Mapping the Archaeology of Ringmer Parish to AD1349

by David H Millum

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David H Millum, MA, BA Hons

Revised Landscape Edition -

CONTENTS

Abstract

This report forms the first phase of a chronological synthesis of the archaeological evidence from the parish of Ringmer. It brings together the data of those periods from the prehistoric to the early medieval from a variety of sources including the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER), the Portable Antiquities Scheme, published and 'grey-literature' reports, historical documents and maps, together with some first-hand accounts of excavations and artefact appraisals.

It not only seeks to report this information in a logical and easily accessible form for future researchers to use and amend but specifically to illustrate the data in a series of thematic maps. It will assess the potential and vulnerability of the archaeology and prioritise future research needs and suggest appropriate methodology.

Whilst primarily written as a MA dissertation for the Field Archaeology programme at the University of Sussex, it will also provide an archaeological desk-based assessment of Ringmer parish for inclusion in the ESHER and be an accessible framework for future research in this area.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance given by Casper Johnson & Greg Chuter (County Archaeologist's Dept), John Kay (Ringmer History Study Group), David Gregory (Lewes Archaeological Group) and Luke Barber and all at Barbican House (Sussex Archaeological Society).

All photographs and drawings are the author's unless otherwise referenced**.** All the maps were produced by the author using ArcGIS 9.2. under licence from the University of Sussex, except those designated ESHER which were produced using the facilities and data direct from the East Sussex County Council.

This unpublished report is a revised landscape edition of a dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of a MA in Field Archaeology at the University of Sussex.

For details of the availability of this report in CD or pdf format, or for arranging an illustrated talk by the author please contact: *davidmillum@mypostoffice.co.uk*.

List of GIS generated thematic maps

List of Tables

The front cover shows various artefacts found within Ringmer parish comprising: a Mesolithic tranchet adze an Iron Age silver coin attributed to Commios (PAS ref. SUSS-B2DB01), a Cnut Silver penny minted by Eadwine at Lewes, c.1029-1036 (PAS ref. SUSS-F5D233) and part of an early 14th century enamelled horse harness (PAS ref. SUSS-E6C5C1).

1. INTRODUCTION

'What actually happens to the data accumulated has been a secondary issue. The secondary issue needs to become primary.'
(Tilley, 1989)

1.1. Background to the project

This desk-based assessment of the archaeology of the parish of Ringmer in East Sussex has been undertaken to fulfil two objectives: primarily it is a final dissertation for the M.A. Field Archaeology programme at the University of Sussex, but secondly it provides a synthetic data source accessible to the wider community and a useful addition to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER).

Over the last decade Sussex has been the subject of two major historic characterisation projects, the county wide Historic Landscape Characterisation (Sussex HLC) produced by Dr Nicola Bannister and the Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) written by Dr Roland Harris. Both projects were sponsored by English Heritage (EH) and were developed using a modern geographical information system (GIS) to provide information to planners and countryside managers on the key historic and archaeological features within their areas and facilitate inclusion of historic environment considerations within the planning process (Clark *et al*, 2004, p. 5). Both projects have become established data sources within the ESHER and valuable aids for planners, local historians and archaeological contractors.

However the Sussex HLC by its county-wide nature, whilst offering a vast resource of desk-compiled data, can only give a '*broad-brush'* overview of the historic landscape, especially as it recorded only individual areas in excess of 2 hectares and was not subject to any comprehensive fieldwork. It is currently only available in a GIS format and was not designed to provide detailed answers to questions about features at a parochial level (Bannister, 2004a, p. 14; 2004b, p. 3). HLCs are produced using a retrogressive approach, starting with the present landscape and working backwards in time and downwards in scale (Rippon, 2004, p. 3).

The Sussex EUS programme has a more local foundation as it provides detailed information on the history and archaeology of

41 urban centres throughout Sussex in a series of published reports. Use of a GIS allowed both the holding and analysing of the collected data and the production of a wide range of clear thematic maps covering various aspects and periods (Hammond, 2004).

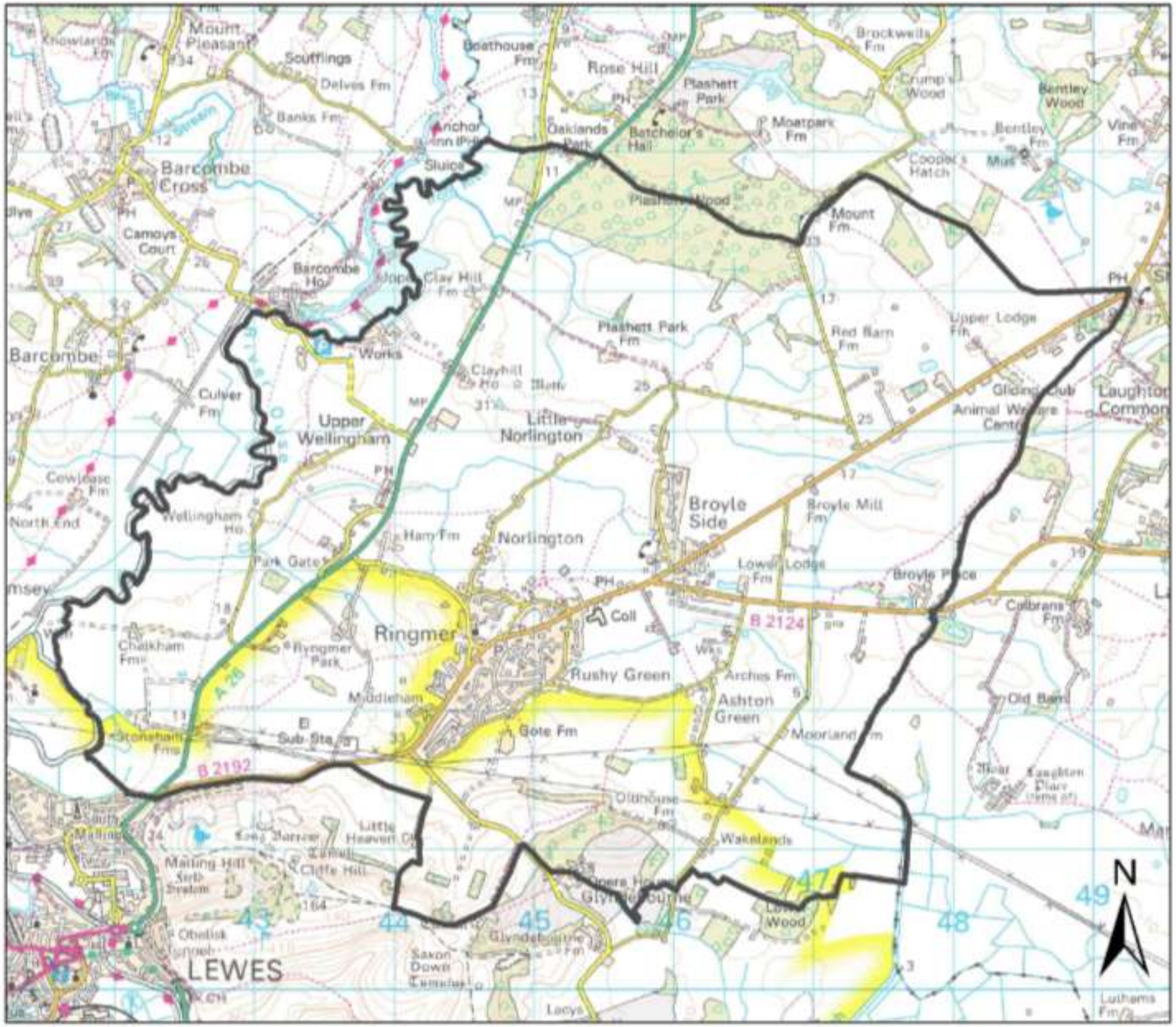
Many rural parishes, which were not included in the Sussex EUS programme, have involved histories and areas of archaeological interest which are not adequately detailed in the Sussex HLC. Some have been the subject of independent study programmes such as Barcombe and Hamsey (Sussex Archaeological Society, 2007) and many have active local history groups. But this leaves these communities without an easily accessible, comprehensive assessment of their archaeological heritage. One such community, highlighted by the County Archaeologist as deserving such an assessment, is Ringmer, a parish of great archaeological interest which has been the subject of considerable residential development during the last half century and is currently under threat of a large water reservoir scheme.

This report will complement the HLC and EUS approaches by building up a more detailed picture from the results of past archaeological investigations. It will facilitate clearer understanding of the evolution of the parish and promote the preservation of its archaeological heritage. Copies of the report will be submitted for inclusion in the ESHER and the Sussex Archaeological Society library at the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

The above considerations have resulted in this report which combines a synthesis of current archaeological knowledge, a brief historical background, and a comprehensive range of GIS produced thematic maps, in a form suitable for both academic submission and subsequent wider consultation.

1.2. Area covered by the report (Map 1)

The report focuses on the 2590 hectares within the current parish boundary of Ringmer, East Sussex. References will be made to specific areas outside this boundary where it is considered pertinent to assist understanding of the core area.



The Ringmer Archaeological assessment

Map 1: Survey area on modern OS map

Legend

Ringmer area

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

1.3. Aims and objectives

The aim of this report is to provide an easily accessible guide to the known archaeology within Ringmer parish, prioritising areas meriting further research and fostering a greater understanding and interest in the historic environment. It is aimed to be of assistance to managers and researchers for both academic and practical implementation, whilst still of interest to the casual reader.

A list of the key objectives of the project:

- a synthesis of archaeological work from information gathered from a wide variety of sources:
- the provision of a basic historical context:
- the use of a GIS database allowing the interweaving of various themes facilitating both interpretation and the production of an informative map series:
- a presentation of the development of the parish in the map series:
- an assessment of the data presented within the map series:
- a prioritisation of the potential and vulnerability of the archaeology for each period and selected locations:
- an assessment of the investigation methods appropriate to enhance the current understanding of the archaeology of the area:
- the production of a document which would be of value to, the historic environment record (ESHER) managed by the archaeology section of East Sussex County Council, members of local archaeology and history groups, plus other researchers and consultants.
- the provision of a model which may be suitable as a base for similar projects.

1.4. Research methodology

The first priority was to establish a project design laying out those procedures necessary within the evident limitations to produce the desired result in accordance with the standards set by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2008).

This procedure highlighted the desirability of undertaking the project in two phases in order to ultimately provide a comprehensive document whilst meeting the academic timetable. This dissertation therefore includes the general introduction plus the synthesis of the period from Prehistory to 1349, the end of the Early Medieval period, leaving later periods to be researched and added in due course. The report will also be amended and updated following any fieldwork undertaken during the winter of 2011. The winter season being a time when agricultural land will be more accessible and potential archaeology more visible, especially on newly ploughed and harrowed arable fields (Aston & Rowley, 1974, p. 30).

The key objectives of the project necessitated that the initial phase of the research was a thorough desk-based assessment (DBA) of the existing published and archived archaeological and historical data. Initial research included the inspection of selected historic maps and aerial photographs which added a crucial visual element to the project. It is anticipated that this aspect will subsequently be enhanced by a series of walk-over, reconnaissance-level, surveys (Bowden, 1999, pp. 44-47) during the fieldwork stage of the project when surface features can be located by a hand-held GPS device, photographed and recorded.

The accumulated desk-based data was entered into a series of Microsoft Office, Excel database files categorized by chronological periods and broad character types. This facilitated its use within the GIS for the vital map generation and helped determine in which chronological section the detailed description should appear.

1.5. Report structure

Whilst the report broadly follows the structure of the Sussex EUS reports, a major variation is the use of chronological periods as the primary dividers in order to facilitate a closer unity between the archaeology of any period and its historical context.

Academic requirements dictated that the main text of the report should be restricted to 15000 words and referenced following the Harvard system with a citation within the text and bibliography in a reference section at the end of the report.

Small plans, maps and tables are integrated into the text as closely as practical after their first reference with the full-page, GIS-generated maps being inserted at the earliest appropriate location, usually at the end of the appropriate section.

1.6. Principal sources

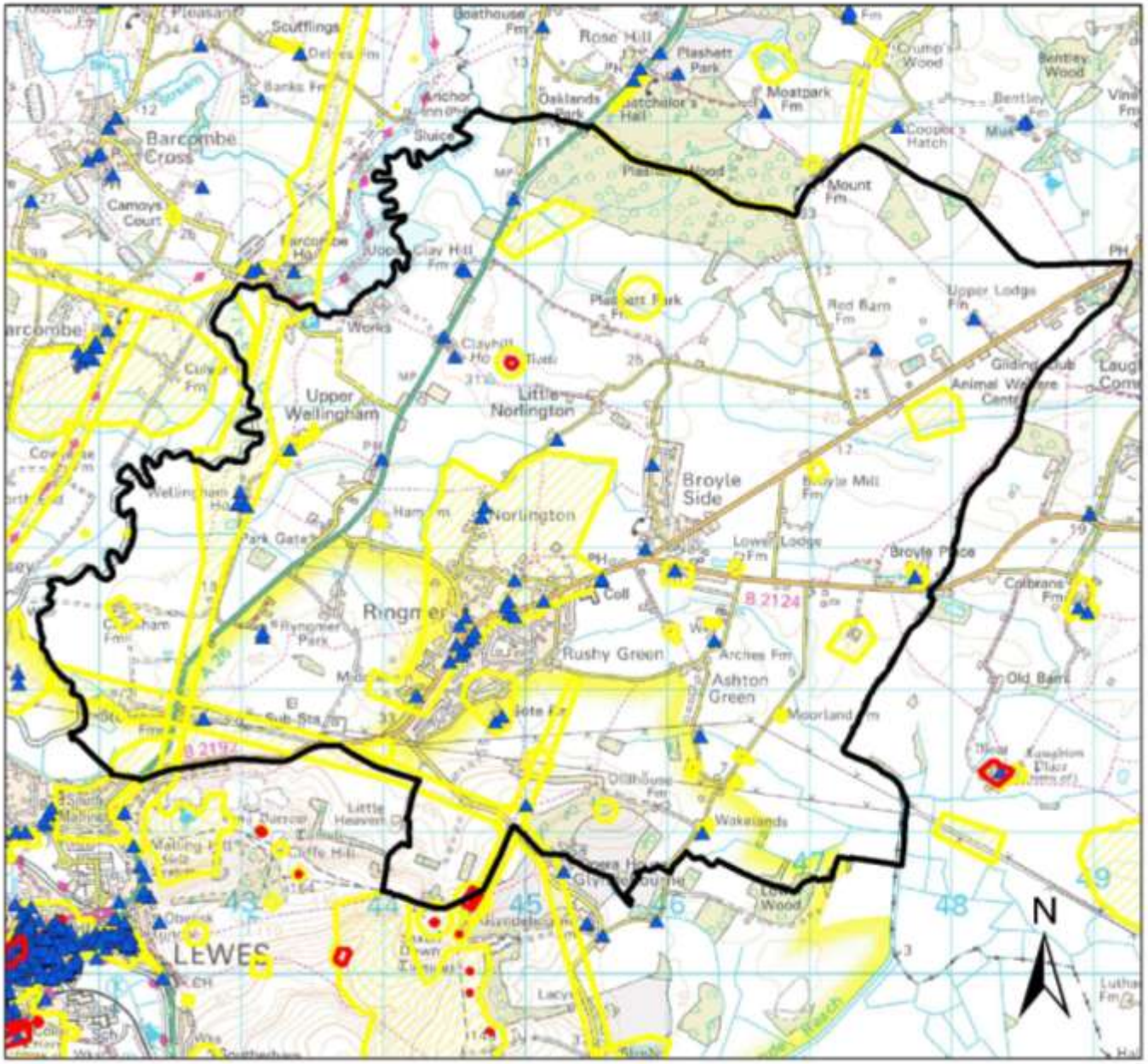
This section gives an introduction to the principal sources used in the preparation of this report. More specific information will be found in individual citations within the main text and the associated reference list.

1.6.1. Archaeology (Maps 2-6)

An overview of each period was established by general reading of existing literature with three sources being influential, Drewett *et al* (1988), Leslie and Short (1999) and Rudling (2003). The principal source for archaeological data has been the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER). Open access to this database became an essential tool whilst also benefiting the heritage record as the researcher firstly needed to enter a backlog of records and then update and introduce other data collected during research. The ESHER contains regularly updated data from both the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) although further checks were made using the PAS www.finds.org.uk and the NMR www.heritagegateway.org.uk websites. The ESHER also contains data from The Schedule of Ancient Monuments, and the registers of Historic Parks and Gardens, Battlefields and Listed Buildings. It records the locally designated Archaeological Notification Areas (ANAs), denoting locations of high archaeological priority **(Map 2)** and the East Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation **(Maps 3 & 4)**

Unpublished grey literature reports relating to archaeological events in the area were also mostly accessed via the ESHER with others requested from the archaeological contracting unit or author.

For published reports the journal and periodicals produced by the Sussex Archaeological Society together with those of the Lewes Archaeological Group and Ringmer History Study Group were invaluable. The former now has a digitised index allowing word searches of both titles and subjects which greatly facilitates initial research.



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

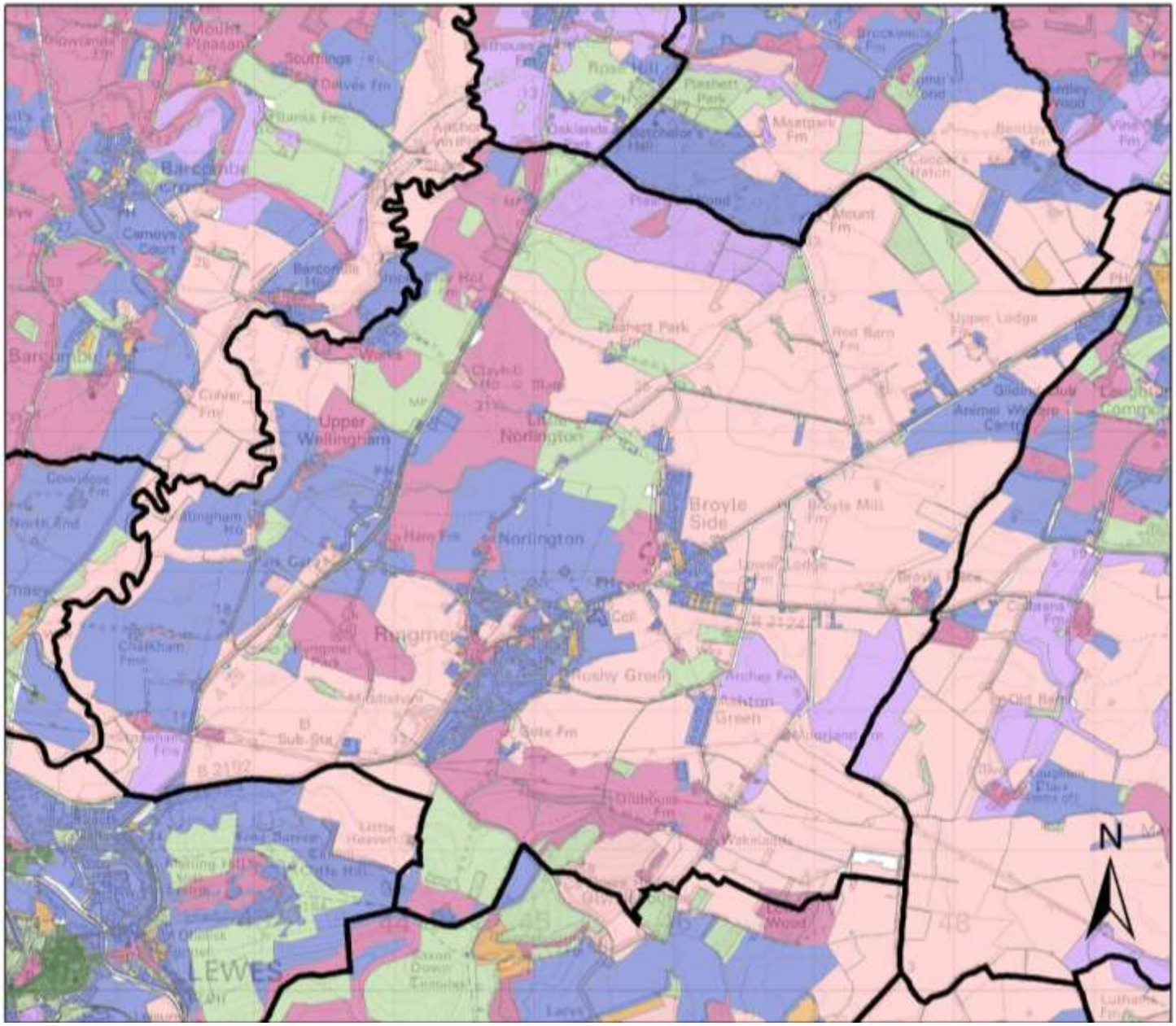
Map 2: ESHER Designated Areas

Legend

- Ringmer area
- Archaeological Notifiable Areas
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Building
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Registered Battlefields

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological assessment

Map 3: ESHER HLC periods

Legend

- Parish Boundaries

HLC full coverage

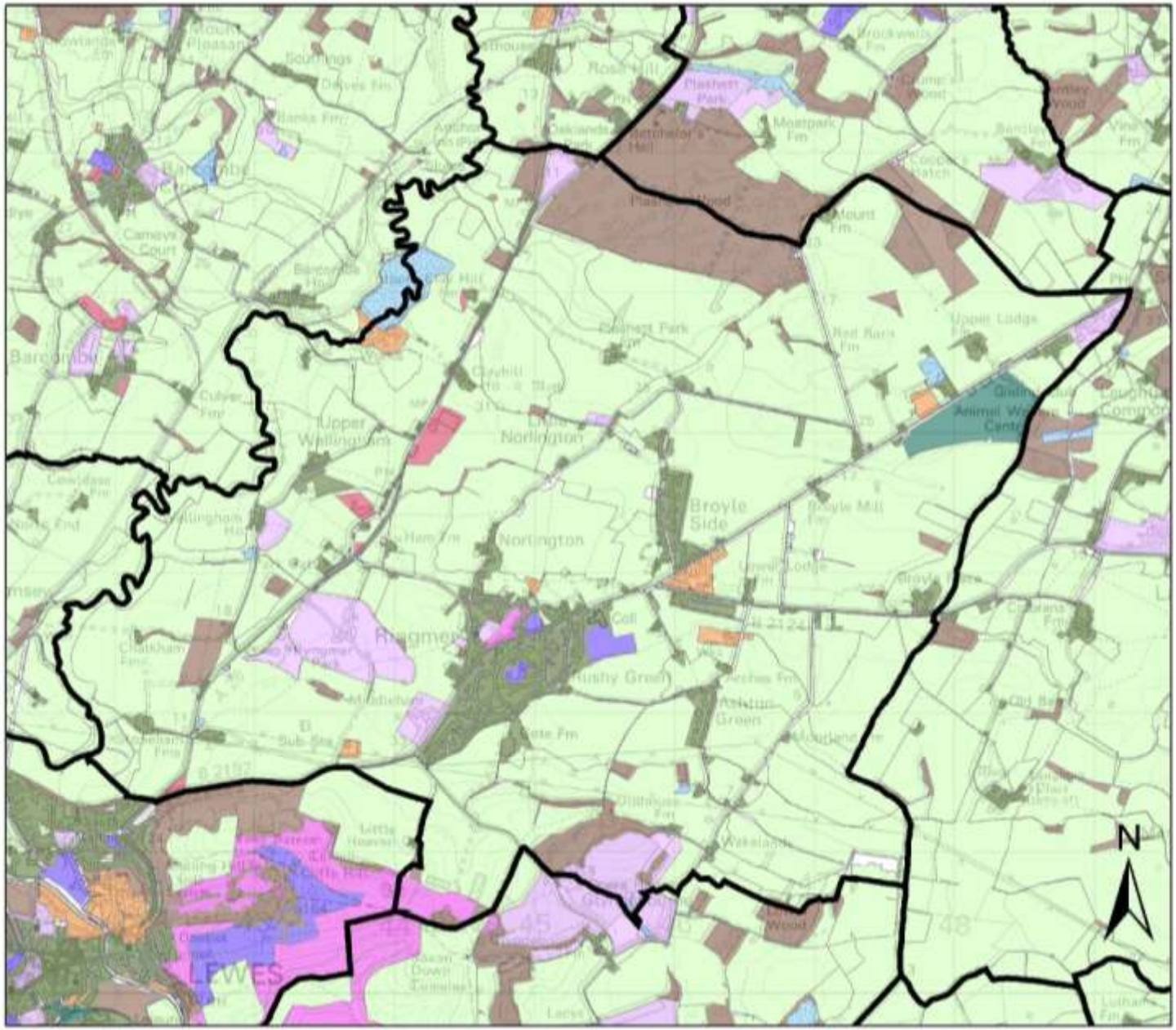
PERIOD

- Early 20th century (AD 1914- AD 1945)
- Early Medieval (AD 410- 1065)
- Early Modern (AD 1800- AD 1913)
- Early Post-Medieval (AD 1500- 1599)
- Late 20th century (AD 1845- Present)
- Late Post-Medieval (AD 1600- AD 1799)
- Medieval (AD 1066- 1499)
- Prehistoric (500,000 BC -AD 42)
- Roman (AD 43 -AD 409)

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

HLC data from ESHER



The Ringmer Archaeological assessment

Map 4: ESHER HLC character (land-use)

Legend

- Parish Boundaries

HLC full coverage

Character

- Communications
- Designed Landscapes
- Fieldscapes
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Military
- Recreation
- Settlement
- Unimproved/Unenclosed
- Water
- Woodland

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

HLC data from ESHER

Much valuable information on the medieval pottery industry was gained from unpublished sources, a thesis (Streeten, 1984), a letter to ESCC (Kay, 2000) and interviews with local archaeologists including David Gregory and Luke Barber.

Margary (1948) is still the most influential source for the Roman roads of Sussex although recent excavations at Barcombe (Wallace, 2007) and Arlington (Chuter *et al*, 2008) have revealed sections of roads which show a greater network than previously suggested.

In 2010 the ESHER listed 35 event records of archaeological investigation (**Map 5)** including information on the following excavations that are key to an appreciation of Ringmer's past.

In the 1890s an excavation of 2 kilns in Potter's Field (Martin, 1902) first highlighted Ringmer as an area potentially rich in archaeology from the medieval period. This early work was built on in the 1980s excavation of an early medieval pottery kiln and waster heap in Barnetts Mead (Hadfield, 1981) which started to reveal the scope of this industry and provided a scientifically produced date for the site. Then in 1994 a further kiln and waster heap was excavated at Norlington which added a further scientifically processed date (Gregory, 1995).

More recently there have been investigations by commercial archaeological units for the planned reservoir at the Clay Hill (Dawkes, 2007) and the Ouse Valley Transfer pipe installation, indicated by the event line across the south of the parish (**Map 5)** (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009). These have shown that results can be obtained from the larger area investigations that development projects require under the PPG 16 planning legislation, now continued under the new PPS 5. These larger landscape projects whilst not always giving the detailed results of smaller intensive excavations provide valuable data in interpreting the wider settlement patterns of an area.

Much of the archaeological data gained since 1990 comes from developer led projects as a structured part of the planning process whilst earlier investigations were carried out for either research or rescue. This implies differing techniques, aims and demands, as well as differences in the levels of ability and recording, which must be regarded in any interpretation.

The monuments record was fortunately extracted in both spreadsheet and pdf form allowing both dynamic analysis and the ability to print out significant pages. This included 89 designated monument sites **(Map 6)** plus 264 finds spots. Most of the finds spots were without archaeological context referring to items found by non-systematic metal detecting.

1.6.2. History

Historical research was hampered by Volume 8 of the *Victoria County History,* which will include Ringmer as part of the rape of Pevensey, being as yet unpublished. However some useful information was found in Volume 2 as this deals with the ancient industries of Sussex of which pottery and forestry were most prominent (Salzmann, 1907a). *Domesday Book: Sussex* (Morris, 1976) was also of limited assistance as the manor of *Mellinges* (South Malling) is listed as a single entity being held by Archbishop Lanfranc.

The Custumals of the Archbishop's Manors in Sussex (Redwood & Wilson, 1958) which records a translation of the Latin text of both the 1285 custumal and 1305 rental record, including the '*borghs*' of South Malling, was very helpful with regard early medieval data.

For general historical background, especially with regard the Saxon and early medieval periods, various works by Peter Brandon (1974; 1978; 1998) were instructive as were detailed papers by members of the Ringmer History Study Group, in particular John Bleach (1982) and John Kay (2000).

Place-name evidence, particularly in reference to Saxon settlement, was mainly taken from Mawer and Stenton (1930) amended by reference to Dodgson (1978), Gelling (1984) and Coates (1987).

1.6.3. Historic buildings

Ringmer has 44 buildings listed by English Heritage as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest with one, Little Manor, listed as Grade II* (English Heritage, 2006). This list proved not totally comprehensive and in compiling a more definitive picture John Kay's local knowledge was of great assistance with further detailed information on specific properties obtained from reports by the Wealden Buildings

Study Group. Information from the standard work, Nairn and Pevsner (1965) restricted their observations chiefly to details of Ringmer Church which is the only Grade I listing and the only building having standing evidence from the pre 1349 period and therefore of relevance to the first phase of this report.

1.6.4. Geology and topography

The map image of the solid geology was principally derived from the *British Geological Survey 1:50000 digital data download* from EDiNA Digimap.

The map images are based on current Ordnance Survey *Mastermap topographic data* also from EDiNA Digimap (OS, 2010). Analysis was also made of historic OS maps to investigate changing landscape features of the 19th and 20th centuries which also assisted an understanding of much earlier periods.

Historic maps, including those by John Speede, 1610 (SAS, CM54), Emanuel Bowen, 1720 (SAS, CM74), Thomas Marchant, 1760-1767 (ESRO, SAS ACC 0929/15 and GBN/9/8), Yeakell and Gardner, 1778-1783 (www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webpage/sussexmap) and William Figg, 1843 (ESRO, TDE137), provided a picture of the landscape often far earlier than their publication date. However reference to their original purpose, which may not have required topographic accuracy, must always be considered. In the case of the last 2 mentioned above, the accuracy was such that it was possible to rectify them to the modern National Grid using ArcGIS 9.2's geo-referencing system to allow direct comparison with the current mapping (Figure 1.5.1;)

Printed Maps of Sussex by D. Kingsley (1982) proved very useful in the search for relevant maps as was the National Archives website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/**a2a.**

Vertical and oblique aerial photographs of the area held by ESHER and the University of Sussex were inspected during the research, with the collections of the NMR at Swindon and the Unit for Landscape Modelling Air Photography Library at Cambridge University highlighted as valuable sources for further investigation. Selected photographs were used to help locate features using data gained from other sources such as the ESHER, historic maps and excavation reports (Figure 1.5.2.). This area of research was deliberately selective in order to avoid potential duplication with another dissertation project by a

fellow MA student carrying out stereoscopic projection of aerial photographs in areas of the Low Weald, including Ringmer (R. Nesbitt-Dufort, pers. comm.).

Figure 1.5.1. *Digital image showing the 1843 tithe map after geo-referencing (rectification) to the modern OS grid (ESRO, TD E 137, 1843; OS, 2010).*

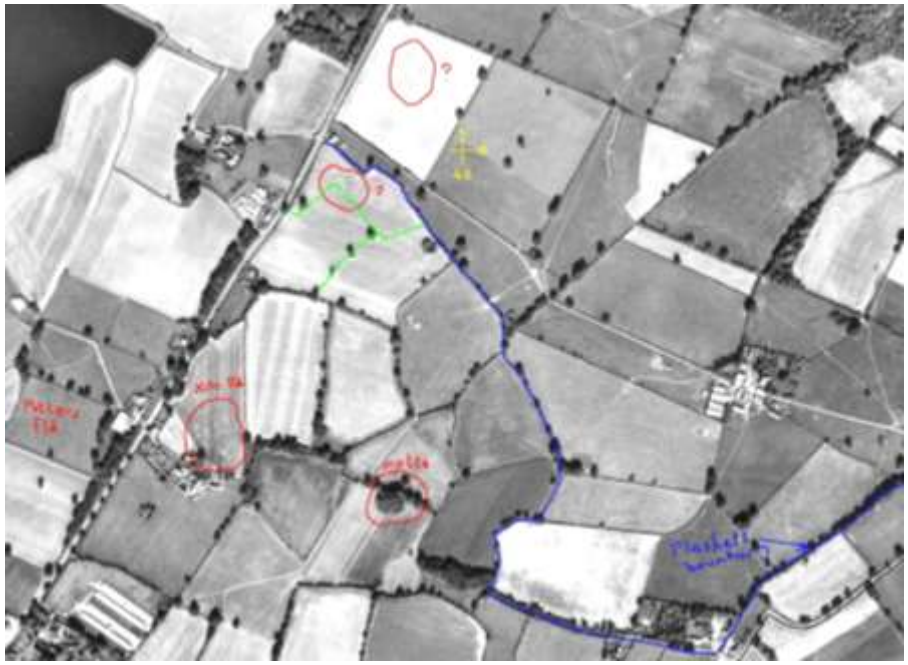
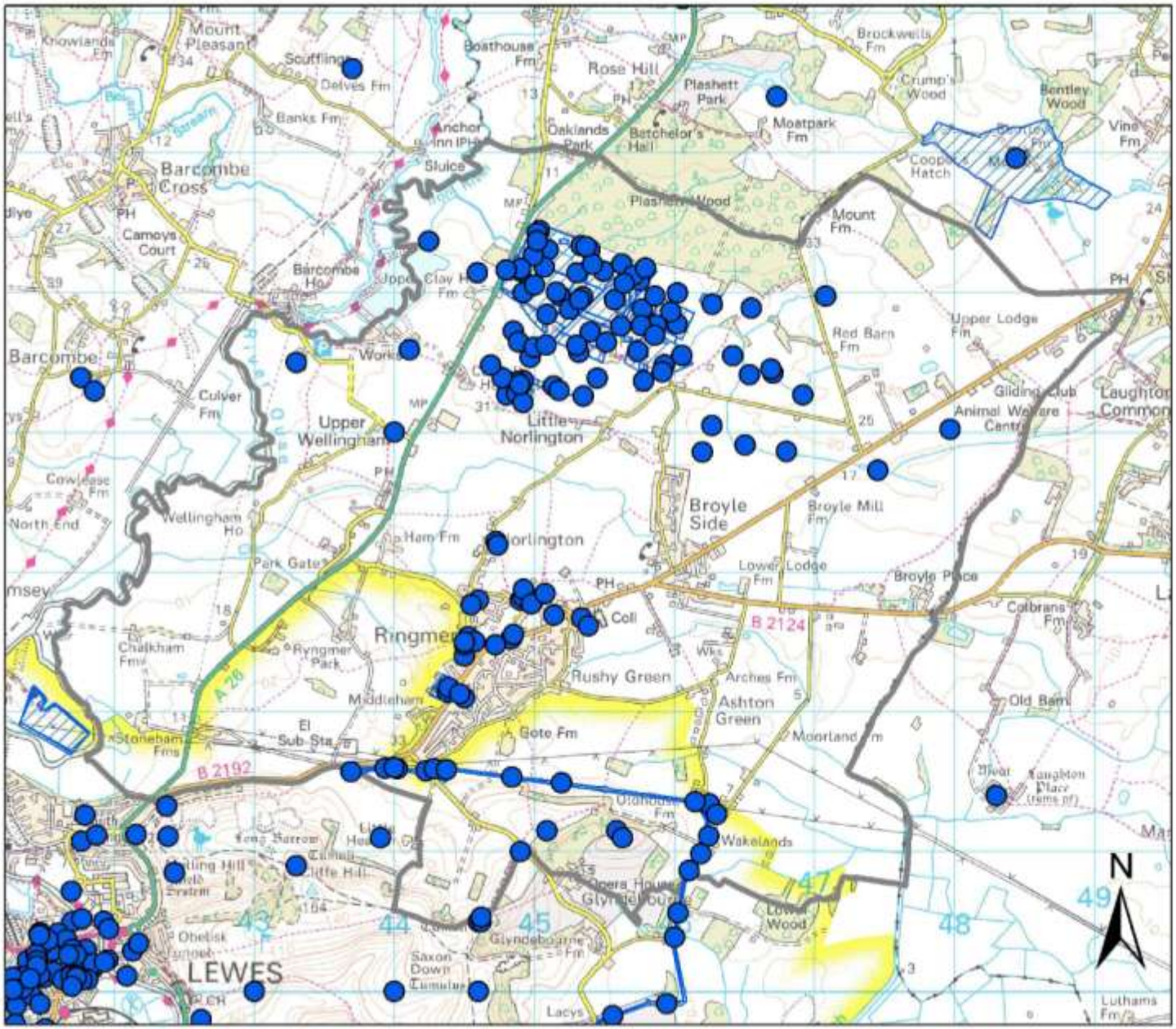


Figure 1.5.2. *Part of an aerial photograph showing Clay hill supplied by the Unit for Landscape Modelling Air Photography Library, Cambridge University reference RC811042, dated 8th Oct 1985. Areas of interest are roughly marked in red, plus data from the tithe map of 1843; the Plashett Park boundary marked blue and removed field boundaries in green The markings demonstrate part of the process used in trying to locate the circular tumulus recorded as MES 4514 in the ESHER on the SW boundary of Plashett Park within 500m of TQ4515 (yellow cross with north arrow) This reference is believed to refer to a separate earthwork to the motte .*

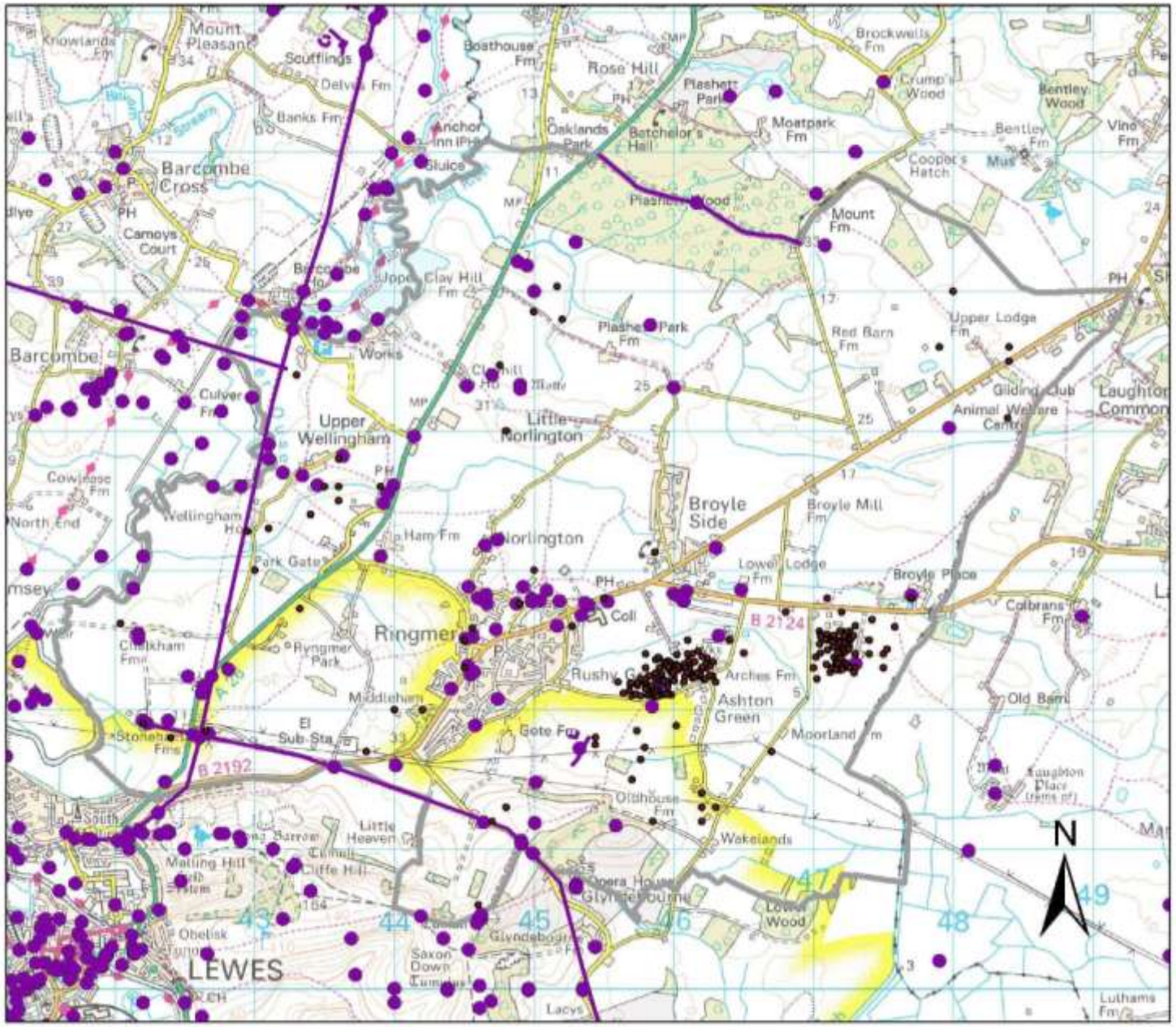


The Ringmer Archaeological assessment

Map 5: ESHER Archaeological Event Sites

Legend

- Event (point)
- Event (line)
- Event (poly)
- Ringmer area



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 6: ESHER archaeological monument sites and finds spots

Legend

- Finds spots
- Monument site
- Roman roads
- Ringmer parish boundary

2. SETTING

2.1. Location

Ringmer parish is situated just north-east of the county town of Lewes in East Sussex (Figure 2.1.1) where the River Ouse has made a gap through the South Downs on its way to the English Channel, 9k to the south.

Figure 2.1.1. *Showing the location of Ringmer parish within Lewes District and South East England. (OS, 2010).*

2.2. Topography (Maps 1, 7 & 10)

The parish is a rough rhombus in shape bounded by two influential features, the River Ouse on the west and the ridge of Downs to the south. It mostly lies within the Low Weald with ground levels between 5m OD by the Ouse to 35m on the west side of Ringmer village, but rising steeply to 135m in the vicinity of Saxon Cross on the Downs.

Ringmer village is situated centrally within the southern third of the parish **(Map 1)** astride the Lewes to Tonbridge road and is now the centre of the community having developed mainly to the east of the village green during the latter half of the 20th century. It provides the parish church, schools, shops, public houses and leisure facilities for the parish.

Whilst Ringmer village grew, the four former dispersed hamlets of Ashton, Gote & Middleham, Norlington and Wellingham, which appear to predate the village (Brandon, 1974, p. 88), stagnated into dispersed farming communities. The parish chiefly comprises of moderate quality farmland, used for arable and pasture, with a band of better quality land at the scarp foot, and some pockets of ancient woodland reflecting its parkland heritage, particularly Plashett Wood to the north (**Map 10**).

A list of OS benchmarks within the parish has been compiled from data downloaded from the Ordnance Survey website to provide assistance to future archaeological fieldwork (Appendix 7.2). This data has been added to the GIS and is shown as a series of ground levels on **Map 7**.

2.3. Geology (Maps 8-10)

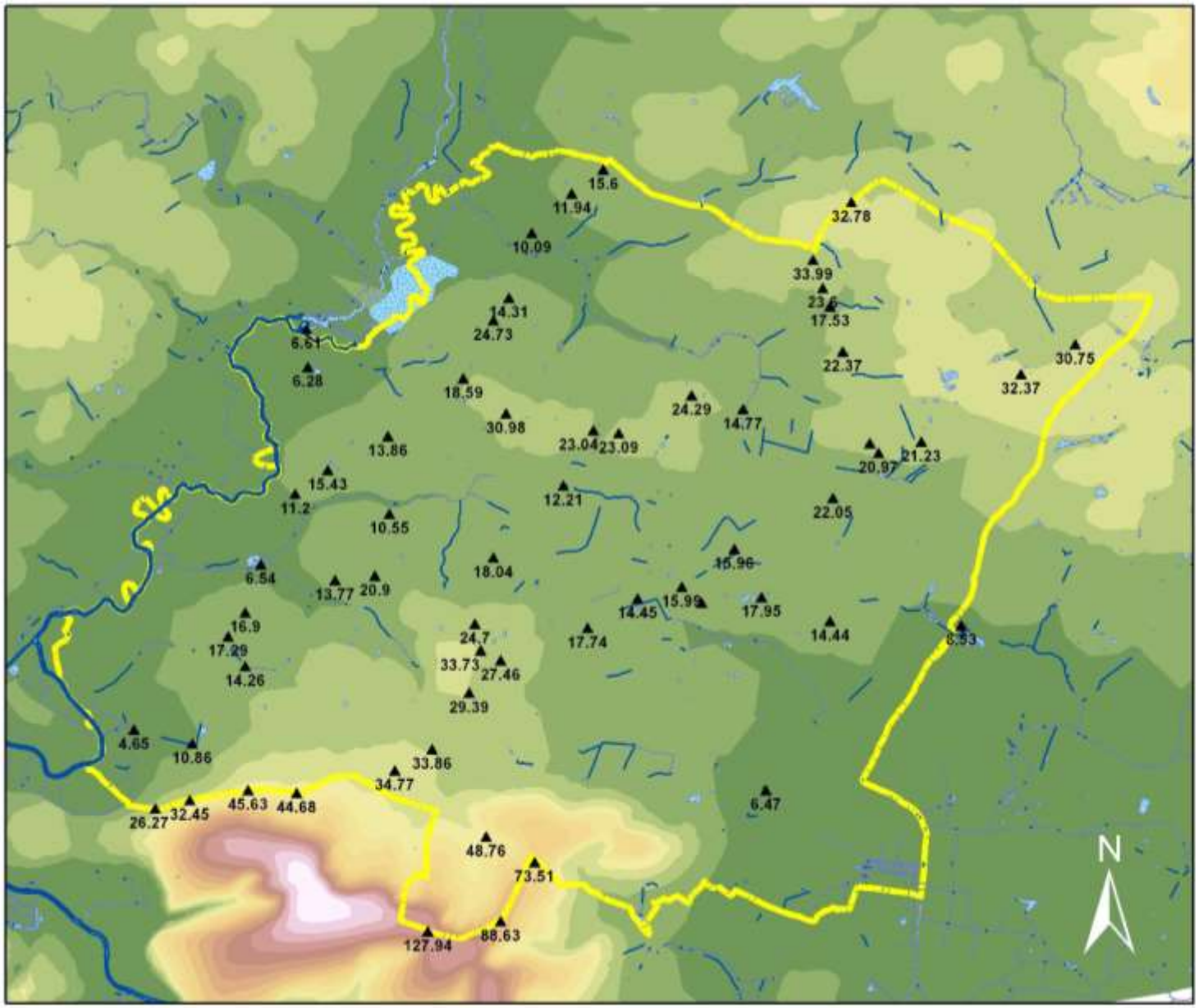
2.3.1. Solid and drift geology (Map 8)

The underlying rock structure of the parish, as general in the South East, is sedimentary. The geology comprises four main bands running east-west across the parish, the largest to the north being of weald clay, overlain to the south by bands of lower greensand, gault and chalk respectively. Overlying the solid geology are areas of drift deposits and alluvium. All have been used by man as valuable resources at various periods.

2.3.2. Soils (Maps 9 & 10)

Each geological formation has produced a distinctive soil overlaying it. The chalk Downs are covered with a thin layer of highly calcareous rendzinas containing fragments of chalk and flint which under vegetation can be dark brown to black. The thinness and fragility of this cover together with the lack of moisture retention gives the upper chalk its poor agricultural land classification. Along the scarp foot rendzinas have accumulated from hill-wash into a brown, calcareous, deeper layer overlying areas of Lower Chalk and Gault which despite some nutrient deficiencies is highly regarded for agriculture. Stagnogleyic fine loamy soils are associated with the Lower Greensand belt (Robinson, 1999; National Soil Resources Institute, 2010) but the most extensive soils in the parish are the poorly draining, stagnogleys that overlie the impermeable Gault and Weald Clays. The upper levels vary from yellow to grey-brown but are predominantly grey below due to the anaerobic conditions. They were traditionally laid to permanent grass but subsoil drainage systems have increased arable cultivation from at least the Middle Ages (Robinson, 1999).

