbrook to see if we could find some early archaeology. As well as permissions for the gardens of No. 52 and 53, we also had permission from Swale Council to survey and dig on the open area if time allowed.

## 2. Geographical and historical background

### a) Geography

The study area lies between 2m and 1m above the stream level. The stream itself was running at a *surface* height of 3.33m OD.<sup>3</sup> Converting tidal values from Chart Datum, this gives a difference in water surface height of 2.1m for an average Creek high tide and 6.1m at low tide. These differences may seem absurdly large given how close this point is to the head of the tide on the Creek.<sup>4</sup> The difference is because the stream is artificially held back just downstream by dams and sluices and the head of the tide has become an artificial point around 150m away. The dams were built to create the millponds for gunpowder manufacture and earlier milling activities in medieval times. Even though the Westbrook has lost its main headwater streams down from Osprunge<sup>5</sup>, it has a surprisingly constant flow, with the main input seeming to be from a spring in the Chart Mills area. More detail on the control of the stream can be found in the FSARG paper on the non-invasive survey in the St Ann's area<sup>6</sup> and it is a striking feature in the Map Sequence shown in **Fig 3**.

Lying on the east side of the Westbrook, the study area is close to the higher ground behind the Bull Inn, across the road. Keyholes have been excavated in the garden of properties up on this higher ground (TPs 8 and 9 in 2005, KP9A in 2015).<sup>7</sup> The LIDAR aerial map **Fig 1a** shows very clearly the position of the study area in the Westbrook valley.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> FSARG website [www.community.archaeology.org.uk](http://www.community.archaeology.org.uk) Hunt the Saxons / *Report on TP17*

<sup>2</sup> FSARG website op.cit. *Report on TP17A*

<sup>3</sup> measured by FSARG in July 2015 - see Appendix 7

<sup>4</sup> see FSARG website op.cit. *Paper on the Upper Basin* for explanations of Chart Datum etc.

<sup>5</sup> FSARG website op.cit. *Understanding Osprunge: Final summary* for more on this

<sup>6</sup> FSARG website op.cit. *St Ann's Area 2012*

<sup>7</sup> FSARG website op.cit. Hunt the Saxons/ *Report on TP8, Report on TP9*. Investigating the Stonebridge crossing: *Report on KP9A* (in prep)

<sup>8</sup> LIDAR maps from the Department of the Environment 2015.



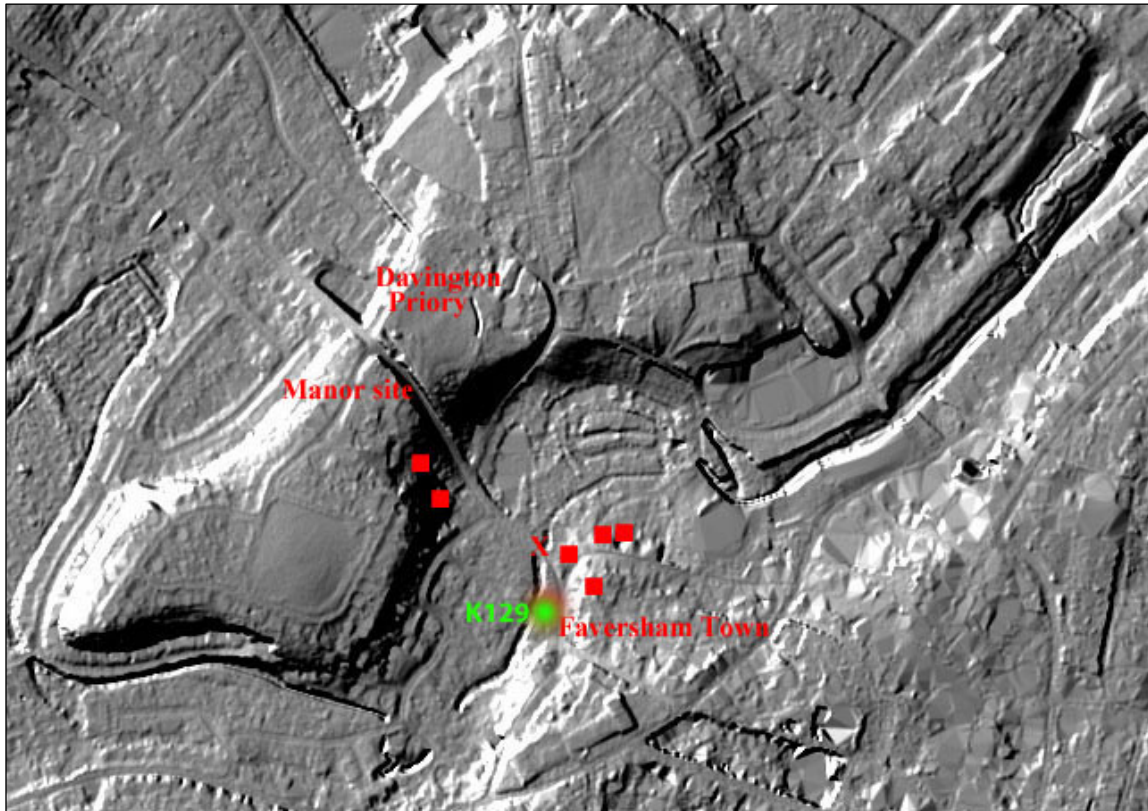


Fig 1a: Relief in the lower Westbrook valley pictured as if the sun is shining from the North West. The study area is shown in green.

b) Geology

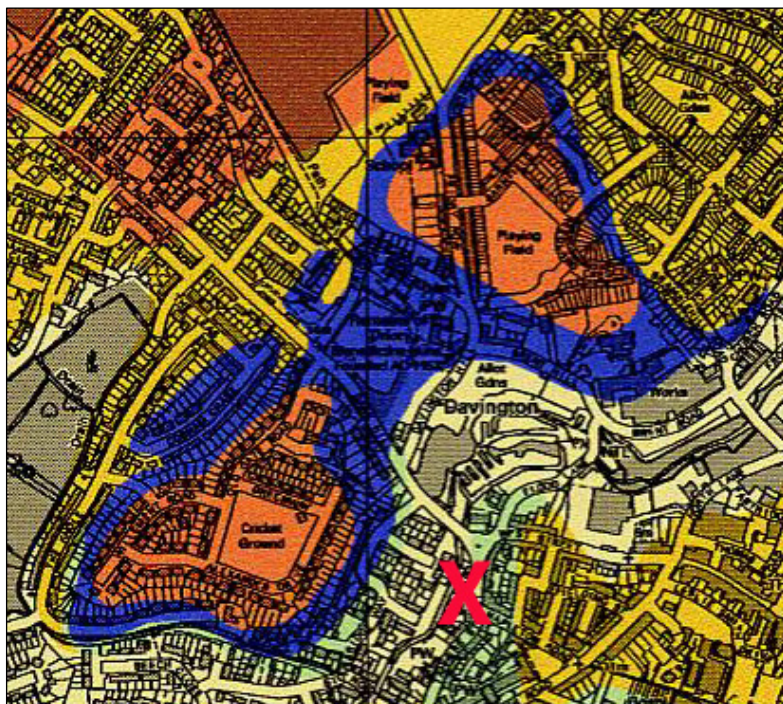


Fig 1b: The geology map of the study area, X<sup>9</sup>.

