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The Faversham Society
Archaeological Research Group

Community Archaeology

Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group

Investigating the Development of Faversham Town Centre TC16

Exploration Between Newton Road and Preston Street

Reports on:

KP139: 15 Preston Street	**Grid Ref. TR 01601 61165**
KP140: 52B Newton Road	**Grid Ref. TR 01603 61022**
KP142: 42 Newton Road	**Grid Ref. TR 01608 61060**
KP143: 48B Newton Road	**Grid Ref. TR 01600 61038**
KP145: 44Newton Road	**Grid Ref. TR 01611 61051**

Fig 1: The "Faversham Tank" in Newton Road near to East Street Junction in 1919, presented to the town and displayed on the Recreation ground. The picture is taken at the intersection of Newton Road and East Street, looking south up Newton Road. The building to the right is the site of the current Post Office.

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Part 1: General Introduction for Keyhole Pit Group

1. Introduction

Last year's (2015) project was based in Preston to the south of Faversham. Preston Street was the main route from Watling Street / Preston to Faversham town centre for many centuries. Newton Road was built to the east of and parallel to lower Preston Street around 1900, although the development was first sketched in around 1867 (see page 6). The arrival of the railway in 1858 - 60 cut across Preston Street using a level crossing but this crossing was bypassed around 1890 by a road diversion and underpass leading to Forbes Road.

Lower Preston Street remained the main route for traffic until the 1960s when Crescent Road was built to the north of the town centre to by-pass the marketplace: Newton Road feeds straight into the Crescent and has become part of the main through route for Faversham.

Prior to the construction of Newton Road, the area behind the properties in Preston Street was mostly orchard or hops. The area investigated is bounded on the south by Solomon's Lane, which is the boundary between Preston and Faversham. The north is bounded by Gatefield Lane, which is on the route of the ancient path from Stonebridge Crossing to Macknade. The existence of hop gardens on Jacobs Map (1760 - 1774) suggests that medieval urban development had probably not taken place in this area and therefore, it may be possible to find evidence of earlier Saxon occupation at an accessible depth.

The six sites excavated were selected to cover the area and five of these are covered in this report. The sixth site is covered by a separate report[1] and includes KP141, KP146 and KP147 (OS Grid Ref: TR 01603, 61022) all behind Kent Lodge at 20 Newton Road.

2. Geographical and historical background

a) Geography

Newton Road and Preston Street are on a gentle North East facing slope. The church of St Mary of Charity (originally "of Faversham") is 500m to the North East. The investigated area and sites are highlighted on the map to the left. There are no known surface streams or springs in the area.

Fig 2: Current Ordnance Survey showing Pit Locations (KP141, KP147 and KP149 are shown overlapping and are in a separate report, see footnote).

[1] See FSARG website **community-archaeology.org.uk** ,Searching for the King's Manor, Report for Kent Lodge.

b) Geology

This area is shown on the geological map (**Fig 3b**) to be covered entirely by Head Brickearth, shaded yellow on the map. The brickearth is a comparatively recent superficial deposit about 2m thick, deposited during to the last Ice Age when north Kent was cold tundra. It is a fine, easily worked loamy deposit, good for agriculture but also excellent for brick making in the Lidar Photograph (**Fig 3c**) a large area to the west of TC16 has been dug off for use in the brick industry. This does not seem to have happened in the TC16 area itself, probably because the rights for development were bought in 1860 and houses were already being built in St Johns, St Marys and Park Roads by this date which is before the local Kentish Stock Brick industry got fully under way.

Running underneath the brickearth is a layer of Thanet Sands (shown in blue in **Fig 3b**). These are greenish pebbly sands, quite shallow in depth. Underlying the Thanet Sands is the massive Upper Chalk, sloping downwards gently to the North (pale green on the map). The only other deposit on the geology map of central Faversham is alluvium, very recent deposits laid down by streams and coloured cream on the map: the Westbrook and Cooksditch valleys show up clearly. Our area of interest is shown as completely covered by brickearth.

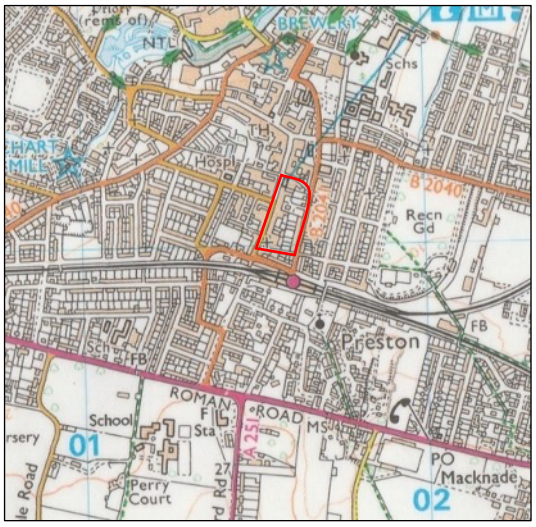

Fig 3a:

Fig 3b:

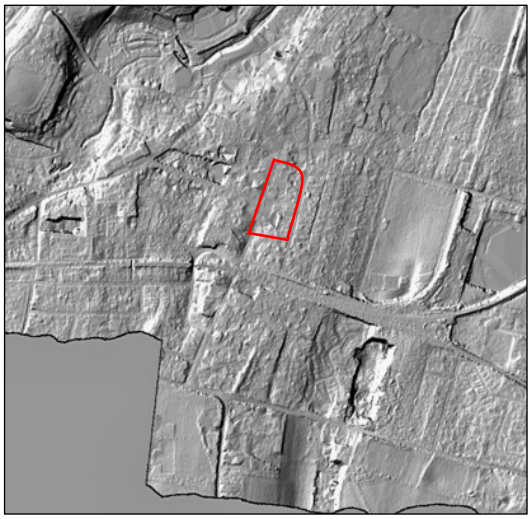

Fig 3c:

Fig 3: OS Explorer Map (a), Geological Map (b) and LIDAR (c) derived slope shaded picture of Faversham and Preston. The study area is bounded in red.

c) Known historical background

The area covered by this report can be subdivided into two, 44 to 52B Newton Road and the Alexander Centre.

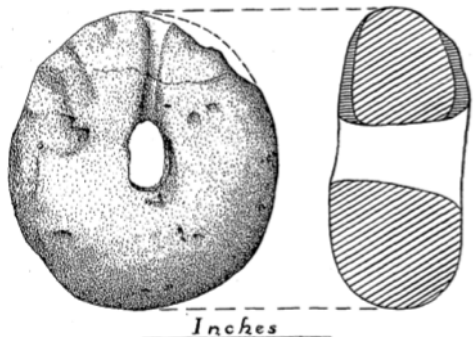

Fig 4: Saxon loom weight from the Post Office site discovered in 1954.

