

Hunt for the Saxon Royal Manor

A report on keyhole excavations carried out at The Market Inn, 42 East Street, Faversham, Kent







This report covers 3 keyhole excavations:

Keyhole Excavation KP173	Grid References TR 01878 61235
Keyhole Excavation KP174	Grid References TR 01884 61223
Keyhole Excavation KP180	Grid References TR 01886 61213

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Part 1: General Background

1. Introduction

The 2018 FSARG project follows on from the 2016 - 2017 research, which has been 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 market dates back to this time. In the 1860s an exceptionally rich early Saxon cemetery was discovered in the area where Faversham railway station now stands. 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.

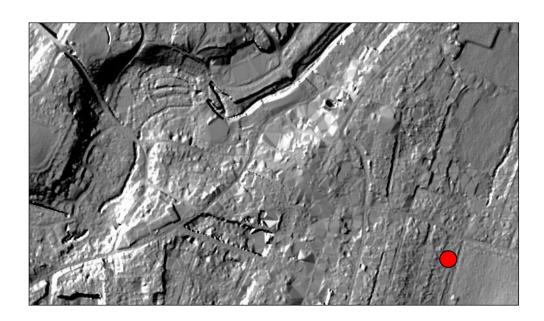
In 2016 our starting point in the search was a single piece of evidence for domestic occupation in the upper town. This was a mid-Saxon loom weight found on a bomb site in East Street whilst being cleared in 1953 to build the present-day Post Office. So far, on two nearby sites we have found mid Saxon 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'. This year 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)): the spacious area beside the Market Inn is one such location.

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 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 join Faversham Creek at Iron Wharf, Grid Reference TR 012354 62131. There is some evidence that the Cooksditch originally rose near St Catherines church¹ and was cut short by the creation of the Recreation Ground in 1862.

Fig 1a: The LIDAR map shows the relief of the land in Faversham town centre, with the 'dug off' areas showing up very clearly.



¹ FSARG website community-archaeology.org.uk/ archaeological investigations / Preston a most peculiar parish 2013-15/ Preston Farm report p5

b) Geology

The gentle downward slope to the north is related to underlying chalk dipping northwards to disappear under Thanet Beds and then under London Clay. Overlying the chalk, however, is a layer up to 2m - 3m thick of superficial deposits, laid down during the last major glaciation. These are highly significant for human settlement.

In this part of Faversham, the superficial deposits are mainly distinctive yellow-brown Head Brickearth, often overlying a gravel superficial deposit. The Kentish Stock brick industry flourished in the Faversham area between around 1850 and 1920, and large areas around and in the town under later housing development have been 'dug off', removing all except the most recent and most ancient archaeology². In the LIDAR map in **Fig 1a**, the large 'excavations' in the lower centre are 'dug off' areas. Central areas have, however, escaped this destruction due to their pre-1860 enclosure of plots.

The most recent superficial deposit in this area is alluvium in the Westbrook and Cooksditch valleys. The Cooksditch valley lies to the immediate east of the Market Inn.



Key:

Orange: Head Gravels
Yellow: Head Brickearth
Blue: Thanet Sands

Light Green: Chalk Cream: Alluvium

Fig 1b: Geological map of central Faversham, the same area as in Fig 1a.³ The distinctive Davington Plateau (blue and orange) and Stonebridge Ponds (cream) areas can easily be identified in Fig 1a. The Market Inn sites are grouped closely together and shown in red.

c) Known historical background

The Market Inn is a handsome building, built in 1865 on the corner of East Street and Park Road. The land was originally part of the Cooksditch House estate and was purchased by Henry Shepherd and John Mares in 1863. It stands close to the former site of the Cattle Market, which is nowadays occupied by Bob Amor Close (see **Fig 3e**). At the rear of the property on the other side of the car park is a row of garages, formerly stables presumably for farmers visiting the cattle market.⁴

The Market Inn has an unusually large garden. Part of it is used for the local Bat and Trap layout but there is also the equivalent of a small field adjacent to this (**Fig 3e**), surprisingly undeveloped for this part of Faversham but very handy for archaeologists.

3. Location of pits

The location of KP173 and KP174 was predominantly determined by the results of the earlier georesistivity survey (see below). There were specific areas that needed to be avoided such as the light (dry) area in the image where the ground had been significantly disturbed around the time that the

² TWIST Sydney 1984 Stock Bricks of Swale The Sittingbourne Society: Sittingbourne, Kent

³ British Geological Survey, 1;50 000 series. Faversham: England and Wales Sheet 273

⁴ STEVENS P. 2005 Faversham's Historic Pubs and Breweries Faversham paper 92 Faversham Society.

extension was built, and also what appeared to indicate the presence of an underground pipe. An aerial photograph dated 1925⁵ appeared to show possible formal garden features. With initially 2 pits being dug, it was decided to locate KP173 near to the west boundary wall orientated N-S, with KP174 located in the south eastern part of the garden.

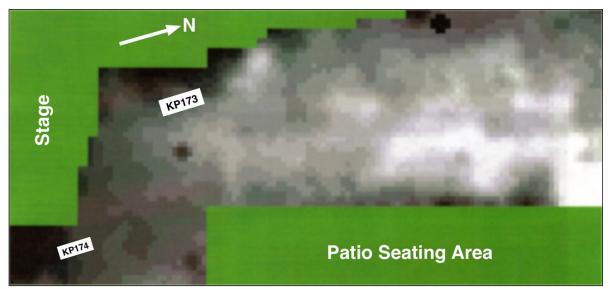


Fig 2: Geo-resistivity survey.

KP180 was the last Keyhole excavation in summer 2018, and only decided on subsequent to the important findings of nearby KP174 and was dug only ten metres away from KP174, on a small area of waste land boxed in by the Bat and Trap targets to the north, the end of the garage block (formerly stables) to the east, M& J's large warehouse to the west and a garden wall to a neighbouring house to the north. The keyhole was located towards the west end of the enclosed area, centrally between the north and south walls.

4. The standard procedures

a) Geo resistivity surveying

The area to be surveyed is pegged out and a base line established. The location of this is measured in to landmark points. A series of parallel line are set out 1m apart using special lines marked at metre points. The resistivity metre is moved along this line at either 1m or 0.5m intervals and readings taken. These are then digitalised and used to create a map of the varying resistivity of the area surveyed (see **Fig 2**).

b) Levelling

A temporary bench mark is set up within the garden and linked through to a permanent bench mark - this can be a challenging task as public bench marks are not surviving very well in these digital times. Levels are obtained using a dumpy and the height of the land calculated.

c) Keyhole excavations

An appropriately sized shape is pegged out using the planning square and the area delineated marked with string. The position of the shape is recorded by measuring to mapped corners of the house or other fixed points shown on a modern map. If necessary, turf is removed carefully from the shape, rolled, numbered and set aside in plastic bags to keep moist.

⁵ **Britain From Above** website: www.britainfromabove.org.uk November 2018

Each pit is then hand excavated using single contexts, each of which is fully recorded on the FSARG proformas. Keyholes are excavated to the maximum safety depth of 1.2m or less. All excavated soil is sieved meticulously, and placed in a builder's bag to prevent contamination of the garden surfaces. Spoil bags are scanned using a metal detector. Finds are set aside for each context and, where possible, special finds are given three dimensional coordinates to pinpoint the exact find spot. Any features revealed are carefully recorded using scale plans and sections. Finally, the spoil is put back in reverse order to extraction, tamped down and watered. Turf is replaced if necessary.