The various national soil-group types associated with the landscape of Ringmer have been obtained from the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University and are shown on **Map 9,** with the agricultural land classifications on **Map 10**.



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 7: Benchmark ground levels on relief & inland water map

Legend

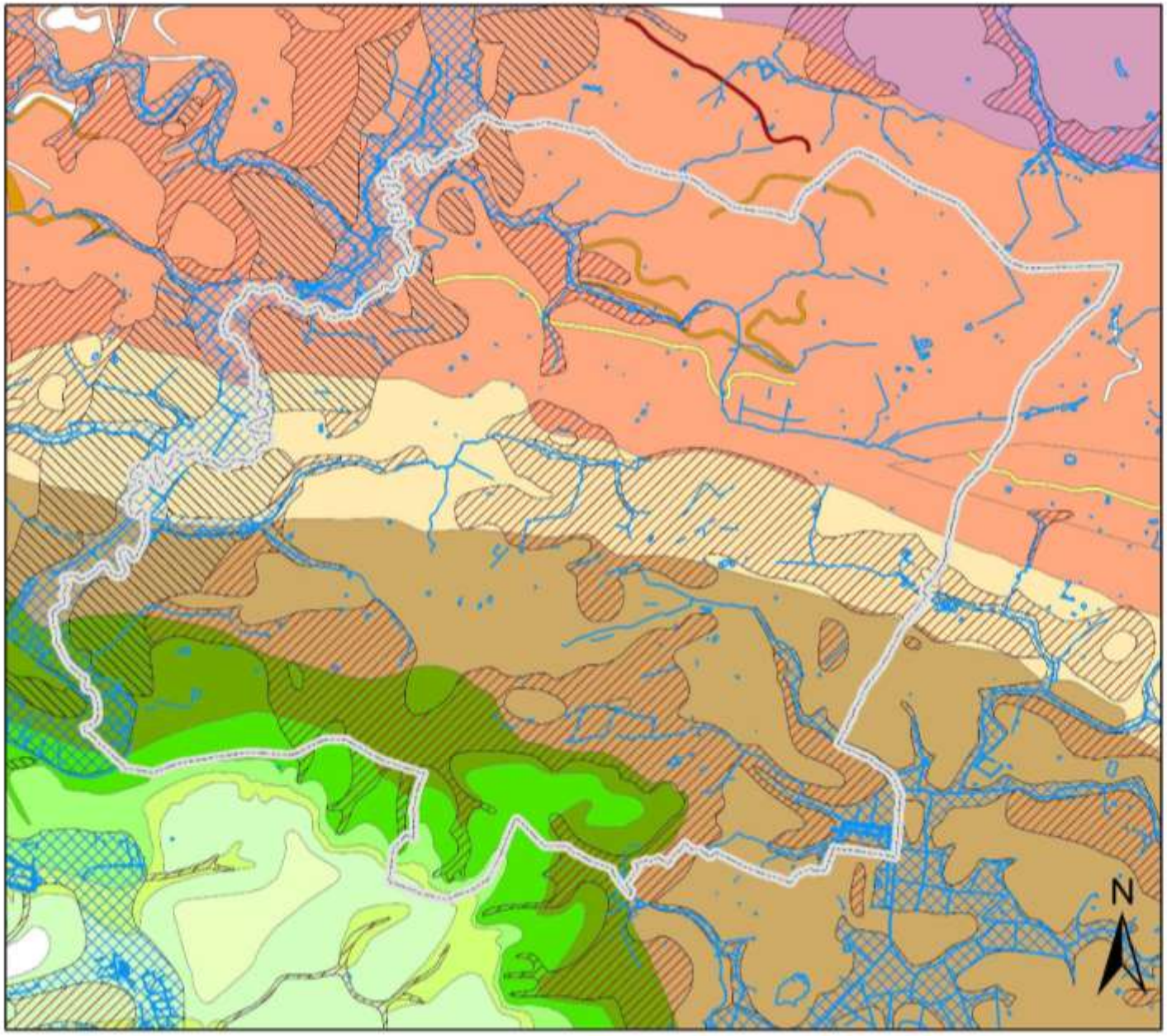
OS benchmarks
- ▲ Ground levels

Topographic features
- rivers, streams
- reservoirs, ponds
- Parish boundary

Metres OD
- 150-160
- 140-150
- 130-140
- 120-130
- 110-120
- 100-110
- 90-100
- 80-90
- 70-80
- 60-70
- 50-60
- 40-50
- 30-40
- 20-30
- 10-20
- 0-10

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 8: Solid & drift geology

Legend

Ringmer parish boundary

Superficial drift deposits

- ALLUVIUM
- HEAD
- RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS 1 & 2

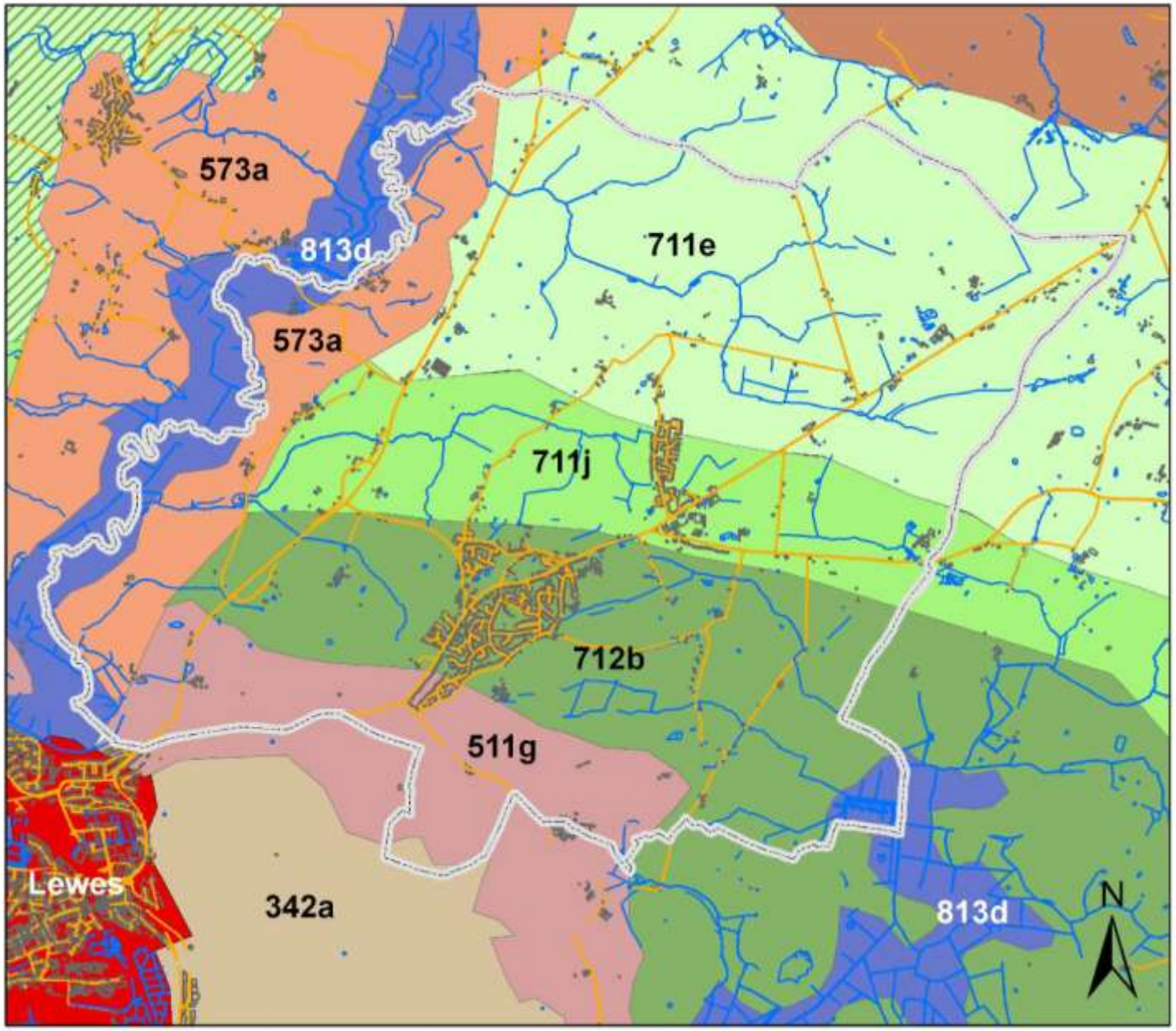
Solid geological formation

- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- WEALD CLAY - Clay-ironstone
- WEALD CLAY - Sandstone
- WEALD CLAY- Limestone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

N



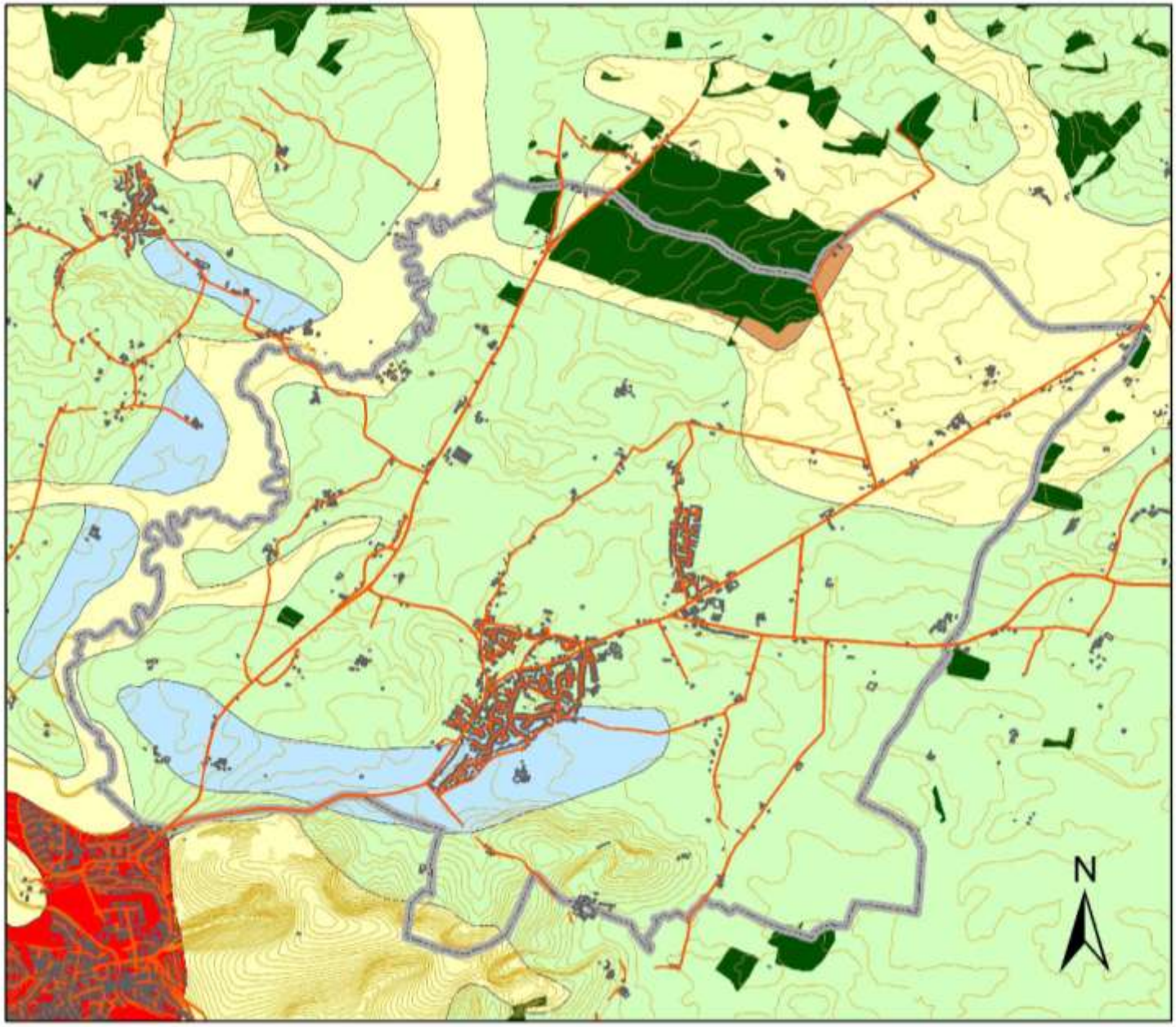
The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 9: Soil associations

Legend

342a - UPTON 1
Grey rendzina
Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk
511g - COOMBE 2
Typical brown calcareous earth
Well drained calcareous fine silty soils over chalk
573a - WATERSTOCK
Gleyic argillic brown earth
Deep permeable mainly fine loamy soils affected by groundwater
711e - WICKHAM 1
Typical stagnogley soil
Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine silty or loamy over clayey soils
711j - KINGSTON
Typical stagnogley soil
Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils
712b - DENWORTH
Pelo-stagnogley soil
Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils possibly under fine loam
813d - FLADBURY 3
Pelo-alluvial gley soil
Stoneless clayey, fine silty and loamy soils affected by groundwater

0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 10: Agricultural land classification & ancient woodland

Legend

- Ringmer parish boundary
- Contour lines
- Areas of ancient woodland

Land class

- GRADE 1
- GRADE 2
- GRADE 3
- GRADE 4
- GRADE 5
- NON AGRICULTURAL
- URBAN

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

N

2.4. Communications (Map 11)

2.4.1. River

The River Ouse, which forms the entire western boundary of the parish, is still subject to tidal movement up to Barcombe. Water transportation was significantly important from pre-history to the medieval period. Silting caused by medieval land drainage in the Weald meant that Lewes became less significant as a port by 1400 with Seaford and subsequently Newhaven acting as out-ports on the coast (Harris, 2005, pp. 12-13). It was not until the 1790s that better navigation was restored to the Lower Ouse as far as Barcombe Mill, after the formation of the Lower Ouse Navigation Company (Gibbs & Farrant, 1971, p. 23). The Ouse continued to provide a regular cargo route to the coast and to a lesser degree inland until rail and road took over from the mid 19th century.

2.4.2. Road

The London to Lewes Roman road runs down the western edge of the parish with strong circumstantial evidence for a connection to Arlington and on to Pevensey to the east, with the established Greensand Way running west from Barcombe Mills.

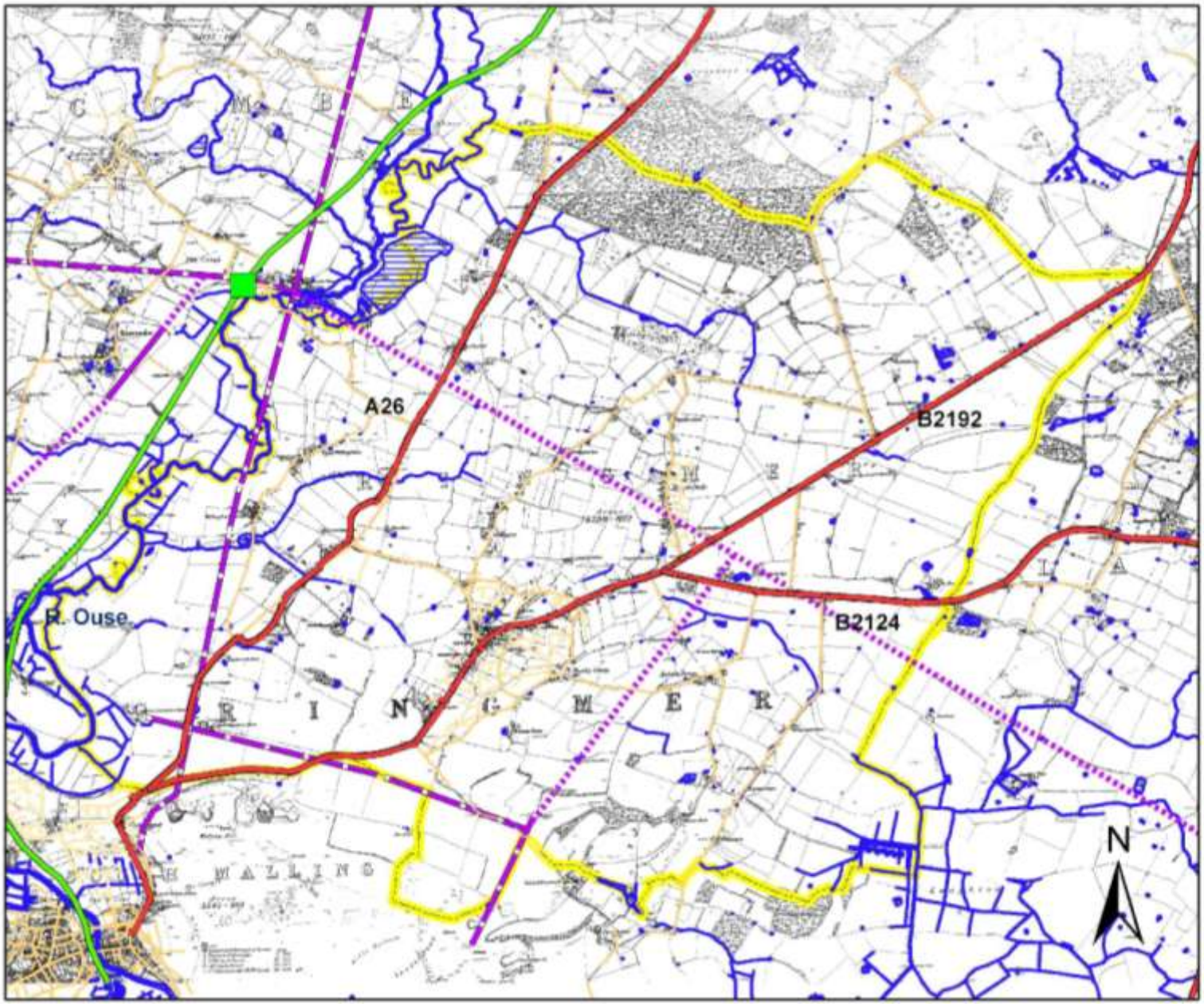
The principle modern roads through the parish are; the Lewes/Uckfield Road (A26) which bisects the west of the parish, the Lewes Road (B2192) which runs through Ringmer village, becoming The Broyle as it heads north-east, and the Laughton Road (B2124) which forks east from The Broyle. During the 1760s the A26 north of Pay Gate Cottages, Park Gate, the B2192 from Broyle Gate (Broyle Gate Farm) to Shortgate and the B2124 from Broyle Gate to Broyle Place Gate (Paygate Cottages) were turnpiked. The A26 was said to have had some of the finest milestones in Sussex though prior to any field investigation it is unclear how many survive *in situ* (SIAS, 1969).

Amongst the local lanes running north/south are Wellingham Lane, Norlington Lane, Broyle Lane, Neaves Lane and Moor Lane, linked east/west by Barcombe Mills Road, Ham Lane, Bishops Lane, Goat Lane, Potato Lane and Green Lane.

2.4.3. Railway

The absence of any railway lines through the parish may have restricted the urban growth of Ringmer. A railway line planned by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway Company was abandoned prior to construction in 1867. (Blackwell, 1988). The nearest service was at Barcombe Mills station, just over the river from Wellingham, on the Lewes to Uckfield line from 1858 until it was closed in 1969 (Figure 2.4.1).

Figure 2.4.1. *Barcombe Mills Station looking north in about 1910. Photograph from the Richard Clark collection (http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/b/barcombe_mills).*



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 11: Communications River,Road & Rail on 1878 OS

Legend

- Barcombe Mills Station
- Railway line 1858-1969
- 18th century turnpikes
- Other roads
- Inland water
- Ringmer parish boundary

Roman roads

- Margary routes
- Excavated roads
- speculative routes

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

2.5. Place-names

The following sections list place-names which are associated with sites of settlement (Table 2.5.1: **Map 12**), pottery & tile production (Table 2.5.2: **Map 13**), and parks & turnpikes (Table 2.5.3: **Map 14**). These have been of great assistance in building the wider contexts of the chronological periods within the archaeological synthesis and the following analysis section.

2.5.1. Settlement (Map 12)

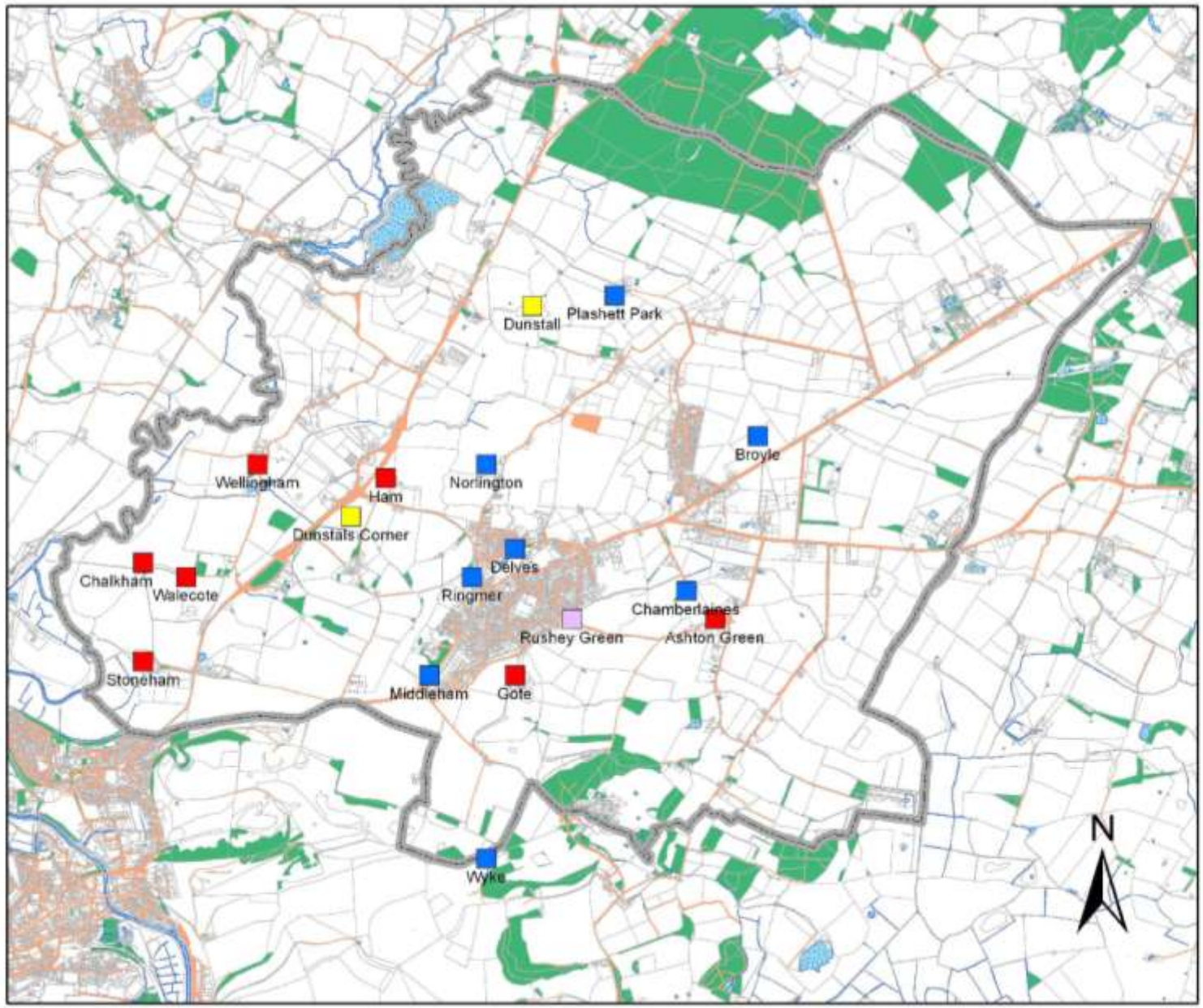
In this section place-names have been divided into their most probable, broad chronological periods from their toponymic data with reference also being made to the earliest historical evidence found. Whilst these suggestions should still be treated with some scepticism (Coates, 1987, p. 9) the data can be of assistance if carefully used along with other forms of evidence. For instance **Maps 12 & 17** show that the probable Saxon period place-names are grouped along the Ouse and scarp foot whilst **Maps 12, 20 & 21** suggest that the Early Medieval settlement is more associated with the parks and potteries.

Other inferences can be drawn from the tables, such as the possible link between the pitted landscape implied by the name Delves and the source of the '*ring of pools*' derivation of the name Ringmer. Bleach's (1986) researches into Walecote give an example of how toponymics can add to the potential importance for archaeological investigation into a particular location, in this case the Stoneham area (Table 2.5.1).

Cameron (see Jones, 1999, p.17) suggests that the field-name *Dunstall* or *Tunstall,* seen in Domesday Book, can be interpreted as '*site of a farm'* and often dates from even earlier than the Norman period. At Barcombe the Roman villa lies in Dunstalls Field giving local credence to this interpretation. Fields in Ringmer bearing similar names must be considered as potential early settlement sites and should have a high priority for further investigation (**Map 12**).

Table 2.5.1. *List of place-names associated with settlement*

Place-name	Grid Ref TQ 6 fig.	Historical references (earliest of selected variations)	Suggested derivation OE Old English: ME Middle English
Ashton Green	TQ 462122	Hastone in 1150, Estone in 1248, Ashton by 14th century *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 355)*	Compound of OE *æsc*, ash-tree, and *tun,* settlement *(Gelling, 1984, p. 219 & 318)*
Broyle	TQ 465135	Bruil in 1229, Brull/Broll in 1291, the Broyle by 14th century *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 355)*	Common term for park or enclosed wood stocked for the chase; Latin *brolium (Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 70)*
Chalkham	TQ 422126	Salkingham in 1248, Schalekyng in 1306, Schalkngehm in 1340 *(Redwood & Wilson, 1958)*	OE *hamm*, land in bend of river, of *sceacing/scealc* servant/soldier *(Dodgson, 1978, p. 84)*
Chamberlaines	TQ 460124	6 chamberlains in 14th century may be the source and provide family name of Matilda Chambyrlayn seen in 1461 (Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)	
Delves	TQ 448127	Northdelves in 1340 but Delves in 1609 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)*	OE (*ge)delf*, digging or quarrying *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)*. Proximity to Potter's Field could suggest a place of clay digging.
Gote Farm	TQ 448118	Gote 1403 and in name Alex de Gote in 1288 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 304 & 356)*	Scarp-foot/spring zone location suggests OE derivation *gut*, water-course *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 181)*
Ham	TQ 439132	Hamme (i.e. Isabeles*hamme*) in 1285	OE *hamm,* dry promontory in marsh or land in river bend *(Dodgson, 1978, p. 80)*
Middleham	TQ 442118	Middelham in 1248 and 1327, Midlyngham in 1288 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, pp. 355, 356)*	ME from central location between Norlington (Northington) and Southerham *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, pp. 355, 356)*
Norlington	TQ 446133	Northington in 1248, Northlingeton in 1296 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)*	ME: a farm north of Ringmer or the northern settlement in relation to Middleham and Southerham *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)*
Plashett Park	TQ 455145	parc. de Plaseto in 1288 and Plasshet/Plasschtte in 1323 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)*	Latin *plectere*, to weave, implying a woven enclosure *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 356)*
Ringmer	ctr. TQ 445125	Ryngemere in 1275 adopting Ringmer from 1564 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 355; Roberts, 1914, p. 130)*	Compound (OE*) hring*, circular or ring, and mere, a mere or pool. Alternatively 1st element could be personal *Hringa*. *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 355; Roberts, 1914, p. 130)*
Rushey Green	TQ 452122	Rushley Green on 1843 tithe map previously Green Street until comparatively recently *(John Kay pers.comm.)*	
Stoneham	TQ 422119	a topographic OE hamm – land in river bend prefixed by Stone which has been shown in some instance to denote a Roman road or other structure (Map 12)	
Walecote	TQ 425125	Research suggests that an area of land at Wellingham was known as Walecote. This small settlement, has OE prefix *wealh* meaning Briton, or serf. It could indicate vestige of Romano-British site at Stoneham. Alternatively from ownership by de Walecote family *(Bleach, 1986)*.	
Wellingham	TQ 430133	Wellingeham in 1087, Wylling(e)ham in 1279, Willinggehamme in 1307 *(Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 357)*	OE *hamm*, land in a river bend, and *wielle* plus *ing*, of the dwellers by the stream *(Dodgson, 1978, p. 80; Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 357)*. Gelling *(1984, pp. 41-49)* lists as 9th century or earlier, accords with Coates *(1987, p. 9)* that pre AD730 names favour landscape elements.
Wyke (Week)	TQ 446105	20 documents from 13th & 14th century have Wyke in various forms from Wik (1230) to Weeke Lane (1618), which helps locate the disserted settlement at the end of Week Lane *(Kay J. , 1984)*. Lack of Roman evidence suggests OE wic, a specialist farm, rather than Latin *vicus*, settlement *(Gardiner, 2003, p. 156)*.	



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 12: Settlement place-names on modern O.S.

Legend

Possible period of origin

- Unknown
- Saxon
- Medieval
- Modern
- Ringmer parish boundary

Topographic features

- Landscape boundaries
- Roads
- Water
- Woodland

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

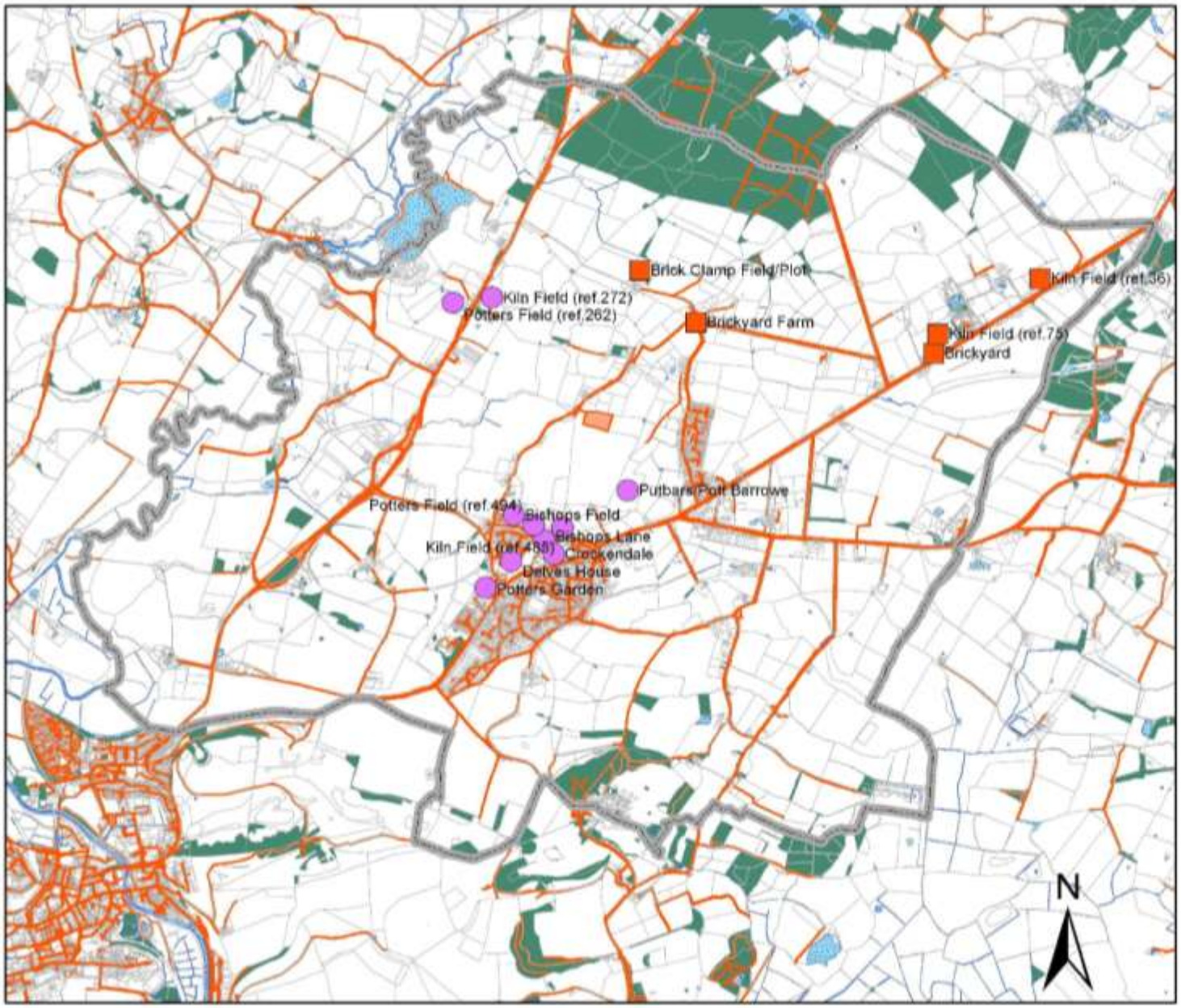
2.5.2. Pottery and tile names (Map 13)

There are many inferences to ceramic manufacturing especially in the area around Ringmer Green, where several pottery kilns have been discovered, and to brick-making on the Broyle. The Clay Hill sites are less clear but archaeological evidence suggests early pottery manufacture (Jones, 1998, p. 5)

Bishops Lane and *Bishops Field* are most likely derived from William Bysshop, a free tenant and potter of *Northlynton* (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, p. 99; Bleach, 1982, p. 51). Historically there were four *Kiln Fields* and two *Potters Fields* plus a *Potters Garden*, all seemingly unrelated to anyone called Potter, a *Putbars* or *Pott Barrowe* and a *Crockendale* (Kay, 2000, pp. 2-3)**.** *Ryderswells House* like *Delves House* could refer to clay extraction as *'well'* can be used as a general term for a dug pit although given its location it probably refers to the more common usage for springs and water-shafts (Le Patourel, 1968, p. 114). Brick firing is specifically referenced in *Brick Clamp Field, Brick Clamp Plot and Brickyard* (ESRO, TD E 137) plus *Brickyard Farm*.

Table 2.5.2*. Place-names in Ringmer that seem to have a connection with ceramic manufacture (ESRO, TD E 137, 1843; OS, 2010; Kay, 2000)*

Name	Location TQ 6 fig.	Location Source	Tithe Ref	Remarks
Bishops Field	TQ447129	1843 tithe	484	William Bysshop, potter of Northlyngton
Bishops Lane	TQ449127	Modern OS	NA	
Brick Clamp Field	TQ459147	1843 tithe	146	Adjacent fields close to or on Brickyard Farm
Brick Clamp Plot	TQ460146	1843 tithe	145	
Brickyard	TQ477141	1843 tithe	85	On The Broyle
Brickyard Farm	TQ460143	Modern OS	NA	Close to Brick Clamp Field
Crockendale	TQ450126	1843 tithe	715	Off Bishops Lane
Delves	TQ447126	Modern OS		Possible clay extraction
Kiln Field	TQ485146 TQ477142 TQ445145 TQ451129	1843 tithe	36 75 272 485	Near Brickyard 85 Adj Brickyard 85 Near Potters Field 262 On Bishops Lane
The Pott Barrowe	TQ455113 See also Putbars	ESRO AMS 5799/2	NA	1704 Delves Estate Map NE of Bishops Lane
Potters Field	TQ442144 TQ448113	1843 tithe	262 494	Near Kiln Field 272 On Bishops Lane
Potters Garden	TQ445124	Kay (2000)		Source unknown
Putbars	TQ455113	1843 tithe	479	NE of Bishops Lane



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 13: Pottery, brick & tile place-names on modern O.S.

Legend

Place-names

- Brick
- Pot
- Ringmer parish boundary

Topographic features

- Landscape boundaries
- Roads
- Water
- Woodland

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

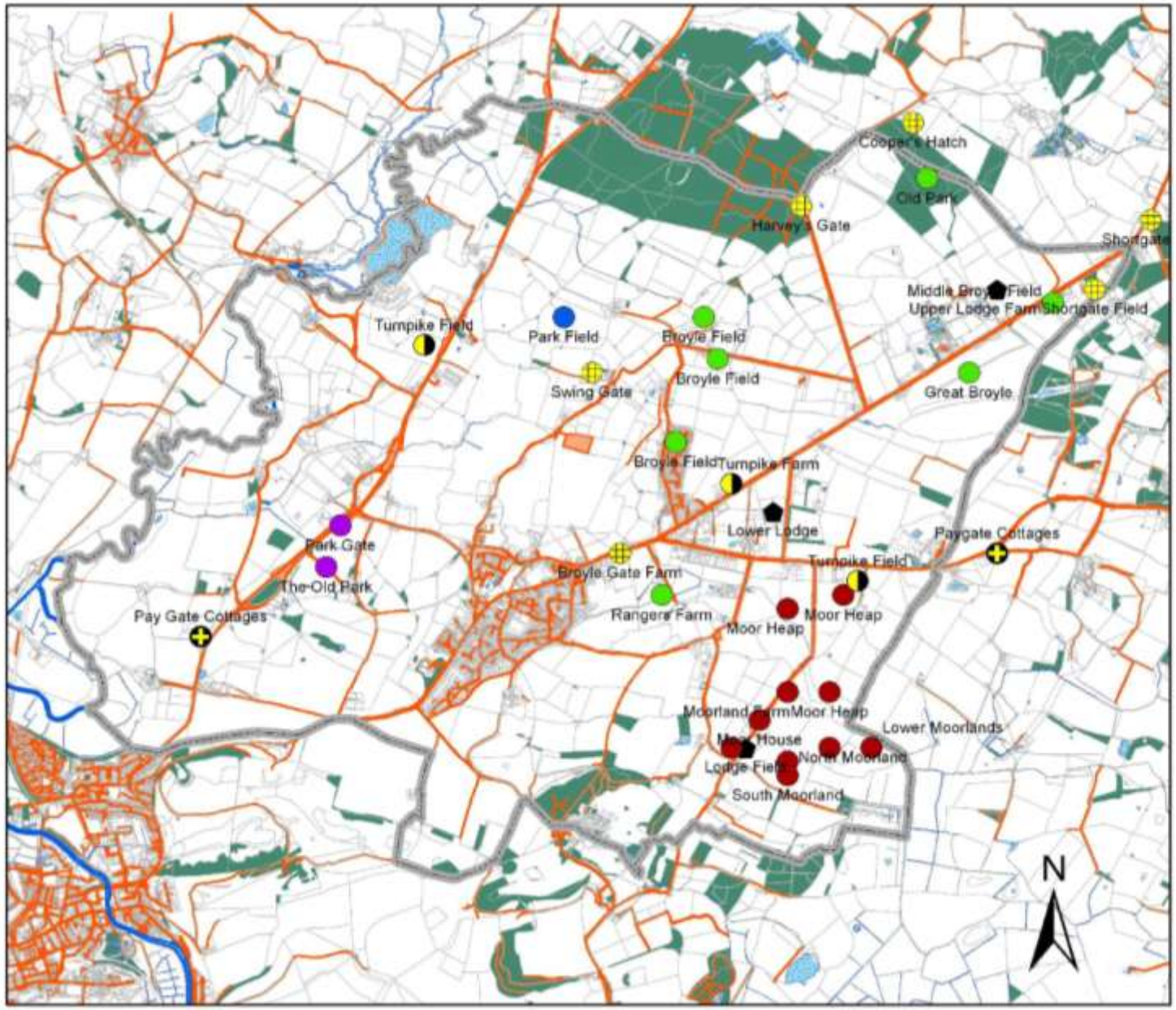
2.5.3. Park and turnpike names (Map14)

The medieval parks and 18th century turnpike roads have similarly left their mark with the various *park, gate* and *lodge* names and groups of *Paygate Cottages,* and *Turnpike Fields* amongst others listed in Table 2.5.3. These are grouped together as some of the gate-names may have transferred from park to turnpike.

Table 2.5.3. *Place-names in Ringmer probably connected with parks and/or turnpikes*

Name	Location 6 fig. TQ	Source	Tithe Ref.No.	Remarks
PARKS				
Broyle Field	TQ460136 TQ462145 TQ463142	1843 tithe	433/5, 166 312/3	
Broyle Gate Farm	TQ456128	Modern OS		SW end of The Broyle B2192
Middle Broyle Field	TQ487146	1843 tithe	3	
Cooper's Hatch	TQ477159	Modern OS		NE end of Harvey's Lane between the Broyle and Plashettes Park
Great Broyle	TQ481141	1834 tithe	4	
Harvey's Gate	TQ469153	Modern OS		N end, straight section of Harvey's Lane
Lower (Old) Lodge	TQ467131	Modern OS		Southern older lodge of Broyle Park
Lodge Field	TQ465114	1834 tithe	775	On Moor Lane adj Moor House
Upper Lodge Farm	TQ483147	Modern OS		Northern newer lodge of Broyle Park
Lower Moorlands	TQ474114	1843 tithe	372	
Middle Moorlands	TQ471114	1843 tithe	373	
Upper Moorlands	TQ468115	1843 tithe	374	
Moor Heap	TQ468124 TQ471118 TQ472125	1843 tithe	387 369 379	
Moor House	TQ465116	Modern OS	773	On Moor Lane adj Lodge Field 775
Moorland Farm	TQ468118	Modern OS	375	

Name	Location 6 fig. TQ	Source	Tithe Ref.No.	Remarks
Moorlane Field	TQ464114	1843 tithe	771	
North Moorland	TQ468113	1843 tithe	779	
South Moorland	TQ468112	1843 tithe	780	
Old Park	TQ478155	1843 tithe	40	
Park Field	TQ452145	1843 tithe	266	
Park Gate	TQ436130	Modern OS		E of Ringmer Park on A26
Rangers Farm	TQ459125	Modern OS		S end of the Broyle
Shortgate	TQ494152	Modern OS		NE end of The Broyle B2192
Shortgate Field	TQ490147	1843 tithe	2	
Swing Gate	TQ454141	1843 tithe		on Plashett Park boundary now Swingate
The Old Park	TQ435127	1843 tithe	633	
TURNPIKES				
Turnpike Farm	TQ464133	Modern OS		On The Broyle
Turnpike Field	TQ473126	1843 tithe	377	S of Broyle Place Farm, Laughton Rd
Turnpike Field	TQ442143	1843 tithe	263	
Pay Gate Cottages,	TQ426122	Modern OS		Stoneham - S end of A26
Paygate Cottages,	TQ483128	Modern OS		Laughton - E end of Laughton Road



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 14: Park & turnpike place-names on modern O.S.

Legend

Park names

type

- Broyle
- Moor
- Plashett
- Ryngmer
- Gate
- Lodge

Turnpike names

- paygate
- turnpike

Topographic features

- Landscape boundaries
- Roads
- Water
- Woodland
- Ringmer parish boundary

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS

The synthesis has been divided into the fifteen periods used within the Sussex EUS for ease of comparison between these closely linked projects and to facilitate targeted reading and research. The subdivision of EUS period 1, Prehistory, into the five periods used in recent research within the South East (Champion, 2007) was felt essential for a project specifically exploring the archaeological heritage. This dissertation includes periods 1 to 6 only.

The desire to give these set chronological periods convenient titles has necessitated some slight historical inaccuracies, especially in those related to monarchs or dynasties, and should not be regarded as exact historic eras. For example although King Edward reigned from 1901 to 1910 (Curl, 1999, p. 220) the title '*Edwardian'* is used for the wider EUS period of 1881 to 1913 (Table 3.0.1).

Table 3.0.1. *A list of the periods used for the division of the archaeological and historical data together with the EUS period number and abbreviation used in databases and maps. Periods prior to the Bronze Age are described by radio-carbon years before present (**bp**) with subsequent dates given in calendar years, **BC & AD** (Harris, 2005, p. 49; ESCC Archaeological Team, 2008, p. 19)*

EUS No.	Period title	Abv.	Dates
1	PREHISTORY	PH	800,000bp-AD42
1.1	Palaeolithic	PP	800,000-10,000bp
1.2	Mesolithic	PM	10,000-6000bp
1.3	Neolithic	PN	4000-2001BC
1.4	Bronze age	BA	2000-701BC
1.5	Iron age	IA	700BC-AD42
2	ROMANO-BRITISH	RB	AD43-409
3	EARLY SAXON	ES	410-949
4	LATE SAXON	LS	950-1065
5	NORMAN	NM	1066-1149
6	EARLY MEDIEVAL	EM	1150-1349
1349 marks the end of the period covered within this dissertation			
7	LATE MEDIEVAL	LM	1350-1499
8	TUDOR (16th century)	TD	1500-1599
9	STUART (17th century)	ST	1600-1699
10	GEORGIAN (18th century)	GR	1700-1799
11	REGENCY	RG	1800-1840
12	VICTORIAN	VR	1841-1880
13	EDWARDIAN	ED	1881-1913
14	WORLD WARS I-II	WW	1913-1945
15	POST WAR	PW	1946-present

3.1. PREHISTORY: 800,000bp-AD42 (Maps 15a & b)

3.1.1. Palaeolithic: 800,000-10,000bp

The Palaeolithic falls into the later stages of the Pleistocene with Britain being subjected to repeated 'ice ages' separated by warmer interglacial periods (Fig 3.1.1). The area south of the Thames appears to have escaped significant glacial ice-sheet encroachment during this period being subjected to a state of permafrost which thawed, in temperatures warmer than our present summers, during the inter-glacial periods. Our current landscape is a result of this freeze and thaw regimen which produced extensive modification of the local topography carving out vast valleys with resultant deposits of sediment. The topographical changes mean that remains from the periodic human incursions can be deeply buried and/or moved substantially from their place of origin (ESCC Archaeological Team, 2008, p. 20).

This immensely long period saw the arrival and evolution of two hominine species, with the extinction of one, *Homo neanderthalensis*, and the establishment of the other, *Homo*

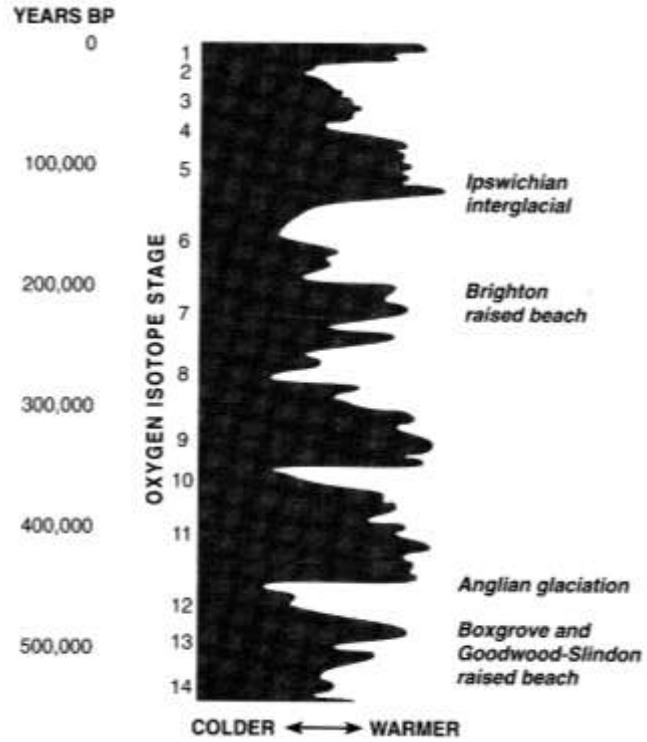


Figure 3.1.1. *A chart showing past temperature changes established from oxygen isotope changes in the sea bed (Woodcock, 1999, p. 10)*

sapiens. It also includes the first hominine remains in Sussex from the Goodwood-Slindon raised beach and cliff-line, a tibia found at Boxgrove tentatively classified as *Homo* cf. *heidelbergensis* dating from *c.* 500.000bp, before the Anglian glaciations (Figure 3.1.2) (Woodcock, 1999).