Newton Road

The Kent Historical Environment Register[2] includes only one significant early find in the Newton Road area - a Saxon loom weight[3] discovered by the builders of the Post Office site in 1954. The HER reference for this is TR 06 SW 33. The loom weight is shown in **Fig 4** to the left and is the size of a large doughnut. It dates from the middle Saxon period.

The area investigated includes the back of the buildings in Preston Street and the back gardens of the houses in Newton Road. Newton Road was not built until around 1900. The extract below from Jacobs map circa 1771 shown below shows that the area now occupied by the Newton Road houses and gardens was a hop garden. The site of the Alexander Centre is occupied by a smaller building.

Fig 5: Jacobs Map of Faversham circa 1771.

The first railway station was built in 1858[4], and was much smaller than the present-day station. Regular travel was then only for the well off, a 3rd class return to London cost 11/- when a working man's weekly wage averaged 15/6. At this time anyone leaving the station, would have seen only fields and orchards, however the potential for new housing development had been foreseen and local developers had already purchased the land and drawn up plans that included the recreation ground, Park Road, St Johns Road, St Marys Road and Newton Road. This plan positioned Newton Road directly opposite the original station entrance.

The area was sold off in lots with Newton Road being the last and most prestigious to be sold. Here the houses were built with the wealthy regular traveller to London in mind. Cheaper houses were later built near the noisy and smoky station, between Station Road and Gatefield Lane. The photo of the 1867 plan (**Fig 6**) shows the more exclusive lots that the developer would be selling and the intended roads. Some houses in St Marys Road and St Johns Road had already been built at the time of this plan. The current property boundaries do not all respect this plan as the builders bought adjacent plots and adjusted the boundaries, no doubt to make a greater profit. The road between Preston Street and Newton Road was never built, a building was built across the Preston Street end. The other end became part of the Newton Road Surgery.

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[2] Kent County Council HER Exploring the past (website)
[3] Grove, L. R. A., 1955, 'Archaeological Notes from Maidstone Museum', *Archaeologia Cantiana* ***Vol. 69***, Kent Archaeological Society, pages 208-210
[4] Stevens, P, 2006, 'A Look at Newton Road', '*About Faversham No 93*', Faversham Society, page 1

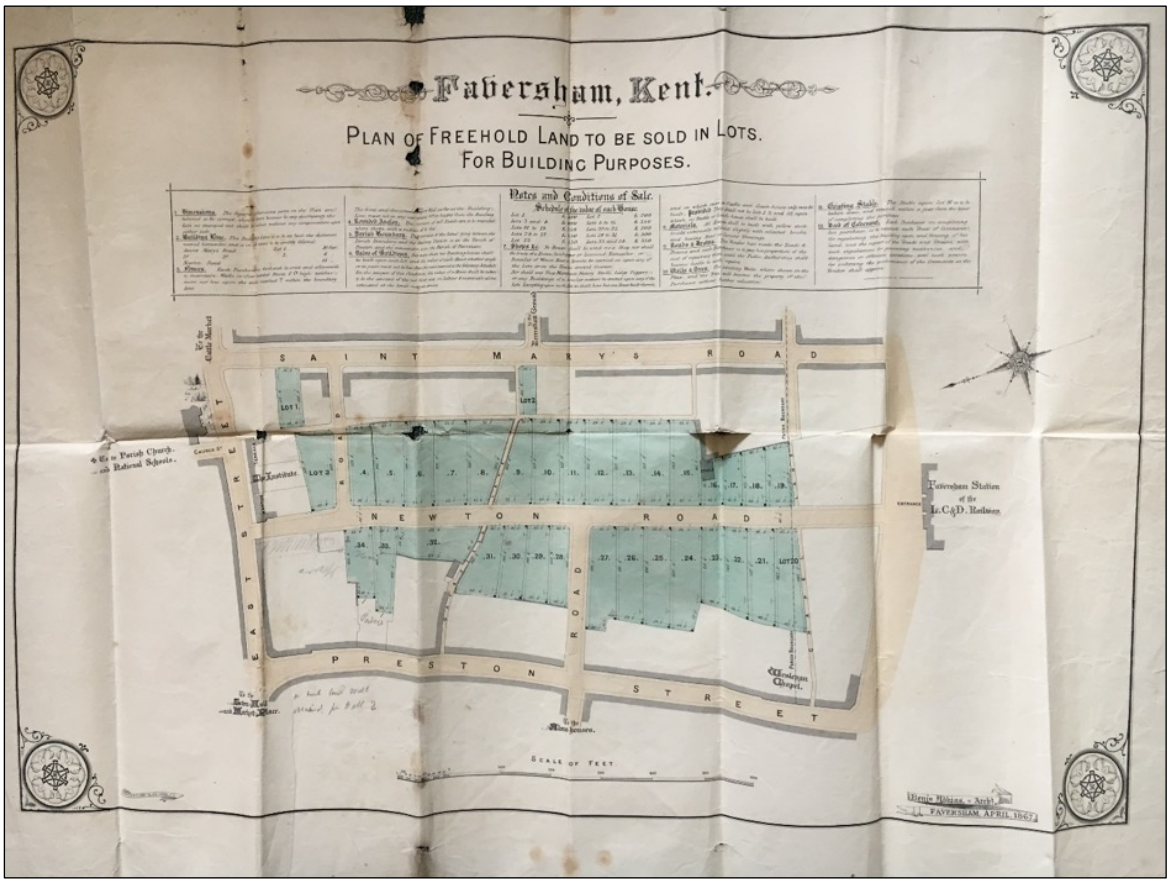


Fig 6: 1867 Plan of the housing development lots for sale in Newton Road (Note existing building in Preston Street and St Marys Road not shown).

The construction of the houses in Newton Road did not start immediately and the 1877 Map (**Fig 7**) shows none of the proposed houses. The 1901 census shows that 21 houses were built[5]: by 1912 they were all built.

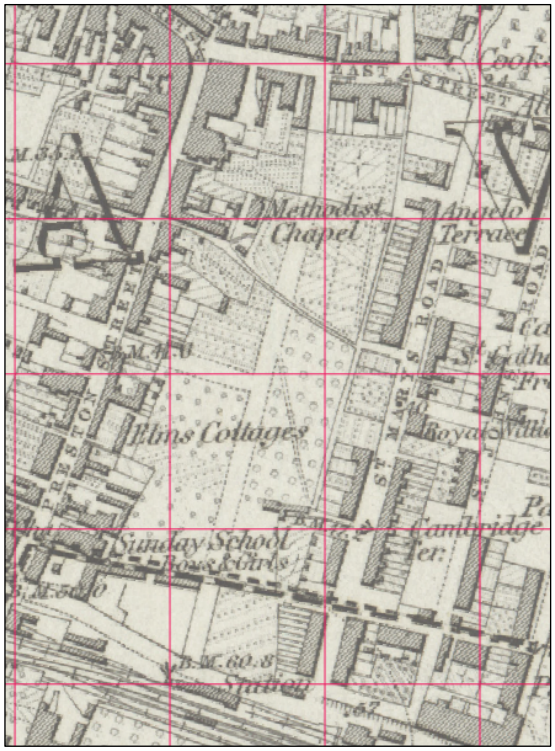


Fig 7: The 1877 OS Map (6 inch to 1 mile).