- Key:
- Orange: Head Gravels
  - Bright yellow: Head Brickearth
  - Blue: Thanet Sands
  - Light Green: Upper Chalk
  - Cream: Alluvium

<sup>9</sup> British Geological Survey England and Wales Sheet 273: Faversham: Solid and Drift Edition

As can be seen in **Fig 1b**, the study area lies on alluvium but with Upper Chalk outcropping very nearby, on the other side of the road, where it forms a low headland behind the Bull Inn. The Westbrook valley itself is floored with alluvium, forming a narrow flood plain. At the beginning of the early Mesolithic period, around 9,500 BC (11,500 years ago), sea level was far lower than it is nowadays, about 150m (more than 300 feet) below present levels. At this time the prehistoric Westbrook must have been very powerful, cutting its way down in melt periods towards that lower sea level and carving a much deeper valley than we see nowadays. As sea level rose, at first very abruptly then much more gradually and the land subsided, the Westbrook calmed down and the valley silted up considerably.<sup>10</sup> Therefore although we have plenty of evidence for Mesolithic settlement from up on the Plateau we are unlikely to see what was happening by the Mesolithic Westbrook - that is buried deep under the alluvium and well under modern sea level.

### c) Known historical background

Tanners Street and Lower West Street lie in what is thought to be Faversham's earliest town centre. Edward Jacobs, writing in the mid 18th century,<sup>11</sup> says that the original Yeldhall (Guildhall), market place and the Abbots Prison were down here by the water i.e. this is the site of the 'market town of kings' listed in the Domesday Book. Certainly the findings from the Hunt the Saxons project 2005-6 found considerable evidence for settlement from the Roman period onwards. Roman finds came mostly from the headland overlooking the junction of Tanners and West Street to the east, also true of the scanty Saxon finds. From the early medieval onwards, however, abundant finds demonstrated a continuous occupation of this area from the Norman Conquest onwards.<sup>12</sup>

There is both archaeological and documentary evidence for the waters of the Westbrook being used for flour milling from at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Tanning has at least 700 years of archaeologically evidenced history along the east banks of the Westbrook - the cattle metapodials found in TP17A are just one example of evidence for hide processing and there is documentary evidence for the history of the Great Tan Yard at the southern end of Tanners Street and the Fellmongers at the Wool Warehouse (Twymans Mill nowadays).<sup>13</sup> The most important industry from the viewpoint of our study area, however, is the Gunpowder Industry for which Faversham is justly famous.

The Gunpowder Industry, according to Jacobs<sup>14</sup>, was started in Faversham in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, using the water power from the Westbrook, charcoal from the nearby woodlands and imported sulphur and saltpetre from abroad. The original Home Works came to stretch from Ospringe down to the Stonebridge Ponds, with mills both water and horse powered sitting at various points along the way. The significant one for the study area is the Kings Mill, some of which is still standing.

No. 52 had been built in 1770 to house officials of the Royal Gunpowder Works. By 1851, however, No. 52 was occupied by John Wood, a chimney sweep, who paid rent to the Gunpowder Company. This remained the house of the sweeps for over 100 years, with the outbuilding alongside known as the Soot Shed. The soot was sold to farmers to put on their cabbages and brussel sprouts.<sup>15</sup>

The map sequence shown in **Fig 3** starts with Jacobs map, published in 1774. The biggest changes are associated with the demise of the gunpowder industry, with a final removal to Ardeer, Scotland in 1933. In the mid 50s to early 60s, the narrow Tanners Street - West Street junction problem was solved by the eradication of all of the properties in the triangle enclosed by Tanners, West Street and the Westbrook and a complete re-routing of the road. Finally, a new property, No. 53, was built over the former inlet site.

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<sup>10</sup> Gaffney V, S Fitch and D Smith 2009 *Europe's Lost World: the rediscovery of Doggerland*. Research Report No 160 CBA : York pp 106-128 in particular, the whole report is useful.

<sup>11</sup> Jacobs, E. 1774 *History of Faversham* Republished 1974 Faversham Society Publication, Sheerness: Cassell

<sup>12</sup> FSARG website op.cit. Hunt the Saxons/ *Final Summary*

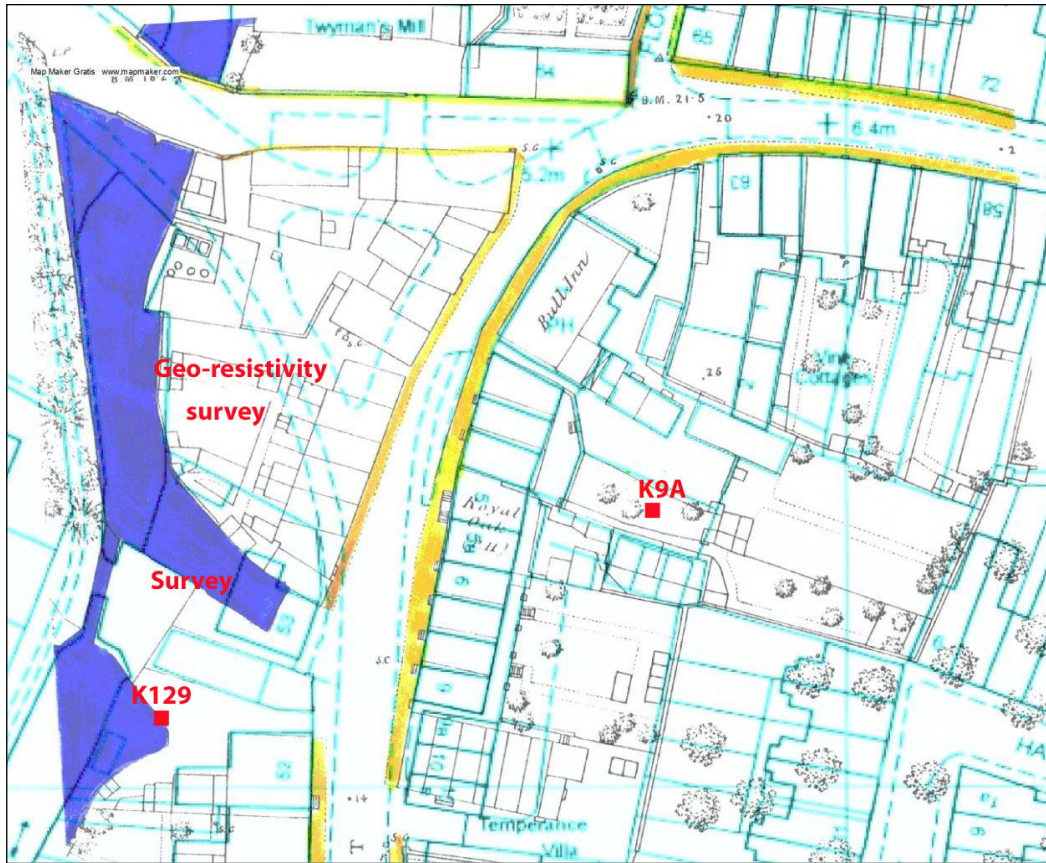
<sup>13</sup> Faversham Society October newsletter Special Supplement 2009 : The Tanneries of Tanners Street