Excavations are photographed throughout the time they are open, with clear signage as to the context and pit being excavated and a register being kept. Where appropriate, scale plans and sections are drawn. Information is recorded on dedicated context sheets and in site notebooks.

Cooksditch House

a) Jacob's mid-18th 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

Fig 3: Map regression for 2018.



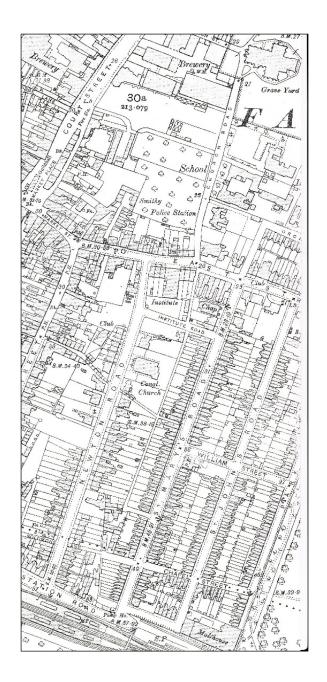
b) Tithe map 1842.

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.



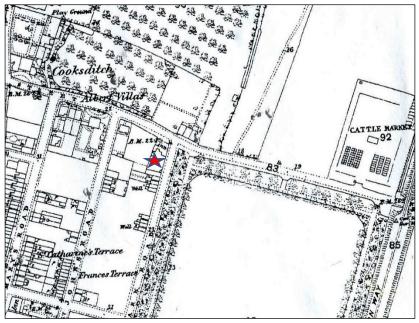
c) 1865 OS map, 6" to mile.

There are big changes in this eastern end of Faversham. St Marys, St Johns and Park Roads are well under way, with many small terraces being built by different speculators. Houses have been built along both sides of East Street, up to Cooksditch House. The railway has arrived. A Methodist chapel has been built along Gatefield Lane. The Recreation Ground has been created to the east. Newton Road, however, is just a sketch on the map and the Crescent, of course, does not exist.



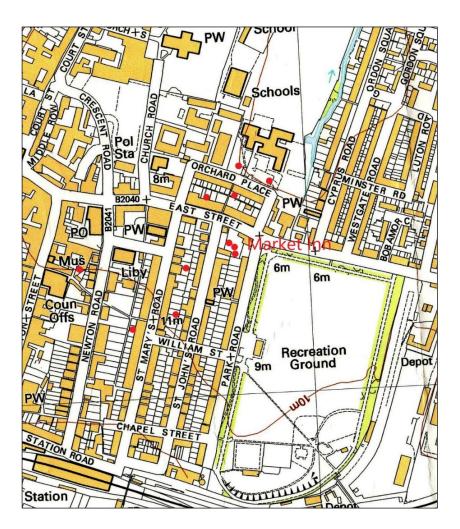
d) 1907 OS map.

A more limited area is shown on this map, but it well and truly shows the arrival of Newton Road in the years since 1865. Although the housing is very densely packed, a small orchard survives just north of East Street. The Methodist Church has become a Club. Note the splendid Institute on East Street and the large Congregational Church on Newton Road – both gone nowadays. Still no Crescent – that had to wait until the 1960s.



e) 1906 OS map, close-up on Market Inn site.

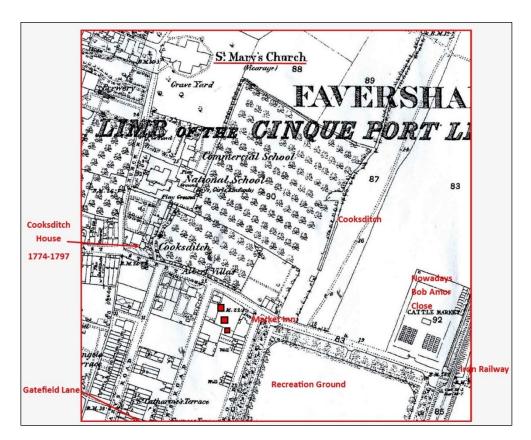
The cattle market has now been established to the east and the Market Inn built in 1865. Properties are being built along the south side of East Street and a few on the North side but the space west of the Market Inn remains undeveloped.



f) 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.

Note the pattern of modern roads (Bob Amor Close) on the site of the former cattle market.



g) Close up of the Market Inn Keyholes (1906 OS map).

The keyhole numbers from north to south are KP173, KP174 and KP180. Several significant places are also labelled, with the Cooksditch stream of particular interest. The location between St Marys Church and Gatefield Lane is also of special interest.

Part Two: Individual Investigations

Excavation KP173

(i) The Procedure

A 2m by 1m area was pegged out using the planning square and the area delineated marked with string. The position was recorded by measuring to mapped corners of the plot. Turf was removed carefully and set aside in plastic bags. The pit was then hand excavated using single contexts, each of which was fully recorded. Where very compacted soil was encountered, digging forks were used to help break up the soil in shallow layers. The keyhole was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m. All excavated soil was sieved meticulously, and the spoil heap scanned using a metal detector. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the turf replaced.

(ii) The findings

The turf and associated loose soil from context [01] (refer to the Harris Matrix in **Appendix 1**) extended to a depth of 8cm. Contained within this top layer were small quantities of mortar and plaster, a few pieces of flint, ceramic building material (CBM), iron, bone, glass, clay pipe stem and modern materials such as plastic. The discovery of a tooth conjures up all sorts of images of how that may have got there.

Beneath the top turf and loose soil was context [02] (**Fig 4**). This extended down to a maximum depth of 29cm and although a similar light grey, fine grained, silty sand soil type, it contained a significant amount of building material (6.3kg) consisting of concrete, CBM, slate and a small quantity of tarmac. There was a notable amount of flint which included a Mesolithic microlith (see **Appendix 5**).

Of the pottery, the largest proportion was redware and late post medieval (1800 onward). Included were a few sherds of medieval (1225 – 1400) and Roman (43-410) pottery. There were 2 interesting small finds (see the photographs in **Appendix 2**) which were lead bag / sack seals dating from c.1800 to the mid-1900s. Other inclusions included mortar and plaster (1kg), with much smaller quantities of glass (both window and vessel), coal, iron, bone, shell and modern materials such as carpet, plastic and crisp packets.

At a depth 29cm a much softer light brown soil signified a change in context to [03] (**Fig.5**). Although there were similar inclusions as in the previous context [02], there were significantly smaller quantities of each, apart from shell, iron and coal of which the quantities were about the same.

Pottery was like that of [02] with redware being the dominant type. There was also another bag / sack seal found (SF5) as well as a small metal button.

At a depth of 41cm (max) the soil became dull, dark, brown in colour which indicated a new context [04].



Fig 4: Surface of context [02].



Fig 5: Surface of context [03].



Fig 6: Surface of context [04].