The Station was rebuilt in 1898 to accommodate the increased railway traffic and the entrance moved to its present position nearer to Preston street. Preston Street was cut in two by the 1898 remodelling of the station. The South end of Preston Street was renamed The Mall to avoid confusion.

[5] Stevens, P, 2006, 'A Look at Newton Road', '*About Faversham No 93*', Faversham Society, 1

Alexander Centre

The building now known as the Alexander Centre was built in the late 1870's as the home of Henry Barnes a brickmaker, later becoming the home of local doctor Sir Sidney Alexander who was knighted for his services as town mayor through the First World War. The building, then known as Gatefield House, was purchased by the Faversham Borough Council in 1943 for use as Municipal Offices. After local government reorganization in 1974 the building was converted for use as an activity centre by the addition of an assembly hall and function rooms at the rear and renamed the Alexander Centre.

Fig 8: Gatefield House around 1900, a tinted slide from the Croseur collection held by the Faversham Society.

Part 2: Individual Keyhole Pit Reports

A) Keyhole Pit KP139 Grid Ref. TR 01601 61165

1A) Location of pit

The location of the pit was largely determined by the constraints of the site. The pit was situated to the south of the main building on an area of lawn, and was positioned close to the building in order to look for any earlier structure (see **Fig 9**).

Fig 9: The location of the pit.

2A) 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 building. 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 up to the maximum safety depth of 1.2m. All excavated soil was sieved meticulously, metal detecting was not used. Finds were set aside for each context and special finds separately recorded. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the turf replaced.

3A) The findings

The lawn turf (context [01]) was carefully lifted. Context [02] was a shallow, 5cm deep, layer of soft sandy silt, probably a levelling layer put down before the turf was laid. A concrete paving slab projected into the pit 7cm from the north west pit edge. Contexts [03] and [04] were carefully trowelled and photographed, but eventually combined. These were interpreted as infill materials used in the levelling process prior to turfing. Context [05] was a layer of high fired ash and clinker with some molten glass, indicating the probable burning of site rubbish, with some broken red brick and iron. Context [06], 22cm below the level of the lawn, was composed of broken red brick similar to that used in the construction of the adjacent extension to the Alexander Centre in the late 1970s. This context was 11cm deep. Though some datable finds were present in contexts [01] - [05] they were possibly sourced off site.

Fig 10: Surface of context [06] c1970s building debris.

Fig 11: Surface of context [07] rich in pottery finds.

All finds from context [06] were found at the interface with the surface of context [07] which was a hard, clayey, silty layer, moderately sorted, containing small inclusions of chalk, charcoal and brick. There was an abundance of pottery finds datable to the late medieval to late post medieval periods including a possible piece of Dutch hand- painted tile, much glazed redware and blue and white transfer printed china.

Context [08] was a layer 4cm deep at the north east baulk to nil on the south west side with a high incidence of chalk, and up to 25mm inclusions of metal, CBM, lithic, shell and bone. Context [09] was an inclusion of 75mm to 100mm rounded and semi-rounded flints within context [08] in the southern corner of the excavation. A pit, fill context [10], cut [11], was situated in the western corner of the excavation which extended to a depth of 61cm from the surface. The fill was dark brown, soft silty / sand soil, containing much pottery including Roman, medieval and post medieval redware – slip decorated and glazed – late post medieval cream and white ware including a possible Oriental made bowl base with blue decoration. A small metal, possibly EPNS, mustard spoon was small found (see **Appendix 2**).

Context [08] gave way to contexts [12] and [13] of firm, silty clay which were eventually combined. This context appeared to be made up of bucket or shovelfuls of infill material. It contained some abraded pottery finds – medieval to late post medieval - particularly a single sherd of Tudor green ware. A slot 40cm wide was dug along the north east baulk. Context [14] extended from 47cm to 80cm deep from the surface, the full width of the excavation. This context contained a wide date range of pottery from Roman to LPM domestic china but no blue and white.

Fig 12: Surface of context [13] with pit context [10] in western corner of excavation.

Context [15], 80cm deep, was of brickearth. Four apparent postholes were revealed; the deepest measuring 88.5cm from the surface contained a piece of bone. The northern corner of the slot, 40cm by 50cm, was dug out to a depth of 1.2m and sieved. Small inclusions of chalk, charcoal, bone, oyster shell and pebbles were found. Five small shards of medieval / late medieval pottery were found. An anomalous piece of peg tile was also found.

4A) Interpretation

This excavation revealed a sequence of disturbed contexts. Contexts [02] - [06] originated from the construction works carried out by Faversham Borough Council to convert the building for use as an assembly hall and function rooms including evidence of the burning of rubbish and levelling of the area before laying of turf. Contexts [07] - [12] were again disturbed including a pit, context [10], and deposits

of materials brought from elsewhere within the site or from outside. This may be evidence from the construction of Gatefield House in the 1870s. Abraded pottery may be evidence of medieval midden scatter. Context [15], brickearth, was penetrated by three possible post holes which, unfortunately contained no dateable material.

Keith Robinson

B) Keyhole Pit KP140 Grid Ref. TR 01603 61022

1B) Location of pit

The location of the pit was largely determined by the constraints of the site. **Figs 13** & **14** show the chosen site where it was situated away from any building or brick wall.

Fig 13: The location of the pit.

Fig 14: The chosen location.

2B) 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 building. 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 up to the maximum safety depth of 1.1m. All excavated soil was sieved meticulously, metal detecting was not used. Finds were set aside for each context and special finds separately recorded. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the turf replaced.

3B) The findings

Turf layer, context [01] (5cm depth) was removed revealing context [02]. Context [02] was excavated to a maximum depth of 30cm, until the soil colour became lighter with a higher clay content. It was a well sorted dull dark brown garden soil. The inclusions were about 2% of the volume excavated. One third of the inclusions were coal and clinker and a quarter CBM in small pieces. The pottery was mainly post medieval, late post medieval and redware, there was also a significant quantity of medieval, including a piece of Surrey ware (green and white glaze) and a few pieces of late medieval including Tudor green. The small quantity of metal was mostly iron nails (probably bonfire waste) and one thin copper rod. There was also a very few pieces of shell, bone, vessel and window glass and clay tobacco pipe.

Context [03] was excavated to a maximum depth of 60cm and stopped being when it seemed that the type of finds was changing although there was no obvious boundary. [03] was a layer of yellow / red dark dull soft fine-grained clayey soil. Inclusions are less than 1% and very well sorted. One third of the inclusions was brick, tile mortar and plaster. One third of the finds were lithics, two possible tools, 8 microliths and heat stressed flints. There was more shell and bone than in context [02], a few iron pieces, mainly nails, a few fragments of vessel glass and some bone. There was very little coal and clinker. Most pottery was from the early medieval to late medieval periods. This included early medieval shelly ware, Tyler hill and some imported wares. Very little of the pottery was from the late post medieval period.

