

Medieval Fields & Ovens at Land off Warren Lane Ashford Kent



Excavation Report



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Medieval Fields and Ovens at Land off Warren Lane, Ashford, Kent

Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

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Table of Contents

Summary	5
1 Introduction	7
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	8
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	10
2 Aims and Methodology	11
2.1 Aims.....	11
2.2 Methodology.....	11
3 Results	13
3.1 Introduction	13
3.2 Excavation Area 8.....	15
3.3 Finds Summary.....	19
3.4 Environmental Summary.....	19
4 Discussion and Conclusions	20
4.1 Overview.....	20
4.2 Significance and recommendations for publication.....	22
Appendix A. Health and Safety Statement	23
Appendix B. Context Inventory	24
Appendix C. Finds Reports	27
C.1 Pottery.....	27
C.2 Other artefacts.....	32
Appendix D. Environmental Reports	33
D.1 Environmental samples.....	33
D.2 Animal bone.....	37
Appendix E. Bibliography	38
Appendix F. OASIS Report Form	40

List of Figures and Plates

- Fig. 1 Location of site and HER data
- Fig. 2 Location of watching brief and excavation areas/trenches within the site and location of pit **113**
- Fig. 3 Plan of features within Area 8
- Fig. 4 Plan of oven **817**; Section 1 across oven **817**; Plate 1 oven **817** looking south-east
- Fig. 5 Plan of oven **831** ; Section 4 across oven **831** ; Plate 2 oven **831** looking south-west
- Fig. 6 Plate 3 area of pits **849**, **851**, **853** and **856** looking south-west; Section 17 Ditch **860** and pits **851** and **855**; Section 15 pit **849**; Plate 4 pottery deposit within pit **856** looking north-east
- Fig. 7 Medieval pottery at scale 1:4

List of Tables

- Table 1 Medieval and post-medieval pottery
- Table 2 Pottery Summary by Context
- Table 3 Results of environmental sample assessment
- Table 4 Quantification results for Sample 17

Summary

In November 2009, OA East conducted a watching brief and subsequent excavation at land off Warren Lane, Ashford, Kent in advance of a BUPA care home development (NGR 600210 143581).

The watching brief uncovered medieval features within the centre of the site and this led to an excavation of an area of 120 sq m. The watching brief and excavation recorded two phases of activity spanning no more than 100 years (from the later 12th century to the late 13th century). The first phase of activity is represented by enclosure or field ditches. The field system comprised fairly shallow ditches which survived up to 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep. The backfills within the ditches were very similar and largely sterile, containing a few medieval pottery sherds dating to the late 12th to mid 13th centuries and a few residual, abraded Iron Age/Roman sherds. The lack of artefacts within the backfill of these ditches may imply the fields lay at some distance from medieval settlement.

The second phase of activity has two ovens or 'corn-driers' and associated pits and postholes, constructed in the corner of one of the fields. The ovens were located approximately 50m to the east of the main road, now called the Maidstone Rd and at least medieval in origin, which ran past the medieval Repton manor, 400m to the west of the site, and then into Ashford. The post-holes did not form a coherent pattern and may represent small wooden structures and fence lines demarcating and protecting the 'corn-drier' structures. There were several pits, some intercutting, two were possibly for holding water. The pits were backfilled with deposits including rake-out deposits from the ovens. The charred plant assemblage recovered was predominantly cereal grains (mostly wheat, some barley and a few others) with occasional weed seeds and legumes. A relatively large contemporary pottery assemblage was recovered from the features but there was a near-complete absence of other material such as animal bone, shells and other 'domestic' artefacts, suggesting that the site was not related to immediate domestic occupation. The mostly unabraded pottery included two nearly complete cooking vessels and a socketed handled bowl which was used for food preparation.

The ovens were in use, probably fairly briefly, between the late 12th and mid 13th centuries AD, after which no later features are seen and it is likely the site returned to pastoral farming, or other uses which left no archaeological footprint. Modern maps point to a rifle range running north to south through the eastern part of the site. This area was presumably used during the 18th to 20th century for the nearby barracks based at the former Repton manor, c.400m to the west.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief and excavation was conducted during November 2009 at land off Warren Lane, Ashford, Kent (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is triangular in shape and comprises a vacant area of land of approximately 0.93ha (NGR 600210 143581). It is approximately 1.25km north-west of Ashford town centre. Its northern boundary is formed by Simone Weil Avenue (A20), the south-western boundary by the Maidstone Road (A292) and the south-eastern boundary by Warren Lane.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief/Specification issued by Wendy Rogers of the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council in June 2007 (HCG 2007). This Specification followed on from a planning application to Ashford Borough Council for a BUPA care home development (Planning Application 07/00660/AS).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by KCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The 1:50,000 British Geological Survey Map (BGS 1998) indicates that the site is underlain by both the Sandgate Beds and the Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand. The boundary between the Sandgate Beds and the Hythe Beds is inferred to lie directly across the middle of the site, in a north-south orientation with the Sandgate Beds to the west and the Hythe Beds to the east. The Sandgate Beds stratigraphically overlie the Hythe Beds.
- 1.2.2 The Sandgate Beds vary between a green-grey argillaceous sandstone and a dark grey glauconitic silty mudstone, with a basal phosphatic nodule bed resting on the Hythe Beds (BGS 1992). The Hythe Beds comprise of alternating layers of hard-grey sandy limestone and grey loosely cemented calcareous, argillaceous glauconitic sandstone.
- 1.2.3 There were seven geological test pits excavated by mechanical excavator on 7th August 2007 and these were positioned across the site (Bardsley 2007). The trial pits indicated the presence of only a limited thickness of Made Ground in the western part of the site (0.45m thick). Elsewhere topsoil was present (0.25-0.30m thick) sealing the natural clays and sands of the Sandgate Beds and the Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand. This natural comprised a medium dense orange brown clayey sand between 0.25m and 1.85m below ground level. This either sealed a firm dark orange brown sandy clay or in the north-eastern area a medium dense to dense brown slightly clayey sand. The trial pits typically terminated on cemented sand and sandstone horizons at depths of between 2m and 3m below ground level. No groundwater was encountered during the investigation.
- 1.2.4 Data obtained from the Environment Agency (EA) web-site indicates the site to be located in an area that is unlikely to flood except in extreme conditions. The chance of

flooding each year from rivers or the sea is 0.1% or less. The National Rivers Authority (now the Environment Agency) Groundwater Vulnerability Map (NRA 1994) shows the site to be underlain by a minor aquifer (variable permeable) with soil conditions on the site classified as having a high leaching potential.

- 1.2.5 The site slopes in a generally south-west to north-east direction from the Maidstone Road towards the A20. The ground height at the far north-eastern part of the site is 57.4mOD, the north-western corner at 59.56mOD and the southern corner at 60.69mOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The subject site is within the north-western part of modern Ashford, whose centre lies more than a kilometre to the south-east. A 1km HER search of known archaeological sites including listed buildings was carried out around the site (Fig. 1). This figure only included the prehistoric, Roman and medieval records as well as the nearby 18th century barracks. Map evidence shows the site has not been built on in modern times and all modern, post-medieval and modern buildings were located more than 0.5km from the site so have not been included in Figure 1. This lack of modern development within the site has meant that archaeological remains have survived in reasonable condition (see below).

Earlier Prehistoric (Neolithic and Bronze Age)

- 1.3.2 There is a group of four HER records recording earlier prehistoric features and artefacts between 600m and 1km to the north of the site (Fig. 1). These comprise: a Neolithic flake (HER TQ 94 SE 5); a Bronze Age cremation (HER TQ 94 SE 9); Bronze Age flint working site (HER TQ SE 7) and some Bronze Age Axes (HER TR 04 SW 17).

Iron Age and Roman

- 1.3.3 There are just two HER records for Iron Age and/or Roman remains within 1km of the site. An Iron Age and Roman site was found 400m to the west (HER TQ 94 SE 46). Archaeology South-East excavated 7 trenches in January 2007 (ASE 2007). The evaluation found a number of pits, post-holes and ditches. These features are believed to represent largely agricultural activity. None of the features had dating material associated with them but one sherd of Iron Age or Roman pottery was found in the evaluation. Some traces of industrial activity was found, probably in the form of small scale iron smelting.
- 1.3.4 About 800m to the south-east, a 1st-3rd century AD Roman cremation was uncovered in July 1896 in Albert Road, Ashford (HER TR 04 SW5).

Medieval and post-medieval

- 1.3.5 The site lay well beyond the town boundary of medieval Ashford and almost certainly belonged to the manors of Great and Little Repton (*Rapentone*) which was part of the Chard hundred. 400m to the west of the site is Repton manor (HER TQ 94 SE 63). Although the present building on the manor site dates from the 16th century, there is documentary evidence for an earlier manor here. Medieval Ashford would have been the market area for the site.

- 1.3.6 *Rapentone* was formerly part of the possessions belonging to St. Augustine's monastery, and are accordingly thus entered in the Domesday survey, under the general title of the abbot's lands:
- The abbot himself holds one yoke, Rapentone, and Ansered of him, and it was taxed at one yoke. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one, with four borderers. There are eleven acres of meadow, and the fourth part of a mill, of fifteen pence, and wood for the pannage of ten hogs, and as yet there are two yokes, which the abbot gave to it of his demesne, and there are two villeins, with eight borderers. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth three pounds, now four pounds.*
- 1.3.7 Of the abbot, the manor of Rapentone, or Repton as it was afterwards called, and since split into two manors, called *Great* and *Little Repton*, was held by knight's service by the family of Valoigns, who made this mansion of Repton one of their seats of residence. Henry de Valoyns possessed these manors in the reign of king Edward III. in 1341 he had a charter of *free-warren* for his lands and manors in this county. His descendant Waretius de Valoyns left two daughters his coheirs, one of whom married Sir Francis Fogge, and Repton, among other properties was allotted to them. His descendant Sir John Fogge, resided at Repton-house in the reign of king Edward IV. with whom he was comptroller and treasurer of his household, and a privy counsellor. He was several times sheriff of Kent, and served as knight for it in parliament. Around 1578, Sir Michael Sondes became the owner followed by the Tufon family. Hasted in his history of Kent (c.1800) mentions that part of this medieval manor of Sir John Fogge still stood (Hasted 1972, 531-534). This structure is likely to have been the southern wing which was demolished sometime between 1844 and 1871. The manor became part of a military controlled area with new military barracks (HER TQ 94 SE 41) built adjacent (1793-1998) to hold 2000 men.
- 1.3.8 As Ashford town expanded in the post-medieval and modern periods, it has joined/overtaken several former parishes including Repton. Ashford was called in Domesday both *Estefort* and *Essetesford*, and in other ancient records, *Eshetisford*, taking its name from the river, which runs close to it, which, now called the Stour was originally called *Eshe* or *Eschet*. Ashford, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, who had accompanied the Conqueror. There are four entries which probably relate to Ashford in the Domesday book (Page 1932, 247 and 268). Ashford's importance as a growing agricultural and market town was confirmed in 1243 when it was incorporated.
- 1.3.9 There are no standing medieval buildings within 500m of the site. The nearest is c.600m to the south (TR 0084 4292) and is a 15th century structure, the Old Prince of Wales public house (HER TR 04 SW 351). About 900m to the south-west there is a 14th century building (HER TQ 94 SE 34).
- 1.3.10 There is a 'Potters Corner' labelled on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1876) map, adjacent to the Maidstone Road (A292) road just over a kilometre to the north-west of the site. This is likely to be a medieval road and it is thought this is the former location of medieval pottery kilns which produced what archaeologists have termed "Ashford ware".
- 1.3.11 The site itself is recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1876) at 1:10,560, and it is c.300m to the north-west of built up Ashford and within an empty field. A "volunteer rifle range" was directly to the north and a footpath was recorded running north to south through the eastern part of the site. It was therefore probably part of the

