

# 68<sup>th</sup> International Sachsensymposium

Arbeitsgemeinschaft zur Archäologie der Sachsen und ihrer  
Nachbarvölker in Nordwesteuropa – IvoE



**Canterbury, 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

*Lands and Seas:  
Post-Roman transitions and relations across  
the Channel, North Sea and Baltic worlds*



## PROGRAMME – PROGRAMM

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

- 09.00 – 11.00 Morning meeting and help point  
*Morgendlicher Treffpunkt und Hilfestelle*  
Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad Street, Canterbury CT1 2LU
- 11.00 – 13.00 City Tour 1 (led by Paul Bennett, meeting point: the Butter Market)  
*Stadtführung 1 (Treffpunkt: the Butter Market)*
- St Augustine's Abbey Tour (led by Helen Gittos, meeting point: Lady Wootton's Green)  
*St Augustine's Abbey Stadtführung (Treffpunkt: Lady Wootton's Green)*
- 13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH (not provided)  
*Mittagessen (Selbstversorgung)*
- 13.00 – 18.00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
*Anmeldung zur Konferenz*  
Foyer, Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University,  
North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU
- 14.00 – 16.00 City Tour 2 (led by Paul Bennett, meeting point: the Butter Market)  
*Stadtführung 2 (Treffpunkt: the Butter Market)*
- 14.00 – 16.00 Practical workshop on Portable Antiquities. Lg25, Laud, Canterbury Christ Church  
University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU  
*Praktischer Workshop zu beweglichen Altertümern*
- 17.00 – 18.00 Opening Reception  
*Eröffnungsempfang*  
Foyer, Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University,  
North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU
- 18.00 – 19.30 Keynote Lecture by Barbara Yorke  
*Eröffnungsvortrag von Barbara Yorke*  
'The Making of a Kingdom: an Introduction to the Archaeology and History of Early  
Medieval Kent'  
The Michael Berry Lecture Theatre, Old Sessions House

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

*Anmeldung zur Konferenz*

Og90 The Old Sessions House Foyer, Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University,  
North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU

Registration Desk open from 13.00 until 18.00

#### ACCOMODATION BOOKING IN

*Zimmervergabe*

Turing College Reception, Turing College, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7FN

Reception open from 14.00 until 22.00

(If arriving after 22.00 call campus security (01227 823300) who will open reception and issue bedroom keys)

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

08.30 REGISTRATION *Anmeldung*  
Colyer Fergusson Building foyer, University of Kent

### SESSION 1: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Babette Ludowici

9.00 Opening of the conference *Eröffnung der Tagung*

9.05 ‘The Flemish-Kentish connection in the Broechem cemetery (Province of Antwerp)’  
Rica Annaert

9.30 ‘Kentish and Continental material in the Kingdom of Northumbria in the 6th and 7th centuries AD: an overview’  
Sue Harrington

9.55 ‘The shaping of kingdoms: reassessing ‘Frankish hegemony’ in southern England (6th–7th centuries)’  
Irene Bavuso

10.20 ‘Earthly transformations: funerary monumentality, landscape organisation and social change in early medieval northwest Europe’  
Kate Mees

10.45 – 11.15 TEA BREAK *Kaffeepause*

### SESSION 2: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Aleksander Bursche

11.15 ‘Glass vessels in Middle Anglo-Saxon England: distribution and significance’  
Rose Broadley

11.40 ‘Grave re-opening in Anglo-Saxon Kent and beyond’  
Alison Klevnäs

12.05 ‘Boat burials of Merovingian-period mid-Sweden — were the buried individuals local or not?’  
Torun Zachrisson

12.30 ‘New Merovingian-period and Viking-age finds from Vestfold — the Hesby excavation’  
Martin Gollwitzer

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH *Mittagessen*  
Colyer Fergusson foyer

### SESSION 3: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Sarah Semple

14.00 ‘Exploring the post-Roman to Early Anglo-Saxon transition: new perspectives from Quoit Brooch Style metalwork’  
Ellen Swift

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- 14.25            ‘Black iron, shining wire: the buckles from St Peter’s Tip, Kent’  
Sue Brunning
- 14.50            ‘Recent work at Lyminge and Ringlemere’  
Keith Parfitt
- 15.15            ‘The performance of kingship in Anglo-Saxon Kent: new archaeological perspectives  
from Lyminge and related sites’  
Gabor Thomas

15.45 – 16.15    TEA BREAK *Kaffeepause*

SESSION 4: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Andy Seaman

- 16.15            ‘Reflections from Mucking: Roman/post-Roman transitions in the Thames Estuary’  
Sam Lucy
- 16.40            ‘Phases of Spong Hill — widening the net?’  
Diana Briscoe
- 17.05            ‘The language of transition: characterizing and explaining change in Post-Roman Britain’  
Chris Scull
- 17.30 – 19.00    DINNER    *Abendessen*  
Darwin Conference Suite, University of Kent
- 19.30 – 21.00    ‘Canterbury in Transition’  
Open Public Lecture by Professor Paul Bennett. Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre,  
University of Kent

## Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

08.45                    Excursion by coach  
                              *Busausflug*

Visit to Reculver; travel to Dover, passing Sarre, Richborough and taking in views of the Wantsum Channel area. Visit to the Dover Museum and lunch at Little Farthingloe Farm. Site visit to Lyminge led by Gabor Thomas. Return to Canterbury via Elham Valley, stopping at Breach Downs, then passing Barham and Kingston. As well as allowing us to see some of the major sites in the area, this will also give people the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the landscape of East Kent and we'll be able to point out other key archaeological sites along the route, including places such as Kingston Down.

*Besuch von Reculver; Busfahrt nach Dover über Sarre und Richborough, mit Aussicht auf das Wantsum Channel Gebiet. Besuch des Dover Museums mit Mittagessen auf der Little Farthingloe Farm. Besuch von Lyminge unter der Führung von Gabor Thomas. Rückfahrt nach Canterbury durch Elham Valley, mit Zwischenstopp im Breach Downs und Weiterreise durch Barham und Kingston. Dieser Ausflug wird uns nicht nur ermöglichen, einige wichtige archäologische Stätten zu sehen, sondern wird auch allen die Gelegenheit geben, sich mit der Landschaft Ostkents vertraut zu machen. Außerdem erlaubt es uns, unterwegs auf einige weitere wichtige Stätten in der Region hinzuweisen, wie zum Beispiel Kingston Down.*

19.00                    Meeting of the Coordinating Committee, Barretts Bar, The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury  
                              *Meeting des Koordinierenden Komitees*

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Session 5: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: John Hines

- 9.00 'Garnets revisited — Swedish Iron-age and Early-medieval jewellery in light of the *Weltweites Zellwerk* project'  
Charlotte Hedenstierna-Jonson
- 9.25 'The circulation of garnets in the North Sea and Baltic zones'  
Helena Hamerow
- 9.50 'Maritime contacts across the Baltic Sea during the Roman and Migration Periods (1st–7th centuries AD) in the light of archaeological sources'  
Bartosz Kontny
- 10.25 'Kontakt über die Ostsee: Skandinavische Waffenfunde der spätrömischen Kaiserzeit und Völkerwanderungszeit aus Masuren'  
Wojciech Nowakowski
- 10.45–11.15 TEA BREAK *Kaffeepause*

Session 6: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Sam Lucy

- 11.15 'Sösdala-Untersiebenbrunn Style: an inter-regional phenomenon?'  
Anna Bitner-Wróblewska/Marzena Przybyła
- 11.40 'The Migration Period between the Oder and the Vistula Project — final report'  
Aleksander Bursche/Magdalena Mączyńska
- 12.05 'Late Roman solidi of Scandinavia'  
Svante Fischer
- 12.30 "Ravlundu and Maletofta — the home of the *guldgubbar*"  
Bertil Helgesson
- 13.00–14.00 LUNCH *Mittagessen*

Session 7: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Rica Annaert

- 14.00 'Anglo-Saxon-style pottery and cultural changes in the Continental North Sea coastal regions'  
Tessa Krol
- 14.25 'A Merovingian cemetery at Vicq, Yvelines, France: more than 40 years of research (1976–2016)'  
Jean Soulat and Laure Pecqueur
- 14.50 'Following the women: costume and textile crafts as tools to study migration and hegemony in the English Channel region in the 5th and 6th centuries'

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- 15.15 Penelope Walton-Rogers  
'Material culture relations between Jutland and Anglo-Saxon England — migration and marriage strategy'  
Karen Høilund Nielsen
- 15.45–16.05 TEA BREAK *Kaffeepause*
- Session 8: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre
- Chair: Siv Kristoffersen
- 16.05 'From Eketorp to Jæren: *Leader houses* in the court sites of south-western Norway'  
Håkon Reiersen
- 16.30 'Dating the Staffordshire Hoard'  
Chris Fern
- 18.00–19.00 Civic Reception *Empfang durch den Bürgermeister*  
Beaney House of Art & Knowledge, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury
- 19.30 CONFERENCE DINNER *Abendessen*  
Cathedral Lodge, Clagget Auditorium and Kentish Barn and Garden, Canterbury Cathedral

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Session 9: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Torun Zachrisson

- 9.00 'Searching for the past — Metal-detecting and its impact on cultural heritage in Finland'  
Anna Wessmann
- 9.25 'A plank from a boat of Nydam type from Hjemsted'  
Per Ethelberg
- 9.50 'Hidden figures on Gotlandic picture-stones detected with digital methods'  
Sigmund Oehrl
- 10.15–10.50 Poster slam, feedback and discussion *Besprechung der Posters*
- 10.50–11.15 TEA BREAK *Kaffeepause*

Session 10: Colyer Fergusson Lecture Theatre

Chair: Chris Scull

- 11.15 'By land and by sea: modelling the transport infrastructure of Anglo-Saxon Kent'  
Stuart Brookes and Ellie Rye
- 11.40 'The living and the dead in the Low Canche Valley: Quentovic, a Frankish maritime crossroads in the Channel?'  
Inés Leroy and Laurent Verslype
- 12.05 'Thinking about sceattas in the Netherlands, or The Return of the Porcupines'  
Frans Theuws
- 12.30 'The material impact of political change: cases from 10th- to 11th-century Flanders'  
Drys Tys and Pieterjan Deckers
- 12.55 Concluding announcements *Abschlussmitteilungen*
- 13.00 CONFERENCE ENDS *Ende der Tagung*
- 13.00 – 15.00 LUNCH (not provided) *Mittagessen (nicht versorgt)*
- 15.00 – 17.00 Optional visit to the Cathedral Archives  
*Optionaler Besuch des Kathedralenarchivs*

## Poster Presentations

‘About the roots of the Rosette Twills around the North Sea’  
Christina Peek, Annette Siegmüller

‘Lieveren and Achlum – Two “Ghost Bracteates” from The Netherlands’  
Morten Axboe, Wijnand van der Sanden

‘Fleshing out the body: Nakedness in Anglo-Saxon Visual Culture’  
Tristan Lake

‘Creating cross-sea identities using Roman objects in Anglo-Saxon and Merovingian mortuary contexts in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD’  
Indra Werthmann

‘Close to Home or Far Away? Exploring identity in Early Medieval Suffolk’  
Justine Biddle

‘The dating of Updown cemetery in Eastry revised’  
Tim van Tongeren

‘Pasym – the key to understanding the making of early medieval Prussia’  
Sławomir Wadył

‘Who was *Biarnferð*?’  
John Hines

‘Authentizität in der Archäologie am Beispiel der Ausstellung frühmittelalterlicher Schiffsfunde’  
Ursula Warnke

## ABSTRACTS – ZUSAMMENFASSUNGEN

### KEYNOTE LECTURE

**‘The Making of a Kingdom: an Introduction to the Archaeology and History of Early Medieval Kent’**  
Barbara Yorke

### PAPERS

#### SESSION 1

**‘The Flemish-Kentish connection in the Broechem cemetery (Province of Antwerp)’**  
Rica Annaert

The excavation of the Merovingian cemetery at Broechem (prov. of Antwerp, Belgium) yielded a lot of new information on the early medieval mortuary rituals, cultural influences and social behaviour of the local community who buried their dead here. The cemetery was in use from the 5<sup>th</sup> until the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD and was located in the so-called ‘Riverland’, the region to the south of Antwerp, surrounded by rivers with access to the Scheldt estuary and the North Sea.

The presence of both inhumation and cremation burials, certain aspects in the lay-out and construction of the graves (for example orientation and the presence of so-called chamber graves), the deposition of horses and also the presence of some characteristic objects (such as handmade pottery in a Germanic and Anglo-Saxon tradition) are notable features that link together the early medieval cemeteries located in the Scheldt valley. The cultural influences in these cemeteries are seen nowadays as a more widespread ‘North Sea’ culture within early medieval societies. The spread of this North Sea culture along both sides of the Channel is certainly not the result of migration alone. Trade across sea and river systems, but also political and social exchange processes, must be taken into account.

Some of the graves in the Broechem cemetery, however, have shown a more direct relationship with Kent and its neighbours. This paper will focus on the artefacts in these graves to demonstrate the cultural interaction between the Flemish and Kentish regions in the early Middle Ages.

**‘Kentish and Continental material in the Kingdom of Northumbria in the 6th and 7th centuries AD: an overview’**  
Sue Harrington

The People and Place Project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust and based at Durham University, reported to the Antwerp session on the landscape aspects of the archaeology of the early kingdom of Northumbria. To complement that presentation, this paper will give an overview of the artefactual material found north of the river Humber and datable to the sixth and seventh centuries AD. Particular emphasis will be given to the distribution of Kentish, Frankish and other Continental material found from burials and other finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Whilst not a large corpus within the overall number of more than 6000 objects from a similar number of burials, this ‘other’ material leads to questions about the geographical and cultural links of these communities, particularly those tied in to coastal and land route networks. How did this material operate in the context of an overwhelmingly Anglian material culture?

**‘The shaping of kingdoms: reassessing ‘Frankish hegemony’ in southern England (6th–7th centuries)’**  
Irene Bavuso

In recent decades, the relationship between Southern England and the Merovingian kingdoms in the sixth and early seventh centuries has largely been understood in terms of a Frankish overlordship or hegemony extending across the Channel. This idea has its roots in the seminal work by I. Wood in the 1980s, based on hints from a small group of Continental written sources. However, the picture offered by the archaeological evidence may challenge this thesis.

This paper examines the Early Saxon remains in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, especially focusing on Continental imports and luxury goods, and Anglo-Saxon items in the Pas-de-Calais, the Northern France region where the emporium of Quentovic was located. The archaeological investigation shows that imports and luxury goods in Southern England were quite widespread in the Early Saxon period, especially in areas well connected with the Continent, such as East Kent and the Isle of Wight; in these regions, this wide distribution is visible both across and within the cemeteries.

This picture indicates that relations with Francia should be viewed from a different perspective. Rather than a Frankish overlordship over Southern England, the archaeological remains suggest that the two areas were linked through extensive commercial and non-commercial contacts, and that this transmarine network played a key role in the development and enrichment of some Anglo-Saxon communities located on the coasts. This reconsideration may lead to a more complex understanding of the rise of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, framing Southern England in the broader context of the Channel area.

### **‘Earthly transformations: funerary monumentality, landscape organisation and social change in early medieval northwest Europe’**

Kate Mees

Work on the Anglo-Saxon funerary landscape in a wider European context—particularly comparative research that brings together and fully integrates evidence from England and its nearest continental neighbours—has to date been relatively limited. While recent studies of early medieval material culture and settlement archaeology have demonstrated the value of a north-west European approach and intimated extensive mutual influence within this zone, scholarship on the mortuary landscape has tended to be regionally or nationally circumscribed.

This paper introduces a new project, funded by the British Academy, which aims to bridge this gap. It sets out to explore how communities on either side of the English Channel and southern North Sea conceptualised and modified the natural and cultural landscape through burial. At the core of the research is a comprehensive review of the corpus of funerary sites in an area that encompasses southern England, north-east France, Belgium and the Netherlands. As well as illuminating previously overlooked areas, it promises to elucidate a more global picture of the (re-)emergence of distinctive practices such as monument building and reuse, and to shed light on many of the foundational social processes of the Early Middle Ages.

The Funerary Landscapes project builds on recently completed research, which examines the positioning of early medieval burial sites in Wessex, southern England—an area that initially spanned the apparent frontier between ‘Anglo-Saxon’ and ‘British’ influence. An approach is developed here for contextualising the burial record within the inhabited landscape, taking into account patterns of movement, land use and cultural interaction. Presenting the results of this research, I discuss how nascent territories and group identities may have been forged and consolidated through burial practice.

## **SESSION 2**

### **‘Glass vessels in Middle Anglo-Saxon England: distribution and significance’**

Rose Broadley

Vessel glass can be a revealing tool when seeking to explore international contact and trade, regional economies, the nature of different settlement types and their networks and hierarchies, social practise, aesthetic taste and cultural interactions, particularly in the early medieval period. The complete early Anglo-Saxon glass vessels found in burial contexts have been studied extensively. However, the fragments of middle and late Anglo-Saxon vessel glass (the seventh to eleventh centuries AD) from settlement contexts in England have received much less attention, and my recently-completed doctoral research constitutes the first comprehensive overview. There have been a number of published references to glass vessels across north-western Europe being a homogenous group, usually accompanied by a suggestion that the source was in the Rhineland, and an admission that proof is currently lacking. In England, recent attention attracted by the new evidence for production of glass vessels at Glastonbury Abbey has played a role in a swing towards emphasising possible domestic production of a significant proportion of the glass vessels found here. This paper outlines the corpus

of vessel glass fragments from Anglo-Saxon settlements in this period, the distribution of the settlements where vessel glass has been found, and their topographical settings. Specifically, the point will be made that even across a variety of settlement types, the distribution is almost exclusively concentrated on the eastern and south-eastern seaboard and associated riverine locations. This strongly suggests that water transport was key to access, and that the majority of vessels were imported from across the North Sea. Views on potential production points and the import of similar material to other sites across north-western Europe will be welcomed.