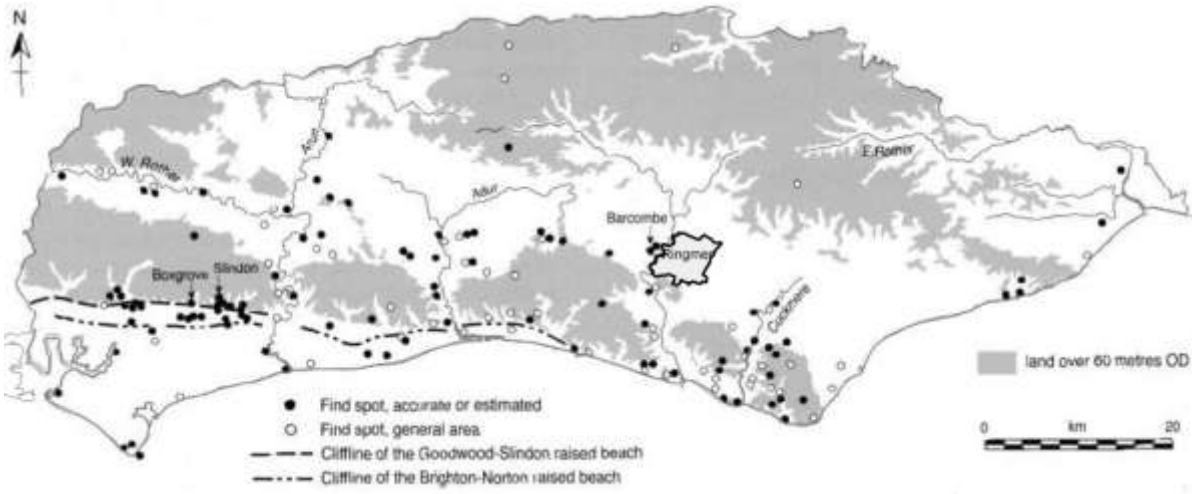


***Figure 3.1.2**. Distribution map showing the position of Ringmer parish in relation to the Palaeolithic find spots in Sussex including Boxgrove and Barcombe (after Pope, 2003, p. 24)*

The last main glacial period peaked about 16,000 years ago with sea levels falling to 100m below the current level. A dramatic rise in temperatures around 13,000bp followed by 2000 years of slow cooling led to a millennia of cold before the final retreat of the ice at the end of this period. Current thinking suggests that humans re-colonised Britain during the later Upper Palaeolithic from around 12,600bp but evidence in the south east is scarce (ESCC Archaeological Team, 2008, p. 20).

Local archaeological evidence (Maps 15a & b)

ESHER and other sources show no irrefutable artefact evidence for hominid activity for this period within the parish. However the Ouse Valley, along with the other local river valleys, was a tributary to the pre-English Channel river system and therefore an ideal Palaeolithic route-way inland as indicated by the finds distribution in Figure 3.1.2. Two finds coming from field work within the alluvial deposits at Barcombe (Pope, 2003, p. 25) (Figure 3.1.3a) indicate the potential for the Ringmer side of the river.

The only Palaeolithic artefact recorded from the parish is a handaxe or roughout (Figure 3.1.3b) found within the Romano-British settlement excavated at the glider club (TQ480140) in 2007 (pers. comm. G. Chuter). As a residual artefact within a Roman context the axe's place of origin and even use cannot be determined especially with the adjacent iron smelting activity indicating an import of raw materials from the High Weald

The area of fluvial gravels along the western boundary of the parish should be considered as an area of potential Palaeolithic interest as underlying ancient land surfaces may have been preserved. This offers the potential of environmental evidence and geoarchaeological opportunities to date river terrace sequences even where artefacts may not be present (Pope, 2008, p. 16).

The Ouse Valley Project, directed by Dr Dudley Moore of the University of Sussex supported by the Archaeological Divers Association (UK), are due to investigate both the river and the alluvial deposits which could have a substantial effect on our knowledge of the area in the Palaeolithic and later periods.

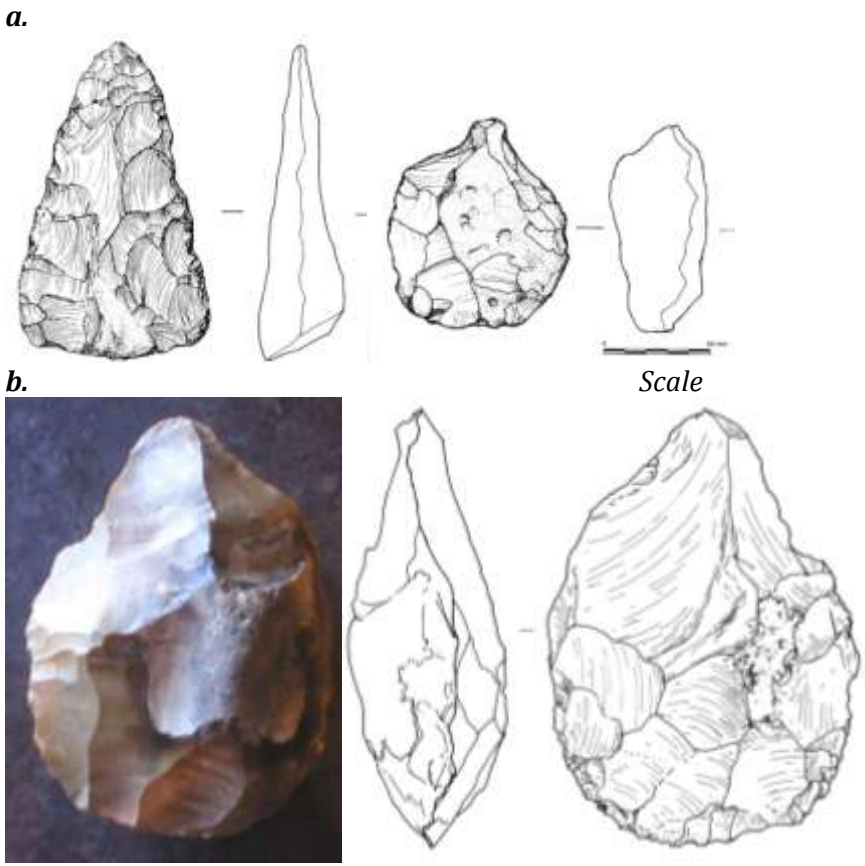
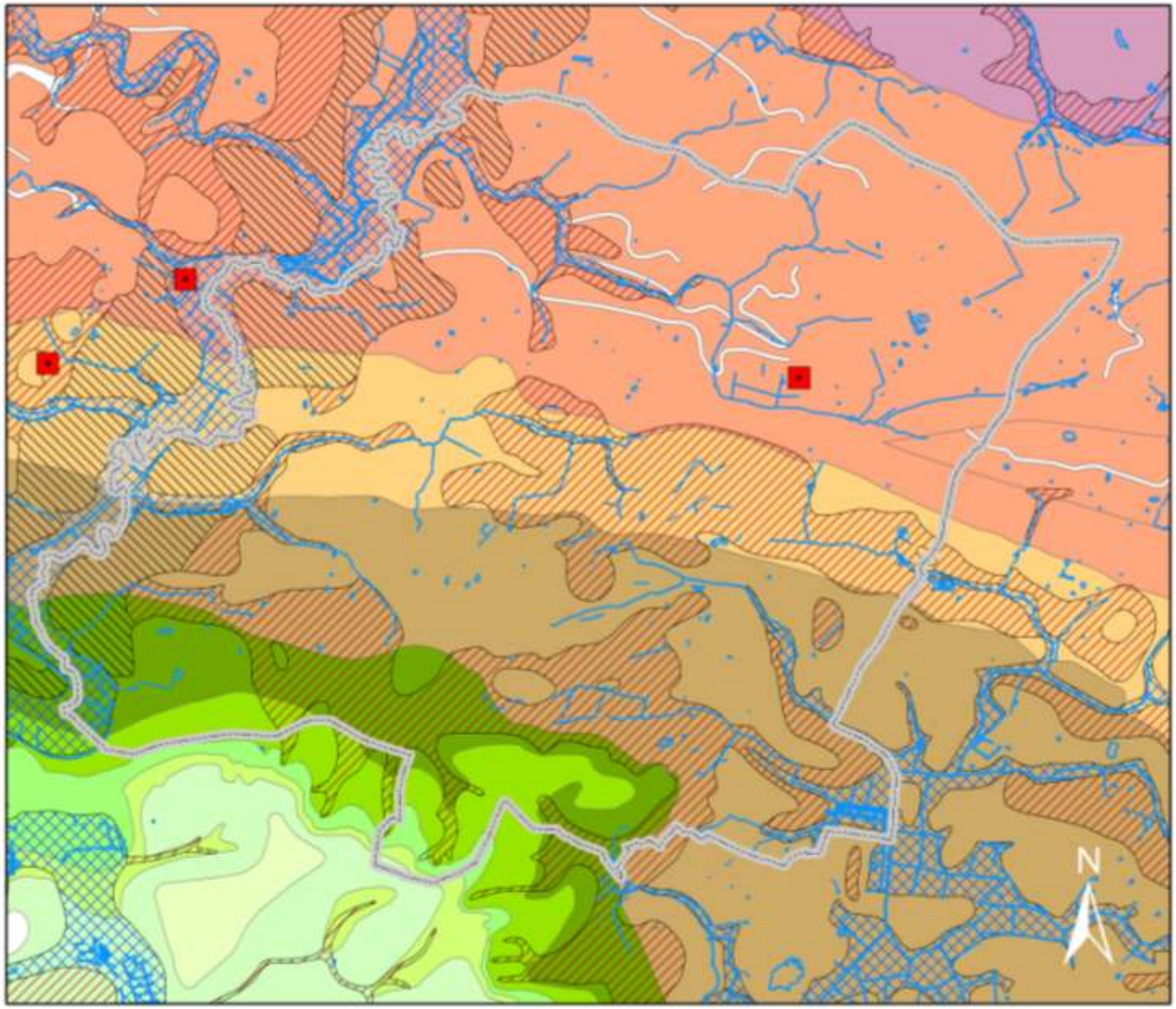


Figure 3.1.3.
a. *Drawings of the Palaeolithic handaxe and biface core found at Barcombe during archaeological investigations by the University College London Field Archaeology Unit and the Mid Sussex Field Archaeology Team (Pope, 2003, p. 25).*
b. *Photograph and drawing of the Palaeolithic axe found at Ringmer Glider Club (photograph and drawing, G. Chuter).*



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 15a1.1: Palaeolithic finds & sites on geology

Legend

- Palaeolithic flint tool
- ALLUVIUM
- HEAD
- RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS 1 & 2
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.1.2. Mesolithic: 10,000-6,000bp

During the period 10,000 to 6,000bp sea levels rose dramatically as the ice sheets melted. Archaeological evidence shows a lack of several Danish lithic implement types suggesting that Britain became permanently separated from the continent at around 8,000bp (Drewett *et al*, 1988, p. 11). The significant changes that occurred in the environment through this period may be a prime contributory cause in the changes observed in the material remains including the increase in human settlement sites.

The flooding of the channel divides the Mesolithic into two phases. The earlier continental Maglemosian tradition seems to have concentrated on the Lower Greensand in the sparse, post-glacial, tundra landscape whilst the later indigenous phase is spread more widely across an increasingly wooded environment (Drewett *et al*, 1988, p. 11).

Local archaeological evidence

It is from the later phase that most of the Mesolithic sites in Sussex belong, with known sites in Low Weald areas most numerous on the Lower Greensand such as the pits excavated at Selmeston, 5k to the east of Ringmer (Clark, 1934). Recent discoveries in East Sussex such as that at Streat (Butler, 2007) give some indication of the Mesolithic potential, characterised by the distinctive range of microliths and micro-cores (Figure 3.1.4), that might be present on the greensand ridge within Ringmer.

This potential was emphasised during a research evaluation at Plumpton where a single 16 by 1m trench on the greensand ridge produced 40 Mesolithic worked flints including scrappers, flakes and micro-cores (Millum, 2009b, pp. 18,29).

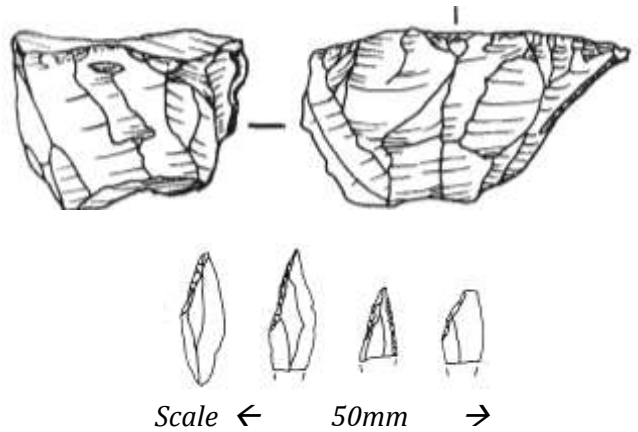


Figure 3.1.4. *A selection of the drawings by Claire Goody of flint artefacts from Streat showing the characteristic micro-core (line 1) and microliths (line 2) of the Mesolithic period (Butler, 2007, pp. 20,22)*

Ringmer parish evidence (Maps 15a & b)

So far the evidence at Ringmer is surprisingly sparse with 2 discrete artefacts discovered by F. P. Matthewman at Upper Stoneham Farm, recorded within the HER as archived at Brighton Museum (Wymer, 1977, p. 318). These finds suggest potential beyond the area of the Greensand as they were found on the lower chalk at the base of the Downs at around 15m OD and within 1k of the river. However, this is a location where the effects of colluvial activity should be considered as significant manmade sedimentation has been attributed to the Mesolithic period (Scaife & Burrin, 1983, p. 9).

The potential of the Lower Greensand is shown by the chance surface find in 2008 of a tranchet adze at Norlington (TQ44611372) (R. Wallace, pers. comm.). Butler (2005, p. 99) suggests that in the southeast there is an apparent increase of these distinctive core tools (Figure 3.1.5) during the later Mesolithic. The Norlington example is of moderate size at 130mm long, other known examples ranging from 70mm to over 300mm. The larger adzes predominate on the Downs suggesting that this is the production centre with the smaller sized examples found in the Weald created by the necessity to re-edge blunt tools when away from the source location (Butler, 2005, pp. 99-103).

Background scatters of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic worked flints were found in the region of TQ444121 during a residential development in 2004 (Ford, 2006, p.19) and at TQ451115 during compliance works prior to laying the Ouse Valley Transfer (OVT) pipeline in 2007 (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, p.43).

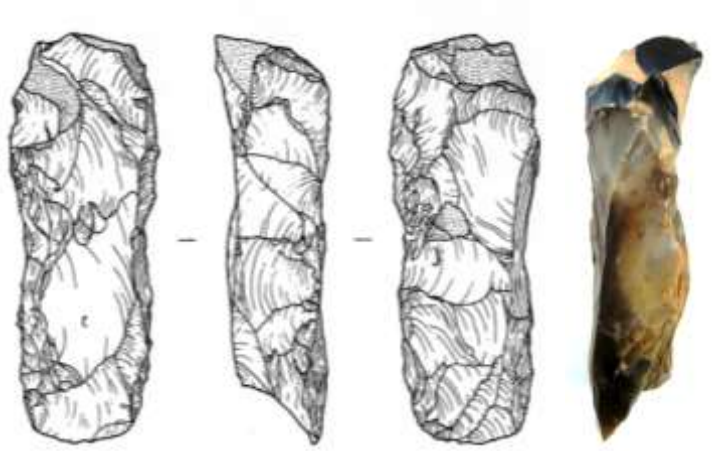
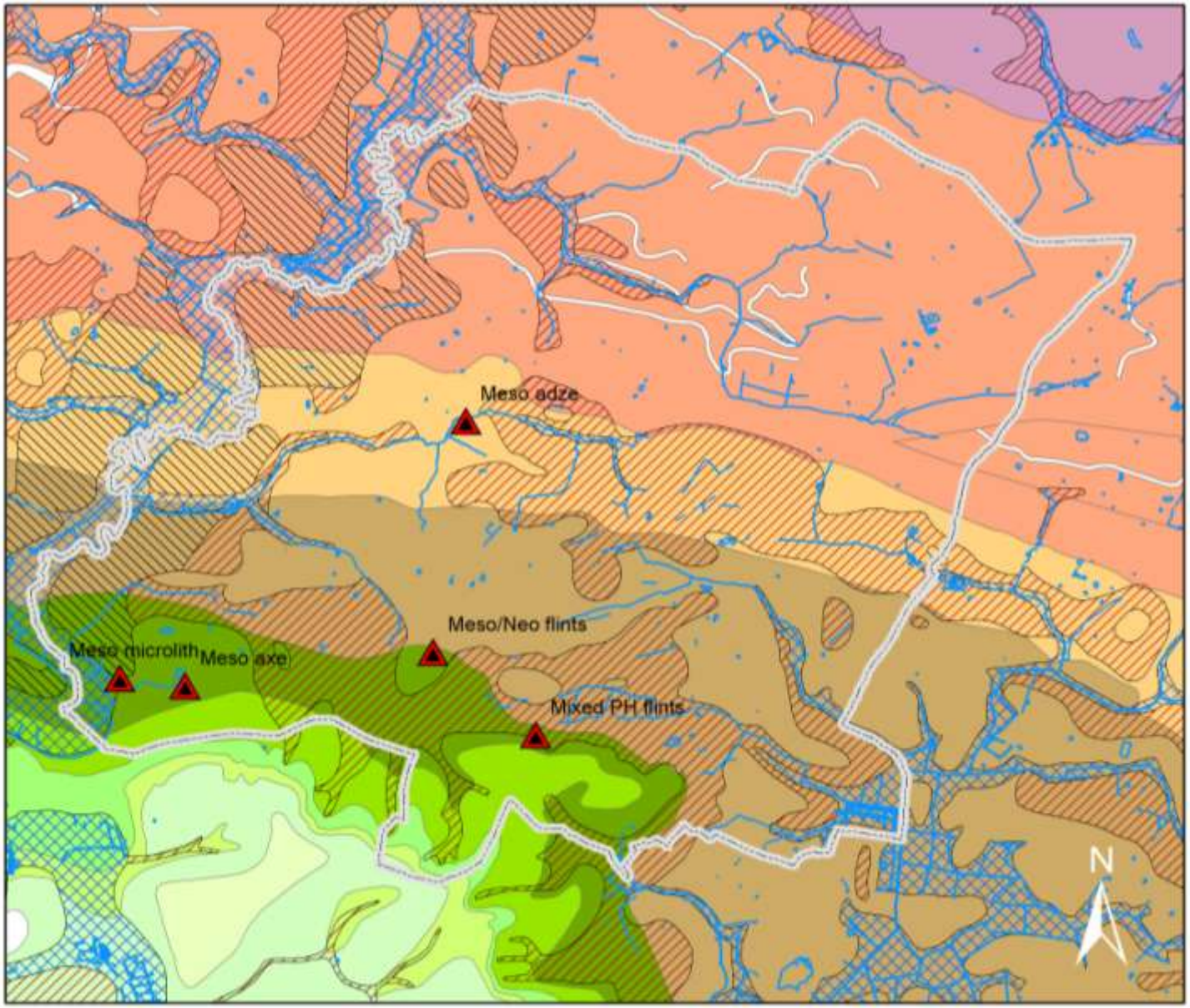


Figure 3.1.5. *Drawings and a photograph of the Mesolithic tranchet adze found at Norlington (drawings by Sarah Welsh)*



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 15a1.2: Mesolithic finds & sites on geology

Legend

- Mesoloithic flint tools
- ALLUVIUM
- HEAD
- RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS 1 & 2
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.1.3. Neolithic: 4000-2001BC

The later part of the fifth millennium BC saw major cultural changes in South East England with the first evidence of agriculture, the building of communal monuments and the earliest surviving pottery. All these innovations imply a more settled way of life as Late-Mesolithic hunter-gatherers turned first to animal domestication and then to cultivation of crops. This process, evident in the artefacts recovered, would seem to have occurred through acculturation of the indigenous peoples rather than by a mass colonisation from Northern Europe (Figure 3.1.6) (Drewett *et al,* 1988, p. 24-31).

Local archaeological evidence

This period introduces manufactured landscape features into Sussex with long and oval barrows, causewayed enclosures, and flint mines, all constructed upon the South Downs and indicating communal activity and organisation. Of these monuments the nearest to Ringmer is an Early Neolithic long barrow known as the Camel's Humps, just 0.5k south of the parish boundary on Cliffe Hill (TQ432110) with the nearest known causewayed enclosure 2k across the river at Offham (Drewett, 1999; Russell, 2002, p. 172).

Ringmer Parish Evidence (Maps 15a & b)

Within Ringmer parish Allen (1995, p. 19) suggests that the case for Neolithic agricultural activity is strengthened by the results of pollen analysis undertaken in the 1970s at Wellingham (TQ431131) which produced evidence of woodland clearance in the mid fourth millennium accompanied by the increase in grass and cereal pollen. Despite this the parish has no verified Neolithic artefacts excepting the 2 small flint scatters described as Mesolithic or Early Neolithic at the end of Section 3.1.2 above. Whilst this absence may be due to a lack of intensive investigation, when considered with the Mesolithic tools that have been found in the area, a case for the woodland clearance being prior to the Neolithic period should not be discounted.

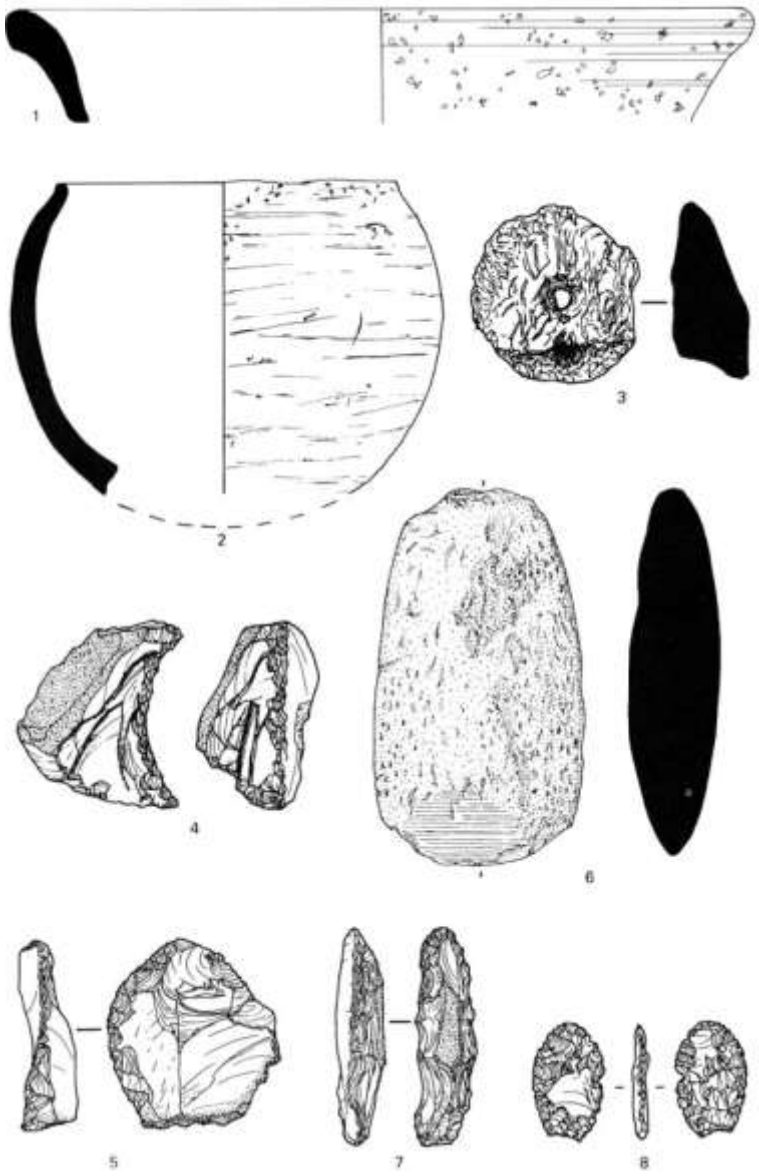
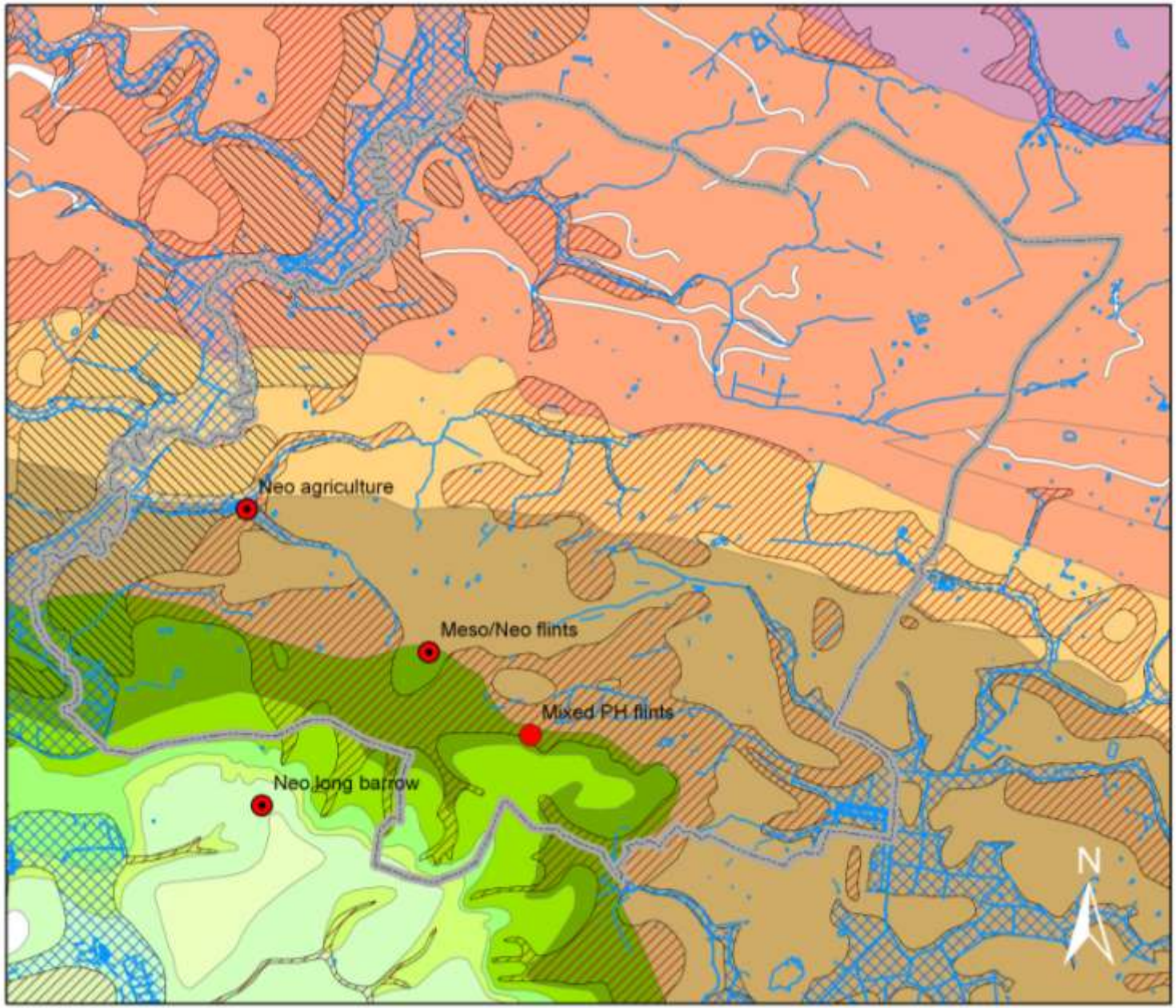


Figure 3.1.6. *A range of Neolithic objects from SE England showing the contrast to earlier periods with the settled society facilitating the use and manufacture of ceramic vessels.*
1-2: round based bowls; 3: chalk spindle whorl; 4-5: flint scrapers; 6: polished stone axe; 7: flint strike-a-light; 8: leaf-shaped arrowhead (Drewett *et al,* 1988, p. 32).



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 15a1.3: Neolithic finds & sites on geology

Legend

- Neolithic
- Mixed Prehistoric flints
- ALLUVIUM
- HEAD
- RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS 1 & 2
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.1.4. Bronze Age: 2000-701BC

The Bronze Age heralds a major landmark in prehistoric technology with the emergence of the use of metal, firstly gold, copper and lead, followed by the copper-alloy, bronze. The use of bronze seems closely linked to the new forms and decoration of Beaker-style pottery (Figure 3.1.7) and the predominance of round barrows from around 2000BC. Whether these dramatic changes in the material culture were the product of colonisation or acculturation is unclear, yet the skills of metal-working, which probably changed the firing practices of pottery, would seem to have required at least an immigration of skilled craftsmen if not a more intense migration.

Figure 3.1.7. *Early Bronze Age beaker (Barton, 1975, p. 51)*

The bulk of provenanced artefacts are pottery plus tools of flint and stone, with some distinctive changes occurring. Transverse, oblique, and barbed-and-tanged arrowheads replace the former leaf-shapes (Figure 3.1.8).

Indigenous pottery evolves from round bottomed, Peterborough wares to the development of Collared Urns, possibly influenced by the introduced Beaker styling, (Figure 3.1.9) (Drewett *et al*, 1988 pp. 63-68).

Figure 3.1.8. *Barbed-and-tanged arrowhead from Bullock Down, East Sussex (Drewett, 1982a, p. 51)*

The earliest metal objects found in Sussex are flat bronze axes, the majority of these being casual surface finds rather than discoveries during excavation (Greatorex, 1999, p. 18); but a simple bronze ring was found in a Secondary Series Collared Urn at Oxteddle Bottom, 1k south of the parish (Drewett *et al*. 1988 p.65).

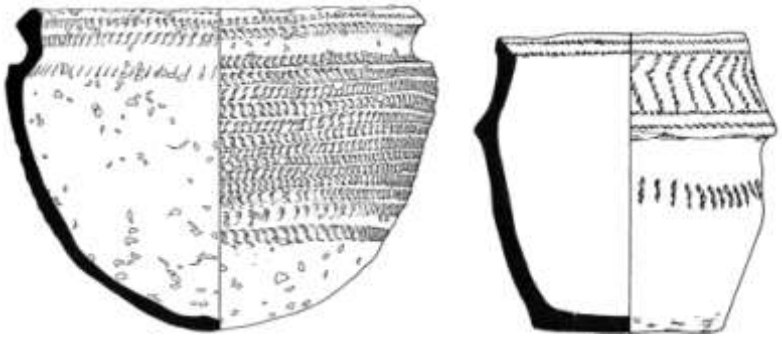


Figure 3.1.9. The two characteristic styles of indigenous Bronze Age pot, an Ebsfleet type Peterborough Ware bowl from Selmeston, East Sussex and a Secondary Series Collared Urn from a barrow at Black Patch, Nr. Selmeston (Drewett *et al*, 1988, p. 67; Drewett, 1982, pp. 369, 371)

Local archaeological evidence (Maps 15a & b)

Recent fieldwork for the Culver Archaeological Project, to the west of the river from Wellingham, demonstrates what can be achieved by a voluntary research project and provides an indication for the potential for Ringmer. The excavations in 2007 in Pond Field (TQ423146) revealed a probable middle Bronze Age cremation burial comprising a single, cinerary urn (Figure 3.1.10). The plain 80mm diameter urn, of a course, open fabric with ill-sorted flint and sandstone inclusions (Millum, 2009a, pp. 6 & 13-14), has been given a tentative spot-date of circa 1500-1000 BC (pers. comm. Professor Peter Drewett).

The burial was discovered within a 20m by 23m open-area excavation undertaken to reveal a Roman road and was originally thought to be a posthole. The top of the burial was approximately half a metre below current plough soil and on a level with Roman features. No other defined Bronze Age artefacts were found during the extensive field-walking, evaluation trenching or the 2009/10 extension to the excavation area although thirteen prehistoric worked flints of indeterminate age were collected in the 2007 excavation (Millum, 2009a, p. 21).

a ***b***

Figure 3.1.10. *Photographs of the plain, course pottery, cinerary urn discovered during excavations in Pond Field by the Culver Archaeological Project in 2007. a) external surface of 2 conjoining base sherds: b)blackened internal surface of a rim sherd.*

Ringmer Parish Evidence (Maps 15a-b)

A note, on a map held by the Sussex Archaeology Society by A. H. Allcroft, records a Bronze Age internment with urn at The Holt on the Downs (TQ 456112) (ESHER 2010, MES1898). This site is also referenced as a possible Hill-fort (Martin, 1907) although OS investigators in 1953 regarded the feature as the result of later quarrying (Figure 3.1.11).

The ESHER (2010, MES4514) also records a barrow (*circular tumulus*) on the south west boundary of Plashett Park as being reported by W.Heanage Legge in *The Reliquary* in 1902. Only a very approximate location is given centring on TQ4515 which would include the Norman earthwork at Clay Hill listed in Section 3.4, the only earthwork now apparent. The area was extensively investigated in 2007-8 due to the proposed Clay Hill Reservoir but despite field-walking (Stevens, 2007), magnetic susceptibility, thermoremnance surveys (Heard & Smalley, 2007) and evaluation trenching (Dawkes, 2007) no indication of a prehistoric barrow was reported. Searches of aerial photographs highlighted one possible anomaly not covered in the 2007-8 projects which should be subjected to a geophysical survey (Figure 3.1.12).

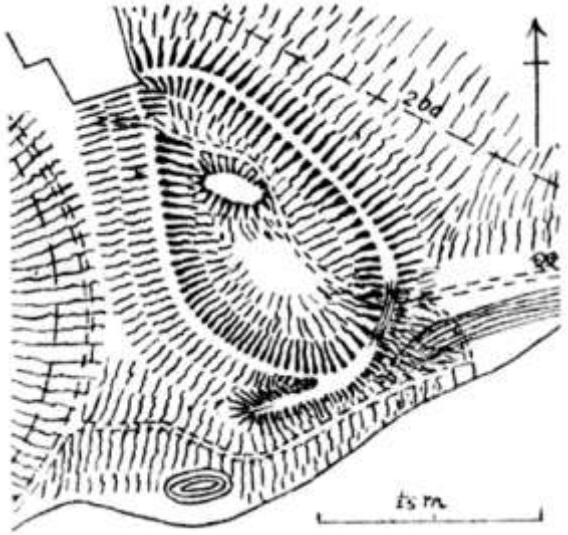


Figure 3.1.11. *Martin's plan of the earthworks at The Holt, Ringmer (Martin, 1907, p. 13)*

Artefacts from this period found within the parish are scarce. A late Bronze Age pottery sherd was noted within a scatter of fire-cracked flint during a walkover survey at Goat Farm in 2009 (TQ457118) (Greg Chuter pers. comm. 2009) and in 2008 a socketed, bronze axehead was found by metal detecting at TQ462112 at the foot of the Downs, east of The Holt and

reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) (ESHER, 2010, MES14075).

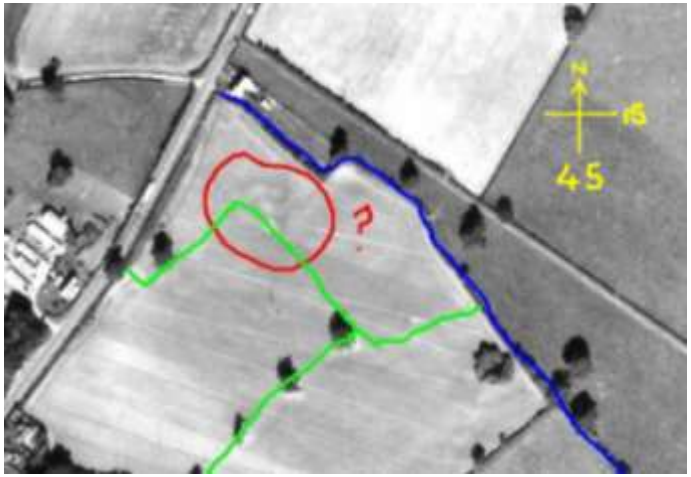


Figure 3.1.12. *An anomaly observed in aerial photograph search at TQ448149 highlighted in red. Green lines are field boundaries seen on 1843 tithe map and yellow cross marks the TQ4515 grid point. (photograph from the Unit for Landscape Modelling Air Photography Library at Cambridge University, ref. RC811042, dated 8th Oct 1985)*

In 1944 part of a hafted stone implement (Figure 3.1.13) was found at Wellingham House (TQ4295 1328). Curwin (1944, pp. 76-8) defines this as a hoe, although suggesting it may have been used as an adze, and dates it to the early Bronze Age based on his understanding that such perforated tools were in use during that period..

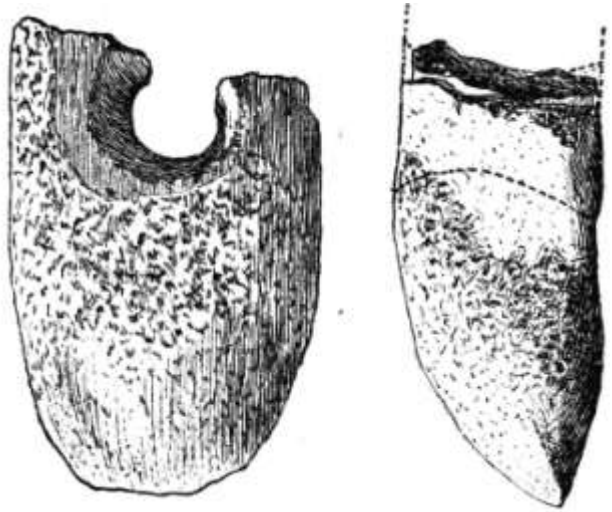
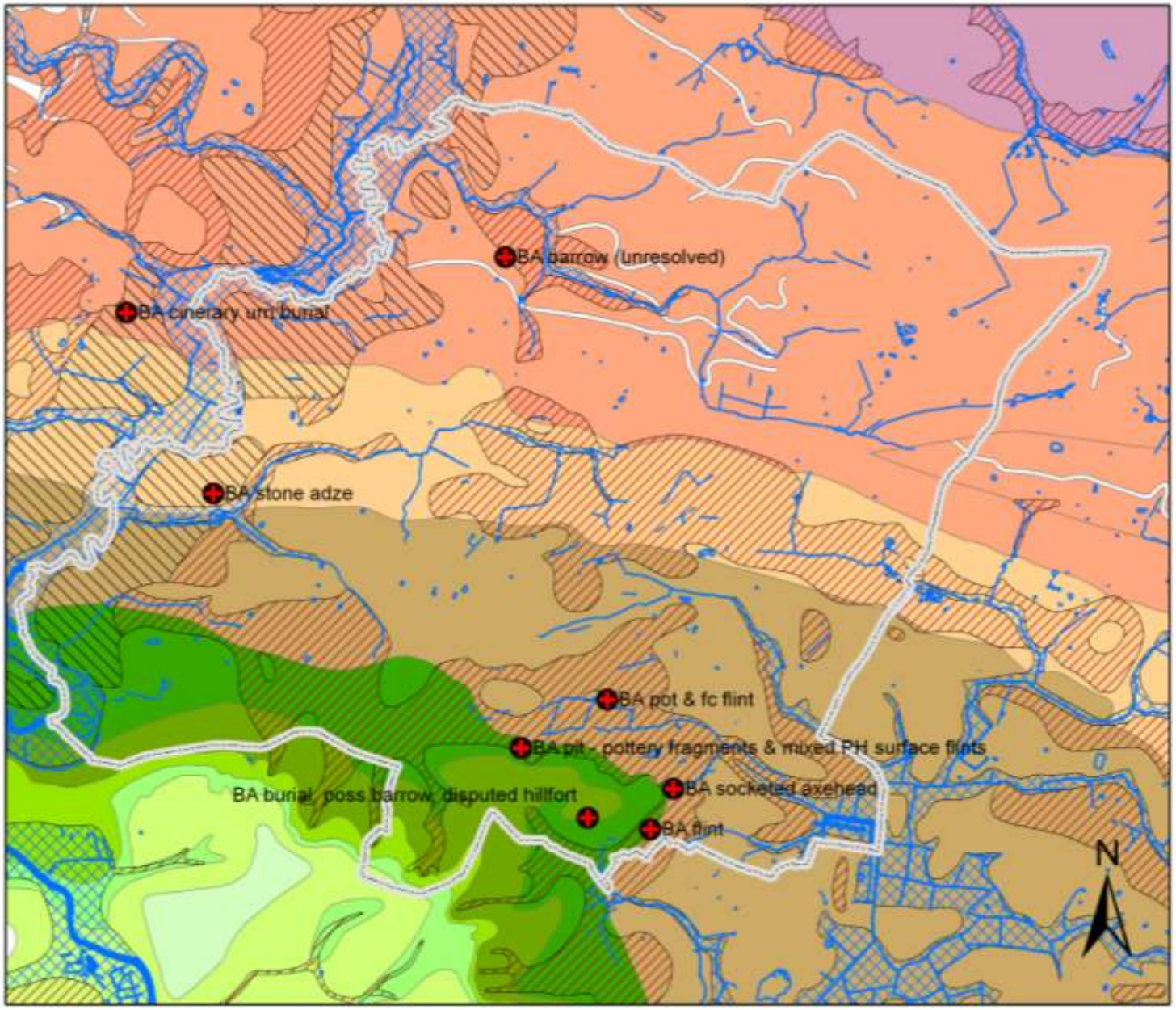


Figure 3.1.13. *Drawing of the 'adze-like implement' found at Wellingham House (Curwin, 1944, p. 77).*



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 15a1.4: Bronze Age finds & sites geology

Legend

- BRONZE AGE feature
- ALLUVIUM
- HEAD
- RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.1.5. Iron Age: 700BC-AD42

The Iron Age sees Britain in the grip of an intensification of agriculture, trade, and the rise of tribal chiefs to warring heads of state at the northern periphery of a turbulent Europe dominated by the expansion of Roman influence. Cunliffe (1995, pp. 7-11) suggests that Britain in the Iron Age must be seen as an integral part of northern Europe where mobility by sea would be greater than that by land. He visualises Sussex as being part of a central '*Channel Zone*' with strong links to the French coast. It is in this period that we start to see greater evidence of the use of metals, both precious and base, as well as a rise in imported luxuries. Towards the end of the period we see the first imported and local coinage (Figure 3.1.14). In landscape features, whilst some have earlier origins, this must be seen as the era of the hillfort together with a further expansion of field and estate boundaries in the form of ditches and dykes. Yet, as demonstrated by Cunliffe (1974) it is still pottery, being the most abundant artefact recovered, that most often characterises and dates Iron Age settlement (Figure 3.1.15).

a *b*

Figure 3.1.14*. British coins found in Ringmer parish using metal detectors (scale in mm)*

a. Southern silver inscribed 'E' attributed to Commios (PAS ref. SUSS-B2DB01) (http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/115277)

b. Southern silver of 'Danebury type' (PAS ref. SUSS-832D98)

(http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/124175)

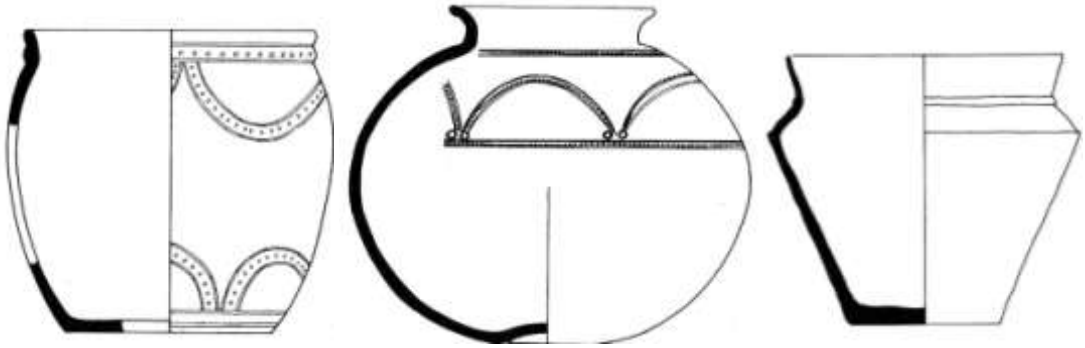
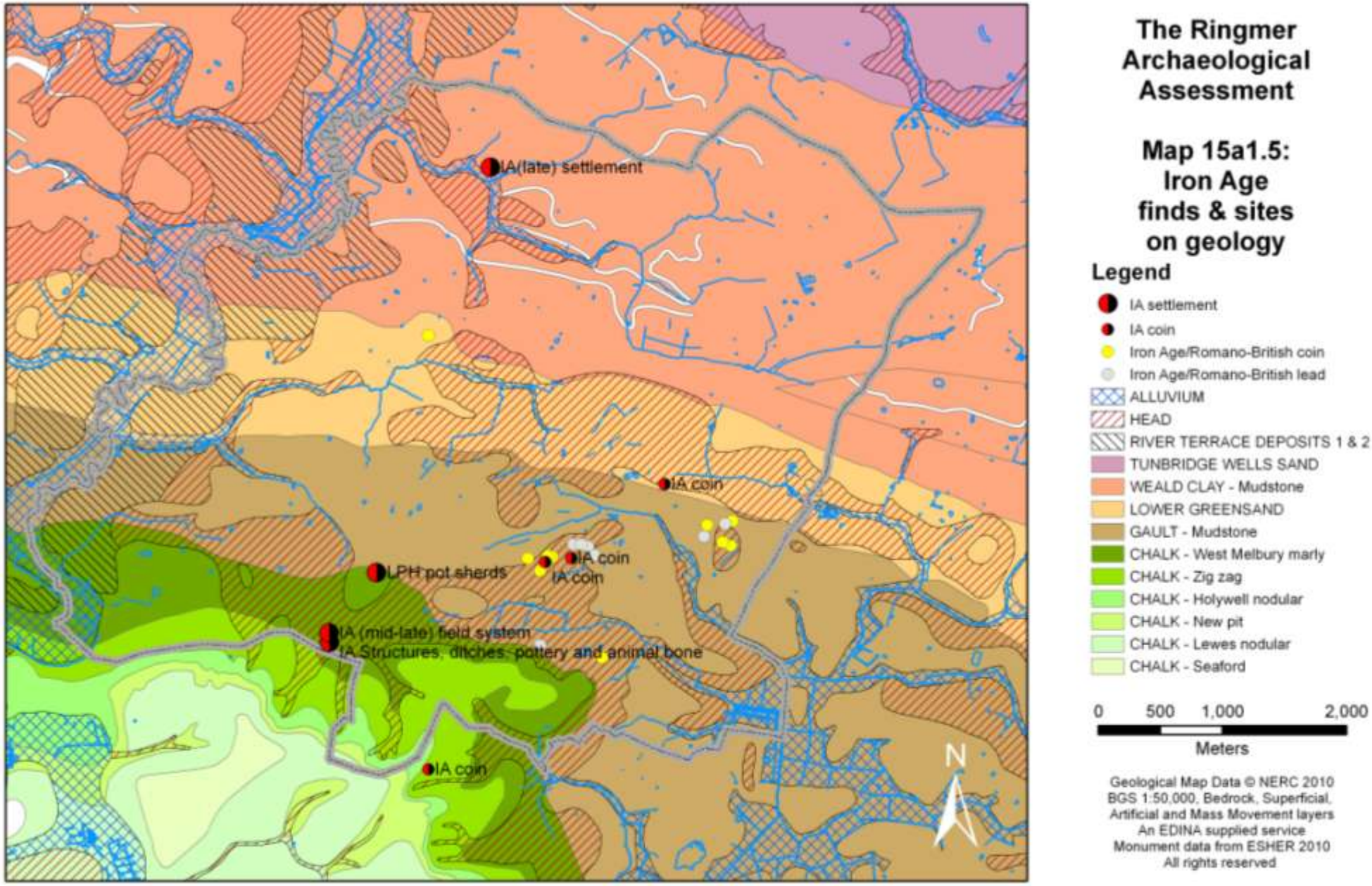
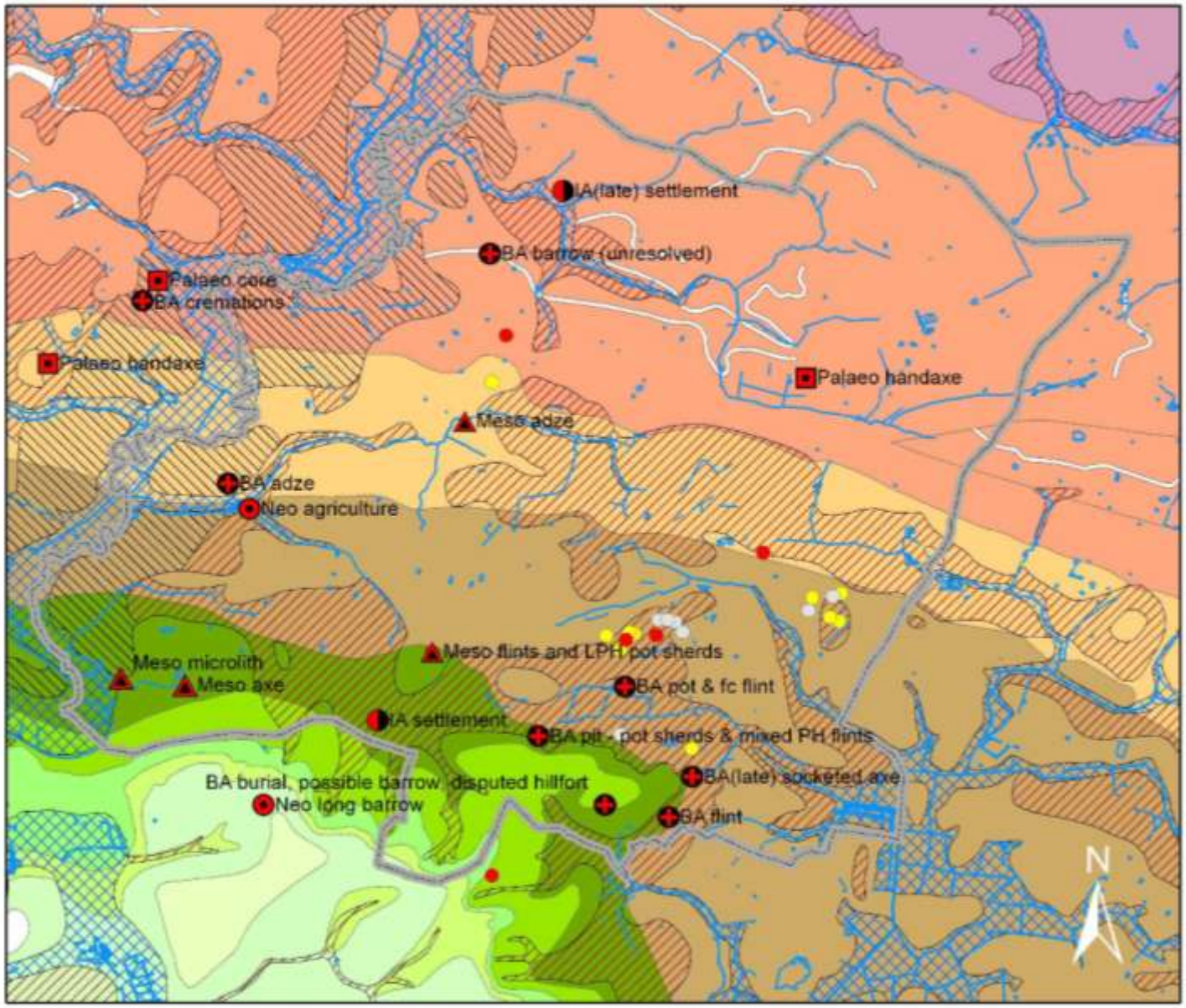


Figure 3.1.15. *A basic illustration of the development of Iron Age pottery using three jars found in Sussex (Cunliffe, 1974, pp. 318, 329, 344)*
a: Kimmeridge-Caburn group pot from The Caburn – 6th century BC
b: Caburn-Cissbury style pot from Cissbury – 3rd to 1st centuries BC
c: Eastern Atrebatic type pot from Saltdean – 50 BC-AD 43.