<sup>14</sup> Jacobs E 1774 op.cit.

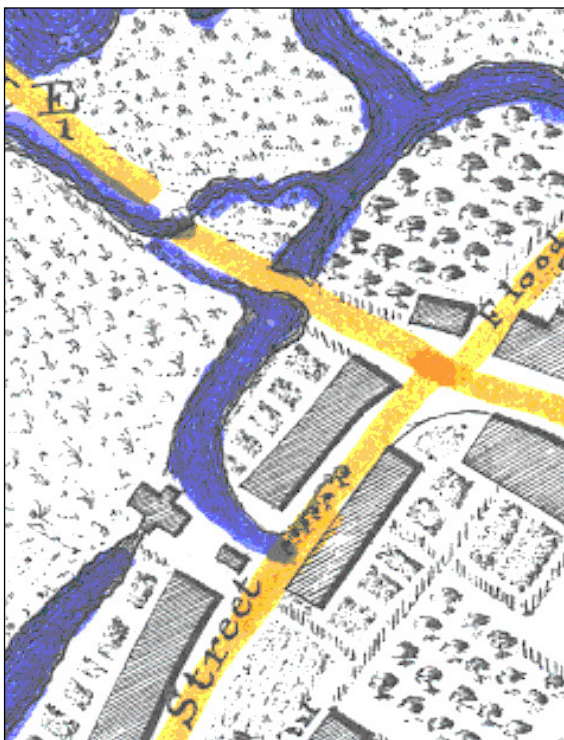
<sup>15</sup> Stevens P 2003 *A look at Tanners Street* Faversham Papers No 82 Faversham Society: Faversham p 38 to 39



**Fig 2: Overlay of 2009 OS map (blue dashed)<sup>16</sup> onto 1865 OS map (black), with locations of investigations.**



**Fig 3: A chronological sequence of maps of the Stonebridge Crossing area.**



**Fig 3a: 1774.**



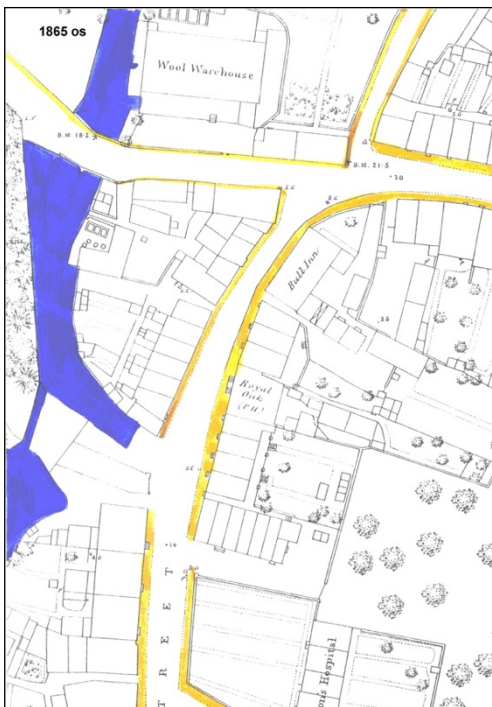
**Fig 3b: 1781.**

<sup>16</sup> National Map Centre 2009 Ser. No. 00600700 Centroid ref: 600945 161604

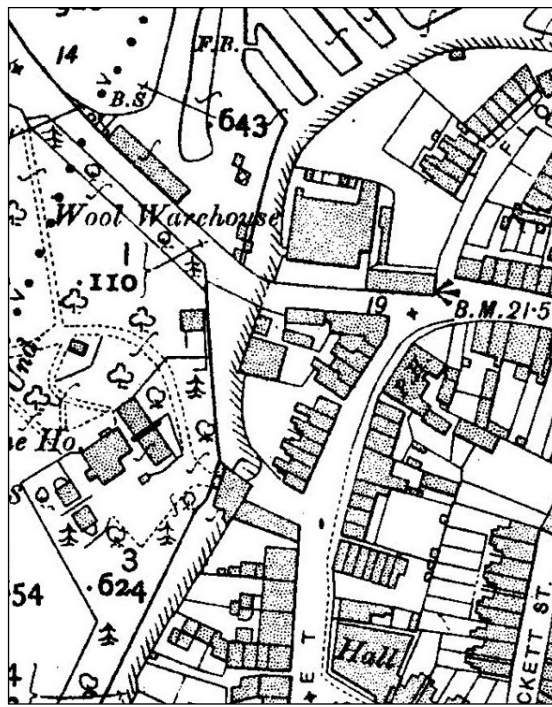


**Fig 3a**, the 1774 map of Edward Jacobs.<sup>17</sup> **Fig 3b** is the Stonebridge Crossing part of the 1781 gunpowder works map.<sup>18</sup> Notice that the second map is not as up to date as the Jacobs one and shows the Westbrook as unbridged: the bridge was built in 1773. Otherwise the patterns are very similar, with the inlet south of the Crossing and the Kings Mill works showing clearly just south of the inlet.