training area for the barracks 400m to the west. The 1876 map shows the site was bounded by two roads, one leading from Ashford ran along the south-western boundary and was called Bleatree Telegraph (presently called Maidstone Road (A292)). Along the south-eastern boundary an unlabelled road or track ran (now called Warren Lane). The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1898) at 1: 2,500 shows just one change within the site with the former footpath moved to the east where it just clips the site's eastern boundary. The revised Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1907) at 1:2,500 shows the road along the western boundary had been renamed as Maidstone Road. There is no change recorded on the 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1938) at 1:10,560 although Ashford is expanding outwards towards the site. The 1961/2 Ordnance Survey Map at 1:10,560 records the site as an empty triangle, but is now surrounded by three roads with a roundabout positioned directly to the west. There is no change to the site in recent maps.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The authors would like to thank Rob Needham of DWA Architects (now BUPA) and Paul Firth of BUPA who commissioned and funded the work. The site's sub-contractors, Greswolde Construction, were very helpful in achieving a smoothly run project, particularly Bob Gardener the site manager. They were very accommodating throughout including surveying in the site. The excavation and watching brief was monitored by Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council.
- 1.4.2 Richard Mortimer managed the project and edited this report. Tam Webster, Site Supervisor, ran both the watching brief and subsequent excavation with Rob Atkins and Dave Brown assisting at the excavation phase. Specialist analysis was carried out by Matt Brudenell, John Cotter, Chris Faine, Carole Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry and Steven Wadeson. The authors would like to thank Dr Ben Croxton of Kent County Council's HER for supplying large quantities of very useful data.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 2.1.2 The excavation phase of the project was designed to preserve any excavation and record any archaeological features or deposits located during the watching brief.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Work on site began as a watching brief with an archaeologist monitoring all groundworks, with soil stored in various bunds around the site. Machine excavation was carried out by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The site was at times very busy with machinery and lorries delivering and removing materials.
- 2.2.2 The watching brief started with the establishment of an access road into site and the clearance of an area the site compound at the east side of the site (Figs. 1 and 2, Area 1). The soil was stripped into the natural sub-soil to a depth of more than a metre. The area was then backfilled with hardcore materials 0.40-0.50m thick.
- 2.2.3 Within the northern area of the site (Area 6), a series of archaeological trenches (Trenches 2, 4 and 5) were excavated through the subsoil within the proposed footings of the new building onto natural subsoil (Figs. 1 and 2). These were designed to prospect for archaeological features and deposits within this area of the site prior to excavation of foundation trenches.
- 2.2.4 Topsoil was stripped from Area 3, in the centre of the site, to the level of the archaeological subsoil. During the cleaning of the northern part of Area 3, and excavation of archaeological Trench 7, a series of archaeological features were located (Area 8; Fig. 3). This area was cordoned off using orange plastic fencing and was later subject to an area excavation.
- 2.2.5 In the northern part of the site (Area 6), the archaeological subsoil was removed prior to having the upcast materials dumped there from the southern part of the site. The southern part of the site was reduced by up to 1.60m, while the lower northern part was to be built up thus levelling the site for the building and associated car parking.
- 2.2.6 Area 8 was excavated while the watching brief continued during the reduction of the southern part of the site. All footings within Areas 3 and 6 were monitored. The Area 8 excavation area was hand cleaned by hoe and trowel. All pits, post-holes and ovens were first half-sectioned or quadrant excavated as appropriate before being subject to 100% excavation. More than 50% of the ditch deposits were excavated.
- 2.2.7 All features located during the watching brief were excavated by hand, these were then plotted on to an A1 copy of the developers plan. This plan was used to locate all the trenches and areas observed and annotated accordingly. A grid was laid out for Area 8, each peg was plotted and surveyed by the contractors surveyor using a Total Station. This gave NGR points and level values above ordnance datum.
- 2.2.8 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and supported by digital photographs.

- 2.2.9 Environmental bulk samples were taken from variety of deposits within the oven features, pits, post-holes and ditches with 17 bulk samples taken comprising 6 at 10 litres, 6 at 20 litres, 3 at 30 litres and 2 at 40 litres.
- 2.2.10 The weather conditions varied on site from bright sunshine to extreme rainfall. The underlying natural subsoil was relatively free-draining and the water quickly drained away allowing excavation to continue soon after any downpour.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the archaeological investigation have been divided below into two parts, the archaeological watching brief and the open area excavation (Area 8; Fig. 3). Other than identifying the area for subsequent excavation, the watching brief found very few remains and these comprised a medieval pit (**113**) and unstratified artefacts from various post-medieval or modern subsoil layers. The open area excavation within Area 8 recorded the remains of two phases of activity over a relatively short period of time within the late 12th to late 13th centuries. The first phase comprised a field system, the second a series of ovens and related pits and post-holes.

Area 1

- 3.1.2 Area 1 comprised the access road and compound area (Figs. 1 and 2). This was a sub-rectangular area along the south-eastern side of the site, up to 45m long and between 10-15m wide. Topsoil, subsoil and finally some natural subsoil (up to 0.7m deep) was removed to a total depth of between 1.10-1.50m.
- 3.1.3 The natural (104) was comprised of mixed green/grey and yellow/orange clays. A series of green clay deposits (106, 107 and 109 and stone 105 and 108) cut into this layer, were located in the base of the trench but excavation confirmed they were also naturally lain.
- 3.1.4 Overlying natural in the extreme southern part of the site were two sub-soil layers (102 and 103) collectively 0.55m thick, subsoil layer 110 covered the central part of the access road and there was no significant subsoil in the northern part of Area 1. In the southern area, a 0.35m thick undated subsoil layer sealed natural (104) and comprised a mixed yellow grey clay and sandy silts. This layer was in turn sealed by a 0.2m thick subsoil layer (102) which consisted of a yellow brown silty clay. In the central part of Area 1 a scatter of crushed Middle Iron Age pottery (30g), was recovered from the base of the subsoil (110); no features were observed in association with the scatter.
- 3.1.5 A probable Pit **113**, was recorded in the east section of the road corridor (Figs. 1 and 2). The feature was at least 1.70m wide and 0.31m deep with steep sides c.60-70° and a flat base. The primary fill (112), consisted a mid to dark grey brown sandy silt containing four sherds of medieval pottery dating to the late 12th - late 13th centuries. A soil sample <18> was taken of this fill and recovered a few cereal and weed seeds. The upper fill (111) consisted of a mid brown sandy silt with frequent burnt red patches (up to 0.12 by 0.08m in size and comprising between 5% and 10% of the deposit). From within this fill 23 abraded medieval pottery sherds (111g) were recovered along with six very small residual Middle Iron Age sherds (14g), and small pieces of slag (4g) and fired clay (2g). The small size and condition of much of this material suggest a certain level of residuality within this fill.

Trench 2

- 3.1.6 Trench 2 was located in Area 6, within the footprint of the northern footing for the new building (Fig. 1). The trench was aligned east to west, 18m long 1.60m wide and 0.80-0.90m deep. No archaeological features were located within the trench.
- 3.1.7 The section edge of the trench comprised two layers of natural subsoil (205), a reddish yellow sand with occasional stones and 204, a mixed reddish sand with yellow grey

clays. These were sealed by a subsoil layer (203) consisting of a brown sandy silty clay (0.26m deep). 203 contained four fragments of roof tile (96g) including at least one post-medieval piece. The upper subsoil (202) was a pale grey brown sandy clay silt between 0.24-0.25m deep. The top soil had already been removed from this part of the site, (201) was at a depth of 0.25-0.30m. The trench seems to have been positioned where a large tree had been removed as root activity and disturbance was observed along the length of the trench.

Trench 4

This was located along the extreme western part of Area 6, within the footings of the building (Figs. 1 and 2). It was aligned north to south, was 18m long by 1.80m wide and 0.65-0.70m deep. No archaeological features were observed within the trench.

- 3.1.8 Natural subsoil (403) was machined into by between 0.25-0.28m and comprised mixed clays and sands. The archaeological subsoil (402) was a 0.35-0.40m deep deposit consisting of pale grey brown clay silt with lenses of gravels and stone. Within the subsoil there was a single post-medieval or modern fragment of roof tile (10g). The 0.25-0.30m deep topsoil deposit (401) had previously been removed.

Trench 5

- 3.1.9 Trench 5 was located at the southern side of Area 6 directly to the north of a main wall footing for the new building (Figs. 1 and 2). It was aligned east to west, was 10m long by 1.80m wide and between 0.50m-0.63m deep. No archaeological features were observed within the trench.
- 3.1.10 The trench cut into the natural subsoil (503) by up to 0.25m which comprised of a mixed red and yellow sands with clay inclusions/patches. This was sealed by subsoil layer 502, between 0.25-0.33m deep and comprising of pale grey brown silty clay with occasional sands, stones and gravels. The topsoil 501, had previously been removed and had been between 0.25-0.30m deep.

Area 6

- 3.1.11 Area 6 was an open area in the northern part of the site (Figs. 1 and 2). The area was machined to the required construction level prior to the excavation of the footings for the new building. No archaeological features were observed but medieval and post medieval artefacts were retrieved from the subsoil (602) comprising four medieval pottery sherds (22g), eight roof tile fragments (103g) and two glass pieces (5g).

Trench 7

- 3.1.12 Trench 7 was located on the west side of Area 3 and lay partly within the southern part of Area 8 (Figs. 1 and 2). It was aligned north to south, 10m long by 3.50m wide and 0.75m-0.80m deep. In the base of the excavated trench the natural subsoil (705) consisted of a mixed yellow-orange/brown sand. This was overlain by another natural deposit 704, a dark brown silty sand with clay patches 0.18m deep. This was sealed by a lower subsoil 703, 0.4m thick and comprised of yellow brown clay with sand patches.
- 3.1.13 At the extreme northern end of Trench 7, there was an area of burning (up to 2m by 1m), part of feature 815 (Area 8), recorded in the open area excavation below. Possibly sealing this deposit was an upper subsoil layer (702) which was up to 0.18m thick and comprised a pale grey brown clay silt.

Area 3

- 3.1.14 Area 3 was an open area in the centre of the site (Fig 1). A 360° machine reduced the level in stages (topsoil and subsoil etc.) to the finished level prior to the footings for the development being excavated. This resulted in just 0.25m being removed from the northern side but progressively more, up to 1.60m deep, in the far south. During the machining, cleaning and reduction of the area, no archaeological features were observed except in the far northern area (Area 8). From the subsoil (302), four post medieval/modern pottery sherds dating from the late 18th to 20th centuries were recovered, along with modern glass and a single residual medieval sherd. No artefacts were retrieved from the topsoil (301).

3.2 Excavation Area 8

- 3.2.1 Area 8, formed an open area excavation which covered an area of c.120 sq m at the centre of the site (Figs. 1 and 3). Stratigraphically there were two phases of activity in the area, with a ditch system overlain by two ovens and their associated features. Both phases of activity occurred within the space of 100 years with the medieval pottery assemblage dating to the late 12th to late 13th centuries.