Local archaeological evidence (Maps 15a & b)

As with the other periods of prehistory, Ringmer's record of Iron Age finds and sites is limited although PAS reported metal detector finds of Late Iron Age coins augment this period's record **(Maps 15a & b)** (Figure3.1.14). In 2007 Archaeology South East, investigating the proposed reservoir site at Clay Hill (TQ453154), excavated a shallow ditch which was interpreted as being the east side of an enclosure dated to the Late Iron Age by a single sherd of pottery found in an adjacent pit (Dawkes, 2007, p. 42). In 2004 possible Mid to Late Iron Age pot fragments were found at TQ444121 during development of a residential estate just to the north of Middleham (Barber, 2006, p. 13). Just to the south, in May 2010, pottery found in a ditch at TQ440116 was identified as Mid-Late Iron Age (Meaton, 2010). This ditch was considered to be a continuation of the probable co-axial field system recorded during works for laying the Ouse Valley Transfer pipeline in 2007 (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, p. 87).


IA(late) settlement
IA coin
IA coin
IA coin
LPH pot sherds
IA (mid-late) field system
IA Structures, ditches, pottery and animal bone
IA coin
N
The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment
Map 15a1.5: Iron Age finds & sites on geology
Legend
IA settlement
IA coin
Iron Age/Romano-British coin
Iron Age/Romano-British lead
ALLUVIUM
HEAD
RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS 1 & 2
TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
LOWER GREENSAND
GAULT - Mudstone
CHALK - West Melbury marly
CHALK - Zig zag
CHALK - Holywell nodular
CHALK - New pit
CHALK - Lewes nodular
CHALK - Seaford
0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters
Geological Map Data © NERC 2010
BGS 1:50,000, Bedrock, Superficial, Artificial and Mass Movement layers
An EDINA supplied service
Monument data from ESHER 2010
All rights reserved



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

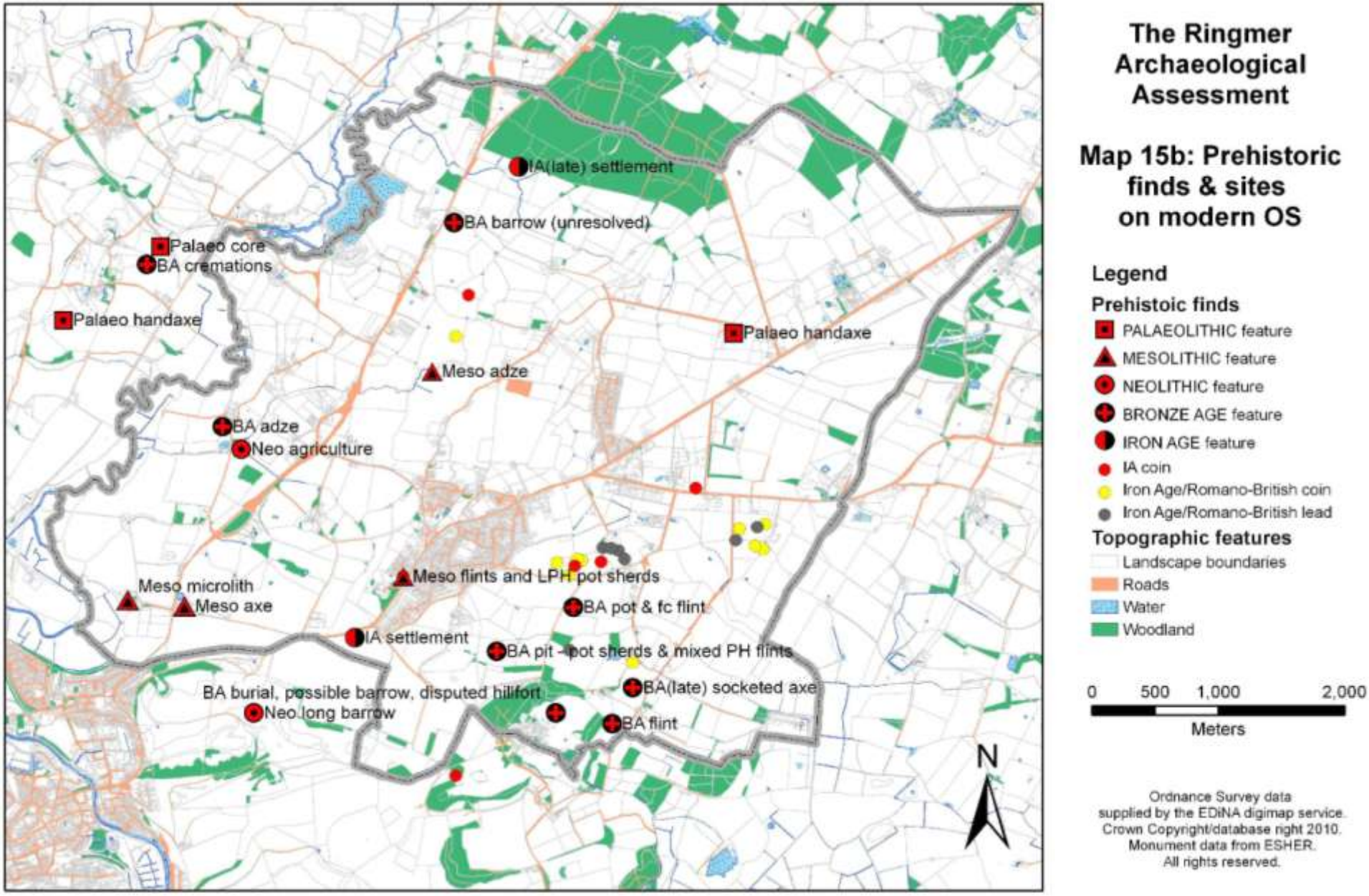
Map 15a: Prehistoric finds & sites on geology

Legend

- PALAEOLITHIC feature
- MESOLITHIC feature
- NEOLITHIC feature
- BRONZE AGE feature
- IRON AGE feature
- Iron Age coin
- Iron Age/Romano-British coin
- Iron Age/Romano-British lead
- ALLUVIUM
- HEAD
- RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS 1 & 2
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters


The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment
Map 15b: Prehistoric finds & sites on modern OS
IA(late) settlement
BA barrow (unresolved)
Palaeo core
BA cremations
Palaeo handaxe
Palaeo handaxe
Meso adze
BA adze
Neo agriculture
Meso flints and LPH pot sherds
Meso microlith
Meso axe
BA pot & fc flint
IA settlement
BA pit - pot sherds & mixed PH flints
BA(late) socketed axe
BA burial, possible barrow, disputed hillfort
Neo long barrow
BA flint
N
Legend
Prehistoic finds
PALAEOLITHIC feature
MESOLITHIC feature
NEOLITHIC feature
BRONZE AGE feature
IRON AGE feature
IA coin
Iron Age/Romano-British coin
Iron Age/Romano-British lead
Topographic features
Landscape boundaries
Roads
Water
Woodland
0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters
Ordnance Survey data supplied by the EDiNA digimap service. Crown Copyright/database right 2010. Monument data from ESHER. All rights reserved.

3.2. ROMANO-BRITISH: AD43-409 (Maps 16a & b)

Professor Cunliffe (pers. comm., Holleyman Lecture, 2010) has suggested that the Romano-British period can be regarded as an intermission in the natural order of North-European cultural development and that if disregarded continuity can be observed between the late Iron Age and early Saxon periods. The archaeology of Romano-Britain is discretely foreign when compared to these other periods and forms a very useful and distinctive divider in multi-period investigations.

Whilst this section is dated from the historical date of the Claudian invasion of AD43, recent archaeological research at Fishbourne suggests that parts of Sussex may have been under the influence of Rome half a century earlier (Cunliffe, 2003, p. 4; Rudling, 2003, p. 111). A more general adoption of many aspects of the Roman way of life appears to have developed by the early 2nd century. Straight metalled roads, rectilinear masonry buildings, increasing use of mundane iron objects and fine wheel-thrown pottery act as clear indicators to archaeologists of this *Romanisation* process.

Through the 4th century the greatly expanded monetary economy within Britain was turning sour and trade and therefore industry and commercial agriculture were heading for terminal decline. Towards the end of the century, at a time when Saxon raiding was increasing, Roman military presence was becoming minimal (Drewett *et al,* 1988, p. 246).

The historical date for the end of the Romano-British period is set at AD409 when Britain ejected its imperial overseers (Russell, 2006, p. 271). But the period of Roman cultural influence in not so clear cut and can be seen in certain aspects until late into the 5th century in areas such as Pevensey (Rudling, 1999, p. 25).

Saxon place-name evidence (Maps 16 & 17)

Three place-names in the south-west of the parish may suggest Romano-British settlement. Stoneham could signify a stone-built road or building whilst Walecote and Chalkham (Schalkngehm) could refer to Britons as servants or slaves.

Local archaeological evidence (Maps 16a & b)

Before turning to the evidence from Ringmer itself it is relevant to look to the excavations carried out in Barcombe over recent years to show what results can be achieved by research-led projects (Figure 3.2.1).

Excavations in Dunstall's Field from 2001 to 2007 revealed a 3rd century rural villa complex of 3 buildings grouped around a walled yard (Gammon *et al*, 2006; Rudling & Butler, 2008). In 2008 excavations started in the adjacent Church Field on a substantial detached bath-house complex of similar date (Figure 3.2.2), whilst from 2005 ongoing a newly discovered Roman road has been excavated just to north with evidence of roadside industrial activity (Figure 3.2.3) (Rudling *et al*, 2010).

All activity areas were marked by a range of Roman pottery sherds (both imported and native), ceramic building materials, and iron nails plus a scattering of Roman coinage and other artefacts.

It would seem reasonable to expect a similar Roman presence within the adjacent parish of Ringmer.

***Figure 3.2.1**. Aerial photograph of Culver Farm, Barcombe showing the locations of the excavated Roman features shown on Maps 16a & b: red square = villa site, yellow square = bath-house, yellow line = route of the Roman road, seen passing through 2 excavation trenches in red boxes = roadside industrial areas (photograph R. Nesbitt-Dufort, 2009)*

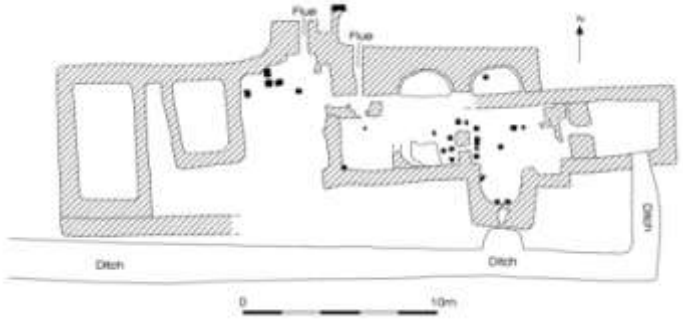


***Figure 3.2.2.** A sketch plan of the Roman Bath house at Church Field, Barcombe as at the end of the 2009 season (Jane Russell).*

Figure 3.2.3. *Excavation of Roman road at Court House Field, Culver Farm in August 2009 .*

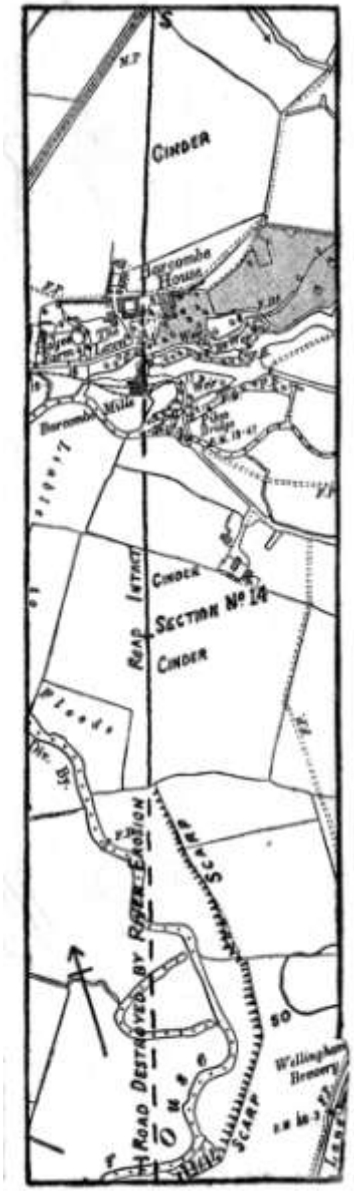


Figure 3.2.4. *Margary's strip map of the route of the London-Lewes road (M14) where it passes through Wellingham, Ringmer (Margary, 1948, p. 151)*

Ringmer parish evidence (Maps 16a & b)

When starting to analyse the Romano-British landscape, the known road system provides the ideal framework for all other features. In Ringmer this takes us to the work of Ivan Margary and his suggested route of the London to Lewes road through Bridge Farm at Wellingham (Figure 3.2.4). He excavated a section across the road at TQ433145 and found the road *'buried intact'* being a solid construction of flint with some iron-slag approximately 6m wide (Figure 3.2.5). At its edge Roman pottery sherds were found of a type suggesting that the road existed before AD100 (Margary, 1948, pp. 150).

Further south he observed slag to the west of Wellingham House and suggests the road ran past Upper Stoneham along a green way to a *'terraceway'* over the shoulder of Malling Down.

At Upper Stoneham he also suggests that a possible second road crosses on an east/west alignment heading to Saxon Down and thence to Glynde, with beyond that another route along Week Lane coming via Oxteddle Bottom from Southover (Margary, 1948, pp. 196-8).

Figure 3.2.5. *Drawing of the section excavated through the London-Lewes road at Bridge Farm Wellingham (Margary, 1948, p. 164)*

In 1871 a large lead coffin was found in Duddles Field, Wellingham at TQ432137 and was reported as Roman although seemingly not conclusively dated (De St Croix & Dudeney, 1871).

During dredging operations for Southern Water in the 1970s stones and pot sherds were noted at TQ429136 which were interpreted as indicating a possible Roman ford on the line of the Roman road (ESHER, 2010, MES1186). A pair of Romano-British quernstones coming from a yard or floor containing 2nd century pot sherds came from a nearby location at TQ429147 (MES1185).

Recently discovered evidence (Maps 16a & b)

Recent work by Greg Chuter (Assistant County Archaeologist) at Arlington has suggested a more direct route for an east/west road running from Pevensey on the lower greensand through Ringmer to link with the Greensand Way at Barcombe Mills (Chuter *et al*, 2008, p. 9). This, as yet untested hypothesis, would seem to have a great deal of merit and increases the need for systematic fieldwork in Ringmer, particularly in the Bridge Farm area.

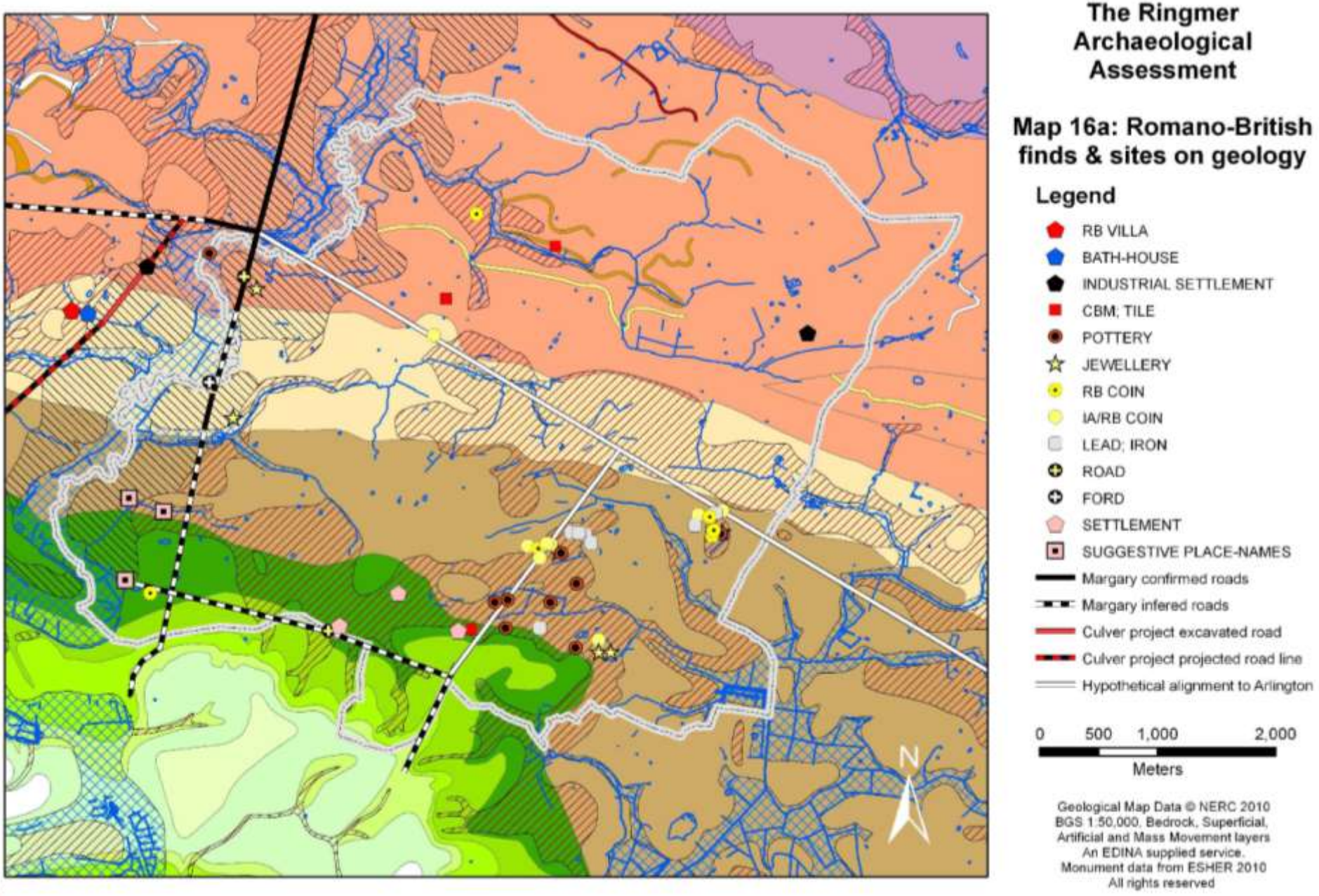
Roman period pottery sherds have been found at various locations during recent investigations for the Ouse Valley Transfer pipeline at Plot 3 (TQ440115) with three associated postholes, and at Plots 11 and 18 (TQ454115 & TQ460113) (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, pp. 23, 52, 55).

Excavations carried out for the proposed Clay Hill Reservoir site (Dawkes, 2007, p. 38) revealed a concentration of Roman tile but no pottery at TQ458148 suggesting the possibility of a production site or agricultural building rather than domestic occupation. Tile, including *tubili,* have also been found during the excavation close to the Clay Hill earthwork at TQ449143

during 1998-99 together with one base-sherd of Samian. These were interpreted as medieval importations from an adjacent site (Jones, 1999, p. 16).

A rescue excavation in 2007 on the site of a new runway at the Glider Club at TQ480140 recorded evidence of a Romano-British settlement extending over at least 200m. Features found included evidence for iron smelting and clamp kiln type pottery production as well as that for possible structures. It was concluded that the settlement also extended under the present runway (G. Chuter, pers. comm.).

Many Sussex parishes have a central Roman villa estate suggesting that modern boundaries may have great antiquity, but no such estate has been found in Ringmer. However the above evidence is sufficient to suggest a Romano-British presence in Ringmer parish which research to the level undertaken in Barcombe and Arlington could well establish.


The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment
Map 16a: Romano-British finds & sites on geology
Legend
RB VILLA
BATH-HOUSE
INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENT
CBM; TILE
POTTERY
JEWELLERY
RB COIN
IA/RB COIN
LEAD; IRON
ROAD
FORD
SETTLEMENT
SUGGESTIVE PLACE-NAMES
Margary confirmed roads
Margary infered roads
Culver project excavated road
Culver project projected road line
Hypothetical alignment to Arlington
0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters
N
Geological Map Data © NERC 2010
BGS 1:50,000, Bedrock, Superficial, Artificial and Mass Movement layers
An EDINA supplied service.
Monument data from ESHER 2010
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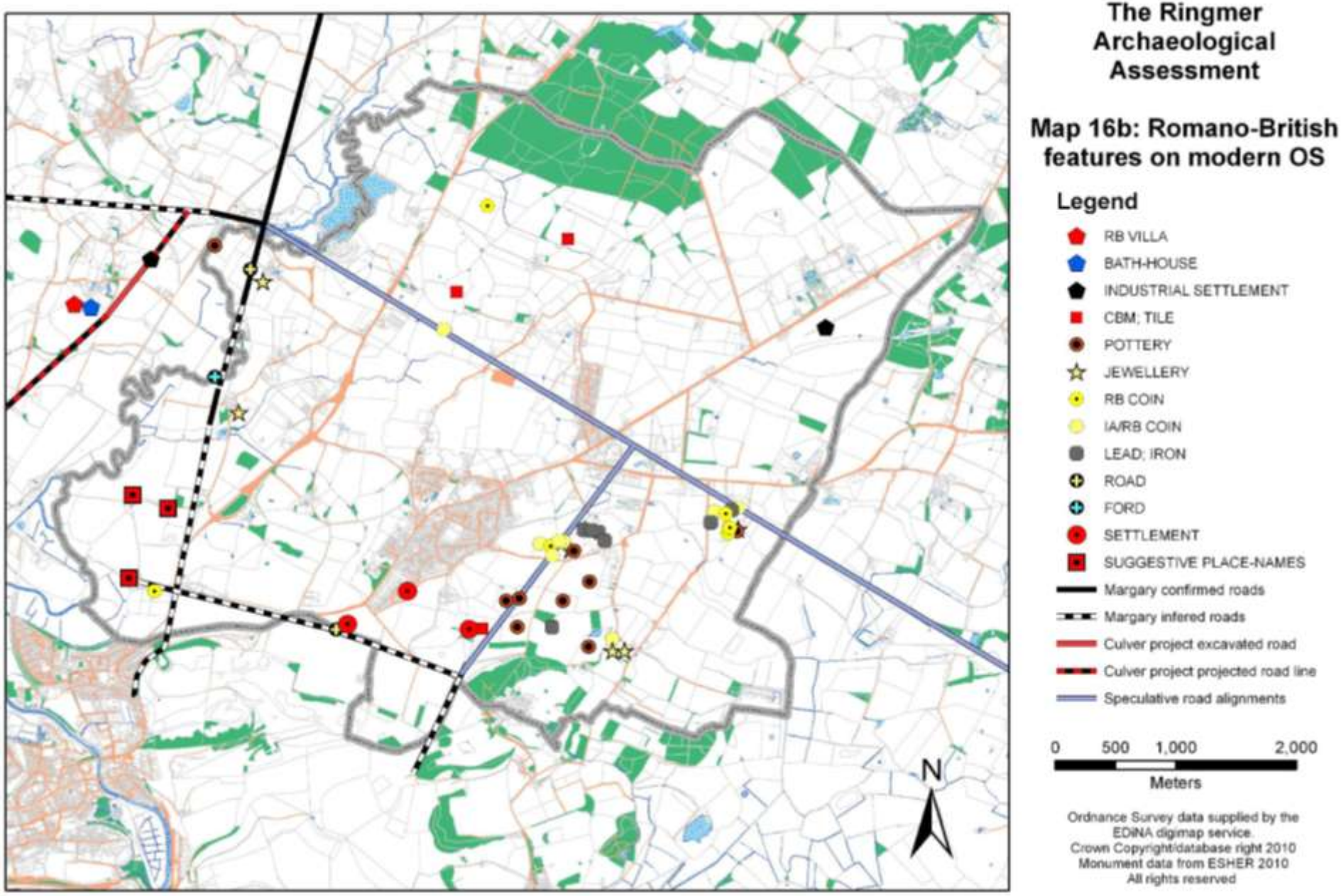
The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment
Map 16b: Romano-British features on modern OS
Legend
RB VILLA
BATH-HOUSE
INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENT
CBM; TILE
POTTERY
JEWELLERY
RB COIN
IA/RB COIN
LEAD; IRON
ROAD
FORD
SETTLEMENT
SUGGESTIVE PLACE-NAMES
Margary confirmed roads
Margary infered roads
Culver project excavated road
Culver project projected road line
Speculative road alignments
0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters
N
Ordnance Survey data supplied by the EDINA digimap service.
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3.3. EARLY SAXON: 410-949 (Maps 17 & 18)

During the late 4th century the collapse of the urban-based monetary economy of Roman Britain can be observed in the archaeological record of town such as Chichester. Coin series are interrupted and areas of dark soil appear over roads and collapsed building debris (Drewett *et al*, 1988, p. 247).

With the remaining Roman army units escorting Constantine III to the continent (Mattingly, 2006, p. 530) the flow of Roman coinage into Britain is curtailed and commercial industry and trade have no sustainable market. Population levels dropped dramatically (Gardiner, 2003, p. 151) and people returned to rural subsistence living in communities that became more dispersed and self reliant.

Within this fragmented society, hassled by belligerent Saxon raiding parties, are bands of Saxon mercenaries. The subsequent steady flow of settlers, possibly encouraged by rising water levels along the North Sea coasts, introducing Saxon customs into a still populated land, now seems a more likely hypothesis of post-Roman transition than the formerly held belief of a mass, warrior-led, invasion and virtual ethnic cleansing.

During this period a new hierarchy and social order emerged from the patchwork of dispersed hamlets and eventually a new national identity and monarchy evolves together with the growth of urban centres. The Saxons gradually adopted Christianity with small religious communities being set up under Bishop Wilfrid in the late 7th century, including that at South Malling (Taylor, 2003, p. 161).

This interpretation is strengthened by the archaeology as demonstrated by evidence from the *circa* 6th century settlement at Bishopstone. Twenty two buildings were excavated and interpreted as a self-contained village producing its own pottery and cloth and, as is often the case, was located adjacent to a contemporary cemetery (Drewett *et al*, 1988, pp. 270-1).

The fine wheel-thrown ceramics of the Roman period are replaced by a generic, grass-tempered, hand-made, pottery found in both the Saxon south-east and further west.

Some pottery forms are however definably Germanic as is the decoration and style of much of the metalwork including the square-headed and quoit-style brooches (Figure 3.3.1) (Drewett *et al*, 1988, pp. 251-3).

Figure 3.3.1. *A square headed Saxon brooch (image down-loaded from http://www.romansinsussex.co.uk/dbase/images/detail/sqheadbrooch.jpg)*

Local place-name evidence (Maps 17 & 18)

Several place-names in the parish, including *Chalkham, Stoneham, Walecote* and *Wellingham,* show forms that are currently thought to be consistent with the earlier Saxon settlement phase of the period (Coates, 1987, p. 9). All sit within the current 5 and 15m contour lines (**Map 17**), adjacent to streams and close to the river, on the richer Waterstock soils rather than the heavy stagnogleyic clays (**Map 18a**). This may well represent an early phase of dispersed Saxon agricultural settlement along the Ouse valley. Settlement to the south of the current Gote Farm may have followed (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, pp. 44-45) as this site is adjacent to a spring and on the lighter Coombe 2 soil below the Saxon cemetery at Week Lane.

The location of *Hastone* (Ashton Green), first recorded in 1150 (Mawer & Stenton, 1930, p. 355) and therefore settled before that date, could indicate the later gradual expansion of Saxon settlement into the low weald.

Local archaeological evidence (Map 17)

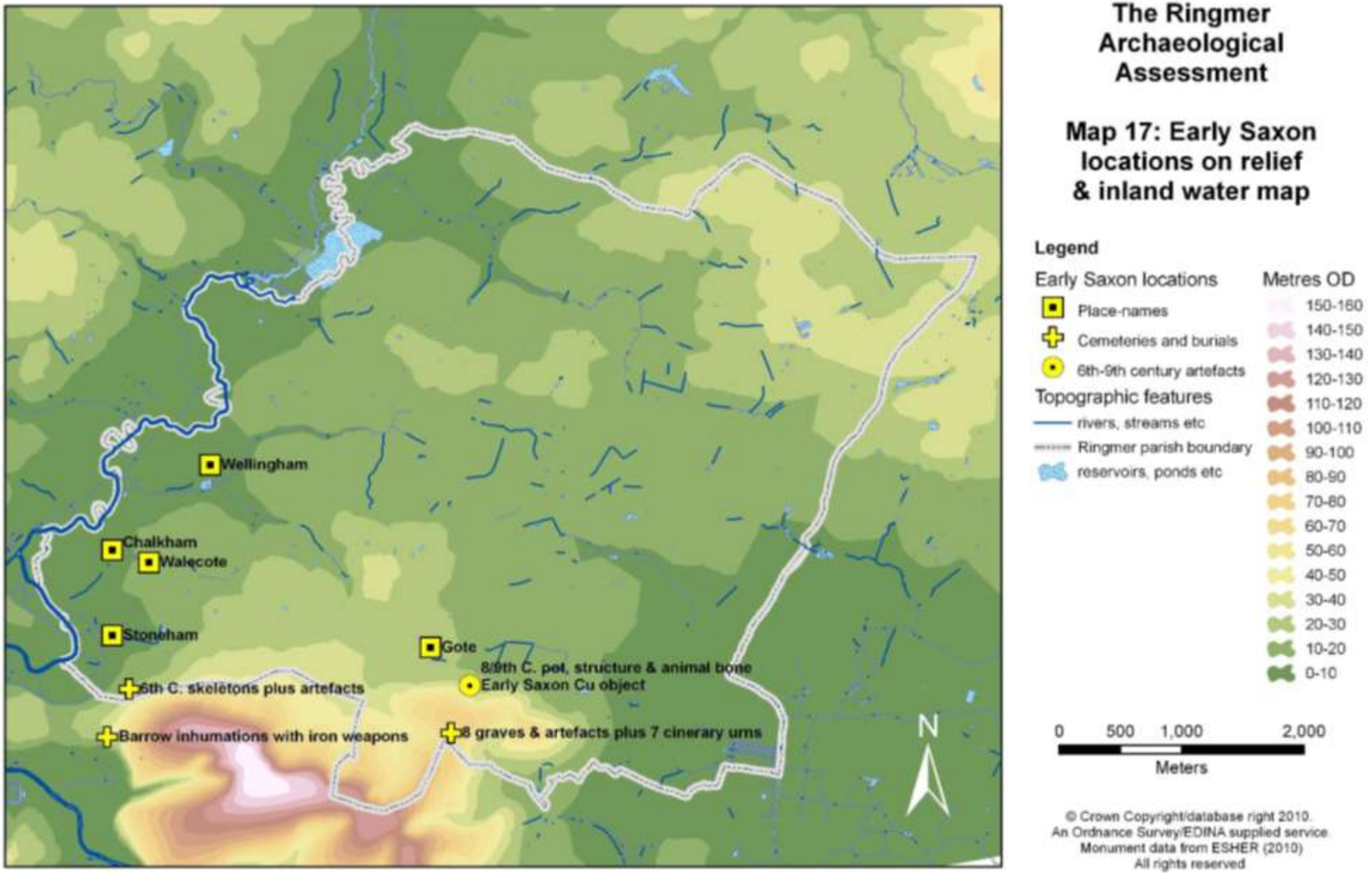
Evidence of Saxon settlement in East Sussex is scarce but Ringmer boasts 2 Saxon cemeteries, Week Lane (TQ449110) and Earwig Corner (TQ423115) plus another just over its boundary at Cliffe Hill (TQ434107) (Welch, 1983, pp. 402-4) As seen at Bishopstone, Saxon cemeteries are often located close to associated settlement (ESCC Archaeological Team, 2008, p. 24).

The cemetery at Week Lane (MES1903) was found in 1879 comprising 8 graves between two of which were 7 cinerary urns of '*burnt black*' pottery filled with burnt bone. Associated

with the burials were iron spearheads and knives, a shield boss, rivets, and a bronze buckle. From the location of the boss and edging nails the shield would have been circular of about 800mm diameter (Griffith, 1883). In 2003 some further human remains and a sherd of pagan Saxon pottery were also found (G. Chuter, pers. comm.).

At the cemetery at Earwig Corner (MES7185) some 20 skeletons were found in 1830 with associated spearheads, swords, knives, shield bosses, buckles, two earthenware vessels and a rare green glass bracelet. Five graves were excavated by Gabor Thomas in 2001 comprising 2 males and 3 females, closely spaced with heads to the west and hands crossed over their pelvises. The women's costume included saucer brooches at each shoulder, small knives, buckles and toilet sets. The males had spears, swords and shields. The finds were determined as of 6th century origin and with other finds over the years suggest a major cemetery in this area (Locke, 2003, p. 6; ESHER, 2010).

More recently planning compliance works at Plot 10 of the Ouse Valley Transfer pipeline (OVT 10) uncovered 4 pits containing mid 8th to 10th century, pottery sherds and butchered animal bone. The pottery, as described by Barber (2009, p. 165), was mostly '*medium fired black (reduced) hand-made cooking pots/jars tempered with moderate to abundant multicoloured polished coarse flint grits in an otherwise sand-free pasty fabric*'. Three of these pits were interpreted as forming part of a possible agricultural building. A copper-alloy object, thought to be a spoke shave, was found amongst later features on the site but attributed to this period (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, p. 44 & 47).


The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment
Map 17: Early Saxon locations on relief & inland water map
Legend
Early Saxon locations
Place-names
Cemeteries and burials
6th-9th century artefacts
Topographic features
rivers, streams etc
Ringmer parish boundary
reservoirs, ponds etc
Metres OD
150-160
140-150
130-140
120-130
110-120
100-110
90-100
80-90
70-80
60-70
50-60
40-50
30-40
20-30
10-20
0-10
Wellingham
Chalkham
Walecote
Stoneham
Gote
8/9th C. pot, structure & animal bone
Early Saxon Cu object
6th C. skeletons plus artefacts
Barrow inhumations with iron weapons
8 graves & artefacts plus 7 cinerary urns
N
0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters
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Monument data from ESHER (2010)
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3.4. LATE SAXON: 950-1065 (Maps 18a & b)

This period sees the beginnings of the growth of the medieval commercial economy with the re-emergence of towns and trade based on agricultural products (Gardiner, 2003, p. 151). The economic growth was accompanied by the establishment of power both religious and secular which saw *burhs* like Lewes, founded in 879 by King Alfred, as part of a system of anti-Viking fortresses. Lewes quickly became the regional centre of an emerging area, combining defence with trade from its port. In the early 10th century the town boasted 2 moneyers with its coinage reflecting its regarded urban status by carrying the *urb* stamp (Harris, 2005, p. 16).

The rising status of Sussex is reflected in the holding of a *witan* or royal council by King Athelstan (AD924-39) at *Hamme wi Laewe,* widely believed to refer to Hamsey just across the river from Ringmer where metalwork attributed to the 9th-11th centuries was discovered in 1999 (Figure 3.4.1. and **Map 14**) (Thomas, 2001, p. 123 & 127). That Ringmer also has a *hamme,* now Ham Farm, which could be regarded as by Lewes, '*wi Laewe*', should not be overlooked **(Map 18)**.

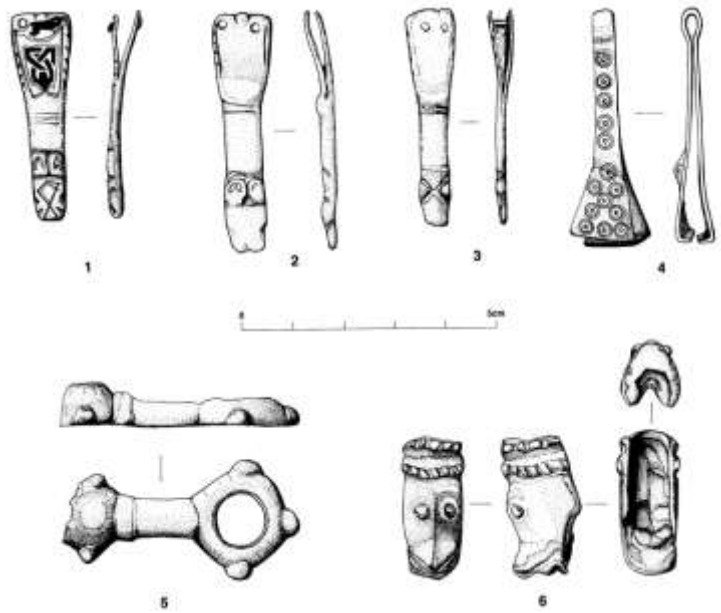


Figure 3.4.1. *Drawings of the Late Saxon copper-alloy metalwork found at Hamsey in 1999 using a metal-detector. 1-3. Strap-ends: 4. Tweezers: 5. Bridle fragment: 6. Stirrup terminal (Thomas, 2001, pp. 124-5).*

Ringmer, as part of the manor of South Malling, was granted to Christ Church, Canterbury by Egbert in 836 (Jones, 1998, p. 6). Brandon (1974, pp. 87-88) cites the four hamlets of Ringmer, Ashton, (Gote and) Middleham, Norlington and Wellingham, as epitomising the dispersed nature of South Saxon estates with each '*borgh'* having its own differentiated common-field system. The lack of such a system at Ringmer Green suggests its emergence after the common-fields were well established.

A consideration with regard any field work in Wellingham is the symbol for a church on Speed's 1610 map of Sussex (Figure 3.4.2). The 'borgh' appears in a lists of local parishes in at least two medieval deeds and the terminology "Master Robert de Wellingham" in the 1285 Custumal (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, p. 85) might indicate that he was the vicar of Wellingham (J. Kay pers. comm.). Whilst this evidence is highly speculative an early church in this location would not be out of place.

Figure 3.4.2. *Extract from Speed's 1610 map of Sussex showing a church symbol at Wellingham to the north east of Ringmer Park (http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussex map/speed.htm).*

Local archaeological evidence (Maps 18a & b)

The archaeological evidence for this period is scarce and once more reflects the small amount of investigation that has occurred outside the village centre.

Network Archaeology's (2009, pp. 36-41) OVT Section 10 provides evidence of continued activity with a series of ditches, pits and post-holes with fills containing pottery sherds from the mid 10th to early 12th centuries. Barber reports (2009, pp. 165-6) that the sherds are *predominately hand-made, medium fired cooking pots/jars with flint and shell inclusions within mostly oxidised, or partly oxidised, fabric although some are reduced dark grey to black*. He suggests that whilst this may set much of the material into the later 10th to 11th centuries there are elements in the assemblage suggesting some activity continuing until the mid/late 12th century. The pottery was accompanied with butchered animal bone, burnt grain and a quernstone. The archaeologists interpreted these findings as an indication of the continued use of the site through the Saxo-Norman periods as a small farmstead (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, pp. 45-50 & 89).

A few sherds of 9th-10th century pottery of low-fired, black fabric with multi-coloured flint inclusions (Barber, 2006, p. 12) were found during a housing development in Lewes Road, north of Middleham at TQ444121, in 2005 however these were thought to be residual to the later medieval activity on the site (Wallis, 2006, p. 4).

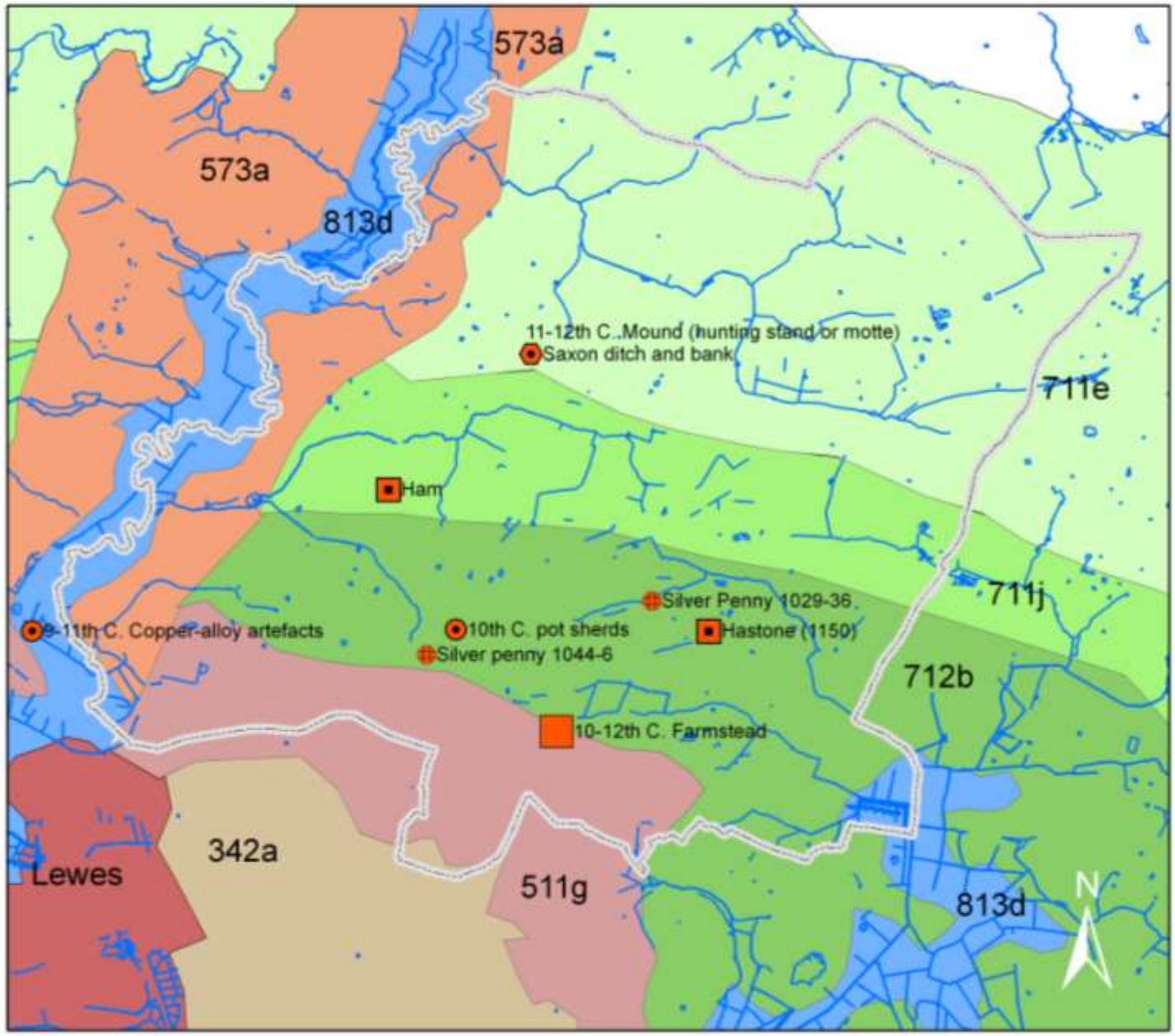
An investigation of the earthwork mound at Clay Hill (TQ449143) in 1998 excavated a linear bank and ditch, approximately 20m to the south, with an overall width of 8m which was shown by resistivity survey to be over 200m in length. The excavation showed that bank and ditch were constructed as one and the latest datable material *in situ* in the bank suggested it was of Late Saxon origin (Jones, 1998, p. 8). The feature appears to be an early woodland bank rather than a defensive structure thereby suggesting that the adjacent Norman mound may have been built in a wooded environment.

The PAS record includes two silver pennies discovered by metal detecting in 2008 dating from the reigns of Cnut and Edward the Confessor, the former minted in Lewes (Figure 3.4.3).

