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The Faversham Society  
Archaeological Research Group

Community  
Archaeology



## Searching for the Kings Manor: HSX18

**An investigation into the archaeology of the area between Orchard Place and East Street as part of a wider project related to central Faversham in Saxon Times.**

This report includes investigations at the locations:

KP165: St Marys School, Orchard Place (West lawn)  
KP166: St Marys School, Orchard Place (Front lawn)  
KP172: 26 East Street (Rear garden)  
KP177: 14 Orchard Place (Rear garden)

Grid Ref: TR 01905 61351  
Grid Ref: TR 01940 61313  
Grid Ref: TR 01867 61303  
Grid Ref: TR 01890 61313



**Fig 1: FSARG team working in the shady small garden of KP172 (see section C of this report). Mike and 'work-experience student' Sarah excavate, while Ann and Nick sieve.**

## Contents

	Page
<b>Part 1: General Background of the Area Studied</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Geographical and Historical background	3
a) Geography	3
b) Geology	4
c) Known historical background	4
3. Map Regression for 2018	5
<b>Part 2: Individual Investigations</b>	<b>8</b>
A. Keyhole Pit KP165: St Marys School, Orchard Place (West lawn)	8
B. Keyhole Pit KP166: St Marys School, Orchard Place (Front lawn)	11
C. Keyhole Pit KP172: 26 East Street (Rear garden)	15
D. Keyhole Pit KP177: 14 Orchard Place (Rear garden)	19
<b>Part 3: Summary Interpretation</b>	<b>21</b>
Concluding Summary interpretation	21
Acknowledgements	22
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<b>Appendix 1:</b> Harris Matrices	23
<b>Appendix 2:</b> Small Finds – KP172	24
<b>Appendix 3:</b> Small Finds – KP177	25
<b>Appendix 4:</b> Lithics	26
<b>Appendix 5:</b> Pottery Chronologies	28

## Part 1: General Background

### 1. Introduction

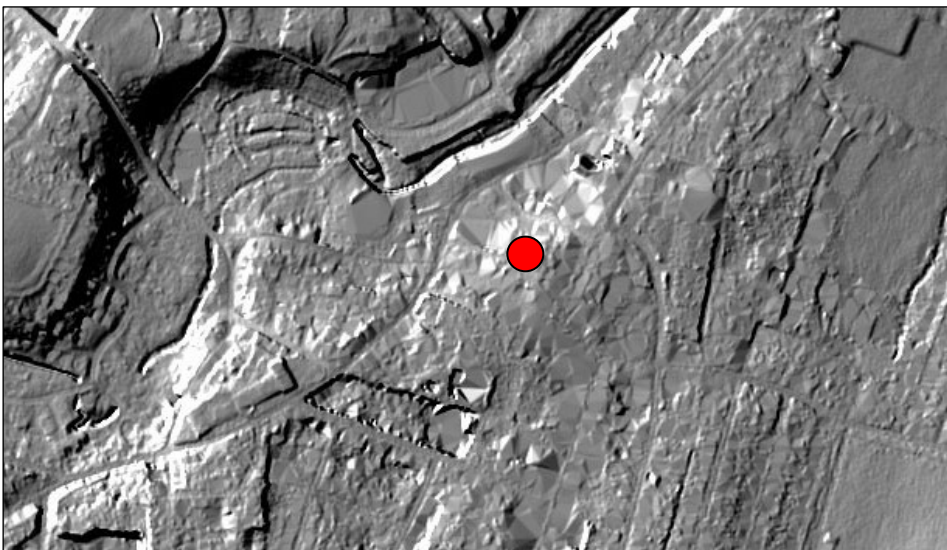
The 2018 FSARG project follows on from the 2016-17 research, which was an attempt to identify the site of the Saxon Royal Manor in upper Faversham. A document of AD811 named Faversham as the 'Kings little town' and the town market dates to this time. In the 1860s an exceptionally rich early Saxon cemetery was discovered in the area where Faversham railway station and the line from London were being constructed. In earlier projects, FSARG had found archaeological evidence for a Saxon settlement down in the Stonebridge Crossing area which we see as the working merchant town. Now we are looking for the Royal Manor itself.

In 2016 our starting point in the search was a single piece of evidence for domestic occupation in the upper town. This was a mid-Saxon loom weight found on a bomb site in East Street which was being cleared in 1953 to build the present-day Post Office. So far, on two nearby sites we have found mid Saxon Ipswich ware and have identified a possible Saxon chalk floor and post holes. These have led us to realise that the Gatefield Lane-Cross Lane route was very probably the Saxon 'High Street'. Now we are looking closely at the zone around Gatefield-Cross Lane, except where it has been dug-off for brickearth for the brick industry (1860-1920s). This group of two house gardens and two school grounds sites fit these criteria very well.

### 2. Geographical and historical background

#### a) Geography

The land between the Westbrook and Cooksditch valleys is a slope running down from 24m altitude at Watling Street to the south to 9m at St Marys church and 7m at Standard Quay, a total distance of 1.5km. This slightly higher ground falls away to either side, westward to the Westbrook Valley and eastward to the Cooksditch, both streams running overall south to north. The Cooksditch nowadays rises in a spring to the east of St Marys School and runs down past the Abbey Barns, to Cooksditch join Faversham Creek at Iron Wharf, Grid Reference TR 012354 62131. There is some evidence that the Cooksditch originally rose up near St Catherines church and was cut short by the creation of the Recreation Ground in 1862.<sup>1</sup>



**Fig 2a: The LIDAR map shows the relief of the land in Faversham town centre, with the 'dug off' areas showing up very clearly.**

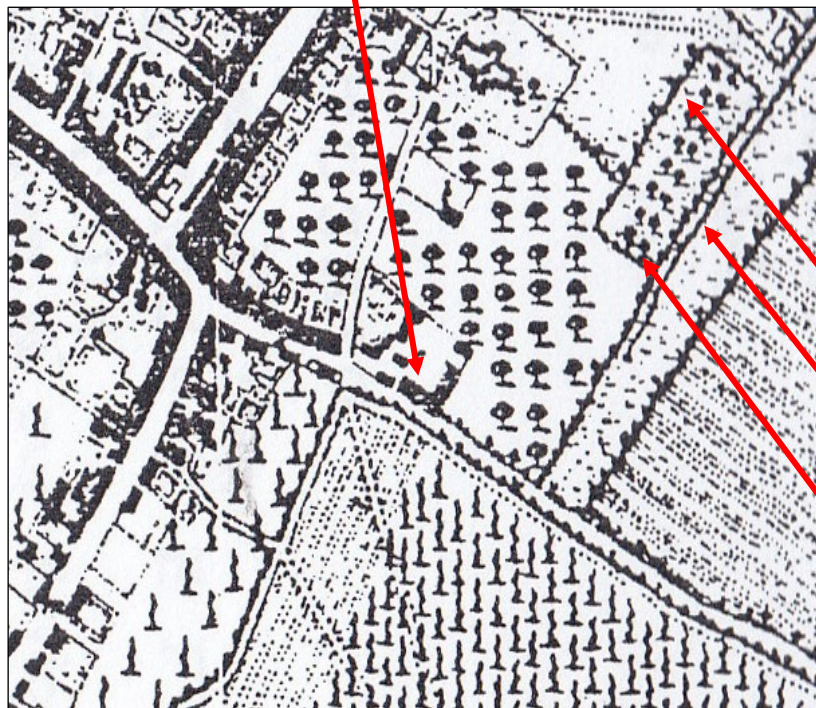
<sup>1</sup> FSARG website [community-archaeology.org.uk/](http://community-archaeology.org.uk/) archaeological investigations / *Preston a most peculiar parish* 2013-15/ Preston Farm report p5



#### d) Map Sequence

Figs. 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d and 3e.