Fig 15: Material from context [03].

Context [04] was a layer of yellow/red, dark, dull silty clay (tending towards brick earth) it was trowelled to a depth of 75cm and then a slot (20% of width of pit) was dug to a maximum depth of 85cm. The inclusions were very sparse much less than 1%. The finds were largely worked and heat stressed flints including a possible scraper and 3 microliths. CBM and coal / clinker were found in negligible quantities. The pottery all very small (worm-hole size) included Roman, early medieval shelly ware, medieval Tyler hill and late medieval Tudor Green. One piece of iron (48g) was found. The slot did not have any inclusions. To verify that this was the natural, context [05] was dug from the bottom of the slot to a depth of 110cm. This was sieved and no inclusions were found. The pit was then backfilled and the turf replaced.

Fig 16: Showing the slot cut into [05].

4B) Interpretation

The lowest context [05] is undisturbed natural brick earth. Above this context [04] had worked and heat stressed flints. These could be from any time from the Neolithic to the iron age. Other finds are assumed to be associated with worm activity. The piece of iron is anomalous. There was a gradual progression through to context [03] of early medieval to post medieval pottery including some Redware. This is consistent with midden scatter and agricultural activities. Context [02] includes late post medieval household material consistent with the houses built in the late 19th century and earlier churn associated with agriculture and orchards shown on the Jacobs Map (Mid-18th Century) and the 1865 ordnance survey.

John Clarkstone

C) Keyhole Pit KP142 Grid Ref. TR 01608 61060

1C) Location of pit

As with the other pits, the location of the pit was largely determined by the constraints of the site. The pit was situated on an area of lawn, and was positioned furthest from any building or brick wall (see **Fig 17**).

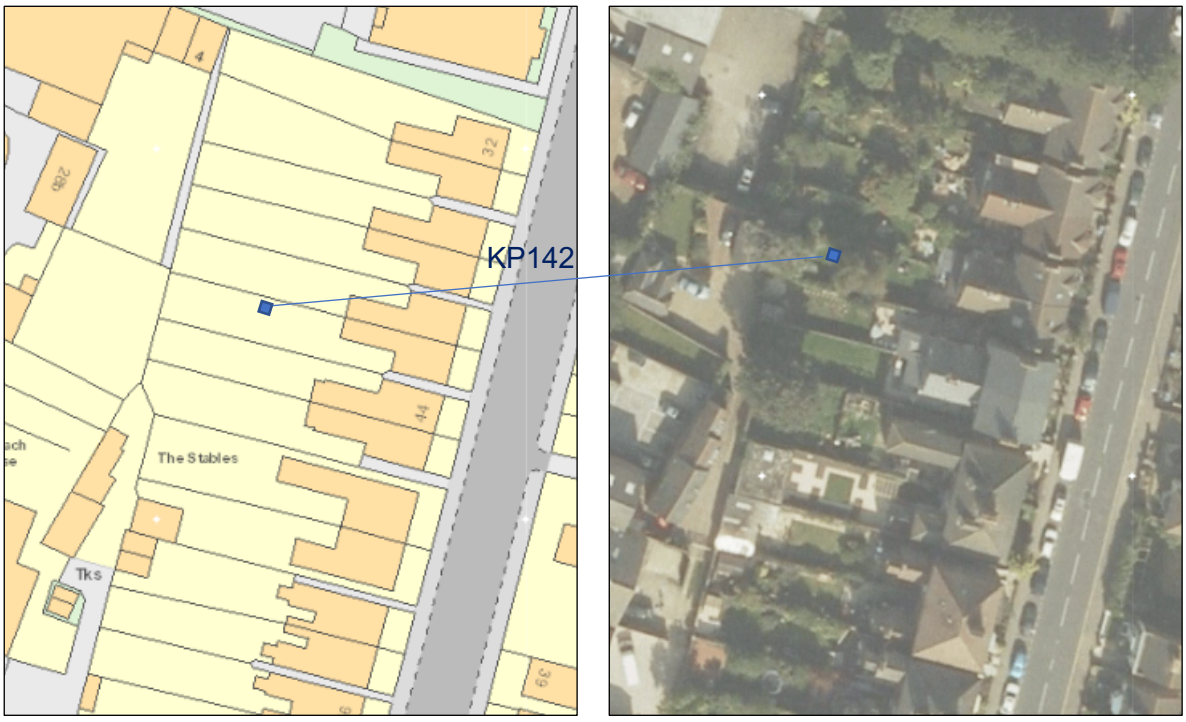


Fig 17: The location of the pit.

2C) The procedures

A one metre square pit was pegged out and the area delineated with string. This was measured to mapped corners of the house. Turf was carefully removed and placed in the shade and covered with plastic. The pit was carefully hand excavated using single contexts which were recorded in detail. The keyhole was excavated to a depth of 58cm with a central slot to a depth of 90cm. All excavated soil was sieved meticulously and the spoil heap scanned with a metal detector. Finds were set aside for each context and any features were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was replaced, tamped down and the turf replaced and watered.

3C) The findings

The turf [01] which extended between 5cm and 10cm was removed. No inclusions were found. Immediately below this was a compact layer of garden soil [02] and a rough line of un-mortared bricks running east to west, just within the north side of the pit (see **Fig. 18**).

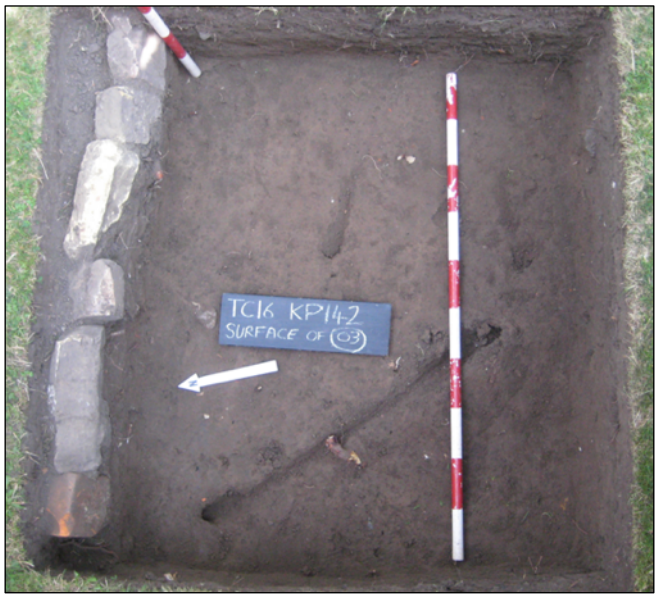


Fig 18: Showing a line of bricks running East-West.