Figure 3.4.3. *Two coins found by metal detecting in 2008 and reported to the PAS*

a. Silver penny of Cnut (1016-1035), short cross type minted by Eadwine at Lewes, c.1029-1036 (PAS ref. SUSS-F5D233) (http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/234573)

b. Silver penny of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), radiate/small cross type minted by Eadwine at Dover, AD1044-1046 (PAS ref. SUSS-F65EC7) (http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/234577)



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

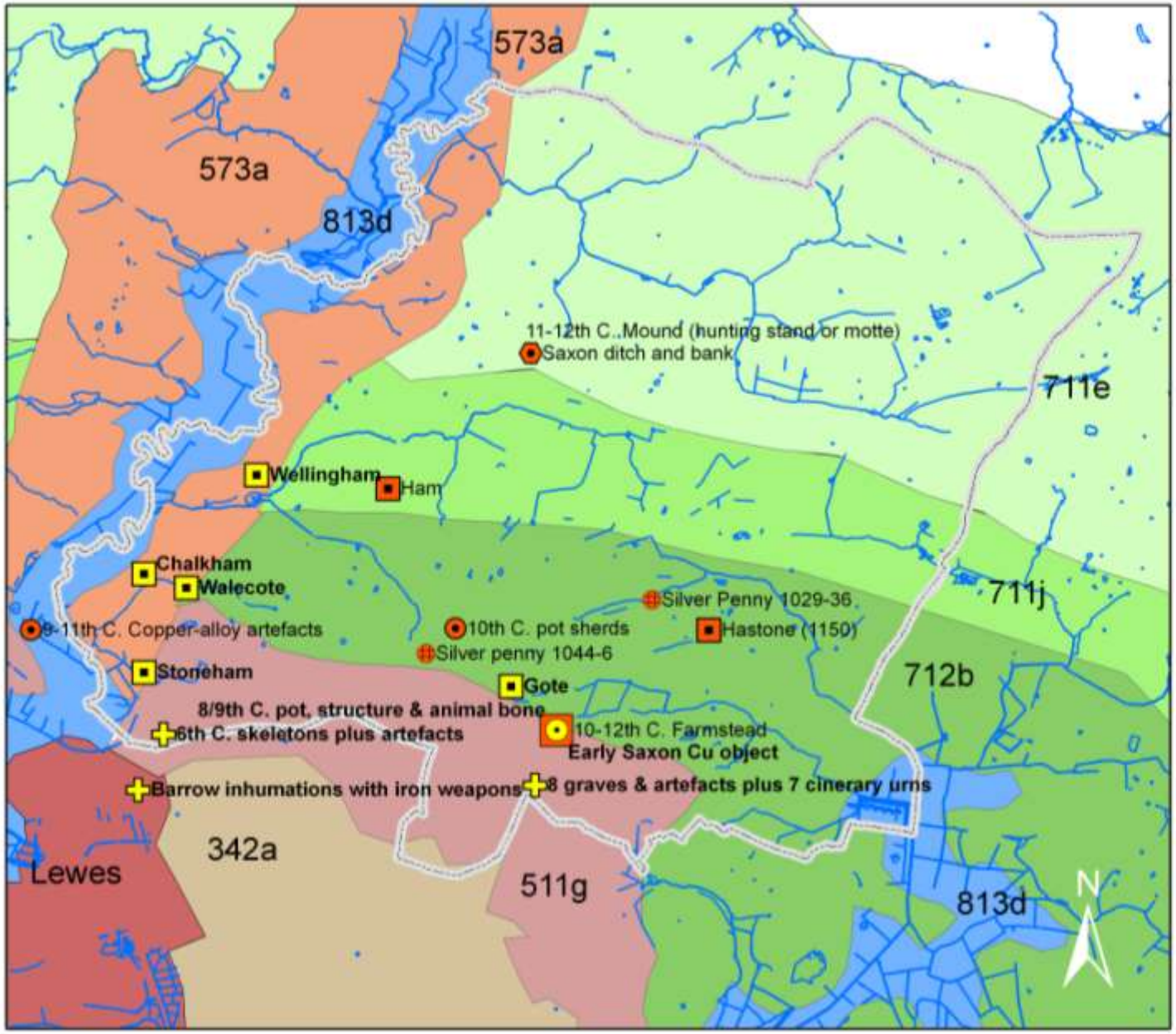
Map 18a4: Late Saxon features on soil data

Legend

- Late Saxon artefacts
- Late Saxon Coin
- Saxon earthwork
- Late Saxon place-name
- Saxo-Norman Farm

Soil Associations
711e Wickham 1 :711j Kingston
712b Denworth ; 511g Coombe 2
573a Waterstock: 813d Fladbury 3
For detailed soil data see Map 9

0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 18a: Saxon features on soil data

Legend

Early Saxon locations

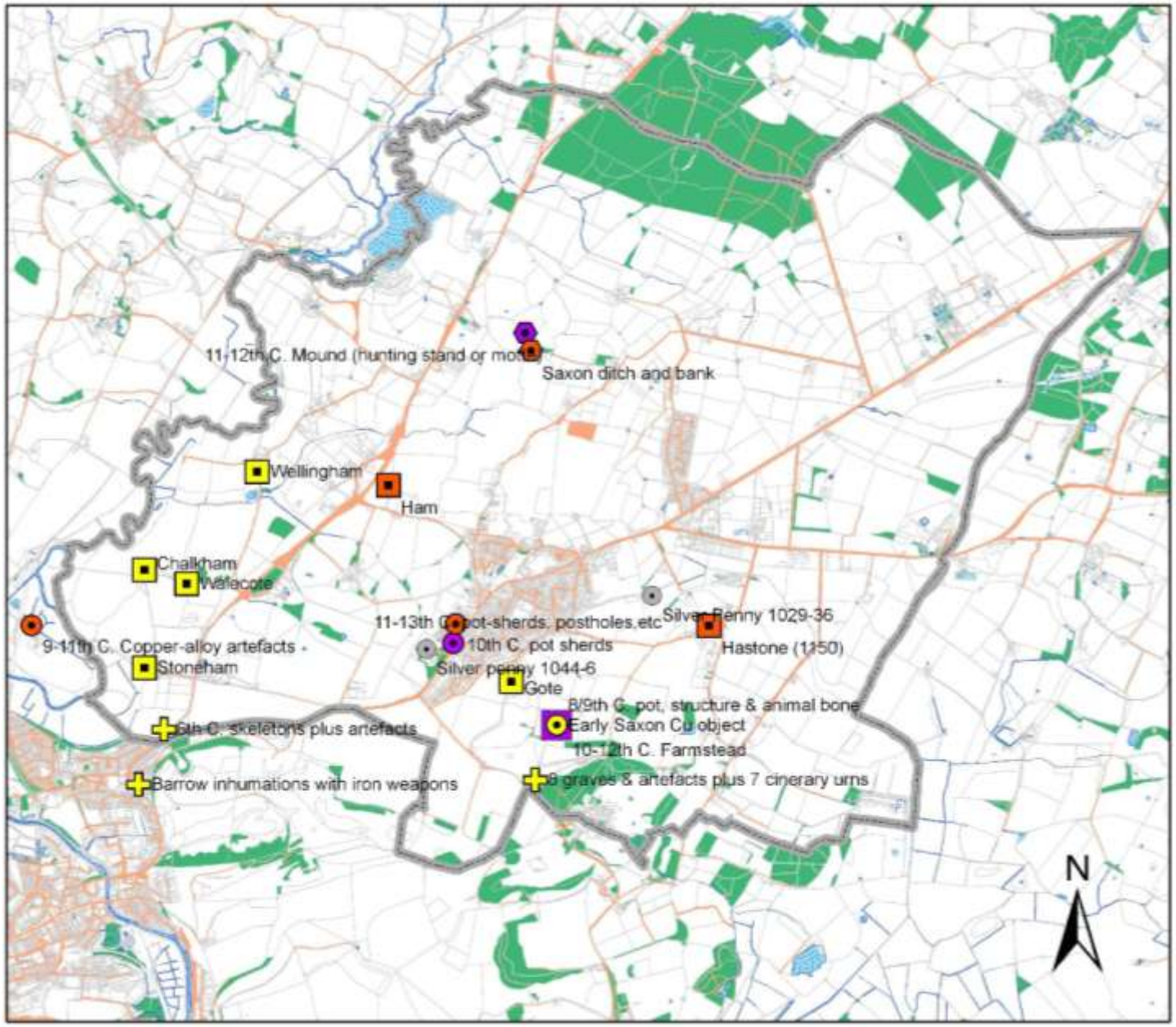
- Place-names
- Cemeteries and burials
- 6th-9th century artefacts

Late Saxon

- Late Saxon artefacts
- Late Saxon Coin
- Saxon earthwork
- Late Saxon place-name
- Saxo-Norman Farm

Soil Associations
711e Wickham 1 :711j Kingston
712b Denworth ; 511g Coombe 2
573a Waterstock: 813d Fladbury 3
For detailed soil data see Map 9

0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 18b: Saxo-Norman features on modern OS

Legend

Early Saxon
- Settlement/activity
- Cemetry
- Place-name

Late Saxon & Norman
- Late Saxon artefacts
- Late Saxon Coin
- Saxon earthwork
- Late Saxon place-name
- Saxo-Norman Farm
- Norman activity
- Norman/Medieval earthwork
- Parish boundary

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.5. NORMAN: 1066-1149 (Maps 18a & b)

The Norman period saw an intensification of the administrative systems developed by the late-English but with new foreign overlords controlling the indigenous population with the Domesday Book survey epitomising the new authoritarian regime. Sussex was now administered in five areas or *rapes* with each controlled by either a Norman noble or the church. Whilst Lewes was held by William de Warrenne, Ringmer came within the manor of South Malling, in the Rape of Pevensey, retained by the Archbishop of Canterbury, as was the adjacent urban settlement of Cliffe.

The Norman system generated surplus wealth in the nobility and state that allowed for an intensive programme of ecclesiastical and manorial building. In 1078 de Warrenne founded the substantial Cluniac Priory of St Pancaras at Southover, whilst across the Ouse at South Malling the small Saxon religious community had become an ecclesiastical college. Despite the potential of building remains it is once more pottery that figures largely in the archaeological record together with an increasing amount of metal objects.

Local historical evidence

It is from this period that the assistance of historical evidence principally in the form of extracts from Domesday Book might be expected. However Ringmer parish falls within the manor of *Mellinges* (South Malling), being a manor of 75 hides held by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury (Morris, 1976, pp. 16b-c) and the information given is too generic to be of much assistance.

Local archaeological evidence (Map 18)

OVT Section 10 mentioned in Section 3.4 (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, pp. 46-9) contained three articulated cattle skeletons, a wet stone and a whittle-tanged iron knife, this latter object possibly being early medieval, in features interpreted as being mid 11th to mid 12th century. The cattle skeletons suggest that this farmstead, which seems not to have continued beyond the 12th century, may have been a pastoral cattle farm in its later stages (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2009, p. 89).

Further signs of activity are indicated by a small amount of pottery sherds found associated to post-holes and ditches at TQ444121; although it was concluded that any settlement may be to the south in the vicinity of Middleham (Wallis, 2006, p. 4)

The only Scheduled Ancient Monument (Monument No. 12777) in the parish is the earthwork mound at Clay Hill (TQ449143) (**Map 2**). It is described as having a maximum diameter of 40m and standing 2-3m above natural ground level (Jones, 1998, p. 1). The mound was surveyed in 1922 (Figure 3.5.1) with an evaluation excavation within the monument producing a small amount of Saxo-Norman pottery and revealing the mound to be formed from the stiff clay taken from the surrounding ditch (Toms, 1922, p. 225).

A modern archaeological investigation carried out between 1998 and 2000 included systematic field-walking, electrical resistance surveys and the excavation of three areas to the north of the mound (Jones, 1998, p. 1; 1999, p. 28). The purpose of the mound has been a subject of considerable discussion as whist long held to be a simple castle or *motte* it seems to be in a strange location for a defensive structure even though it does

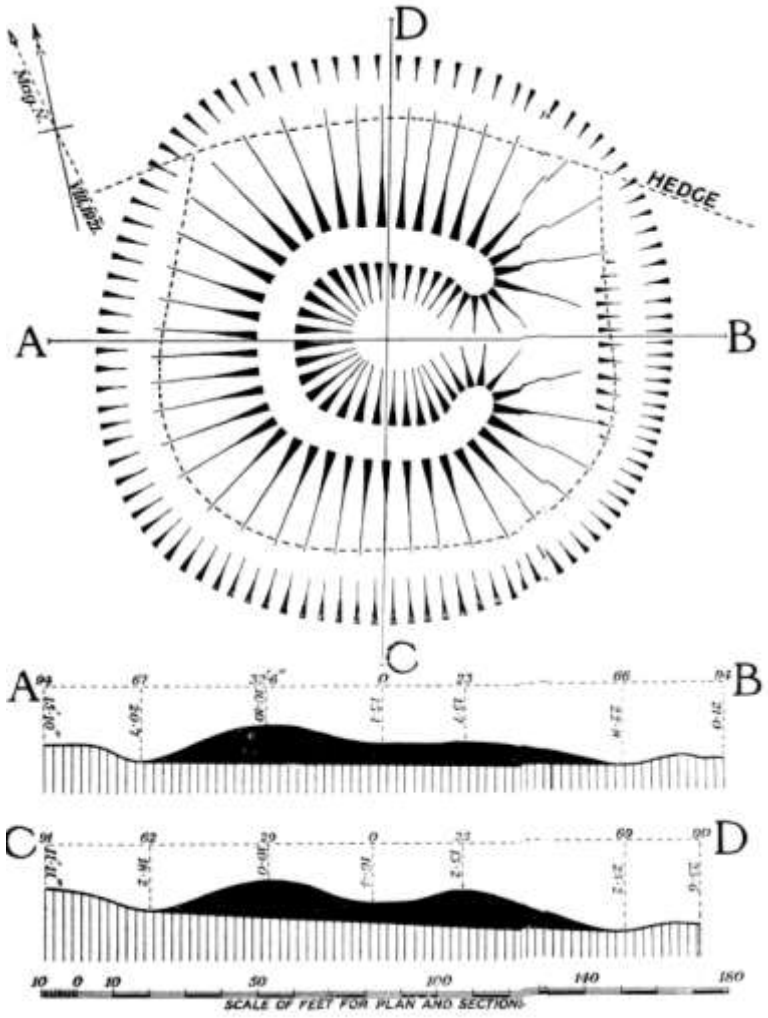
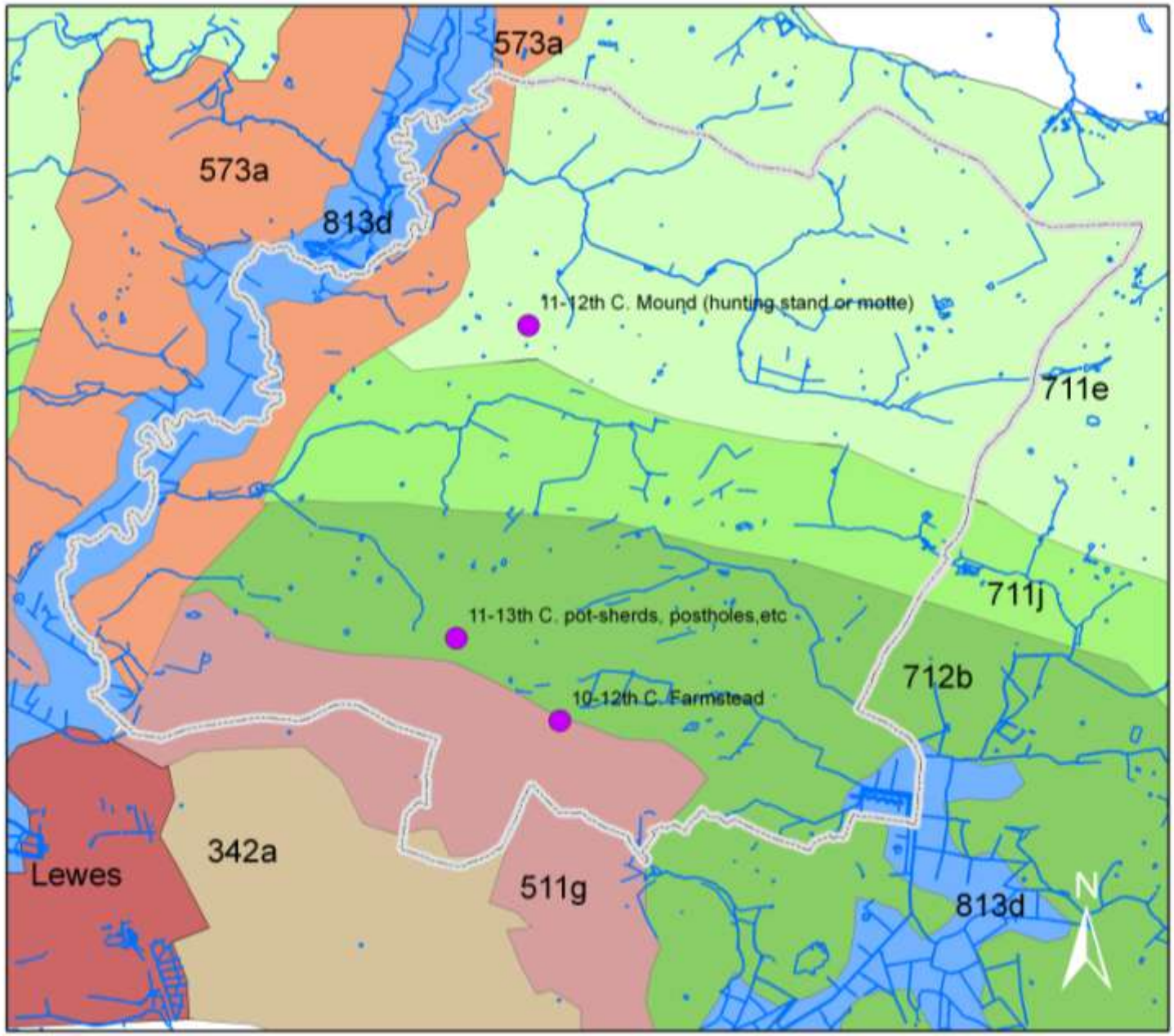


Figure 3.5.1. *Plan and sections of The Mount, Clay Hill drawn by Toms (1922, p. 226)*

resemble other earthwork castles. The two sherds of 11th-12th century pottery found in the adjacent excavation (Brown, undated) are of a date consistent for a *ringwork* castle built to defend the Archbishop's estates during the 'anarchy' period of King Stephen's reign (1135-41) (Jones, 1998, p. 12) .

However, Jones (pers. comm.) now argues that the evidence seems more compelling for the mound's construction as a stand within a hunting park. This is a use of this area that may pre-date the Norman era given the Saxon woodland ditch and bank previously identified. From examination of modern and historic maps the mound's location at the southern end of Plashetts Park, on a gentle rise from the ancient wood to the north, supports this interpretation.



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 18a5: Norman features on soil data

Legend

Norman finds

Soil Associations
711e Wickham 1 :711j Kingston
712b Denworth ; 511g Coombe 2
573a Waterstock: 813d Fladbury 3
For detailed soil data see Map 9

0 500 1,000 2,000
Meters

3.6. EARLY MEDIEVAL: 1150-1349 (Maps 19-21)

For a period that started in anarchy, progressed through a virtual civil war, partially centred around the battle of Lewes (1264), and ended with the Great Famine (1315-17) and the Black Death (1348-9), the early medieval remarkably appears as an era of steady growth in settlement and trade in the Sussex area. At village level this can be seen in the number of market grants made during the 13th century (Taylor C. , 1983, p. 159) with Ringmer being granted its charter in July 1283 (Letters, 2003).

Good climatic conditions encouraging arable production had continued from the Saxon period through to the 13th century but the climate then became wetter and colder leading to increased pastoralism especially on heavy clay soils (Taylor C. , 1983, p. 169).

Ringmer reflects the dichotomy of continuity, with much of the parish emparked for hunting for the manorial lord, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and of change, in the increase of land-holders particularly in the 12th and 13th centuries (Brandon, 1974, p. 95), the rise of a substantial pottery industry and the growth of the settlement around Ringmer Green.

Local historical evidence

It is for this period that historical evidence begins to become an important factor particularly with access to manorial custumal and rental documents (Redwood & Wilson, 1958) and the subsidy rolls (Hudson, 1910), both made available in a convenient form by the Sussex Record Society.

These documents clearly show the secondary nature of the settlement at Ringmer Green as the borghs named within South Malling in 1285 comprise *Wellyngeham* (Wellingham), *Gote and Middleham*, *Northlynton* (Norlington), *Aystone* (Aston), *Suthram* (Southerham), and *Mallinges* (South Malling) (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, pp. 85-120). *Ryngmer* appears only in the name of Sir Henry, vicar of Ryngmer (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, pp. 94, 96, 102, 105, 116) and once as a reference to the park of Ryngmere (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, p. 128). By the beginning of the 13th century the College of South Malling had been refounded by Archbishop Theobald and endowed with Ringmer as one of three *prebendary beadlewicks* of the manor of South

Malling (Horsfield, 1835, p. 349; Salzmann, 1907, p. 118) with Ringmer emerging by the end of the 14th century as a separate hundred from Loxfield (ESRO, AMS5843/1, c.1570).

In certain instances documents can provide more detailed evidence as in the case of the early medieval potters where the 1305/6 rental gives the details of the services to be rendered specifically by the 8 potters *(figul)* (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, p. 138). It has also been possible to estimate the numbers of potters from 1285 to 1530 (Figure 3.6.1) and even some of the names of probable potters in 1306 by using the services listed in the roll (Table 3.6.1.) (Bleach, 1982, pp. 47-52).

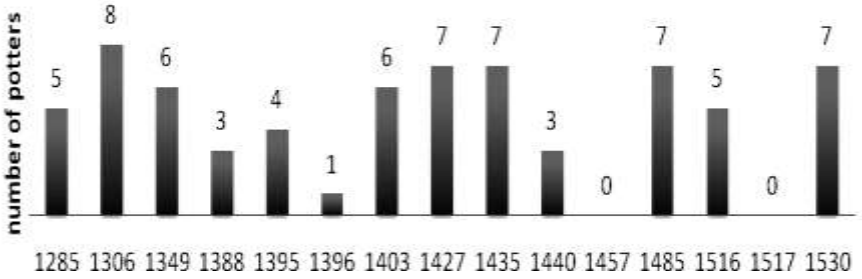


Figure 3.6.1. *Chart illustrating the number of potters in Ringmer for various years from 1285 – 1530 (Bleach, 1982, p. 47; Redwood & Wilson, 1958, p. 138; Salzmann, 1907a, p. 251). NB. The 1285 figure refers to individuals in Norlington only identified by John Bleach by their specific services listed in Redwood & Wilson (1958) and cannot be taken as a definitive figure.*

Table 3.6.1. *A list of the names of possible potters from Norlington borgh in 1306 (Bleach, 1982, pp. 50-1) (Redwood & Wilson, 1958) and in 1332 (Streeten, 1984, p. 232)*

Tenant	Holding	Lay subsidy
Wm Bysshop	5 acres	
Thurgod Kempe	7 acres	
Wm Burdon	7 acres	
Wm Eselin	5 acres	
Wm (son of Philip) de Middleham, *neif*	1 acre	
Robert ater Rede	2 acres	
Thomas Figul (*figul* = potter*)*	*cottar*	
Rico Poterne	*half virgate (15 acres?)*	*2s.11d*
John le Potter		*2s.1d*

This list includes one name, Wm Bysshop, which is still traceable in the current landscape in Bishops Lane which bisects the area where most of the archaeological evidence for pottery has been found. The descriptive *'le'* in the last name suggests that it can be read as 'John the potter'.

Standing building evidence

The only standing building evidence from this period is within the parish Church of St Mary (TQ446125) (Figures 3.6.2/3.) where the aisle arcades are 14th century, those on the north side having 13th century bases (Nairn & Pevsner, 1965, p. 587) but Norman fragments in the south-west buttress suggest a potentially earlier origin.

***Figure 3.6.2**. St Mary's Church, Ringmer (2010)*

***Figure 3.6.3.** Extract from the Delves House Estate Map drawn in 1704 showing an image of the St Mary's (red arrowed) and it's location adjacent to Ringmere Green (ESRO AMS 5799/2).*

Local archaeological evidence (Map 19)

Document research has revealed the possible deserted medieval settlement of Wyke at the southern end of Week Lane (TQ446105) (Kay, 1984, p. 46). This interpretation is supported by an archaeological exploration conducted by C. H. Vigor in 1945. He observed a quadrilateral entrenchment of over 2 acres enclosing numerous banks, ridges, depressions, and two circular mounds. The debris from several buildings and pottery uncovered suggested an occupation date of between 13th and 15th century (Vigor, 1947, pp. 3-25).

The archaeological investigations at the Clay Hill mound (TQ449143) produced 12th and 14th century horseshoes (Jones, 1999, p. 18) as well as pottery from the period (Jones, 1998, p. 2 & 5). Evaluation trenching in the field immediately north of the mound revealed a series of pits and postholes dating from the late 12th -13th centuries (Dawkes, 2007, p. 41).

On the west of the Lewes Road just north of Middleham (TQ444121)(Figure 3.6.4) a series of pits (area A), containing 12th to 13th century pottery and animal bones, were found suggesting a roadside settlement possibly located just to the

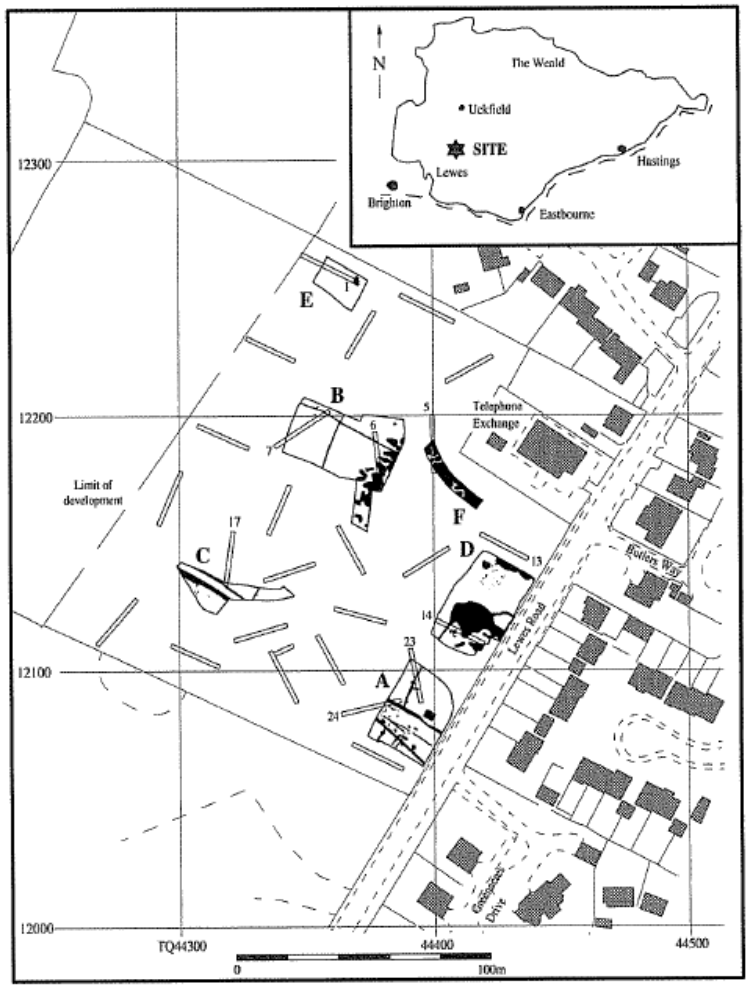


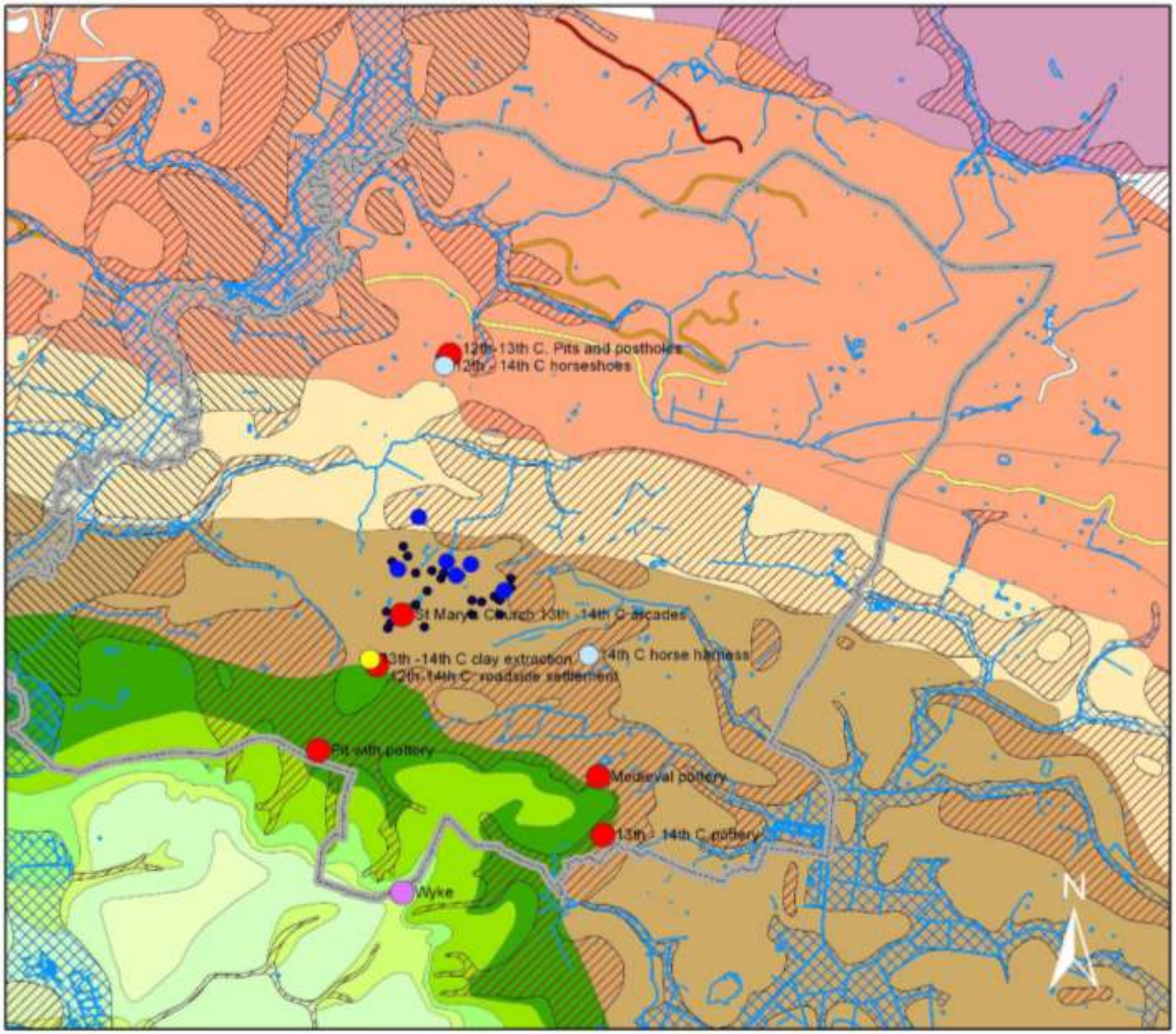
Figure 3.6.4. *Plan of the excavations of 2006 showing areas A and D where evidence of Early and High Medieval activity was discovered (Wallis, 2006, p. 30)*

south together with evidence of a contemporary field system. This activity area seems to have moved slightly north in the mid 13th century leaving evidence of a post-built structure, a well, a clay extraction pit and settling pits (area D) (Wallis, 2006, pp. 21-22). There was also an assemblage of over 300 sherds of locally produced, early medieval pottery. The recovery of a consumer assemblage of the locally produced wares from the 10th through to the 14th centuries is of great assistance in relating, the better known, later wares to those produced prior to the 13th century (Barber, 2006, pp. 15-18).

The investigations carried out for the Ouse Valley Transfer revealed only one early medieval feature, a pit in Plot 3 (TQ440115). The other material was found within disturbed upper layers and was mainly attributed to manuring except in plots 14 (TQ460113) and 18 (TQ460109) where larger assemblages indicated possible activity.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database includes a report of a harness pendant, incorporating the de Warrene coat of arms, found by metal dectecting in 2009. The de Warrene line died out in 1347 and whilst the arms were used as quarterings by various descendants it is likely that this item is allied to the family, as holders of the Rape of Lewes (Burnett, 2009) (Figure 3.6.5.).

Figure 3.6.5. *Part of an early 14th century enamelled horse harness found near Ringmer in 2009 (PAS ref. SUSS-E6C5C1) (Burnett, 2009).*



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 19a: Early Medieval finds and sites on geology base map

Legend

Medieval features

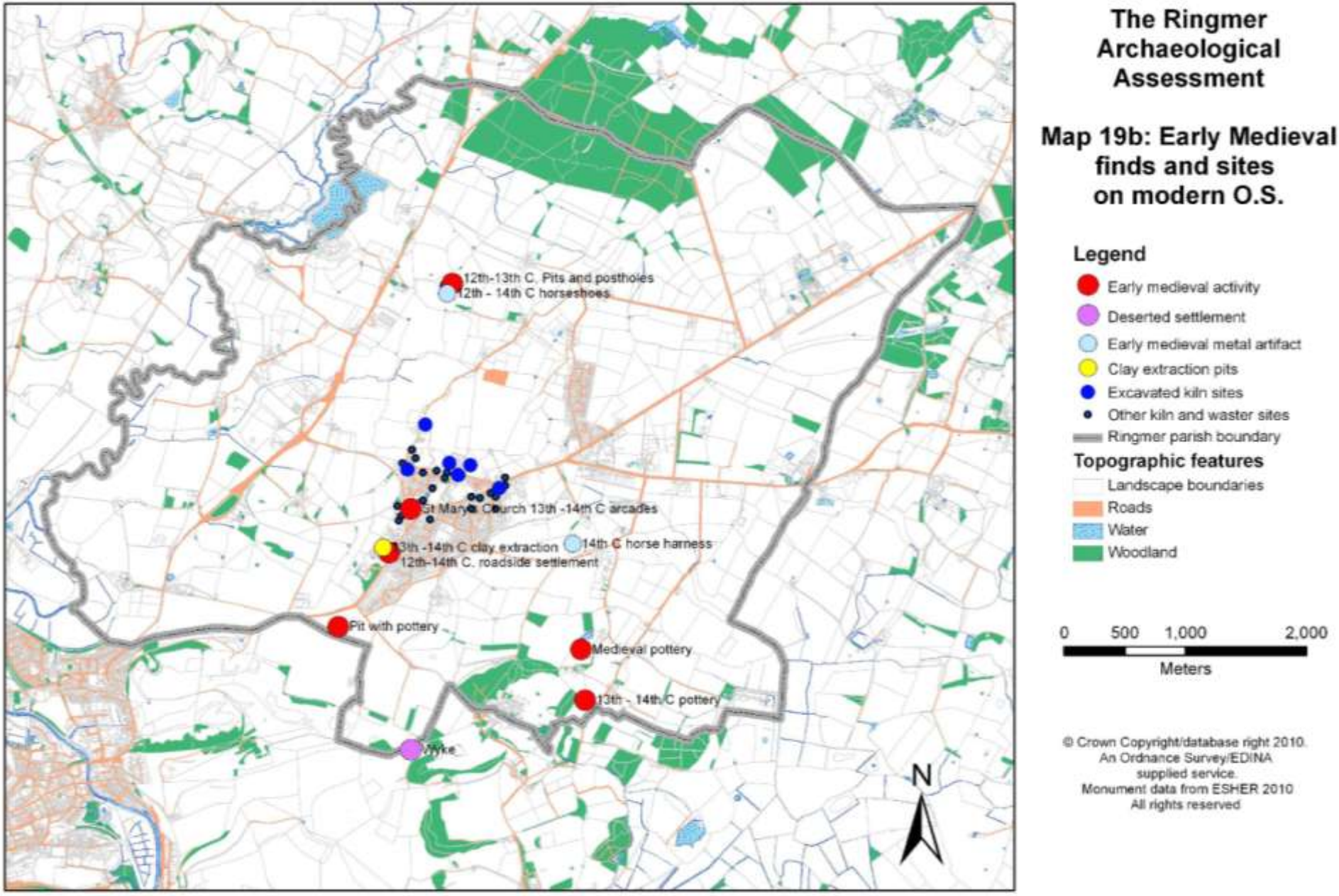
- Early medieval activity
- Deserted settlement
- Early medieval metal artifact
- Clay extraction pits
- Excavated kiln sites
- Other kiln and waster sites

Solid geological formation

- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND
- WEALD CLAY - Mudstone
- WEALD CLAY - Clay-ironstone
- WEALD CLAY - Sandstone
- WEALD CLAY- Limestone
- LOWER GREENSAND
- GAULT - Mudstone
- CHALK - West Melbury marly
- CHALK - Zig zag
- CHALK - Holywell nodular
- CHALK - New pit
- CHALK - Lewes nodular
- CHALK - Seaford

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 19b: Early Medieval finds and sites on modern O.S.

Legend

- Early medieval activity
- Deserted settlement
- Early medieval metal artifact
- Clay extraction pits
- Excavated kiln sites
- Other kiln and waster sites
- Ringmer parish boundary

Topographic features

- Landscape boundaries
- Roads
- Water
- Woodland

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.6.1. Park, Common & Chase - (Maps 20a & b)

The four deer parks of Broyle, Plashett, Ryngmer, and More dominated the parish at a time when emparkments were rapidly increasing in number. This increase may have partially been due to the introduction of fallow deer from the Near East in the 12th century as a species easier to keep within the pale than the native red and roe deer (Brandon, 2003, p. 76) (Figure 3.6.6.). As can be seen in **Map 20b** the parks generally avoid the lighter soils which were presumably kept for the arable open-field systems.

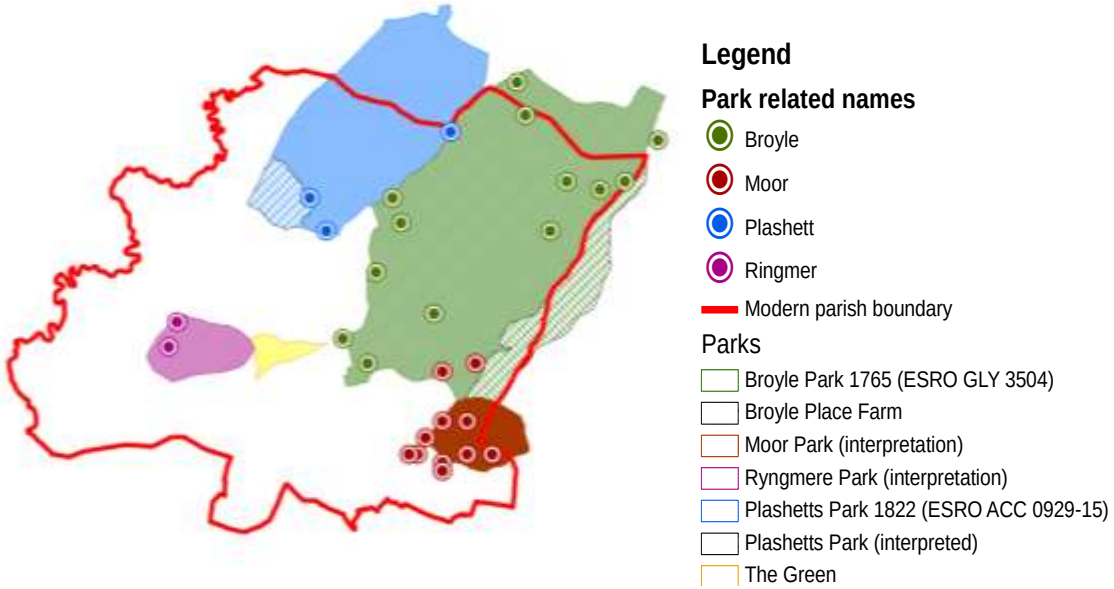


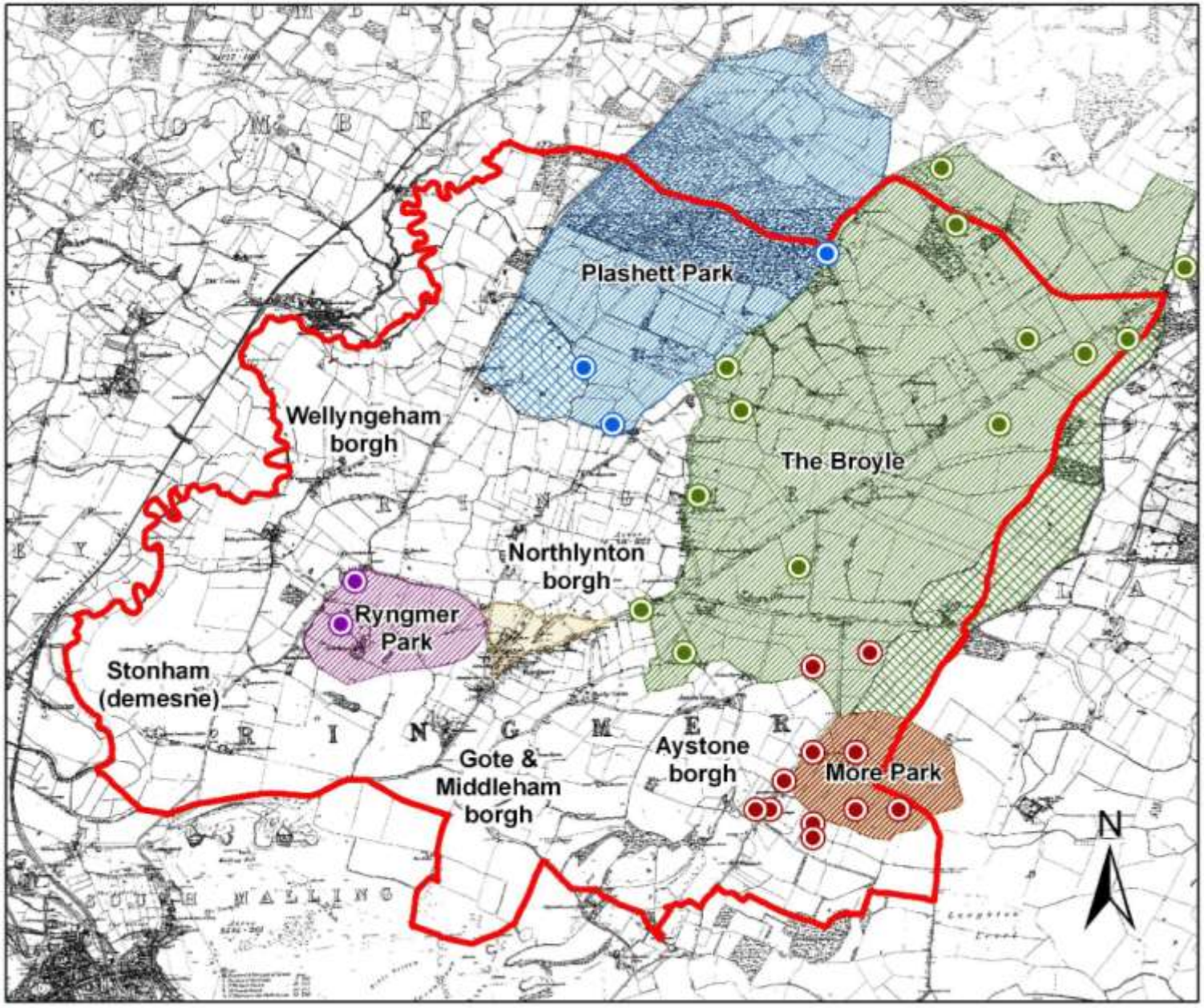
Figure 3.6.6. *Plan showing an interpretation of the location and approximate size of the parks of Ringmer together with the location of their place-name evidence.*

Broyle – By far the largest of the four at around 2000 acres (Kay, 2000, p. 165), although impaled, Broyle also served as a common to the manorial tenants providing important rights to the local population for the extraction of raw materials such as clay (*terram*) and tree branches (*suchas*) as well as for common pasture for their swine and other animals excepting sheep (Redwood & Wilson, 1958, pp. 90, 106 & 138).

Plashett – The more intricate of the parks with a woven pale, woodland deer park and chase complete with earthwork hunting stand. The latter was an integral requirement of some chase procedures which may suggest an early medieval construction when it became more customary for archers to shoot from specially erected stands at deer driven up a gently rising chase (Wymer N. , 1949, pp. 34, 52).

Ryngmer – A much smaller oval park probably home to Sir Henry, vicar of Ryngmere by 1285. An interesting field study into the evidence available from boundaries revealed distinct differences between the generally curvilinear boundaries coinciding with roads, copse edges, and mature trees on banks, and the straight, hawthorn-rich, south-western boundary, interpreted as an 18th century realignment (Maloney & Howard, 1982).

More – Another compact deer park with curvilinear boundaries, More has left a great deal of place and field-name evidence particularly within the 1843 tithe apportionment (Table 2.5.3 and **Map 14**). These names are clustered into the extreme south-east of the parish and following indications gained from Ryngmer Park an approximation of its size and shape has been compiled. Inspection of the boundaries on the ground must now be a high priority to confirm or amend the conclusions reached from the cartographic interpretation.



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 20a: Medieval Parks, borghs and demesne on 1878 OS base map

Legend

Park related names

- Broyle
- Moor
- Plashett
- Ryngmer

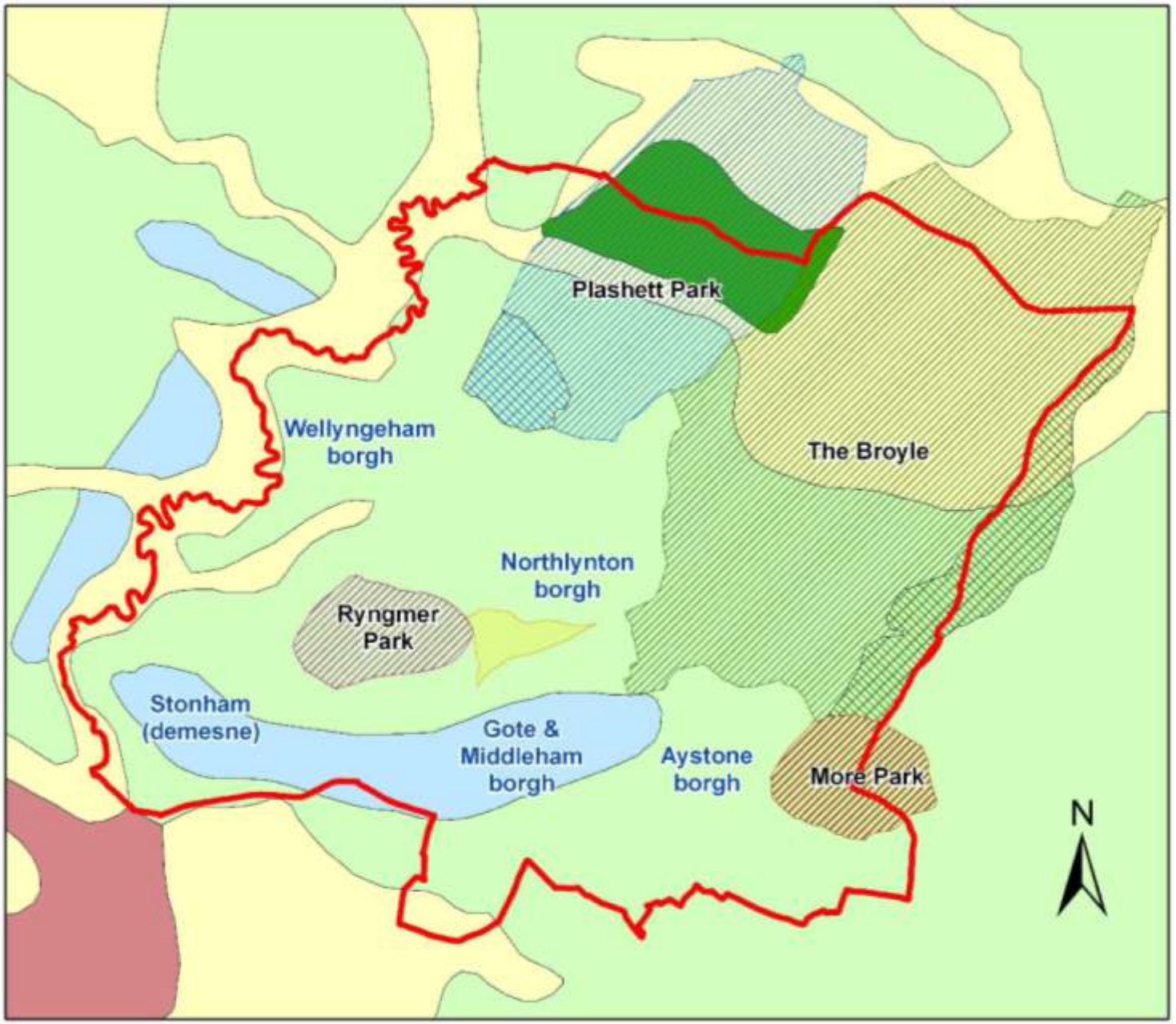
Modern parish boundary

Parks

- Broyle Park 1765
- Broyle Place Farm
- Moor Park (interpretation)
- Ryngmere Park (interpretation)
- Plashetts Park 1822
- Plashetts Park (interpreted)
- The Green

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 20b: Medieval Parks, borghs and demesne on land classification map

Legend

Modern parish boundary

Parks

- Broyle Park 1765
- Broyle Place Farm
- Moor Park (interpretation)
- Ryngmere Park (interpretation)
- Plashetts Park 1822
- Plashetts Park (interpreted)
- The Green

Land class

- GRADE 1
- GRADE 2
- GRADE 3
- GRADE 4
- GRADE 5
- WOODLAND
- URBAN (Lewes)

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

3.6.2. Ringmer Pottery (Maps 21a-c)

The most significant and numerous of the archaeological features discovered in the parish are the remains of the substantial early medieval pottery industry. This centres on an area just north of Ringmer Green on the edges of what are believed to have been the Norlington open fields **(Map 21c)**.