Phase 1

- 3.2.2 Three relatively slight ditches **819/841**, **823** and **846/860** formed the southern corner of a field or enclosure. All three were truncated or overlain by later ovens and pits (Fig. 3). Two of the ditches **819/841**, **823** ran parallel to each other on a north-west to south-east alignment, between 2.20m and 2.60m apart. They were recorded for just over 5m but could not be traced further to the north-west. Perpendicular to these two ditches, ditch **846/860** ran for more than 5m north-east to south-west and butt-ended on the south-western side, c.2m from ditch **823** to create a potential 2m wide entranceway.
- 3.2.3 Ditch **819/841** was cut by oven **817** at its south-eastern butt end. The ditch was sample-excavated at two points and varied between 0.73m and 1.1m wide and 0.19m and 0.30m deep, becoming progressively deeper and wider to the north-west. Its sides were moderate, up to 45°, with a slightly concave base. Both sections through the ditch were filled with a single deposit (818 and 840), which comprised a mid grey brown sandy silt with a very little clay. A single abraded middle Iron Age pottery sherd (7g) was the only artefact recovered. Soil sample 11 from ditch **841** produced only charcoal.
- 3.2.4 Ditch **823** was cut by pits **821** and **844**. It was between 0.50m and 1m wide and up to 0.22m deep. It had moderate sides (c.45-50°) and concave base and was filled by a single deposit (822) comprising a grey brown sandy clay silt. A single worked flint flake was recovered from the ditch.
- 3.2.5 Ditch **846/860** was up to 0.9m wide and between 0.15m and 0.18m deep, with moderate to steep sides (c.40°-55°) and a slightly rounded base (Fig.5, S.17). The ditch sections were backfilled with a single deposit (845 and 859 respectively) comprising a grey brown silty clay. From fill 845 three medieval pottery sherds (60g) were recovered, dating to the late 12th to middle 13th centuries. Residual Late Pre-Roman Iron Age/Early Roman sherds (23g) were also recovered. Deposit 859 contained a single medieval pottery sherd (12g) dating up to the mid 13th century.

Phase 2

- 3.2.6 Two ovens, **817** and **831**, were found in association with contemporary pits and post-holes overlying the earlier ditches. It is possible that both ovens were contemporary but also that they were in use consecutively - their different design could suggest either subtly different uses or potentially different dates. Use of the area over a slightly longer time frame is suggested by the fact that several of the associated pits were intercutting .

Oven 817

- 3.2.7 Oven **817** was bottle shaped, aligned south-west to north-east (Fig. 4 including Plate 1). It was 2.43m long and between 0.59m and 1.15m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig. 4, S.1). The flue was on the north-eastern side covering an area 1.3m by 0.59m and had steep sides and a flat base except where the stoke-hole joined the chamber area of the oven where there is a deeper burnt firing area (0.2m deep). The main chamber area was sub-rounded, 1.15m in diameter with moderate sides and a flat base (0.17m deep), slightly shallower than the burnt firing area. The chamber itself was unburnt and this was where the crops would have been laid or stacked for drying.
- 3.2.8 At the outer end of the flue was a deposit of charcoal fragments and pieces (834) covering an area 0.57m by 0.54m and 0.04m deep. This was an *in situ* burnt wood deposit between the air intake on one side and the firing deposit. It is possible it represents charcoal raked from the firing pit. This deposit comprised c.70%+ charcoal and up to c.30% mid brown sandy silt. There were no other soils or stones in this deposit and no artefacts. A 10 litre environmental sample <7> was taken and produced only large quantities of charcoal. Directly to the south-west was the firing pit (835), a heavily burnt area which was slightly deeper than the flue and the chamber of the oven to the south-west . It covered an area 0.9m by 0.7m and was 0.1m deep. The centre of this fire had solidified the natural into a hard-baked brittle deposit. The burning also continued along the sides of the oven up to the top of the excavated surface. The fill (835) was a deep bright red to purple friable sandy silt with no other inclusions. A 30 litre environmental sample was taken <8> but only a few barley grains were recovered.
- 3.2.9 Sealing both the charcoal deposit (834) and part of the adjacent burnt deposit (835) was a friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with mottled light orange-brown patches (816). It covered an area 0.8m by 0.6m and 0.1m thick and contained a few small chalk stones less and rare charcoal flecks. This is a post firing layer which has been deposited after use. A 20 litre soil sample <2> from this deposit found mostly charcoal but also a few beans, vetch barley and wheat. The final deposit sealing both (834) and the oven chamber was 815, a demolition/collapse material consisting of a light to mid orange-brown sandy silt. Within this deposit there were eight medieval pottery sherds (140g) from two vessels including seven reasonably unabraded sherds from a single jar. A 30 litre soil sample from this deposit <1> found a few vetch seeds and a single wheat grain.

Oven 831 and post-hole 829

- 3.2.10 Oven **831**, lay perpendicular to and 2m from east end of oven **817**, it was aligned north-west to south-east with the chamber on the north-western side, parallel to and to the east of ditch **823** (Fig. 5). Oven **831** was not bottle-shaped like **817** with the instantly recognizable flue and chamber, but seems to have had a sub-oval or rectangular stoke-hole (**839**) leading to a larger and slightly deeper sub-rounded chamber **831**. Collectively this oven was 1.8m by 0.8m in size and was assigned just one number in post-excavation (**831**; Fig. 5). The width of the flue **831** at 0.65m, is marginally wider

than that in oven **817**, but it extended just 0.78m in length and was 0.06m deep with gentle sides and a flat base. The chamber, was sub-rounded 1.08m in length by 0.84m and 0.16m deep with gentle to moderate sides c.35°- 40° and a flat base (Fig. 5, S.4).

- 3.2.11 The flue area was filled by a single deposit (838) which was a post disuse layer. It comprised a mid yellowish-grey clayey silt with moderate lenses of burnt silt, coarse sized pebbles/cobbles and one large burnt sub-rectangular stone. This stone was presumably part of the former super-structure of the oven. A 10 litre environmental sample <6> contained a few grains of wheat, vetch and Brome/rye. The lower part of the chamber contained an orangey red clayey sand (837). Unlike oven **817**, this *in situ* deposit shows the whole of the chamber was part of the firing area (Fig. 5, Plate 2). This implies that grain would have been stacked above this fire. A single small medieval pottery sherd (4g) was recovered from this deposit. A 20 litre soil sample <5> only produced a few weed seeds (dock, vetch and grass).
- 3.2.12 Overlying deposit 837 and its north-western side was a post-demolition layer (836) which covered an area 0.42m by 0.34m and 0.05m deep. This was a light yellowish-grey sandy silt which contained three medieval pottery sherds (56g). The remainder of the oven had been backfilled with a mixed reddish pink sandy silt (c.60% of the deposit). The other 40% comprised an unburnt mid brown grey sand sandy silt and contained occasional coarse-sized pebbles. Within the fill were 10 sherds of medieval pottery (75g). A 10 litre bulk sample <4> was taken but only a few weed seeds (vetch) were recovered.
- 3.2.13 Directly to the north-east of oven **831** was a small irregular post-hole **829**, it is uncertain whether it was associated with the oven structure (the oven may cut it). The post-hole was oval, 0.5m by 0.21m and 0.14m deep with almost vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown-grey clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional fine pebbles (828). A 10 litre environmental sample <3> was taken with a few cereal and weed seeds found as well as some legumes.

Post-holes 825 and 827

- 3.2.14 Post-holes **825** and **827** were almost identical in size and shape and may have been part of a fence line directly to the north of the oven chamber **831** (Fig 3). Post-hole **825** was 0.42m by 0.38m and 0.13m deep with moderate sides (45°) on the north-eastern side and steep (65°) on the south-western with a shallow concave base. Post-hole **827** was 0.46m by 0.45m and 0.18m deep with very steep sides between 75°-85° and slightly concave base. Both were backfilled with a grey brown sandy silt with charcoal lumps/flecks and contained one and two medieval pottery sherds. Soil samples <9> and <10> from the post-holes produced charred seeds with post-hole **827** containing more than ten cereal and weed seeds as well as a few legumes.

Pits 821 and 844

- 3.2.15 Directly to the north-west of the oven **831** chamber there were two small pits (**821** and **844**) (Fig 3), both truncated earlier ditch **823** but neither had dating evidence in their backfills. It is uncertain what their original functions were - pit **821** contained burnt material which could have come from one of the ovens. Pit **821** was sub-rounded 0.7m by 0.65m and 0.16m deep with moderate sides c.40°-45°. The primary fill (842) was a yellow-brown clay silt with some burnt red sandy patches. Sealing this was a reddish-purple burnt sandy silt with occasional burnt stones. A soil sample <13> found only a few fragments of fired clay. Pit **844** was oval 0.82m by 0.55m and 0.16m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. It was filled with a yellow brown clay silt.

Intercutting pits **849**, **851/856** and **853**

- 3.2.16 A series of large inter-cutting pits, **853**, **849** and **851/856**, were located to the south-eastern side of Area 8 (Figs. 3 and 6; Plate 3). Pits **849** and **851/856** were of a similar size and steep sided. In contrast the large shallow pit **853**, truncated by the others and possibly also by ditch **869/846**, was shallow and uneven and may have been a large tree throw. After use pits **849** & **851/856** had been infilled by the discarded burning and debris material from the ovens. The pits were originally half-sectioned or quadrant dug before being completely excavated.
- 3.2.17 Pit/tree throw **853** was 3.8m long, 2.8m wide and between 0.1m -0.14m deep with gentle sides and a flat base (Fig. 6, S.17). The lower deposit (852/865) was c.0.08m thick and comprised a very dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal burning. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit. The upper fill/layer (803/804/861) was a mixed deposit comprising a light brown-grey to a very dark brown-grey sandy silt with some burnt material. Twenty-one medieval pottery sherds (0.218kg) were recovered from the upper deposit. Two soil samples <14> and <16> were taken from the upper deposit and found only a few cereal and weed seeds.
- 3.2.18 Pit **849** was sub-rectangular in shape, 2.50m long, 1.25m wide and 0.40m deep with moderate to steep sides (50° to 60°) and a slightly concave base (Fig. 6, S.15). The lower fill (808/848) was a mid brown sandy silt with moderate quantities of charcoal flecks. Thirty medieval pottery sherds (0.335kg) were recovered. A soil sample <2> produced a few charred cereal and weed seeds. The upper deposit (807/847) was a yellowish orange sandy silt with a few small burnt patches. Six medieval pottery sherds (37g) were recovered from this fill.
- 3.2.19 Cutting both pits **849** and **853** was pit **851/856** (Fig. 3). It was sub-rectangular in shape, 2.06m long and up to 1.08m wide and 0.31m deep, with steep to very steep sides and a flat base. The primary deposit (858) was 0.08m thick, only seen in the north-eastern part of the pit, and comprised a fairly sterile light yellowish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. This was sealed by a sterile light yellow-brown clay deposit (857) also in the north-eastern part of the pit. The primary deposit within the western area of the pit (855/862) overlaid deposit (857) to the north-east (Fig. 6; Plate 4). This fill varied from a mid to dark grey brown sandy silt with a little clay to a very dark grey-black sandy silt with very frequent charcoal and burnt material including occasional lenses of reddish-orange burnt clay-silt. There was a major pottery assemblage (4.7kg) dumped in from the north-west which sat in the extreme western part of fill 855. The assemblage comprised of a near-complete jar, a substantial part of another jar and five sherds from a bowl (Fig. 7 nos. 1, 2 and 3; Plate 4). Part of the same bowl was also recovered in this fill to the north-west (862) with eleven pottery sherds (0.473kg). A soil sample <17> from this deposit produced significant quantities of charred cereal grains but only a few weeds and legumes. A full analysis of the flot recovered 264 wheat, 24 barley and a few other cereal grains as well as moderate quantities of many herbs (See Fosberry below including Table 4). The upper fill of the pit (854/850) was a yellow orange-brown sandy silt with a little clay with frequent patches of burnt red silt. There were five sherds of medieval pottery from the upper fill, including more of the bowl (Fig. 7, no. 3).

Post-holes **810** and **812**

- 3.2.20 There were two similar, undated shallow sub-rounded post-holes (**810** and **812**) to the southeast of oven **817**. They were 0.52m and 0.42m in diameter, 0.12m and 0.16m

deep respectively with moderate sides and a sterile yellow brown sandy silt fill with some clay patches and occasional charcoal flecks.