#### **‘Grave re-opening in Anglo-Saxon Kent and beyond’**

Alison Klevnäs

This paper will present evidence that practices of reopening and ransacking recent graves, long-recognized in the Merovingian kingdoms, were also carried out in southern and eastern England. It will place this evidence in the context of a recent wave of research into early medieval grave disturbance in several other areas of Europe, which now enables detailed comparisons of the date, intensity, and nature of the practices over a wide geographic range.

Grave disturbance has been recorded in hundreds of early medieval burial grounds across Europe since the 19th century, but until recently there was little synthetic work comparing evidence between sites and regions. The practice was commonly glossed as ‘grave-robbery’, and assumed to be an unlawful activity with straightforward material motives. Hence reopening was for a long time seen mainly as a problem: disturbance not only of the dead but also of the archaeological resource, with analysis of burials, grave goods and social structures all hindered by interference with the original burial context. However, the last few years have seen significant new findings which demonstrate that it is possible to move on from speculation about motives and to develop well-grounded interpretations. The Grave Reopening Research working group (GRR, reopenedgraves.eu) has been set up to link researchers working on reconstructing the hands-on detail of when, how, and why graves were reopened in five countries. A remarkably consistent set of burial reworking practices can now be recognized across a swathe of early medieval Europe: were these part of the row-grave burial rite from its beginning? What do they tell us about how early medieval communities understood burial places, the dead, and the belongings buried with them?

#### **‘Boat burials of Merovingian-period mid-Sweden — were the buried individuals local or not?’**

Torun Zachrisson

The lavishly furnished boat burials in Vendel and Valsgärde that begin c. AD 560/570–620/630 in Merovingian period Sweden have long been a favorite topic when discussing the elites of the period. The two sites are placed at a central water route, on the border to regions rich in outland resources. The goods that these males were buried with mirror contacts over lands and seas. The burial tradition seems to be restricted to males only, in its early, Merovingian, phase. In the transition to the Viking Age c. AD 775 the boat burial tradition came also to include women, and occurred at new sites, often called Tuna, or sites named after their position along water routes, such as river mouth's or lagoon harbours: År-by, or Nor-sa, but also sites with special buildings such as Sal-a.

The burial rituals concerning the humans were special; compared to the animals in the boat graves, very little human skeletal material usually remains. However the jaw bone of a male in Vendel XIV, one of the individuals in the first generation of boat burials, is currently analysed within the Atlas-project (aDNA and Sr isotope) which will enable a discussion on whether he was local to the site or not, and comparing him with the contemporary male in the inhumation grave in Tuna in Alsike, as well as to other later Viking Age individuals buried in boats from the same site.

#### **‘New Merovingian-period and Viking-age finds from Vestfold — the Hesby excavation’**

Martin Gollwitzer

In 2009 and 2010 the author excavated a prehistoric farm site with features from bronze age to medieval times in Hesby near Tønsberg in Vestfold, Norway. The site lies in on one of the core areas of viking age Norway not far from the famous sites of Gokstad and Oseberg. The excavations resultet in a rich material especially

from younger Iron Age. Amongst other finds there were four wells from younger iron age with preserved organic material. An interesting stratigraphy provided us with interesting information about farming strategies under the same period. Last but not least where in a part of the site found and excavated four burials dating from late Merovingian period to Viking age. One of the graves was a boat grave, but the three other burials had a more unusual inner construction. The graves were robbed but the remaining finds showed that the dead were equipped with grave goods typical for viking age burials of the region. Even if those graves at a first glimpse seemed to be quite usual, a combination of archaeological methods and scientific analyses made clear that the Hesby graves were far more complex. Osteological analyses of the bone material showed for example that in the graves were buried more than one person. The analyses of a micromorphological sample of one of the graves gave interesting results in respect of the graves taphonomy.

The results of the analyses of the Hesby graves show clearly that our knowledge of later iron age burial customs in Norway are still limited and that the key to the understanding of those customs is the use scientific analyses and refined excavation techniques. But even the other finds from the excavation resulted in important results on the settlement in Vestfold in the second part of the first millennium after Christ.

### **SESSION 3**

#### **‘Exploring the post-Roman to early Anglo-Saxon transition: new perspectives from Quoit brooch style metalwork’**

Ellen Swift

The Quoit Brooch Style of metalwork is extremely important for our understanding of the late/post-Roman to early Anglo-Saxon transition in South-East England. In this period there was a general collapse of production of many types of objects, and a sharp decline in surviving archaeological evidence of all kinds, which makes any extant objects especially significant. Quoit Brooch Style objects were produced from the early fifth century, and occur in fifth and sixth-century burial contexts. Previous scholarship has focused on stylistic questions, and has been chiefly concerned with the question of the origins of the style. A substantial number of new quoit brooch style objects have been discovered since the publication of the last major study by Suzuki (Suzuki 2000), including Portable Antiquities material, and a number of finds from cemeteries in Northern France. In addition, no-one since Evison (Evison 1965) has paid attention to the ‘strap-slide’ tubes that are, together with quoit brooches, the most frequently occurring object type associated with the style. This paper will explore the contribution of a new project incorporating recent and neglected finds, contextual study, and object biographies, which aims to enhance our understanding of both the metalwork style itself, and South East England in the fifth century.

Suzuki, S. 2000 *The Quoit Brooch Style and Anglo-Saxon Settlement*, Boydell Press, Woodbridge.

Evison, V. 1965 *The Fifth Century Invasions South of the Thames*, Athlone Press, London.

#### **‘Black iron, shining wire: the buckles from St Peter’s Tip, Kent’**

Sue Brunning

In 1969 work to extend a council refuse tip uncovered a large early Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Broadstairs on the Isle of Thanet, Kent. Known to posterity as St Peter’s Tip, the site yielded almost 400 graves dating to the sixth to eighth centuries. Its finds and archive were eventually acquired by the British Museum, but plans to publish the site were never realised. Now, experts from various institutions are collaborating to resurrect the project and some fascinating early findings are coming to light.

This paper focuses on the large assemblage of buckles from St Peter’s Tip. While few are adorned with precious metals or gemstones, many are notable for less aesthetic reasons. The group also comprises the highest number of wire-inlaid iron buckles from any single Anglo-Saxon site. This technique is a Continental fashion that is found more widely across the Channel. The buckles therefore reveal insights into the overseas links enjoyed by the St Peter’s Tip community, confirming an emerging picture of extensive Anglo-Saxon / Merovingian contacts, interactions and influences at the site.

**‘Recent work at Lyminge and Ringlemere’**

Keith Parfitt

The paper will give a brief review of finds at both sites. The take home message for the Lyminge cemetery is that it is very much bigger than anyone knew previously. Spreading along the ridge-top, it may well be associated with a round barrow on the parish boundary with Elham. Examination of a complex prehistoric site at Ringlemere in Woodnesborough parish in NE Kent found that a large Neolithic-Bronze Age monument had served as a focus for a subsequent Anglo-Saxon cemetery, in way that is becoming increasingly familiar. The AS burials here are exceptionally early and include several poorly preserved cremations.

**‘The Performance of Kingship in Anglo-Saxon Kent: New Archaeological Perspectives from Lyminge and Related Sites’**

Gabor Thomas

This paper reflects upon the results of a major scheme of excavation targeting the documented royal settlement and monastic centre of Lyminge, Kent, which concluded in 2015. Encapsulating the detailed archaeological examination of a seventh-century ‘great hall’ complex and the outer zones of a documented monastery, these investigations have furnished one of the richest developmental accounts of a royal centre in Anglo-Saxon England. This paper will review Lyminge’s changing trajectory as a ‘theatre of power’ over the fifth to ninth centuries A.D. and consider its implications for understanding how kingship was performed and proclaimed in the early medieval landscape.

**SESSION 4**

**‘Reflections from Mucking: Roman/post-Roman transitions in the Thames Estuary’**

Sam Lucy, Newnham College, Cambridge

Mucking, Essex, is a renowned site in early Medieval archaeology. Its extensive Anglo-Saxon burial and settlement sequences, first drawn to public and academic attention by the site director Margaret Jones in the 1960s, were finally brought to publication by Helena Hamerow (1993) and by Sue Hirst and Dido Clark (2009). Following a recent archival research project by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, its prehistoric and Roman sequences are also now published (Evans *et al.* 2016; Lucy *et al.* 2016), and the analysis of the late Roman sequence has highlighted some major implications for interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon remains. The small Late Roman pottery assemblage from the site appears in the same functional and stratigraphic contexts as the earliest Anglo-Saxon wares, the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries can now be seen to be clearly structured by the former Roman enclosures, and the earliest Anglo-Saxon inhumations seem to owe more to later Roman traditions of burial than might be expected. This paper will draw on recent chronological analysis for eastern England (Hills and Lucy 2013), and on recent work on late Roman pottery, to suggest ways in which the general interpretative framework for the late fourth and fifth centuries may need radical reconsideration.

**‘Phases of Spong Hill — widening the net?’**

Diana Briscoe

In Spong Hill Part IX: chronology and synthesis (Hills & Lucy, Cambridge, 2013), the authors established a close and accurate dating for the three main phases and two intermediate phases of this most important site. They were also able, as a result of this work, to demonstrate the chronology of the cremation cemetery and how material from different phases only occurred in specific areas of the cemetery. In addition, they were able to demonstrate how the styles of pottery changed over the 120 odd years that the cemetery was in use (Fig 3.29).

Using their stamp groups and burial groups, it has been possible to identify stamp motifs which are unique to a specific phase at Spong Hill. This paper explores where some of the motifs that are tied to a specific phase have been found elsewhere in both cremation and inhumation cemeteries across Britain and how their distribution patterns shift through the different periods. It also considers whether the pottery styles identified for the three main phases at Spong Hill correlate with the occurrence of these styles and associated pot stamps at other cremation cemeteries. Where an adequately notated site plan is available, an attempt has been made

to discover whether these phased motifs can be used to identify similar phases of development in other cemeteries.

**‘The language of transition: characterizing and explaining change in Post-Roman Britain’**

Chris Scull

The term “transition” is a commonplace in archaeological approaches to change over the medium to longer term. The use of the concept can, however, be problematic, and if it is to be useful it is necessary to apply it critically, considering the context, the theoretical attitudes and approaches that the term embodies, and some of the preconceptions or implications that it can carry. Transition, redolent of processual social archaeology, implies episodes of accelerated change between periods of relative stasis. When, as with approaches to the 4th–5th centuries AD, it is combined with the overlapping constructs of archaeological periodisation and cultural terminology (Roman and Anglo-Saxon) it can mask complexity, diversity and longer-term dynamics, and privilege explanations based on anachronistic views of cultural identity. This paper considers these issues and their implications, and those of alternative perspectives, in three areas of current debate: 1) the curation or re-use of old material culture items in the 5th and 6th centuries; 2) how early medieval communities perceived the inherited landscape; and 3) the construction and reproduction of lordship and hegemony in the early post-Roman centuries. It argues that while critically-robust concepts of transition can be useful, both analysis and narrative need to be more attuned to the human agency and human timescales of change.

**SESSION 5**

**‘Garnets revisited — Swedish Iron-age and Early-medieval jewellery in light of the Weltweites Zellwerk project’**

Charlotte Hedenstierna-Jonson

It is well known that present-day Sweden holds a large and varied garnet material from the Iron Age. But since Birgit Arrhenius’ extensive research in the late 20th century, garnets and garnet jewellery has been less visible in the archaeological discussion. With the large international research project Weltweites Zellwerk, initiated in 2014 and based at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz, the situation has changed. Within the subproject, Garnet Jewellery in Early Medieval Sweden a full inventory of the artefacts with garnets in the collections of the Swedish History Museum has been made, including new photo documentation, and with additions of more recent findings and objects in other collections. Over 20% of the listed objects have been analysed with the objective to determine the origins of the various garnets, enabling for a deepened study of trade routes and cultural interaction. The Swedish garnet material derives from a unique variety of different contexts, including graves, workshops and nodes of import, providing a full but complex picture of the importance and use of garnets in the Iron Age and early Medieval Period. The focus of this paper is to present some of these new results and to discuss their further implications for questions of trade and manufacture, as well as transfer of knowledge and techniques.

**‘The circulation of garnets in the North Sea and Baltic zones’**

Helena Hamerow

Garnet inlaid metalwork is one of the most instantly recognizable emblems of the elite culture that emerged in the North Sea zone during the fifth to seventh centuries. The giving and receiving of such precious objects played a key role in cementing socio-political relationships. Provenance studies are revealing the sources from which the garnets used in early medieval metalwork probably originated but little is known of the conditions in which trade in these gemstones was conducted and how they circulated within northwest Europe and Scandinavia. This paper approaches these questions by considering where garnets are likely to have entered North Sea and Baltic exchange networks; what the decline in the availability of garnets – especially the timing of that decline -- suggests about the networks by which they circulated; and whether scientific analysis can shed light on how garnets circulated amongst merchants, goldsmiths and clients.

**‘Maritime contacts across the Baltic Sea during the Roman and Migration Periods (1st–7th centuries AD) in the light of archaeological sources’**

Bartosz Kontny

The paper reminds written sources dedicated to the ships and boats in the Baltic Sea basin, i.e., remarks on the Augustus' fleet in AD 5 AD, the description of the boats produced by Svioni, or legendary account on Goths' landing in Gothiskandza in three boats. This image is supplemented by the discussion of the means of water transport known from the archaeological sources, including different boatbuilding traditions embracing building of clinker boats, sewn boats and logboats (also expanded ones). Finally the results of the the latest studies done within the scope of the research project 'Migration Period Between Odra and Vistula' are to shed a light on the matter.

**‘Kontakt über die Ostsee: Skandinavische Waffenfunde der spätrömischen Kaiserzeit und Völkerwanderungszeit aus Masuren’**

Wojciech Nowakowski

In der römischen Kaiserzeit im mitteleuropäischen Barbaricum kann man zwei große Konzentrationen von Waffenfunden aussondern: eine davon bildet die Przeworsk-Kultur mit ihren zahlreichen Kriegergräbern, die zweite stellen skandinavische Moorfunde dar. Im westbaltischen Kulturkreis, dessen Territorium sich auf der südöstlichen Ostseeküste, zwischen der Unteren Weichsel und Düne ausdehnte, haben die Waffen aus der älteren Kaiserzeit eine ziemlich starke Prägung der benachbarten Przeworsk-Kultur. Seit dem Anfang der jüngeren Kaiserzeit, als eine Expansion der Wielbark-Kultur aus dem Ostpommern und Pommerellen im Südosten, die als "Gotenwanderung" gedeutet werden kann, den westbaltischen Kulturkreis vom Territorium der Przeworsk-Kultur abgeschnitten hat, wurden dort Waffenfunde, die skandinavischen Stücken ähnelten oder diesen nachgeahmt waren, immer zahlreicher. Ein gutes Beispiel sind die Lanzen spitzen des Typs Vennolum und Zaumzeugbestandteile, deren Verzierung den Menschengesichtsmustern aus den jütländischen Opferfunden entsprach.

In der Völkerwanderungszeit kamen in westbaltischen Fundstellen Elemente von Krieger- und Reiterrüstungen vor, die samländische Vorbilder hatten. Es ist zu betonen, dass derartige Funde nicht nur in der Küstenzone, sondern auch im Binnenland auftreten. Ein sehr interessantes Beispiel sind die U-förmigen Ortbänder, die in Masuren (südl. Teil des ehem. Ostpreußens) vorkamen. Diese Scheidenelemente, die dem skandinavischen Ortbandtyp Snartemo ähnelten, wurden sowohl im Verlauf der alten, noch im 19. Jh. durchgeführten Ausgrabungen freigelegt, als auch bei den jüngsten Suchen mit Metalldetektoren. Zumal sie aus Gräberfeldern der sog. Olsztyn-Gruppe stammen (die in der vorkriegszeitlichen Literatur masurgermanische Kultur genannt wird), aus der bisher keine Schwerter und überhaupt nur sehr wenige Waffenfunde bekannt sind, handelt es sich vielleicht um eine Spur von einer Bestattungssitte, bei der ein Schwert zwar eine kostbare Grabbeigabe bilden sollte, was den skandinavischen Ritualen entsprach, dieses aber wegen seines hohen Werts, durch eine Scheide, wohl zusammen mit einer hölzernen Schwertgriffimitation, ersetzt wurde.

**SESSION 6**

**‘Sösdala-Untersiebenbrunn Style: an inter-regional phenomenon?’**

Anna Bitner-Wróblewska/Marzena Przybyła

The so-called Sösdala-Untersiebenbrunn style could be treated as a good example of cultural connections across the sea and lands. This style features stamped decoration supplemented by niello, low chip-carving and gilding as well as in some cases by zoomorphic and anthropomorphic motives. All items decorated in style in question belong to high quality dress elements and harness made of silver, gilt silver or bronze with silver inlay. All appear to have been goods of prestige belong to elites.

The Sösdala-Untersiebenbrunn style has been described in literature as an interregional phenomenon widespread in the north, central and south-eastern Europe in the end of the Late Roman and in the Early Migration Periods. However, analyzing materials on these wide areas one can easily notice that there are some regional differences in chronological position of such decorated items and regional differences in decoration motives. It seems a little bit confusing while this style is often used as a tool in synchronizing the chronology

of Scandinavia, Balts' lands and the Carpathian Basin. In our opinion it is worth to analyze again the Sösdala-Untersiebenbrunn style asking some new questions, e.g. whether the style appeared in one region and then spread to the others or it developed parallel in different areas becoming an interregional phenomenon some time later. There are no doubts that in certain moment we can tell about interregional character of the style in question, but if it took place already in the beginning of its development? What is the position of so-called West Baltic star decoration (Samland horizon) among the stamp-ornamented artifacts from north and south Europe in the Migration Period?