During the 13th and 14th century the increasing number of rural kiln sites show technology comparable to that of their urban counterparts. Their location seems largely dictated by convenient access to the bulky raw materials combined with short and easy routes for their fragile and relatively cheap product to a sustainable market (Streeten A. D., 1981, pp. 327, 342). Ringmer epitomises these requirements with ready supplies of clay and sand for pot production and the timber for firing the kilns, yet situated only a short cart or pack-horse ride from the established markets at Lewes and with access to the river providing trading opportunities along the Ouse Valley (Figure 3.6.7 & Table 3.6.2).

As the Ringmer-ware pottery has been discovered in excavations at several religious houses a factor in the development and longevity of this industry may have been its location within the manor of the Archbishop and the requirement for cooking and table ware from local ecclesiastical institutions. Manorial encouragement may also be implied from the fact that, amid a general tendency for rising clay rents, the nine penny per head payment in Ringmer remained static for over 200 years (Le Patourel, 1968, p. 115).

Figure 3.6.7. *Map of central Sussex showing the locations of Ringmer-type pottery as described in Table 3.6.2 below. (OS, 2010).*

Table 3.6.2. *List of places where Ringmer-type pottery or tile has been discovered*

Location	Place	Description	Reference
Lewes	St Pancras' Priory	Ringmer-type pottery from late 11th to 14th century contexts	(Lyne, 1997, pp. 81-96)
Ringmer	Lewes Road	Locally produced wares from 10th to 14th centuries	(Barber, 2006)
Battle	Battle Abbey	Ringmer-type pottery from 12th century context	(Streeten, 1984, p. 230)
Glynde	Caburn	Ringmer-type 12th C. rim sherd	(Streeten, 1984, p. 230)
Selmeston		Ringmer-type ware	(Bleach, 1982, p.47)
Hangleton	Deserted village	Ringmer-type pottery and tiles	(Holden, 1963, pp. 132, 147)
Upper Dicker	Michelham Priory	Ringmer-type ware	(Bleach, 1982, p.48)
Polegate	A27 bypass	Ringmer-type ware	(Barber, 2007, pp. 126-130)
Lewes	Brooman's Lane	Ringmer-type ware	(Locke, 2001, p. 229)
Pevensey	Old Farmhouse	Ringmer-type ware	(Barber, 1999, p. 107)
Lewes	Lewes Friary	Ringmer-type ware	(Gardiner *et al*, 1996, p. 102)
Pyecombe	Pyecombe Church	Ringmer-type tiles	(Butler, 1996, p. 216)
Southerham	Grey Pit	Ringmer-type medieval pottery	(Allen, 1995, p. 24)
Hurstpierpoint	Muddleswood	Ringmer-type fabric	(Butler, 1994, p. 111)
Lewes	Friars Walk	Late 13th/14th century Ringmer type pottery in pits	(Russell, 1990, pp. 144-151)
Nr Plumpton	Ashcombe Bottom	Medieval pottery from Ringmer	(Allen, 2005, pp. 21-2)
Seaford		Pottery from Ringmer	(Kay, 2000, p. 5)
Newhaven		Pottery from Ringmer	(Kay, 2000, p. 5)

Whilst the data collected to date regarding the trade of medieval Ringmer-ware is scarce and often reliant on a 'spot' visual recognition of the fabric, this is not the case at either Battle Abbey, where samples were identified by thin-section analysis, or Lewes Priory, where an in depth analysis was undertaken by an acknowledged expert, Malcolm Lyne, and dated by stratified contexts.

Ceramic manufacturing sites (Maps 21a-c)

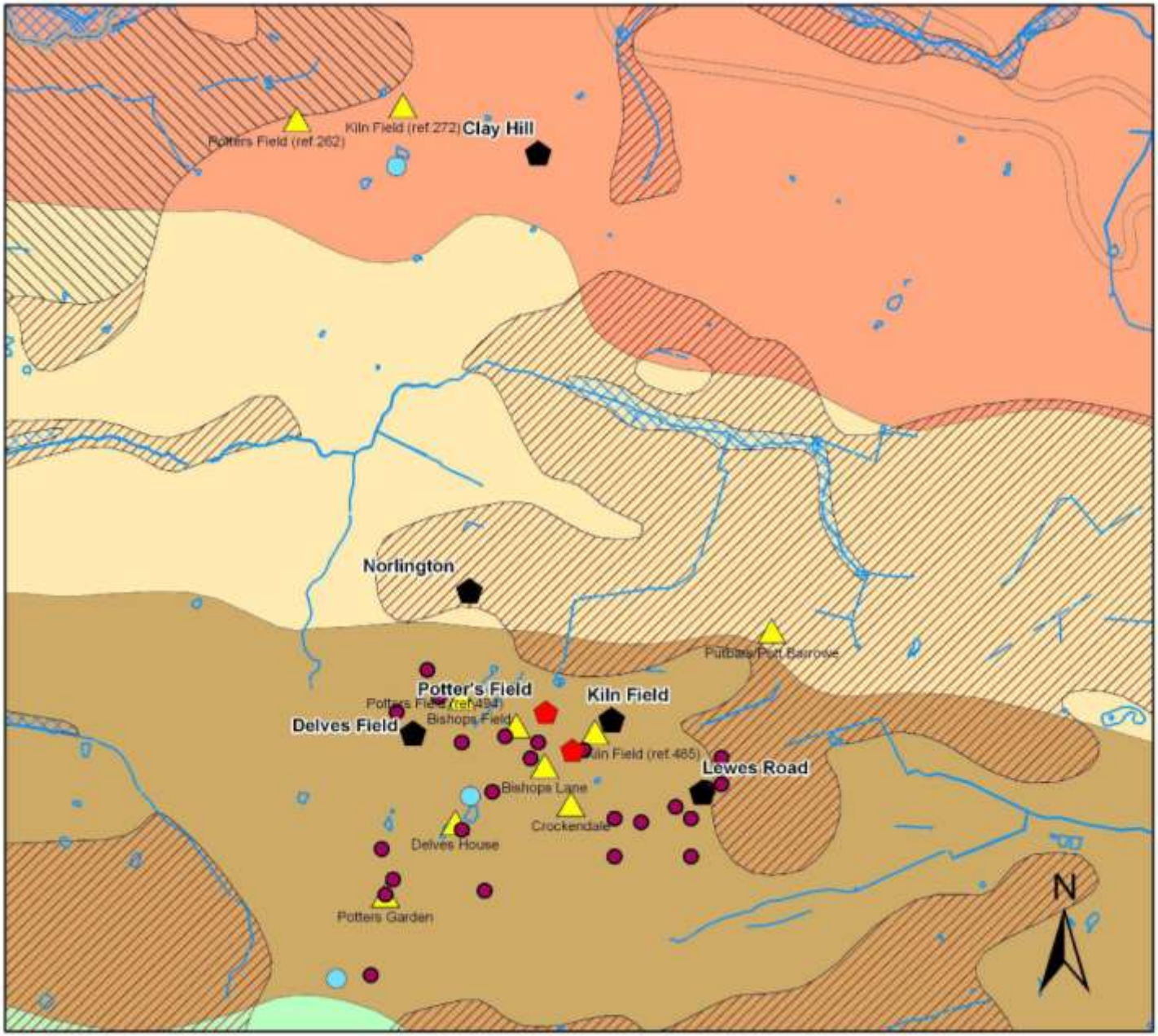
Starting from as far back as 1894 several of Ringmer's manufacturing sites have now been excavated (Table 3.6.3) and many other potential sites have been recorded (Table 3.6.4.) These sites, together with the place-name locations from table 2.5.2 and **Map 13**, are included on **Maps 21a-c.** These maps illustrate the concentration of early medieval activity to the north of Ringmer Green at the junction of the gault clay and lower greensand with the site at Clay Hill being uniquely located on weald clay. This leaves the lighter greensand-based soils free for agriculture and locates the kilns in the heavier, possibly wooded, clay soil areas that could supply the basic raw materials that they required.

Table 3.6.3. Excavated medieval kiln sites

Site location	Grid Reference	Excavator /source	Date of exc.	Period of feature	Type	Description
Potter's Field	TQ44921288 TQ44991278	(Martin, 1902)	1894	Late/Post Medieval	Kiln	2 brick-built parallel flue, up-draught kilns
Kiln Field (Barnetts Mead)	TQ45081287	(Hadfield, 1981)	1970	Early Medieval	Kiln	Mutsy type 2a kiln C^{14}-dated to c.1193 with adjacent waster heap
Delves Field	TQ44601280	(O'Shea, 1973)	1973	Early Medieval	Kiln	Huge waster heap probably close to kiln site
Norlington Lane	TQ44721320	(Gregory, 1995)	1993-4	Early Medieval	Kiln	2 Mutsy type 2a kilns in series with archaeomagnetic date of 1200-1270 plus 3 waster heaps
Clay Hill	TQ44901435	(Jones, 1999)	1999-2000	Early Medieval	Kiln	Small semi-temporary kiln with 12th to early 13th C pottery
Lewes Road	TQ45331267	(Gregory, 2008)	2002	Early Medieval	Waster Heap	Waster heap of early 13th C pottery suggesting adjacent kiln

Table 3.6.4. *List of other suggested kiln and waster heap locations*

Location	Grid ref.	Recorder	Type	Source
Fourways House	TQ44531288	Knight-Farr	possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Laurel Cottage	TQ45171259	Whittick	possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Elm Tree Cottage	TQ45341268	Knight-Farr	possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Fairlight Bungalows			possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
New Cemetry	TQ44491252	Knight-Farr	possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Shopping Arcade (garages)		Knight-Farr	possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Silver Mead House		Knight-Farr	possible kiln site	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Delves House	TQ44701257	Bleach	waster heap	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Lower Barn Farm	TQ45381276	Knight-Farr	waster heap	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Pattens Close	TQ44871275	Knight-Farr	waster heap	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Ringmer Hotel	TQ45261263	Knight-Farr	waster heap	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Bishops Close Estate		Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Bishops Field	TQ44641292	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Brightling House	TQ45381269	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Clerk's Wish		Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Delves Field	TQ44781267	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Diplocks Entrance	TQ45021278	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Forge Cottage		Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Greater Paddock Estate	TQ45301250	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Green Close Estate	TQ45101260	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Grensham House	TQ45301260	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
The Martletts Estate		Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
School Yard	TQ45301260	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Shopping Arcade (front)		Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Potters Garden	TQ44501240	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Telephone Exchange	TQ44471218	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Westfield House		Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Delves housing Estate	TQ44701280	O'Shea	possible wasters	Kay 2000 p.4
Old Vicarage Garden	TQ44521244	Knight-Farr	possible wasters	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
South Norlington House	TQ44901280	Martin	possible wasters	Kay 2000 p.4
Mr Cooper's house	TQ44801280	Cooper	possible wasters	Kay 2000 p.4
Downholme	TQ45101250	Howard	possible wasters	Kay 2000 p.4
3, Ashcroft Close	TQ44761241	Knight-Farr	pottery & tile	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4
Norlington Villas	TQ44611299	Knight-Farr	pottery	Streeten 1984 pp.222-4



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 21a: Early Medieval pottery sites on geology base map

Legend

Pottery production sites

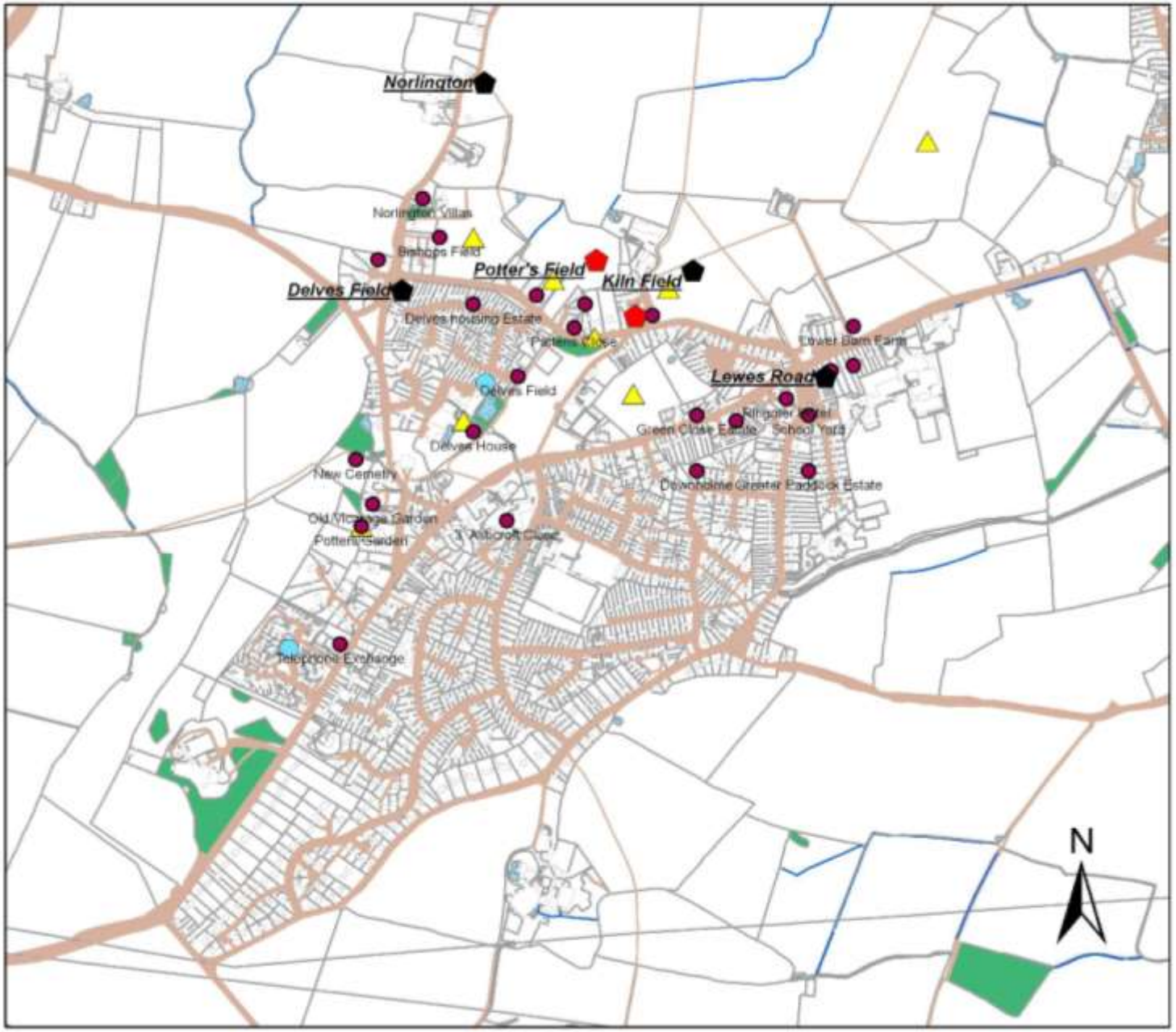
- Early Medieval kiln
- Late/Post Medieval kiln
- Other possible kilns and waster sites
- Possible clay extraction pits
- Pottery place-names

Solid geological formation

- Weald clay
- Lower greensand
- Gault clay
- Lower chalk
- Alluvium
- Head
- River terrace deposits

0 500 1,000

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 21b: Early Medieval pottery sites on modern O.S.

Legend

Pottery production sites

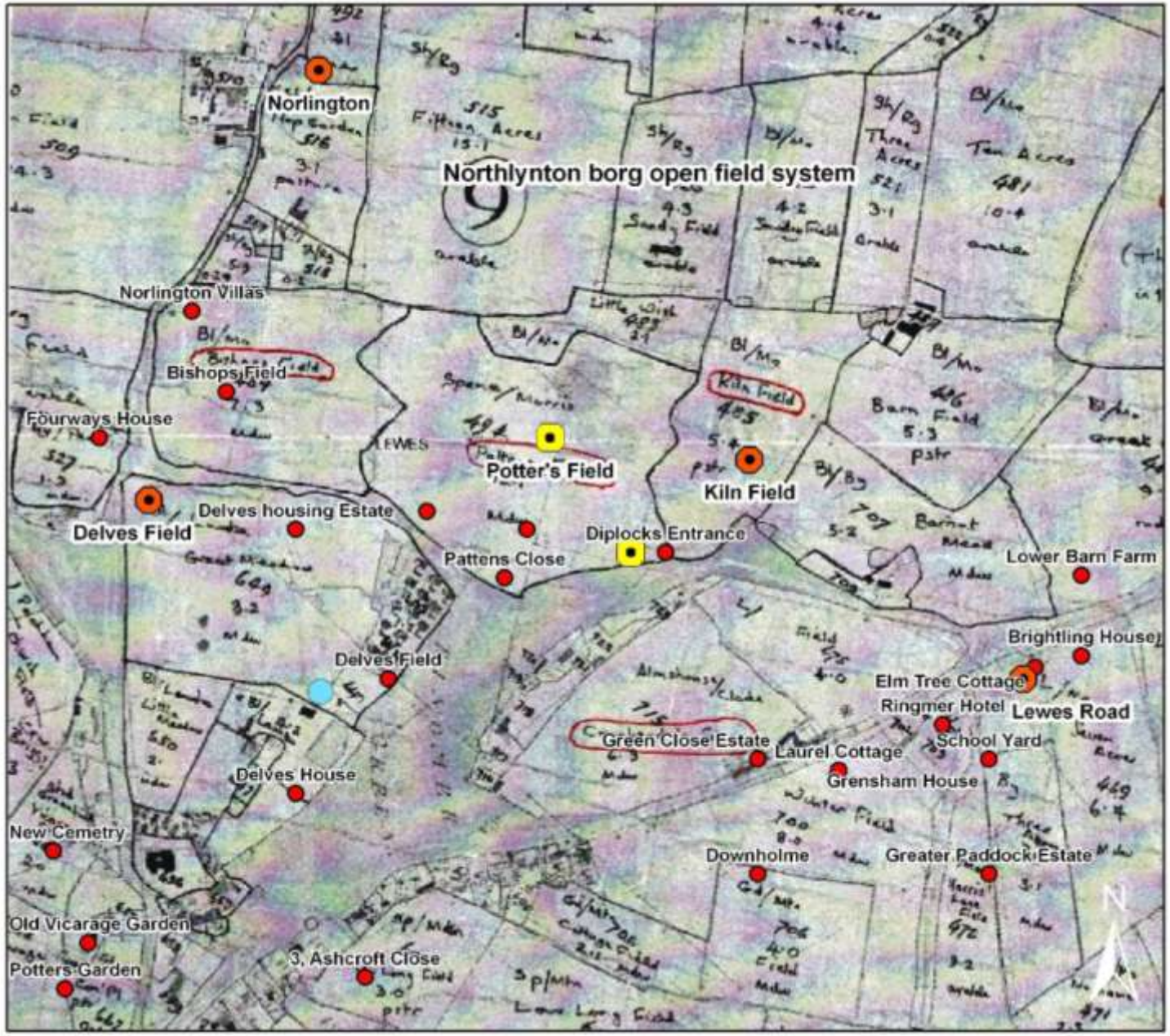
- Early Medieval kiln
- Late/Post Medieval kiln
- Other possible kilns and waster sites
- Possible clay extraction pits
- Pottery place-names (Map 13)

Topographic features

- Landscape boundaries
- Roads
- Water
- Woodland

0 250 500

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 21c: Early Medieval pottery sites on 1843 tithe map

Legend

Pottery production sites

- Early Medieval kiln
- Late/Post Medieval kiln
- Other possible kilns and waster sites
- Possible clay extraction pits

0 100 200

Meters

Tithe Map from ESRO Ref TD E 137 1843
Monument data from ESHER 2010
Streeten 1984 and Kay 2000

Kiln construction

The excavated kilns fall into two main periods and types. Kiln Field and Norlington Lane (Figure 3.6.8) appear to be Early Medieval being of wattle and clay construction with opposed, double up-draught flues, as defined by Mutsy as Type 2a (Gregory, forthcoming, p. 2; Hadfield, 1981, p. 89)(Figure 3.6.9). Clay Hill although less structured, also appears early medieval, being a discrete oval area of charcoal and daub measuring 1m by 2m above a concave surface containing a multitude of small stake-holes (Jones, 1999, p. 10).

The two kilns excavated by Martin (Figure 3.6.10) are substantial brick-built structures suggesting late-medieval or even later construction. They may not to be contemporary as the bricks used for each are of different sizes, being 190 x 90 x 65mm in kiln A and 250 x 120 x 65mm in kiln B (Martin, 1902, p. 132), the larger size suggesting possible later construction.

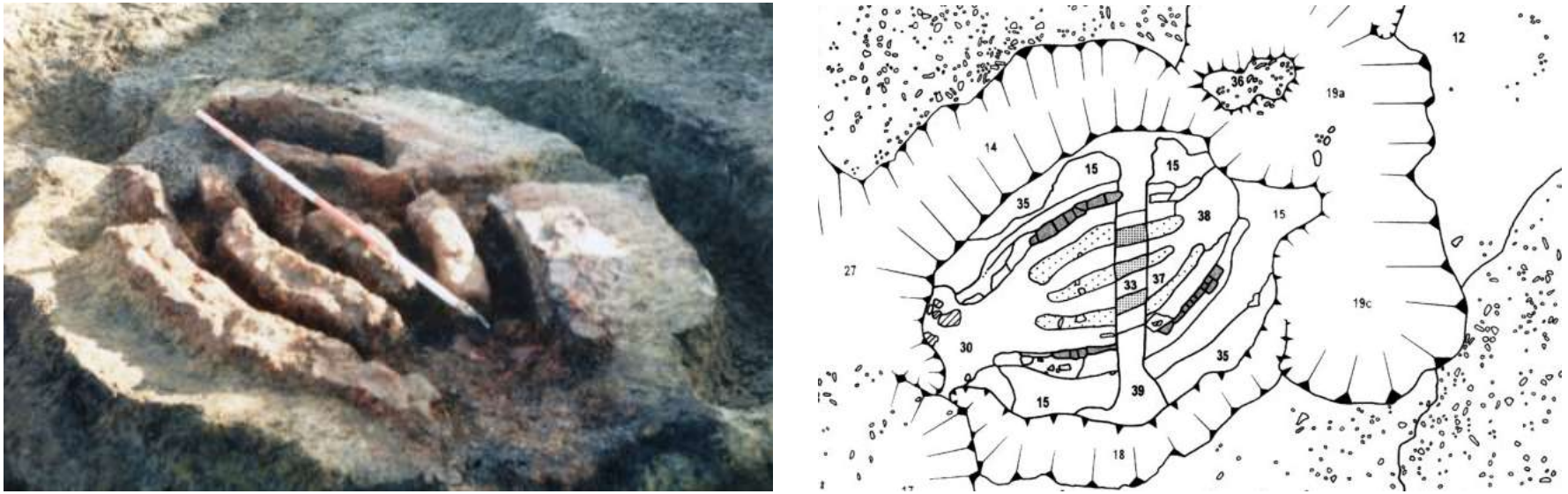


Figure 3.6.8. *Photograph (2m scale) and plan of the upper kiln excavated at Norlington Lane in 1993-4 which varied from the Kiln Field example in having an internal stucture of three clay walls (Photograph and plan by D. Gregory)*

A. Photograph of Replica Kiln

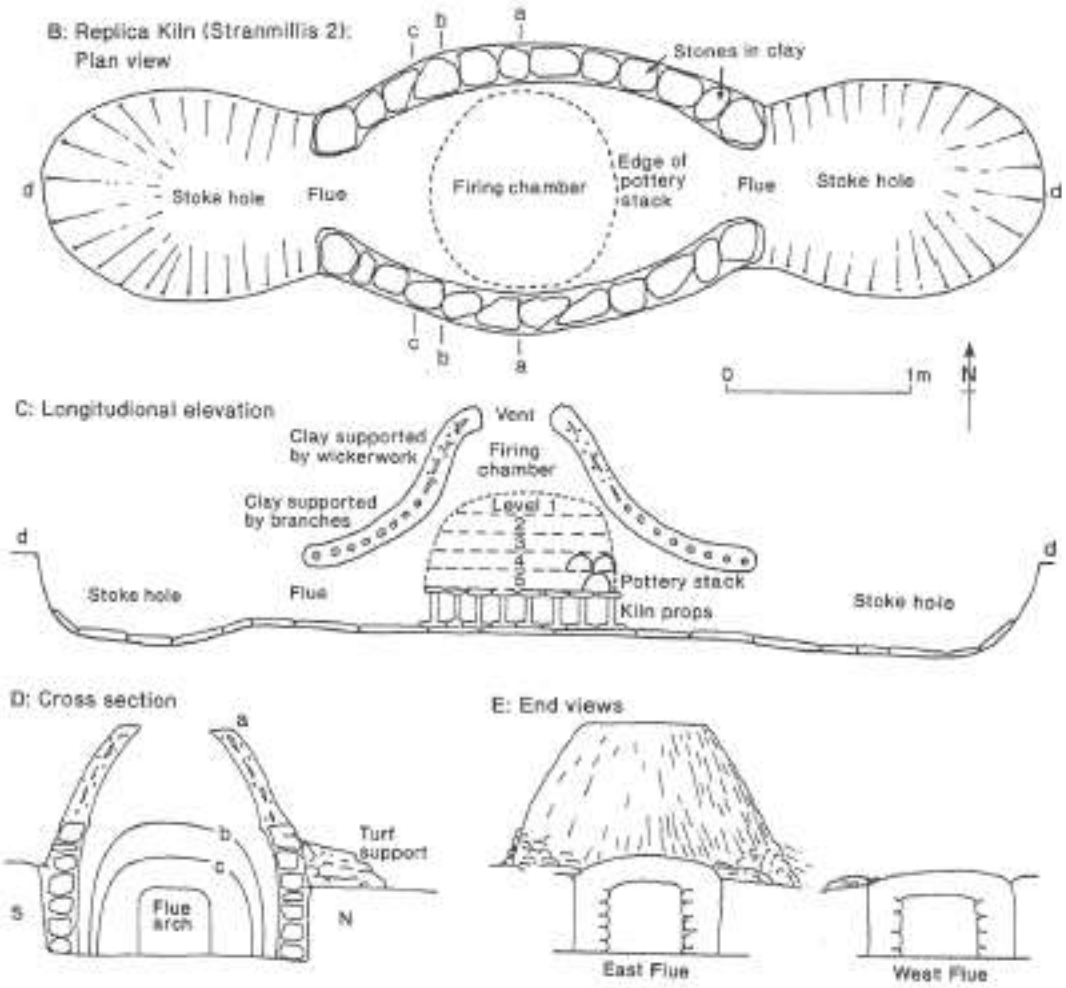


Figure 3.6.9. *Photograph and plans of a replica double opposed flue, Mutsy type 2a, kiln, probably similar to that excavated in Kiln Field by Hadfield, being without internal structure, reconstructed at Stranmillis College, Belfast in 1993-4 (Hartwell, 1993, pp. 153-4)*

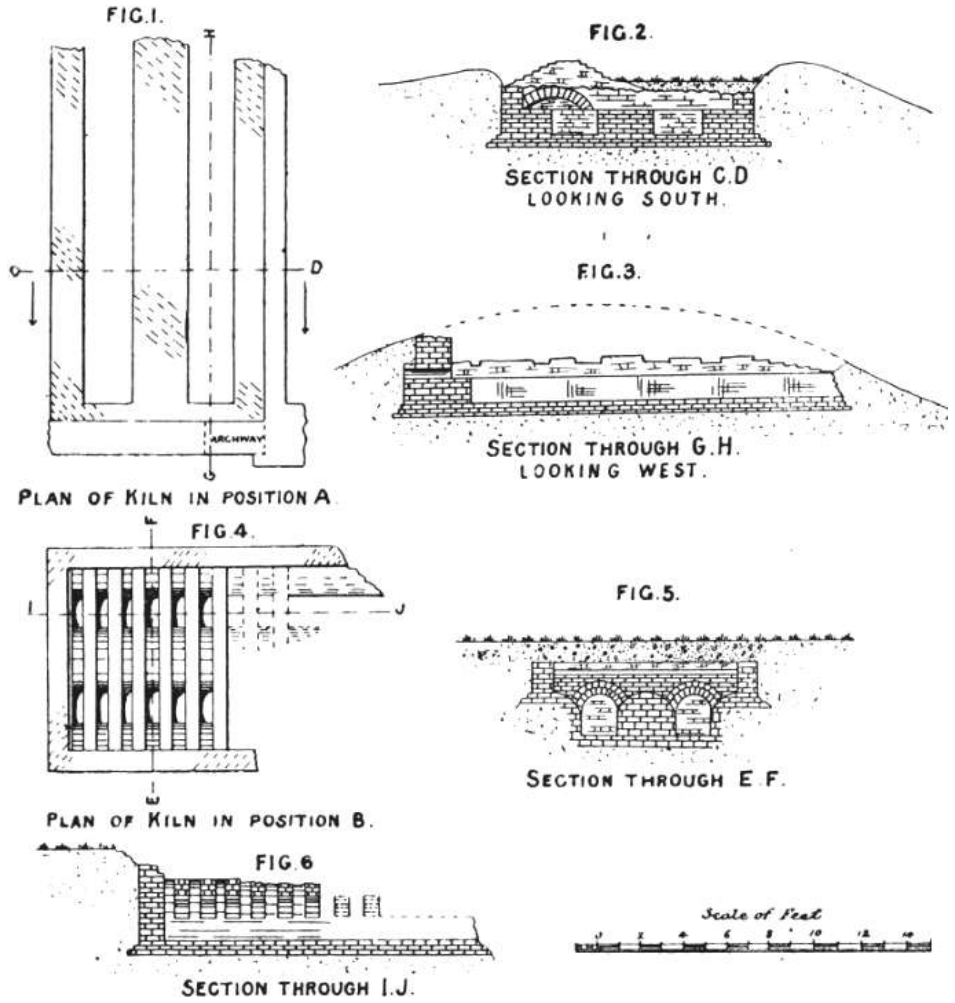


Figure 3.6.10. *Plans and sections of the brick-built kilns excavated in Potters Field in 1894 (Martin, 1902, p. 131)*

Ringmer-ware fabric and typology

Many thousand sherds of medieval pottery have been recovered from the various sites with each project developing their own method for descriptions of fabric and form. The scope offered from the excavation reports gives an excellent example of the various phases of ceramic studies (Orton *et al*, 1993, p. 4) from art-historical/antiquarian descriptions by Martin in 1902, through detailed form typologies of Hadfield in 1981, to the more recent total quantification and scientific fabric analysis by Gregory in 1995. It is perhaps understandable that no one has yet taken on the crucial if daunting task of comparing the descriptions from the various assemblages to compile a comprehensive dated series for Ringmer-made wares, such as that compiled for medieval London (Pearce *et al*, 1985). Whilst the need for such a study is highly relevant to this report the research itself falls outside its remit.

Potter's Field (Martin, 1902)

No quantitative or fabric data is given by Martin and it seems that the items illustrated were picked up from the ground over a considerable area and may not relate directly to the excavated kilns. This may explain why the pottery recorded (Figure 3.6.11) appears to be of early medieval typology whilst the kilns may be later.

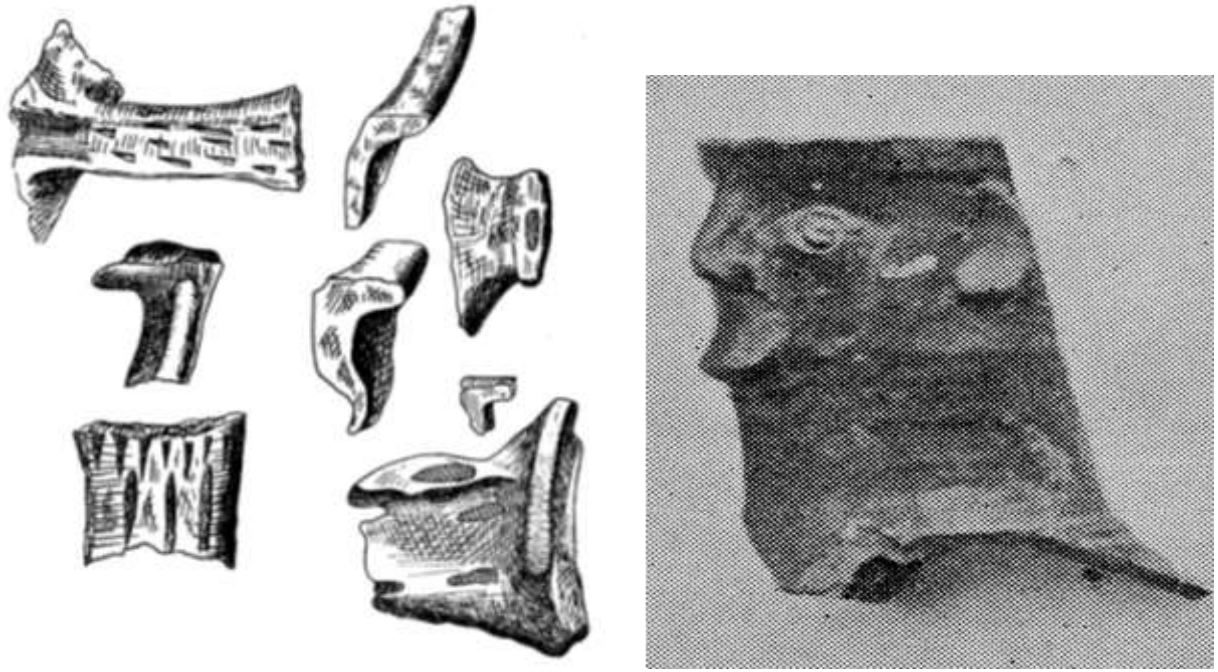


Figure 3.6.11. *Illustrations of some of the items found in or around Potter's Field, Ringmer, including an anthropomorphic jug neck, which appear to be of medieval origin (Martin, 1902, pp. 135, 137)(not to scale).*

Barnetts Mead

Hadfield's report emphasises vessel form having divided the assemblage into three hard, well-fired, fabrics by the varying amounts and sizes of the quartz inclusion; with all having some traces of iron mineral, grog and feldspar. (Cartwright, 1981, p. 105).

With a lack of any complete vessels, a sherd sample was divided into 11 rim types, 12 thumbed and plain base types (Table 3.6.5 & Figure 3.6.12/13) and various handle types (Table 3.6.6). Only a small proportion of the sherds were decorated (Table 3.6.7). The pottery archive is housed at the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

Table 3.6.5. *Table showing the catergories of rims styles (R1-11) and those for base styles (B1.1-2.4) developed for the Barnett's Mead excavation (see figures 3.6.12 -13) (Hadfield, 1981, pp. 92-3 & 98-9)*

No.	Vessel type	Description	%
Rim styles			
R1	Cooking pots	Rectangular	25
R2	Small cooking pots	Simple inverted	4
R3	Bowls	Inclined	5
R4	Cooking pots	Flanged	23
R5	Cooking pots	Square	9
R6	Jugs	Vertical sided	2
R7	Cooking pots	Triangular	6
R8	Not known	Miscellaneous	1
R9	Bowls & skillets	Flanged	5
R10	Jugs	Square	13
R11	Jugs	Triangular	7
Base styles			
B1.1	Almost vertical body, flat base with pronounced thumbing		1.5
B1.2	Rounded body and base with fairly pronounced thumbing		1
B1.3	Almost vertical body, curved base, thumbing small		1
B1.4	Almost vertical body, thumbed pedestal base		0.5
B2.1	Sagging base, vertical body		14
B2.12	Sagging base, angular external corner and rounded interior corner		56
B2.2	Similar to B2.12 but has a small beaded ridge on external corner		10
B2.3	Flat base with body which curves in slightly towards base		1
B2.32	Flat base with angular external corner		9
B2.33	Flat base with rounded corners leading to almost vertical wall		0.5
B2.34	Flat, thick base with angular, thin corners		0.5
B2.4	Flat base with rounded body		5

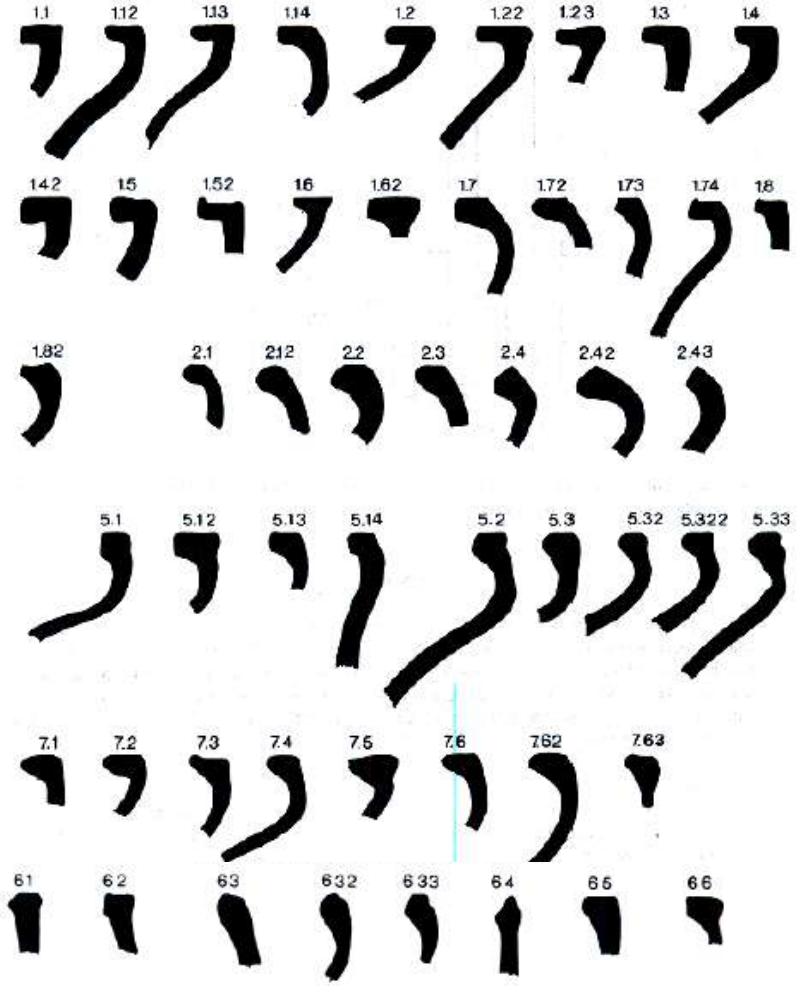
Table 3.6.6. *Table showing the 8 categories of handle styles developed for the Barnett's Mead excavation (Hadfield, 1981, pp. 99-100)*

No.	Description	%
H1a **H1b** **H1c**	Straight, pulled Curved, pulled Curved, pulled with hook	10
H2a **H2b**	Solid, wheel turned cylindrical Curved, wheel turned cylindrical	26
H3	Rod section	1
H4	Oval section	10
H5	Simple strap	16
H6	Grooved strap	25
H7	Sub-rectangular	2
H8	Strap with hole at base	7
	Lug	2
	Unresolved	1

Type of vessel: H1 = pipkin or skillet: H2 = skillet: H4 = finer jugs: H5-6 = coarse jugs: H8 = fire covers

Table 3.6.7. *Details of decoration (Hadfield, 1981, p. 103)*

Decoration	%
Strapping	57
Glazing	11
Line incised	6.5
Combed	6.5
Grooved	6
Splash glazed	5
Thumbed	7
Herring-bone patterning	0.5
Trimming marks	0.5



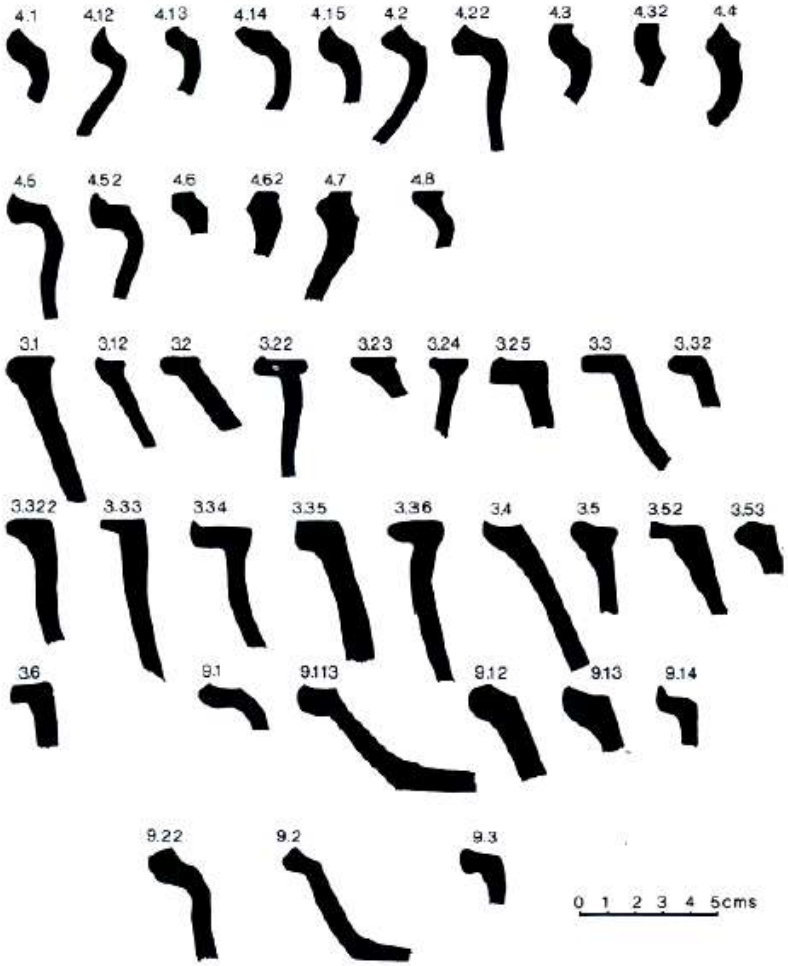


Figure 3.6.12a*. Illustrations of rim styles 1-7 & 9 observed and used to distinguish vessel forms in the Barnett's Mead excavation report (Hadfield, 1981, pp. 94-97) .*

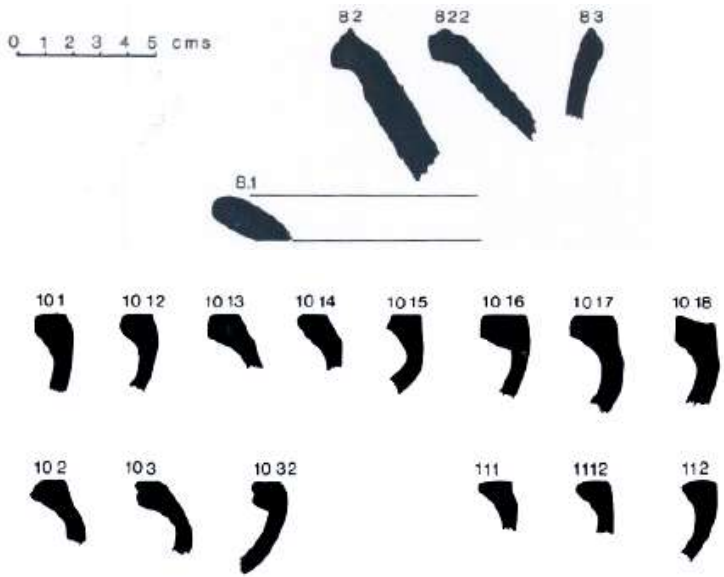


***Figure 3.6.12b**. Illustrations of rim styles 8, 10 & 11 observed and used to distinguish vessel forms in the Barnett's Mead excavation report (Hadfield, 1981, pp. 96-97).*

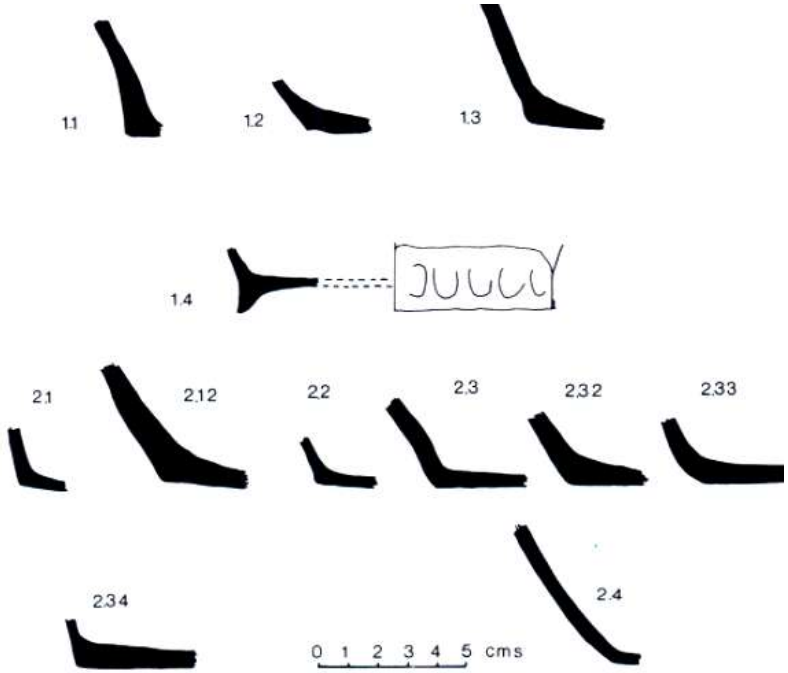


***Figure 3.6.13**. Illustrations of base styles observed and used to distinguish vessel forms in the Barnett's Mead excavation report (Hadfield, 1981, p. 98).*

A total of 46 chimney pot sherds, including one whole pot (Figure 3.6.14), were also collected. These conformed to known medieval types possibly dating to the late 13th century. The pots had a base diameter of 220-230mm, rim of 140-160mm and height of 270-300mm. At the top the thick walls were stabbed or slashed presumably to help firing rather than just for decoration (Hadfield, 1981, pp. 101-2).

The mean calibrated carbon14 dates for the kiln together with the style of pottery suggest production during the late 12th to early 13th centuries (Hadfield, 1981, p. 105).