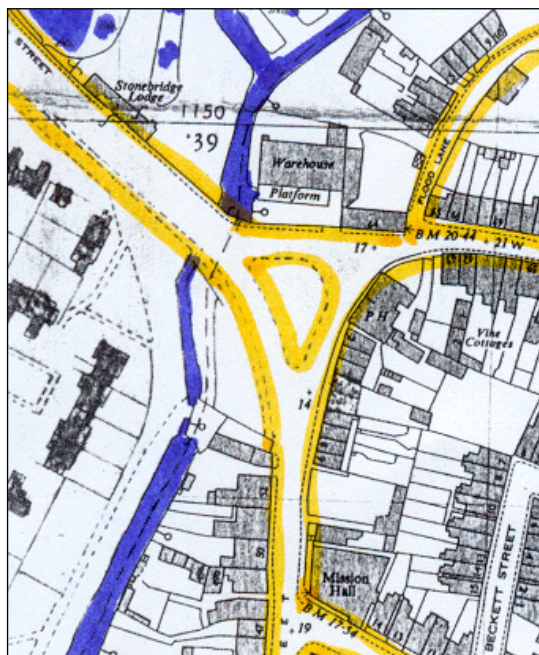
The wonderfully detailed 1865 map<sup>19</sup> shown in **Fig 3c** gives important details about the uses of the triangle of land next to the crossing. It also shows the Wool Warehouse, built directly beside the bridge in 1806. This is known nowadays as Twymans Mill. Tanners and fellmongers pits can be seen immediately to the south of the bridge and to the north of the Wool Warehouse.



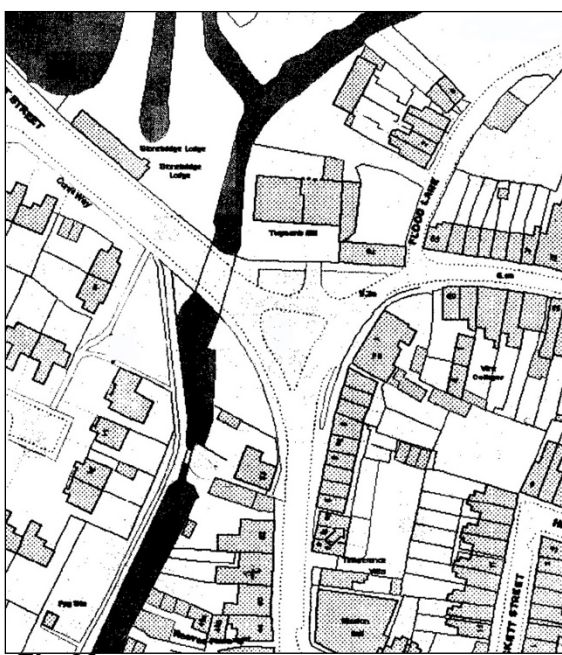
**Fig 3c: 1865.**



**Fig 3d: 1907.**<sup>20</sup>



**Fig 3e: 1970.**<sup>21</sup>



**Fig 3f:**

<sup>17</sup> Jacobs, E. 1774 Map of Faversham from History of Faversham repub. 1974 by the Faversham Society

<sup>18</sup> Map for Royal Gunpowder Works, 1781

<sup>19</sup> OS 1865 (1904 reprint) Sheet XXXIV Scale 1: 500

<sup>20</sup> OS 1907 Kent Sheet XXXIV.9 1:2500

<sup>21</sup> OS 1970 Kent Sheet XXXIV.9 1:2500



Between 1865 and 1907, there were not many changes, apart from the building of the Mission Hall. Between 1907 and 1970, however, drastic change took place in the central part of the area. The triangle of houses and industry has been swept away, to widen the corner of the road. The inlet has disappeared as has the block of properties opposite; at right angles to the road (this was the infamous Rookery).

On the left bank of the Westbrook can be seen the houses of the new Stonebridge estate. The 2004 map<sup>22</sup> **Fig 3f** confirms these changes.

### **3. Locations of investigations**

The study area has already been defined.

The precise location of KP129 in the garden of No. 52 Tanners St was arrived at after advice from the householder on the locations of former outbuildings and a brick lined culvert, plus a simple geo resistivity survey. It was located away from the former buildings but where the resistivity showed contrasting adjacent readings. At the time, the overlay map was not available, so we were unaware that we had located the pit on the edge of a millpond that occupied part of what is now the garden, but in fact this turned out very well.

A survey was necessary for the garden of No. 53 as this garden was completely paved over. After a quick overall survey, attention focussed on a central wall that contained early building materials (masonry blocks, exotic polished stones) and on the actual structures that bordered part of the garden at the riverbank.

Finally, the open area was geo resistivity surveyed over as much of the space as possible. The overlay map, **Fig 2** shows what a small proportion of the original built up triangle is represented by this sliver of land, but the central island was deemed too vulnerable to traffic to be practicable for investigation.

### **4. The procedures**

#### **a) The Excavation KP129**

A 2m by 0.75m trench 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 trench, 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 1.15m, when groundwater penetration stopped digging. 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 to pinpoint the exact find spot. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the turf replaced.

#### **b) The Survey**

Through close examination of bordering walls in the courtyard of No 53 and through wading in the Westbrook, the walls dating from the Kings Mill were identified. These were then surveyed for recording height, using a dumpy level where possible (clear line of sight) and a metal tape measure when the use of the dumpy was impossible. The building materials were noted.

#### **c) The Geo Resistivity survey**

The open area was pegged out with a grid and then surveyed using 0.5m intervals. The readings were fed into the computer using Snuffler Software and then plotted onto the grid. This was later

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<sup>22</sup> OS 2004 Kent Sheet XXXIV.9 1:2500

superimposed on the 1865 map to see if there was any correspondence with earlier now demolished buildings.

## 5. The findings

### a) The excavation of KP129

Oliver, the householder, had told the team that the top layer [1] at a depth of around 15cm had been imported recently to improve the soil. Context [1] was therefore not examined in detail. On removal, below [1] was a layer of tarmac laid on top of crushed cockle shell, [2] which represented the working surface of the previous inhabitants of No. 52 who were chimney sweeps and general handymen. Below [2] was a thin context [3] of dark soil, presumably the former topsoil but at a depth of around 18cm a major demolition layer with large quantities of big brick and tile fragments and other building material became visible. A small thin layer of chalk [13] overlay this material at the west end of the pit. The rubble layer was given the number [4].

Context [4] stretched across the whole pit but it quickly became clear that the layer was dipping downwards towards the west. In the east, a patterning was emerging in that the brick debris was becoming aligned in a north west / south east direction. This can clearly be seen in **Fig 4**, and **Fig 5** shows what was revealed as soon as context [4] had been completely removed. Context [6], filling in the gap between the wall and the east end of the pit, was fine grained, very homogenous clay with only a few isolated artefacts. The only ceramic content was a lump of daub. At a depth of 77cm, the clay gave way to a hard flat surface, probably a flagstone [12]. On the western side, [7], rich in powdered mortar and plaster, overlay a series of contexts [14], a rubble of bricks and tile then [9], plaster containing layer like [7], then [10], another rubbly layer.

At the lowest level excavated was an orange layer [11]. This had the look of the distinctive brickearth deposits that we so often find in Faversham pits. This was made further likely by the fact that the artefactual content seemed to be zero. The colour might, however, be due to iron staining in this case, as context [10] above had an iron content. Context [11] was not however excavated as at a depth of around 1m the water table was encountered, so excavation had to stop. **Fig 6** illustrates this.