Context [04] (the surface of which is shown in **Fig 6**) extended down to a maximum depth of 59cm. Again, it contained similar inclusions as of [02] and [03] and also in fewer quantities, with the exception of CBM of which there was around 15% more compared to the previous context, and shell of which there was 35% more. However, even at this level, there were still remnants of carpet and plastic.

The principal pottery found at this level was from post medieval (c.1550 – c.1800), followed by redware, late medieval (c.1400 – c.1550). There was also a very small quantity of Roman pottery.

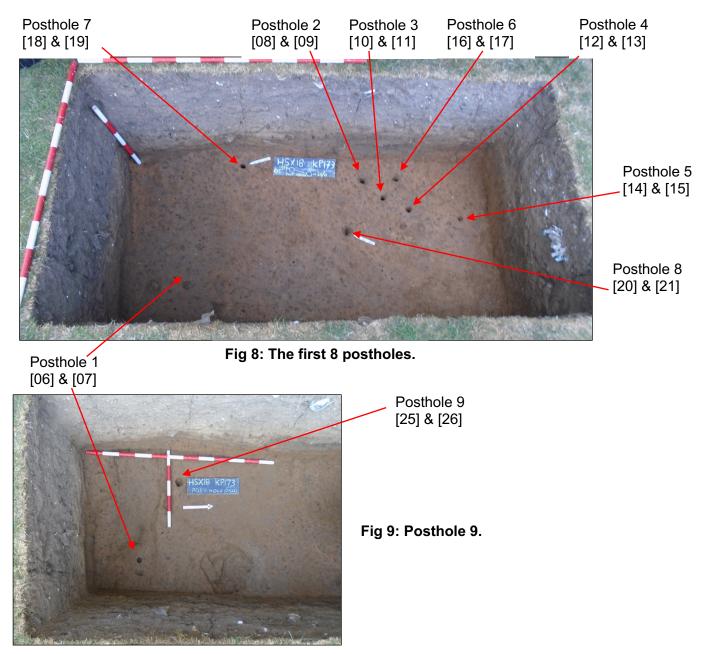
Yet another bag / sack seal (SF7) was found, together with a metal (probably tombac) button (SF6) dating to the 18th or 19th century.

At a depth of around 52cm, a transition layer of between 5cm and 8cm was encountered which was a mix of context [04] and a new context [05]. Once cleared, the irregular surface of [05] became apparent (see **Fig 7**).



Fig 7: Surface of context [05].

Context [05] was excavated down to a maximum depth of 95cm. The soil was dark mid brown in colour and fine grained. Shortly after starting to excavate this context, at a depth of between 61cm and 67cm 8 postholes were discovered (see **Fig 8**), and at a depth of 82cm one further one was revealed (see **Fig 10**).



The details of the post holes are shown in Table 1 (**Fig 10**). All the postholes were vertically formed and were roughly round. Referring to Table 1 it shows that postholes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, were very similar in their start and end depths – all being within a few centimetres of each other, with posthole 7 extending a little deeper, and posthole 8 being slightly shallower. Posthole 9 was not discovered until a depth of 82cm was reached, which was below the maximum depth of postholes 2 – 8. Posthole 1 was the deepest, starting at a depth of 61cm and extending down to 95cm. The wall of the posthole appeared to contain wood residue and can be seen in **Appendix 2** (SF10).

Posthole	Contexts	Start Depth	End Depth	Hole Depth	Diameter
1	[06] [07]	61cm	95cm	34cm	5.5cm
2	[08] [09]	69cm	77cm	8cm	4.0cm
3	[10] [11]	68cm	77cm	9cm	4.0cm
4	[12] [13]	68cm	77cm	9cm	3.5cm
5	[14] [15]	66cm	73cm	7cm	4.0cm
6	[16] [17]	69cm	78cm	9cm	3.2cm
7	[18] [19]	67.5cm	80.5cm	13cm	3.4cm
8	[20] [21]	68.5cm	73.5cm	5cm	5.5cm
9	[25] [26]	82cm	89cm	7cm	6.0cm

Fig 10: Table 1.

Within [05] at the southern end of the pit at a depth of 71cm a darker soil became apparent. This was excavated separately as a lens of material [22]. Inclusions from this lens consisted of a quern stone, heat-stressed and worked flint, pottery and bone. The small quantity of pottery was mainly Roman with a smaller quantity of pre-historic.

Overall, the inclusions in context [05] were less than the previous context with the dominant material being flint and CBM. However, there was a significant increase in the amount of bone found (3 times that of the previous context).

Of the pottery, the dominant was pre-historic (pre-43AD), with a smaller quantity of redware, late medieval, post-medieval, late post medieval and small quantity of Roman.

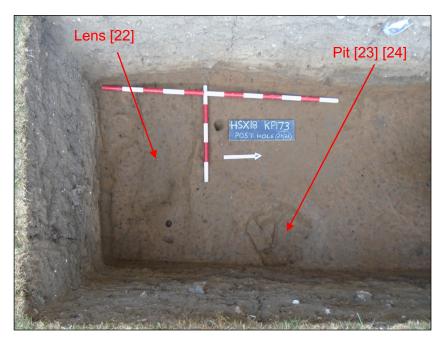


Fig 11: Context [05] with lens [22] excavated at the south end and small pit [23] [24] along the east side (also excavated).

The shallow (11cm) irregular pit (contexts [23] and [24]) was formed of a grey-green soil. A tiny flint and a small quantity of charcoal were the only inclusions. Once the lens [22] and the shallow pit [23] and [24] were excavated, there were no more features or inclusions found in [05] so excavation was closed at the depth of 0.95m.

(iii) Interpretation

It is clear from the chronological evidence of the pottery and type of inclusions that there was activity in this area dating back to pre-Roman times. Material from the small pit [23] & [24] and lens of material [22] cut into the largest context [05] showed the earliest activity.

The most important features in this pit were a series of postholes (which were also in [05]) indicating that some primitive structure had been present. Although we don't know the nature of it, from the diameter of the holes and the proximity of them it's likely that they were part of an enclosure or possibly boundary fence.

Posthole 1 appears to be disassociated with the other postholes, being much deeper and having a residue of wood around the perimeter. This may well have been a more recent event.

Context [05] marks a clear boundary between early activity and more recent events. We know from desktop research that there was a significant amount of landscaping that took place when the pub extension was built, and this is evident from the fact that contexts [01] to [04] had similar inclusions throughout.

Excavation KP174

(i) The Procedure

A 2m by 0.8m rectangle, running longest way north to south, was pegged out using the planning square and the area delineated marked with string. The position of the pit was recorded by measuring to mapped corners of the plot. A layer of turf was removed carefully from the square. The pit was then hand excavated using single contexts, each of which was fully recorded. The keyhole was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m. Most excavated soil was sieved, and finds were set aside for each context. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the turf replaced.

(ii) The findings

Beneath the turf layer was Context [2], a silty clay, with an assortment of finds dating from the post medieval onwards, such as red brick fragments, clay pipe stems, coal fragments (**Fig 12a**). The pottery was mainly of familiar redware types, with some blue and white 19th century pottery of modest type. At a depth of around 25cm, [2] gave way to a compact clay soil [3], again with post medieval redwares, but quickly revealing some variation in structure across the excavated area.