Inclusions were domestic with CBM and burnt material (clinker, coal and coke) comprising about 30% of inclusions. There were small fragments of a greenish grey breeze block-like material. Of the other inclusions the largest proportion was of pottery. This pottery was comprised of pre-medieval to modern, including one piece of Roman. Other inclusions were metal, worked flint, Clay pipe, glass, bone, and fragments of shell. A small animal burrow was also visible.

Context [03] started at a depth of 38cm where the finds lessened, and more animal runs became evident. The soil became more like clay which extended to a depth of 58cm at the end of the context. The inclusions were like [02] but with less CBM and more pottery and flints. The earliest pottery was Roman with pre-medieval up to modern. There were worked flints. There was one small find (see **Appendix 2**) - a small geometric metallic object. Other inclusions were shell, iron, CTP and a smaller amount of the fragments of a greenish grey breeze block-like material.

Fig 19: Showing sondage [04].

At a depth of 58cm the composition became more clay like and there were few inclusions. A sondage (slot) [04] was cut in the bottom of the pit to show we had reached the natural. This context held a few small pieces of pottery and lithic.

4C) Interpretation

KP142 was a straightforward pit. It showed evidence of late 19th and 20th century garden deposits with evidence of earlier occupation. The medieval pottery suggests land usage in the Tudor times (16th century) and the small amount of earlier Roman pottery could be viewed as residual.

Heather Wootton

D) Keyhole Pit KP143 Grid Ref. TR 01600 61038

1D) Location of pit

As with the other pits, the location of the pit was largely determined by the constraints of the site. The pit was situated on an area of lawn, and was positioned furthest from any building or brick wall (see **Fig 20**).

Fig 20: The location of the excavation.

2D) The procedures

A one metre square pit was pegged out and the area delineated with string. This was measured to mapped corners of the house. Turf was carefully removed and placed in the shade and covered with plastic. The pit was carefully hand excavated using single contexts which were recorded in detail. The keyhole was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.35m in the NW corner. All excavated soil was sieved meticulously and the spoil heap scanned with a metal detector. Finds were set aside for each context and features were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was replaced, tamped down and the turf replaced and watered.

3D) The findings

The turf layer, context [01] (5cm depth) was removed revealing context [02]. Context [02] consisted of a layer of medium grey / brown soil containing copious amounts of ash, cinder and charcoal, suggesting this may have been a bonfire site. This was excavated to a maximum depth of 18cm, when the bonfire deposits disappeared, and the soil became lighter in colour. The inclusions were evenly distributed and about 2% by volume. One third of the inclusions 1.1kg was ash, coal and clinker. One quarter was CBM and one fifth was mortar and plaster. The layer contained many iron nails, screws, pieces of ironmongery (late 19th and 20th century). There were only very small amounts of bone, shell, glass, CTP, plastic and flint. Despite this being mainly bonfire and demolition material, context [02] included a range of early medieval, medieval, redware and late post medieval pottery including shelly ware and Tyler hill.

Context [03] was like context [02], but without the bonfire material, so that it appeared a lighter greyish brown colour. At between 20cm and 28cm (uneven across the pit) the soil contained more clay, with pockets of ash which were removed (see **Fig 21**). The inclusions were in similar proportions with less

metal. The pot chronology was similar but less late post medieval. The pot pieces were very small. There were more fragments of bone.

Fig 21: Showing the surface of context [04].

Context [04] was a thin layer of clayey material and appeared more orange to a depth of 30cm. The inclusions (a high proportion in the SW / W of the pit) included a complete clay tobacco pipe bowl, large pieces of worked (waste) flint and larger pieces of pottery than previous context. Then at depth of between 27cm and 30cm darker soil [05] appeared (see **Fig 22**).

Context [05] was a layer of light grey brown firm fine grained soil that was compacted and difficult to remove with a trowel. The context was forked and removed by spade for sieving to a depth of 45cm when the soil became softer but was otherwise similar and excavation was continued with trowelling. There were few finds in the top of the context, lower down as the soil became softer and looser the inclusions became more frequent. At the bottom of the context (48cm to 52cm), the inclusions suddenly became more abundant, including a wide range of medieval and Roman pot, CBM and CTP, oyster shells, iron and coal / clinker. Overall the inclusions in [05] were pottery (a wide range of medieval, a piece of Roman Samian handle, also redware), iron (many small lumps, few nails), coal, coke and clinker, brick and tile, worked flint (one definite tool), stressed flint and 18 pieces of CTP including 8 bowl pieces.

Fig 22: Context [05].

Context [06] layer was excavated across the whole pit to a depth of 60cm, below this it was continued as a slot 40 - 45cm wide on the west side of the pit, to a depth of 88cm. Mattocking and sieving was used for speed. At 88cm the brick earth was beginning to appear. The soil was a firm fine-grained sandy clay, a light yellowy brown which gradually became more orange. When dug it tended to come out in large pieces, which broke apart when pressure was applied by hand. It contained many pieces of pottery, 18th century back to early medieval, with a particularly large concentration in the medieval period. The pottery was in general noticeably older than in earlier contexts. It also contained many pieces of bone, worked flint and numerous small pieces of iron. There were still pieces of CTP, coal, coke, clinker and brick and tile.

Fig 23: Showing the surface of context [07].

Context [07]. The slot in [06] was continued by trowelling to a depth of 98cm, with very few finds. Then excavation continued by trowelling and spading to a depth of 120cm, the spoil being sieved or searched by hand. The soil was a light yellowy brown, firm to soft, patches of brick earth increasingly prevalent until continuous across the base of the slot. Between 100cm and 110cm several pieces of worked flint were found and large (3cm) pieces of charcoal. These were in the boundary between the “brick-earth” and “soil”. Many fewer inclusions than [06] more than half were flints and a quarter pottery and the remainder CMB and small quantities of shell and bone. The pottery included prehistoric (small pieces), medieval, late and early.

Fig 24: Showing context [07] with slot [08].

Context [08]. The NW corner of the slot was excavated to a depth of 135cm using spade and finger sorting the spoil. The soil was brick earth with only a single flake of flint (not worked) and a small (possibly heat stressed) flint at the top boundary of the context. There were no other finds or inclusions of any sort.

4D) Interpretation

The contexts are layers of increasing age from the top of the pit to the bottom. The distribution of pottery and CBM indicates substantial churn. The upper layers [01] to [04] are substantially different from those below and may have been moved at the time of building the house in the late 19th century or as part of gardening. Below this the churn is believed to be due to agriculture of medieval times and the orchards or hop gardens of the 18th and 19th century, shown on maps of these periods. The pottery midden scatter indicates continuous agricultural use adjacent to settlement from at least the early medieval times. There is no evidence of Saxon. There is some Roman pottery but this is in the higher levels and may be an import or churn. The associated flint and charcoal in [07], which also contained a piece of prehistoric pottery, indicates that prehistoric man passed this way.