Cooksditch House and farm



**Fig 3a: Jacob's mid-18<sup>th</sup> century map, published 1774.**

Gatefield Lane and Church Lane are prominent routeways. The fields to the east of the town centre are under hops (tall, thin) orchard (trees), arable (dotted lines), or meadow (dots).

Shooting Meadow

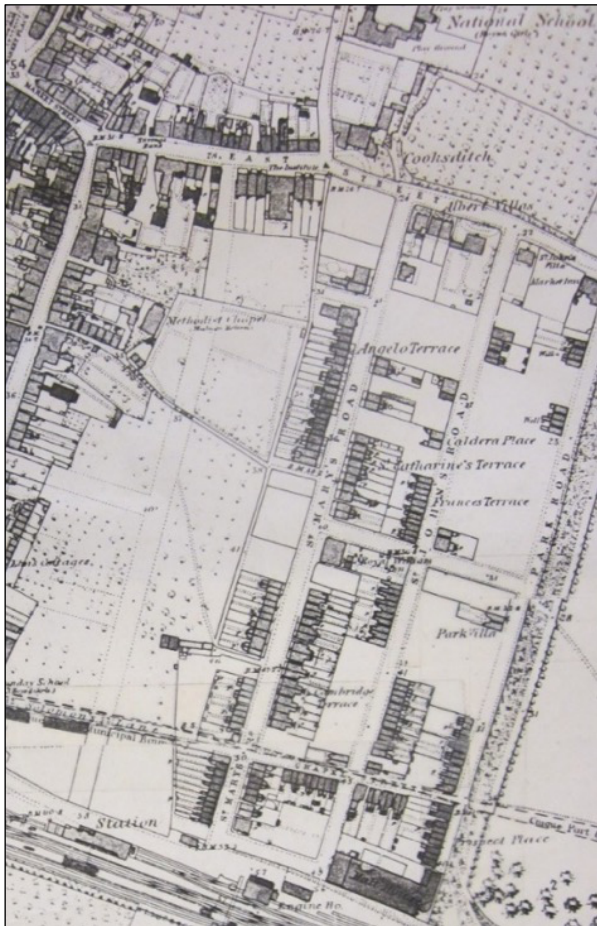
Rope Walk

Cooksditch spring and stream



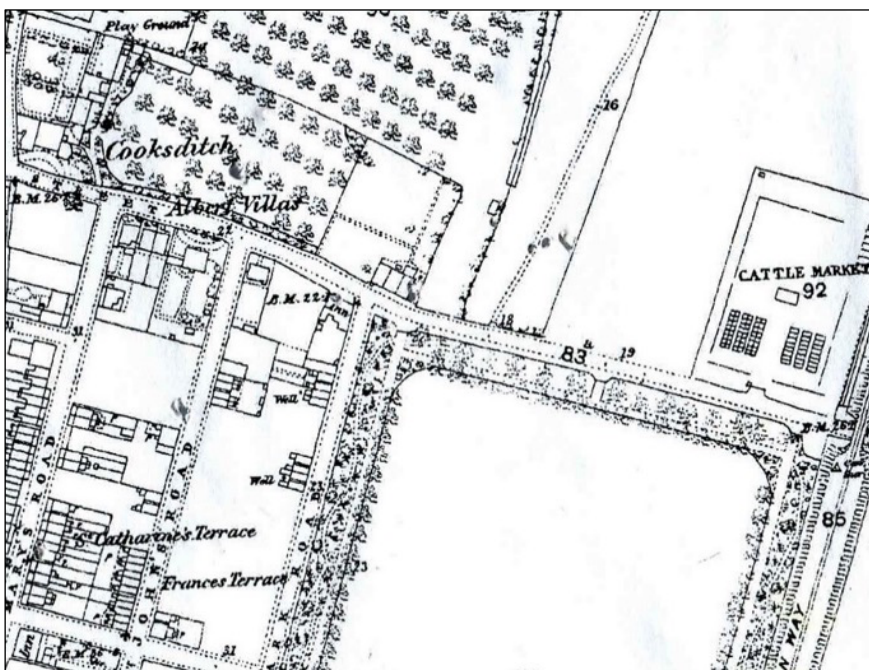
**Fig 3b: Tithe map 1842.**

This lists owners, tenants and land use. There have been few changes in land use since 1774, just one new building at the south end of the Rope Walk. The land use is listed as mostly meadow and orchard.