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 The pre-Medieval pottery assemblage comprised seven small sherds of residual Middle Iron Age material (51g) and four residual sherds of LPRIA and Roman pottery. The medieval and later pottery assemblage comprised 312 sherds of pottery dating from the late 12th to late 13th centuries (6.6kg) and four post-medieval fragments. A single residual prehistoric flint flake was also found. The remaining assemblage comprised a single slag fragment (4g), some fired clay, four post-medieval/modern glass fragments (0.112kg) and 17 post-medieval/modern roof tile fragments (0.258kg).

3.4 Environmental Summary

3.4.1 17 environmental bulk samples were taken from medieval contexts and most had some cereal and weed remains, albeit in small or very small quantities. A single sample was analysed completely and produced moderate to large quantities. Only two small animal bone fragments were recovered.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief and excavation at Warren Lane recovered a background scatter of residual Middle Iron Age and LPRIA/Roman pottery, suggesting that settlements or occupation areas belonging to these periods lay within the environs of the excavation area. These could relate to the closest known Iron Age site, c. 400m to the west, where agricultural features were uncovered (ASE 2007; HER TQ 94 SE 46), or to another as yet unlocated site.
- 4.1.2 The site had at least two phases of high medieval use sometime between the later 12th and later 13th century – none of the medieval pottery dates to later than c.1300. There is no evidence of earlier or later medieval activity and it is therefore tempting to suggest that this use on the site may be linked to the increase population and expansion in the high medieval period. The end of the short-lived agri-industrial use of the site came prior to 1300 according to pottery dating.
- 4.1.3 The lack of any other activity on the site emphasises that the excavation area was beyond the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Repton parish (and Ashford town). There is circumstantial evidence that the site was directly owned by Repton manor which was situated c. 400m to the west. This evidence rests on the fact that when the manor became part of a new barracks established at the end of the 18th century, the area around the site appears to have followed in this change of use/ownership, with a volunteer rifle range recorded running north to south at the eastern edge of the area on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map.
- 4.1.4 The features within both the two medieval phases were aligned north-west to south-east or perpendicular to this in a north-east to south-west direction. It is noticeable that the probable medieval (or earlier?) road (now the A292), directly to the west of the site, also ran in a north-west to south-east direction. This implies that a level of planning of features/alignments was occurring. All the recorded medieval features were within a small area in the middle of the excavation area (Area 8) except for a contemporary pit (113) some 30m to the east which was recorded in the watching brief. The majority of these features were shallow (less than 0.30m deep) and while it is possible that some were missed in the watching brief, it must be assumed that no further, large features would have been missed.
- 4.1.5 The first phase of medieval activity on the site was part of a field enclosure. The ditches were fairly shallow (surviving to, at most, 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep). There may have been some truncation on the site, but even so, the size of these ditches does not imply that they were of a substantial, pastoral nature – even with a hedge alongside they would not serve as much of a barrier. The backfills of the ditches were all similar and were largely sterile with only a few artefacts comprising small medieval sherds (late 12th to mid 13th centuries) alongside residual Middle Iron Age and LPRIA/Roman pottery sherds (and a single struck flint). The lack of contemporary domestic artefacts within the infill of these ditches adds further weight to the theory that the fields were at some distance from medieval settlement.
- 4.1.6 The second phase of activity exhibits a different use of the site at some point in the 13th century, with two ovens constructed alongside associated features, these truncating the earlier ditch system. The oven features were probably 'corn-driers' and fit in with Steane's description (1984, 262), "They are shaped like ovens with stoke-hole, well constructed flues and a circular or rectangular firing chamber". Steane continues

that after the grain was dried, parched and stored, there were a further two processes to be undertaken before it could be converted into food (milled and the resultant flour or meal then baked).

- 4.1.7 It has been pointed out that medieval 'corn-drying' ovens are common finds on excavations of deserted medieval villages (Clarke 1984). This generalisation concerning distribution of corn-driers does need to be clarified as there is a marked bias as to where they have been found. They have been more frequent where the climate was wetter, where the need to dry the corn was more pressing, and have been found all over the Highland Zone and in Midland England (Steane, 1984, 262). In contrast they are seemingly rare in dryer areas of the country, and this would explain why the HER search at Kent County Council on 'corn-driers' found there were only two records of sites with corn-driers within the county. These two records comprise a possible corn-drier found by the Museum of London in 1997 on a site to the north of Westenhanger Castle within Shepway district (MOLAS 1998) and another at Pilgrim's Way, north of Maidstone by the Oxford Archaeology Unit (OAU 1999; Girgi 2006).
- 4.1.8 An equally important function of the cereal-drying kiln was to harden the grain to allow for effective milling (Monk 1994, 217). Indeed, this was one of six reasons/functions why corn-driers were thought to be used in the Roman period – a general reduction of moisture content, drying for 'greencorn', parching of fully ripe spikelets of glume wheats, to prevent spoilage, stop germination and hardening to facilitate milling and threshing (Van Der Veen 1989, 303-4). If the site was owned by Repton manor, the use of the corn-driers on this site could therefore be seen as the manor implementing a policy to make the cereal grain more profitable.
- 4.1.9 In recent years a few people have questioned whether there were in fact any actual 'corn-driers' in the medieval period. "Late medieval documents, though they make frequent reference to malting kilns, do not mention corn-driers" (Chris Dyer is quoted pers. comm. in Moffett 2006, 52). Moffett continues that there are plenty of records for grain drying before milling in 18th to early 20th century records, especially after wet harvests. Moffett's opinion is that it is likely that farmers would dry their harvests in the field or in a barn as drying in kilns would have been labour intensive (Moffett 2006, 52). He suggests that ovens which have been labelled as medieval corn-driers were probably malting ovens.
- 4.1.10 It is uncertain how much relevance there is to late medieval documents not mentioning 'corn-driers' when the features recorded at Warren Lane are earlier medieval. It is interesting to note that the three Kent sites where corn-driers are suggested seem to date to the early or high medieval period, i.e. before the 14th century. Indeed, elsewhere, suggested corn-driers seem to date to this medieval period or earlier and it is therefore possible that these features were a pre-late medieval phenomenon before the corn-drying idea was resurrected in the post-medieval period.
- 4.1.11 The oven on the Pilgrim's Way site was labelled a 'corn-drier' (as opposed to bread oven or malting oven), "because of the apparent isolation of the feature in relation to any known medieval settlement." (OAU 1999, 16). There is clearly a strong contrast between the relative isolation of all these three Kent corn-drying oven sites (including the present site) and other medieval ovens (malting etc.) which the Kent HER data have all placed within settlements. If Moffett and Dyer are right in that 'corn-driers' were in reality malting ovens, the question has to be 'why have malting ovens a considerable distance outside a settlement?'. Excavated malt ovens are often back-plot buildings such as at the high medieval bake and brew-house in Brackley, Northamptonshire (Atkins *et al* 1998/1999) or within other settlement areas such as manorial farms.

Manorial farms sometimes had a malt house as well as a collection of other agri-industrial and/or farm buildings. A good example of an excavated manorial farm is at Lime Street, within the medieval village of Irthlingborough, Northants, whose 13th to 14th century malt house produced large quantities for internal consumption as well as probable exports (Chapman *et al* 2003).

- 4.1.12 Corn-driers may have been placed far enough away from settlement to minimise the risk from fire but were sited close enough to habitation, especially barns, for the storage of the dried grain (MOLAS 1998, 13). The location of the Ashford corn-driers seems to have been a corner of a field well away from settlement, c.50m to the east of the main road which seems to have been medieval in origin (A292), but only 400m to the east of the medieval Repton manor.
- 4.1.13 The charred plant assemblage from the site comprised of several different cereal type grains (mainly wheat and to a lesser extent barley) along with occasional weed seeds and legumes and rare occurrences of chaff elements (Fosberry Appendix D.1). This mixture of charred cereal grain and weed seeds was found at both the Pilgrim's Way site (Giorgi 2006) and Westenhanger Castle which comprised a large quantity of cereal grains and a range of different weed seeds. The cereal grains included free-threshing wheat, barley, rye and oats while the weed seeds included bromes, docks, buttercups and grasses (MOLAS 1998, 13). These assemblages were also similar to the botanical evidence from Roman 'corn-driers' (Van Der Veen 1989, especially p.312). The conclusions from this botanical evidence was that the Roman structures were multi-purpose - both the roasting of germinating grains for the production of malt and the preparation of grain for consumption and storage (parching and drying)(Van Der Veen 1989, 316). As the medieval environmental evidence was very similar, it is therefore likely the medieval 'corn-driers' had the same function.
- 4.1.14 The medieval pottery assemblage (c.300 sherds) recovered from the site was largely comprised of large parts of at least three vessels including a socket-handled bowl which would have been used almost exclusively for food preparation. Cooking vessels and jars were also present. It is possible this may represent vessels brought in for food preparation for workers at the ovens who were on site, away from their domestic homes?. The unabraded nature of some of the pottery, and the large parts of single vessels, implies at least some of the assemblage was brought to the site whole and is not derived from manuring scatters or displaced middens. Also, the lack of shells, animal bone and other 'domestic' items was notable, implying that the remains were not related to settlement discard.

4.2 Significance and recommendations for publication

- 4.2.1 The archaeological work was small-scale but has recovered significant medieval agri-industrial archaeological remains; two 'corn-driers' with good plans, associated features, pottery assemblage and environmental evidence. The importance may rest on the apparent rarity of these features - according to information from the Kent HER, this work has seemingly doubled the number of known medieval 'corn-driers' from the county.
- 4.2.2 It is therefore proposed to submit a short article to the local journal *Archaeol. Cantiana*. It is anticipated this will comprise a maximum of 6 figs including 3 plates, 2 tables and 4 pages of text.

APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

APPENDIX B. CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Same as</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Area/Trench</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Breadth</i>	<i>Depth</i>
101			1	layer	topsoil				
102			1	layer	subsoil				
103		0	1	layer	subsoil		0		
104		0	1	layer	natural		0		
105		0	1	layer	natural		0		
106		0	1	layer	natural		0		
107		0	1	layer	natural		0		
108		0	1	layer	natural		0		
109		0	1	layer	natural		0		
110		0	1	layer	subsoil		0		
111		113	1	fill	pit		0		
112		113	1	fill	pit		0		
113		113	1	cut	pit		1.7		0.31
201		0	2	layer	topsoil		0		
202		0	2	layer	subsoil		0		
203		0	2	layer	subsoil		0		
204		0	2	layer	natural		0		
205		0	2	layer	natural		0		
301		0	3	layer	topsoil		0		
302		0	3	layer	subsoil		0		
401		0	4	layer	topsoil		0		
402		0	4	layer	subsoil		0		
403		0	4	layer	natural		0		
501		0	5	layer	topsoil		0		
502		0	5	layer	subsoil		0		
503		0	5	layer	natural		0		
602		0	6	layer	subsoil		0		
701		0	7	layer	topsoil		0		
702		0	7	layer	subsoil		0		
703		0	7	layer	subsoil		0		
704		0	7	layer			0		
705	801	0	7	layer	natural		0		
706	815	817	7	fill	pit		0		
801		0	8	layer	natural		0		
802		0	8	layer	topsoil		0		
803		853		fill	pit		0		
804		853		fill	pit		0		
805		851		fill	pit		0		
806	852	853		fill	pit		0		