**Fig 4: The end of excavation of Context [4].**

**Context [13], the chalk surface, can be seen in the west wall of the pit.**



**Fig 5: What lay under [4] and [5]: to the west, [7] to the east [6], the separating wall [8].**

**From this point, the two ends were excavated separately.**



**Fig 6: End of excavation of the west side of the wall.**



**Fig 7: End of excavation of the east side of the wall. Note the homogeneity of the clay in the section.**

Finally, the wall itself was intriguing. It was well built in English Bond and solid, using good quality bricks and lime mortar. Mortared surfaces, however, can be found on the top surface (see Fig 5) and, perhaps more surprisingly, on the bottom surface (see Fig 6). This says that bricks have been removed at both levels.

Besides the abundant ceramic building material in some of the contexts, some substantial pottery pieces were found. One

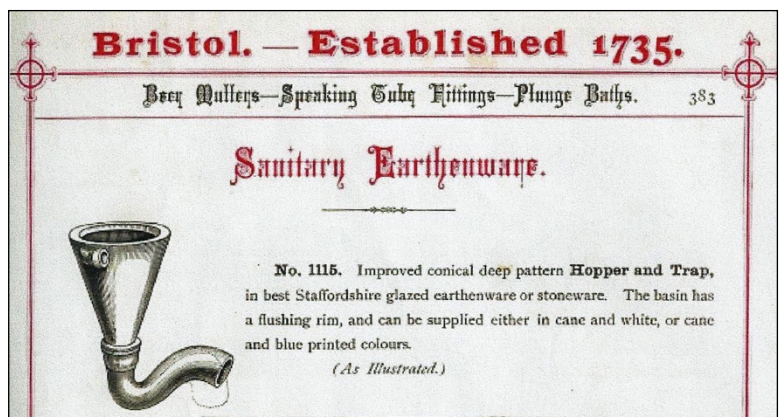
is the large object very noticeable in Fig 6. Fig 8 shows this object after removal and cleaning, and an illustrated catalogue excerpt tells you what it is.



**Fig 8a: According to the catalogue (Fig 8b) this is an 'improved conical deep pattern Hopper and Trap'.**

Our example has the trap missing but the bonding cement is visible. Another difference is that according to the inscription on the Hopper, it was made at the Vauxhall Potteries, London,<sup>23</sup> not in Staffordshire as in the catalogue.

Dated from the inscription 'Singer and Green, Potters, Vauxhall' to 1855-65, using Edwards excellent article on the history of the Vauxhall Pottery.



**Fig 8b:**<sup>24</sup>

Another interesting ceramic is a large salt glazed stoneware flagon, probably Fulham Ware.<sup>25</sup> On the shoulder is engraved H JENNINGS and below this FAVERSHAM. In 1828-32 Henry Jennings was the

<sup>23</sup> Edwards R 1981 'The Vauxhall Pottery -1 History and Background to 1977-81 excavations' London Archaeologist Vol 104

<sup>24</sup> Catalogue picture from Eveleigh, D 2002 *Bogs, Baths and Basins: the story of Domestic Sanitation* UWE, Bristol

<sup>25</sup> Museum of London online Ceramic gallery: Fulham Stoneware.



landlord of the Ship Inn, at the time Faversham's most important Hostelry by far, hosting high class auctions and dinners as well as the stagecoach trade.

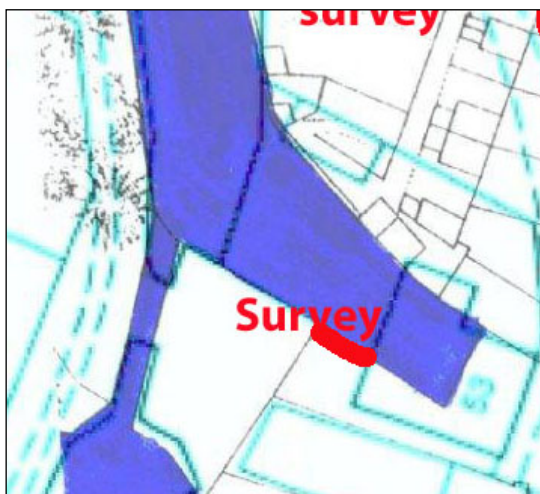
The flagon and the hopper were found in context [7] with large amounts of pottery being found at the base of context [4], in the thin context [5] which was in effect a layer of broken artefacts. The pottery included a complete chamber pot with flowery decoration and many plates, cups and dishes. Nearly everything was 19<sup>th</sup> century in age, with just a few much battered medieval sherds, as is usual in almost any context in Faversham.

Summaries of the relationship between the contexts can be seen in **Appendix 1**, the Harris Matrix for KP129 and in **Appendix 2**, and an east-west section along the long axis of the pit. At the end of the written section of this report is a full-page picture of this pit at the end of excavation.

### b) The Survey of the Kings Mill

The Kings Mill is one of the least studied of Faversham gunpowder works, compared especially with Chart Mill and the Oare gunpowder works. Yet a surprising amount of buildings have survived. This survey is an evaluation of the potential for recording and a preliminary assessment of the conservation need.

The first important observation was that a wall bisected the garden of No. 53, i.e. running east west, was much older than those walling the house in. It was a very familiar Faversham mish-mash of materials from many different sources - reused dressed stone blocks, flints, those curious polished exotic stone boulders that we find in many Faversham walls, septaria from the London Clay and bricks of many different ages from soft red 18<sup>th</sup> century to yellow Kentish Stocks. The possible location of this wall is shown as a red line on the overlay map below.



**Fig 9: Close up of the site of No. 53 Tanners in 1965 and 2008. Note that the main structure of the Mill has survived in its entirety.**



**Fig 10: Surviving walls of the Kings Mill.**

**Fig 10** gives some idea as to the variety of building materials, some used as new and some re-used. The grooved stone is typical of structures in the Home Works during the 19<sup>th</sup> century - see the project on St Ann's for other examples - but the larger stone of the middle picture is probably re-used from a mediaeval site, as in so many examples of walls in Faversham.<sup>26</sup> The third photograph shows the house and the far wall which date to 1977, whereas the near end of wall looks more like around 1800.

**c) The geo resistivity survey of the open area**

The findings from this are shown below. Light colours are high resistivity. The survey findings are superimposed on the 1865 (black) and 2008 (blue dashed) maps.



**Fig 11: The geo resistivity findings.**

<sup>26</sup> See for example FSARG website op.cit. Preston: a most peculiar parish/ *Report on KP97 at 57 Preston Street.*

## 6. Interpretation

### a) The excavation

It became clear very quickly that the west and east end of this pit were very different.