We propose to analyze the representative group of stamp-decorated finds from all regions, identify the possible variety of stamps occurring there and analyze differentiation of this decoration in space and time using proper statistical tools. Of course it is necessary to confront our observations with the forms of items on which analyzed decoration occurred. We hope that the output of our studies can be a step toward better understanding the interregional contact with respect to migration and communication of elites.

#### **'The Migration Period between the Oder and the Vistula Project — final report'**

Aleksander Bursche/Magdalena Mączyńska

The 5-year interdisciplinary project Maestro financed by the PL National Science Centre has been implemented by a team of 18 Polish archaeologists, historians and archaeobotanists in an international cooperation cf. [www.mpov.uw.edu.pl](http://www.mpov.uw.edu.pl).

Archaeological and palaeobotanical fieldwork carried out on a number of key sites, isotopic analysis, information obtained about many new findings, as well as the verification and more precise dating of archaeological and palynological materials from past research have permitted an entirely new perspective on processes unfolding in the Odra and the Vistula drainages at the close of Antiquity.

Pollen profiles document around AD 500 a decline almost everywhere in the study area of crop farming and grazing, and a resurgence of the forests, with some characteristic exceptions, eg, in the Kujawy region and at the mouth of the Vistula River.

The late 4th century is a time of the deterioration of settlement by communities continuing the traditions of the Roman Period, described in archaeology as Wielbark Culture (Goths, Gepids) and Przeworsk Culture (Vandals) as these peoples migrated to southern regions and subsequently led to the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The study area was populated by groups arriving from outside the region, eg, in the cave sites to the north of Cracow we have recorded the presence of newcomers from Ukraine (Cherniakhiv Culture), and in northern Poland – from areas in southern Scandinavia, Bornholm in particular. This infiltration of Scandinavian explorers of the 5th and 6th century preceded the later Varangian migrations.

In a few enclaves of central and northern Poland, in settlements having the character of central places, playing a significant logistic role in long-distance contacts, eg, at Gąski in Kujawy region, there is continuity of settlement with late Antique traditions until the 7th century, the time of the arrival of the Slavs. Consequently, it is safe to assume that there was coexistence, similarly as in the West Balt territory (Olsztyn Group) of the local population and the newcomers. This would explain the survival of many names, hydronymic in particular, as eg, the name of the Vistula River. Nevertheless, if the Balt population in the main survived this turbulent epoch and continued setting the south-eastern Baltic Sea region into the early medieval period, everywhere else in Central Europe the widespread migrations brought about to a major population shift. Our studies helped to establish at the same time that rather than being a one-off phenomenon this was a process extended in time and much more complex than previously thought.

#### **'Late Roman solidi of Scandinavia'**

Svante Fischer

The purpose of this project is to publish a catalogue of some 1,200 late Roman solidi found in Scandinavia. The result will be an updated catalogue conforming to international classification systems. This is a very important bulk of late Roman and Early Byzantine numismatic data, consisting of an array of random and representative samples that can be measured against the entire find horizons from the European Continent and

the Mediterranean. The comparative analysis of solidus hoards from Scandinavia and the Continent will allow for a much deeper understanding of events during the due to their snapshot character. The catalogue will contribute to the mapping of the various power structures active in the Late Roman Empire, bridging the gap between the written sources and the archaeological record.

The most recent catalogue covering solidi of Sweden and Denmark was published nearly half a century ago (Fagerlie 1967). Out of the 883 Scandinavian finds known to her, Joan M. Fagerlie was able to photograph some 768 solidi during three years of fieldwork in Scandinavia in 1958-1961. She classified the material with a stereoscopic method. Fagerlie's catalogue remains the most important die-study of a regional corpus of Late Roman solidi to this day. The new finds after 1967 have further accentuated the unique nature of the material and added to the very high frequency of die-links. Still, a number of problems with Fagerlie's catalogue have since become apparent. The catalogue was simply too far ahead of its time. The meticulous publication of the solidus horizon of a peripheral European region before the current standardized typologies were generally accepted caused the catalogue to become a cumbersome curiosity for numismatists. The hoard material was not used in the revision of the major classification systems of solidi, save for extremely rare specimens, e.g. Glycerius and Leontius. These were extrapolated from their archaeological context and reduced to anonymous plate coins in the general numismatic typology. Important exceptions to this negligence were the works of Italian scholars in the 1980's who used Fagerlie's catalogue as a key reference tool in the publication of the Braone and Vestal hoards.

The question of the relationship between the Scandinavian finds and the Late Roman Empire is a key. Fagerlie's catalogue did not track the die-linked material from Scandinavia back to hoards inside the Empire. As a result, some scholars came to offer bold interpretations of the Swedish solidus material. It has been suggested that the solidi on Öland were due to commerce, fur trade from Småland in particular. This is an unlikely scenario without any supporting archaeological evidence, where the Late Roman elite of Italy chose to trade in their minted gold for fur from Småland exactly at the time for the collapse of the West Roman central government.

A valid explanation must rely on the archaeological material of the Scandinavian Migration Period and entail a comparative discussion of die-links to continental solidus hoards. In 2006, Bemmann published an analysis of the mid-5th century warrior grave 4 from the barbarian cemetery of Epöl, Kom. Esztergom, Hungary. Based on comparative evidence, he concluded that the burial goods accompanying the warrior were of Scandinavian origin. In 2008, I published an account of the gold filigree solidus pendants from Udovice, Serbia. Given the other Scandinavian filigree pendants, the Udovice pendants were probably manufactured in Scandinavia after AD 461. These two finds constitute evidence for Scandinavian-Roman interaction in a martial rather than a commercial context. Three years later, my publication of the Stora Brunneby hoard pushed the onset of the Öland solidus horizon to AD 456, precisely at the time for the collapse of the Hunnic rule in present-day Hungary. This was the first publication of new finds of solidi in Sweden since 1983, despite a considerable growth of finds. Finally, in 2014, I excavated a solidus struck for Valentinian III in Ravenna inside the ring fort of Sandby Borg on Öland, where all defenders were massacred in c. AD 480-490. This strong empirical material highlights the urgent need to track the Scandinavian solidi back to their origin in the Late Roman world.

#### **'Ravlunda and Maletofta — the home of the guldgubbar'**

Bertil Helgesson

Most of northern Europe was never a part of the Roman Empire, and the process of transforming former Roman provinces into early medieval kingdoms never took place. Of course the people of Germania Magna had contact with, and were influenced by, both the Empire and the post-Roman kingdoms. In Scandinavia this can be seen by Roman imports, Migration period gold, Frankish glass beakers and a changing society. Although Scandinavia was linked to a European network, the societies differs in many ways from their continental and insular counterparts.

Between the rich agricultural regions in southern Scandinavia specialized settlements could emerge. The coastal zone around Ravlunda in eastern Scania, Sweden, with the central place Maletofta is very rich in archaeological finds and ancient monuments, but the area could not be connected with a rich agricultural

hinterland. The archaeological material shows that Maletofta was connected to a supraregional network, and finds of Roman, Frankish, Anglo-Saxon, Arabic, Norwegian, Irish and Slavonic? origin has been found. Specialized craft has also been documented, and products of at least bronze, iron and amber has been made. Gold bracteates, guldgubbar, amulet rings, two hewn stone faces and the place name Ravlunda shows ritual functions. It was actually at this place that the academic concept guldgubbar was minted. Legends and narratives are numerous from Ravlunda and might mirror conditions in the Iron Age.

The explanation behind the wealth of Ravlunda might lie in the site's strategic and geographical position. In a regional perspective, the position between two rich agricultural districts could have meant services to both areas. In a supraregional perspective, the position between land and sea, and close to the trading routes, offered opportunities to profit from trade and innovation. There is also a possibility that Maletofta was a central shrine, serving larger areas than the local community.

## **SESSION 7**

### **'Anglo-Saxon-style pottery and cultural changes in the Continental North Sea coastal regions'**

Tessa Krol

During the Migration Period (4th and 5th century) the material culture in north-western Europe changed and a new 'Anglo-Saxon' material culture was introduced. How these changes took place is the subject of an ongoing debate. This paper focusses on the pottery in Anglo-Saxon style. For the United Kingdom there are accounts of immigration, but also of co-existence of indigenous populations and newcomers. In the northern Netherlands the coastal area is believed to be (almost) unoccupied during the 4th century AD and to be repopulated by immigrants from the German coastal area in the 5th century, while there was continuous occupation in the adjacent Pleistocene area of Drenthe. There is evidence from the northern Netherlands that, wherever habitation was continuous, Anglo-Saxon style pottery was part of a continuous pottery tradition, undoubtedly subject to stylistic influences from the east, next to, or instead of, introduction of this pottery through immigration.

The paper presents the subjects covered in my PhD project on this pottery. The first is a fabric study (macroscopic and microscopic), comparing pottery from several settlements in the northern Netherlands and north-western Germany. Secondly, it is attempted to date stylistic elements with the aid of the available radiocarbon and dendro-dates. The results will serve as a basis for stylistic research, comparing and mapping pottery shapes and stylistic elements from the 4th and 5th centuries from the North Sea-coastal areas in Denmark, north-western Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

It will be discussed what the merits and limitations of the methods are and what contribution the research can make to the wider discussion on migration and cultural interaction in north-western Europe during the Migration Period.

### **'A Merovingian cemetery at Vicq, Yvelines, France: more than 40 years of research (1976–2016)'**

Jean Soulat and Laure Pecqueur

The cemetery at Vicq (Yvelines, Ile-de-France), which was excavated between 1976 and 1984 by the Commission du Vieux Paris and Edmond Servat, remains today the most important dating from the Merovingian period. With more than 2,000 graves excavated for an estimated total of 5,000 graves, the site delivered a very large quantity of objects dating from the 5th-8th centuries, including a hundred brooches, nearly 500 buckles and belt buckles, 150 weapons, 260 potteries or 60 glasses. This reference grave good, never studied and published, remains a problem for research in Merovingian archeology in France and Europe. Moreover, between February and April 2016, the Inrap searched the southeastern boundary of the cemetery, belonging to a sector developed by the extension of a dwelling. 170 graves and many objects are currently under study.

Fouillée entre 1976 et 1984 par la Commission du Vieux Paris et Edmond Servat, la nécropole de Vicq (Yvelines, Île-de-France) reste aujourd'hui la plus importante datant de la période mérovingienne. Comptant plus de 2000 tombes fouillées pour un total estimé de 5000 tombes, le site a livré une très grande quantité

d'objets datés des Ve-VIII<sup>e</sup> siècles, notamment une centaine de fibules, près de 500 boucles et plaques-boucles de ceinture, plus de 150 armes, 260 vases en céramique ou encore 60 verreries. Ce mobilier de référence, jamais étudié et publié, reste un problème pour la recherche en archéologie mérovingienne en France et en Europe. De plus, entre février et avril 2016, l'Inrap a fouillé la limite sud-est de la nécropole, appartenant à un secteur aménagé par l'extension d'une habitation. 170 tombes et de nombreux objets sont actuellement en cours d'étude.

**'Following the women: costume and textile crafts as tools to study migration and hegemony in the English Channel region in the 5th and 6th centuries'**

Penelope Walton-Rogers

Costume is here defined as a particular suite of clothes, garment fasteners and decorative accessories (German Tracht). This paper will draw on recent research into the costume styles identified in Anglo-Saxon and Merovingian cemeteries and use the evidence from sites in Kent and Belgium to explore the differences between Germanic and Frankish women's fashions. It will outline the author's protocol for reconstructing women's dress from the burial evidence and will examine regional and temporal developments, identifying major and minor variations on both sides of the English Channel. It will review, inter alia, the influence of core Frankish costume styles on 6th-century Kent.

The hand-tools used in weaving also form geographic patterns, although they appear to be more stable than dress styles and probably move only with the migration of people (or more specifically women, since this was predominantly a female-gender craft). The textiles used in the clothing in the cemeteries provide a link between the craft tools and the costume styles. A comparison between the three layers of evidence - craft equipment, textile products and costume styles - can help understand how costume styles spread, and when it is safe to regard them as evidence for migration and when they are more likely to indicate a spread of fashion.

The paper will place the evidence in the context of our prior knowledge of the history of the region and consider how far material of this kind can be used in the future to interpret migration patterns and political or economic dominance of one group over another.

**'Material culture relations between Jutland and Anglo-Saxon England — migration and marriage strategy'**

Karen Højlund Nielsen

The Continental and Scandinavian migration to Britain during the fifth century has been debated for generations. New finds from Jutland and reinterpretation of old finds inspired me to discuss aspects of this migration again.

Usually a migration to Britain from Jutland has been argued on basis of the Great Square-Headed Brooches of Haseloff's Jutish type. Cruciform brooches as well as clasps are very common in Anglo-Saxon England, but were until very recently extremely rare in Jutland. This picture has changed and also other types of object known from Anglo-Saxon burial finds are now turning up in Jutland, not least because of the intensive work of metal-detectorists. Furthermore, new analyses of glass beads found in Jutland show that the development in bead fashion closely follow that seen in Anglo-Saxon England. Altogether, this means that the relationship between Jutland and Anglo-Saxon England during the fifth and sixth centuries needs to be re-evaluated on a wider basis.

I have on earlier occasions argued that there may be more aspects to a migration than the pure resettlement of a population. One is marriage-strategy. This can be seen in some modern migrant populations, but comprehensive studies of DNA from various parts of the world also show that marriage-strategy is a significant factor in short- as well as long-distance movements – and that far most of the movers are female. It also means that a migration is not just a one-way phenomenon, but it is often followed by a period of bi-directional connexions.

I shall discuss the implication of the new finds from Jutland in that perspective.

## SESSION 8

### **‘From Eketorp to Jæren: Leader houses in the court sites of south-western Norway’**

Håkon Reiersen

‘Court sites’ or ‘courtyard sites’ is a settlement category found in the Norwegian coastal regions, mainly in northern and south-western Norway. The court sites are collections of equal-sized houses arranged side by side around an open middle field. In south-western Norway, the court sites were mainly in use during the Roman and Migration periods (1-550 AD). The last decade, a consensus has identified the court sites as gathering places, primarily with a judicial function as thing sites. The relation between court sites and elite farms has been debated, and it has been suggested that the sites were situated on ‘neutral ground’ at a distance from elite farms. However, in the paper, new evidence of possible elite involvement at the court sites is discussed.

Based on observed similarities with the ‘leader house’ in the ring fort at Eketorp on Öland, Sweden, similar houses were identified at three of the excavated court sites. These houses indicate a presence of elite leaders; either leaders elected at the thing, or leaders actually establishing these sites. The latter alternative is suggested by the close spatial link with defined elite milieus at some of the court sites. One leader house might be related to a ‘founder’s grave’ at the centre of the site, where the grave type indicates contact with northern Jutland, Denmark. It is further argued that the abandonment of the court sites might be explained by a centralisation of power in the Migration period, where the dominant elites moved the thing site to their farms.

### **‘Dating the Staffordshire Hoard’**

Chris Fern

The Staffordshire Hoard Project (2010–2017), funded by English Heritage, has now completed. All c. 4600 of the fragmented parts of the extraordinary find of the early Anglo-Saxon period have been conserved, and reconstruction work and research has now identified some 700 separate objects, the majority of which are fittings from sword-hilts, but with at least one helmet, some possible saddle-fittings and a small but highly significant assemblage of Christian objects. Most are gold objects (c.4kg) with a smaller number of silver (c.1.7kg). They are decorated predominantly with filigree or garnet cloisonné. Many of the objects form sets, showing that different styles of hilt-furniture were in use in Anglo-Saxon England between the late sixth and seventh centuries. Possibly these relate to different origins for the material.

The Hoard presents a significant challenge for dating, both for establishing the overall date-range of the material and for determining a terminus post quem for deposition, but these are crucial factors for understanding the significance of the collection in its local Mercian and wider Anglo-Saxon setting. The find is without any coins and cannot be dated by scientific means. The rarity and in some cases novelty of its forms in precious metal also mean that there is a lack of comparanda for typological dating from graves of the period. However, the ornamental filigree and cloisonné techniques of its objects are well paralleled on other Anglo-Saxon finds, and in particular the Style II animal ornament that occurs on over 130 objects can be compared with an external corpus. The resulting conclusions of this study will be presented in summary.

## SESSION 9

### **‘Searching for the past — Metal-detecting and its impact on cultural heritage in Finland’**

Anna Wessmann

In Finland, the use of a metal detector is usually allowed without a separate permit provided that the detectorist does not interfere with a scheduled (protected) archaeological site or monument. Since around 2010 metal detecting has grown in popularity significantly, and increasing numbers of finds are reported to the authorities. This trend has not changed and the number of objects reported annually is still growing. In 2015, 3000 objects were delivered to the Collections of the National Museum of Finland and additionally 1772 coins were recorded.

Finnish metal detectorist have founded their clubs and one of these, ‘Kanta-Hämeen menneisyyden etsijät’ (Eng. Searchers of the past in Tavastia Proper) consists of 6 persons. This group has been very active in their

search for Iron Age objects. Over 50% of the registered objects to the National Museum are made by this group. At the moment these men are also the stars in a TV reality show about metal detecting, which has had a weekly audience of approx. 500.000 viewers.

While the media is focusing mainly on the hunt for ‘treasures’, and not giving any wider angles on the hobby my aim is to focus on the metal detecting community and their motives, ideas and values. My paper will present the results of an in-depth interview study of this detectorist club. What motivates them to pursue metal detecting? What kind of impact does their hobby have on the Finnish cultural heritage?