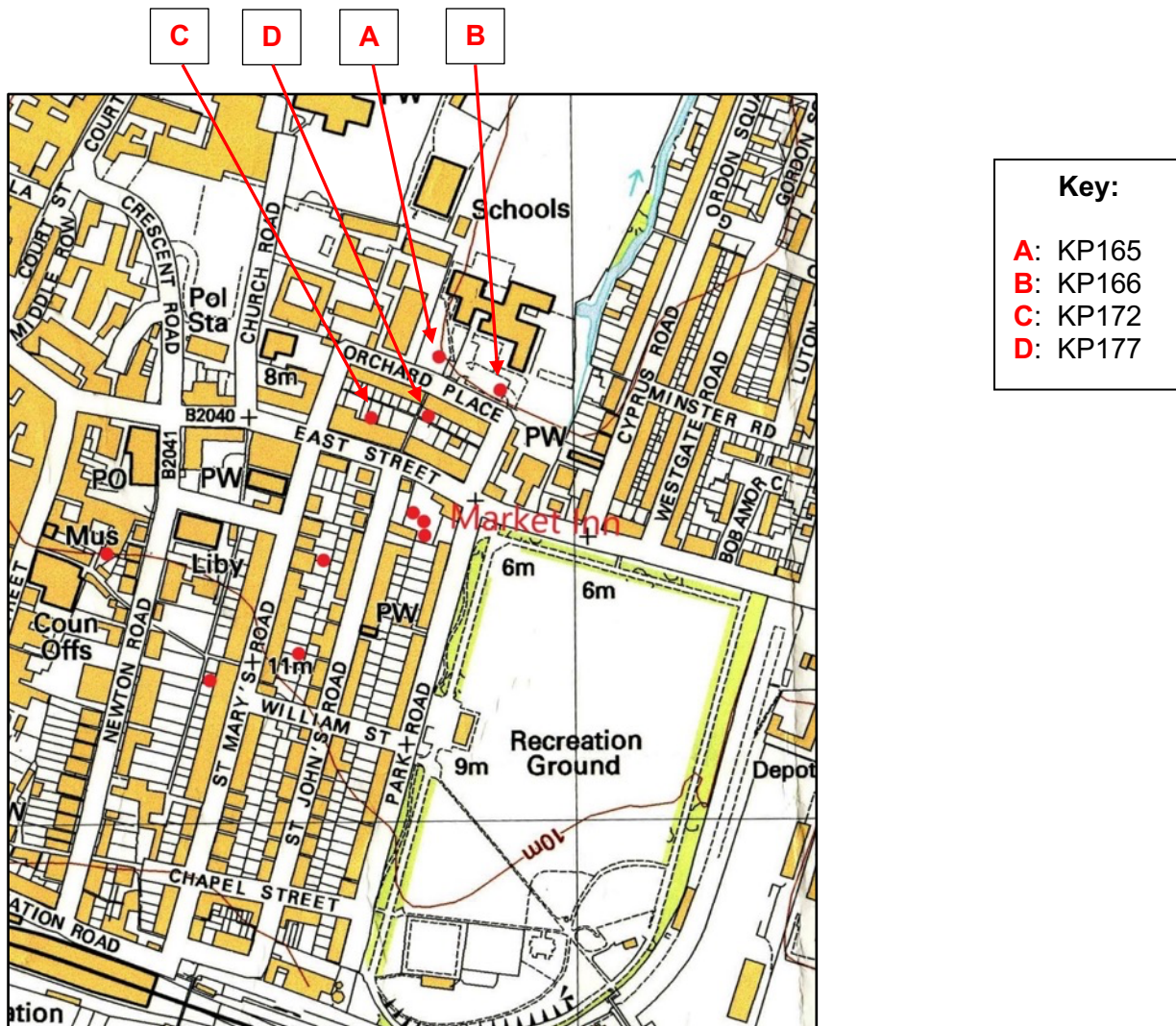
**Fig 3c: 1865 OS map, 6" to mile.**

Now there are big changes in this eastern end of Faversham. St Marys and St Johns Roads are well under way, with many small terraces being built by different speculators. The north side of East St. and east side of Cooksditch House remain underdeveloped. The railway has arrived. A Methodist chapel has been built along Gatefield Lane. The Recreation Ground has been created to the east, and the Market Inn built around 1865. Newton Road, however, is just a sketch on the map and Crescent Road, of course, does not exist.



**Fig 3d: 1865 OS map, closeup on Market Inn site.**

The cattle market has now been established to the east. Properties are being built along the south side of East Street and a few on the north side but the space west of the Market Inn remains undeveloped.



**Fig 3e: 2009 OS map.**

This is now a densely built up area with the Recreation Ground, a charity donation, the only large open space. The red dots show the locations of the Keyhole Pit excavations in 2018. The Physic Garden pit is just off the map to the north of St Marys church.

## **Part 2: Individual Investigations**

### **A) Report for KP165 (St. Mary's School – Western grass bank of school grounds)**

#### **1A) Location of pit**

KP165 was located on the grounds of St Mary's school to the west of the main building, its driveways, and parking areas (**Fig 3e**). This is a grass and shrub covered banking between some of the cherry and other trees of the original orchard or the later tree plantings associated with this 1980s school building. On the south and east of this strip was a row of newly planted hedge bushes and to the north various surface and underground pipe covers and chambers were present associated with the school's services. The geophysics map showed trees and these other features as the lighter (dry) patches of the plotted zones and red squares where surveying was not possible. This left only a zone of mixed dark / light (wet / dry) readings for possible excavation. It was agreed to site the Keyhole Pit KP165 within this zone.

#### **2A) The procedures**

A 1.0m (E to W) by 0.6m (N to S) keyhole was marked out and measured to a corner of the school building, to the western wall of the grounds and to the electricity substation at the southern end of this wall. The turf and its long grass were carefully removed and to retain its humidity it was set aside in plastic bags in the tree shade. The following excavation work removed and sieved all material below this turf level by context. For each separately identifiable context recording included the depths, nature and contents together with the location of any special objects, features or changes judged to be significant. The maximum depth of this keyhole was unfortunately only 36cm. This was due to the arrival of heavy rain and the understandable limited time available during this short holiday access at these Primary School premises.

#### **3A) The findings**

Context [01] was the grass turf which was removed and set aside as described above, context [02] started at a depth of 3cm from the surface and consisted of the underlying silty clay dark brown soil for the turf above it. This 10cm layer of 'topsoil' had a wide range of small fragments of pottery, bone, shell, coal, vessel glass, together with pieces of brick, tile, mortar, stone and slate. There was also a snack plastic wrapper, an aluminium milk bottle top, a clay tobacco pipe stem and a fragment of bitumen roofing felt. This [02] ended with a spread of gravel in a clay rich sand at 13cm.

This [03], the gravel layer beneath this topsoil, contained some chippings of brick, tile and stone, a small piece of early pottery (Early Medieval), a few fragments of iron, vessel glass and three flint tools (2 – Mesolithic and 1 – Neolithic). There was also coal / coke / clinker in 21 small pieces. Underneath this sandy gravel surface was [04], a dump of building rubble giving an uneven surface at 17 and 20cm down. To the west this was found to be a mass of mixed brick, stone, tile etc. compacted within a soil and spreading 40cm across the pit.



**Fig 4: Context [04] (left), its surface broken prior to removal and (right) Context [05].**

This rubble descended from the 17cm / 20cm level in a varying thickness towards the east where it rose up to the surface across the rest of the pit which was the main dump material [05] see **Fig 4**. Context [05] spread across the pit under [04] and covered the length of the pit. It became clear this [04] was a lens within the main mass of rubble [05]. This rubble of [05] with [04] had very similar material mixed with slightly different soils. Beneath they became [06] at 33cm and this was a clear change from the rubble to a firm brickearth rich soil. A further 3cm were explored into this soil before the excavation was forced to cease at 36cm down from the surface.

No special ('small') finds were identified but in [03] one small piece and in [05] two small pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem were found. These were of a generic 18<sup>th</sup> century sized bore so in keeping with the general mix of dates for the orchard soils here. **Appendix 1** shows the Harris Matrix a diagram giving the contexts in event order.

#### **4A) Interpretation**

It is unfortunate that the excavation had to end when the firm brickearth rich soil was revealed, as this was seemingly the orchard and earlier surface level. When the 3cm of brickearth [06] was removed a single piece of early medieval organic tempered pottery (mid / late Saxon) was recovered, clearly not associated with the later dumped building material above it. Within this brickearth soil a crude late bronze age scraper and fragments of early roof tile were found. Above this level a series of modern dumped layers form the underlying and surface of what seems to have been part of a hard-standing area for vehicles or maybe heavy equipment and storage space for the building work and initial parking for the 1980s school building activity.