At a depth of around 45cm from the top of the pit, a substantial sherd of organic tempered pottery was found in the central part of the trench. It was quickly realised that this pottery, early- mid Saxon in origin, was the topmost find of a mass of animal bone and pottery, and it was swiftly established that in the midpoint of the trench was a major cut forming the sides of what was a pit or ditch filled with animal bone and Saxon period pottery. This pit / ditch was cut was into a brickearth layer context and started around 60cm down from the top. The upper fill became context [4] with the cut (whose base was found at around 122cm down) labelled as [11], giving a maximum depth for [11] itself of around 77cm. The sloping sides of [11] were uneven, as can be seen in **Fig 12b**. The edge of this pit (if it is a pit and not the end of a ditch) was identified to the west but ran into the side of the pit to the east. The lower fill of the pit whose content was rather different to that of [4] (see below), was labelled as [9].



Fig 12a: Beginning of excavation.

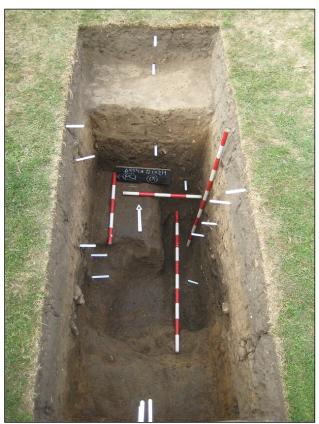


Fig 12b: End of excavation, showing bottom of pit. Note the brickearth at lower level.

At the south west corner of the pit, two circular holes were found, sunk into the brickearth [10], i.e. the same occupational level as the top of the main pit / ditch. The post holes [5][6] and [7][8] were shallow and of small diameter and seen as minor post holes (see cover picture).

Finally, the layer [10] into which the pit / ditch was sunk was the distinctive yellow-brown of the natural brickearth deposits so common in the Faversham area, and had no human finds content except for possibly some shell fragments. Although some prehistoric flints were found in KP174 they were found in the contexts above the brickearth [10]. The Harris Matrix for KP174 can be seen in **Appendix 1**, the prehistoric flint finds in **Appendix 5**.

The finds of major interest in KP174 came from [4] and [9]. Mainly from [4] were a number of sherds of organic tempered pottery, some black in colour and some with a lighter reddish-brown surface, clearly early-mid Saxon in age (**Figs 15-18**). Besides this in [9] was a piece of Roman Samian ware (**Fig 19**). In [4] were also found a bone pin-beater (**Fig 14**) of mid Saxon date, parts of a quern stone probably of greensand, lumps of daub with at least one piece of daub with a coat of whitewash and a fragment of a Roman roof tile (tegula).



Fig 14: Saxon bone pin-beater.



Fig 15: Saxon Pottery.



Fig 16: More Saxon Pottery.

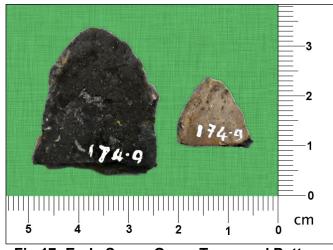


Fig 17: Early Saxon Grass Tempered Pottery.

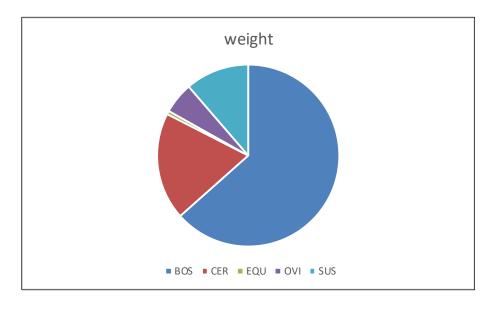


Fig 18: Early Saxon Pottery.



Fig 19: Roman Pottery.

By far the greatest quantity of material was, however, the animal bone. Around 4kg came from [4] and [9], much of it as substantial, very well-preserved pieces obviously undisturbed since they were discarded. The graphs below show the main types by numbers of bones and by weight (see **Appendix 4** for more detail). The proportion of cattle bone was, perhaps, predictable, but we were surprised by the amount of deer bone (Cervus) which included a splendid example of a jaw bone. The pigs were mainly represented by the jawbones of suckling pigs. We found no examples of bird or fish bone, but there was an abundance of oyster shell mixed in with the bone.



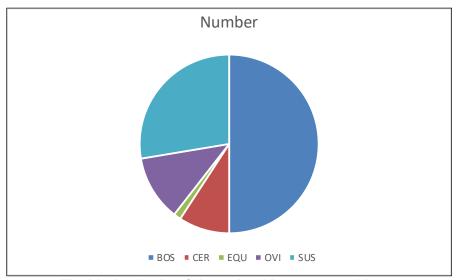


Fig 20: Analysis of the animal bone assemblage.

BOS = cattle, CER = deer, EQU = horse, OVI = sheep, SUS = pig.

Finally, mostly in [9] were found 30 pieces of iron making slag (**Fig 21**), associated with daub fragments. The great importance of this for Faversham is discussed below in the interpretation section.

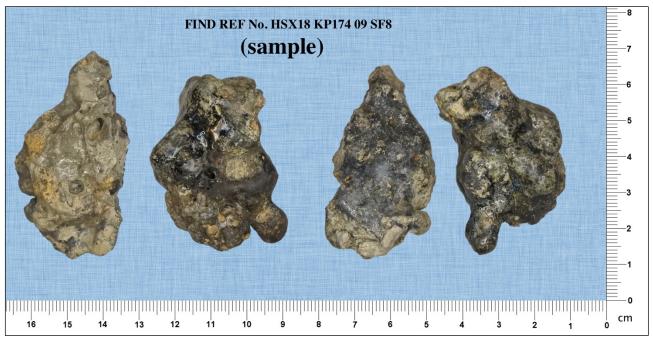


Fig 21: Sample of the iron slag.

(iii) Interpretation

KP174 has produced the first major Saxon assemblage in Faversham, discounting the 19th century grave finds which were looted treasure rather than archaeological assemblages. The pottery alone, at 381g, is more than all that has been found before in Faversham from this early Saxon period. The pin beater gives evidence for textile weaving of high quality, and the slag is very solid evidence for iron working (some of the slag could be from glass working but that awaits expert analysis). The painted daub, although only one piece, suggests a decorated building nearby. The items that excite the most interest, and indeed mouth-watering, from visitors are the animal remains, the huge bones and hefty oyster shells. A picture of the feasting hall comes to mind, with the meat turning on the spit: this is a rich diet.

⁶ ROACH-SMITH C 1858 'On Anglo Saxon remains recently discovered at Faversham, Wye and Westwall, Kent.' Arch. Cant. Vol 1 pp 42-49



Fig 22: Bones emerging from the ground.

Finally, the finding of a substantial piece of Roman Samian ware and a chunk from a Roman tegula were almost too good to be true – the raiding of Roman ruins for just such items is a well-known phenomenon.⁷ The tegulae would serve as hearth stones or water channelling devices, the eye catching Samian ware would be turned into spindle whorls or other decorative items. The nearest known Roman villa to the KP174 site is just to the north near the Abbey Barns.