#### **‘A plank from a boat of Nydam type from Hjemsted’**

Per Ethelberg

During the years 1984-1986 extensive excavations took place at the site of Hjemsted situated at the west coast of Sønderjylland south of Ribe. Hjemsted was a settlement from 200-450 AD with contemporary cemeteries with inhumation graves. We can follow how the settlement was founded as a single farm which developed to a village with 6 farms surrounded by at least 3 single farms. In one of the farms a pit containing a wooden construction and a ladder was found. Perhaps this pit had a multiple function partly to store clay and partly to work up flax. The pit probably belongs properly to a farm situated about 115m south west. The farm is dated to C2 by pottery. Beside an oak plank, which dendrochronologically can be dated to 265 AD, the wooden construction also contained a plank from a boat of Nydam type. The plank is made of pine and might belong to a boat of the same type as the pine boat from Nydam indicating that boats of the Nydam type were navigating the North Sea in 3. Century AD. New settlement investigations in the eastern part of South Jutland have proved that pine was growing in the huge Farris Forrest in 4. and 5. Century. This might also be the case in 3. Century indicating that this type of boat not necessarily is of foreign origin but could also be locally made.

#### **‘Hidden figures on Gotlandic picture-stones detected with digital methods’**

Sigmund Oehrl

The picture stones from the Isle of Gotland are a unique source for the study of Old Norse Religion. However, there are many still unsolved problems that make it almost impossible to make use of this treasure entirely. For instance, many of the stones that were discovered after the 1960s are still unpublished. Furthermore, it is a main problem that the depictions on the stones are often hard to identify. The low reliefs are quite primitive and the carved lines are flat, almost invisible with the bare eye. In addition, the stones are often degraded by weathering or by footsteps. Sune Lindqvist, father of picture stone research, traced the figures on the stones with paint in order to make them visible. The painted stones are the basis of his book “Gotlands Bildsteine” published in 1941/42. As a result, these images of the stones, which still provide the main basis of research, reflect the individual view and estimation of one single person. However, subsequent research realized that certain parts and details on the stones can be interpreted in several ways, while Lindqvist’s illustrations represent only one possible perception. More than half a decade after the publication of „Gotlands Bildsteine“, the methods of Digital Archaeology can help us detecting and documenting details on the stones and objectifying or disproving questionable readings. Previously unpublished finds will be presented in the paper and digital methods like Reflectance Transformation Imaging and 3D-modelling by Structure-from-motion-fotogrammetry will be demonstrated. Examples will be given for how surface re-analysis with these techniques can result in completely new iconographic interpretations. These examples will include a previously unknown depiction of an "equestrian saint", documenting Christian influence on the Migration Period monuments of Gotland.

### **SESSION 10**

#### **‘By land and by sea: modelling the transport infrastructure of Anglo-Saxon Kent’**

Stuart Brookes and Ellie Rye

The landscape of Anglo-Saxon Kent has been the subject of considerable attention. Kenneth Witney’s (1976) work on the Jutish Forest and Alan Everitt’s (1986) nuanced appreciation of the regional character of Kent have underscored a number of studies discussing the continuities and connections of Anglo-Saxon settlement. More recent fieldwork has clarified some of the maritime and topographic contexts of coastal settlement.

This paper is based on the authors' research exploring landscape archaeological and place-name evidence for travel in Anglo-Saxon England. This paper draws together this evidence to describe the transport and spatial organisation of Kent before and during the Anglo-Saxon period, including an assessment of the use of the so-called Pilgrims' Way. The paper first models the prehistoric and Roman transport network, arguing that Kent was poorly connected by land. This overland isolation was exacerbated by the loss of crucial infrastructure by the early Anglo-Saxon period. While there is continuity in the use of many local routes (e.g. drove roads) from prehistory, this network was of minimal use to long-distance travellers. The second part of the paper argues for the importance of maritime transport as a response to the challenges posed by limited overland transport options. An explicit focus on transportation routes and networks, it is argued, helps to understand the structure of the early kingdom.

**'The living and the dead in the Low Canche Valley: Quentovic, a Frankish maritime crossroads in the Channel?'**

Inés Leroy and Laurent Verslype

The coastal region around Boulogne is a nodal point between the Channel and the North Sea. In the Antiquity, it has been quoted by several authors as lying at the edge of the civilized world, where once lived the *extremi hominum Morini*. Composed of competing territories, characterised by contrasted landscapes, the maritime area that region belongs to is facing strong geographical constraints. Despite its peripheral location between distinct political and ecclesiastical entities, the settlement chamber of the low Canche valley simultaneously and continuously opened wider horizons. Balancing the interdependency of the polyfocal site with its hinterland, we will contextualize the birth of the settlements associated to the portus of Quentovic in a broader estuarine and river diachronic dynamic. Still, due to the strategical importance of the area in the Roman and Early Medieval times, its location and development also closely depends on political central decisions.

The long term perspective of our project helps to identify the main drivers of change around the ephemeral emporium: i.e. the environmental constraints and opportunities, the institutional decision making and territorial management – political, strategical as religious –, and the inner and outer cultural and economical factors. Indeed, as soon as from the Bronze and the Iron Ages, until the dismantling and relocation of the central place in the 11th century CE., mixed and meaningful cultural features are witnessing Cross-Channel, North-Sea and inland connections. Looking at its fate, our paper will particularly focus on the observation of the nucleated and dispersed graveyards around in the plots of the early medieval settlement. The presentation will be fed with the regressive analyse of the medieval historical sources and ancient maps, environmental proxies, geophysical surveys, as well as with our inclusive study of the archives and reports from the development-led archaeology and from the older unpublished excavations.

**'Thinking about sceattas in the Netherlands, or The Return of the Porcupines'**

Frans Theuws

The late seventh and first half of the eighth century is one of the most enigmatic periods in terms of economic development. The rise of the emporia, the total change in pottery production and distribution on the continent, the disappearance of gold coinage, and the growing concentration of landed property in the hands of ecclesiastical institutions are a few important processes that determine the nature of the late Merovingian/early Carolingian economy.

It is exactly the period in which a strange coinage appears and disappears, a coinage we indicate with the term *sceatta*'s. The nature of the *sceatta* coinage does not much contribute to clarifying the economic fog of the first half of the eighth century. On the contrary, it seems to create more fog. I got interested in this coinage in the context of a research programme focused on the economy of the Netherlands in the Carolingian period (Charlemagne's Backyard?)

Two recent great studies of the majority of *sceattas* in the Netherlands, series D (continental runic) and E (porcupine) by Wybrand Opdenvelde and Michael Metcalf clarify a lot. However both studies also show how problematic this find category is. Problematic is in the first place what could be called numismatic

epistemology. Much of their conclusions are based on models of coin production and distribution that in my view should be a matter of debate rather than accepted starting points of analyses.

Their models rely heavily on knowledge of later coin production in different socio-economic conditions. In order to interpret the coins they basically search for homogeneity (to be translated in types) and control of production whereas the coinage itself and the distribution point in other directions.

We should start from two basic characteristics of sceatta coinage:

1. not homogeneity, but an infinite variability in iconography, weight and silver content. A variability, which did not really influence circulation: anything goes.
2. the fact that it basically is an anonymous coinage in contrast to the coinage of previous and later periods. This is not a coincidence but has to relate to the articulation of exchange spheres in which these coins circulate. The iconography often refers to Christian elements but in a fairly covered way as to make them circulate in value systems determined by Christians and non-Christians. I will propose three basic models of coin production in early medieval northwestern Europe.

I question Metcalf's and Opdenvelde's conclusions about the assignment of types of coins to Franks and Frisians, the role of Redbad in the production of coins, the assignment of minting places and minting regions on the basis of weight and silver content.

I also question their (too modern?) concept of 'export coinage' and relation with the wool trade and even the regions of origins of series E on the basis of the distribution maps based on their corpus.

I will suggest an alternative model for the production and circulation of at least the large Series E (possibly series D) and explain the relation between three linked 'economic regions' in northwestern Europe that have totally different sceatta distribution patterns. I hope to contribute in this way to a better understanding of economic processes in the first half of the eighth century.

### **'The material impact of political change: cases from 10th- to 11th-century Flanders'**

Drys Tys/Pieterjan Deckers

In the late 9th century AD, the coastal region of present-day Belgium became the core of a new polity, the County of Flanders. By usurping royal prerogatives and confiscating monastic holdings, the count became one of the most prominent political actors of post-Carolingian Europe. As a national 'origin myth' and a prelude to the economic and cultural heyday of late medieval Flanders, this development has naturally received ample attention from historians since the 19th century.

The material correlates of this realignment of power are less well-studied. In this paper, we explore how archaeology and historical geography shed light on the impact of this process, which turned the previously peripheral region of coastal Flanders into an economic and cultural powerhouse for centuries to come. The material culture associated with these developments, situated at the level of landscape of infrastructure, but also relating to the social structure, cultural affiliation and group identity, allow to situate coastal Flanders firmly within the broader North Sea world.

## **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

### **‘About the roots of the Rosette Twills around the North Sea’**

Christina Peek, Annette Siegmüller

Textiles have always been an important part of the daily life throughout the times. Nevertheless, they are an often ignored material group, mostly because of the rare conservation. Excellent conditions for the conservation of organic materials, especially animal artifacts, exist in the terps of the southern North Sea region clay district. Therefore the terp-finds include a high number of wools, textiles and fibres. These finds are current in the center of interest of new and specialized research. The best known piece of textile, a rosette twill, was found in the terp Feddersen Wierde, a roman period settlement near Cuxhaven. The pattern of rosette twill is very rare in Europe. Most of the as yet known examples were found in early medieval graves in Britain and southern Germany. The rosette twill from Feddersen Wierde is the oldest piece of this textile-type. The find from the Feddersen Wierde may give some new information about the circulation of textile knowledge and traditions. Further analyses on this find generated new acquaintance about the former colors and the production processes. Aim of the research-project is furthermore investigations on younger rosette twills. Moreover a comparison between all known artifacts will be the base for discussions about the origin of this rare pattern.

### **‘Lieveren and Achlum – Two “Ghost Bracteates” from The Netherlands’**

Morten Axboe, Wijnand van der Sanden

In 1833 the archaeologist C.J.C. Reuvens recorded an A-bracteate found near Lieveren, Prov. Drenthe. Afterwards the bracteate vanished, and it has not been known to later research.

Several authors have referred to a bracteate with a long runic inscription, allegedly found as part of the Achlum hoard from Friesland. There is all probability that this bracteate has never existed.

### **‘Fleshing out the body: Nakedness in Anglo-Saxon Visual Culture’**

Tristan Lake

How did Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian societies experience, conceptualize and visually represent bodily nakedness in a pre and post Christian world? This underdeveloped research question is of paramount importance in attempting to comprehend the subjectivities of those in the past and of the wider socio-cultural significance pertaining to the body. Whilst recent studies have sought to catch a glimpse of the early medieval body, discussions of the naked human figure in English scholarship have focused on the late Christian period (10th-11th century). As a consequence the perception that nakedness possesses limited symbolic meaning for pre-Christian societies, particularly in Anglo-Saxon England, continues to dominate current discussions. My project examines the visual representations of the unclothed body present on a range of media spanning the entirety of the Anglo-Saxon period. Using this dataset I am exploring developments in human representation and the cultural meanings inscribed upon the body in Anglo-Saxon society. Despite numerous comparative studies of early medieval figural iconography from across Northern Europe, nakedness is not typically a characteristic discussed when examining the collective corpus of bodies uncovered in England, Scandinavia and Germany. By cross-referencing iconographic parallels from across the North Sea and the continent, I am seeking to map the cultural influences and regional interconnectivity that impacted upon not only the experience of nakedness but also the visualisation of the human body in material culture and art.

This poster will summarise my ongoing research, but will focus especially on the visual culture of the 5th to 10th centuries. Preliminary results demonstrate that nakedness held greater prominence in the artistic repertoires of early medieval Northern Europe than previously thought and independent and dependent developments are evident in terms of iconography and execution which intimate at least some evidence of cultural interchange.

**‘Creating cross-sea identities using Roman objects in Anglo-Saxon and Merovingian mortuary contexts in the 5th to 7th centuries AD’**

Indra Werthmann

Early medieval societies in Northwest Europe encountered and engaged with Roman structures, sites and material culture. Past research has focused on monument reuse and material culture within the framework of economic decline and a demand for raw material from the 5th century onwards. Although reused Roman objects in early medieval funerary contexts have been recorded on either side of the Channel, no direct comparison has been made in the context of the late Roman early medieval transition and processes of post-Roman identity creation. In addition evidence for the continued use and circulation of Roman artefacts and the evidence for changing patterns in consumption and deployment across the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries AD warrants closer attention. This paper presents my current PhD research, offering an initial assessment of the use and significance of Roman objects included within grave assemblages in Kent and parts of Northern Gaul and Germany. Ideas of romanitas are explored and the data is critically appraised in terms of quantity, context and potential meanings.

**‘Close to Home or Far Away? Exploring identity in Early Medieval Suffolk’**

Justine Biddle

What do changes in the material expression of identity tell us about social dynamics in 5th to 9th century Eastern England? Do wider geographic patterns show influences shifting from east to west, or is societal change a localized process?

This research uses comparative analysis of over 4,000 metal artefacts from Suffolk to understand these patterns against the background of a rapidly changing political world. The rise of kingdoms, the increasing importance of overseas connections and migrations to and from Europe, and local versus national economics will all have played a part in influencing local identity. Is this influence equal in all centuries of the early medieval period or are there different dynamics in play at each stage?

**‘The dating of Updown cemetery in Eastry revised’**

Tim van Tongeren

*“Comparative research into funerary practice as evidence for relationships between the Netherlands and Kent AD 400–750”*

Many theories have been advanced in the long-running debate over the interpretation of Early Medieval contacts and relationships in Europe. During the period AD 400-750, Europe saw large-scale cultural upheaval and demographic change. Frequent contact is postulated between Germany, northern France, Scandinavia and England as a dominant factor in these changes — with the Low Countries playing a rather uncertain role in the centre.

The main objective of my PhD research is to produce new insight into the contact and relationships between Continental Europe and England, and specifically the role that the Netherlands and Kent played in these. This aim will be achieved through comparative analysis of the most substantial and richest source of evidence, funerary data.

The cemeteries which are part of the research will be analysed in as much detail as possible in respect of burial practice, grave furnishing, age-banding, sex/gender, and evidence of religion and social status. For effective comparison, it is important to use dating information which is as precise as possible. New analyses are currently being made of material evidence from cemeteries in the Netherlands using correspondence analysis. Results of this research will be compared with existing results concerning cemeteries in Kent. Besides making use of the existing body of data from Kentish cemeteries, the Bradstow School cemetery in Broadstairs and the Updown cemetery in Eastry will be added to the British data. The poster presented today focusses on the revised dating of the Updown cemetery which was initially published by Martin Welch in 2008. In his analysis, Welch divides the graves of Updown in two date groups, based on evidence from artefacts and stratigraphy. After using correspondence analysis on the cemetery finds,

and connecting them to the larger database of grave goods from Kentish cemeteries, it becomes clear that a more diverse structure can be recognised.

**‘Pasym – the key to understanding the making of early medieval Prussia’**

Ślawomir Wadył

The main objective of the poster is to present results of recent excavations carried out in Pasym (Northeast Poland).

After the decline of the Olsztyn Group (*masurgermanische Kultur*) in the late Migration Period relevant cultural and ethnogenetic changes in the South-Eastern Baltic area took place, and a new cultural quality was established (*Aesti, Bruzzi*).

The stronghold in Pasym is the only one that can be dated to the late phase of the Migration Period and the beginning of the Early Middle Ages. *Runder Berg* was researched in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. (Hans von Boenig, Georg Bujack), however large scale excavations took place in the 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. (Romuald Odoj). In 2016 research excavation in Pasym were resumed. New research has yielded interesting results, also numerous remarkable artefacts were discovered.

Taking into consideration it is the only fortified site, that can be synchronized with Olsztyn group it seems that Pasym is the key to the understanding of the making of early medieval Prussia.

**‘Who was *Biarnferð*?’**

John Hines

In February this year, an object carrying a short runic inscription was found close to the site of long-running excavations at Sedgford in Norfolk. The inscribed artefact is incomplete, but is strongly reminiscent of the composite handles of a spoon and fork found in a unique set from a hoard at Sevington, Wiltshire, that is coin-dated to c. AD 870. The runes are very clear and, although they include a graph which is new to runology, they clearly represent the male personal name that in standard Old English would be *Beornferð*. The inscription can in fact be read as a spelling of the name as **b i a r n f e r þ**, a spelling characteristic of mid-9th-century Kentish dialect, and even the name of a priest who witnessed a series of Christ Church, Canterbury, charters in the years c. AD 830–867. This inscription might have been associated with the same individual.

**‘Authentizität in der Archäologie am Beispiel der Ausstellung frühmittelalterlicher Schiffsfunde’**

Ursula Warnke

Schiffe als Medium des Wissens- und Technologietransfers in einem Museum auszustellen, ist nicht immer leicht. Viele Schiffsfunde wurden bereits vor vielen Jahren ausgegraben und mit unterschiedlichen Methoden konserviert. Die Präsentation in einer Ausstellung erfordert dann häufig weitere Änderungen am Objekt. Der Vortrag beschäftigt sich mit der Frage wie authentisch ein ausgestellter Schiffsfund als Zeuge seiner Zeit und seiner Funktion in einer Ausstellung überhaupt sein kann.

Am Beispiel eines frühmittelalterlichen Schiffsfundes (KARL) im Deutschen Schiffahrtsmuseum werden Fragen nach der Verantwortung für die Authentizität des originalen Fundes von der Bergung bis zur Präsentation in einem Museum gestellt. Auch das nicht mehr erhaltene Schiff von Sutton Hoo wird Gegenstand des Vortrags sein.