Caroline Clarkstone

E) Keyhole Pit KP145 Grid Ref. TR 01611 61051

1E) Location of pit

The location of the pit was determined predominantly by the available space, and was positioned approximately two thirds of the way down the garden on the lawn, and is shown in **Fig 25**.

Fig 25: Showing the location of the excavation.

2E) The procedures

A one metre square was pegged out and the area delineated with string. This was measured to mapped corners of the house, and house extension. Turf was carefully removed and placed in the shade and covered with plastic. The pit was carefully hand excavated using single contexts, which were recorded in detail. The keyhole was excavated to a depth of 0.86m with a central slot to a depth of 1.2m. Excavated soil from contexts [02] and [03] was sieved meticulously and the spoil heap scanned with a metal detector. A sample sieving (5%) was carried out for context [04]. Finds were set aside for each context and any features were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was replaced, tamped down and the turf replaced and watered.

3E) The findings

The turf and associated loose soil [01] extended to a depth of 5cm was removed. In the process, a small quantity of inclusions consisting of a single fragment of late post medieval pottery, together with an assortment of coal / clinker, glass, mortar, plaster iron nails were present. Context [01] produced the only small find from this pit - part of a tin toy vehicle – see **Appendix 2**.

Immediately below this was a compact layer of dull, dark brown friable garden soil [02] and extended down to a maximum depth of 42cm. This was moderately sorted and consisted of very familiar household discarded material consisting mainly of clinker (30%), CBM (20%), metal (iron nails, screws, fence remnants), vessel and window glass, pottery, bone (including 2 teeth), clay tobacco pipe fragments (16 stem and 4 bowl fragments), shell, together with very modern material such as plastic pegs, Rawlplugs, buttons to name a few. In addition, there were indications of burning (from bonfires).

Fig 26: Surface of context [02] following the removal of the turf.

Of the pottery, most (55%) was redware, ranging from post medieval (c1600) to late post medieval (c1900) in date. 28% was late post medieval dating from around c1800 to present day. The post medieval pottery made up 11% of the total, and the earliest pottery (5%) was Tyler Hill medieval (c1225 - c1400). There were also considerable quantities of pebbles in this context.

Fig 27: Material (inclusions) from context [02].

At a depth of around 42cm, there was a distinct change of context [03] (**Fig.28**). This can clearly be seen in the section photo (**Fig 31**). The soil became more yellow / red in colour, and clayey in consistency. This context extended to a depth of 90cm. [03] was well sorted, and well churned, and consisted predominantly of CBM (54%), which was almost equally split between brick and tile. There was still a significant quantity of coal, coke and domestic clinker (10%), followed by pottery (9%), iron (8%), with lesser quantities of flint (6.5%) - made up of heat-stressed (3.5%) and worked flint (3%), the remaining inclusions being CTP (clay tobacco pipe), shell, and mortar and plaster.

Fig 28: Surface of context [03].

Of the pottery, there was an equal amount of late post medieval (c1800 - present) and medieval (c1225 - c1400), which between them made up over half of the total found. Late medieval (c1400 - 1550) represented 17% of the total found, the rest consisting of late post medieval, post medieval (c1550 - 1800) and early medieval (c1050 - 1225).

At a depth of between 86cm and 90cm, a new context [04] became apparent (**Fig 29**).

Fig 29: Surface of context [04].

Fig 30: Slot cut through [04].

This layer was much more yellow / red in colour and is the brickearth that we see many times during our Faversham excavations. Other than small material moved through worm activity, and a single flint, the context was devoid of any inclusions. A 20cm wide slot cut through the pit (**Fig 30**) to a depth of 1.2m further confirmed the absence of any inclusions.

Fig 31: A sectional view facing north. The dark vertical lines in the lower contexts show where worm activity has moved small pieces of material down to lower depths.

4E) Interpretation

KP145 was a very straightforward pit. It showed evidence of 19th and 20th century garden deposits with some evidence of earlier activity. The Medieval pottery from context [03] suggests land usage in the medieval period, but also shows that this has been highly disturbed over the years.

Mike Tillman

Part 3: General Conclusions

1. General Interpretation

For the most part this group of keyhole excavations confirmed our expectations. The upper contexts contained material of 19th - early 20th century date, such as transfer printed standard types of ceramics and simple buttons. The layers below about 42cm contained mainly small medieval sherds of pottery, and scraps of bone indicating that this area had been in cultivation for at least 800 years- throughout the medieval period domestic midden heaps were spread around to compost the land and the small abraded bits of 'rubbish' are signs of medieval agriculture.

As you can see in **Appendix 3**, in between the medieval agricultural and 19th - 20th century gardens was a small amount of evidence for activity in the post medieval period –16th - 17th centuries. This is a prosperous time for Faversham, and much fine pottery is found in gardens – our mermaid logo comes from a 17th century tin glazed hand painted bowl found in a Tanners Street garden – but the post medieval pottery from these gardens was more mundane and probably from vessels used by hop garden workers.

The five keyholes in this report, did not, sadly, yield any evidence for Saxon settlement and activity, although this was certainly not the case for KP141 where a chalk floor with post holes and some Saxon Ipswich ware[6] was found. What was unexpected, however, was that four out of five of these keyholes contained small amounts of Roman pottery. These could possibly be remnants of cremation urns, as some of these have been found in the Preston Street area – see **Fig 32** for two archaeologists finding Roman pots in 1934 on the building site of the Argosy cinema, next to the Vaults. These pots could, however, be related to modest dwellings in this area rather than burial urns.

Fig 32: These pots came out of the building trenches.

2. Final Comments

Nowadays, of course, the site of a large-scale development like Newton Road would be subject to intensive professional archaeological investigations. This has been required by law since 1991 in the UK. In the past, however, discoveries depended on the initiative of locals who spotted that 'something' was there – a Roman villa, perhaps, or a Saxon burial. For FSARG, working in a town which has grown in one place for thousands of years, the archaeology is buried, and it is only by the painstaking excavations of gardens that we can begin to piece together the story. So, if you dig a fishpond and come across some odd-looking tiles or some unfamiliar looking pottery, then you know who to contact!