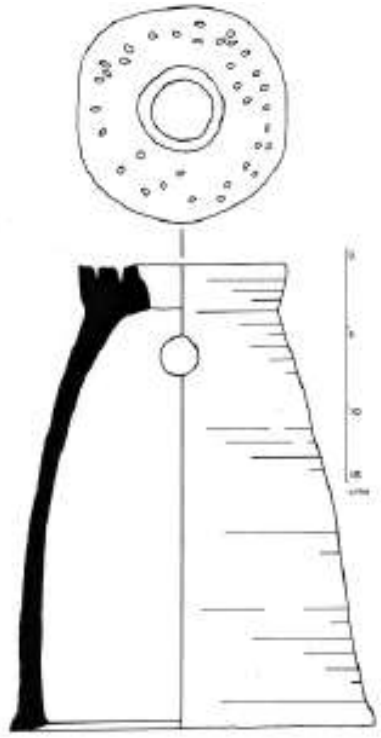


Figure 3.6.14. *Drawing of a whole, circa 13th century, chimney pot from Barnett's Mead excavation (Hadfield, 1981, p. 102)*

Delves Field

Very little has been published on the rescue dig undertaken by LAG in 1973 prior to the building of the Delves Housing Estate. Two areas appear to have been stripped with the north-west area revealing a layer of ash containing 13th century pot sherds. Trial pits and a series of trenches (A-K) were excavated (Figure 3.6.15) with 6cwt of sherds being recovered (O'Shea, 1973; 1977). Whilst a kiln was not discovered it was clear that with such a concentration of ash and pot sherd at least one kiln must be situated close by. Drawings of pot rims, bases and handles from the excavation, now housed at Barbican House Museum, Lewes, had been badly damaged by damp in a previous store but have now been redrawn onto plastic drawing film by the author (Figures 3.6.16-18). They provide interesting comparisons with the Barnett's Mead illustrations (Figures 3.6.12-13) with most forms appearing in both assemblages. The skillet handle illustrations are a useful addition for comparison with Hadfield's descriptions (Table 3.6.6). The Delves pottery archive is held at the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

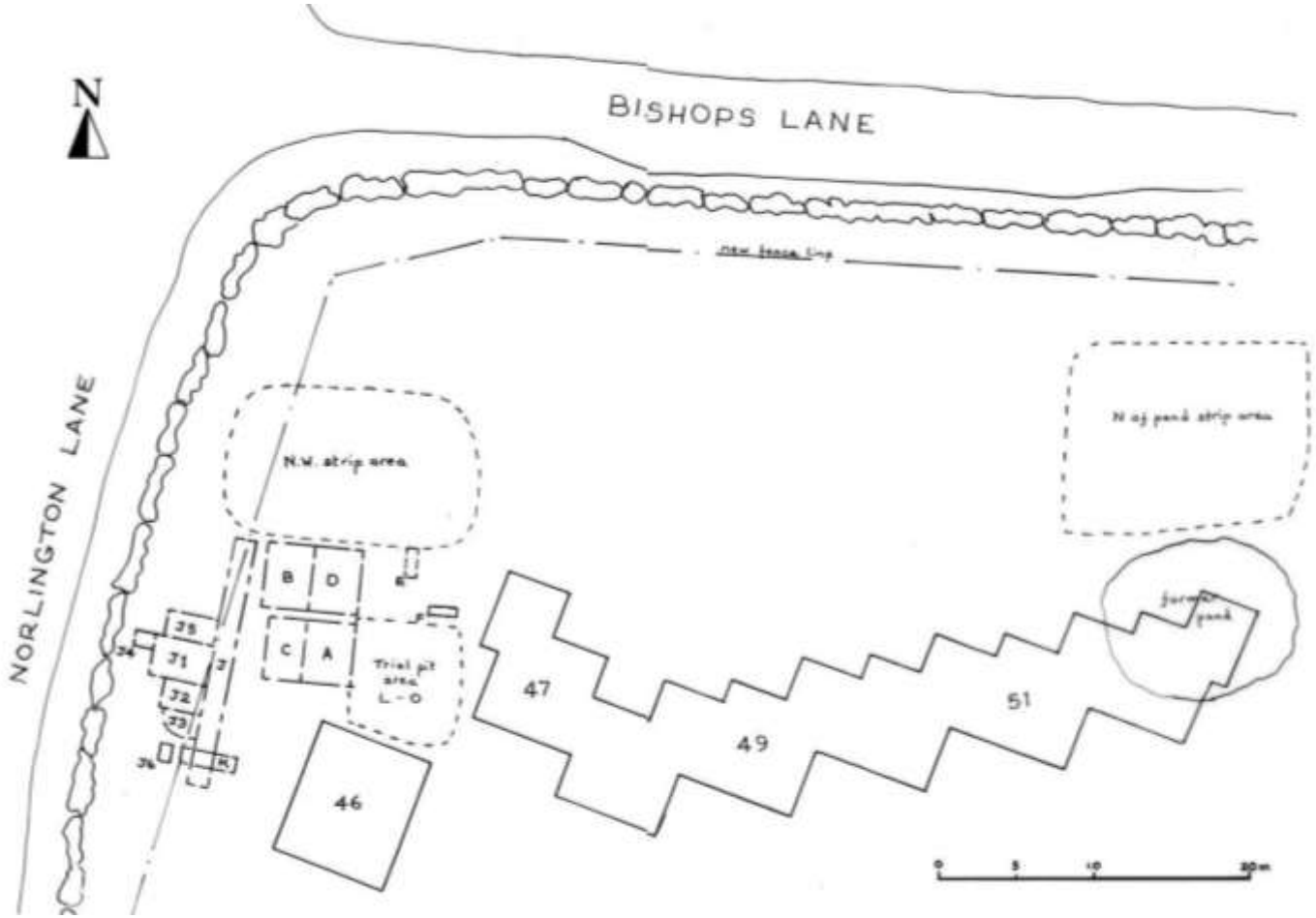


Figure 3.6.15. *The redrawn site plan of the 1973 excavation trenches at Delves Field on the corner of Norlington and Bishops Lanes, Ringmer located to the north-east of the new houses, plot numbers 46 & 47 (after E. W. O'Shea 1973)*

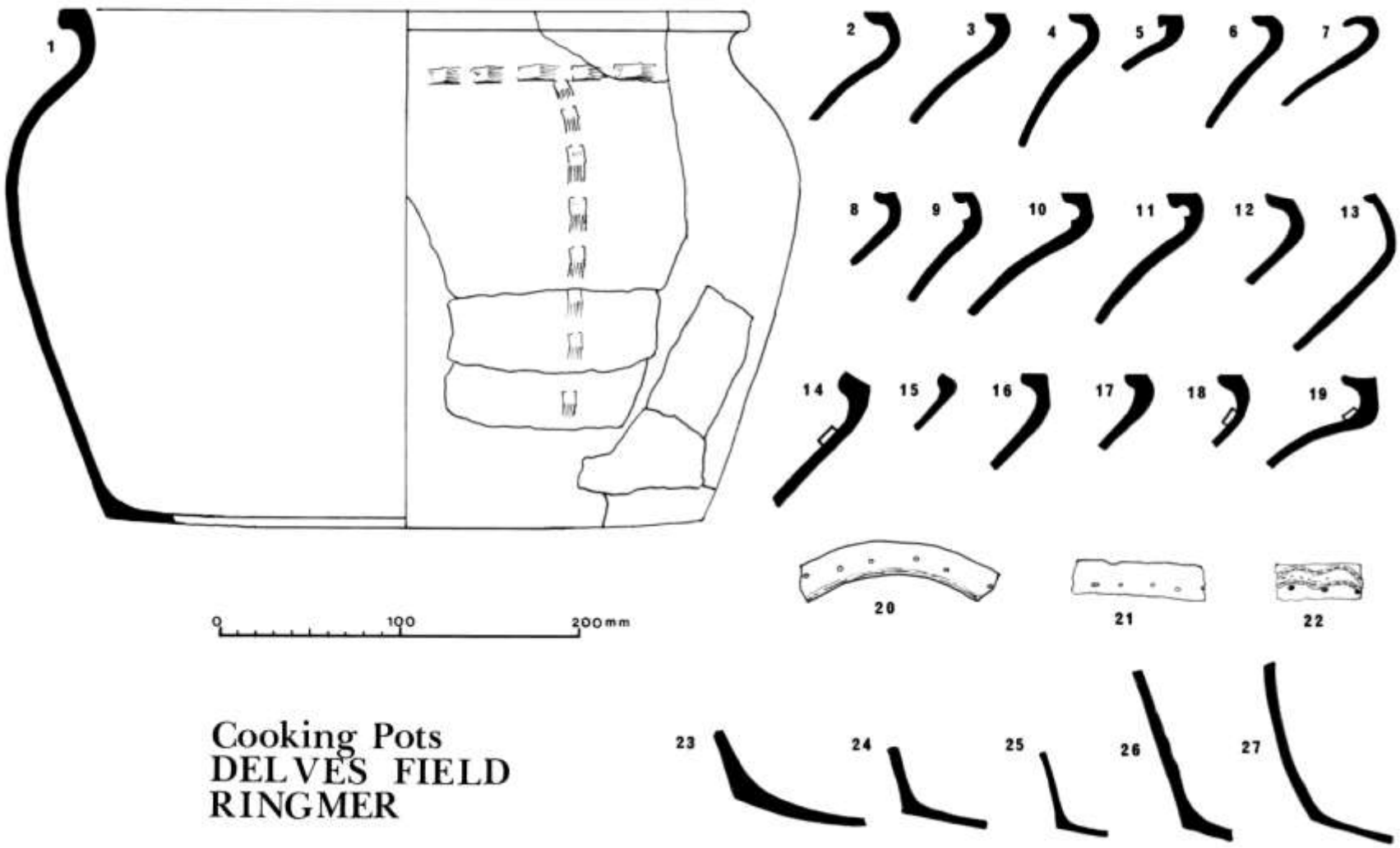


Figure 3.6.16. *Redrawn illustration of sample cooking pots taken from Delves Field in 1973 (after W. E. O'Shea).*

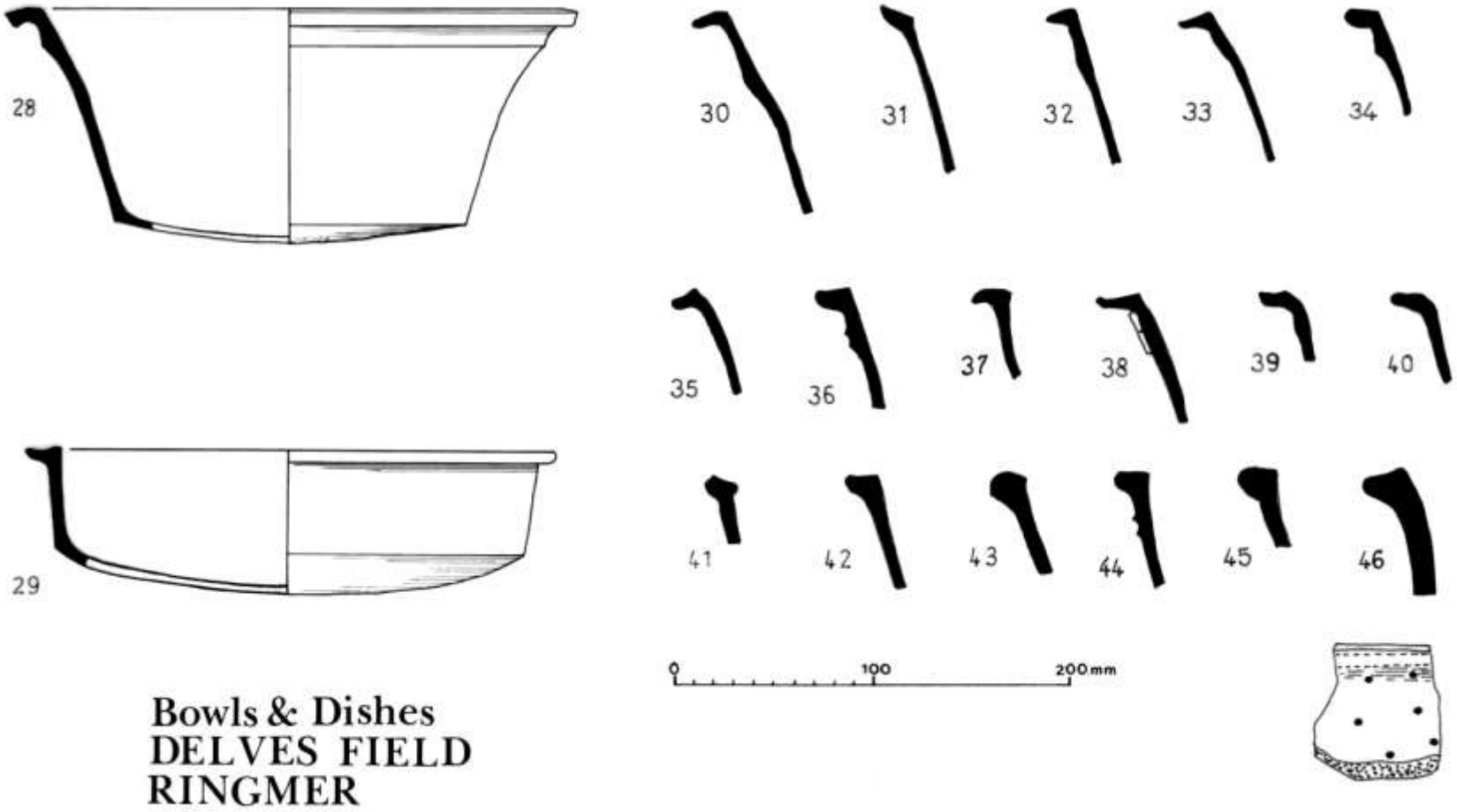


Figure 3.6.17. *Redrawn illustration of sample bowls and dishes taken from Delves Field in 1973 (after W. E. O'Shea).*

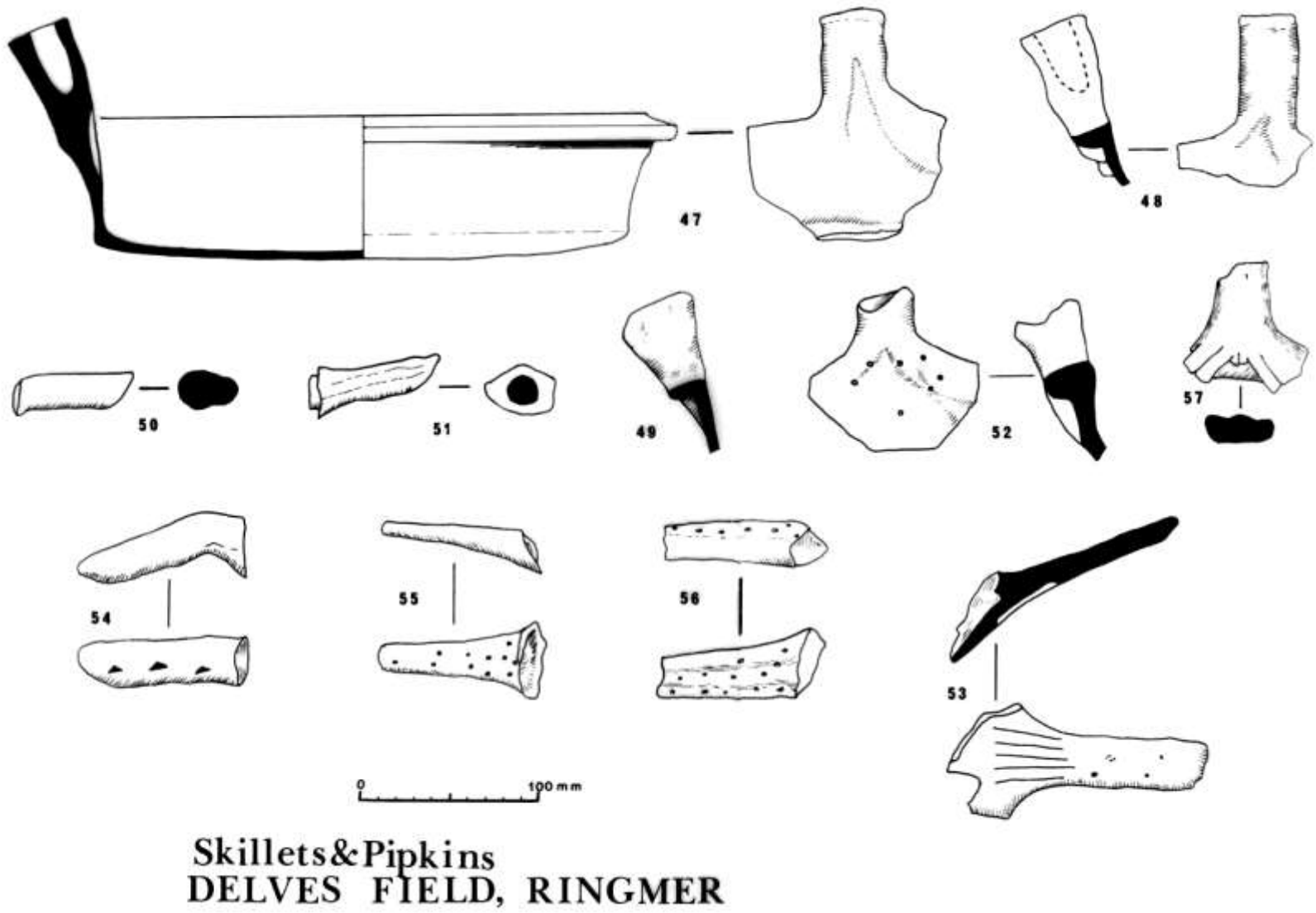


Figure 3.6.16. *Redrawn illustration of sample skillets & pipkins taken from Delves Field in 1973 (after W. E. O'Shea).*

Norlington Lane

This workshop and kiln site was excavated in 1993-4 and has been reported in a series of short articles in Sussex Past & Present (Gregory, 1993; 1995) and the LAG Newsletters (Gregory, 1994; 1995a; 1997). The excavation recovered over 4tons of pot sherds, all of which were diligently recorded into a computer programme winning the project the prestigious British Archaeological Award (Gregory, 1995).

The excavation used a wide range of modern scientific techniques with the kiln site located by magnetometer survey, dated by archaeomagnetics and with the pottery fabrics defined by petrological analysis (Table 3.6.8) (Gregory, forthcoming).

This last technique gives a scientific format for a fabric-type series that other fabrics can be compared against using the same methodology. But as well as the descriptive list, as prepared for Norlington Lane, data can be represented graphically where differences can be easier to distinguish (Figure 3.6.19) (Streeten, 1980, p. 106).

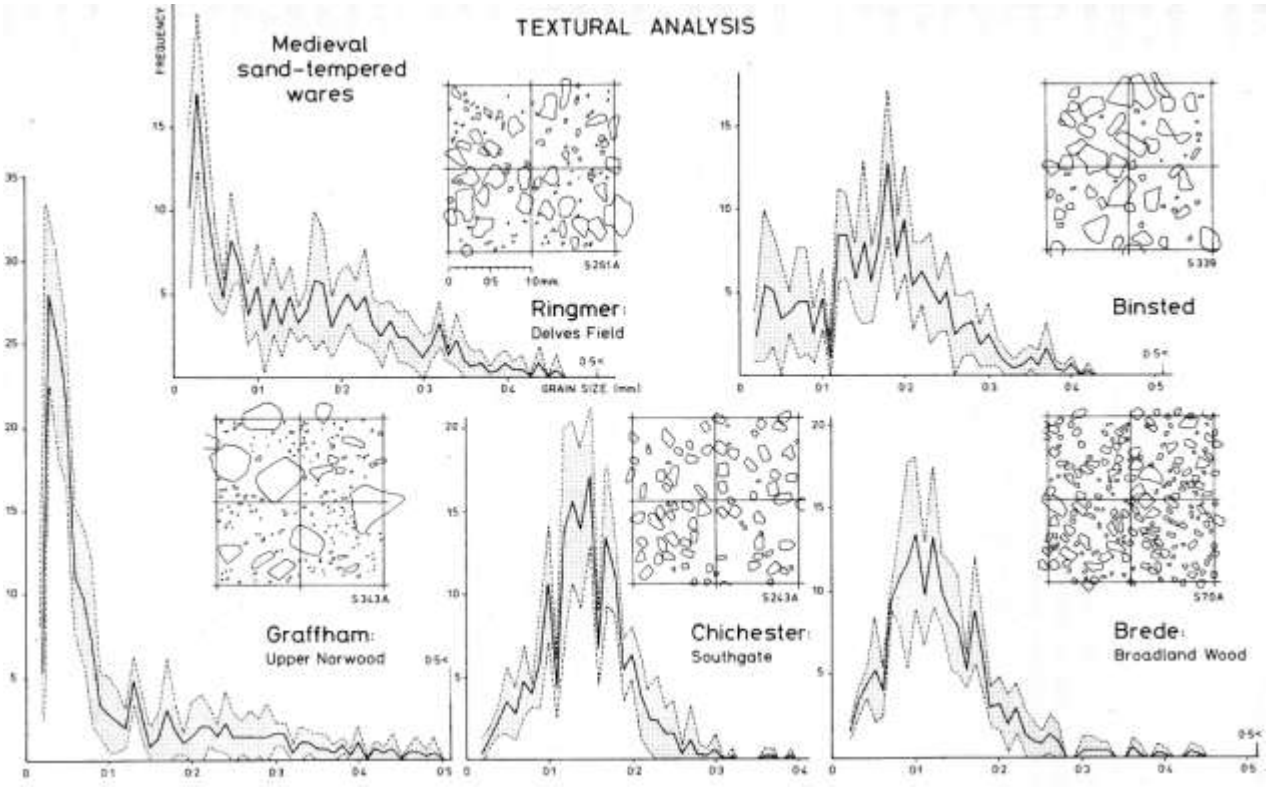


Figure 3.6.19. *Graphical representation of the fabric of the pottery from Delves Field, Ringmer showing how this technique can offer a clear visual distinction between fabric from different origins (Streeten, 1980, p. 107)*

Table 3.6.8. Descriptions from petrological analysis of the pottery fabric from the Norlington kiln site (Knowles, undated)

Fabric	Description
NL.1	Abundant rounded to subangular monocrystalline quartz inclusion (average size ca. 0.2-0.3mm across) extending up to 1.00mm in size. Smaller abundant tiny quartz inclusions can be seen in the groundmass, in addition to possible tiny flecks of mica. Moderate rounded to subrounded argillaceous inclusions (often remaining as voids) ca. 0.2-0.6mm across can be detected along with occasional to common small rounded iron ore inclusions 0.1mm and smaller in size.
NL.2	Same as Fabric 1, in both aplastic inclusions and the groundmass.
NL.3	Very abundant rounded to subangular monocrystalline quartz inclusions (average size 0.1mm across) extending up to 0.5mm with rare long flecks of mica ca. 0.2mm across and rare rounded chert/flint inclusions. Occasional tiny limestone inclusions can also be detected along with occasional plagioclase and potash feldspar inclusions 0.1mm and smaller in size. Moderate rounded to subrounded argillaceous inclusions up to ca. 0.6mm across can also be seen.
NL.4	Moderate to abundant monocrystalline quartz rounded to subangular in shape and ca. 0.4mm-8mm across, (rounding of the quartz grains suggests they were formed in a desert/Aeolian environment). Tiny inclusions of monocrystalline quartz can also be seen in groundmass. Occasional polycrystalline quartzite, subangular to subrounded in shape and 0.6mm across can also be detected. Large frequent subangular to angular flint/chert inclusions ca. 0.5-1.8mm in size can be seen in addition to large, occasional subrounded argillaceous inclusion ca. 1mm in size. The groundmass contains moderate to frequent laths of muscovite mica and occasional rounded grains of red iron ore.
NL.5	Occasional subangular monocrystalline quartz inclusions 2mm across can be detected along with large angular to subangular flint/chert inclusions ca. 1mm in size. Occasional argillaceous inclusions rounded and to subrounded in shape and 1.5mm in size can be seen in a groundmass of abundant quartz, mica (and possibly feldspar).
NL.6	Large abundant subangular chert/flint inclusions are most common ca. 0.8mm across, extending up to 1.5mm. Monocrystalline quartz can also be detected, subangular to rounded in shape and ca. 0.3-0.4mm across extending up to rounded grains ca. 1.2mm across. Subangular polycrystalline quartz is also present 0.7mm across, and smaller abundant quartz can be seen in the groundmass (rounding of the quartz grains again suggests they were formed in a desert environment). Rare grains of metamorphosed angular quartzite 0.6-0.8mm across were detected. Occasional large rounded argillaceous inclusions up to 1.5mm in size were present in addition to tiny rare laths of muscovite mica in the groundmass.
NL.7	Very abundant well-sorted monocrystalline quartz, subangular to subrounded in shape and ca. 0.1mm and smaller in size. There are also rare subrounded sandstone grains of similar size to the quartz. Subrounded flint/chert is also present, ca. 0.3mm extending up to 1.5mm across and rare rounded argillaceous inclusions 0.3-0.7mm across.
NL.8	Frequent, rounded to subangular monocrystalline quartz inclusions ca. 0.2-0.7mm across and rare, rounded polycrystalline quartz 1.5mm in size (rounding of the quartz grains again suggests they were formed in a desert environment). Smaller monocrystalline quartz can be seen in the groundmass, in addition to small laths of muscovite mica and occasional rounded iron ore inclusions ca. 0.1mm and smaller in size. Occasional argillaceous inclusions subrounded in shape and extending up to 0.8mm in size are also present in addition to rare rounded chert/flint inclusions ca. 0.4mm across An unidentified heavy mineral is present 0.1mm in size.
NL.9	Abundant relatively well-sorted monocrystalline quartz, rounded to subangular in shape and ca. 0.3-0.4 mm across, with rounded grains extending up to 0.8mm in size (rounding of the quartz grains again suggests they were formed in a desert environment). Occasional subangular polycrystalline quartz, 0.3-0.4mm across in addition to a tiny quartz inclusion can be seen in the groundmass. Occasional large subangular inclusions of flint/chert, ca. 0.5-1.5mm across are also present

With one kiln overlaying another it was possible to link certain fabric and form types to two distinct phases. It was seen that pottery from the earlier phase (Figure 3.6.20) resembled that from Hadfield's excavation whereas products from the later kiln were better fired, of greater variety, and more often glazed (Figure 3.6.21) (Gregory, 1997). The range included roof tiles, decorated floor tiles, chimney pots, jars, jugs, skillets, bowls, lids (including possible curfew lid fragments), the spout area of a green-glazed ram's-head aquamaline (Figure3.6.22) and a green-glazed anthromorphic collar fragment. The pottery from the later phase appeared from form typology to fall into a late 13th century style (Gregory, 1994) although the 95% confidence archaeomagnetic date for the last kiln firing of AD1200-1270(D. Gregory pers. comm.) would imply a slightly earlier date.

Figure 3.6.20. *A photograph of a selection of sherds from Phase 1 at Norlington Lane, Ringmer (50mm scale).*

Figure 3.6.21. *A photograph of a selection of rim sherds from Phase 2 at Norlington Lane, Ringmer (50mm scale).*

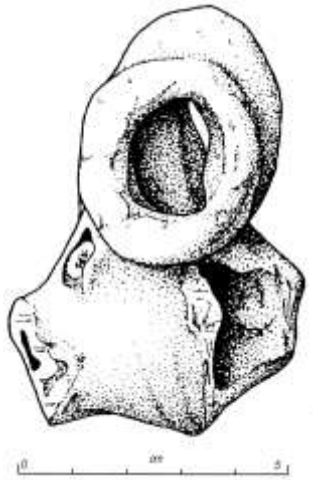


Figure 3.6.22. *Drawing of the aquamaline spout by Jane Russell (Gregory, 1993, p. 8)*

Much more glazed ware was encountered than on other sites and the later wares were made of a fine fabric from both orange and creamy clays. These types had previously been linked to Binstead or Rye and makes future petrological analysis of both production and consumer site wares a high priority.

The archive of the pottery is believed to be at the ESCC archaeology store, Seaford (G. Chuter, pers. comm.).

Clay Hill Ware

The excavation to the north-west of Clay Hill mound produced an assemblage of over 23,000 fragmented sherds of pottery of 8 different fabrics. The assemblage was dominated by *'Fabric* 1', *a flint, quartz and chalk-tempered, sandy-clay courseware with a grey coloured core and grey to red surfaces*. The sherds were from hand-built pots, mainly straight-sided, sag-based cooking pots with high shoulders and everted, possibly wheel thrown, rims. Only 103 sherds had decoration including thumb-impressions, incised lines, stabbing and thumbed-applied strips. Brown names this ware 'Clay Hill' as he believes it to be made in the vicinity, a claim enhanced by the presence of waste pieces associated with kiln features (Brown, undated, p. 1).

Clay Hill ware has been dated to the late 12th –early 13th centuries by comparisons of both fabric and form. The industry would seem to have been shorter term than that at Ringmer Green and Norlington with the lack of kiln structure possibly indicating a less sophisticated clamp-firing technique (Brown, undated, p. 4).

Former Police House, Lewes Road

In 2002, 1638 sherds were recovered from an electricity trench at Crowthorne House, of which 1448 were of a consistent fabric (LR2), similar to the Fabric NL3 from the second phase pottery of Norlington Lane. The type of vessels shown by 240 identifiable sherds included 66% of wide necked jars/cooking pots, 12% of jugs, 6% were bowls and 1% skillets. Only 20 sherds were glazed and 94 decorated with nearly 50% of these having thumbed strips applied. 23 rim sherds had incised wavy

lines similar to that noticed at Norlington Lane. It was concluded that the assemblage was probably part of the waster heap for an undiscovered nearby kiln (Gregory, 2008).

Fabric and form comparison

It can be seen from the examples included within this section that a great deal of data exists regarding the fabric types and vessel forms of Ringmer pottery. The fabric table of Norlington Lane (Table 3.6.7) together with drawings of diagnostic sherds from the two distinct phases (D. Gregory pers. comm.) offer an excellent starting point for a Ringmer-ware fabric and form series when combined with the data from Barnetts Mead (Hadfield, 1981), Delves Field (Figures 3.6.16-18), Clay Hill (Brown, undated) and Lewes Road (Gregory, 2008). But of equal importance especially in the provision of a dating sequence is the consumer assemblages data from St Pancras' Priory, Lewes (Lyne, 1997, pp. 81-96) and Lewes Road, Ringmer (Barber, 2006). Luke Barber and David Gregory, two archaeologists who have specialised knowledge of Ringmer-ware, have already been consulted and confirmed the merit in establishing such a series.

4. A TABULATED ASSESSMENT OF THE DATA

Thus far this report has offered a retrospective of accumulated knowledge. This section endeavours to bring that knowledge into the present and lay the foundation for the future.

This is accomplished by an assessment of the information contained in the map series shown in table form to facilitate targeted referral (Table 4.1.1.). The process of assessing the map series encouraged a greater awareness of the data illustrated and led to a clearer understanding of the potential and vulnerability of the various archaeological environments represented in both the defined chronological periods (Table 4.2.1) and specifically chosen areas (Table 4.2.2).

Whilst the archaeological synthesis can only reflect the known, an assessment of potential must consider the apparent lack of archaeology **(Map 6)** highlighting those areas that have not been investigated **(Map 5).** It must balance the value of these areas against the more intensely scrutinised fields and gardens of the pottery production centres **(Map 21b)**, where

evidence of regional, potentially national, importance has been recovered.

Consideration of the potential of the archaeology must take into account the period, time-depth, range of finds, preservation, and historical association, as well as uniqueness and the value of the knowledge that can be gained. Vulnerability can only be judged from the current prospective as most future threats are impossible to anticipate. A simple colour scale has been used to indicate priority within the tables, with red highest through pink and orange to yellow for the lowest. By assigning the colours with numeric values (4, 3, 2 & 1) and tabulating the combined values, the periods and sites have been arranged into a basic order of priority (Table 4.2.3).

In section 4.3 this catalogue of potential research is referred to a range of archaeological techniques (Table 4.3.1) and an appraisal supplied of the appropriate methodology for each situation (Table 4.3.2).

4.1. An assessment of the thematic map series

Table 4.1.1. A map by map assessment of the information illustrated in the map series

Map	Title	Assessment
1.	**Survey area**	Ringmer parish forms a roughly square area bounded on the east, north and south by the prominent landscape features of the river, the edge of the High Weald and the South Downs respectively. Natural boundaries such as these have the potential of Saxon, Roman or prehistoric origin.
2.	**ESHER Designated sites**	The ANAs reflect the known archaeological knowledge; the Conservation Area covers the immediate surroundings of the village green; the listed buildings highlight the late/post medieval settlement both clustered around the green and in dispersed farmsteads. The only SAM, Clay Hill Mound, awaits the forthcoming final report on the 1998-2000 excavations (Richard Jones pers. comm.). There are no registered parks, gardens or battlefields.
3.	**Sussex HLC Periods**	The Period HLC was found to be too broadly based to be of great assistance to this parish project. Being based on what is apparent in the current landscape might even make it potentially unhelpful if used without due regard to its acknowledged limitations.
4.	**Sussex HLC Character**	The Character HLC contains useful data with regard the settlement and other land-uses if used with knowledge of its limitations. Both HLC maps could be of relevance when planning sampling and/or transect surveys.
5.	**ESHER Events**	Shows the extent of notified archaeological interventions. It is noticeable that if the two major commercial projects, Clay Hill Reservoir and the Ouse Valley Transfer, were omitted the rural areas of the parish would show very limited investigation compared to that of the village environs.
6.	**ESHER Monuments**	The monument sites largely duplicate those of the events map highlighting the conundrum of archaeological knowledge being restricted to areas of previous investigation. This leaves the majority of the parish's potential undiscovered or unrepresented. Casual metal detecting finds show their worth to the wider context when reported.
7.	**Relief and benchmarks**	As well as showing the dramatic rise at the south of the parish, this map also illustrates the more subtle changes in the Low Weald area often not discernable on the ground. It also shows the ground height and location of verifiable Ordnance Survey benchmarks.
8.	**Solid and drift geology**	The four bands of solid geology are the base of all landscape characteristics and therefore greatly affect human activity in all periods. Any sampling or transect surveys should reflect both solid and drift geology.

9.	**Soil Associations**	The soils which overly the geology have also affected, and been altered by, human activity. From prehistory varying soil characteristics have attracted agricultural use based on the limit of the farming technology available. This in turn has altered and/or moved soils and influenced settlement patterns.
10.	**Agricultural land classifications and Ancient Woodlands**	Whilst based on modern mechanised farming criteria, this map still identifies where early colluvial activity produced an area of higher class agricultural land that was popular with Saxon settlers and became the demesne lands of the medieval manor. It also emphasises the scarcity of remaining ancient woodland within the parish and highlights that remaining from the probable deer park at Plashett.
11.	**Communications: river, road and rail**	Whilst most of the data on this map goes beyond the scope of this dissertation, the map does show the potential of the river and its tributaries to early communication and of the known and suspected main Roman roads through the area.
12.	**Settlement place-names**	Shows the location of the earliest recorded settlement place-names with the clustering of Saxon names close to the river and with the medieval around Ringmer Green plus some park associations.
13.	**Pottery, brick and tile place-names**	Highlighting two distinct phases of ceramic production with pottery at Ringmer Green and Clay Hill Motte whilst brick and tile associations are around the Broyle on the weald clay band.
14.	**Parks and turnpike place-names**	Offering conclusive toponymical evidence of the existence and location of the 4 enclosed parks which is especially important in the case of More Park as little other evidence was found.
15.	**Prehistoric finds and sites**	These maps show the concentration of prehistoric activity within the areas of the river and Downland fringes. However the lack of material to other areas may be due to the lack of archaeological interventions noted in Map 5.
16.	**Roman finds and sites**	Showing the consolidation of settlement at the scarp-foot and an expansion into areas further north. Whereas pottery scatter can be caused by manuring the 3 concentrations of Romano-British coins and jewellery in the south-east of the parish indicate potential areas of activity and/or habitation and are prime locations for further investigation; the group on Potato Lane also possibly indicating the route of a road heading north-east from the end of Week Lane (Figure 4.1.1). The scarcity of finds on the Lower Greensand may once more reflect the lack of investigation.
17.	**Early Saxon locations**	Using the relief map shows the Old English *hamm* place-names concentrated on the lower ground '*within the bend of the river*' giving topographic credence to the OE derivation. The Saxon cemeteries rest on higher ground and possibly reflect larger communities to the south of the study area.

18.	**Saxo-Norman finds and sites**	Using the soil association map shows that the early riverside settlements were based on the deep permeable fine loamy Waterstock soil that would have been affected by ground water. Later expansion moved into the slowly permeable clay-based soils to the east. The later features may also reflect the establishing of a restricted hunting park environment.
19.	**Medieval general finds and sites**	These maps highlight the lack of early medieval material from the river terrace area favoured in the Saxon period. With the exception of Clay Hill and the scarp-foot, it shows the concentration of activity around Ringmer Green reflecting the importance of the pottery industry and the evolution of the new village centre and market place.
20.	**Medieval parks, borghs and demesne**	An interpretation of the boundaries of the four enclosed parks using evidence gained from 18th and 19th century estate maps for Boyle and Plashett and the place-name data from Map 14 with boundary alignments from historic maps and aerial photographs. Map 20b implies that the parks generally avoided the better agricultural soils (Map 9). Referral to the Relief Map 7 and Geology Map 8 reveals that More Park lay on low alluvial ground (Figure 4.1.2) potentially subject to seasonal water-logging and therefore possibly not ideal for a deer park and chase which may explain its earlier disemparkment which may also be reflected in the high proportion of 'embedded' place-names.
21.	**Detailed maps of medieval ceramic production sites**	These maps emphasise in larger scale the concentration of the early medieval pottery industry and tie-in the place-name data from Map 13. The major area is situated within the north half of the gault clay band centred on Ringmer Green with a lesser and possibly more transient site at Clay Hill on the weald clay. Uniquely the Norlington Lane kiln is just within the lower greensand. This is possibly a reflection of a more sophisticated enterprise using a variety of clays that had to be brought to the site to produce a wider range of products making the location less dependent on geology. It may give us further clues into the structure of the 'free tenant' potters of Norlington as sought out by Bleach (1982). In general the potteries avoid the lighter greensand soil for the heavy, possibly wooded, clay-lands to the north and south of the Northlyngton open fields. Map 21c places the accumulated data into the oldest reliable field boundary document, the 1843 tithe map, which here shows notation added from the Ringmer tithe apportionment during the research process (ESRO Ref. TD E 137). This confirms how the sites group around Ringmer Green and suggests how their location may have been influenced by matters of road access and proximity to the village marketplace.

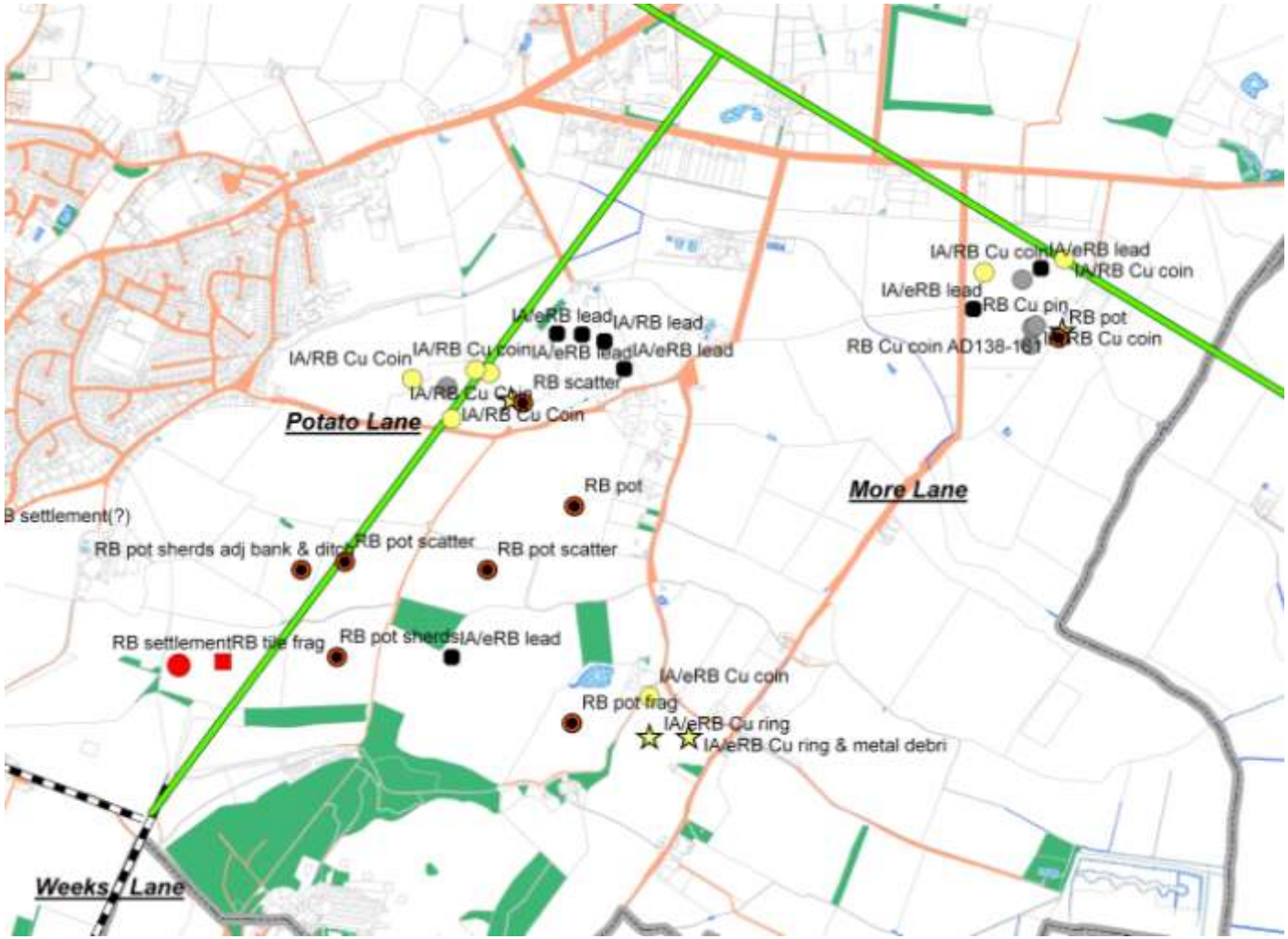


Figure 4.1.1. *A detailed section of* ***Map16b*** *showing the concentrations of Romano-British coins and jewellery in the south-east of the parish highlighting areas of activity and possible habitation together with the conjectural routes for two roads (green lines) suggested by the assembled data (OS 2010: ESHER 2010)*

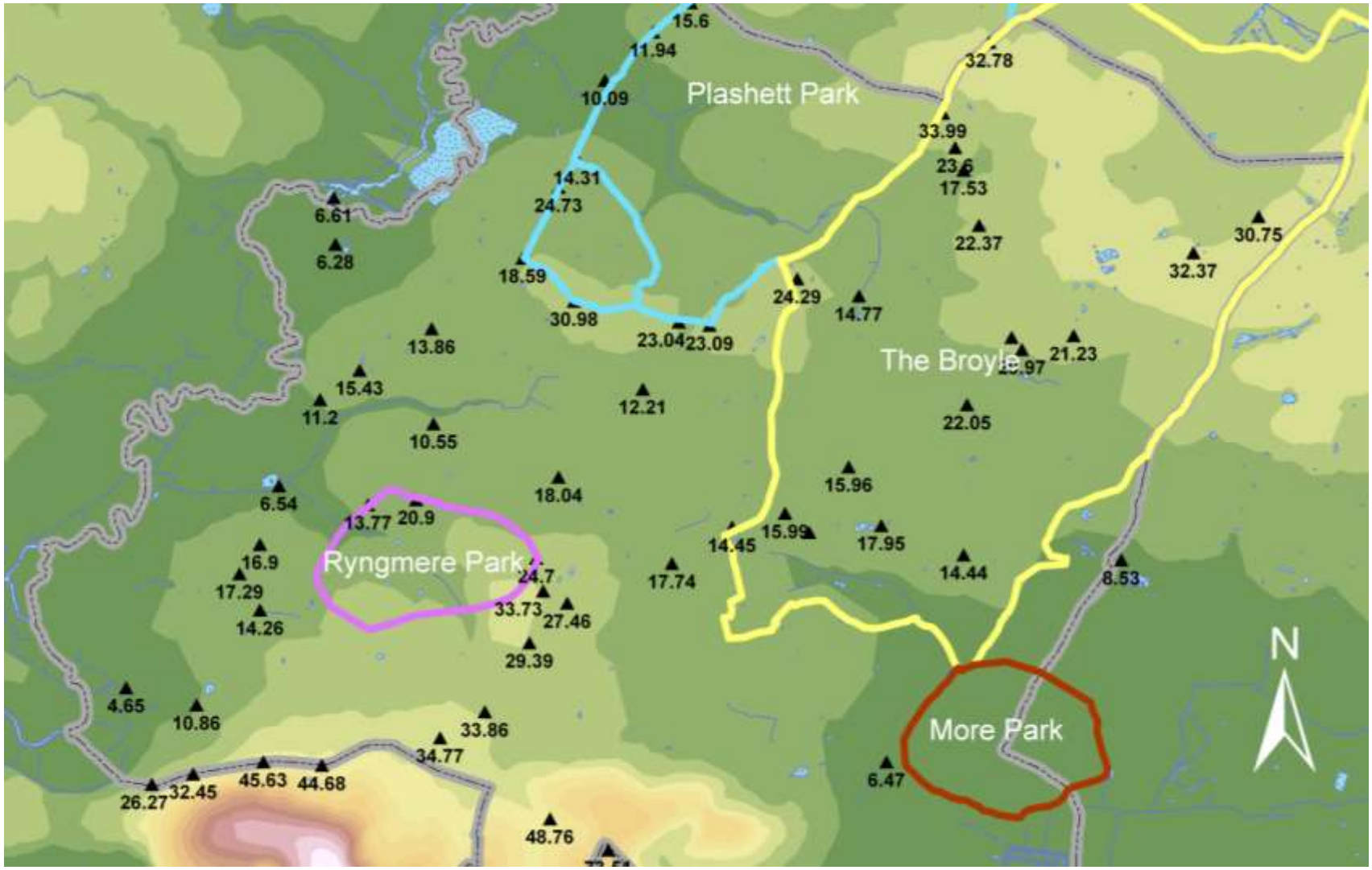


Figure 4.1.2. *A combination of* ***Maps 7 & 20*** *shows the relative low-lying nature of More Park in an area of potential seasonal water-logging (OS 2010: ESHER 2010)*

4.2. A prioritisation of the potential archaeology (Maps 22a-c).

Table 4.2.1. *An assessment of archaeological exposure, potential and site vulnerability by the defined periods: classification key: red = very high, pink = high, orange = medium, yellow = low*

Period	Comment	Exposure	Potential	Vulnerability
1.1 PALAEO-LITHIC Map 15a1.1	Only 1 residual item reported. Fluvial gravels at the west edge of parish offer potential as underlying ancient land surfaces may be preserved.	**NEGLIGIBLE**	**HIGH** In areas of gravel extraction and river erosion	**VERY HIGH** In areas of gravel extraction and river erosion
1.2 MESO-LITHIC Map 15a1.2	Only 4 find locations reported with unusually no background scatter noted on the lower greensand.	**NEGLIGIBLE**	**HIGH** Especially Lower Greensand	**LOW** Ridge and slopes may be subject to erosion
1.3 NEOLITHIC Map 15a1.3	No artefacts recorded but evidence of fourth millennium agriculture at Wellingham	**NEGLIGIBLE**	**HIGH** Especially at scarp-foot and in Wellingham	**NEGLIGIBLE**
1.4 BRONZE AGE Map 15a1.4	An unresolved barrow at Clay Hill is the only reported feature with 5 artefact sites mainly at the scarp-foot	**LOW**	**HIGH** Especially scarp-foot and Clay Hill	**NEGLIGIBLE** Excepting the unresolved barrow at Clay Hill
1.5 IRON AGE Map 15a1.5	Commercial investigations at the extreme north and south of the area have revealed possible Iron Age field systems. PAS metal detecting reports show 2 concentrations of coins.	**LOW** Although augmented by metal detecting in specific areas	**VERY HIGH** Especially in the areas indicated by field systems and coin assemblages	**HIGH** Unreported removal of coins. Field systems damaged by agricultural and potential work for Clay Hill reservoir .
2 ROMANO-BRITISH Map 16b	Evidence of RB settlement reported in 3 sites around Gote Farm, with pottery scatter in adjacent fields. 3 concentrations of metal detecting finds just to the north & east around Aston Green and Wakelands. 3 indications of a more industrial nature on the weald clay belt.	LOW Even taking account metal detecting finds and coverage	VERY HIGH Indications are very high for RB activity, settlement and a local road network. Possible tile kiln at Clay Hill	VERY HIGH Unreported removal of coins and jewellery. Possible tile kiln is in Clay Hill reservoir site.