Welche Verantwortung hat der Archäologe auf der Grabung? Wie ist es bei der nachfolgenden Konservierung? Wie wird das Objekt restauriert? Welche Spuren sollen erhalten bleiben? Wie wird mit Fehlstellen umgegangen? Wie wird das Objekt in der Ausstellung präsentiert? In welchen Kontext und in welches Narrativ soll das Objekt eingebunden werden? Welche Rolle spielt der Ausstellungsgestalter in diesem Prozess und welche der Kurator?

Der zweite Teil widmet sich der Besuchersicht. Wie wirkt das Original im Gegensatz zu einem Modell oder einer virtuellen Rekonstruktion? Welche Bedeutung hat das möglicherweise fragmentarische Originalobjekt für die Besucher? Wie können fehlende oder verlorene Elemente trotzdem gezeigt werden? Welche Rolle können Repliken einnehmen?

**EXCURSION, MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**ITINERARY *Zeitplan***

- 08.45 Board coaches at University of Kent
- 09.00 Pickup (WHERE?) for those residing in city; drive to Reculver
- 09.30 Arrive Reculver (1)
- 10.15 Board coaches and drive to Dover (5), passing via Sarre (2), Richborough (3) and Eastry (4)
- 10.45 Arrive Western Heights, Dover
- 11.45 Group 1 to lunch at Little Farthingloe Farm, Group 2 to Dover Museum
- 13.00 Group 2 to lunch at Little Farthingloe Farm, Group 1 to Dover Museum
- 14.15 Depart from Little Farthingloe Farm to Lyminge (6)
- 14.30 Arrive Lyminge. Group 1 to Coach and Horses for coffee/tea. Group 2 guided tour led by Gabor Thomas/Keith Parfitt
- 15.15 Group 2 to Coach and Horses for coffee/tea. Group 1 guided tour led by Gabor Thomas/Keith Parfitt
- 16.00 Board coaches
- 16.10 Arrive Breach Downs, Barham (7)
- 16.40 Board coaches, drive to Canterbury via Kingston (8) and Bifrons (9)
- 17.15 Arrive Canterbury, drop off
- 17.30 Arrive University of Kent, drop off

## Around the Little Kingdom: The landscape and archaeology of East Kent

The Sachsensymposion excursion for 2017 will depart from Canterbury and follow a clockwise route around the eastern part of Kent, allowing participants to encounter some key sites and areas of the Kentish landscape that formed the heartland of the kingdom of Kent (see Fig.1).



Fig.1: Route of the Sachsensymposion excursion, 2017

A key difference between the landscape of the first millenium AD and that of today is that Thanet, the most north-easterly part of Kent, was formerly an island (even today it is still recorded on maps as the Isle of Thanet). It was separated from the Kentish mainland by a shallow but navigable salt-water channel, known as the Wantsum. Until this silted up later in the medieval period, it offered a sheltered, relatively safe passage from the Channel and southern North Sea into the approaches to the Thames and the East Anglian coast, as well as

allowing large vessels to get close to what are now inland sites such as Canterbury. It is probable that from at least the Bronze Age onwards it was one of the most strategic waterways on the British coastline, and the distribution of archaeological sites and finds on either side of the Wantsum Channel bears this out. In the Roman period, the strategic importance of the Wantsum is underlined by the siting of the forts of Reculver and Richborough at the north-western and eastern ends of the channel respectively (see Fig.2).

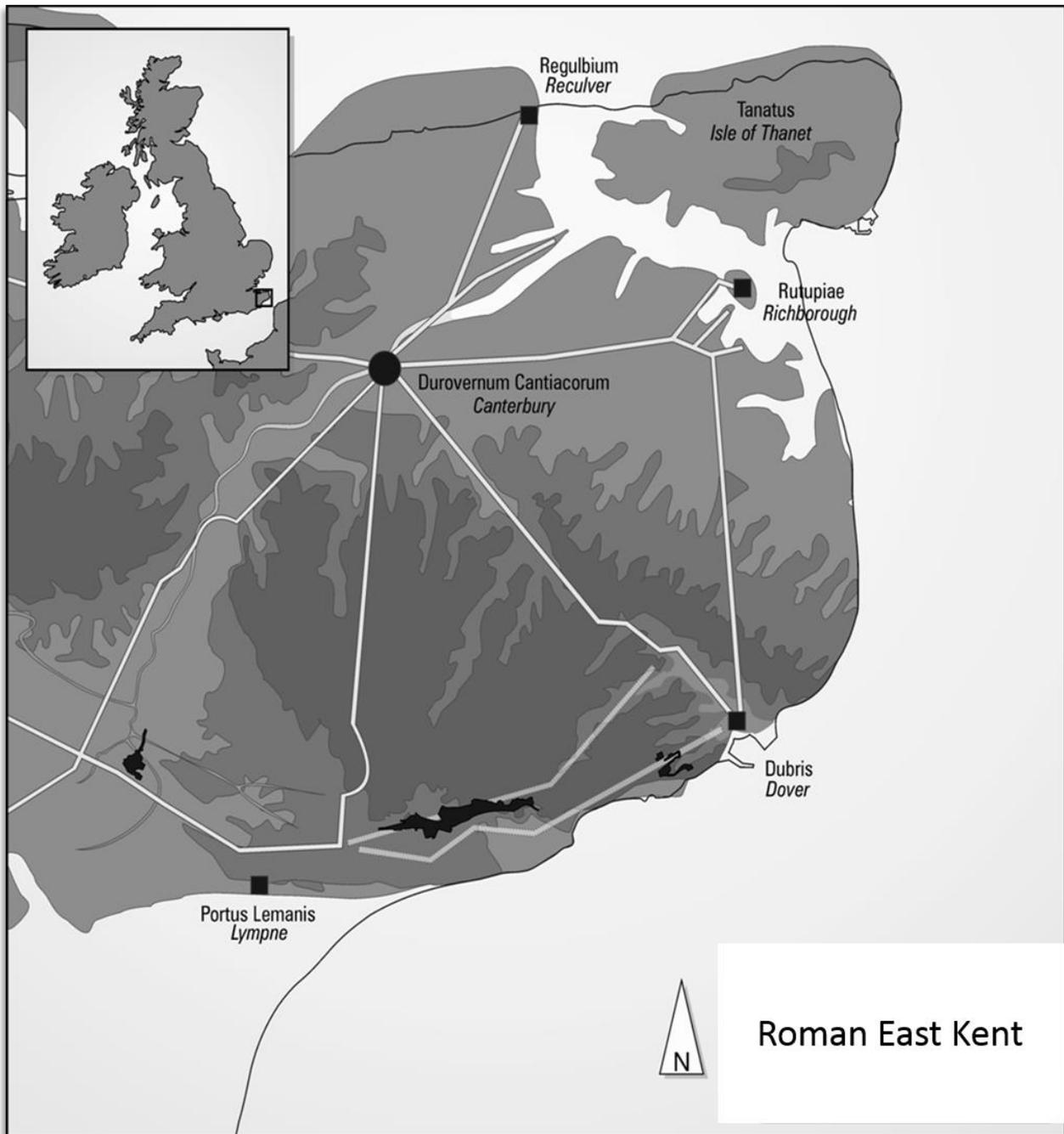


Fig.2: Roman East Kent with Wantsum Channel

This strategic importance continued into the early Anglo-Saxon period, and there is little doubt that control of the Wantsum played a key role in the early emergence and relative wealth of the kingdom of Kent (compared to the other Anglo-Saxon states). This kingdom was certainly in being, and in control of at least the eastern part of the modern county of Kent, by the mid-sixth century at the very latest, although historically and archaeologically attested central places such as Canterbury, Eastry and Lyminge have produced evidence of occupation dating back to the mid-fifth century. The arrival of the Augustinian mission in AD 597, bringing with it literacy along with a host of other innovations, means that the historical record for Kent is early and

rich (again, in comparison with the rest of Britain during this period). This kingdom had a sophisticated administrative structure, and was divided into a number of sub-districts (or *regiones*). The excursion will pass through the three easternmost *regiones* (four if Thanet is regarded as a district in its own right); those of the *Burhwara*, the Eastern district (with a centre at Eastry), and that of the *Limenwara*, centred on the *villa regalis* and minster at Lyminge. The existence and rough bounds of these districts can be traced through a combination of textual, place-name and archaeological evidence (see Figs.3-4).

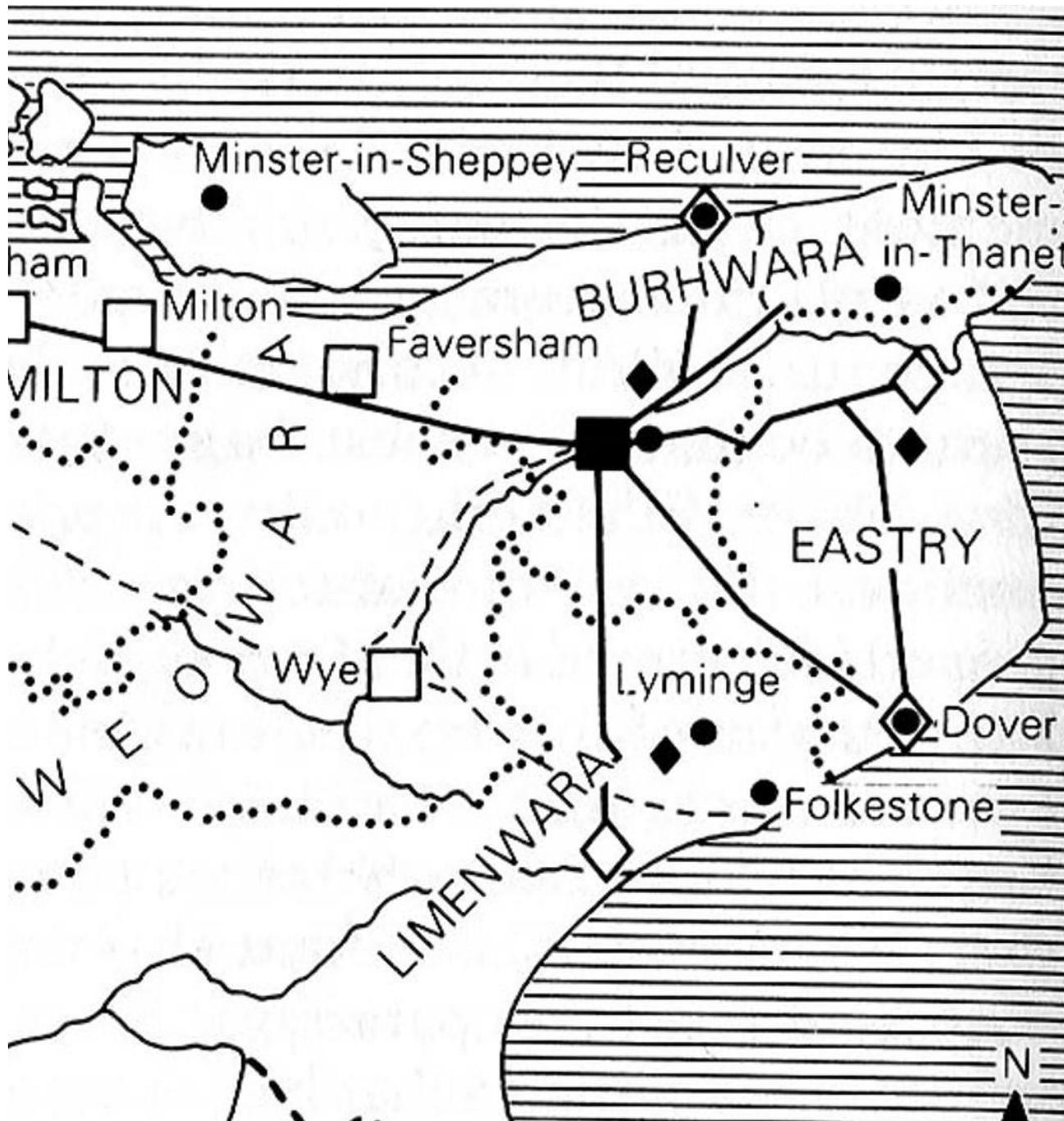


Fig.3: Administrative divisions and centres of power in the kingdom of Kent (after Hawkes)

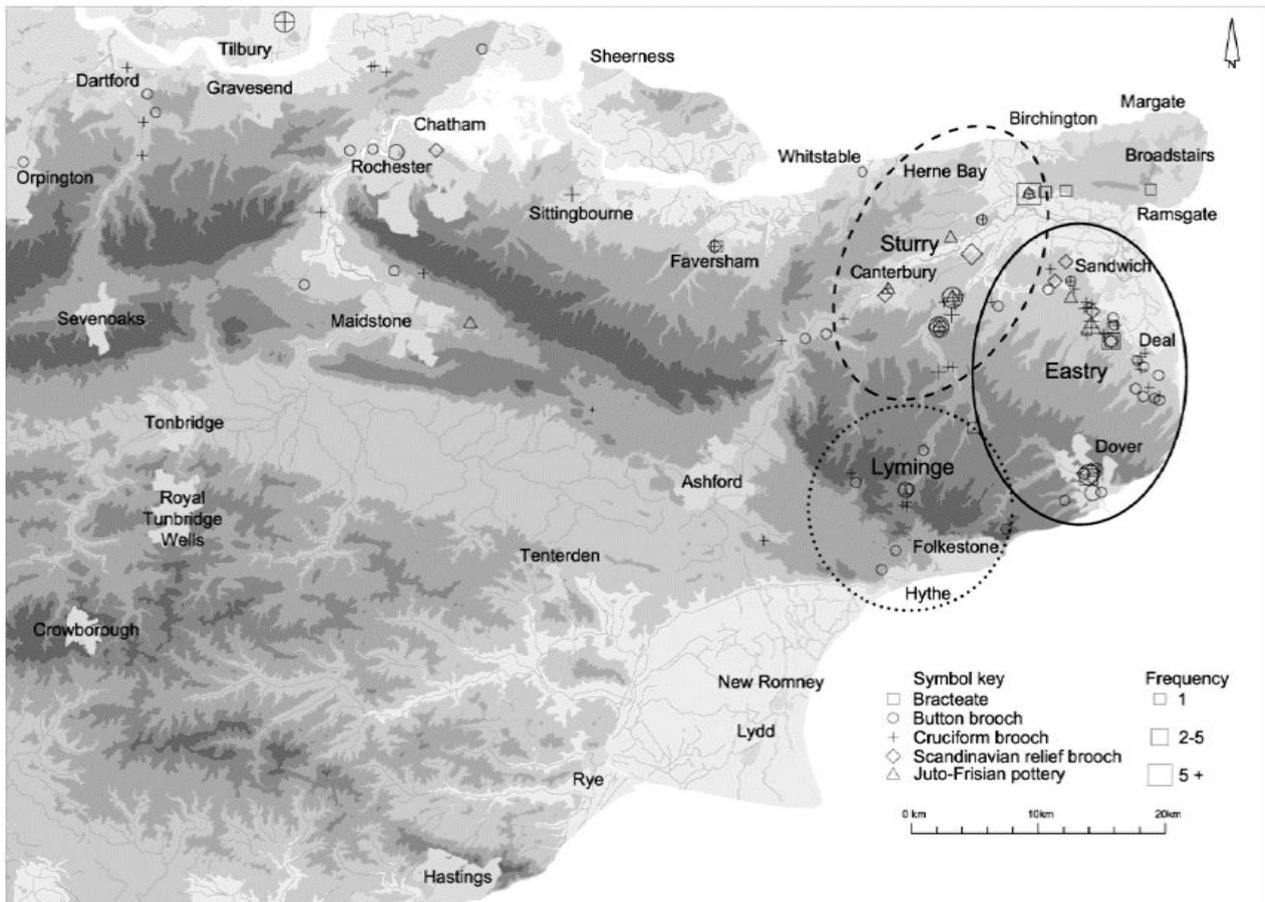


Fig.4: Distribution of selected artefact-types from the ‘Jutlandic’ phase in Kent in relation to the folk districts represented by the place-names Sturry, Eastry and Lyminge, here indicated schematically by circles. Created by C. Jarman, after data provided by A. Richardson & T. Dickinson.

For centuries the archaeological record of early Anglo-Saxon Kent has been dominated by the cemetery evidence (Fig.5). In the east this is overwhelmingly in the form of inhumation cemeteries (although sometimes with cremations occurring as a minority rite), whereas west of the river Medway truly mixed rite cemeteries are present during the fifth and sixth centuries.