The west end was composed of what seemed to be a series of dumps of demolition material, the lowest level going down about a metre. This was no simple rubbish pit. Careful map regression established what was being filled in here. Comparison of the 1865 and 1907 maps showed that in 1865 what is now the garden of No. 52 was partly occupied by a large millpond, almost a lake that stretched across the valley. This lake had not been present before 1865 and by 1907 it has gone, with the Westbrook channelled into very much the course it follows nowadays.

The latest dates of the content of the dump are around 1870-1880, based on some blue and white plate sherds. Most of the pottery comes from a layer in between the very brick laden [4] which goes right across the pit on top and the [7] context which is more plaster and mortar. I would suggest, on the basis of brick type and distribution across the pit that the content of [4] comes from the demolition of the upper levels of wall [8], possibly a final stage in the demolition process.

Now, it is not too difficult to find a source for the Hopper. Close inspection of the magnificently detailed 1865 map shows behind No.s 51 and 52, on the edge of the lake is what has to be a pair of lavatories, using the pond water to function. The infilling at around 1880 would of course make these lavatories useless but, anyway, in 1852 this part of town had received piped water and sewers.<sup>27</sup> So into the infill went the old-fashioned hoppers that had a nasty tendency to back up.

The domestic pottery deposit is not so easy to explain. There is no obvious demolition and rebuilding of houses in the vicinity around the time in question. More research into the chronology of events concerning the Home Works is obviously required. Similarly, the surviving wall portion is a puzzle. It is very substantial, but has been 'topped and tailed'. It may be coincidence, but the surviving section seems to correspond to the clay deposit and floor represented in contexts [6] and [12]. It is established that the wall ran along the edge of the millpond / lake but was it a wharf for punts going between here and Chart Mill upstream? Or was it part of a dam running across the valley? Or was it a blast wall to protect the official's houses from the all too common accidents on gunpowder sites? Maybe all three?

### b) Evaluation of the Kings Mill remains

These remains proved to be more substantial and extensive than expected. Due to the overgrown nature of them, it was hard to be precise, but they certainly deserve full recording.

One of the unexpected features was the almighty mixtures of materials involved in these walls, the endless patching up and make-do-and-mend. Features like the wall remains in K129 were exceptionally well built, perhaps during the phase when this was the Royal Gunpowder Works (1760-1820). Perhaps later on, with much of the action moving out to the Marsh Works in the late 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century and Uplees in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Kings Mills became more typically Faversham, keeping things going with whatever came to hand. Certainly it would be very interesting and useful to know exactly when the Kings Mills made its last gunpowder.

**Stop press:** at the time of writing, a map from the late Arthur Percival's archive has surfaced that could shed light on this. The relevant portion is in **Appendix 5**, but must await support notes to be understood.

### c) The Geo resistivity survey

Although this was completed, there was not time to carry out any follow up digging.

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<sup>27</sup> 1852 Pavement Commissioners Map: archive of the Faversham Society

We would have liked to have taken a look at the site of the tannery shown on the 1865 map and still in existence in 1907. The concrete platform on which it was founded can be seen sticking into the Westbrook in the 1865 map and also in the 2008 cover photograph. It shows up right in the top corner of the georesistivity survey. Another large splotch of high resistivity lies over what is shown in 1865 and 1907 as a yard area. It is probably debris from the demolished houses spread across the flat areas.

It would have been good to have tried for early features here, downstream from the complications of the Kings Mills but that will have to wait another day, maybe for a drought summer when the stream is unusually low.

## **7. Final comments**

This was a fascinating area to work in, full of echoes of Faversham's past. The project, through the many questions raised, highlighted the need for more research into this area to fill out the narrative. The absence of the medieval, let alone the prehistoric, does, however, show a limitation on what can be learned from areas so close to the water table.

## **8. Acknowledgments**

Great thanks to the Tanns of 52 Tanners Street for being so patient with us whilst we took their garden apart - I hope they enjoyed the drama of this excavation as much as we did. Particular thanks to Peter Tann, father of Oliver and expert on Kentish Historical industry, who called in and instantly and without prompting confirmed our diagnosis of the brickwork of the wall as high quality. Thanks also to David Judson and Jacquie Radwell of 53 Tanners Street who let us roam around their garden recording walls of earlier buildings. Finally, once again, thanks to Swale Borough Council for being so understanding and allowing us to survey council-owned land.

**Dr Pat Reid**

**November 2015**

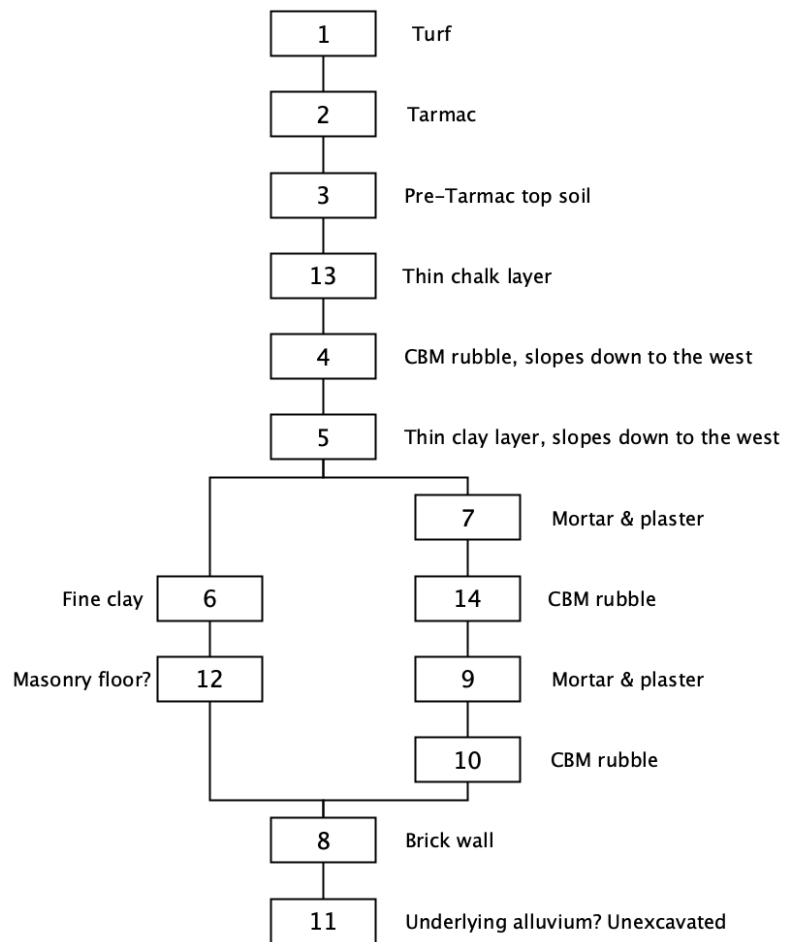
**Fig 11** shows the keyhole pit at the end of excavation. Congratulations to the supervisor, Mike Tillman and his team for a superb piece of keyhole surgery excavation.