<i>Context</i>	<i>Same as</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Area/Trench</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Breadth</i>	<i>Depth</i>
807	847	849		fill	pit		0		
808	848	849		fill	pit		0		
809		810		fill	post-hole		0		
810		810		cut	post-hole		0.52	0.48	0.12
811		812		fill	post-hole		0		
812		812		cut	post-hole		0.42	0.38	0.16
813		814		fill	natural		0		
814		814		cut	natural		0		
815		817		fill	oven		0		
816		817		fill	oven		0		
817		817		cut	oven		2.43	1.15	0.2
818		819		fill	ditch		0		
819	841	819		cut	ditch		0	0.73	0.19
820		821		fill	pit		0		
821		821		cut	pit		0.7	0.65	0.16
822		823		fill	ditch		0		
823		823		cut	ditch		0	1	0.22
824		825		fill	post-hole	?fence line	0		
825		825		cut	post-hole	?fence line	0.42	0.38	0.13
826		827		fill	post-hole	?fence line	0		
827		827		cut	post-hole	?fence line	0.46	0.45	0.18
828		829		fill	?post-hole		0		
829		829		cut	?post-hole		0.5	0.21	0.14
830		831		fill	oven		0		
831		831		cut	oven		1.08	0.84	0.16
832		833		fill	natural		0		
833		833		cut	natural		0		
834		817		fill	oven		0		
835		817		fill	oven		0		
836		831		fill	oven		0		
837		831		fill	oven		0		
838		839		fill	oven		0		
839		839		cut	oven		0.78	0.65	0.06
840		841		fill	ditch		0		
841		841		cut	ditch		0	1.1	0.3
842		821		fill	pit		0		
843		844		fill	pit		0		
844		844		cut	pit		0.82	0.55	0.16
845		846		fill	ditch		0		
846	860	846		cut	ditch		0	0.85	0.18
847		849		fill	pit		0		
848		849		fill	pit		0		

<i>Context</i>	<i>Same as</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Area/Trench</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Breadth</i>	<i>Depth</i>
849		849		cut	pit		2.51	1.25	0.4
850		851		fill	pit		0		
851	856	851		cut	pit		2.06	1.08	0.31
852		853		fill	pit		0		
853		853		cut	pit		3.8	2.8	0.14
854		856		fill	pit		0		
855		856		fill	pit		0		
856	851	856		cut	pit		0		
857		851		fill	pit		0		
858		851		fill	pit		0		
859		860		fill	ditch		0		
860		860		cut	ditch		0	0.59	0.15
861		853		fill	pit		0		
862		856		fill	pit		0		
863		851		fill	pit		0		
864		851		fill	pit		0		
865		853		fill	pit		0		

APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher with John Cotter. Contributions by Matt Brudenell and Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

- C.1.1 This report considers the pottery from the archaeological watching brief and excavation at land off Warren Lane, Ashford, Kent in 2009. The site produced a small multi period assemblage of 351 sherds weighing 6.746kg from 25 contexts.
- C.1.2 The bulk of the material recovered is mainly late 12th to mid 13th century and almost entirely in a single fabric, identified by John Cotter during an initial assessment of the excavated pottery, as Ashford Potters Corner Shelly-Sandy Ware (EM.M5), which contains fossil shell.
- C.1.3 A small number of late 18th or early 19th century sherds were recovered; also present were residual sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery.

Methodology

- C.1.4 The basic guidance in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) document *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- C.1.5 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types and recorded according to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) type series for post-Roman pottery. All the fabric identifications were undertaken by John Cotter (Oxford Archaeology South) In addition any descriptions of the fabrics present are taken from Townwall Street, Dover, 1996 excavation report (Cotter 2006)
- C.1.6 Iron Age pottery has been identified by Matt Brudenell and Roman pottery identified by Stephen Wadeson.
- C.1.7 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. with the data entered into an Microsoft Access database. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

The Assemblage:

- C.1.8 Four post-Roman fabric types were identified, three early medieval and one post medieval. The majority of the pottery is in local Kent wares mainly produced in the Ashford area.
- C.1.9 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text and the summary catalogue by context are given in Table 1

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	No. Sherds	Weight (kg)
EM33	Shell and flint-tempered coarse sandy ware	3	0.009
EM45	Coarse Sandy ware	1	0.013
EM.M5	Ashford Potters Corner Shelly-Sandy ware	308	6.596
LPM1	Late Post-Medieval Redware	4	0.043
Total		316	6.649

Table 1 *Medieval and post-medieval pottery*

- C.1.10 The early medieval pottery is domestic in nature and includes a number of large jars, some of which are sooted sherds and two bowls including a complete profile of a socket-handled bowl (Fig 7, 1). The overall condition of the assemblage is unabraded to moderately abraded with many large sheds present and several reconstructible jar profiles, however the mean average sherd weight is moderate at approximately 19g.

Pottery by Period

Middle Iron Age? by Matt Brudenell

- C.1.11 There was a small assemblage of probable Middle Iron Age pottery comprising seven small sherds and a number of 'fragments' collectively weighing 51g. The pottery was had made, flint tempered in a reduced fabric. A single sherd (7g) was recovered from context 818 and six small sherds (14g) from pit 113 and many fragments (30g) from subsoil within Area 1.

Late Pre Roman Iron Age and Early Romano British pottery by Stephen Wadeson

- C.1.12 Two sherds of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery were recovered from the excavation, comprising a sherd of proto grey ware (grog tempered) and a sherd of grey ware (grog tempered). In addition a single early-mid 1st century sandy grey ware (grog tempered) sherd and a mid 1st to 4th century sandy grey ware sherd were also recovered.
- C.1.13 All the sherds were significantly abraded and fragmentary most likely due to post depositional processes. The presence of residual Late Pre-Roman Iron Age/Early Romano British pottery suggests Late Pre-Roman Iron Age/Early Romano British activity in the vicinity of the site, however the assemblage is too small to establish if the material represents domestic occupation.

Early Medieval

- C.1.14 The post-Roman assemblage is dominated by Ashford-type wares, chiefly EM.M5, a shelly-sandy ware in which much of the shell is dissolved out giving a characteristic corky porous texture (Cotter 2006 p169). This fabric makes up over 97.5% of the post-Roman assemblage by count and 99.2% by weight. The proximity of the excavation to the Ashford Potters Corner production site, which was identified and recorded in 1952 (Grove and Warhurst 1952) and which lies approx 2km to the north west, is the main reason for the dominance of a single fabric type.
- C.1.15 EM.M5 Vessel forms are most commonly jars, these vessels are present with mainly undeveloped rim forms and sagging bases (Fig 7, 2, and 3x), with a late 12th to mid 13th century date range for the majority of the assemblage (John Cotter pers. comm.).

A single developed rim was recovered from **825** (pit/post-hole). A number of the vessel sherds were externally sooted indicating their use as domestic cooking pots; other unsooted jar sherds may indicate their use as storage vessels.

- C.1.16 A small number of open vessel forms were also present in the EM.M5 fabric. The rim, base and handle from socket-handled bowl (Fig 7, 1) were recovered from three separate contexts in pit **851/856**. The vessel was sooted on the body and around the socket handle, both internally and externally and the fabric somewhat discoloured by heat suggesting repeated use as a cooking vessel. In addition a single abraded bowl rim sherd decorated with an incised wavy line, on the upper surface of the rim, was recovered from the subsoil in area 6, context 602. Lorraine Mephram in her unpublished draft report on Parsonage Farm suggests that these decorated vessels “fulfilled a more specialised food preparation or serving function” (Mephram 2004 p3)
- C.1.17 Other coarse wares are present only in small numbers, 0.3% of the total post-Roman assemblage by weight. Three sherds of EM33 were recovered from a single pit alongside a single sherd of EM45 and heavily abraded sherds of EM.M5 the majority of which contain very little or no shell being at the extreme end of the fabric range (John Cotter pers comm). No vessel form could be established for any of these sherds.

Late 18th to 19th century

- C.1.18 These sherds represent the last datable phase of activity on the site before the current redevelopment. The material recovered, 0.6% of the total post-Roman assemblage by weight, consists of four sherds of LPM1 from context 302. they are moderately abraded and from a variety of vessels including a bowl and a drinking vessel most likely a mug or cup.

Assemblage in relation to excavated features

- C.1.19 The assemblage was recovered from a variety of features all across the site. The majority of the pottery is closely dated suggesting that the activity these features represent are all of one phase or a number of short lived phases.
- C.1.20 Pit **113** produced small sherds of prehistoric pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age and three sherds of late 11th-early 13th century EM33, alongside a single sherd tentatively identified as EM45. The majority of the pottery recovered from this feature was EM.M5 with some of the sherds containing little shell.
- C.1.21 Four sherds of late 18th-19th century LPM1 and a single sherd of EM.M5 were recovered from the subsoil in Area 3.
- C.1.22 From the subsoil in Area 6, four small abraded sherds of EM.M5 were recovered including a bowl rim decorated with an incised curvilinear line. Bowls are poorly represented and this is one of only two open forms in the assemblage.
- C.1.23 Area 8 produced the majority of the ceramic assemblage from a series of medieval ovens, ditches, pits and post poles.
- C.1.24 The earliest contexts in this area produced small quantities of pottery. Ditch **819** produced only a single sherd of prehistoric pottery and ditch **846/860**, which may form part of the early enclosure, produced sherds of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age/Early Romano British pottery, one a proto grey ware (grog tempered) and also a sherd of grey ware (grog tempered). In addition four sherds of EM.M5, one of which was sooted were also recovered. Three of the EM.M5 sherds contained little shell and are at the extreme end of the EM.M5 fabric range. The overall date for the features is late 12th to mid 13th

century. The enclosure appears to be cut or overlain by the oven **817** and ditch **846/860** was cut by a pit **853**, which was also associated with the oven features.

- C.1.25 The oven features **817** and **831**, both produced sherds of EM.M5 dating from the late 12th to mid 13th century and appear to be contemporary. The excavator states that both features are truncated.
- C.1.26 Oven **817**, comprised an oven, central burning area and flue. The oven was filled by **815**, which produced eight sherds of EM.M5 mainly identified as jar sherds and **816** from which no pottery was recovered.
- C.1.27 Oven **831** also produced medieval pottery and sherds of EM.M5 were recovered from all three fills of the oven. Unfortunately no pottery was recovered from the associated fire pit.
- C.1.28 The largest ceramic group (76.3% of the total post-Roman assemblage by weight) derives from a series of large intercutting pits **849**, **856** and **853**.
- C.1.29 Pottery from pit **851/856**, which cuts the earlier yet contemporary pits **849** and **853**, was entirely EM.M5, mainly jar forms and where rim sherds were present these were undeveloped (John Cotter pers. comm.). Context **855** produced the majority of the pottery (70.7% of the total post-Roman assemblage by weight). A partial profile of a jar and a complete profile of a rounded jar were reconstructed (Fig. 7 2 and 3). Also present were sherds from the second open vessel recovered from the site, a near complete (when reconstructed) small socketed handled bowl (Fig. 7, 1). Conjoining sherds were also recovered from contexts **850** and **862**. The vessel was sooted on the body and around the socketed handle, both internally and externally and was most likely used as a cooking vessel.
- C.1.30 More than half of the sherds in pit **849** have been identified as jar sherds. These include several sherds with what appears to be a deposit of lime-scale on their inner surface suggesting that they were used for the storage of liquids, most likely water. A number of externally sooted sherds suggest other vessels may have been used for food preparation and cooking.
- C.1.31 In addition a single sherd from a EM.M5 jar with a developed rim was recovered from **825** (pit/post-hole), and pit/post-hole **827** produced two abraded slightly sooted EM.M5 jar sherds.