3. Acknowledgements

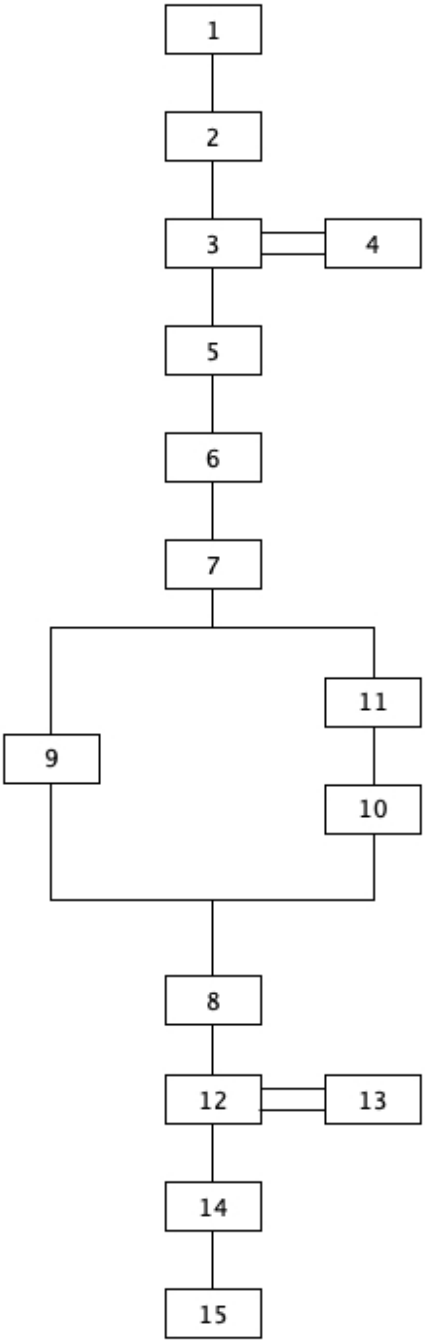
Great thanks to all the householders who were so generous with their permissions to dig. We do our very best to be tidy and leave the garden as found but we are very aware of your kindness and tolerance in letting us burrow amongst your flower beds. We hope you think it was worthwhile – it certainly was for FSARG and Faversham.

[6] Report for Kent Lodge op.cit

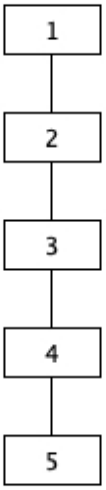
Appendix 1:
Harris Matrices

The number in each box denotes a context as in the text.

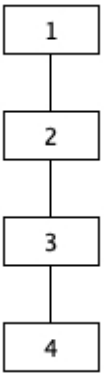
KP139



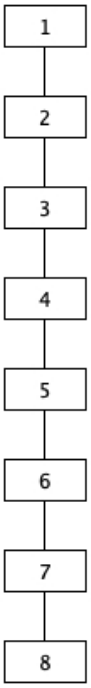
KP140



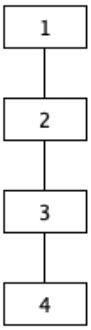
KP142



KP143



KP145

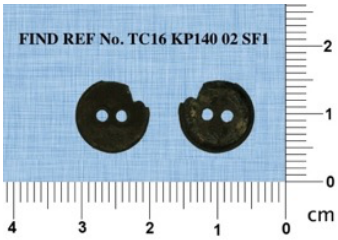


Appendix 2: Small Finds

KP 139

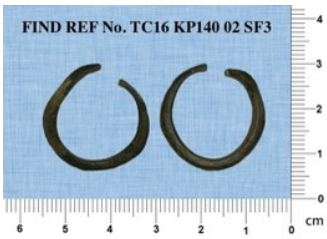
Small mustard spoon

KP140

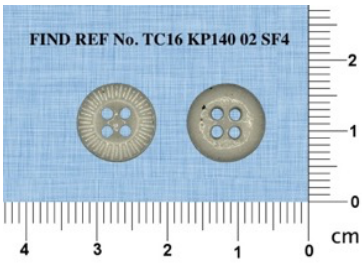


Copper alloy button

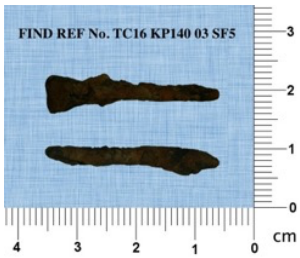
Half-penny 1901



Copper alloy ring



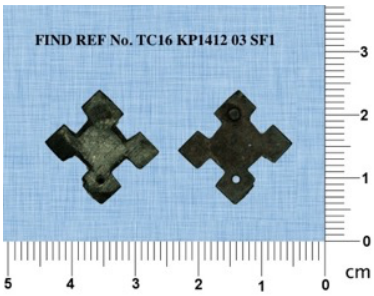
Decorative glass (or plastic) button



Iron (uncertain object)

Bone fragment inscribed "FAVER.."

KP142



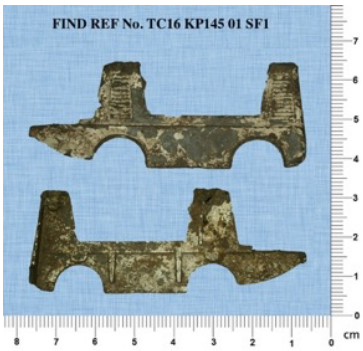
Geometric metal object

KP143

Decorative copper alloy stud

25c Coin

KP145



Part of a tin plate toy

Appendix 3: Pottery Chronologies

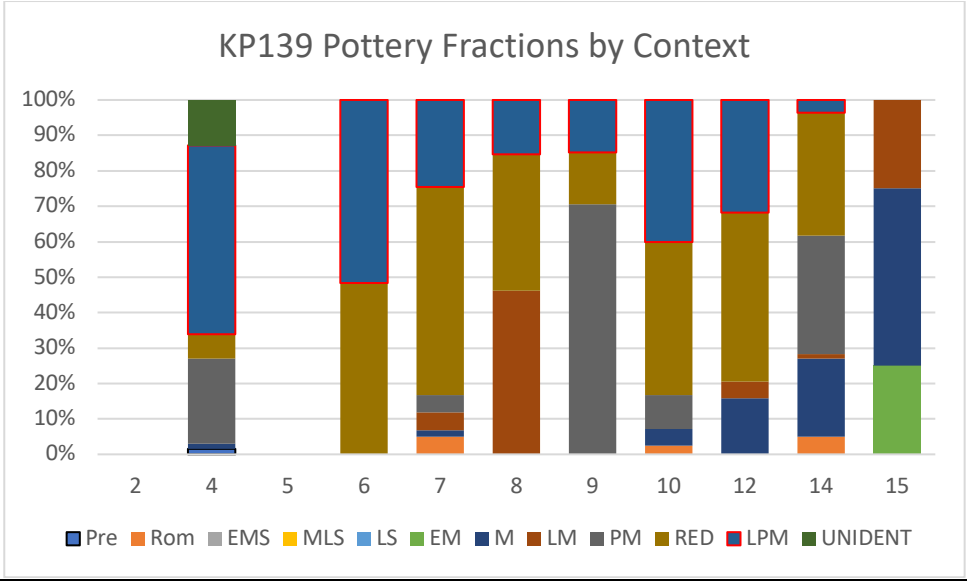
Quantities: (weight in grams)