**Fig 11: Keyhole KP129 at the end of excavation.**

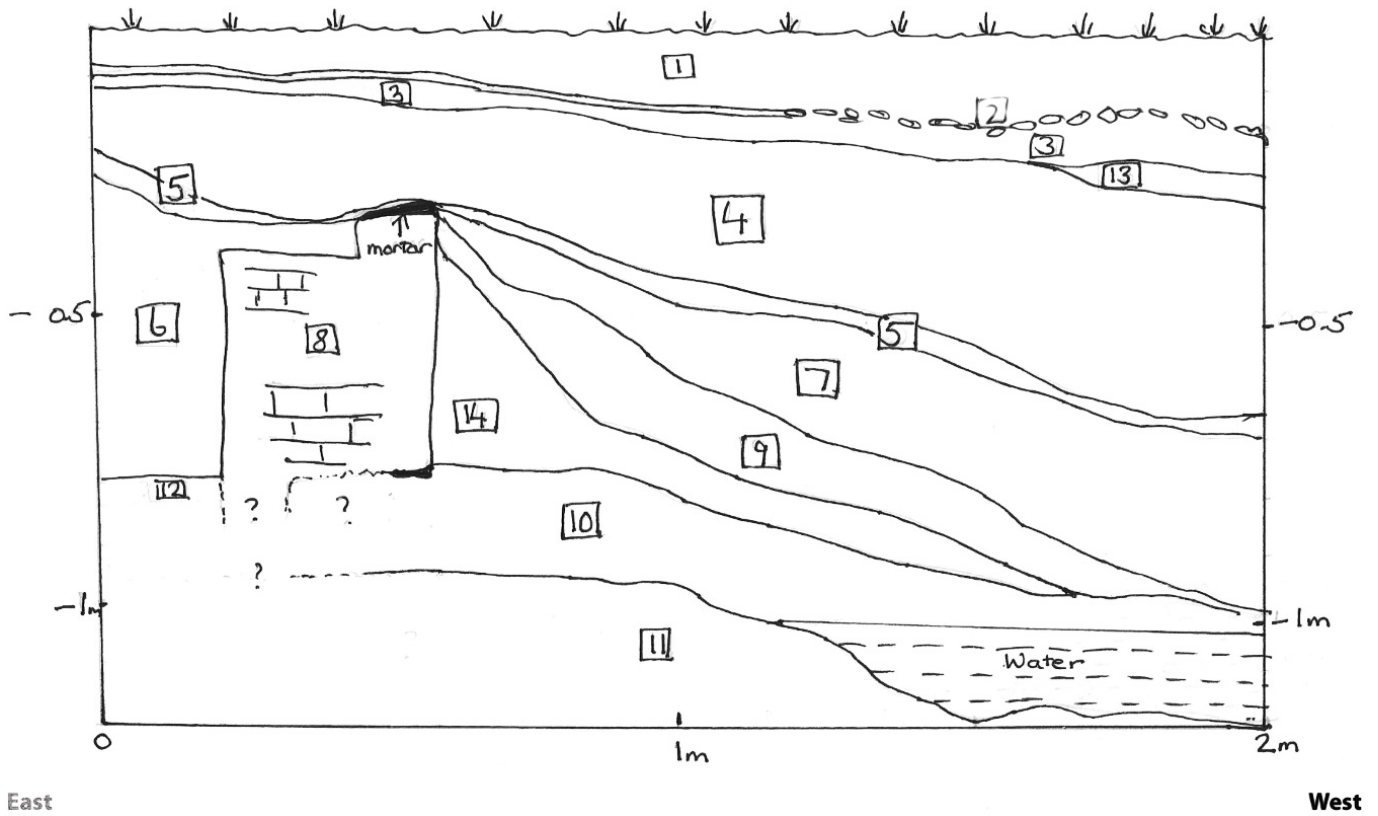
## Appendix 1: Harris Matrix for KP129



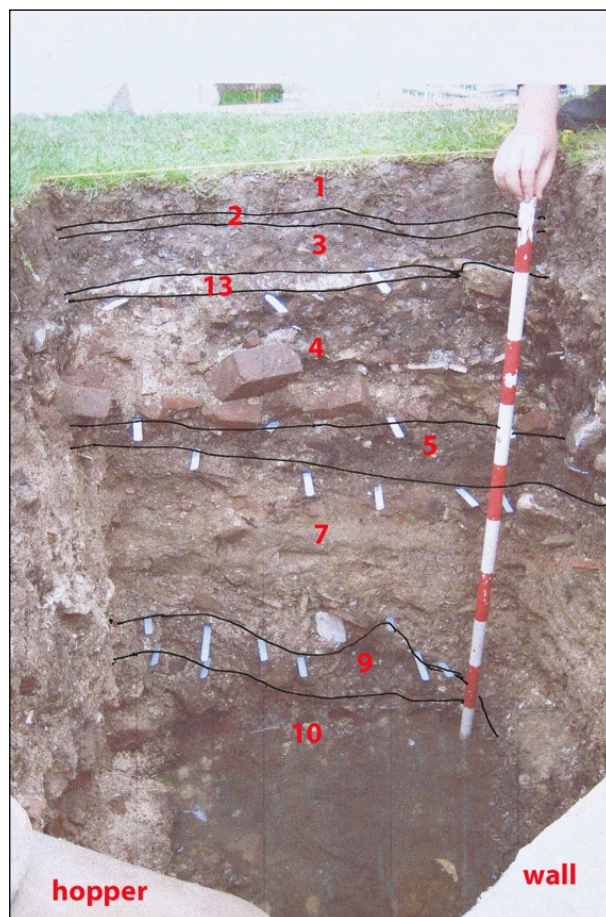


Appendix 2:  
Sections

a) Sketch section along the east west axis of KP129.



b) Profile of contexts on the west wall of KP129.



Appendix 3:  
1839 tithe map.<sup>28</sup>

The 1839 tithe map of the Stonebridge Crossing area, with excavation spots marked.



<sup>28</sup> Tithe map for Faversham 1839 KCC Archives, Maidstone.



## Tithe Schedule 1839: Important buildings around SBC.<sup>29</sup>

The schedule gives information about the plots of land and properties as shown on the tithe map and brings the town alive. Without this, the map is of limited use.