Discussion

- C.1.32 Aside from the LPM1 sherds no pottery later than c.1300 are present within the assemblage and all the pottery recovered was domestic in character. The main fabric present is the local shelly-sandy ware EM.M5, from the only medieval shelly ware kiln site identified to date in Kent, probably in production between c 1175-1300 (Cotter 2002 p57, 2006, p167-170). The most common vessels are jars (Fig. 7, 1 and 2), some of which are sooted and there are few open vessel forms (Fig. 7, 1). The vessels are hand made and only a single vessel has a developed rim which may have been wheel made and then applied to a hand built body.
- C.1.33 The presence of sooted vessel suggests some food preparation was being undertaken on the site using both the jars and some of the limited number of open vessels; the socketed handled bowl appears to have been exclusively used the preparation of food. Jars may have been multi functioning vessels used for storage of food or liquids as well as cooking.

C.1.34 The overall date for the assemblage is late 12th to mid 13th century (John Cotter pers comm) and the paucity of fabrics other than the local EM.M5 suggests the assemblage represents low status domestic settlement supplied with kitchen wares by the potters of Ashford Potters Corner.

Context	Fabric	No	Weight	Form	Context Date
110	Middle Iron Age? pot	30	0.043		
111	Middle Iron Age? pot	6	0.014		Late 12th to late 13th century
111	EM.33	3	0.009		Late 12th to late 13th century.
	EM.45?	1	0.013		
	EM.M5	7	0.03	Jar	
		12	0.059		
112	EM.M5	1	0.004	Jar	Late 12th to late 13th century.
		3	0.02		
302	EM.M5	1	0.021		Late 18th to the beginning of the 20th century.
	LPM1	1	0.013		
		2	0.024	Bowl	
		1	0.006	Drinking Vessel	
602	EM.M5	3	0.008		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		1	0.014	Bowl	
802	EM.M5	4	0.02		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		2	0.009	Jar	
803	EM.M5	9	0.031		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		2	0.03	Jar	
805	EM.M5	2	0.028		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
806	EM.M5	2	0.007		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		2	0.039	Jar	
815	EM.M5	1	0.016		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		7	0.124	Jar	
818	Middle Iron Age? pot	1	0.007		
824	EM.M5	1	0.021	Jar	Late 12th to late 13th century.
826	EM.M5	2	0.006	Jar	Late 12th to mid 13th century.
830	EM.M5	1	0.02		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		9	0.055	Jar	
836	EM.M5	3	0.056		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
837	EM.M5	1	0.004		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
845	EM.M5/	1	0.025		Late 12th to mid 13th century with residual LPRIA/Early Roman.
		2	0.037	Jar	
	Proto grey ware (grog tempered)	1	0.010		
	Grey ware (grog tempered)	1	0.013		
847	EM.M5	1	0.006		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		5	0.031	Jar	
848	EM.M5	13	0.103		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		16	0.225	Jar	
		1	0.007	jar/ bowl	
850	EM.M5	3	0.065	Bowl	Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		2	0.139	Jar	

Context	Fabric	No	Weight	Form	Context Date
855	EM.M5	5	0.117	Bowl	Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		161	4.581	Jar	
859	EM.M5	1	0.012		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
861	EM.M5	4	0.043		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		6	0.114	Jar	
862	EM.M5	2	0.024		Late 12th to mid 13th century.
		2	0.054	Bowl	
		7	0.395	Jar	
99999	Sandy grey ware (grog tempered)	1	0.005		Early Roman- Early/Mid 1st Century AD; 1st-4th Century AD
	Sandy grey ware	1	0.006		

Table 2 *Pottery Summary by Context*

C.2 Other artefacts

Rob Atkins and Carole Fletcher

Flint, slag, fired clay, glass and roof tile

- C.2.1 A single struck flint flake was recovered from context 822, fill of ditch **823**.
- C.2.2 A single small undiagnostic slag fragment (4g) was found in pit 111, fill of pit **113**.
- C.2.3 Fired clay was found in minute quantities in some of the soil samples, 2g was hand collected from pit 111, fill of pit **113**. Clay from the two ovens was not retained.
- C.2.4 Four glass fragments (0.112kg) were recovered from two subsoil layers. In the subsoil Area 3 (302), there was a stopper for a jar and a fragment of a glass bottle (0.107kg) both date from either the 19th or 20th centuries. Two small fragments of window glass and vessel glass (0.005kg) were recovered from the subsoil of Area 6 (602), neither was closely dated but both are post-medieval or modern.
- C.2.5 17 roof tile fragments (0.258kg) were found in four subsoil deposits within the watching brief. None of the tile was diagnostic but is likely to have been medieval and post-medieval in date. The fabrics were either a fine orange silty sand or a hard orange sand. Four fragments (0.096kg) were recovered from Area 2 (203), four fragments (0.049kg) from Area 3 (302), one fragment (0.010kg) from Area 4 (402) and eight fragments (0.103kg) from Area 6 (602).

APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

- D.1.1 Seventeen bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated area of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and to investigate the function of the features interpreted as ovens/kilns/corn-driers.
- D.1.2 Up to twenty litres of each sample (less if sample size was smaller) were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 3.
- D.1.3 Assessment of these samples showed that Sample 17, fill 862 of pit **851/856** had excellent potential for further archaeobotanical study. The remaining volume of the bulk sample was processed by hand flotation and the resulting flot was fully quantified (Table 4).

Quantification

- D.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories: # = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens.
- D.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance: + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant.

Sample No.	Cont. No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Comments	Flot Vol (ml)	Preservation	Cereals	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Modern Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Flot comments
1	815	817	oven	medieval industrial feature – demolition layer	3	charred	#		#		++	++	charred seeds = vetch, stinking mayweed. Single wheat grain
2	816	817	oven	medieval industrial feature – demolition layer	40	charred	#	#	#		+++	++++	98% charcoal, small charred bean, vetch, barley and wheat
3	828	829	post-hole	possible post-hole – fair bit of charcoal. Poss associated with oven [831]	10	charred	#	#	#		++	++	wheat, barley and rye but <5 of each. Pea, stinking mayweed, goose foot
4	830	831	oven	fired clay material surviving in top of oven	10	charred			#	#	++	++	mainly roots, charred vetch
5	837	831	oven	dark fired clay material at base of oven	5	charred			#		++		fired clay fragments. Charred dock, vetch and grass seed

6	838	839	oven	Fire-setting end of oven – shallow. Charcoal	2	charred	#		#		++	++	wheat, vetch, Brome/rye grass
7	834	817	oven	charcoal from oven	50	charred					++	++++	100% charcoal up to 5cm
8	835	817	oven	red burnt layer from oven	5	charred	#		#		+	++	Barley, un-id seed
9	824	825	post-hole	fill of ph with charcoal and burning	20	charred	##	#	##		+++	+++	wheat, barley, . Pea, stinking mayweed, vetch, dock, brome
10	826	827	post-hole	fill of ph with charcoal	15	charred	#				+++	+++	wheat, charcoal
11	840	841	ditch	possible Iron Age ditch	5	charred					++	++	charcoal only
12	848	849	pit	medieval pit	5	charred	#		#		+++	+++	bread wheat, spike rush?, grass seeds
13	820	821	pit	small burnt pit	1	charred							no cpr, fired clay only
14	803	853	pit	burnt silt material from possible pit	20	charred	#		#		++++	+++	wood charcoal, occasional wheat
16	803	853	pit	different area of 803	20	charred	##		#		+++	+	Moderate charcoal, wheat, rye, oats, small and large weed seeds, peas
17	862	851	pit	burnt black fill with visible seeds	70	charred	###	#	#		+++	++	wheat, barley and rye. Self-heal, grass seeds, goosefoot
18	112	113	pit	recovered from section along compound area	10	charred	##		#		+++	+++	Rye, vetch

Table 3 Results of environmental sample assessment

Sample No.		17
Context No.		862
Cut No.		831
Sample size (L)		40
Flot volume (ml)		370
% flot sorted		25
Plant name	Common name	
Cereals		
<i>Avena sp. (grains)</i>	Oat	3
<i>Hordeum sp. (grains)</i>	Barley	24
(rachis nodes)		1
<i>Secale cereale L. (grains)</i>	Rye	4
<i>Triticum sp. (grains)</i>	Wheat	264
(rachis node frags.)		3
Cereal indet. (grains)		43
(basal rachis nodes)		1
Other food plants		
<i>Pisum sativum L.</i>	Peas	1 +7f
Dry land herbs		
<i>Anthemis cotula L.</i>	Stinking mayweed	5
<i>Aphanes arvensis L.</i>	Parsley piert	1

<i>Bromus sp.</i>	Brome	7
<i>Chenopodium album L.</i>	Fat hen	4
<i>C. ficifolium Sm</i>	Fig0leaved goosefoot	12
Chenopodiaceae indet.		31
<i>Lolium sp.</i>	Rye-grass	24
Large Poaceae indet.	Grasses	7
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum L.</i> (<i>siliqua frags.</i>)	Wild radish capsule	1f
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock	5
<i>Thalictrum flavum L.</i>	Meadow rue	1 +7f
<i>Urtica dioica L.</i>	Stinging nettle	1
<i>Vicia sp</i>	Vetch/vetchling	7f
<i>Viola sp.</i>	Pansy	1
Wetland/aquatic plants		
<i>Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl</i>	Saw sedge	1cf
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm		+++
Charcoal >2mm		+++
Charcoal >10mm		++
Indet.seeds		3

Table 4 Quantification results for Sample 17, pit 851/856

Preservation

- D.1.6 All of the samples contain plant remains preserved by carbonisation. Abundant wood charcoal was present in many of the samples.

Plant Remains

Cereals

- D.1.7 Charred cereal grains are present in all of the samples; wheat (*Triticum sp.*) grains predominate with both the rounded and elongated forms of free-threshing wheat present. Barley (*Hordeum sp.*) grains are common but there is no evidence of germination. Oats (*Avena sp.*) and rye (*Secale cereale*) both occur occasionally. Chaff elements in the form of wheat and barley rachis fragments occur occasionally.

Weed seeds

- D.1.8 Samples contain moderate quantities of weed seeds including small weed seeds such as dock (*Rumex sp*), brassicas (*Brassica sp.*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium sp.*), stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), pansy (*Viola sp.*) and the larger seeds of Brome (*Bromus sp.*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium sp.*), vetch (*Vicia sp.*) and grass seeds (Poaceae). A single uncharred seed of bramble (*Rubus sp*) was noted in Sample 17, fill 862.

Legumes

- D.1.9 Peas (*Pisum sp.*) were common in Sample 16, fill 803 (pit 853) and occur occasionally in Sample 17, fill 862 (pit 851/856).

Ecofacts and Artefacts

D.1.10 Pottery sherds occur in four of the samples. Charcoal is common in many of the residues.