The lowest hardcore rich dumps [05] and [04] may have been the product of bull-dozer site levelling activity mixing local soils with rubble from across the school building site. If this is so, then the presence of late post medieval pottery and Neolithic scraper of Context [05] and the pre-historic flints in [04] seem significant. The pre-historic and medieval evidence in [04] to [05] together with the [06] evidence, is more significant when linked to the other investigation (KP166) on the school site (see later). This site is close to the Cooksditch stream and one of its still active springs is in the north-east corner of the school site (see maps).

Context [03] is the capping layer for the presumed hard-standing and is clearly dominated by the thin layer of imported gravel and sand. The early medieval pottery sherds and worked flints of Neolithic (2) and Mesolithic (2) present in its mix cannot therefore be confidently thought of as possible local soil mix in origin, tempting though that is considering the disturbance that would have existed on such a building site.

Finally, [02] the topsoil and turf [01] must also be assumed to be imported to the site. Although good topsoil would have been present on this large area of ex-orchard, importing of topsoil and turf was the common practice of contracted builders / developers at the time of building (1980s).

## **5A) Final comments**

A frustrating excavation as the need to understand and remove the rubble / hardstanding layers delayed the work and the heavy rain curtailed the limited time available. This keyhole did however give us some indications of the importance of this area in the understanding of the early history of Faversham and the zone around the Cooksditch. Although some assumptions have been made concerning the soils in the upper layers it seems clear that the soil at the brickearth level shows evidence of medieval and earlier local activity within the non-residual local soil.

The trees adjacent to the chosen site were initially very useful for protecting the turf from losing humidity in the summer sun they were then invaluable in helping the diggers avoid excess humidity when the heavy rain started. Unfortunately, this rain steadily got worse.

**Jim Reid**

## B) Report for KP166 (St. Mary's school southern boundary grass strip)

### 1B) Location of pit

The location of the pit was determined by what appeared to be the least disturbed piece of ground on the site where a school had been built in the 1980s and a large area turned into a car park. A narrow strip of grass bounded by hedge runs alongside Orchard Place which was built towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the current level of this strip of land and associated evidence, aerial photographs and maps, this strip appeared to be undisturbed. The position chosen along the grass strip avoided tree roots. The pit surface sloped significantly from South to North, from the road and hedge towards the school as can be seen in **Fig 5**.



**Fig 5: Top of context [03] showing general slope of the site. The left hand red and white horizontal pole has been set in position using a spirit level to show a horizontal.**

### 2B) The procedures

A 2m by 0.6m keyhole trench was pegged out perpendicular to the road and the area delineated marked with string. The position of the pit was recorded by measuring to mapped corners of the school. Turf was removed carefully from the trench surface, rolled and set aside. The trench was then hand excavated using single contexts, each of which was fully recorded. The trench was excavated to the depth of 0.9m. All excavated soil was sieved or fingertipped searched. Finds were set aside for each context, for later processing, and special finds were separately recorded on site. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down and the turf replaced.

### 3B) The findings

First the turf layer, context [01] was removed with no finds recorded. This revealed a layer of topsoil [02] with very few finds: coal, pottery, bone, iron, vessel glass, ceramic building material (CBM), mortar and some worked flints. This whole layer was late post medieval, apart from the worked flints. This is consistent with the previous use of the land as orchard abutting 19<sup>th</sup> century development, with the sloping nature associated with the landscaping as part of the recent school development. The depth here was 25 to 18cm south to north below this sloping surface level.

Below was a layer of earlier worked soil [03] lighter in colour and with even smaller quantities of finds than [02]. Very small quantities of pottery (Medieval and early medieval), bone, iron, coal (4g), some CBM fragments, a few pieces of stressed and worked flints (Neolithic to Bronze Age) and one piece of masonry flint were found. A piece of 17<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe (CTP) with the bowl almost complete see **Fig 6**, and short piece of stem were at a depth of 30cm in the SW corner of the pit.

These finds are similarly also consistent with use as an orchard or non-intensive agriculture (grazing or other rarely ploughed or dug) activity in the medieval and post medieval period.



**Fig 6: 17<sup>th</sup> Century CTP bowl from [03].**



**Fig 7: Prehistoric pottery from [04].**

Context [04] was a transitional layer, where large natural flints started to appear in greater quantities. This layer also had significant quantities of worked flints (9 tools identified – 7 Mesolithic and 2 Bronze age) and 0.75kg of heat stressed flints. There were also very small amounts of CMB, coal and iron. It is notable that there was more pottery (prehistoric, see **Fig 7**, also medieval pottery, including one piece of Saxon) and bone in this context than in any other context, but still only relatively small quantities. This was the last context to contain anything other than worked flints.

Beneath this the dense quantity of natural unworked flints spread along and across the trench as [05] and [06], see **Fig 8**. Originally these were excavated as separate layers but as the two layers formed a single layer above the firm natural brickearth of [07] it was later concluded that [05] and [06] should be combined to [5=6]. These two contexts had large quantities of natural flints (see **Fig 9**) as well as worked flints identified as largely Bronze Age and Neolithic. There was also stressed flint, decreasing in quantity with increasing depth. There were no other finds.