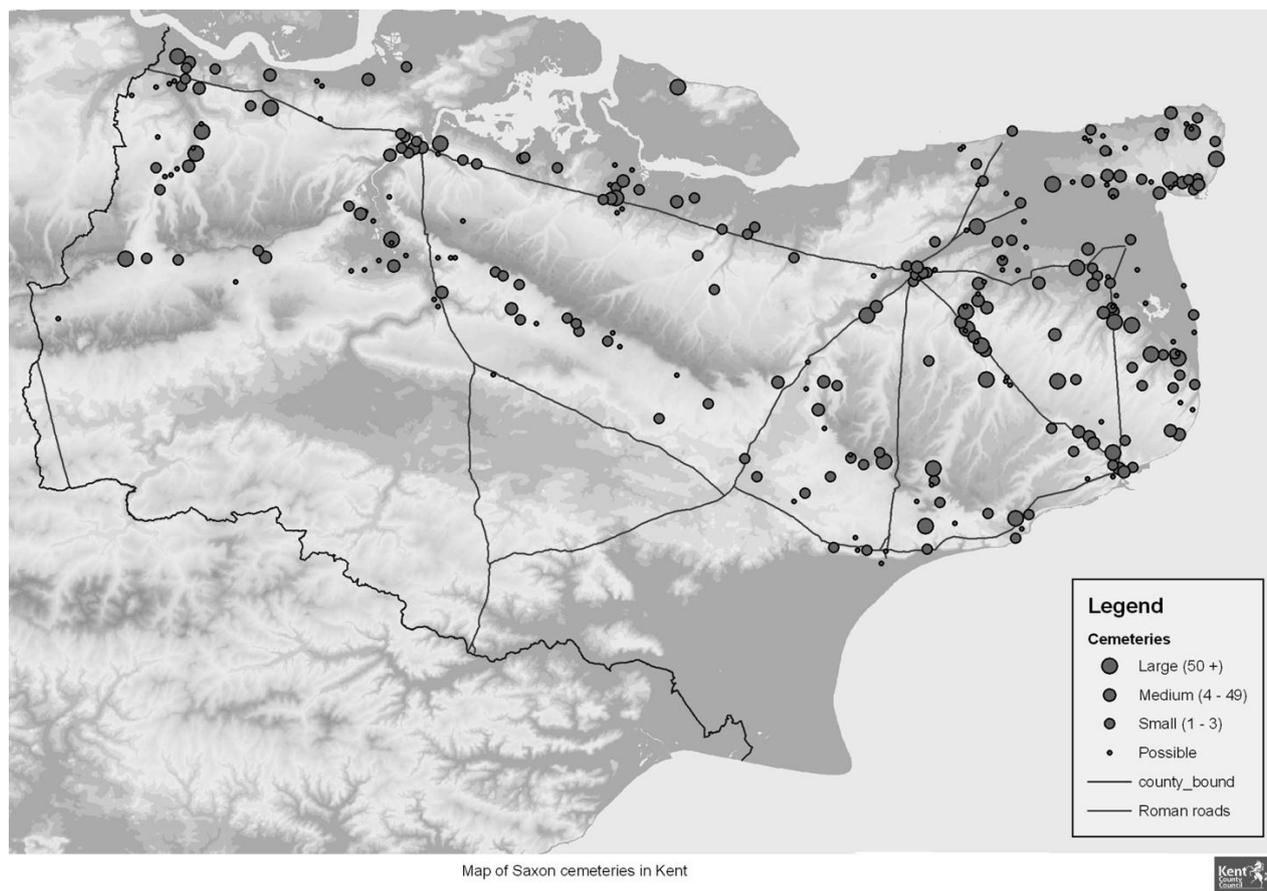


Fig.5: Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Kent (Kent County Council, after data supplied by A Richardson)

Investigation of these cemeteries began early, and the pioneering work of eighteenth-century antiquaries, most notably the Reverend Bryan Faussett, who excavated over 800 burials in east Kent, did a lot to establish Kent's special place in the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon period. This was reinforced during the nineteenth century, especially as a result of the excavation of cemeteries such as Sarre and Bifrons by the Kent Archaeological Society and others. Significant discoveries continue to be made on a regular basis, and recent studies have reaffirmed the picture of Kentish relative material wealth compared to other regions of Britain, especially during the sixth century.

In Faussett's day many of these sites were highly visible with large numbers of barrow mounds surviving above ground, although by the end of the Second World War the vast majority had been levelled by ploughing. Many sites appear to have been inter-visible, and it is clear that they had been deliberately sited in prominent positions in the landscape. Many of east Kent's funerary sites, possibly most, were associated with Bronze Age burial mounds, themselves sometimes continuing to play an active role as boundary markers and meeting places; clearly the Anglo-Saxons were drawn to these prehistoric monuments. Any consideration of place and role of Bronze Age barrows in the landscape should take into account the siting of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and vice versa. Clearly both types of monument were designed to form highly visible landmarks, often with views of and from the sea, and it may be that both were as much to do with denoting ownership and control over the landscape as they were to do with acting as burial places of the dead. These sites, where the burial places of 'the ancestors' (possibly including mythical ancestors imagined to occupy the Bronze Age barrows) acted as territorial markers, thus have much to offer us in understanding the place of the landscape in the kingdom of Kent and in the minds of its inhabitants. Some cemetery sites seem to follow Roman traditions and been placed on the approaches to, and boundaries of, significant settlements.

Although the archaeological record of early Anglo-Saxon Kent remains heavily dominated by the cemetery evidence, a growing corpus of excavated settlement sites has been building since the twentieth century, with significant sites investigated in Canterbury, Dover and at a host of rural sites, most recently and spectacularly

at Lyminge (see below). These sites notwithstanding, the dearth of archaeologically identified Anglo-Saxon rural settlements within Kent is notable, especially when compared to the many identified cemeteries. One reason for this may be that many existing farmsteads, hamlets and villages in Kent date from, or pre-date, the Anglo-Saxon period. If so, this would reflect the essential continuity of Kentish settlement patterns compared to other areas of England which experienced varying degrees of settlement re-organisation (including the planned creation of nucleated villages) during the Anglo-Saxon period. Desk and field survey aimed at testing this model remains a research priority. Certainly by the late eleventh century, we have a detailed picture of settlements and the rural economy preserved in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, which includes much detail on the pre-1066 picture of landholding. Set against this sort of documentary resource, the current archaeological evidence for mid- to late Anglo-Saxon rural settlement looks slim indeed.

However, the archaeological record for the fifth to seventh centuries is one of the most abundant in the British Isles. In addition to the funerary and settlement evidence, a further and increasingly significant dimension has been added to the archaeological record in recent years by the systematic recording of metal detected finds via the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The combination of this wealth of archaeological data with an unusually early documentary and toponymical resource (for the period) allows a nuanced picture of the structure and identity of the Kingdom of Kent to be traced.

Key sites that we will be stopping at or passing close by during the excursion include the following:

### **1. Reculver Roman Fort and Anglo-Saxon Monastic site** (Stopping, 09.30-10.15)

Reculver lies on the northern coast of Kent, just to the west of the former mouth of the now-silted Wantsum Channel that formerly ran between the Kentish mainland and the Isle of Thanet. Now partially eroded by a retreating coastline, it is the site of both of a Roman fort and Anglo-Saxon minster. Originating as an Iron Age farmstead dating to around 500 BC, a temporary Roman camp was constructed during the first century AD, possibly as part of the campaign of AD 43. At this time the coast is estimated to have been around 1.4km to the north, and the site would have been on the southern tip of a promontory commanding the north-western end of the Wantsum, with a sheltered anchorage immediately to the south. A civilian settlement developed largely to the west and north east of the military site, but this has been largely lost to the sea.

At the end of the second century (*c.* AD 185–200), a substantial Roman fort was constructed at the site, comprising a NNE-SSW aligned square enclosure covering around 3.2ha, the southern half of which survives as ruined walls, earthworks and below ground features (Philp 2005). The enclosing walls have been heavily robbed for building material but were originally faced with squared, coursed sandstone blocks, a few of which survive *in situ*. The foundations of the eastern gatehouse have been exposed and consolidated for public display. The external pair of defensive ditches are now infilled. Inside the fort are buried traces of a regular layout of roads flanked by masonry and timber structures. Buildings, including the commandant's house, the headquarters building and a bath house, have been identified. The *Notitia Dignitatum* places the fort amongst those under the command of the Count of the Saxon Shore and names the Reculver garrison as the Cohors I Baetasiorum, an auxiliary unit originally recruited from amongst the *Baetasii*, who inhabited lands between the Rhine and the Meuse. This historical record has been confirmed by the discovery of tiles stamped 'CIB' amongst the foundations.

The fort appears to have been abandoned by the beginning of the fifth century. A number of finds recovered from the eroding cliff and on the foreshore during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries suggest the presence of a settlement and/or cemetery of sixth to seventh century date. But in AD 669 Egbert, king of Kent, granted the site for the foundation of a minster church, one of a network that were established across the kingdom during the second half of the seventh century. This was established within the circuit of the Roman defences, with the church itself constructed near the centre of the fort, possibly around the site of a wayside preaching cross, the base of which was found during 1927 investigations at the eastern end of the nave. The cross base, now at Canterbury Cathedral along

with other fragments of Saxon masonry from the church, has been dated to the early seventh century AD. The church survives in the form of buried foundations marked out in modern concrete, and standing ruins up to around 2m high, incorporated within the later medieval parish church. This early walling reused Roman tiles, bricks and rubble masonry. The earliest monastic church had a rectangular nave and apsidal chancel flanked by twin projecting rooms, or *porticus*. Eighth-century additions include north and south aisles. Documentary evidence suggests that the site had ceased to function as a monastic house by the tenth century AD, after which time the church became St Mary's, the secular parish church of Reculver. Much of the extent of the Anglo-Saxon monastery has been lost to the sea, although some buried remains will survive within the monument. The now disused medieval parish church, flanked to the south by part of its surrounding walled graveyard, was partly demolished in 1805. The original form of the church is recorded in 18th century illustrations and descriptions (see for example Fig.6). Substantial remodelling of the western end in the early 12th century included the construction of tall twin towers. The towers, without their original wooden steeples, still stand on the cliff edge. The chancel was enlarged during the 13th century. In 1809, the ruined church was bought, repaired and underpinned by Trinity House, and the distinctive twin towers are still used as a significant navigation mark for shipping to this day.



Fig.6: Reculver in 1800

### Selected Sources

Philp, B, 2005 *The excavation of the Roman fort at Reculver, Kent* (10<sup>th</sup> Report in the Kent Monograph Series)

## 2. Sarre- Anglo-Saxon cemetery

(Passing, on the left, immediately east of Sarre windmill)

This is one of Kent's most significant early Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemeteries. Finds of grave goods first began to accumulate from the 1840s onwards as a result of chance finds during groundworks. A notable early

find is a silver-gilt Quoit Brooch Style brooch, embellished with a pair of doves, now in the British Museum, the most exquisite example found to date of that fifth-century decorative style. The main campaign of excavations at the site was undertaken between 1863-5 by the Kent Archaeological Society. A total of 272 inhumations were excavated at this time. Graves were individually numbered, and a site plan was created, although unfortunately this does not show grave numbers. A number of pits containing Roman pot sherds and midden material were also located at this time.

The methods used to locate graves at this site during the 1860s were a combination of trenching and by manual probe to test the depth of the chalk bedrock. The site was not subjected to open area excavation, meaning many graves and other features were not identified at this time. This was confirmed during the 1980s and 90s, when 20 graves were excavated by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, only one of which appeared to have been previously excavated. An aerial photograph of 1990 revealed the crop marks of graves, a ring ditch and rectilinear structures on the site of the cemetery, and in May 1991 a watching brief on a sewer pipe across the site revealed an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building to the east of the cemetery, as well as a possible cemetery boundary ditch. The twentieth-century excavations also produced evidence of an Iron Age settlement (dated c. 300–150 BC). The area of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery is partially overlain to the north east by the remains of the former medieval parish church and its churchyard.

It has been estimated that hundreds of unexcavated Anglo-Saxon graves may survive at the site. The cemetery appears to have been in use from the mid- to late-fifth century until at least the late-seventh. The excavated burials have produced an abundance of material culture, with unusually high proportions of imported objects, suggesting a community with preferential access to such goods. It has also been noted that there was a high proportion of weapon burials containing a sword, and number of high-status female gendered burials have also been excavated at Sarre. The site lies at one of two narrows of the Wantsum Channel, which may have been fordable at low tide, directly opposite the course of the Roman road to Canterbury. Given this strategic location, it seems that this community played a key role in the flow of wealth into Thanet and the kingdom of Kent. In terms of relations across the Channel and North Sea during the early Anglo-Saxon period, Sarre can be regarded as a key site.

Although nothing of the cemetery can be seen on the ground today, the prominent black windmill visible on the skyline built in 1820 stands at the western limit of the known burial area.

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### **3. Richborough Roman Fort (Passing, on the right)**

The Roman site at Richborough began as the supply base for the AD43 Roman invasion. It was then developed c.AD85 as a port town before becoming part of the so called Saxon Shore Fort system in the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century. The later history of the site is hazy. Usually interpreted as keeping Saxon raiders at bay from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century

onwards, however there is little evidence for this. Several objects and features on the site suggest the likelihood of post-Roman occupation in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, around the time Richborough is mentioned in the *Notitia Dignitatum*, and before the Anglo-Saxon chronicle describes the first raids at Pevensey. The nature of this occupation is currently unclear. It might well have been a skeleton administration left behind after the abandonment of the province, or possibly auxiliary troops recruited in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century who stayed behind.

The site has also produced a number of late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon inhumations, but these do not necessarily imply continuity of occupation into the sixth, seventh or eighth centuries, by which time a chapel was established on the site. Most notably, the major excavations by Bushe-Fox in the 1920s revealed a late fourth or early fifth century weapon burial to the north of the fort, presumably that of a member of the late-Roman or immediately post-Roman garrison. It is likely that an extensive late- to post-Roman military cemetery remains largely uninvestigated in this area.

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## **4. Eastry (Passing, on the right)**

The village of Eastry lies astride the Roman road from Dover to Richborough, at a point where that road is crossed by a number of prehistoric ridgeway paths. In the valley to the east side of the ridge, a springhead at Buttssole Pond feeds a stream which meanders to the coast, but by Anglo-Saxon times any former sea inlet had probably already turned to marshland, rendering it impassable by boat.

A combination of textual, place-name and archaeological evidence points towards Eastry being a centre of power in the early Anglo-Saxon Kentish kingdom. The place name of Eastry is recorded in late eighth- and early charters as (*to*) *Eastorege* (S 1500), (*in regione*) *Easterege*, (*in eadem regione*) *Eosterege* and (*on*) *Eosterge* (all in S 1264) - which clearly combines an OE adjective *\*ēastor*, meaning 'eastern', with an OE noun *\*gē*, meaning 'district' or 'region', cognate with modern German *Gau*. This *-gē* form appears in two other Kentish place-names, Sturry (the 'Stour district') and Lyminge (the 'Limen district'; see below), which, along with Eastry, seem to be cognate with the three, easternmost, administrative divisions of Kent at the time of Domesday Book, respectively Burhwara (that is Canterbury), Limenwara and Eastry.

Direct mention of a royal vill at Eastry comes only in the legend of the foundation of the double monastery at Minster-in-Thanelt, arguably composed at Minster in the mid-eighth century, but known in a series of interrelated, later tenth- and eleventh-century Latin and Old English texts. This legend tells of the murder of two princelings, Æthelbeht and Æthelred, the cousins and wards of King Ecgberht (r. 664-673), either by his own action or through the agency of his chief councillor, Thunor. Efforts to locate the site of this royal vill in the interior of the modern village have not hitherto been successful, although investigation has been piecemeal and on a small scale, leaving plenty of potential sites uninvestigated, or obscured by modern development. However, antiquarian and archaeological interventions since the eighteenth century have allowed the identification of five confirmed or probable early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in or around the periphery of the village, a remarkable number even for this part of Kent. These are situated either on the course of the Roman road, or alongside prehistoric trackways as they approach the Roman road, and it is tempting to see them as flanking the approaches to a significant settlement in a manner reminiscent of Roman practice. The most

notable of these sites include that at Cross Farm, dating to the fifth to sixth century and situated immediately adjacent to the Dover–Richborough road as it enters the village from the south, and the substantial seventh-century cemetery at Updown, further to the south. The latter may also be the site of a putative high status horse and warrior burial identified amongst the Cobb collection held in Maidstone Museum (see Fig.7).

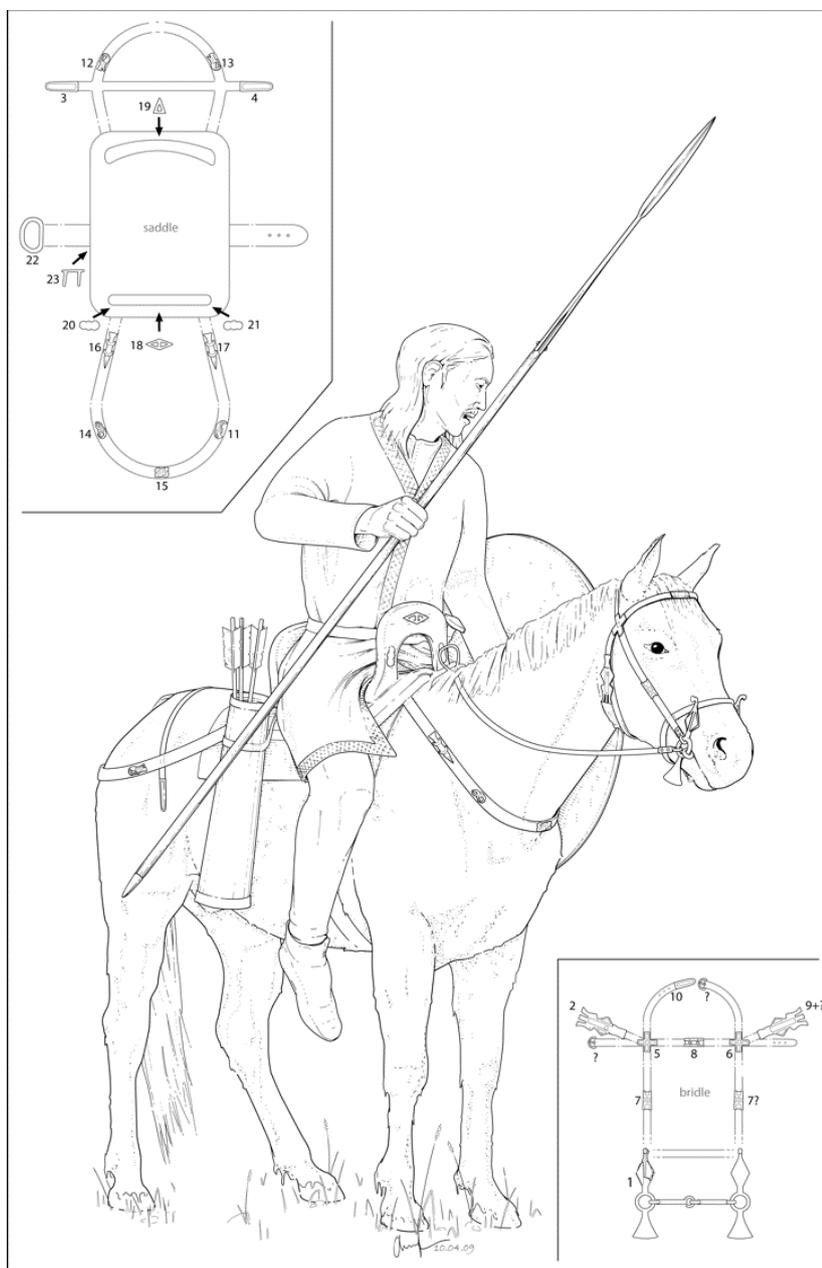


Fig.7: Reconstruction of horse and rider burial, based on finds in the Cobb Collection, Eastry (drawn by Chris Fern)

The wider landscape, both within the parish of Eastry itself, and that of neighbouring parishes, has also produced a wealth of early Anglo-Saxon material culture, including from cemeteries such as Finglesham, to the east in Northbourne parish, and Gilton and Cop Street to the north-west in Ash parish. Significant scatters of metal-detected finds of the period have also been recorded across surrounding fields, especially to the north of the village. Eastry is bounded to the north by the parish of Woodnesborough, a place name that suggests a possible pagan cult centre. Woodnesborough itself has also yielded significant funerary remains and scattered metal finds.