All of this is pointing towards an active and lively settlement in this area in the pagan 5th - 7th centuries – maybe the folk who were buried in that cemetery uphill from here gorged on this meat and shellfish – and this is even more impressive when the fact that KP174 was just a small keyhole trench is remembered. This is certainly a site worth reporting on in more detail and re-visiting on a larger scale.

Excavation KP180

(i) The Procedure

A 2m x 1m rectangle, running longest way east to west, was pegged out using the planning square and the area delineated marked with string. The position of the pit was recorded by measuring to mapped corners of the plot. A covering of Terram, laid to hinder weed growth, was removed carefully from the square and set aside. The pit was then hand excavated using single contexts, each of which was fully recorded. The keyhole was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. All excavated soil was sieved, and finds were set aside for each context. Any features revealed were carefully recorded. Finally, the spoil was put back in, tamped down, watered and the Terram replaced.

(ii) The findings

KP180 was dug swiftly at the end of the season to check whether it revealed any connections with KP174 (see earlier). It turned out to be a complex little pit, as can be seen from the Harris Matrix in **Appendix 1**.

To a depth of around 25cm was a poorly sorted garden soil [1] with abundant dumped material such as 19th century pottery sherds, some clay pipe stem and bowl fragments and a quantity of chalk rubble. There were only tiny amounts of animal bone and shell. [1] shaded down into a yellowy soil layer [2] with far fewer finds. These finds were of a markedly earlier date than in [1], with small amounts of post medieval redware and stoneware and a few small sherds of Late Medieval pottery such as Tudor Green. Several pieces of early clay pipe stem were found.

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⁷ See, for example, in WILKINSON P. 2010 An archaeological investigation of the Roman octagonal bath house at Bax Farm, Teynham, Kent 2006 & 2009 KAFS (online only): Faversham

At a depth of 35cm, the outline of a corner of a 20cm thick wall [3] became clear, enclosing the north east corner of the pit. This proved to be a foundation layer, a jumble of chalk, red brick and tile fragments. Although the deposits inside [4] and outside the wall [5] were treated as separate contexts, their character was similar, i.e. a cultivation soil with a lot of root disturbance. Pottery content was small and ranged in age from Post Medieval to Late Iron Age, and again several clay pipe fragments were found. Layer [6] underlay these two and was a similar yellowy brown brickearth soil but contained only post medieval and earlier pot. Into [6] was sunk a double post hole [9] [10], and there was also a lens of another material [7]. [6] also yielded much more worked and heat stressed flint that the other contexts, including seven flint tools dating from the mid Palaeolithic to the Neolithic.

Beneath this, matters became complicated. Context [8] at a depth of around 40cm was hard and difficult to excavate for unclear reasons and contained a couple of pieces of Black Burnished Ware (Roman). [8] was not fully excavated so its relationship to [6] is unclear but the early content was similar. A sondage was sunk into each of [6] and [8] and showed an underlying context [11] of orange-yellow brickearth. Into the top of [11] was sunk a grey green deposit [12] [13], trench shaped and probably excavated by a large

root (see **Fig 23**). Excavation stopped at this point at a maximum depth of 70cm.

Besides in [6], finished flint tools of varying age were found in contexts [1], [2], [5] and [8]. No Small Finds were identified from K180.

Fig 23: KP180 at the end of excavation showing surface of [8] / [6] with two sondages revealing [11] and one root channel (?) [12] [13].

(iii) Interpretation

The reason for digging KP180 was to see if there were any Saxon links with KP174.

The upper contexts [1] and [2] with the wall foundation [3] yielded typical mid- late 19th - early 20th century garden dumped material such as coal and broken pottery: this is the period subsequent to the building of the Market Inn. For earlier contexts, however, there was little sign of direct occupation. The 1774 map (**Fig 3a**) and the 1942 tithe map (**Fig 3b**) both show this area as farmland – in the Jacobs 1774 map the land is shown as planted with hops. [6] does seem to be a typical agricultural soil, well turned over with small scraps of pottery and bone distributed through it. The posthole into [6] is probably for a hop pole.

The presence of worked flint at this high level is very interesting – in 2005, evidence was found by the Kent Archaeological Projects Unit for prehistoric settlement on the other side of East Street (Grid Reference TR 01960 61265) where retirement flats now stand. In the summer of 2018, the excavation KP166 at the southernmost limit of the grounds of St Marys School yielded no evidence for occupation but abundant evidence for prehistoric activity: following up these survivals of flintwork near the Cooksditch stream could be a promising activity in the future.

Only one piece of organic tempered Early-Mid Saxon pottery was found, in context [8]. This piece may be tiny but is far from insignificant. Pottery of this period is extremely rare in Faversham even though the famous Kingsfield cemetery is the most striking of evidence for Saxon occupation from around AD500 onwards. KP180, due to shortage of time, only reached a depth of around 70cm, with [8] the lowest excavated level: there could well be more evidence for early activity further down.

⁸ ALLEN T 2005 An Archaeological Evaluation of the site to the rear of 41 East Street, Faversham. Kent Archaeological Projects: Whitstable.

⁹ REID P, HARRINGTON D & M FROHNSDORFF Faversham in the Making: the Early Years Oxbow Press, Windgather series: Oxford. Chapter 4

Part Three: Summary for the Market Inn.

(i) Summary

The importance of this site is clear. It has already made us change our theory of the layout of Saxon Faversham – we had been tentatively assuming that the metal and glass working craftsmen were in the settlement down by the Creek and the textile workers near the Kings Manor higher up on the ridge. The textile working has been confirmed but the slag at the base of the KP174 pit / ditch was unexpected.

Neither did we expect to find the early Kings Manor – and the quality and quantity of kitchen waste does imply a residence of high status not far away – quite so far to the east of the modern town, oriented to the Cooksditch rather than the Creek itself. Yet the Roman villa to the north of this site was also orientated south eastwards to the Cooksditch¹⁰ – perhaps a more sheltered site that one on the Creek itself which is open to those cutting north-easterly winds common on the east coast.

Besides the rubbish dump in KP174, there were postholes at the approximately the same depth in both KP174 and KP173, i.e. around 55cm - 60cm down (see cover photo for KP174 and pp 12-13 for KP173. This area has been used since post medieval times for hop growing, a pole-using way of farming, and a post hole in KP180 at a depth of 40cm does seem to be related to that land use, but the post poles in KP173 and KP174 are just below the level disturbed in post medieval times and containing such artefacts as clay pipes and post medieval pottery. Although there have been modern effects on the site related to extension building nearby these did not involve any actual excavation or building, It seems extraordinary to us that we can find Saxon archaeology only 60cm down, given that in the Tanners Street (West Faversham, Creek crossing) part of Faversham, even 1.2m can take you only down to around AD1500.¹¹

What clearly needs to be done next is a single open area excavation covering the area between the two main keyholes (see cover photo for this zone). For investigating the Saxon archaeology, this excavation need not be very deep, but it does need to be extensive enough to identify features – maybe a sunken featured building? Yet we must not forget that this eastern part of the town is also yielding a lot of prehistoric material – see the results from KP166 2018¹², for example. Maybe again, this is only because of the shallowness of the modern archaeology (see the map sequence **Fig 3e-g** to understand how late this area has been built on in Faversham's development) and elsewhere in the town the prehistoric is too buried for us to find it. Nevertheless, there is on the Market Inn site great potential for a better understanding of the prehistoric archaeology of this ever-popular settlement zone, as well as for the Early- Mid Saxon period.