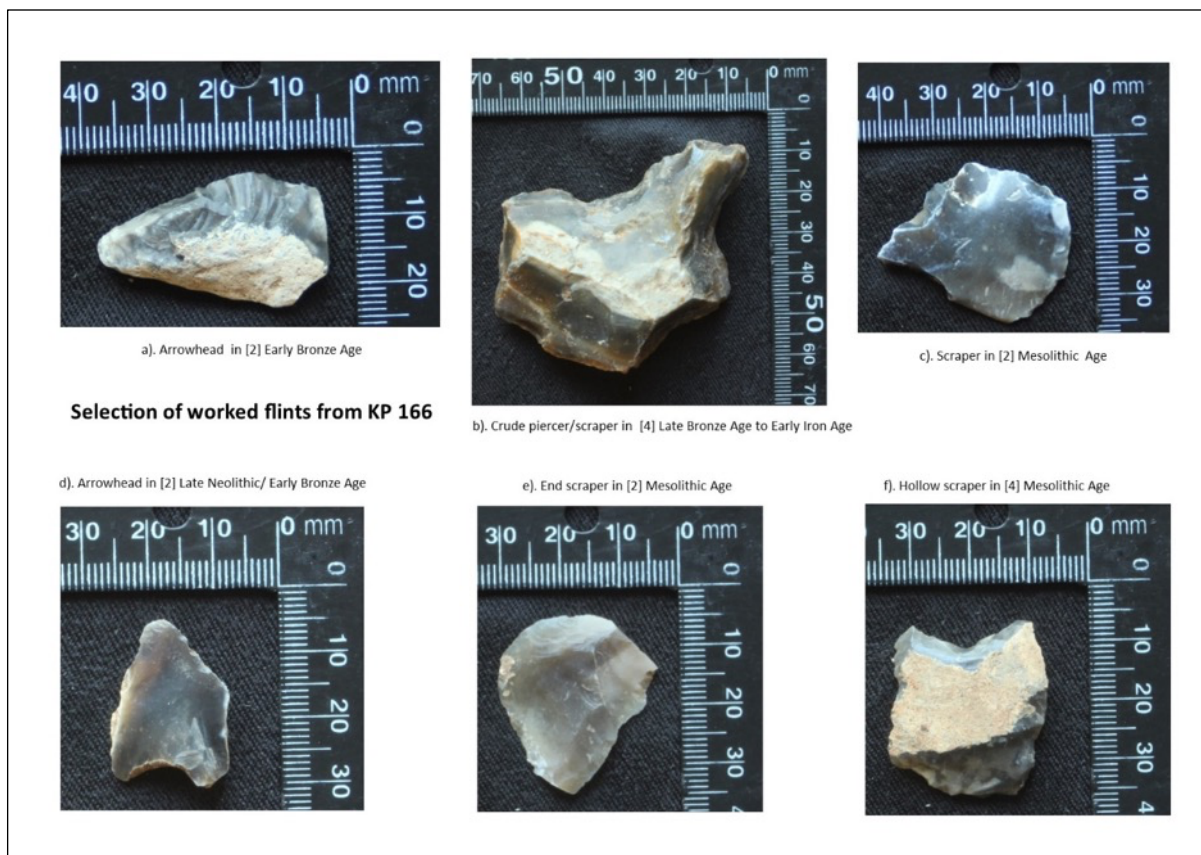
A slot was excavated into the underlying brickearth [07] and here no finds were evident. It was concluded that this was the natural brickearth geology.



**Fig 8: At bottom of [4] the layer of unworked flint nodules of [5=6].**



**Fig 9: Unworked Flint nodules after removal from [5=6].**



**Fig 10: Selection of worked flints from [02] and [04].**

## 4B) Interpretation

The underlying brickearth in this excavation dates from the end of the last ice age, 20,000 to 17,000 years ago. The site shows evidence of human activity in post-glacial prehistoric times. In [5=6] natural flints are found as a spaced layer on top of the brickearth. This is not a natural location for flint nodules, except as marking a former stream bed where nodules have been rolled along onto the brickearth and this does not seem to be the case here. This layer, then, seems to be a man-made feature. The worked flints also found in the upper part of context [5=6] were mostly of Bronze Age date with some Neolithic.

Worked flints were found throughout the contexts and a selection of six of these is shown in **Fig 10**. The prehistoric nature of this keyhole is discussed more fully in Part Three: Summary interpretation, the concluding part of this complete report.

In the upper layers, small amounts of pottery and CBM found in [04] and [03] are consistent with light agricultural use (orchard or grazing) into the 18<sup>th</sup> century where maps (see **Fig 3a**) show the land use to be orchard. The survival of a large piece of 17<sup>th</sup> century tobacco pipe in [03] at a depth of 30cm shows minimal soil disturbance in the last 300 years. Orchard Place was constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but this barely disturbed the site as it was the other side of the existing boundary. The orchard continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century as shown in aerial photographs [Google Earth]<sup>4</sup> of the 1940s and then became playing fields by the 1960s and then part of the school grounds in the 1980s where the topsoil [01] and [02] was moved around.

## 5B Final comments

It is unusual for a keyhole excavation within Faversham to have so few medieval and later finds, making this site exceptionally useful for revealing the prehistoric archaeology, which is usually deeply buried beneath later human occupation deposits. The possible feature does invite further investigation, especially as other HSX18 excavations nearby have also yielded appreciable amounts of worked flint, flint tools and stressed flint.

**Caroline Clarkstone**

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<sup>4</sup>Google Earth. (2018). *Earth Pro on Desktop – Google Earth*. [online] Available at: <https://www.google.com/earth/desktop/> [Accessed 31 Oct. 2018]

### C) Report on KP172 (26 East Street).



**Figs 11a & b: The selected area has been marked out and some gravel removed. Supervisor Chris will keep the records straight before joining Mike, Mo and Nick to dig and sieve.**

#### 1C) Location of pit

This small shaded garden offered few locations to site the keyhole pit and its necessary spoil bag sieving station. The central area of gravel covered ground, away from possible tree roots and surface obstacles, pathways, flower beds and the dog pen / kennel became the obvious choice (**Figs 11a & b**). See also the cover picture of this complete report.

#### 2C) The procedures

A 1.0m by 0.8m area was marked out running north-south and the southern corners were measured in to the corner of the main house to the SW and to the eastern end of the small extension at its junction with the boundary wall in the SE. The surface at this selected location was gravel covered. This was removed and set aside for replacement on completion of the excavation. The lower excavated soil was removed by identifiable contexts, sieved meticulously into a spoil bag and the spoil bag regularly swept with a metal detector. Context details were recorded and for each of these separate contexts the finds were set aside in trays. Special features within the contexts were measured, drawn / sketched and recorded as considered appropriate. The maximum depth of the excavation was 1.26m and on completion the spoil was put back in the pit and tamped down. The gravel layer was returned to the surface and spread to mix in with that surrounding it.

#### 3C) The findings

Context [01] was the 13cm of gravel and gravel / soil mixture which were removed, placed in bags and set aside for reinstatement on completion of the pit. Below this, context [02] was a cinder rich garden soil down to 27cm when it started to become as a firmer, lighter coloured silty clay containing increasing amounts of chalk particles and pieces. This chalky soil [03] was between 27 and 36cm down.

Brick, tile, mortar and plaster pieces were present in all three contexts as were pieces of bone (mainly small fragments of identifiable parts of unidentifiable animals), shell, iron, vessel and window glass and a few pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem. Contexts [02] and [03] also had coal, coke and clinker pieces and the only small finds were a copper alloy small button and an early-plastic lamp fitting. The shells were of the typical North Kent sea shore varieties, but not in enough quantities to constitute a home cooked evening meal or snack. The pottery was dominated by redware and late Victorian period with a few pieces of earlier post medieval and 2 pieces (3g) of Medieval in [03].

In the NW quadrant of [03], a small burial pit containing a bird skeleton was exposed from 27cm (Cut [04] and its Fill [05]) which continued into a shallow end to the cut into the chalk layer between 36cm to 39cm down. At 36cm [03] and [04] / [05] became a firm chalk rich surface, [06]. On removal of this burial material [05] and [03], the chalk layer [06] was cleared across and then gradually removed by cutting succeeding slots into it which confirmed it as a hard structure, seemingly a rammed chalk floor. A scattering of a few mixed pieces of material, including six small sherds of late Victorian pottery, and others generally similar with those noted for the higher Contexts were present on and within this layer.