When the textual, place-name and archaeological evidence is taken together, the case for the modern village of Eastry correlating with a major district centre within the kingdom of Kent, while not as clear-cut as that for Lyminge (see below), remains provocative. It should be noted that here, as at Lyminge, there is very limited evidence for Iron Age or Roman settlement in the immediate area; on current evidence it would seem that neither Eastry nor Lyminge were established on Roman estate centres, but rather that they represent newly established centres, whose position best makes sense within the context and administrative structure of the emerging Kentish kingdom during the fifth to sixth centuries.

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## **5. Dover (Stopping, 10.45-14.15)**

The town and port of Dover, and their associated defences, represent one of the most strategic and historically significant locations in the British Isles. The town sits at the mouth of the steep-sided valley of the River Dour, at the only significant gap in the famous White Cliffs. The Dour is a short and shallow river, which nonetheless is the main local waterway flowing through an extensive system of otherwise dry valleys. Indeed, the upper part of the Dour rises only sporadically in the normally dry Alkham Valley, to the north-west of Dover.

Permanent habitation at Dover seems to have begun during the later Neolithic period. The mouth of the Dour valley contains very deep, waterlogged deposits, containing significant prehistoric and Roman remains. Notably, in September 1992, a watching brief by Canterbury Archaeological Trust on major roadworks in the town led to the discovery of a large sewn plank oak boat, dating to around 1550 BC. This boat, one of the oldest seagoing vessels discovered in Europe, is now on permanent display in Dover Museum.

Evidence for the Iron Age in Dover is more limited, despite suggestions that Dover Castle may occupy the site of an Iron Age hillfort and it is only from the 80s AD onwards that evidence for significant occupation under Roman control begins to accrue. Although by the later Roman period known as *Portus Dubris*, after the pre-Roman name of the river, it is possible that it can be equated with the *Novus Portus* (the 'new port'), placed by the geographer Ptolemy on this coast. The former name would imply the existence of a *Vetus Portus*, an 'old port', otherwise unknown but perhaps situated at East Wear Bay, along the coast towards Folkestone, where excavations have revealed the site of a major Late Iron Age industrial and commercial centre.

In the late first or early second century at Dover two phases of fort defences were erected on the western side of the Dour, an area of 1 hectare being enclosed by a wall following a standard 'playing-card' plan. Within was an anomalous layout of barracks, granaries and headquarters building which may have housed anything from 300 to 600 men, presumably soldiers and sailors of the *Classis Britannica* as an out-station of a much

larger force with its headquarters in the 12 hectare fort at Boulogne. The existence of this force at Dover is attested by numerous stamped tiles with the insignia of the force. An inscription from Dover referring to a *strator consularis*, a transport officer of the governor, suggests the use of the fort as a supply base and transit camp for goods and personnel.

Probably in the second century AD two lighthouses were erected, one on the Western Heights above the fort, the other, a unique survival in Roman Britain, on the hill within the later Dover Castle. Known today as the *Pharos*, this lighthouse stands to a height of 13 metres, making it the tallest surviving Roman structure in Britain. This pair of lighthouses mirrored one or more on the opposite coast at Boulogne. The Roman harbour at Dover is now buried beneath the centre of the town but part of a wooden water front has been identified projecting into the presumed estuary of the Dour bounding this on the sea side.

By the third century an extensive settlement had grown up on the landward side of the fort, the buildings including walled enclosures and a substantial bath house nearest the fort. At an early stage an unusual linear building with internal buttressed foundations was erected here, this possibly a cover building for small craft drawn up from the harbour, perhaps the first ship-shed from Britain and similar to harbour-side buildings elsewhere in the Mediterranean. In the third century a well-appointed dwelling house with painted decoration of mythological themes was erected beside this, its incorporation in the rampart of the succeeding late Roman fort ensuring its remarkable survival, the remains today accessible in a purpose-built museum. Beyond the area of settlement scattered cremation and inhumation burials of Roman date have been found from the cemeteries that would have lain close to the roads approaching the site.

The late Roman fort was built in the period after AD 275, this larger 1.5 hectare enclosure encroaching on both the earlier camp and its settlement. The substantial wall, furnished with external bastions and backed by an earthen bank, possibly extended down to the edge of the inner harbour. This base is included in the early-fifth-century AD document listing the military unit commanders in the western Empire (*Notitia Dignitatum Occ XXVIII*), the unit here being recorded as the *milites Tungrecani*, troops serving as part of the *Litus Saxonicum*, the Saxon Shore defences of the Channel coast. Coins of the late fourth century support a continuing Roman presence in the fort up until the end of the Roman occupation.

From perhaps as early as the mid-fifth century onwards, Anglo-Saxon domestic habitation took place within the circuit of the former Saxon Shore fort, with sunken-featured buildings being cut into the earth ramparts and with slightly later evidence of burials in the area of the later Market Square (see below). Along the slopes overlooking the Dour valley and its associated dry valley system, many cemeteries and burials have been identified, suggesting numerous communities clustered along the course of the Dour, exploiting the surrounding Downland. Notable cemeteries amongst this group include Priory Hill, overlooking what is now the railway station to the west of the town centre, Old Park in the parish of Whitfield and, most notably, the large cemetery at Buckland, to the north of the town centre.

Although some finds from Buckland, including a composite disc brooch now in the British Museum, were probably made when a railway cutting was driven through the site in 1879, the cemetery was only subjected to systematic archaeological investigation during the 1950s, when Vera Evison led a programme of excavation ahead of house building that eventually revealed over 165 inhumations, scattered across the hillside above the railway cutting. Subsequently, excavations by Canterbury Archaeological Trust ahead of the construction of a housing estate below the railway cutting revealed a further 244 burials. Together, these excavations have made Buckland the largest excavated Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Kent to date, and it is clear that many further burials must have been removed by the construction of the railway cutting, or remain undiscovered on unexcavated areas of the hillside. Certainly, the site covered an extensive area across the south-west facing slope, and like many such cemeteries would have been a prominent feature within the local landscape when in use.

Like the cemetery at Sarre, Buckland came into use during the second half of the fifth century and remained in use until at least the end of furnished burial in the late seventh. The community at Buckland also seems to have been a wealthy one, with a high proportion of imported goods, including many of Frankish origin, alongside high-status Kentish products. A large number of weapon burials contained a sword, again hinting at the wealth afforded to some strategically located coastal communities in Kent. Most of the finds are in the British Museum, although a selection are on display in Dover Museum; the well-preserved human bone assemblage from the 1994 excavation remains in the care of Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

For the middle Anglo-Saxon period, a large rectangular timber structure, of several phases, excavated within the Shore Fort, on the western side of the present Market Square, has been identified as a church of probable seventh-century date, although this interpretation has been questioned by some, who prefer to see it as a large secular hall. The ruins of the Norman church of St Martin le Grand directly overlying the structure, however, remain suggestive and drive continued debate about the true purpose of this building. An important seventh-century grave slab discovered during alterations to the Antwerp Inn on the northern side of the Market Square in 1832, and now in Dover Museum, bears a runic inscription, *Gisilheard*, and may well derive from a burial associated with an early church hereabouts.

Dover certainly does boast one substantially complete masonry Anglo-Saxon church – that of St Mary in Castro, situated within the walls of Dover Castle next to the *Pharos*, and dating to around AD 1000 but this itself raises key questions about the structure and layout of Anglo-Saxon Dover. Regular local discussion revolves around the few, somewhat ambiguous, early documentary references. Much of the debate concerns the great fire of 1066 caused by William's invading army, when many buildings were destroyed. The exact site of this conflagration remains uncertain. Although there is clear archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation within the walls of the old Roman fort on the west bank of the Dour estuary (see above; Philp 2003), the notion that some sort of defended 'burgh' enclosing the church of St Mary in Castro existed across the estuary on the eastern heights (now under the Castle) also finds support. The presence of St Mary's church itself and the configuration of the later castle's outer defences, coupled with references to the presence of defences here immediately before the Norman invasion, all seem to imply a second, late Anglo-Saxon area of activity well away from any primary focus beside the west bank of the estuary. Supporting archaeological finds from Castle Hill, however, are absent.

There is a general lack of Anglo-Saxon coinage recorded from the area of either Dover town or castle, despite the fact that there had been a mint here. Dover first appears as a named mint, *Doferi*, during the reign of Aethelstan (A.D. 924-939), when the moneyer was a certain 'Folcred'. The Dover mint expanded in the early 990s with four moneyers known. This had increased to six when the '*last small cross*' pennies of Aethelred II were being produced (1009-17) and production levels reached a peak with nine moneyers known for the '*short cross*' type of Cnut (1030-1035/6), pennies minted by Edwine being especially numerous (Holman 1989, 185). The mint continued throughout the late Saxon period and after the Norman Conquest, finally closing in the mid-twelfth century.

Only two Anglo-Saxon coins have actually come from excavations within the town and none from the site of the castle. An early 8th-century *sceatta* was found during investigations in the 1970s within the Shore Fort (Philp 2003, 132) and a penny of issued by Coenwulf, King of Mercia dated to c.796-805 was recently found in the area of the old river estuary off St James Street. These appear to be the only specimens known.

As for the medieval castle itself, it dominates the skyline overlooking the town and is of international significance. As its entry on Historic England's national list puts it:

*'The defences at Dover demonstrate an unusually high degree of technical innovation and engineering skill. Henry II's great keep was both the last and the technically most ambitious of its kind in England and*

*the defences of the outer bailey, planned and begun before Henry's death, pre-empted the concentric castles of the 13th century by almost half a century. Despite later modifications, the medieval castle is unusual in surviving in such a complete state. Its importance is further enhanced by its royal connections and the survival of detailed documentary sources relating to its construction, and to the sieges of 1067 and 1216.'*

In the town of Dover itself, the tower of St Mary's church, even in its restored state, never fails to impress the passer by. The restored twelfth-century refectory of Dover Priory continues its original use to this day, serving the pupils of Dover College, whilst the less-well-preserved ruins of St James's, St Martin the Grand and the round-naved chapel on the Western Heights add further to tally of Norman structures in the area.

The somewhat restored Maison Dieu in Dover incorporates significant 14<sup>th</sup>-century work relating to a medieval hospital, originally located on the outskirts of the medieval town. Nor should the little thirteenth-century chapel of St Edmund, opposite the Maison Dieu be overlooked.

This collection of surviving medieval structures underline Dover's strategic position in English history, and its role as one of the key Cinque Ports. This strategic role has continued down to the present day, with considerable investment in port facilities and defensive infrastructure during the post-medieval and modern periods, exemplified by the large enclosed harbour and extensive largely nineteenth-century defences on the Western Heights, and on the east at Fort Burgoyne, both complexes being further embellished during the First and Second World Wars. Today, Dover remains one of the busiest passenger ports in the world.

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## **6. Lyminge (Stopping, 14.30–16.00)**

It is in the parish and village of Lyminge that we now have the most complete picture of one of the Kentish royal and monastic centres of power. The place name means 'district of the *Limen*', after the ancient name for the River Rother, and it is possible that the people of this district were collectively known as the *Limenwara*. A charter issued by King Oswine in AD 689 records the grant of 'iron-bearing land' to the minster at Lyminge. Cemeteries and metalwork dating from the late fifth century onwards have long been known at Lyminge, but the recent series of excavations by Reading University have identified a high status great hall complex, with associated industrial features (including evidence of metalworking) at Tayne Field, in the centre of the modern village. This site is almost certainly that of the historically-attested *villa regalis*. Thus the place of Lyminge as a regional centre of power during both the sixth and seventh centuries is now attested by historical, place-name and archaeological evidence and this special status can arguably be extended back into the later fifth

century (certainly no comparable concentration of fifth-century sites or finds has yet been identified in this part of Kent). Interestingly, there is little or no evidence that Lyminge was founded on a former Roman estate centre; indeed, the lack of Roman material at Lyminge is striking, and much of what has been identified (including two stamped tiles of the *Classis Britannica* from the 2014 excavation) could well be curated finds brought in from other sites. Even though in a few cases, such as at Canterbury, earlier Roman centres were reused by the emerging Kentish royal family for administrative purposes, in many cases *villae regales* were located without regard to these earlier Roman estates.

The first archaeological evidence to support the historical record of Lyminge as a centre of power came during the mid-nineteenth century with excavations immediately adjacent to the parish church by the vicar, Canon Jenkins. In doing so he uncovered the core buildings of the Anglo-Saxon monastic complex, including a seventh-century minster church (see Fig.8). And in 1885 Jenkins reported the discovery of Anglo-Saxon graves at the southern edge of the village during the construction of a cutting for the Elham Valley railway. Although few records were made, the finds recovered indicated burials of fifth- to early sixth-century date.



Fig.8: Excavations of the Minster church, adjacent to the medieval parish church

In the 1950s, a second cemetery, again of fifth- to sixth-century date, was excavated on a low ridge to the north of the village, with further graves being revealed during excavations by the Dover Archaeological Group in the last few years. Together these have revealed an extensive cemetery (Fig.9), with many unexcavated burials surviving at the site. Some very high-status graves were recovered, including a woman buried with very high-quality Kentish square-headed brooches as well as D-bracteates (Grave 44) and in 2005 a horse burial was partially unearthed. A number of grave goods and burials from this site can be dated from the mid-fifth century. Thus far, no graves dating later than the late sixth century have been identified at either of the Lyminge cemeteries, perhaps suggesting that during the late-sixth or early-seventh century burial shifted to another, as yet unidentified, site.

Within the core of the modern village, Dr Gabor Thomas began a systematic examination of Lyminge's Anglo-Saxon archaeology in 2007. This followed up the results of a small-scale evaluation by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 2005, which identified eighth- to ninth-century occupation in land to the south of the present churchyard. The 2007 season used geophysical survey and test pits to explore the archaeological

potential of the open spaces within the historic core of the village. The results were positive, showing that many of the targeted areas held stratified archaeological remains from the Anglo-Saxon period.

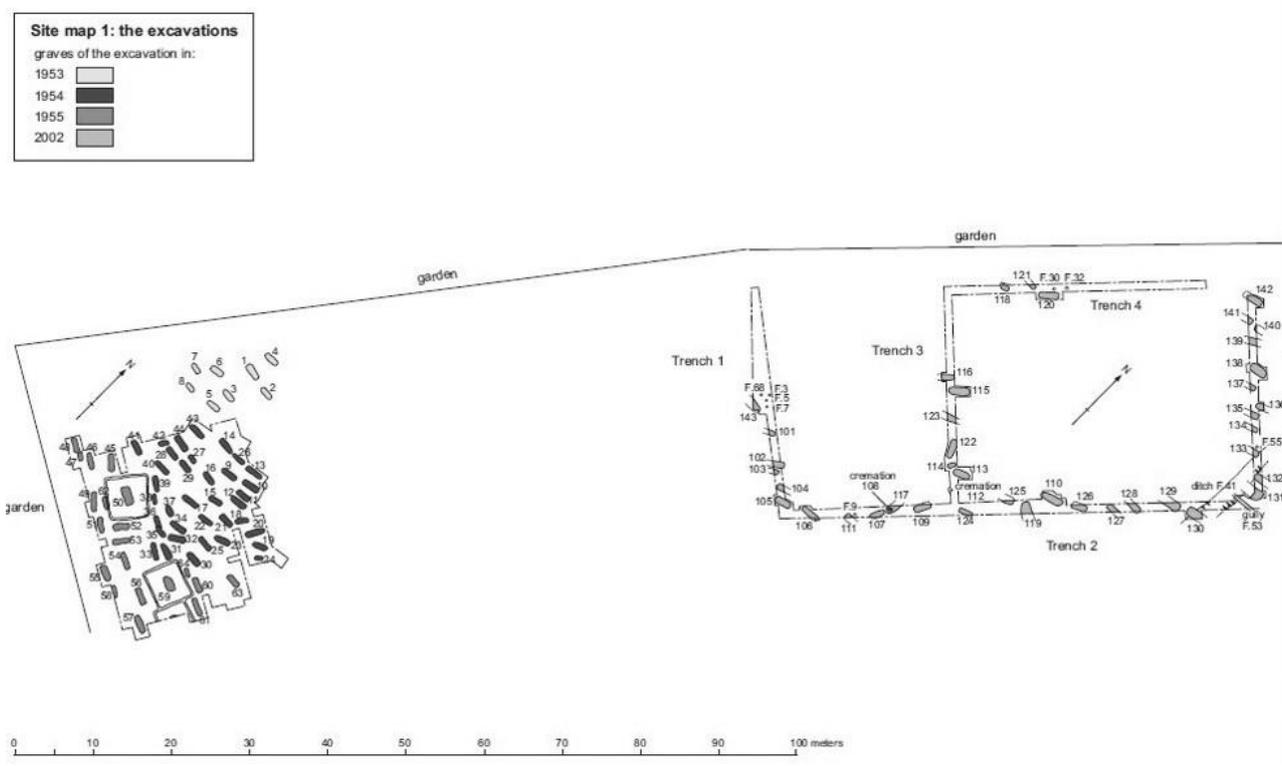


Fig.9: Lyminge II Anglo-Saxon cemetery

In 2008 the Lyminge Archaeological Project started in earnest. Open-area excavations were carried out on land belonging to the ‘Old Rectory’ (located south of the churchyard). Two trenches were opened, providing rich evidence on the outer precinct of the eighth- to ninth-century Anglo-Saxon monastery. One of the key discoveries made during this season was a large timber building with an external “metalled” yard. This was interpreted as a Middle Anglo-Saxon granary with an accompanying threshing floor for processing corn. A large number of rubbish pits were also excavated which held pottery, personal ornaments and craft implements. Specialists were also able to analyse animal bones and plant remains from the pits.