(ii) Final Comments

The Market Inn site was a very successful dig for community reasons, as well as for archaeological findings. FSARG digs mostly in private gardens, so the public do not get to see what we are doing but digging in pub gardens is always very sociable. Finds processing and data processing can take place on site and shared with visitors. Pub gardens are also always very productive archaeologically - maybe it is pubs who gravitate to the 'nodes in the landscape' rather than churches!

(iii) Acknowledgements

Many thanks to David and Sue Pott for allowing us to conduct a geophysics survey and excavate the pub beer garden over the week, and for supporting and encouraging us so much - a true community landlord of a true community pub.

Report Contributors:

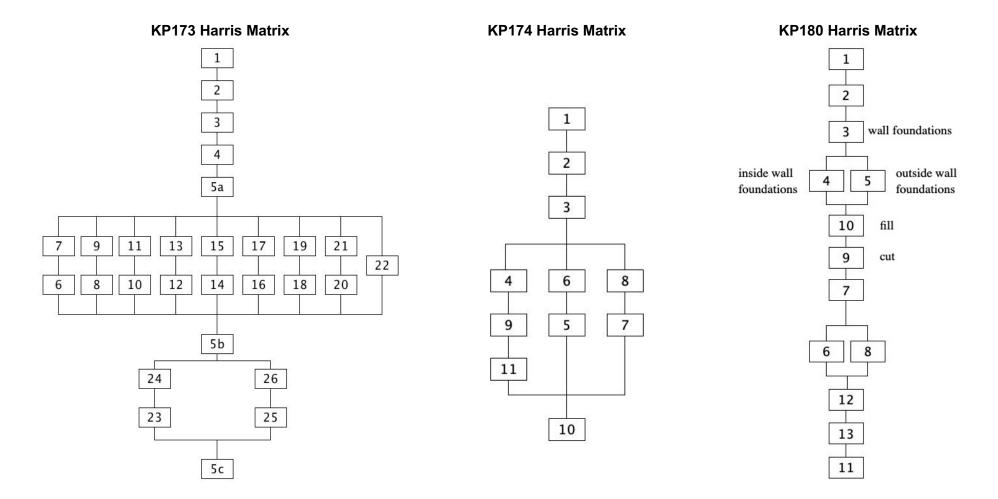
Mike Tillman, Nick Wilkinson, Dr. Pat Reid, Caroline Clarkstone, John Clarkstone. **7**th **February 2019**

¹⁰ PHILP B 1968 Excavations at Faversham 1965 First Research Report of the Kent Archaeological Groups Council

¹¹ E.g. FSARG website community-archaeology.org.uk HSX05-7 'Report on T16P'

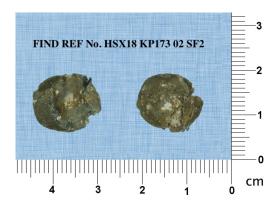
¹² FSARG website op.cit. HSX18 'Report on KPs 165, 166, 172 and 177'

Appendix 1: Harris Matrices for KP173, KP174, KP180.



Appendix 2: KP173 Small Finds.

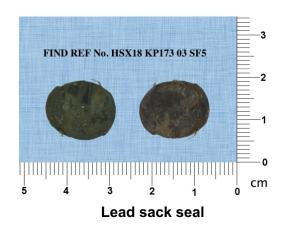




Lead sack seal

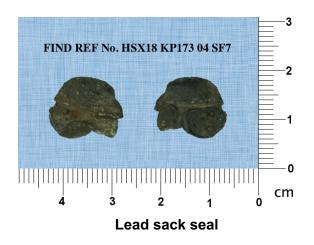


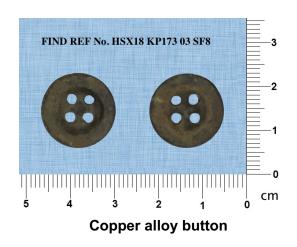
Insulated copper wire

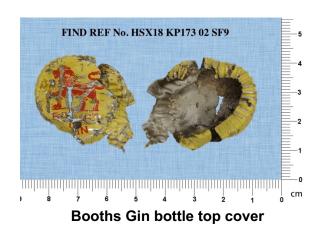




Metal (possibly tombac) button



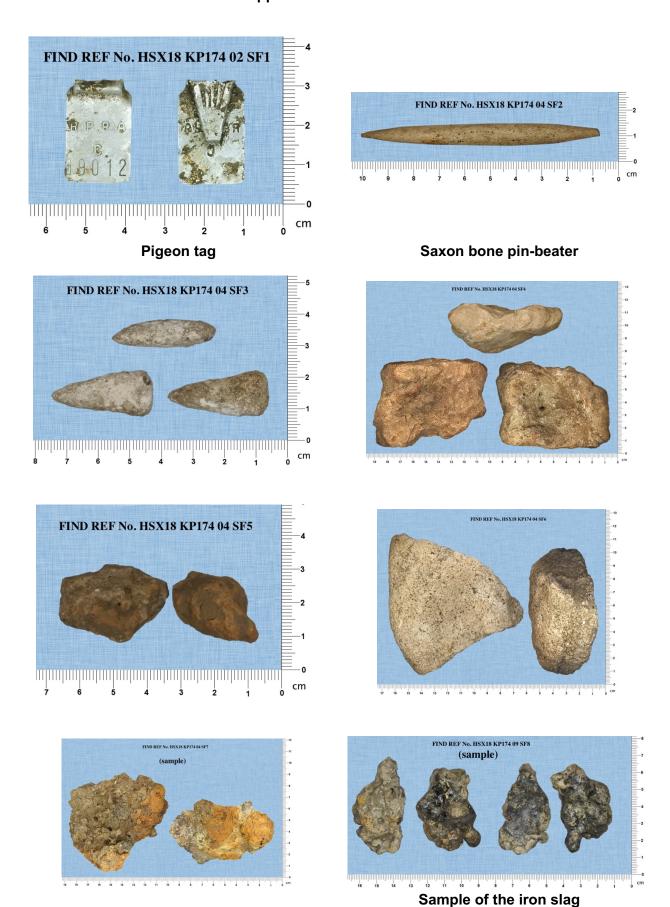






Clay imprint of post hole with wood residue

Appendix 3: KP174 Small Finds.



Appendix 4: Animal Bone.

KP173 Bone

Site	e Code: HS	SX18	KP173		Context [02]		Date: 30.10.	18 Recorder: MH
Taxa	Element	No.	Description (Proximal.distal shaft %)	Epiphysis fused?	Age	Side	Weight (g)	Comments (e.g. Butchery Marks etc.)
uni	uni	16	midden scatter.	-	-	-	11	
var	LB	5	mid-shaft frags.	-	-	-	20	
uni	rib	1	vertebral end fragment.	-	-	-	18	
uni	rib	2	mid-shaft frags.	-	-	-	9	
uni	ver	1	dorsal vertebra.	Υ	М	N/A	3	
uni	car	1	carpal bone.	-	-	-	5	
ovi	ver	10	vertebral frags.	-	-	-	20	
uni	uni	1	polished bone.	-	-	-	>1	Small Find
uni	man	1	mandible frag.	-	-	-	4	
bos	too	1	incisor fragment.	-	-	-	7	
uni	too	1	incisor.	-	-	-	>1	Very Worn
uni	too	1	premolar.	-	-	-	>1	
		41					162	

KP174 Contexts [4] and [9] (pit / ditch).