This chalk continued across the whole pit until at 39cm [07], a clayey silt and chalk fragments transition layer became visible. At 42cm this quickly became [08] an underlying brickearth rich soil. This firm soil was trowelled down producing minimal finds until large pieces of bone were revealed in the south eastern corner, within the southern edge bulk and underneath the chalk layer, **Fig 12**.

This bone does not appear to have been in a separate pit deposit within the brickearth soil. The material around the bones and the underside of the chalk layer above it were carefully examined to confirm a homogeneous soil. With care the bone (3 pieces) was then able to be removed from the bulk noting that there were no indications of a cut or change of material. The SE corner of the pit was extended south for 30cm and 40cm to the west above the bone location. The covering material was removed to the top of the chalk [06]. Again, there was no sign of a cut into this chalk on its surface. These bone pieces were clearly deposited before, or at the time that the chalk was deposited (**Figs 12, 13 & 14**).

At 40cm to the north of the south end of the pit a 20cm wide slot was cut across the pit into [08] the brickearth soil as shown in **Fig 13**. The slot material was removed down to 1.0m from the surface with only the bone, a piece of iron, two small pieces of coal / clinker and a roof tile fragment being present within it.

Finally [05] the fill of cut [04], was a bird burial with no discernible ritual artefacts, as often happens with a pet burial. The bone in [01], [02], and [03] was mainly of unidentifiable animal type but typical of domestic waste of the twentieth century period since the house was built, as were the other pieces noted in the lower contexts. The three large bone fragments in [08] were from cattle.



**Fig 12: Bone deposit revealed in bulk of context [07] into [08] at south end of the pit.**



**Fig 13: Chalk layer, pit extension with bone location beneath (top left) and slot into brickearth (centre).**



**Fig 14: Caroline (the most flexible) checks the underside of the chalk layer for evidence of its disturbance to bury the bones.**

#### 4C) Interpretation

The soil of [01], [02], and [03] above [06] the chalk layer, was typical of the ash rich garden soil of this Edwardian terraced house. The chalk layer does seem to be a rammed chalk floor but there is no evidence of a structure here on the maps for the period before the house was built in early twentieth century. The tithe map does show the Cooks ditch farm barn 20m to the west of the site but again no structure is shown on this map for this location, however hard standing would not necessarily be shown.

The 1912 map does show two garden outhouses or sheds at the house location to the north and south of the pit location and it is possible that the chalk layer was an area of hardstanding between these, as with an animal pen. Pony, donkey, chickens, pigeons, rabbits and dogs are all possible for working people of this time either as trading assets or a hobby interest. It could, alternatively have been hardstanding for a cart or small vehicle. Unfortunately, there is no indication of this so other reasons must be considered.

Pottery evidence exists as small sherds, with the earliest being in [02] and [03]. Two small pieces of Medieval and one piece of Post Medieval in [03] and three pieces of Post Medieval in [02]. Redware sherds were present in all contexts except [08], dominantly in [02] with 233g and only a small single piece of 2g in [07]. This latter piece and a single small piece of late Victorian pottery being under the chalk layer may give a dating problem. These pieces are however small enough to be a result of worm activity before the chalk was introduced and therefore dating its laying to before Edwardian times. If we ignore this, we still have 6 pieces of late Victorian-Edwardian within this chalk layer. So, the chalk layer does seem to date to the time of the house building, or just before. The soil above it [03] and [02] is a mixture of soil from around the garden when it was covered over. The soil below the chalk layer [07] and its bones are older but with no firm dating objects other than some worked flint.

The few worked flint finds are not a great help. Context [02] had a Neolithic side scraper and [06], the chalk, a possible Mesolithic Horsham point arrowhead. [07] had a microlith and part of a tranchet adze, both Mesolithic, and an early bronze age, Beaker style, arrowhead. All this just confirmed that this area of Faversham is rich in such finds of mixed prehistoric activity (see **Appendix 4**).

In conclusion it seems that the chalk layer could have two origins. It may have been part of the original house building activity in this orchard area or first use of the garden. In this case the bone could be an early deposit from the agricultural and orchard periods or again a result of the disturbance caused at the time of the house building and being a waste deposit dumped under the chalk. Alternatively, the proximity of the Cooksditch farm and its outbuildings may indicate usage such as animal pens or equipment storage for the farm encroaching into the orchard area. The other factor here is that the new cattle market site located close to the east is not far away and dates from the turn of the century.

#### 5C) Final comments

This excavation gave numerous challenges as it progressed and has not been any easier to interpret. It does however appear that the site was disturbed at the time of house building with redistribution of the local soil. This disturbance continued since then in this domestic garden area. The deposit of large cattle bone pieces is intriguing as dating of its deposition has not been possible from the material around it. Further consideration would need to be given to the activities associated with both the Cooksditch farm and the selection of this wider area for cattle market at this turn of the century period.

**Jim Reid**

## D) Report on KP177 (14 Orchard Place)



**Fig 15: KP177 in a gravel covered central part of this very small pretty garden.**

### 1D) Location of pit

KP177 was located in the gravel covered part in the centre of this very small pretty garden (see **Fig 15**). 14 Orchard Place is part of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced house development on agricultural land and orchard to the north of East Street, see map **Fig 3**. The Cooksditch farm is to the north east with the course of the Cooksditch stream itself to the east.

### 2D) The Procedure

At the location agreed, the shingle layer was taken back and retained for reinstatement, and the underlying membrane cut, and rolled back to enable an excavation area to be marked out. A 1.5m by 0.6m keyhole was marked out and measured in to the corners of the main house. The soil was carefully sieved, removed by context and the nature of this and all finds within it were recorded. These were retained by individual context for examination and recording.

### 3D) The findings

Contexts [01], [02], and [03] were all visible from the start of excavation and were identified as resulting from separate interventions. It was known that waterpipe work had been carried out adjacent to the area of the garden but as the overlying membrane here had not been cut or apparently disturbed it was thought not to be associated with the 2013 / 2014 work to install a water meter. This clay rich context across the pit at the southern end was context [02] with [01] on either side and a small northern oval patch [03]. **Fig 16** shows this at the end of the first short day.



**Fig 16: Contexts [01], [02], [01], [03] left to right.**



**Fig 17: Context [04] with pipe junction on the left. Wet patch removed.**

Removal of these context revealed an increased mixing of all materials. These ranged from the yellow / brown clay rich soil of [02] to the darker garden soils of the other contexts. As [02] was removed the underlying [04], a mixture of the soil and clay, became increasingly wet until a modern pipe junction became visible at 0.57m deep. **Fig 17** shows this pipe junction when the wet patch of [04] was removed. This junction was 1.2m from the water meter installed in 2014. Context [02] may now be seen to be the cover for the work associated with the installation of the water meter. At installation, this work had clearly disturbed a large area of this small garden and further excavation by FSARG had to be abandoned.

Although the finds from the four separate contexts were carefully recorded individually, we must consider them together due to the mixed nature of this excavation. The Harris Matrix, in **Appendix 1** shows the contexts in event order. Of interest were the pottery finds which contained small pieces of Medieval but were dominated by redware and late Victorian with a little Post Medieval. The worked flints were from the Neolithic and Mesolithic periods and showed a range of types (see **Appendix 4**).