Discussion

- D.1.11 The charred plant assemblage is predominantly cereal grains along with occasional weed seeds and legumes and rare occurrences of chaff elements. The absence of other dietary waste in the samples (such as animal bone, oyster shell, egg shell etc.) suggests that these deposits are not derived from the disposal of domestic waste and therefore have a more specific function. The structural morphology and high charcoal content suggests that the features described as kilns or ovens may be what is commonly known as 'corn-driers'. Such features were found at Pilgrims Way (Giorgi 2006). Also dating to the medieval period, these corn-driers contained a similar assemblage of a predominance of wheat grains with a lower proportion of barley grains and occasional weed seeds. The corn driers are described as being multifunctional with grain being accidentally charred during processes such as drying to ripen the grain, hardening to facilitate milling and threshing, preparation of seed corn, fumigation and general reduction of moisture content.
- D.1.12 Wheat grains predominate in this assemblage. In the sample chosen for analysis (Sample 17), the majority of the grains have a small, rounded morphology typical of the free-threshing tetraploid bread/rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*) which is particularly suited to bread making (Grieg 1991). Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have also been used for human consumption in the form of soup/stews and it was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing or malting activities. Barley was used as a whole grain and is often found in refuse deposits in a mixture with other grains. Its presence in the pit adjacent to corn driers is another indication of the multiple uses of these features. Barley grains could have been dried to prevent germination or to reduce the risk of the grain being spoilt by bacterial, fungal or insect attack. Oats and rye occur only occasionally in the assemblage. The oats may actually be a crop contaminant as the distinctive floret bases which could distinguish the cereal as a cultivated crop are absent.
- D.1.13 The poor representation of crop processing waste in the form of chaff suggests that the earlier stages of processing had taken place elsewhere, either in an unexcavated area of the site or the crops may have been brought in already cleaned. The seed assemblage is consistent with what one would generally expect to find amongst cereal crops growing on cultivated land. The weed seeds are from common plant species and may provide further information about agricultural practices, as crop weeds can be indicative of processing stages and methods. Both small and large weed seeds are present in this assemblage which suggests that there are different stages of sieving taking place. The weed seed assemblage is not diverse but some of the species recovered are indicative of the type of soils being cultivated, such as stinking mayweed which is a common weed of crops grown on heavy clay soils. This is another indication that semi-cleaned cereals are being imported. Goosefoots, docks and nettles are all spring-germinating weeds that could have been either crop weeds or part of the local flora. Brome and rye-grass are both common crop-contaminants but may have been tolerated. Alternatively it is just as plausible that these weed seeds could be derived from kindling or fuel used within the corn drier.
- D.1.14 Legumes such as peas (*Pisum sativum*) are a cultivated crop. Legumes are less likely to be burnt accidentally than grain as they do not need to be exposed to heat as cereals do.

- D.1.15 The two main features on the site that have been interpreted as corn driers are **831** and **817**. Three samples (4,5 and 6) were taken from **831** and four samples (1,2,7 and 8) from **817**. Sample 17 was taken from pit 851/856 just to the east of the two corn driers. The archaeobotanical content of both features is similar with both containing charcoal, cereal grains and weed seeds. Sample 17, fill 862 of the pit was chosen for analysis as it contained the most cereal grains. Subsequent flotation of a further twenty litres of bulk soil produced a flot of 300ml volume which is substantially more than the original flot volume of 70ml from the first stage processing of the same volume of soil. This discrepancy can most likely be explained by the methods of flotation. The first twenty litres were processed by tank flotation and a substantial amount of charcoal was retained in the residue, the second twenty litres was floated by hand using the bucket flotation method which has proved more successful at recovering the charred plant remains.
- D.1.16 The other medieval features sampled include pits and post-holes that are most probably contemporary with the corn-driers. The plant assemblages are all broadly similar with charcoal mainly predominating.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- D.1.17 No further work on this assemblage is required.

D.2 Animal bone

By Chris Faine

- D.2.1 Animal bone from two contexts comprised of small fragments (4g) were recovered from the watching brief and excavation. A slightly burnt bone piece of tibia of a sheep or pig from context 824 (3g). The very small decaying fragments (1g) of a small bone from context 855 shows that although the site's soil conditions were not helpful, large bones should have survived.

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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-77751			
Project Name	Medieval Fields and 'corn-dryers' at land off Warren Lane, Ashford, Kent			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	16-11-2009	Finish	29-11-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XKT WLA 09	Planning App. No.	07/00660/AS
HER No.	N/A	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ovens	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
pits, ditches and PH	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...	pottery, A bone etc	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Kent	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Ashford		
Parish	Ashford		
HER	Kent		
Study Area	0.93ha	National Grid Reference	TR 600212 143581

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	N/A
Project Design Originator	Heritage Conservation Group (Kent County Council)
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Tam Webster

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
XKT WLA 09	XKT WLA 09	XKT WLA 09

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Evaluation Trench	—————
Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Illustrated Section	————— S.14
Archaeological Feature	
Excavated Slot	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Sample Number	

Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	—————
Cut-Conjectured	- - - - -
Deposit Horizon	—————
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Top Surface/Top of Natural	—————
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD 

Convention Key

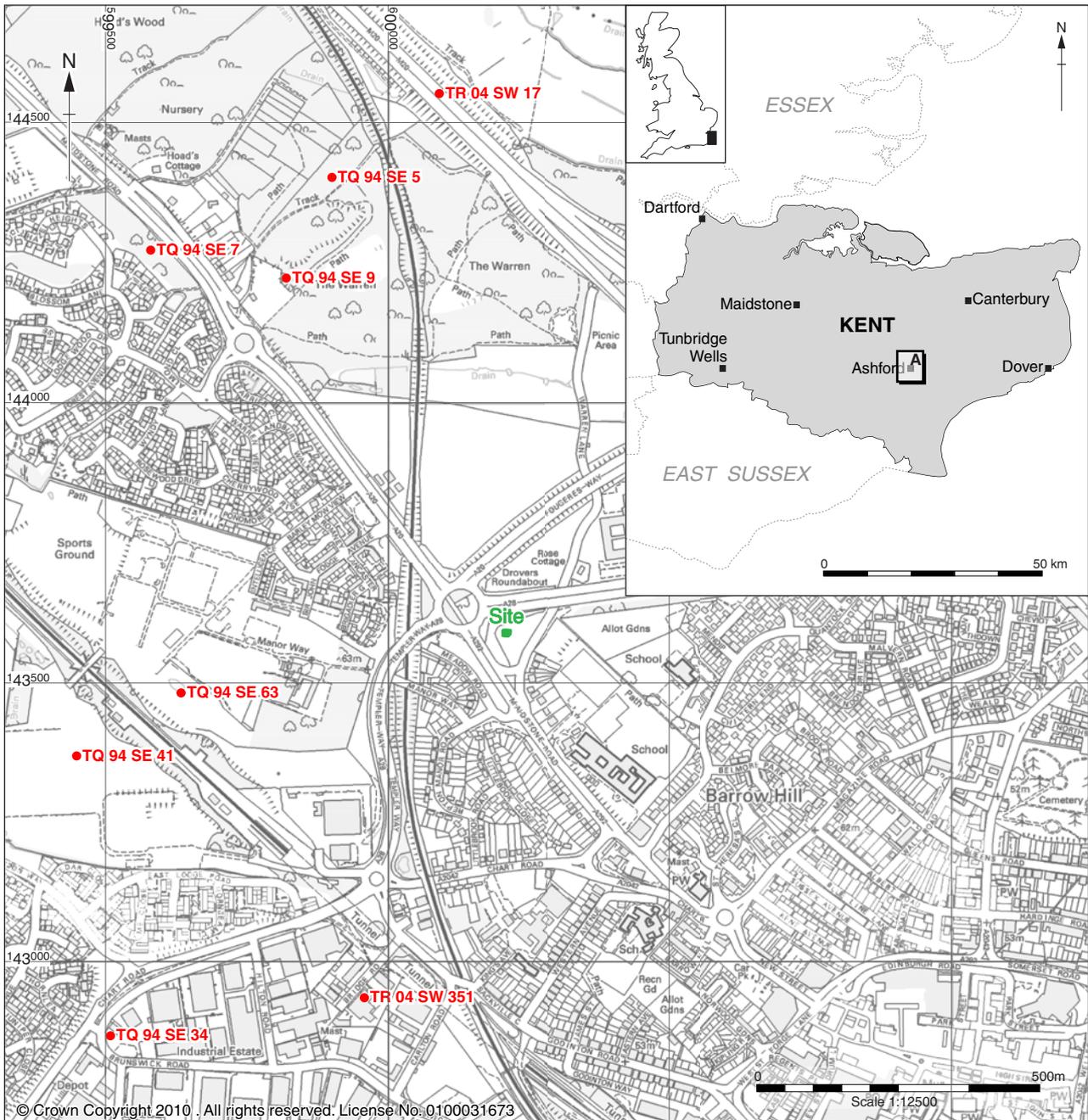


Figure 1: Location of the site and HER data in relation to the site

- Foundation trenches observed
- Archaeological features
- Top and subsoil strip
- Topsoil bunds
- Trees