Context	Taxa	Element	No.	Epiphysis fused?	Maturity	Side	Weight (g)	Comments
4	bos	man	3	-	J	-	271	2 erupted molars, 1 erupting
4	sus	man	1	-	J	R	73	4 incisors, I cracked, plus erupting tusk
4	sus	man	1	-	J	L	51	1 incisor, 1 erupting tusk
4	sus	man	1	-	J	L	22	3 incisors
4	sus	man	2	-	J	-	11	1 with 1 molar. 1 with erupting tusk and tooth
4	cer	man	1	-	М	L	98	2 teeth
4	cer	man	1	-	-	R	273	very good specimen of large deer mandible
4	cer	man	1	-	J	R	104	3 teeth and 1 erupting
4	cer	man	1	-	-	-	16	small fragment, 3 teeth
4	bos	mol	1	-	М	-	7	1 tooth
4	cer	man	1	-	J	-	6	partially erupted tooth, small jaw bone
4	uni	tee	3	-	М	-	5	worn teeth
4	uni	rib	21	-	-	-	48	small broken fragments
4	uni	rib	1	-	-	-	45	large single rib, smooth
4	uni	rib	11	-	-	-	51	small fragments. Some with curvature
4	uni	rib	7	-	-	-	114	larger flatter fragments
4	uni	rib	27	-	-	-	231	medium length flat fragments with nick marks
4	uni	tal	1	-	-	-	41	
4	uni	pel	1	-	-	-	94	
4	uni	lon	5	-	-	-	221	very smooth, almost polished bones, with cut mark
4	ovi?	uln	1	-	J	-	27	well preserved proximal end
4	ovi?	uln	1	-	М	М	21	
4	uni	sca	3	-	М	-	111	
4	uni	lon	1	-	М	-	90	cut marks
4	uni	lon	1	-	М	-	78	
4	bos	lum	2	-	-	-	160	fragments
4	bos	lum	5	-	J	-	127	fragments
4	uni	ver	3	-	J	-	71	fragments
4	uni	sku	7	-	-	-	104	Fragments
4	uni	axi	1	-	J	-	4	
4	uni	car	1	-	-	-	3	
4	uni	ver	3	-	-	-	14	Fragments
4	uni	cra	6	-	-	-	36	1 piece has small nick - animal damage or cut mark?
4	uni	sca	7	-	-	-	179	
4	min	man	3	-	-	-	33	small mammal. 1 piece has cut mark

Context	Taxa	Element	No.	Epiphysis fused? Maturity Side Weight (g)			Weight (g)	Comments		
4	uni	unt	5	-	-	-		small fragments		
4	min	sca	2	-	-	-	2	small animal fragments		
4	min	max	1	-	-	-	1			
4	min	cra	4	-	-	-	10	small fragments, small animal		
4	cer	car	2	N	J	-	119	unfused carpal, large cut mark and smaller nicks		
4	uni	rib	2	N	J	-	6	2-3 cut marks on each fragment		
4	uni	?	3	-	-	-	5	very small fragments, nicks on all 3		
4	bos	rib	3	-	-	-	57	large animal		
4	ovi?	rib	8	-	-	-	84	one with cut mark, middle sized animal		
4	min?	rib	12	-	-	-	42	small animal		
4	min	rib	13	-	-	-	28	bird or very small mammal		
4	min	lon	1	N	J	-	3	small mammal		
4	ovi?	rib	1	Y	М	-	21	medium sized animal. Cut mark		
4	ovi?	rib	1	N	J	-	10	medium sized animal		
4	bos	rib	1	-	-	-	23	large animal		
4	min	rib	1	-	-	-	15	small animal		
4	min	rib	1	-	-	-	2	small animal		
4	min	rib	2	-	-	-	19	small animal		
4	min	lon	2	-	-	-	9	small animal		
4	min	fra	4	-	-	-	10	too small to identify		
4	uni	fra	77	-	-	-	175	very small bone fragments		
4	uni	cra	69	-	-	-	116	fragments of cranial bone		
4	sus	tee	1	-	J	-	4	deciduous upper premolar with part of jaw		
4	bos	man	2	Y	J	-	8	1 coronoid process, 1 condyle		
4	uni	lon	21	-	-	-	142	fragments		
4	uni	rib	11	-	-	-	28			
4	uni	cra	9	-	-	-	36	cranial fragments		
4	uni	rib	1	-	-	-	13			
4	bos	hor	9	-	-	-	98	outside keratin layer missing		
4	sus	tee	2	-	М	-	8	premolar and molar in jaw section		
4	bos	inc	1	-	J	-	3	little wear		
4	bos	mol	3	-	М	-	43	worn		
4	bos	pre	1	-	М	-	5	very worn		
4	uni	tee	2	-	-	-	16	poor condition		
4	sus	mol	1	-	М	-	9	very worn		
4	sus	pre	3	-	М	-	5	very worn		
4	sus	tus	1	-	-	-	6	fair		
4	sus	tus	2	-	М	-	3	worn		
4	ovi	mol	1	-	-	-	2	fair		
4	min	mol	1	-	М	-	1	worn		
4	bos	pha	4	Υ	М	-	73	very good specimens		
4	bos	ast	3	Υ	М	-	144	very good specimens		
4	bos	ері	4	N	J	-	32	very good specimens		
4	bos	pha	2	Υ	М	-	19	very good specimens		
4	bos	bos	1	N	J	-	6	very good specimen		
4	min	pha	4	N	J	-	12	very good specimens		
4	min	epi	2	N	J	-	4	link to 2971		
4	bos	car	3	У	М	-	32	carpal bones		
4	AVI	tib fib	1	Y	М	-	1	fused		
4	EQU	sac	1	N	J	-	13	possible butchery mark		
4	sus	sca	1	-	-	-	22	possible butchery mark		
4	cer	uln	1	-	-	-	7	broken		
4	LEP	fem	1	-	-	-	2	broken		
4	cer	rib	1	-	-	-	6	broken		
4	uni	lon	10	-	-	-	86	fragments		
4	bos	hor	1	-	-	-	2	no keratin		
4	AVI	lon	7	-	-	-	6	small, hollow		
4	uni	man	1	-	-	-	1	hinge only		
4	AVI	fra	5	-	-	-	1	hollow		
4	uni	rib	2	-	-	-	6	very broken		
-		•	•	•	•					