Number	Use	Owner	Occupier
526	House, garden, stable	Julius Shepherd	Himself
527	Cottage*	Julius Shepherd	Himself
528	Warehouse and yard**	Julius Shepherd	Himself
529	Garden [on island]	Julius Shepherd	Himself
530	Island garden	Julius Shepherd	Himself
534	Powder mill, engine house, water, garden	William and Edward Hall	Themselves
535	Meadow, orchard	William and Edward Hall	Themselves
547	Cottage	Thomas Wildish	Himself et al
548	Cottage	William Godhugh	Whilsey et al
549	Cottage	William Godhugh	Whilsey et al
550	4 Tenements & buildings	Thomas Harrison	Himself et al
551	3 Houses and gardens***	Thomas Plummer	Himself et al
554	Cow Lodge, Stonebridge	Elizabeth Fowler	John Withers
558	House & 2 tenements	Edward Hughes	Edward Bowles et al
560	2 Cottages	Mary Cain	Herself et al
561	Cottage and garden	Charles Lightfoot	Himself et al
515	House and garden	John Webb	Himself and another
516	House and garden	Thomas Maytom	James Saunders
517	House and garden	John Webb	Himself and another
518	House and garden	William Murton	Mannouch
519	House and garden	Thomas Wildish	George Clifford
585	Cottage	William Arrol	George Scoons
586	3 Cottages and gardens^	William Rigden	Himself et al
587	The Bull Inn	William Rigden	Himself et al
588	4 Tenements	John Coulter	Himself et al
589	2 Tenements	William Bennett	William Fowler

\* Nowadays, Forge House, 64 West Street (KP136 and KP136A).

\*\* Wool Warehouse, nowadays Twymans Mill (KP132).

\*\*\* 50 - 52 Tanners St, built 1770 as houses for Royal Gunpowder Works Officials (KP129).

^ The middle one of these is the predecessor of No. 3 Tanners Street (KP9A).

There are some very familiar Faversham names here - Shepherd (brewing), Wildish (farming), Rigden (brewing), and Hall (gunpowder).

<sup>29</sup> Tithe Schedule available free of charge on the KAS website [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/) home page

**Appendix 4:  
Flint finds for KP129**

<b>Catalogue No.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Period</b>
871	1	End scraper on blade	M
872	4	Crude scraper	LBA/ EIA
873	4	Crude scraper and knife	LBA/EIA
874	4	Carinate scraper??	UP??

Appendix 5:  
Arthur Percival's annotated version of the 1781 Gunpowder Works Auction Map.



This is a hand coloured version of the map used for the second map in the map sequence **Fig 3**. It has just (today!) emerged from an enormous mass of material left by Arthur, who sadly died in November 2014. Three points are of particular interest.

a) The Kings Mill is annotated as a corn mill. This is in 1781, after the takeover of the Home Works as the Royal Gunpowder Works. It is hard to see this structure as surviving as a corn mill, although it could be the corn mill that Judd converted to gunpowder use in 1653 (a high-handed act which caused a local furore).<sup>30</sup> We will have to wait for further documentation to emerge.

b) The path from No. 52 to the Mill is coloured brown, the water areas blue. The indentation of the pond here is very obvious, but it also shows the water coming in on the other side of the path. Is the brick structure in fact part of a flagstoned causeway?

c) Arthur has interpreted the water areas differently to the map in **Fig 3**.

When we found gunpowder archaeology like this, we always called Arthur in to advise us in interpretation. How we miss him.

I have added **X** to show the location of KP129.

<sup>30</sup> Percival, Arthur 1986 (Augmented) *The Faversham Gunpowder Industry* Faversham Papers No 4 Faversham Society: Faversham



**Appendix 6:  
Small finds for KP129**

Context No.	Small Finds No.	Simple Name	Material	Count	Weight	Written Description	Dimensions	Date	
								Earliest	Latest
1	3	Writing slate	Slate	2	65g	2 fragments of slate with etched lines 9.6mm apart on the larger piece and 7.4mm & 9.1mm apart on the small piece. Origins unclear, but found in context 2 (19 <sup>th</sup> century?). Writing slates were used from 14 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> c, central period for use was late 18 <sup>th</sup> c onwards (wikipedia ) in compulsory education. They fit together. The lines on one side are concise whereas on the other side they are irregular and poorer quality.	65mm x 100mm	14 <sup>th</sup> C	20 <sup>th</sup> C
4	2	Broken marble fragment	Marble	1	676g	This looks to be a corner piece of a marble slab etched on both sides. The ' front ' has a 15mm gulley running round both sides of the edges 20.1mm from the outside edge. It has raised writing engraved on it with the letters ' NES ' in etched relief and a large part of an apparent ' s ' scroll. The reverse appears to be etched in a swirling indecipherable pattern.	115.8mm x 135.2mm x 19.7mm	1700?	1800?
4	1	Glazed Ink Pot	Beige glazed stoneware	1	360g	Beige Stoneware Ink Pot, smooth sides with concave shoulders. It has a line round the pot halfway between the shoulders and the start of the top rim. It is stamped near the base, the top line is illegible the bottom says Lambeth. Ref: Acc. No. 80.4 86/15 Museum of London Ceramic and Glass collection.	Height 140.03 mm Diameter 61.7mm	1854	1900
7	27	Conical Deep Pattern Hopper (WC)	Ceramic	1	10kg	Victorian ceramic WC pan. Manufactured at Vauxhall, London: inscription on pan. Conical shape with outlet at top and remains of trap fitting and mortar at base. Tin glazed internally, outside unglazed. Complete, undamaged. References: catalogue page shown in "Bogs, baths and basins: the story of Domestic Sanitation' 2002, D Eveleigh, Sutton : <i>Vauxhall Potteries</i> R Edwards 1981 London Archaeologist.	43cm high, 11.5cm dia base, 34.5 dia top, inlet 4.5cm internal	1835	1865

**Appendix 7:  
Calculating comparative water levels**



**Calculation of water levels in the Westbrook Stonebridge compared with tidal levels in the Creek.**

W	Westbrook water level on 16/11/15	+3.3m OD
OD	Ordnance datum (Mean Sea Level at Newlyn)	0.0m
CD	Chart datum (lowest sea level due to astronomical effects)	
	At Faversham CD is 2.8m below OD	-2.8m OD

Taking an average tidal range of 4m at the Creek head

High tide at the Creek head (Purifier building)  $4 - 2.8 = +1.2\text{m OD}$

**Water level differences on 16/11/15 with 4m tidal range**

High tide to Westbrook level  $3.3 - 1.2 = +2.1\text{m OD}$

Low tide to Westbrook level  $2.8 + 3.3 = +6.1\text{m OD}$

Composite map showing OS – 1865 base map overlain with OS – 2009 street map and FSARG Geo-resistivity plot with measured spot heights shown λ.