### 4D) Interpretation

As with other Faversham houses with gardens dating from the late Victorian period or before, the upper layers are dominated by coal, ash and clinker fragments related to the numerous domestic fires and boilers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century housing. Iron nails and similar ferrous objects probably indicate the presence of waste wood fires either in the home or the garden itself. Shell, bone and pottery fragments together with vessel and window glass are similarly dumped with brick, tile etc. material which would frequently become dug into lower levels by garden planting or utility service excavation such as the water pipe found here.

Although a disappointment, this keyhole was able to indicate two important aspects of this area of Faversham. There is evidence of Medieval activity nearby, and strong evidence of general prehistoric activity.

Finally, we wish to thank house resident Debbie for her intense interest and support during the digging and her assistance with the sieving. We were all disappointed with the result of this excavation but enjoyed the challenge.

**Jim Reid**

### Part 3: Summary Interpretation

**Concluding comments for all four Keyhole pit excavations in the East Street, Orchard Place and Primary School Area of Faversham in 2018.**



**Fig 18: Worked Flint tools from all contexts found in the four keyhole pits excavated.**

- A. KP165: St Marys School, Orchard Place (West lawn)
- B. KP166: St Marys School, Orchard Place (Front lawn)
- C. KP172: 26 East Street (Rear garden)
- D. KP177: 14 Orchard Place (Rear garden)

See also **Fig 10** for a selection of some of the worked flints from KP166.

The aim of the overall FSARG Project HSX17/18 in this Eastern central area of Faversham is to seek any indication of Saxon activity particularly, any evidence of a Saxon manor house or major domestic or industrial settlement here.

KP172 presented a puzzle with the rammed chalk layer with its underlying cattle bones but it does seem that this is most likely associated with the house building and occupation of 26, East Street in 1912 and the other activities of these terraced houses. There does remain the possibility however of an earlier agricultural usage associated with the nearby Cooksditch farm, its barns and buildings such as hard standing. To explore this, it would be necessary to excavate a significantly larger area involving other

modern gardens. Prior to this it would be essential to know more about the Cooksditch farm, its barn and surrounding activity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, knowledge would be needed of the background thinking for the decision to site the cattle market at this time in the area to the east of this orchard and farm location, shown in map **Fig 3d**. As such a study would be set in a more modern era than our focus for 2017 and 2018, it would be a diversion to pursue it at present but it does identify a possible future project.

This also applies to the prehistoric finds at the two school sites and particularly KP166. These flints and some fragments of prehistoric pottery appear significant especially with the concentration of natural flints and pottery fragments and when linked to the juxtaposition of the Cooksditch stream with its additional local spring infeed. The topography of this wider area of Faversham points to this stream having been quite substantial in the past with a source to the south at least as far away up the dip-slope as the present (and historic) St. Catherine's church and possibly even to near Copton Manor (see FSARG report on Preston farm).

Although very important to record, and possibly another future FSARG project, the prehistoric finds here do not assist in our prime aim for this project. The pottery however does help. Three of these pits, KP165, KP166 and KP172 have shown that evidence of Medieval and earlier activity is present across the local area. KP172 had two small pieces of Medieval pottery, KP165 had early Medieval, Mid / late Saxon. KP166 had Mid and Late Saxon and Medieval pottery. It is becoming clear from these keyholes and those of the other FSARG excavations nearby during 2017/18 that probable Saxon residential activity was confirmed as near this fresh water spring area.

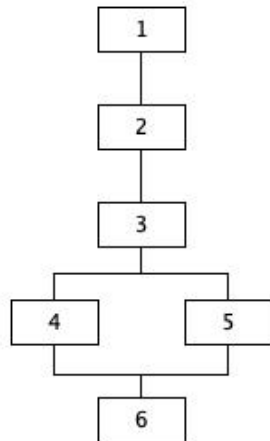
## **Acknowledgements**

The FSARG team would like to thank all house owners and the school Governors and staff for the chance to examine the archaeology of this area of Faversham enabling our expansion of the recorded knowledge of the early life of Faversham and its people.

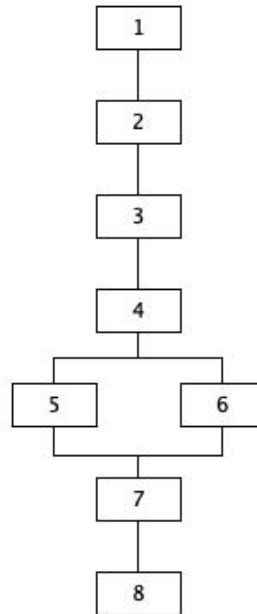
**Jim Reid**

## Appendix 1: Harris Matrices for KP165, KP166, KP172 and KP177

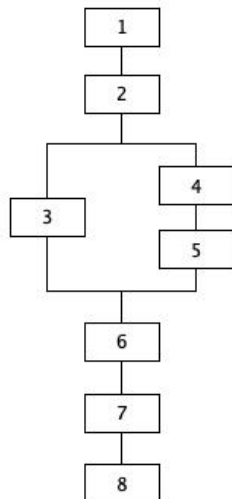
**KP165: St Mary's School  
Orchard Place - West**



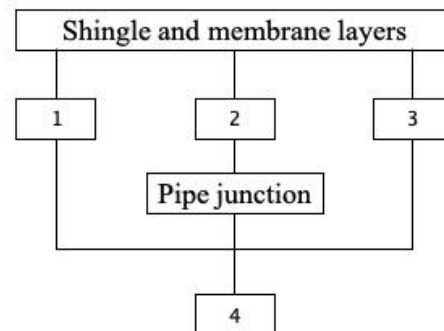
**KP166: St Mary's School  
Orchard Place - South**