Context	Taxa	Element	No.	Epiphysis fused?	Maturity	Side	Weight (g)	Comments
4	min	lon	3	-	-	-	4	1 broken, I whole
4	bos	man	2	Υ	М	-	90	ramus
4	bos	sca	1	Y	М	-	73	
4	uni	sca	1	Y	М	-	20	
4	bos	pel	1	Y	М	-	74	
4	uni	fra	10	Y	М	-	121	
4	uni	fra	2	Y	М	-	22	
4	uni	fra	150	-	-	-	153	many tiny fragments
4	uni	fra	65	-	-	-	100	burnt bone, unidentifiable
4	uni	hor	1	-	-	-	30	no keratin
9	cer	mol	1	-	-	-	16	
9	sus	mol	1	-	-	-	2	
9	sus	inc	4	-	-	-	9	
9	bos	inc	1	-	-	1	2	
9	uni	fra	1	-	-	-	1	
9	sus	tus	2	-	-	-	4	each fragment 50%
9	min	inc	1	-	-	-	1	
9	bos	hor	1	-	-	-	164	no keratin. Mud inside to keep shape
9	min	occ	1	-	-	-	7	foramen magnum of small animal
9	min	cra	4	-	-	-	13	
9	uni	fra	2	-	-	-	4	
9	uni	ver	1	-	-	-	3	
9	uni	sca	1	-	-	-	12	
9	bos	OCC	1	-	-	-	35	foramen magnum
9	sus	sca	1	-	-	-	38	
9	bos	man	1	-	-	-	14	
9	uni	fra	3	-	-	-	6	
9	cer	man	1	-	-	-	74	Fragment
9	uni	min	2	-	-	-	12	fragments
9	uni	cra	1	-	-	-	3	fragment
9	sus	uln	1	-	J	-	29	cut marks
9	sus	rad	1	-	J	-	36	gnaw marks?
9	sus	ері	1	-	J	-	3	
9	uni	cra 	26	-	-	-	68	
9	uni	rib	4	-	-	-	15	
9	uni	lon	5	-	-	-	54	
9	uni	fra	54 45	-	-	-	100 26	
9	uni	fra	26	-	-		239	many small fragments, some BOS
9	uni	lon	7	-	-	-	14	skull fragments
9	uni	cra Ion	3		-	-	25	skuli fragments
9	uni		1	-	-	-	8	
9	uni avi	man fra	3	-	-	-	4	possible tib/fib
9	uni	pel	2	-	-	-	49	איייים מווייים איייים איייי
9	uni	ері	3	-	-	-	5	
9	sus	met	1	-	-	-	22	
9	avi	sac	1	-	-	_	1	wishbone part
9	sus	ast	1	N	J	-	20	The state of the s
9	uni	cra	1	-	-	-	7	
9	sus	car	3	-	-	-	13	
9	uni	lon	2	-	-	-	5	
9	uni	lon	1	-	-	-	1	small frag
9	uni	lon	2	-	-	-	3	Ť
9	sus	man	1	-	J	-	8	premolar and molar set in jaw
9	bos	man	1	-	J	-	107	unworn
9	bos	hum	2	Y	M	-	333	
9	uni	cra	4	-	-	-	15	skull frags
9	uni	rib	4	-	-	-	98	,
9	uni	pel	2	-	-	-	79	
9	uni	man	2	-	-	-	22	
	L		<u> </u>	<u> </u>				<u>I</u>

Context	Taxa	Element	No.	Epiphysis fused?	Maturity	Side	Weight (g)	Comments
9	ovi	fem	1	N	J	-	48	
9	sus	fem	1	Y	М	-	14	
9	bos	fem	1	Y	М	-	210	
9	bos	pel	1	Y	М	-	101	
9	uni	rib	6	Y	М	-	67	
9	uni	lon	1	N	J	-	43	
9	uni	ver	1	Y	М	-	43	
9	uni	ver	1	N	J	-	26	
9	uni	fra	8	Y	М	-	112	
9	ovi	pha	1	Y	М	-	5	
9	ovi	sca	1	Y	М	-	10	
9	avi	fra	3	Y	М	-	13	
9	min	fra	1	Y	М	-	1	

	Taxa key											
Common Name	Taxa Name	Taxa Code	Common Name	Taxa Name	Taxa Code		mon Taxa me Name					
cattle	bos	bos	dog	canus	can	duck	anatidae	ana				
pig	sus	sus	horse	equus	equ	hare	lepus	lep				
sheep	ovis	ovi	rat	rattus	rat	rabbit		rab				
goat	capra	сар	wolf	lupus	lup	small ma	ms	min				
chicken	gallus	gal	bear	ursus	urs	unidentifi	ed	uni				
fish	pisces	pis	bird	avis	avi							
cat	felis	fel	deer	cervus	cer							

Elements key: for the element column, the initials are the first three letters of the appropriate bone e.g. fem = femur, cra = cranium, hor = horn, fra = fragment

Appendix 5: KP173, KP174 & KP180 Lithics

KP173

Catalogue No.	Context	Type	Qualifier 1	Sub Type	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Broad Date
1209	2	microliths	2		M	M	Mesolithic
1210	2	point	tip broken off		М	M	Mesolithic
1211	3	awl			LN	LBA	Neolithic
1212	3	piercer			Р	Р	Palaeo
1213	3	piercer			LN	EBA	Neolithic
1214	3	scraper	side & end		LN	LN	Neolithic
1215	5	scraper	end	notched tool	N	N	Neolithic
1216	5	core?			M?	M?	Mesolithic?
1217	5	scraper	hollow denticulate		N	N	Neolithic
1218	5	scraper	large crude		Р	Р	Palaeo?
1219	5	microliths	5		M	М	Mesolithic
1220	22	????			?	?	?
1221	5	piercer			Р	Р	Palaeo?

KP174

Catalogue No.	Context	Type	Qualifier 1	Sub Type	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Broad Date
1222	2	awl	notched		M	M	Mesolithic
1223	3	scraper	broken flake		М	M	Mesolithic
1224	3	microlith	toothed		М	M	Mesolithic
1225	4	piercer	crude		Р	Р	Palaeo?
1226	4	knife	blade		М	M	Mesolithic
1227	4	microlith	horned		М	M	Mesolithic
1228	4	blade			М	M	Mesolithic
1229	2	microlith	toothed		М	М	Mesolithic
1230	9	chopper			LBA	LBA	Bronze age
1231	9	knife?			LBA	LBA	Bronze age

Note that none of these were found in the KP174 brickearth layer [10], thought to be the natural. All were part of the backfill of the pit / ditch feature.

KP180

Catalogue No. Context **Qualifier 1** Sub Type | Earliest Date | Latest Date | Broad Date Type 1256 scraper side small P? P? palaeo? 1257 ΕN ΕN neolithic 1 scraper 1258 2 crusher? Ν neolithic core 1259 2 М M mesolithic scraper 1260 5 fabricator LBA LBA bronze age broken 1261 5 microlith М М mesolithic 1262 LN EBA 5 combination tool scraper/knife/notch neolithic 1263 6 scraper side crude P? P? palaeo? P? P? 1264 6 chopper? palaeo? 1265 LN EBA 6 piercer awl? neolithic LN LN 1266 6 knife discoidal fragment neolithic 1267 6 microliths M Μ mesolithic 1268 UP UP 6 scraper carinate palaeo ΕN 1269 8 ΕN multipurpose scraper/ notch/awl neolithic

The Faversham area is exceptionally rich in prehistoric flint finds, especially Mesolithic¹³, so these little assemblages are no surprise. See report for further discussion, also reference below.

⁻

¹³ REID, P 2018 Faversham in the Making: the Early Years Oxbow Books, Windgather series: Oxford. Chapters 2 last section & all Chapter 3.