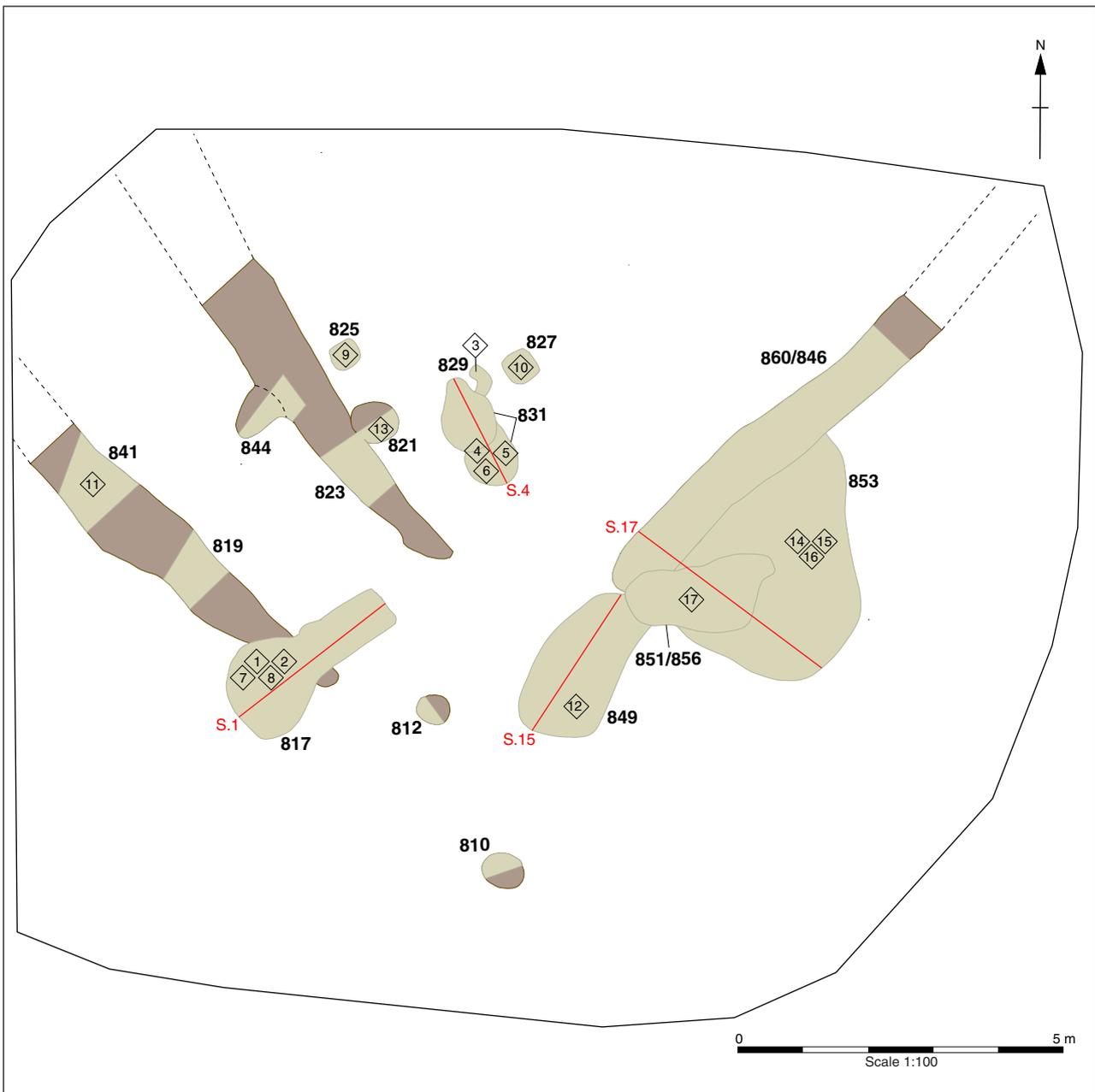


Figure 3: Plan of features within Area 8

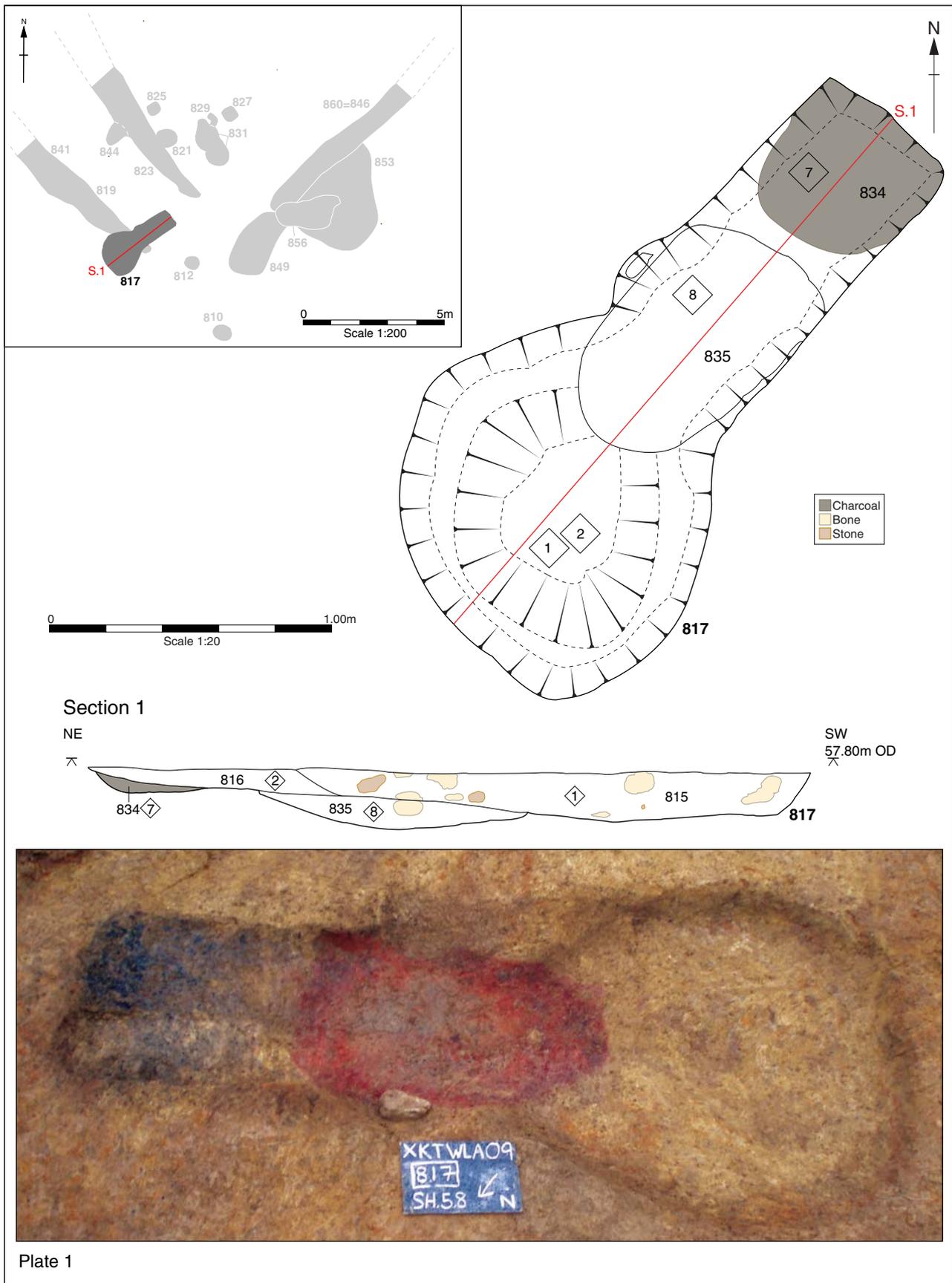


Figure 4: Plan, section and plate (looking south-east) of oven 817

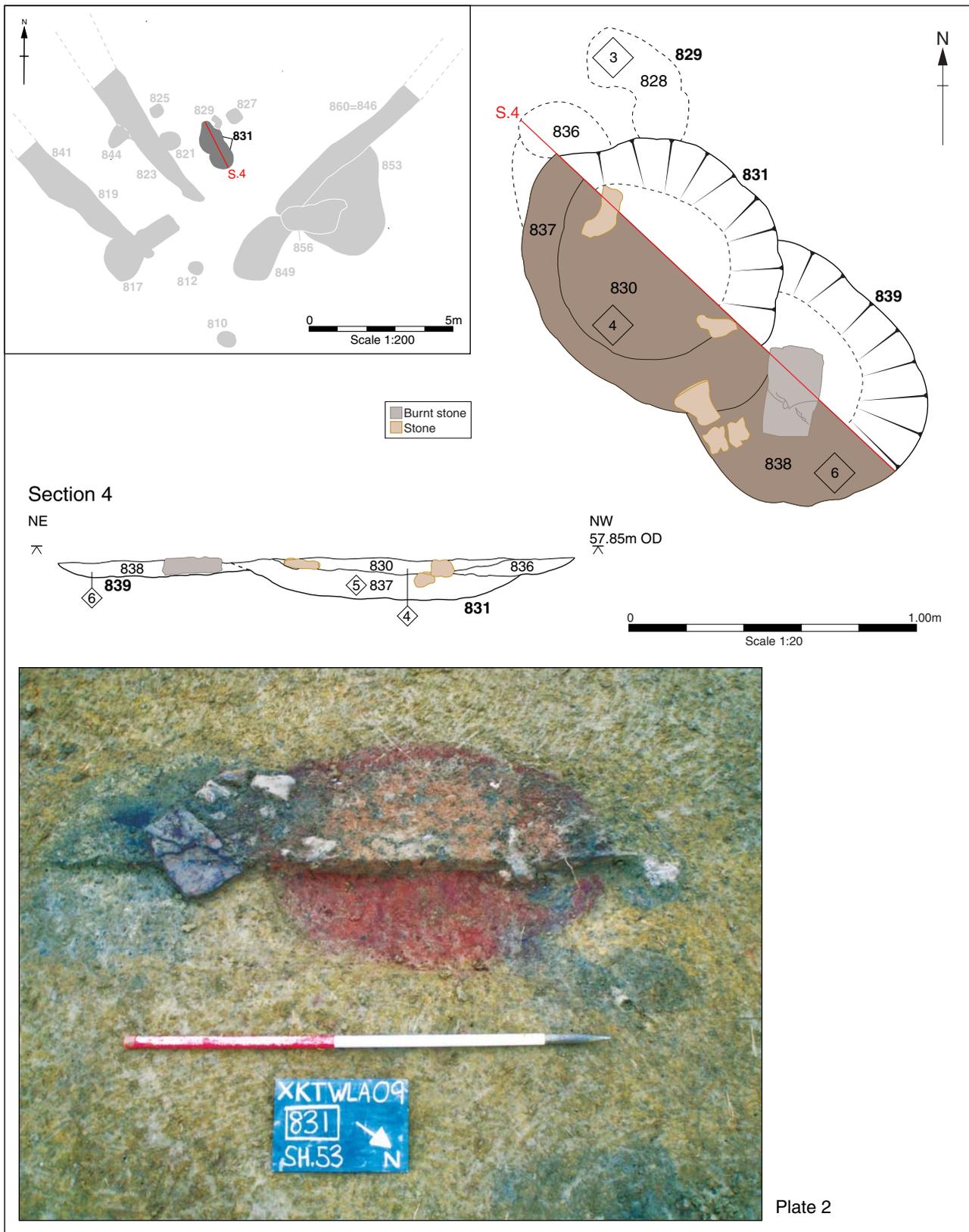


Figure 5: Plan of oven ; Section 4 across oven ; Plate 2 oven looking south-west

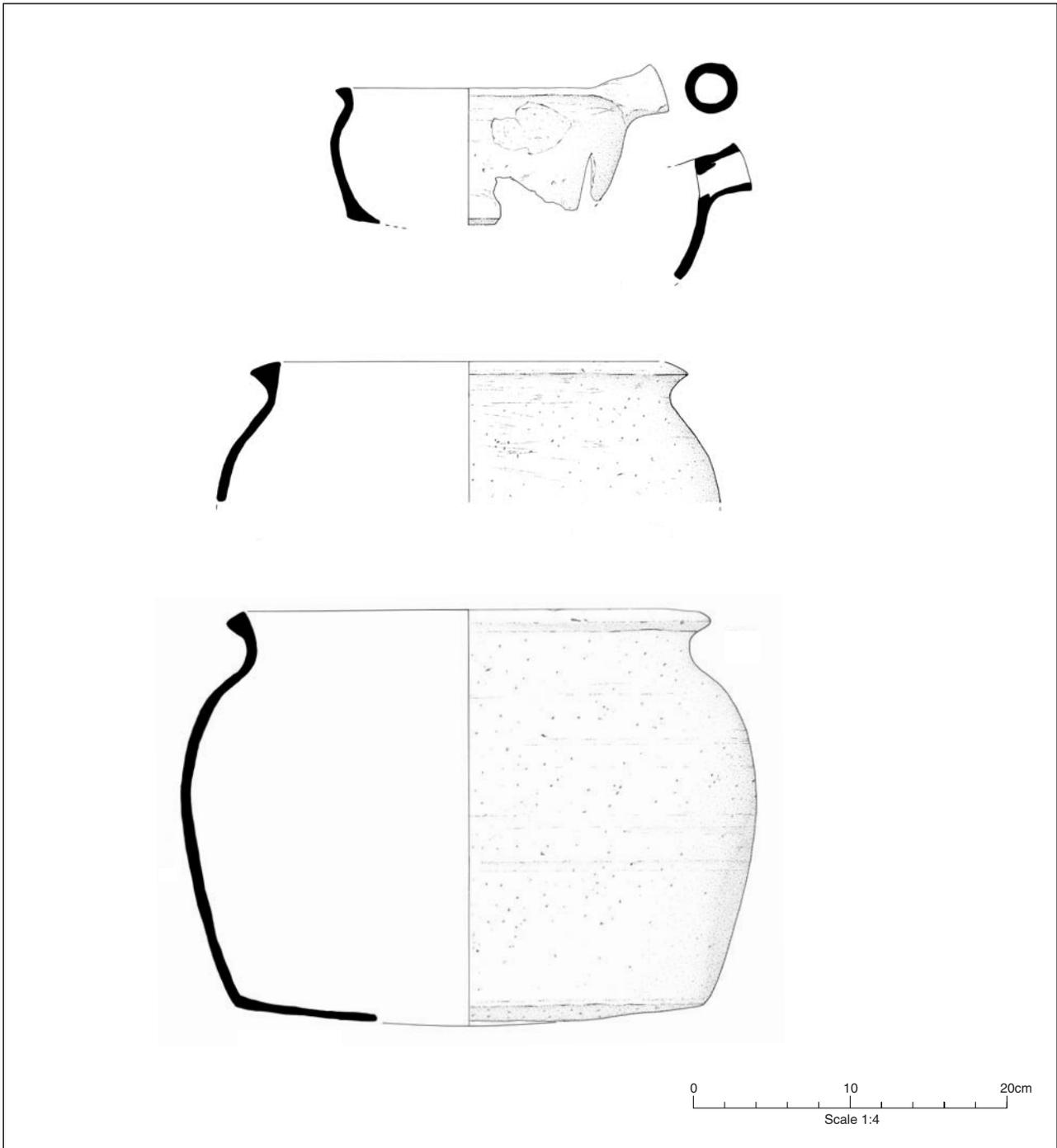


Figure 7: Medieval pottery at scale 1:4, from context 855, pit 856



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