Period	Comment	Exposure	Potential	Vulnerability
3 EARLY SAXON Map 17	Saxon evidence is in 2 distinct forms and areas; the speculative place-names on the river terrace and the hard archaeology of the scarp-foot cemeteries.	**LOW** With possible medium exposure of cemeteries	LOW With the exception of cemeteries Early Saxon archaeology is scarce in Sussex.	VERY HIGH Night hawking on and around cemeteries. Ephemeral settlement evidence -damage by ploughing and flooding.
4 LATE SAXON Map 18a4	Place-name and 2 coin finds for this period indicate settlement of the gault clay belt. With the ditch and bank at Clay Hill possibly indicating woodland management	**NEGLIGIBLE**	**HIGH** In the area of the coin finds adjacent to indications of settlement	**HIGH** Unreported coin removal Ephemeral settlement evidence - damage by ploughing.
5 NORMAN Map 18a5	Clay Hill Mound and agricultural settlement evidence in Gote and Middleham	**LOW** Excepting Clay Hill Mound	**LOW** Mound has been subject of previous investigation	**LOW** Mound protected as a SAM with other evidence mainly pottery based
6 EARLY MEDIEVAL Map 19b	Evidence for the majority of the parish is scarce and dispersed. With much greater evidence and investigation of the Norlington/Ringmer Green potteries area.	**LOW** Over the majority of the parish **HIGHER** In central potteries area	**HIGH** The extensive potteries still yield evidence whilst equine accessories and consumer pottery point to possible park and settlement evidence.	**VERY HIGH** Potteries within main area for future housing development. Ephemeral activity and ground feature evidence - damage by ploughing.

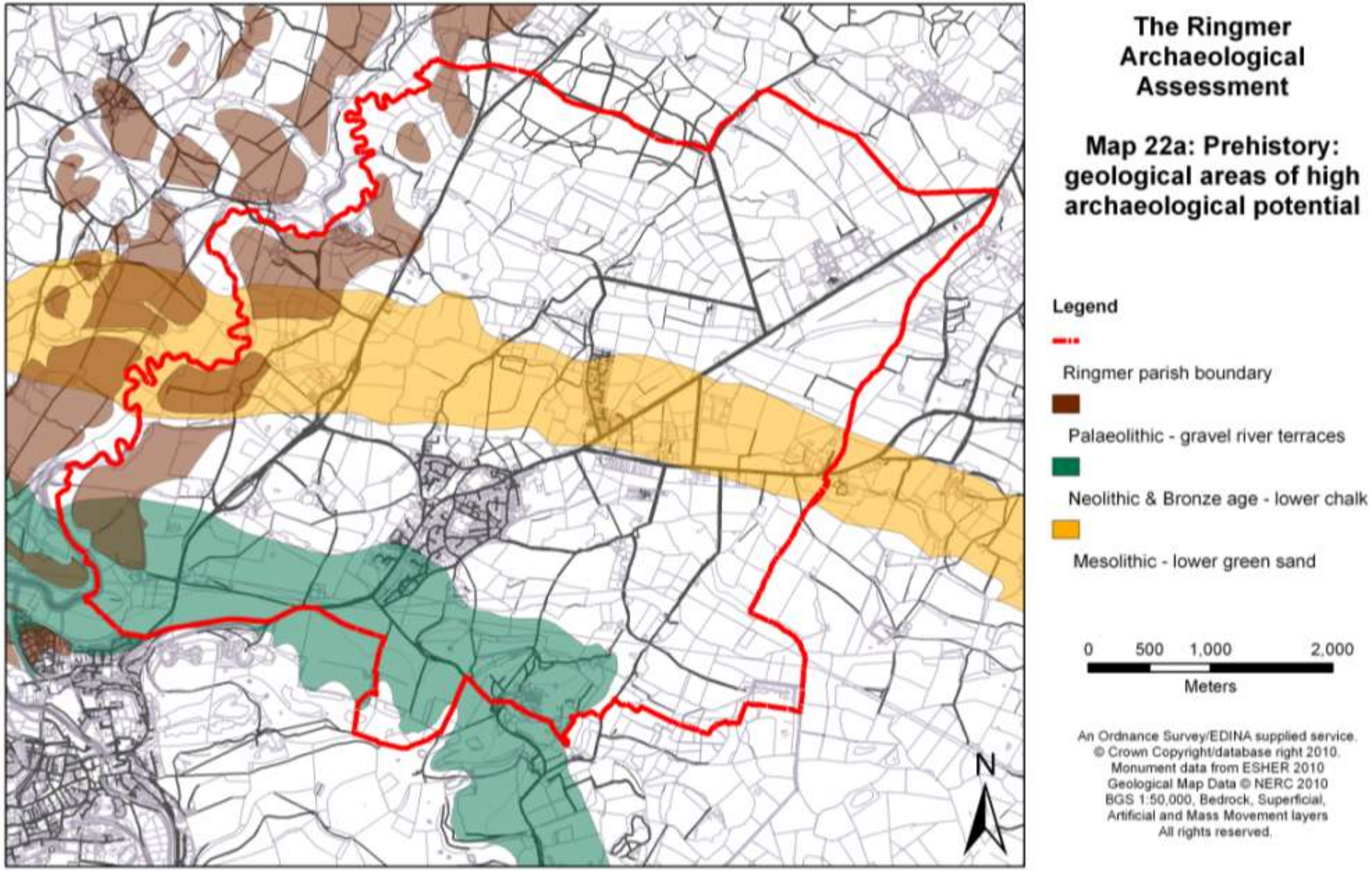
Table 4.2.2. *An assessment of archaeological potential and vulnerability for specific areas (for key see Table 4.2.1.)*

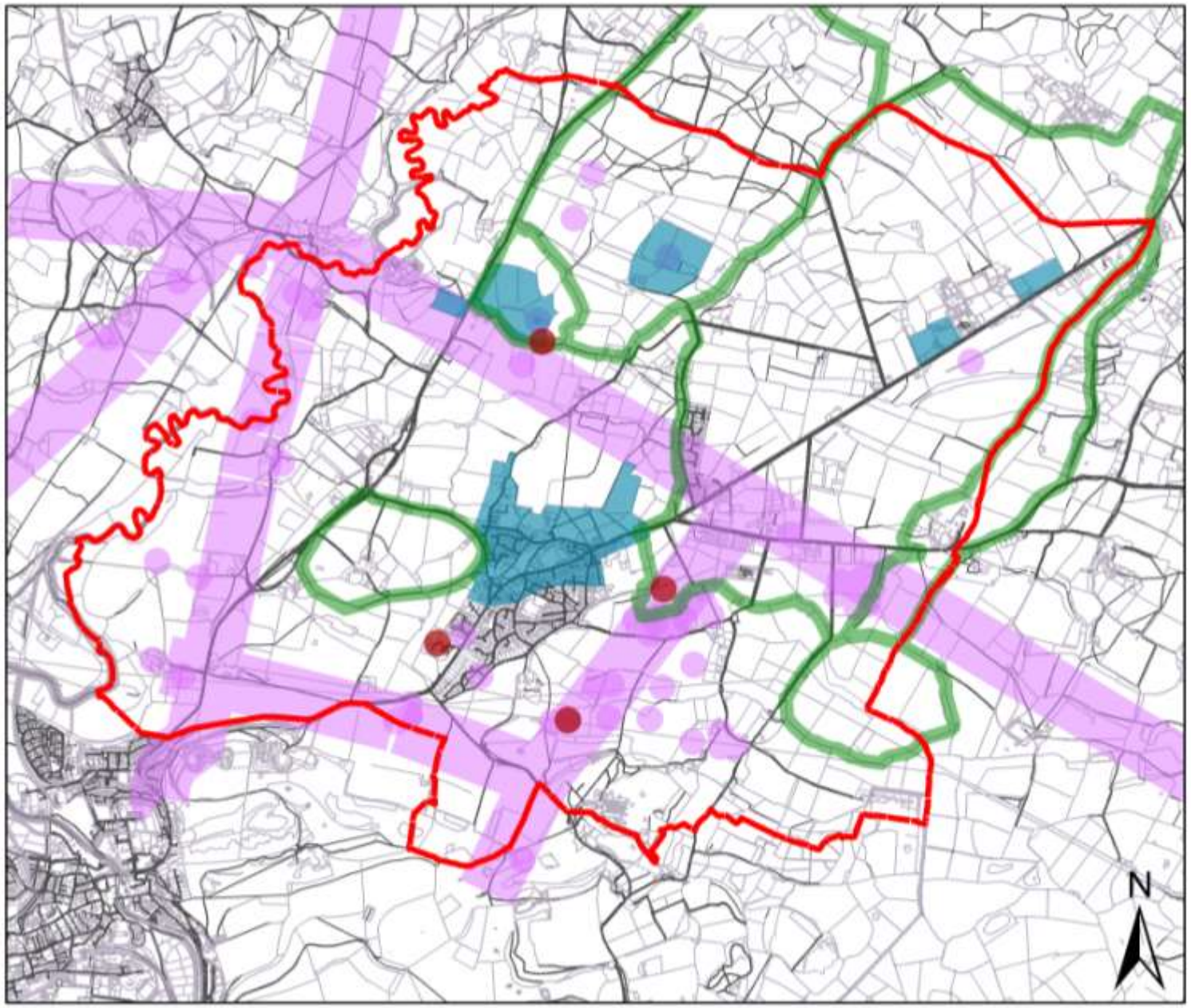
Area	Exposure (Map 5)	Potential	Vulnerability
Central pottery production area **Map 21b** Bishops Lane, Ringmer Green & Norlington	**HIGH** This area has been subject to several full excavations and other investigation but some areas still remain to be investigated despite having place-name evidence or being adjacent to known sites	**VERY HIGH** Finding large amounts of evidence over the years makes it very likely for even more finds of regional importance to be located within this ANA location (Map 2).	**VERY HIGH** Although within an ANA the fields to the north of Bishops Lane are prime land for future housing made even more likely by the proposed boundary of the South Downs National Park which will now protect areas to the south of the village (Figure 4.2.1)
Clay Hill **Figure 4.2.2** Proposed reservoir site over former area of Plashett Park**.**	**HIGH** Site narrowly avoids the SAM of Clay Hill mound. As can be seen from Map 5, this site is the most extensively investigated in the parish with commercial units undertaking various archaeological appraisals to full IfA standards and recommendations set by the planning authorities. Reports lodged with the ESHER .	**LOW** Given the intensive scrutiny that this area has recently been under it has not revealed a vast amount of potential archaeology, creating only 2 ANAs over a suspected Iron Age field system and an assemblage of Romano-British tile.	**VERY HIGH** With the final decision on the reservoir still awaited the risk in this area is extremely high. However if this development goes forward identified sites such as the potential RB tile kiln should ideally be excavated prior to work commencing and the area flooded.
Park bounderies **Map 20a** Plashett, Broyle, Ryngmer and More	**LOW** Some botanical surveys undertaken by the Ringmer History Study Group in 1980s	**HIGH** Both botanical and ground feature evidence should be noticeable for the former *paled* boundaries. More Park especially needs confirmation of cartographic interpretation.	**HIGH** The change to arable cultivation in the Low Weald has resulted in the loss of many ancient hedgerows and shaws. Plashett is also under threat from the Clay Hill reservoir scheme. Ryngmer Park will be inside the National Park boundary.

Area	Exposure (Map 5)	Potential	Vulnerability
Scarpfoot **Map 5** Middleham, Gote, Wakelands	**LOW** This area is generally of low past investigation with the exception of the route of the Ouse Valley Water Transfer (OVT) pipeline which had a full commercial assessment.	**VERY HIGH** The OVT report revealed a range of rural settlement sites of varying periods from its narrow project transect which suggests much more data would be forthcoming from a wider area survey.	**LOW** General agricultural procedures are the main threat to this area which due to its location should have a deeper overburden of colluvial soil than in other parts of the parish.
Riverside and brooks **Map 5** Stoneham and Wellingham	**NEGLIGIBLE** Very little archaeological investigation has been reported for this area. Margary excavated a slot across the N/S Roman road at Bridge Farm where some augering for environmental data has also occurred.	**HIGH** Place-name evidence, RB road routes and isolated chance artefact finds suggest that this area should have a high potential for Saxon and RB evidence with some chance of PH finds from exposed buried land surfaces on the river bank.	**HIGH** Agricultural practice seems fairly stable in this area although erosion to river banks by the tidal and flood action is a constant and real danger.

Table 4.2.3. *Period and site classes listed in order of priority after numeric rating*

Rating	Prioirty	Periods	Areas
11	FIRST	Palaeolithic, Roman, Late Saxon	
10	SECOND	Iron Age, Early Medieval	Central pottery area , Riverside
9	THIRD	Mesolithic, Early Saxon	Park boundaries, Scarpfoot
8	FOURTH	Neolithic	Clay Hill,
7	FIFTH	Bronze Age, Norman	


The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment
Map 22a: Prehistory: geological areas of high archaeological potential
Legend
Ringmer parish boundary
Palaeolithic - gravel river terraces
Neolithic & Bronze age - lower chalk
Mesolithic - lower green sand
0
500
1,000
2,000
Meters
N
An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.
© Crown Copyright/database right 2010.
Monument data from ESHER 2010
Geological Map Data © NERC 2010
BGS 1:50,000, Bedrock, Superficial,
Artificial and Mass Movement layers
All rights reserved.



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

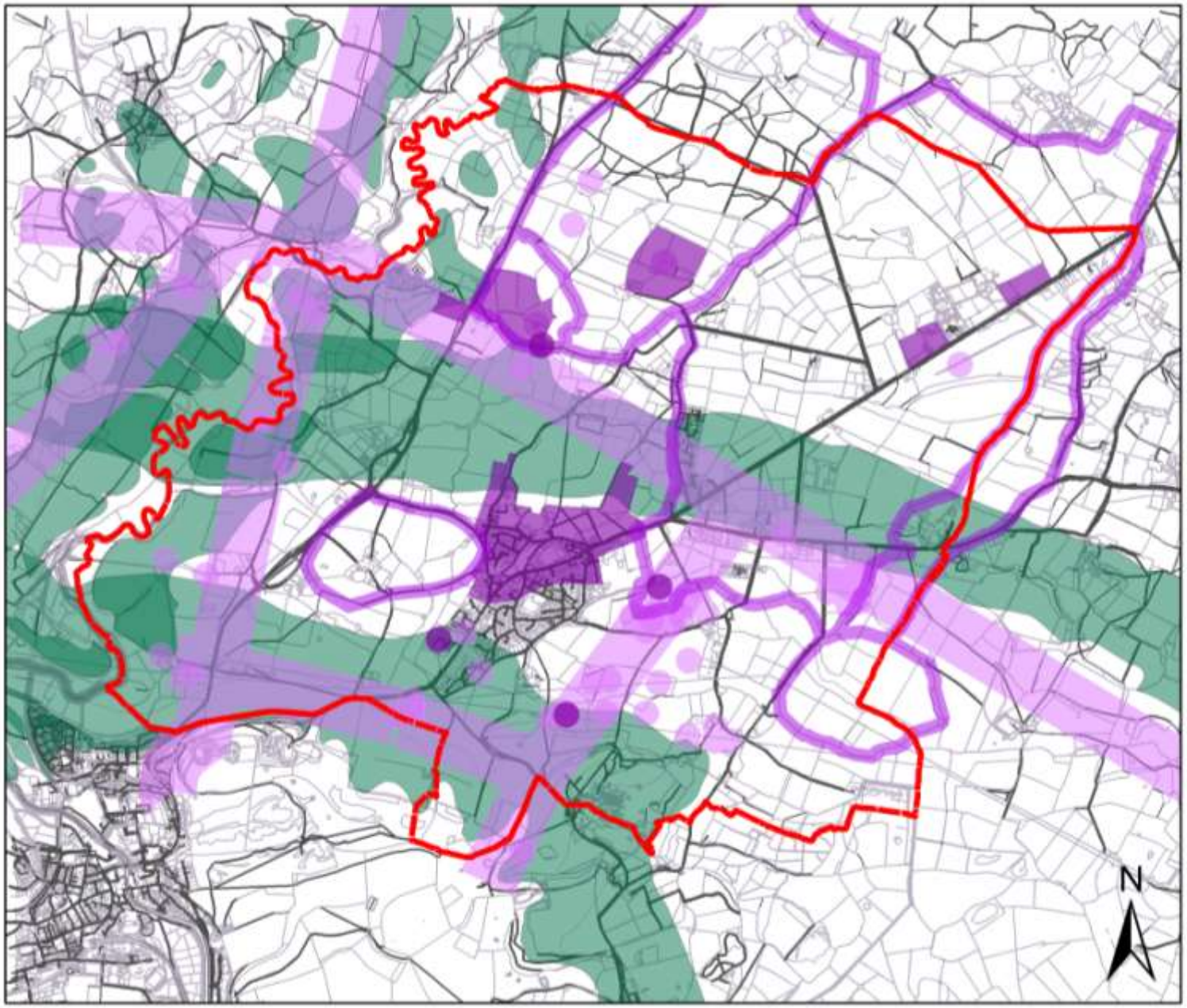
Map 22b: 1st - 4th C. AD Features & areas of high archaeological potential

Legend

- Ringmer parish boundary
- Late Saxon activity spots
- Park boundary band
- Potteries area
- Romano-British roads band
- Iron Age/Romano activity spots

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters



The Ringmer Archaeological Assessment

Map 22c: Combined areas of high archaeological potential (maps 22a & b)

Legend

- Ringmer parish boundary
- Late Saxon activity spots
- Park boundary band
- Potteries area
- Romano-British roads band
- Iron Age/Romano activity spots
- Palaeolithic - gravel river terraces
- Neolithic & Bronze age - lower chalk
- Mesolithic - lower green sand

0 500 1,000 2,000

Meters

N

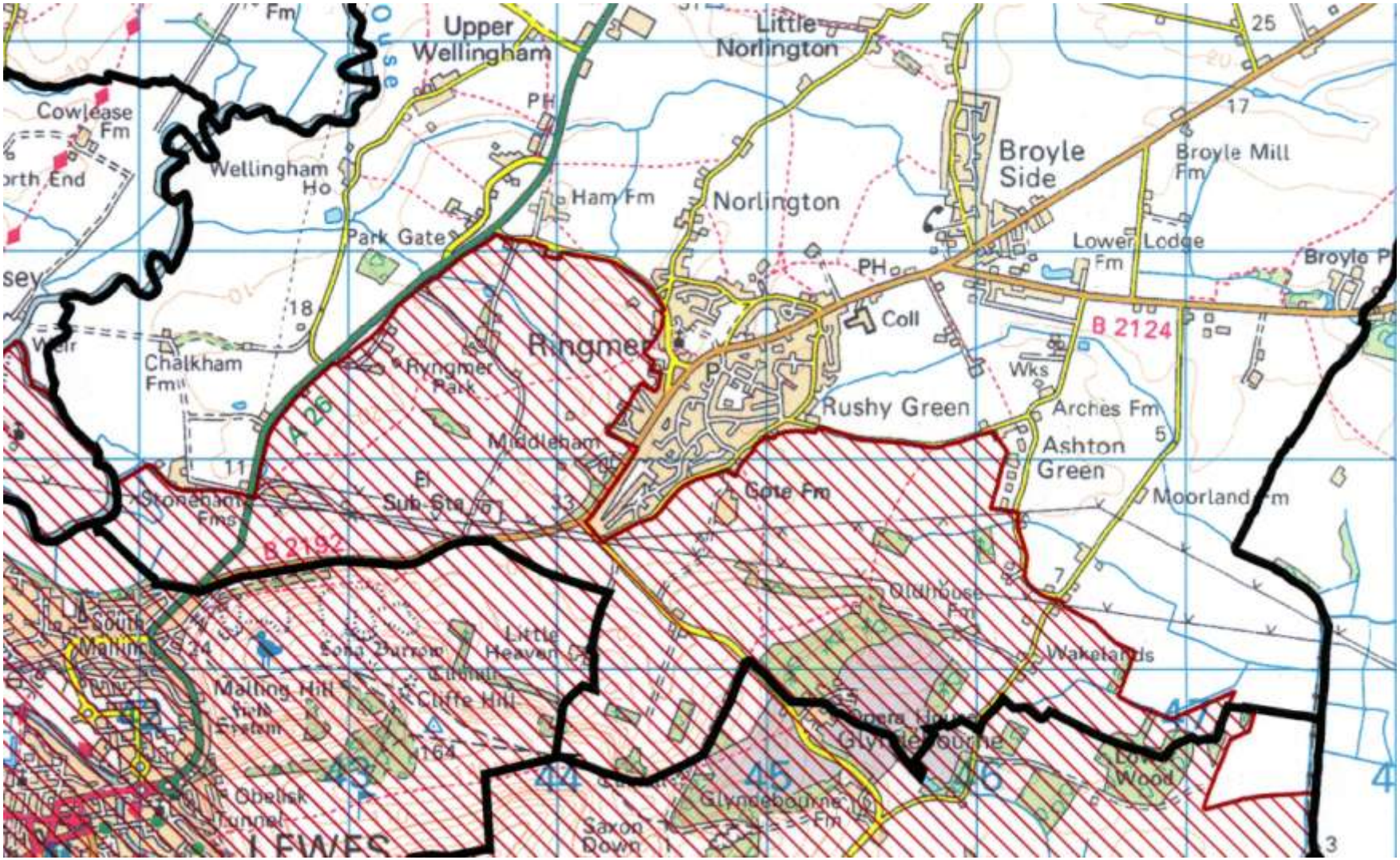


Figure 4.2.1. *Map of the proposed coverage of the South Downs National Park in relation to Ringmer parish showing how the areas of Ryngmer Park, Middleham, Gote and Wakelands will be inside the area but the important potteries area to the north of Ringmer Green is left vulnerable to future development. (SDNP 2009 intended boundary from ESHER 2010)*

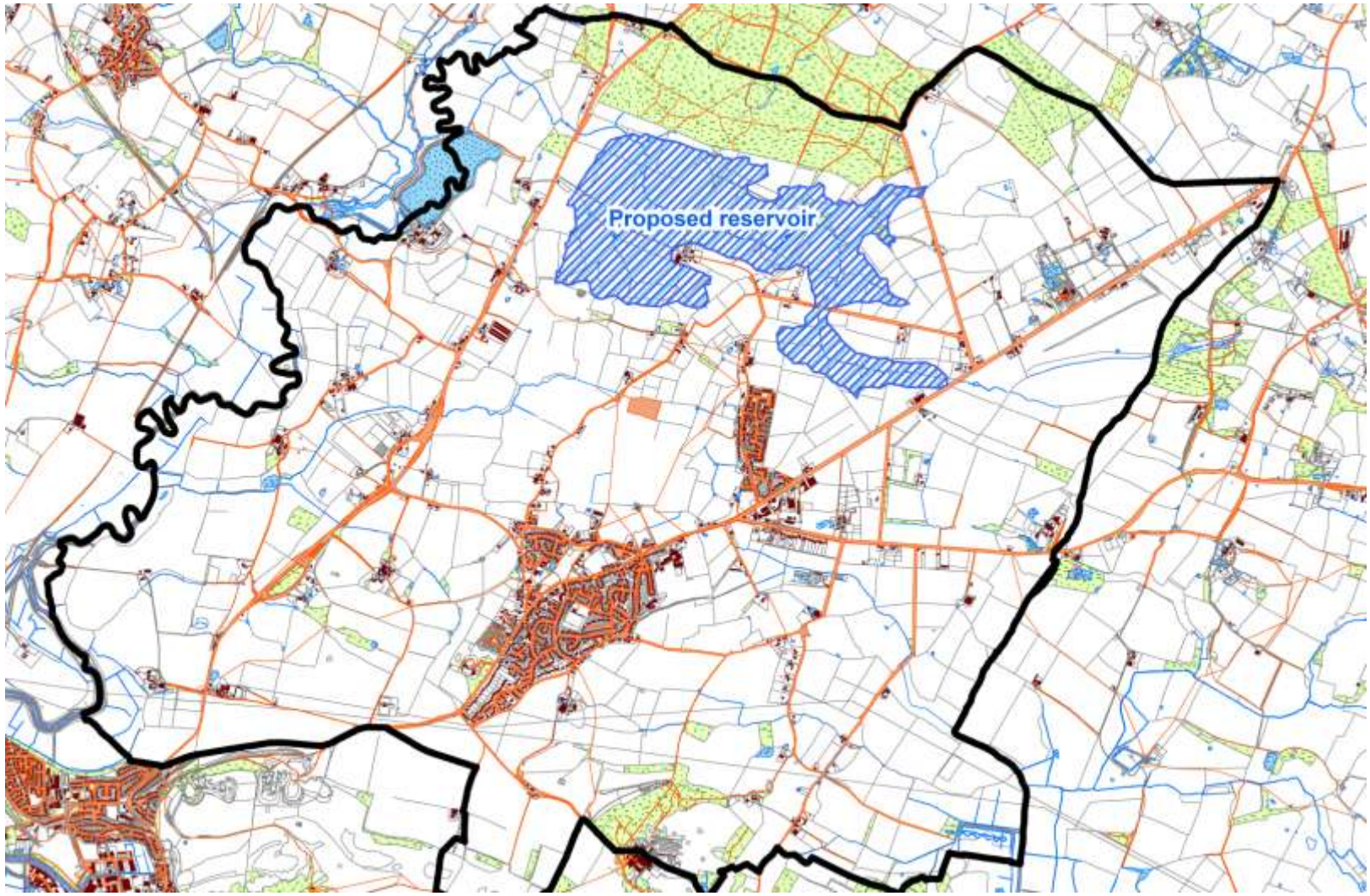


Figure 4.2.2 . *An image of the proposed Clay Hill Reservoir showing its suggested location and size (GIS generated map based on an image from www.southeastwater.co.uk/theme_sewl/SEW_dWRMP_expo_panels.pdf)*

4.3. A synopsis of archaeological investigation methods

This synopsis will only cover the methods for initial, low-impact, investigation that can be practically carried out by voluntary personnel for research purposes.

***Table 4.3.1**. List of the appropriate methods ranged in a rough order of use*

Method	Where	When	Potential results
Watching Brief (W/B): Observing & recording what becomes revealed in subsoil exposure and soil heaps.	Development and other sites where sub-soils are revealed by human intervention or natural causes.	Short-term at excavations and long-term at quarries and erosion areas.	Evidence of buried land surfaces and past activity which could suggest the need for higher level methods.
Rapid Identification Survey (Id/S) *(Bowden, 1999, p. 47)*: Walking transects at 40m spacing observing ground features and artefact scatter.	Large areas where too big or insufficient resources to adopt higher level method. Should cover all strata *(Banning, 2002, p. 115)*.	When a rapid assessment of the potential is required or when access is limited.	Location of standing earthwork features and artefact scatters that could indicate activity and/or period.
Dowsing (Dows): Observing the twitching of hand-held bent wire or hazel rod. Not reliable but equipment light and usually free.	Where other techniques not usable.	When other equipment not available.	In the right hands areas of dampness and burning can be detected. More effective as systematic group activity.
Adaptive Ground Scatter Survey (G/S) *(Orton, 2000, pp. 34-37)*: 20m line field-walking noting or collecting surface artefacts with the option of greater '*cluster*' coverage where scatter intensity dictates.	Ploughed fields especially after harrowing and/or rain.	Late autumn to early spring when arable land has been ploughed but crops are not developed enough to be harmed.	Location of activity and settlement areas by the intensity of the artefact scatter and identification of the potential periods involved and areas for higher level methods. Possible collection of defining artefacts.

Method	Where	When	Potential results
Topsoil Magnetic Susceptibility Survey (M/Sus) *(Jones D. M., 2008, pp. 13-18)*: using Bartington MS2 coil metre or similar at 10m intervals.	Mainly on large areas of grassland.	When area too large to cover at greater intensity by Mag or Res	To indicate areas of activity and occupation that could then be surveyed with Magnetometer or Resistivity.
Magnetometer Survey (Mag) *(Jones, D. M., 2008, pp.13-18)*: over gridded area at 0.5m intervals and 1m transects. Measures magnetic variation in soil.	Smaller targeted areas. Usually good on sedimentary geology but not good on chalk. Affected by proximity to metal objects.	When anticipating burning or metal-based features such as kilns and iron slag surfacing such as on RB roads.	Areas of burning and metallic content can suggest areas of industrial or domestic activity.
Resistivity Survey (Res): Used on 20m grid at 1m intervals and 1m transects. Measures variation of electrical resistance in soil i.e. moisture content.	Smaller targeted areas where negative ground features i.e. ditches, pits, buried walls and floors etc are anticipated. Not good on wetlands.	Ideally during times of moderate climate when there should be good moisture variation in soil.	Areas of activity and settlement shown by low resistance in ditches and pits, and high resistance in walls and made-up surfaces such as floors.
Systematic Metal Detecting (M/Det) *(Jones D. M., 2008, p. 40)*: Used for timed searches in 10m quadrats.	Disturbed soil allows collection of artefacts. On permanent grassland noting GPS coordinates to locate concentrations is preferable.	When anticipating metal finds due to period i.e. Iron Age and later. Ideally when grid already laid out for other types of geophysical survey.	Metal objects located reasonably close to the surface. Very good for coins, jewellery, lead and ironwork and regrettably modern foil confectionary wrappers.
Systematic Shovel Pitting (S/Pit) *(Aston & Gerrard, 1999, p. 6)*: Used at c.20m intervals.	Woodland and other areas where other techniques not usable.	After results of Id/S.	Areas of activity and settlement by artefact recognition.
Evaluation Trenching (Eval): 1-2m wide hand dug or machine dug trenches.	Over possible features indicated by other reliable methods. Where archaeology believed to be below range of meters i.e. areas of colluvial deposition.	When confident of indications and can show a reason for using an invasive method.	Ground covered features and artefacts of all types.
Ecofactual and Environmental Sampling (Eco/S): soil samples plus auguring.	Soil sample from trenches and shovel pits. Auguring where ground has built-up with alluvium or colluviums.	When digging trial pits and trenches in soil differing from the natural.	Micro- and macro-botanical and microfaunal evidence, particularly snail shells, pollen and carbonated seeds.

Table 4.3.2. *Methods from table 4.3.1 that could be applied in connection with the various periods and specific locations in tables 4.2.1-2 allowing for the priority rating in table 4.2.3. For explanation of abbreviated methods see table 4.3.1.*

Period	Methods applicable	Reason
Palaeolithic	W/B, Eco auguring with possible Eval subject to results. Targeting fluvial gravels.	Targeted observation of extraction pits and river erosion areas plus soil cores from buried fluvial gravels.
Mesolithic	Id/S followed by G/S & S/Pit	Large uncovered areas at moderate priority. Negligible chance of ground features, good chance of worked-flint scatter in disturbed soils.
Neolithic	Id/S followed by G/S & S/Pit	Large uncovered areas at low priority. Negligible chance of ground features but possibility of worked-flint scatter in disturbed soils.
Bronze Age	Id/S followed by G/S & S/Pit with possible Eval at scarpfoot, subject to resources.	Large uncovered areas at low priority. Low chance of ground features but chance of worked-flint scatter in disturbed soils. Artefact sites recorded at scarpfoot.
Iron Age	Id/S followed by G/S & M/Sus or S/Pit. Mag or Res with M/Det, subject to results. Target coin & lead finds areas.	Mixture of large uncovered and smaller targeted areas at high priority with recorded ground features and PAS records of casual M/Det coin and lead finds.
Romano-British	Id/S followed by G/S & M/Sus or S/Pit. Mag or Res with M/Det, subject to results. Target coin & cbm find areas	Mixture of large uncovered and smaller targeted areas at very high priority with recorded features of road systems, tile finds and PAS records of casual M/Det coin and jewellery finds.
Early Saxon	Id/S followed by G/S & M/Sus or S/Pit. Mag or Res with M/Det, subject to results. Target scarpfoot and riverside areas.	Mixture of large uncovered and smaller targeted areas at moderate priority with recorded features in scarpfoot cemetaries and PAS records of casual M/Det coin and jewellery finds.
Late Saxon	Id/S followed by G/S & M/Sus or S/Pit. Mag or Res with M/Det, subject to results. Target gault clay coin finds.	Mixture of large uncovered and smaller targeted areas at high priority with recorded features and PAS records of casual M/Det coin finds.
Norman	Id/S followed by G/S & M/Sus or S/Pit. Mag or Res with M/Det, subject to results. Target settlement sites in Gote and Middleham.	Mixture of large uncovered and smaller targeted areas at low priority with some recorded pastoral features and possible start of hunting enclosures.
Early Medieval	Id/S especially for park bounderies followed by G/S & M/Sus or S/Pit. Mag or Res with M/Det, subject to results. Use Mag on pottery sites at Ringmer Green, Norlington and Clay Hill and Res or Dows on park boundaries.	Mixture of large uncovered and smaller targeted areas at very high priority with many recorded features associated with pottery manufacture and enclosed deer parks. PAS records of casual M/Det horse harness find. SAM at Clay Hill.

Location	Methods applicable	Reason
Central pottery production area	G/S, M/Det and Mag possibly Res if Mag results unclear. Followed by Eval dependent on results.	Remaining high priority sites in this area should not need large area methods. Mag survey should show areas of burning such as kilns. Whilst Eval is suggested this type of feature often requires a larger shallow open area excavation to establish potential features.
Clay Hill	G/S, M/Det and Mag and/or Res especially in areas not covered by commercial units.	Large area investigations have already been carried out over most of area plus sample of more intensive procedures. Results left gaps that a non-commercial targeted project might resolve including the assemblage of Romano-British tile.
Park bounderies	Id/S incorporating ancient hedge survey , Dows for potential ditches and Res of targeted areas to confirm former banks and ditches.	The location and approximate morphology of the parks has been interpreted from cartographic analysis which now needs confirming by evidence of the former park-pale alignments. Banks with internal ditches of particular note as a common feature of deer parks.
Scarpfoot area	G/S, M/Det and Res although prehistoric features may be too deep under colluviums. Targeted areas may need 1m square Eco test pits or auguring if soil deep.	As shown by the narrow transect investigated for the OVT project, the Coombe soil made this area popular for settlement over many periods. A wider investigation should clarify the results of this recent project in an area targeted for potential Saxo-Norman archaeology.
Riverside area	G/S, M/Det and Res with possible Mag over potential Romano-British road sites.	An area of high priority with known Roman features and Saxon place-names. RB roads in this area often have high iron signature in Mag results with Res better for roadside ditches and hard road foundations.

As seen from the PAS metal detection records **(Map 6)** casual observation and surface artefact finding can be a valuable initial indicator providing the locations are recorded and reported. Watching briefs should be undertaken on any exposed subsoil excavation in higher priority areas. All early methods can be followed by possible evaluation trenching, subject to results, resources and a sufficient argument being established for the use of an invasive method. However a prime concern of any excavation must be the resources to carry out any necessary post-excavation conservation and analysis, as emphasised by the considerable responsibility imposed by the vast assemblages recovered in the previous kiln and waster excavations.

4.4. The assessment assessed

This assessment is fundamentally dependent on the data collected. A combination of archaeological evidence not in the public domain and, more importantly, from future investigation will undoubtedly affect and potentially necessitate some radical changes in its conclusions. It is based solely on a desk-based survey, by a compiler with little previous knowledge of the parish's history or landscape, and requires a programme of fieldwork to fully validate its claims and move it forward into a document of practical application. To that end it has highlighted areas of potential future investigation and given a range of possible methods that could be used to pursue that research to a successful outcome.

5. IN CONCLUSION

Branigan (1980, p. 46), referring to Roman Britain, comments that if all we had was the written record our knowledge would be sparse; whilst great events may be documented, everyday life would remain a mystery. He affirms that what is known is due largely to archaeology, which is far from merely excavation, involving exhaustive collation and interpretation of the findings to provide explanations of the past.

As shown in this report knowledge of prehistoric Ringmer is exclusively reliant on archaeological evidence and even later periods need archaeology to bring the documents to life.

The archaeological record of Ringmer however imparts another important lesson in that the extent of the data available can often say more about the range of investigation undertaken than of the potential distribution of finds and past activity. In the case of the rural areas of the parish the maxim of the British cosmologist Martin Rees, that absence of evidence does not constitute evidence of absence, would seem highly appropriate. Much of the future archaeological investigation will be down to the serendipity of development-led commercial projects although, as seen at Clay Hill Reservoir and in the Ouse Valley Transfer projects, this can result in valuable data being gained in previously under-investigated areas.

With the restricted resources available to voluntary research groups, care must be taken in the priority given to various features and periods. For example, whilst finding the location of a Roman villa could assist the wider question of establishing estate morphology, serious consideration should be given as to whether fundamental new insights would be gained from the excavation of such a building. The same applies to the Roman road network, but a Roman tile kiln, together with a range of wasters, could have important implications for the wider context which could only be gained from an open-area excavation. Each case must be looked at individually with its potential and vulnerability agreed before any research programme can be initiated.

In expanding on Branigan's description of archaeology, there is no merit in uncovering the features and artefacts of the past if the knowledge contained therein is not set free by subsequent

analysis. Fortunately the parish of Ringmer has not only seen enthusiastic gathering of knowledge but also the responsible processing of the results to provide valuable insights into the parish's past. Moreover, the information available for the medieval pottery industry from both archaeological and historical research lays the foundation for a deeper level of analysis to be undertaken in the production of a fabric and form series for Ringmer-ware pottery, a project of regional importance.

This archaeological synthesis has allowed the production of a series of GIS produced maps presenting the development of the parish through successive periods. The assessment of the information presented in this form facilitated a prioritisation of the potential and vulnerability of the archaeology for each period and selected locations.

It seems highly appropriate that this phase of the synthesis should end in 1349. The period covered shows a steady growth of settlement and population even allowing for those times of setback such as at the end of Roman authority. It ends at the High Medieval when trade and commerce had come to even rural Ringmer. This new prosperity was however tragically accompanied by the Black Death. Successive outbreaks of plague in the later 14th century not only reduced the population by between a third and a half but changed forever the manorial system in England and heralded the beginnings of the dramatic changes that eventually produced the landscape of pre-20th century Britain.

It is to be hoped that the data compiled and guidance given within this report will not only assist but actually inspire future investigation of the archaeology of this area and thereby enhance our understanding of the early development of this archaeologically significant parish.

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7. APPENDIX

7.1 Metadata for map 22 series

Titles:
a. Geological areas of high archaeological potential in table 4.2.1.
b. Features & areas of high archaeological potential in table 4.2.1.
c. Combined areas of high archaeological potential in table 4.2.1.
Abstract: *The map was produced to give an approximate indication of areas of land that could have potential for the acquisition of archaeological data on periods from Palaeolithic (800,000bp) to the Black Death at the end of the early medieval (AD1348/9) in support of the analysis made in the paper, Mapping the archaeology of Ringmer parish to AD 1349.*
Background: *This paper was originally produced as a dissertation for the MA in Field Archaeology at the University of Sussex (September 2010) but with additional material being added after discussions with the County Archaeologist, Capser Johnson.*
Originator: *David H Millum, MA, BA Hons.*
Date: *31/12/2010*
Date of metadata: *1/1/2011*
Spatial reference system: *British National Grid, GCS_OSGB_1936*
Datum: *D_OSGB_1936*
Original scale: *1:40,000*
Presentation programme: *ArcGIS 9.2*
Spatial representation type: *vector layers in point, polyline and polygon shape files (.shp)*
Use constraints: *copyright of original data and restricted academic licence of production programme*
Last update: *1/1/2011*
Distributor*: davidmillum@mypostoffice.co.uk, 01273 890854*
Supply media: *cd-rom or email attachment*
Source data: *All maps based on Ordnance Survey data supplied by the EDiNA digimap service. http://digimap.edina.ac.uk (2010).*
Prehistoric general areas based on polygon shapefiles from Geological Map Data, © NERC 2010, BGS 1:50,000, bedrock and superficial, download: ew319_334_lewes_and_eastbourne_ V4.
Palaeolithic on superficial river terrace deposits, Mesolithic on bedrock lower greensand group, Neolithic and Bronze Age on zig zag & Mebury Marly lower chalk formations.
Activity spots being approximately 200m diameter based on point data from ESHER 2010, Lewes; East Sussex County Council.
Park boundaries being 100m wide bands astride polygon perimeters produced from ESRO historic map documents and interpretation of modern map boundaries.
Romano British roads being 420m wide bands laid on polylines based on data from Margery (1948) and www.culverproject.com plus interpretation of ESHER monument data.
Potteries area polygons based on boundaries surrounding land areas containing pottery production/waster sites and/or name-place point data .
Source data referral date*: 2010*

7.2: Table of the OS benchmarks in Ringmer parish

(http://benchmarks.ordnancesurvey.co.uk Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2010)

East	North	Type	Location	Ht
548350	114460	CUT MARK	NO2 UPPER LODGE COTTS NW SIDE RD SE FACE 1.2M E ANG	32.87
548730	114670	CUT MARK	CUL SE SIDE RD SW SIDE ENT HO THE WILLOWS	30.55
547160	115680	CUT MARK	MOUNT COTT HARVEYS LANE E ANG SE FACE	33.28
547640	115980	CUT MARK	OUTBLDG HO COOPERS HATCH S ANG SE FACE	22.29
547010	114940	RIVET	RIVET S END CUL E SIDE HARVEYS LANE	17.53
547100	114620	CUT MARK	BLDG RED BARN FM NE FACE 3.7M N ANG	22.77
547030	113580	CUT MARK	OUTBLDG BROYLE MILL FM N ANG NE FACE	22.25
547290	113970	CUT MARK	HO CHAPELFIELD SW SIDE HARVEYS LANE E ANG NE FACE	24.74
547350	113900	CUT MARK	BLDG NE SIDE HARVEYS LANE S ANG SW FACE	21.57
547650	113980	CUT MARK	UPPER BROYLE FM COTT SE SIDE THE BROYLE N ANG NE FACE	21.83
547010	112710	CUT MARK	HERON HOUSE LAUGHTON RD N FACE 2.4M NE ANG	14.94
547930	112680	CUT MARK	NO1 DECOY COTT S SIDE RD NE ANG N FACE	9.03
547830	111230	RIVET	RIVET BR E SIDE TK N SIDE DRAIN	2.84
546890	115270	CUT MARK	HARVEYS GATE HARVEYS LANE S ANG SE FACE	34.49
546960	115070	CUT MARK	ACORN COTT HARVEYS LANE SE FACE 3.0M E ANG	24.00
546040	114310	CUT MARK	BRICKYARD FM N SIDE GREEN LANE SE ANG S FACE	24.59
546400	114210	RIVET	RIVET CUL S SIDE GREEN LANE E SIDE STR	14.97
546340	113220	CUT MARK	HO TURNPIKE FM E ANG SE FACE	16.66
546110	112840	CUT MARK	WALL NE ANG HO RINGMER KENNELS E FACE	16.91
546530	112880	CUT MARK	OUTBLDG LOWER LODGE FM W ANG SW FACE	18.45
546230	110110	CUT MARK	NO 1 OLDHOUSE FM COTTS MOOR LANE E ANG SE FACE	10.89
546560	111510	RIVET	RIVET CUL SE SIDE MOOR LANE SW SIDE DRAIN	6.47
545200	115740	CUT MARK	GTP SE SIDE RD SW SIDE ENT TK	12.24
545420	115910	CUT MARK	1 MIDDLE VIEW GATE SE SIDE RD ENT WOOD N ANG NW FACE	15.90
545350	114060	CUT MARK	SWINGATE COTTS NE ANG N FACE	23.44
545530	114040	CUT MARK	WALL NE SIDE JUNC TK RD E SIDE ENT YD	23.59
545140	113670	RIVET	NBM RIVET NE END CUL SE SIDE NORLINGTON LANE	12.11
545310	112660	CUT MARK	RINGMER PRIMARY SCH N ANG NW FACE	18.24
545660	112870	CUT MARK	THE GREEN MAN PH NE ANG E FACE	14.95
545970	112950	CUT MARK	BLDG SE SIDE RD W ANG SW FACE	16.49
544760	115000	CUT MARK	NO 2 COUNCIL COTTS SE SIDE RD N ANG NW FACE	14.91
544920	115460	CUT MARK	THE OLD SHIP PH SE FACE 6.1M E ANG	10.79
544440	114430	CUT MARK	CLAY HILL COTTS SE SIDE RD N ANG NW FACE	19.29
544650	114840	CUT MARK	BLDG BANFF NW SIDE RD E ANG NE FACE	25.13
544740	114180	FLUSH BRACKET	FL BR S5110 CLAY HILL TP	31.28
544650	113160	CUT MARK	NORLINGTON FM HSE W SIDE of LANE SE ANG S FACE	18.54

East	North	Type	Location	Ht
544480	112200	CUT MARK	P WALL JUNC HO BEECHWORTH NW SIDE RD	29.79
544520	112690	CUT MARK	NO 8 CHURCH HILL N ANG NW FACE	25.10
544560	112500	BOLT	BOLT ST MARYS CH S FACE 5.2M SW ANG	34.83
544700	112430	CUT MARK	VILLAGE HALL SE SIDE RD W ANG NW FACE	27.96
544150	111680	CUT MARK	NBM LB S SIDE RD JUNC SE FACE	33.38
544220	111800	CUT MARK	P WALL NW SIDE RD JUNC FENCE	34.16
544600	111180	CUT MARK	BARN S SIDE RD N ANG NW FACE	49.06
544940	111000	CUT MARK	GTP SW SIDE RD OPP CATTLE GRID	73.91
544190	110510	RIVET	RIVET STO SAXON CROSS SW SIDE TK	128.34
544700	110580	CUT MARK	P S END WEEK LANE SE SIDE GATE	88.93
543130	114920	CUT MARK	JUNC WALLS HAYES FM S FACE	5.56
543340	114780	CUT MARK	NBM BR PARA W SIDE TK N SIDE R	7.01
543350	114510	CUT MARK	BLDG BRIDGE FM SW SIDE RD NW FACE 9.3M N ANG	6.58
543910	114020	CUT MARK	BLDG 10 THE HOLDINGS S SIDE JUNC RDS E ANG SE FACE	14.36
543020	113110	CUT MARK	PARA SCUFFLING BR E SIDE WELLINGHAM Ln 3.4M N END	6.94
543260	113610	PIVOT	PIVOT JUNC WALLS E SIDE WELLINGHAM LANE N	11.40
543490	113780	CUT MARK	UPPER WELLINGHAM FM, 12 THE HOLDINGS E ANG NE FACE	15.83
543540	113000	CUT MARK	P WALL NW SIDE RD 7.3M SW LB	13.97
543820	113030	CUT MARK	NO4 HAM LANE S SIDE RD NE ANG N FACE	21.50
543920	113470	CUT MARK	NO8 THE HOLDINGS NW SIDE RD S ANG SW FACE	10.75

East	North	Type	Location	Ht
543270	111490	CUT MARK	WALL N SIDE RD 16.8M NE ENT LAY BY	45.18
543960	111650	RIVET	RIVET BASE PYLON N SIDE RD SW ANG	34.87
542790	112600	CUT MARK	HO W SIDE WELLINGHAM LANE S ANG SE FACE	17.79
542910	112390	RIVET	NBM RIVET CUL S SIDE RD NE SIDE STR	14.46
542910	112770	CUT MARK	GTP W SIDE WELLINGHAM LANE N SIDE ENT FIELD	17.20
542130	111940	CUT MARK	NBM BLDG LOWER STONEHAM FM E ANG SE FACE	5.15
542150	111020	CUT MARK	P WALL SW SIDE MALLING HILL SE SIDE ENT PATH	23.98
542180	111280	CUT MARK	P WALL NW SIDE MALLING DOWN SW SIDE STEPS	28.49
542280	111380	CUT MARK	WALL NW SIDE EARWIG CORNER 5.2M NE JUNC FENCE	26.47
542520	111440	CUT MARK	WALL N SIDE RD 28.3M E JUNC FENCE	33.05
542540	111840	CUT MARK	HO ENT LOWER STONEHAM FM NE ANG E FACE	11.36
542930	111510	CUT MARK	WALL N SIDE RD 108.8M E JUNC FENCE	46.03

7.3: List of Figures used in the report

Notes