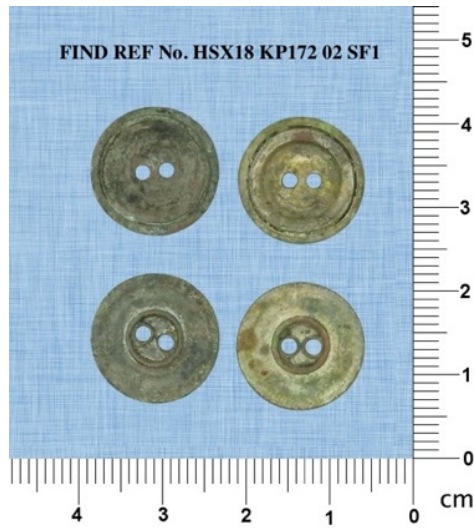
**KP172: 26 East Street**



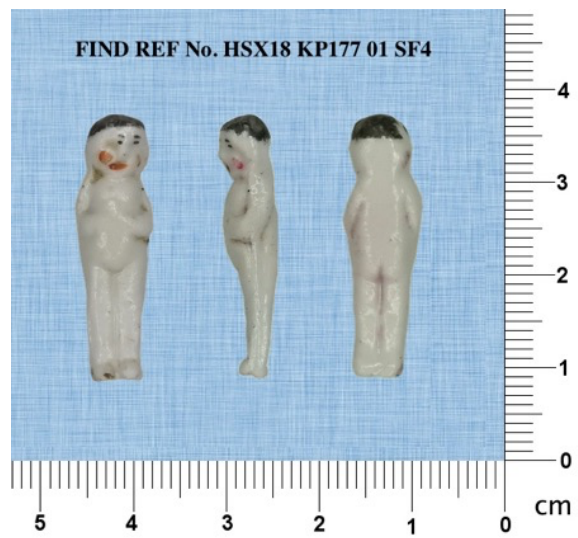
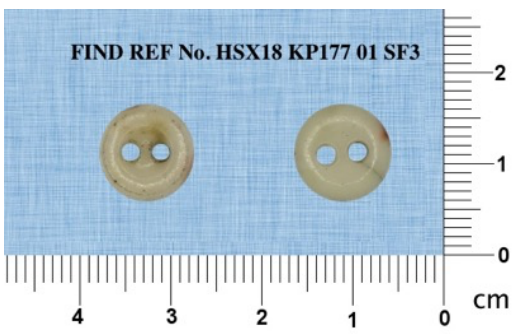
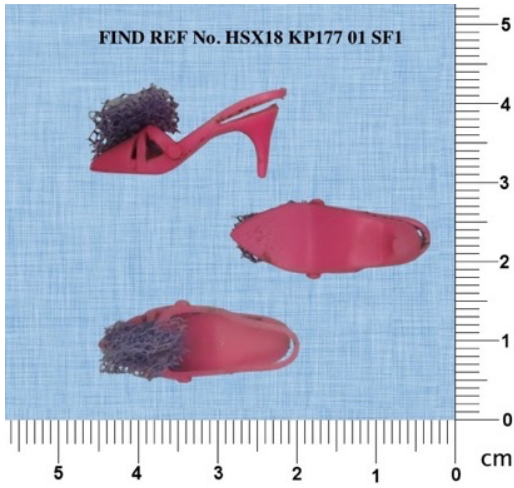
**KP177: 14 Orchard Place**



## Appendix 2: KP172 Small Finds



### Appendix 3: KP177 Small Finds



## Appendix 4: Lithics tables

### 1. KP165

Catalogue Number	Context Number	Type	Qualifier	Sub-type	Broad Date
1190	3	arrowhead	Irish Oblique		Neolithic
1191	3	scraper	micro		Mesolithic
1192	4	smoother	carinate		Neolithic
1193	3	meche de foret			Mesolithic
1195	6	scraper	horned crude		Bronze age

### 2. KP166

Catalogue Number	Context Number	Type	Qualifier	Sub-type	Broad Date
1148	2	scraper	hollow, mini		Neolithic
1149	2	arrowhead			Neolithic
1150	2	scraper	end	notch	Mesolithic
1151	2	microlith			Mesolithic
1152	2	scraper			Mesolithic
1153	3	microlith	toothed		Mesolithic
1154	3	Multi- purpose			Bronze age
1155	3	polisher	chunky		X
1156	3	polisher	chunky		X
1157	3	scraper	end		Neolithic
1158	3	arrowhead	transverse		Neolithic
1159	3	blade	broken		Mesolithic
1160	4	piercer	crude		Iron age
1161	4	core	worked out		Mesolithic
1162	4	scraper	hollow		Mesolithic
1163	4	flake	notched		Mesolithic
1164	4	scraper	end on blade		Mesolithic
1165	4	blade	micro		Mesolithic
1166	4	awl			Bronze age
1167	4	scraper	thumbnail		Mesolithic
1168	4	scraper	thumbnail		Mesolithic
1169	5	knife			Mesolithic
1170	5	knife	crude		Bronze age
1171	5	scraper	see 1172/3		Bronze age
1172	5	piercer	see 1171/3		Bronze age
1173	5	scraper	see 1171/2		Bronze age
1174	5-6	arrowhead	transverse		Neolithic
1175	5-6	arrowhead	British oblique		Neolithic
1176	5-6	scraper	thumbnail		Neolithic
1177	5-6	scraper	end		Neolithic
1178	5-6	scraper	thumbnail		Neolithic
1179	5-6	awl			Mesolithic
1271	5	scraper	thumbnail		Bronze age

### 3. KP172

Catalogue Number	Context Number	Type	Qualifier	Sub-type	Broad Date
1204	2	scraper	side		Neolithic
1205	6	arrowhead	Horsham		Mesolithic
1206	7	tranche	tranche from adze		Mesolithic
1207	7	arrowhead	beaker style		bronze age
1208	7	microlith			Mesolithic

### 4. KP177

Catalogue Number	Context Number	Type	Qualifier	Sub-type	Broad Date
1232	1	notched flake			Neolithic
1233	2	arrowhead			Neolithic
1234	2	notched flake			Mesolithic
1235	2	core	remnant?		Neolithic
1236	2	knife			Mesolithic
1237	2	chopper		crusher	Neolithic
1238	3	point	Horsham		Mesolithic
1239	3	microliths	2		Mesolithic
1244	2	scraper	thumbnail		Neolithic
1245	1	blade	broken		Mesolithic

## Appendix 5: Pottery Chronologies

### 1. KP165

KP165													
Context	Pre	Ro	EMS	MS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	Unident	Totals by Context (g)
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	26
3	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
4	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	25
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	5
6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals by Chronology</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>

### 2. KP166

KP166													
Context	Pre	Ro	EMS	MS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	Unident	Totals by Context (g)
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
3	0	0	0	0	0	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	20
4	54	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
<b>Totals by Chronology</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>

### 3. KP172

KP172													
Context	Pre	Ro	EMS	MS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	Unident	Totals by Context (g)
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	233	172	0	423
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	26	5	34	0	68
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	17
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
<b>Totals by Chronology</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>511</b>

### 4. KP177

KP177													
Context	Pre	Ro	EMS	MS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	Unident	Totals by Context (g)
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	100	0	135
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	3	65	0	80
3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	6	0	28
<b>Totals by Chronology</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>243</b>

**Quantities:** (weight in grams)

**Key to Dates:**

Pre:	Prehistoric	4000BC - AD43
Ro:	Roman	AD43 - AD410
EMS:	Early to middle Saxon	AD411 - AD700
MLS:	Middle to late Saxon	AD701 - AD850
LS:	Late Saxon	AD861 - AD1050
EM:	Early Medieval	AD1051- AD1225
M:	Medieval	AD1226 - AD1400
LM:	Late Medieval	AD1401- AD1550
PM:	Post Medieval	AD1551- AD1800
RED:	Redware	AD1600 - AD1900
LPM:	Late Post Medieval	AD1801- now
Unident:	Unknown	