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		

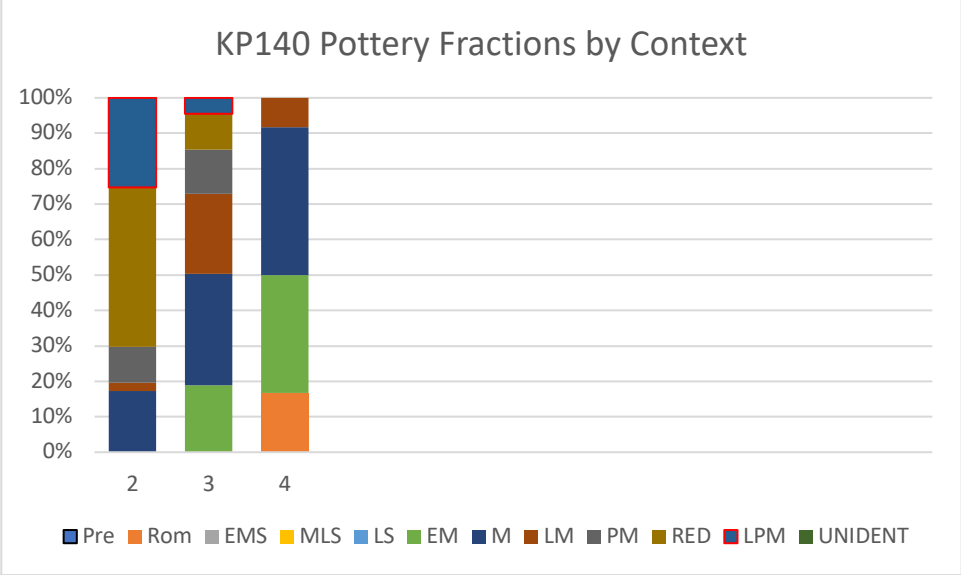
1. KP139

Site code	Pit	Context	pre	ro	EMS	MLS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	UNIDENT
TC16	139	02												
TC16	139	04	2						2		32	9	71	17
TC16	139	05												
TC16	139	06										14	15	
TC16	139	07		11					4	11	11	129	54	
TC16	139	08								6		5	2	
TC16	139	09									24	5	5	
TC16	139	10		11					22		44	198	184	
TC16	139	12							7	2		21	14	
TC16	139	14		7					31	2	47	49	5	
TC16	139	15						2	4	2				



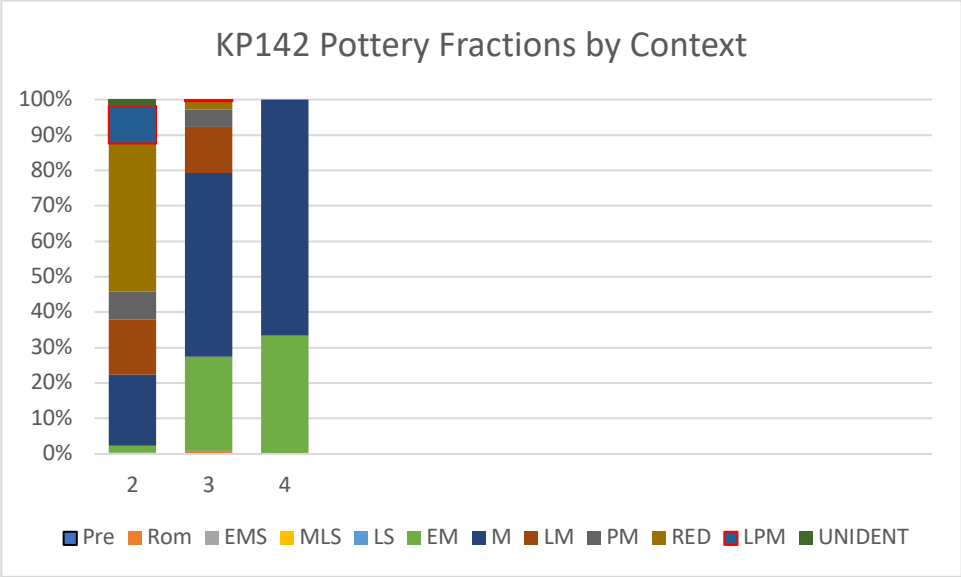
2. KP140

Site code	Pit	Context	pre	ro	EMS	MLS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	UNIDENT
TC16	140	02							58	8	34	151	85	
TC16	140	03						99	166	119	65	53	24	7
TC16	140	04		2				4	5	1				



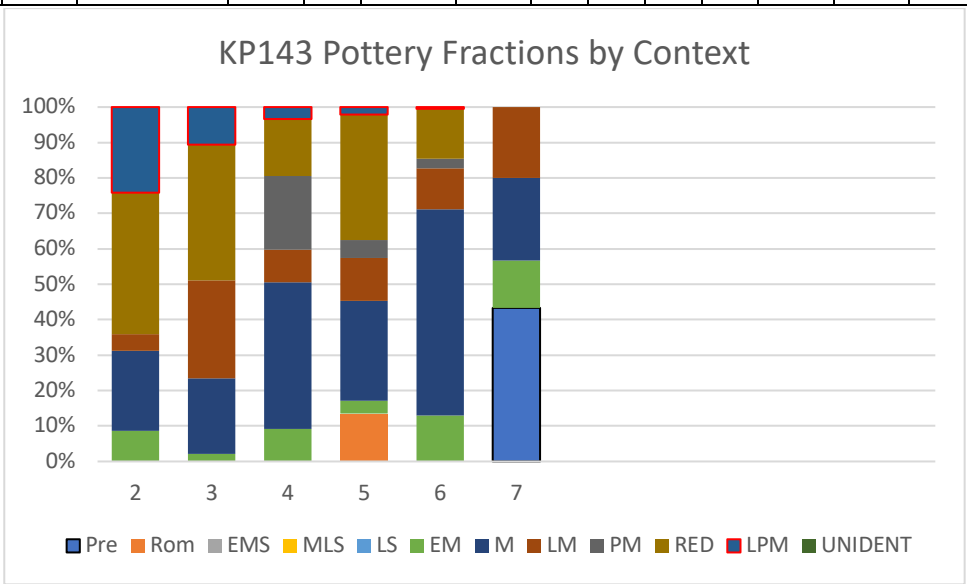
3. KP142

Site code	Pit	Context	pre	ro	EMS	MLS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	UNIDENT
TC16	142	02		1				7	71	55	28	147	38	6
TC16	142	03		4				123	241	60	23	11	2	
TC16	142	04						1	2					



4. KP143

Site code	Pit	Context	pre	ro	EMS	MLS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	UNIDENT
TC16	143	02						11	29	6		51	31	
TC16	143	03						1	10	13		18	5	
TC16	143	04						8	36	8	18	14	3	
TC16	143	05		43				12	90	39	16	113	7	
TC16	143	06						59	265	52	13	64	2	
TC16	143	07	13					4	7	6				



5.KP145

Site code	Pit	Context	pre	ro	EMS	MLS	LS	EM	M	LM	PM	RED	LPM	UNIDENT
TC16	145	01											1	
TC16	145	02							14	3	31	148	75	
TC16	145	03						43	133	86	52	57	137