In 2009 another trench was excavated just to the south of the churchyard, on the land previously evaluated in 2005. This area had a higher concentration of rubbish/cess pits and structural features than the areas excavated in 2008. It appeared to have formed part of the main domestic zone of the monastic settlement.

Several boundary ditches and smaller palisades were identified during this season. These indicate that this portion of the monastic settlement had a planned rectilinear arrangement. The timber buildings in this area had consistently small floor plans. This suggests that they may have been monastic ‘cells’, home to an individual monk or nun. They were surrounded by dense clusters of pits holding human waste and kitchen rubbish. Several of the artefacts discarded in these pits were domestic furnishings such as door hinges and keys.

The 2010 season produced the first evidence for occupation pre-dating the Anglo-Saxon monastery; four sunken-featured buildings and at least one timber hall were excavated. These were spread out in an arrangement typical of Anglo-Saxon settlements of the fifth to seventh centuries AD. This early date is supported by the rich assemblages of artefacts recovered from the fills of the buildings including significant quantities of vessel glass. Most spectacular of all was a seventh-century plough coulter, a find so far unparalleled in Early Anglo-Saxon England. This might suggest that heavy ploughs were introduced to Kent centuries before other parts of England.

In the same season a series of evaluation trenches was opened in land to the west of the churchyard. The key discovery was a Middle Anglo-Saxon ironworking site located around 150m to the north-west of the Anglo-Saxon monastic nucleus. This find indicates that the manufacture of iron tools and implements formed a crucial component of the monastic economy, with the potential that some of the output was sold to generate a financial income.

In 2012 a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council allowed the launch of a new phase in the project. The spotlight shifted to Tayne Field, a prime site in the heart of the village which was the focus for the next three years. Test-pitting in 2007 had provided hints that this area might produce early Anglo-Saxon archaeology. This was confirmed by open-area excavation which produced a further sunken-featured building (probably of sixth century date) and more timber halls.

One of these halls turned out to be particularly significant. Measuring 21×8.5m and of so-called post-in-trench construction, this structure represents one of the most important Anglo-Saxon buildings yet excavated in Kent. It has been dated to around AD 600 (to be confirmed by radiocarbon dating) and belongs to a rare class of high-status hall. This design was common to Anglo-Saxon royal complexes, used for holding ceremonial feasts and assemblies.

This imposing hall was constructed on the plateau of a low spur bordered by the spring and encircling headwater of the River Nailbourne. This seems to have been a strategic spot and the excavation demonstrates that this is the longest inhabited portion of the village. In addition to Anglo-Saxon occupation extensive scatters of prehistoric flint dating to the Mesolithic period (c.8000–5000 BC) were encountered and also dense clusters of latrine pits, boundary ditches and structural remains dating to the ‘Saxo-Norman’ period (late-11th–late-12th centuries AD).

A second trench on Tayne Field during the 2013 season revealed two sunken-featured buildings and four timber halls. Three of these timber halls were discovered in their entirety, with overlapping floor plans. Laid out on a perpendicular alignment to 2012’s ‘feasting hall’, this imposing structure was rebuilt from scratch on three successive occasions, growing in scale and complexity over time. In its final and most elaborate phase, the hall measured c.15x7m, with enormous doorway pits dug for substantial entrances into the building mid-way along the long walls. Evidence for the presence of a mortared floor of the type usually found in seventh century churches was also discovered.

A fourth east–west oriented timber hall was discovered in a western extension to the main trench. Although only the north-east corner and a length of long wall were uncovered, it is clearly a substantial building, as indicated by very large flint-packed raking posts and unusual triple rows of planks set into the long wall. The sizable dimensions of this long wall suggests that it might be on an even larger scale than the timber ‘feasting hall’ discovered in 2012, and its precise alignment indicates that it, along with the north–south hall sequence excavated in the main trench, is very likely to belong to a contemporary complex of buildings.

2014 saw the excavation of further two trenches on Tayne Field. One of these reopened and extended the trench over the fourth timber hall that had not been completely excavated in 2013. A second 30x30m trench was opened north-east of the previous season’s trench, over a Bronze Age ring ditch and a large anomaly present on the geophysics.

Three phases were identified in the reopened east–west oriented Timber Hall. Two phases used plank-in-trench construction techniques, whilst the third and final phase used raking timbers on the outside of the building. The full width of the hall was established as 12m, while the full length is unknown but thought to be over 20m long. A mortared floor such as that identified in the largest phase of the 2013 north-south oriented Timber Hall appears to have been present in at least one of the phases of this hall, with fragments of cement-like floor material (*pseudo-Opus Signinum*) present in wall trenches and post pits.

The trench over the Bronze Age Barrow (which contained five cremations at its centre) yielded some extremely exciting archaeology, with the excavation of several phases of a sixth-century post-built hall oriented east–west, likely to be contemporary with the sunken-featured buildings found in previous seasons. The geophysical

anomaly was identified as an artefact-rich midden with some depth, a type of feature previously unknown from Anglo-Saxon England. This midden area, measuring some 12x15m, contained a wealth of material, including hundreds of glass fragments, copper alloy and iron objects, animal bone, huge amounts of slag and kiln or hearth lining and early Anglo-Saxon decorated pottery, amongst layers of significant burnt material dumped in, and at least one *in situ* hearth. North–south and east–west slots were dug through the midden and a depth of 1.8m was reached, with a layer of flint nodules overlying particularly clean clay. The origins of this feature are at present still unclear as the bottom of this feature was not reached.

As well as these Anglo-Saxon and Bronze Age features, a crouched inhumation of the Beaker period (c.2500–1800 BC) was unexpectedly discovered, along with Saxo-Norman and Medieval pits and ditches, World War II structures, and a quantity of Mesolithic flints, part of the flint scatter that is present across the whole site.

The results obtained by the Lyminge Archaeological Project, together with the earlier archaeological discoveries around Lyminge, and the textual and place-name evidence, combine to make this village one of the most significant Anglo-Saxon sites yet investigated anywhere in Kent (see also Figs.10-11).

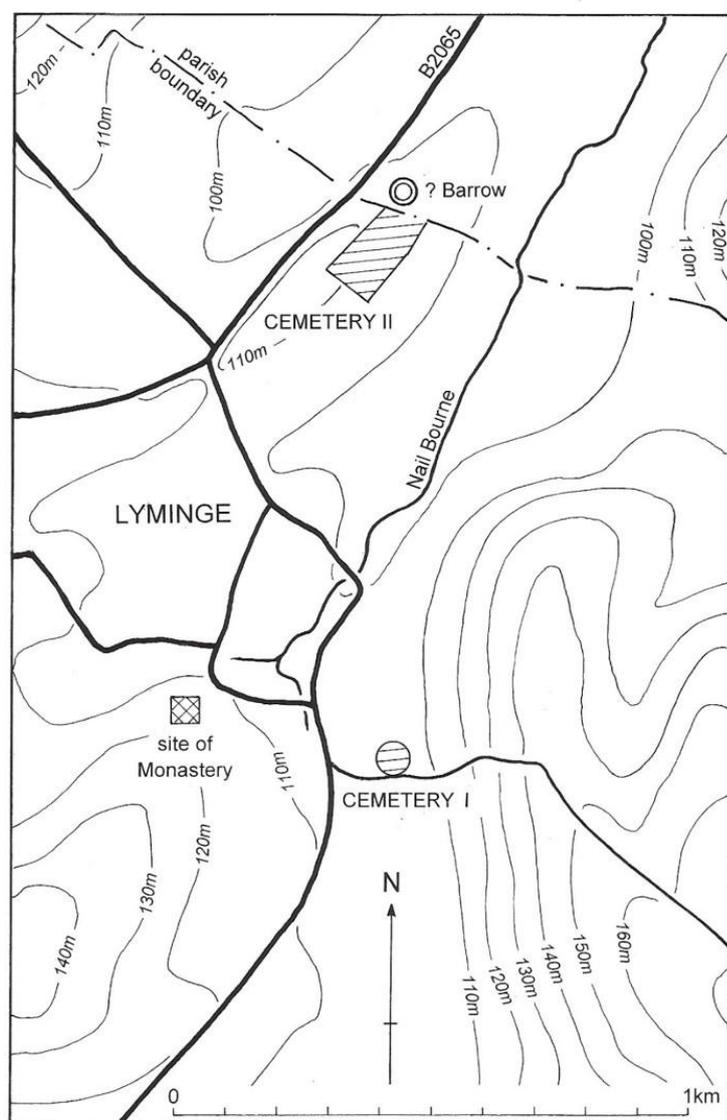


Fig.10: Lyminge, showing the position of know cemeteries in relation to the site of the later Minster

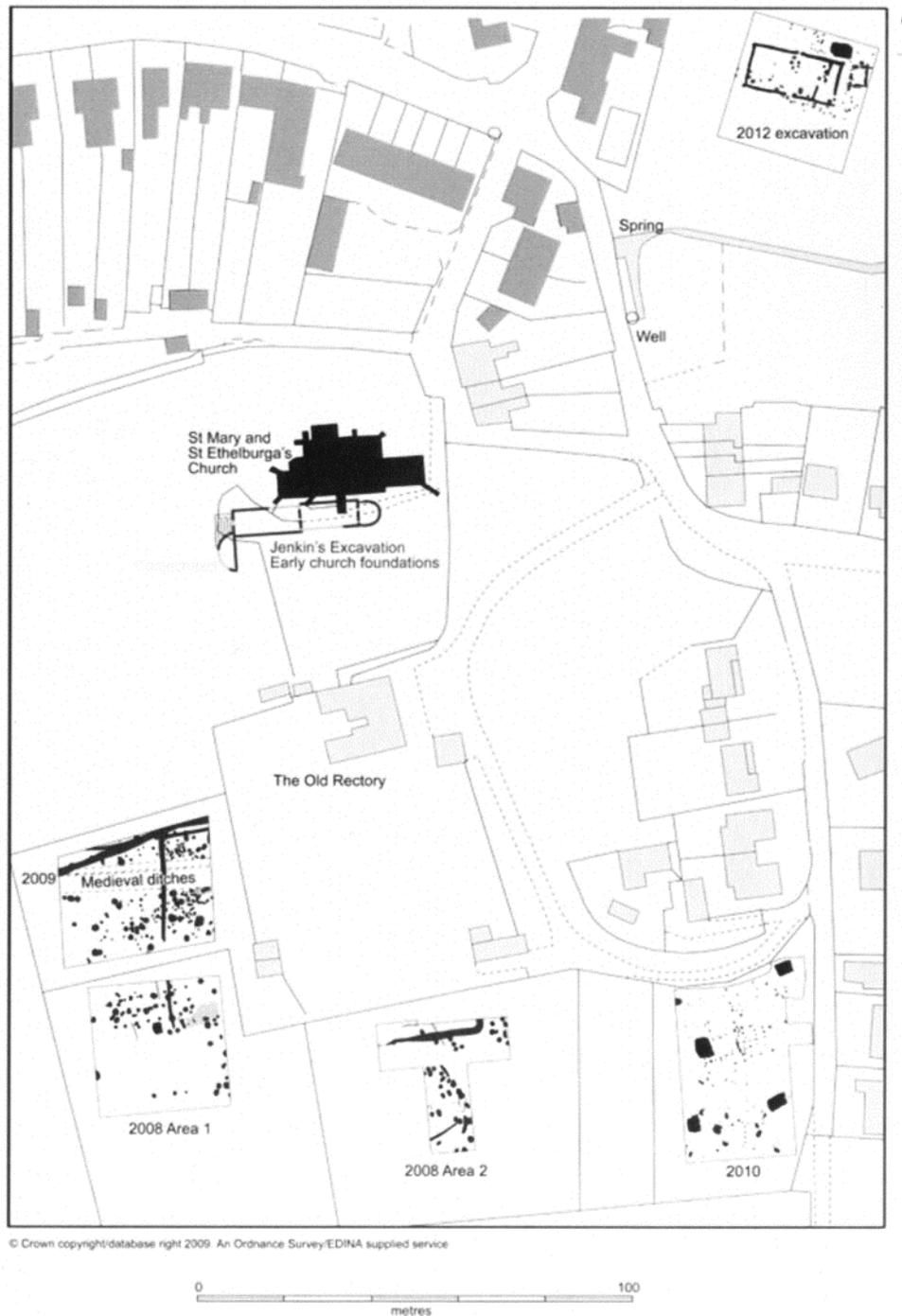


Fig.11: Excavations in Lyminge, 2009-2012

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## **7. Breach Downs – Anglo-Saxon cemetery (Stopping, 16.10–16.40)**

The cemetery at Breach Downs, in the parish of Barham, is one of only a few sites in Kent where the mounds of Anglo-Saxon barrows survive above ground, although even here the remains are slight or obscured by vegetation. Before their loss to deep ploughing, many more barrows would have been visible at this site, and at comparable sites across the Downland of East Kent.

The site was first investigated around 1809, but no accurate records were made at the time. However, during September to October 1841, Lord Conyngham counted 103 visible barrows, and excavated 66 of them, finding 71 inhumations. The largest barrows were approximately 2.5m in height, but most were under about 1.20m high. The mounds were largely made up of chalk rubble and flints. The graves were cut into the chalk bedrock, most if not all on a W–E alignment. In two of the graves there was evidence of possible cremations, whilst at least one of the multiple burials (grave 3) was possibly the result of an earlier grave being disturbed by a secondary interment.

J.P. Bartlett excavated several more small barrows *circa* 1843, including one that contained a group of six *sceattas*. Then, on September 10th 1844, eight barrows were opened as part of the 1st Congress of the British Archaeological Association, which was being held in Canterbury. A further eight barrows (graves 75–82) were excavated a week later by Lord Conyngham.

In the 1930s the Ordnance Survey noted that forty-five barrow mounds were still visible at the site, six of which were described as large, whilst the remainder were “quite small”. By January 1946, following more extensive wartime cultivation, an RAF aerial photograph still showed at least thirty-eight surviving mounds. However, by 1975 only about twenty-eight were still visible, some having been removed without recording during the construction of a small housing estate across part of the site. In May to June 1975 the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit carried out a watching brief on the course of a sewer pipeline being laid through some of the gardens attached to the houses. Three additional graves (83–85), plus three probable graves (86–88) were recorded in the trench.

Today, several of the surviving barrows are heavily overgrown and some have been partially removed by a track which runs behind the Council Estate. The barrows are generally very small, with the exception of one large barrow at the highest point of the site. This may have been of Bronze Age date. All of the finds recovered to date indicate that the cemetery was in use during the seventh century.

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## **8. Kingston – Anglo-Saxon cemetery (Passing, on the right)**

The ridge that forms the eastern side of the valley of the Little Stour, in the parishes of Barham, Kingston and Bridge, is crossed by course of the Dover-to-Canterbury Roman road (as well as the modern A2, which for some of its length corresponds with the course of its Roman predecessor). Much of this area of high ground, bisected by a strategic routeway and overlooking a sheltered valley with access to fresh water, appears to have formed a funerary landscape during the early Anglo-Saxon period. A number of cemeteries and burial sites

have been identified scattered across this relatively small zone, the most notable of which is the Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Kingston Down.

Formerly covered with numerous visible barrow mounds (see Fig. 12), the site was first investigated around 1745 when the landowner, Thomas Barrett, had some barrows opened. A decade later Barrett refused the Reverend Bryan Faussett permission to excavate the site, but by August 1767 a new landowner had granted permission and Faussett excavated and recorded graves 1–54. Faussett returned in July and August 1771 for an energetic campaign, excavating graves 55–229. Grave 205 was a large chamber grave, containing the remains of a woman and child. Amongst the spectacular assemblage of finds recovered from this burial was the famous Kingston brooch, a composite disc brooch now displayed in Liverpool Museum.



KINGSTON, FROM THE SITE OF THE TUMULI, 1855.

Fig.12: Kingston Down, 1855

The following year Faussett opened the remaining visible barrows on Kingston Down, bringing his grave count up to 263. By August 1773, he had begun to use a probe to locate flat graves cut into the chalk and located a further forty-five inhumations (bringing his total to 308 graves) with this method. Further occasional discoveries followed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; Thomas Wright opened a barrow (grave 309) in March 1850, whilst a skeleton (grave 310) was found by soldiers digging trenches in 1944. In 1959, the cemetery was threatened by a proposal for tree-planting, and Vera Evison dug five evaluation trenches across the site, locating sixteen graves, of which only three (graves 311–13) were undisturbed.

In 1965, clearance of a 3m wide strip along the north-east side of the Dover-Canterbury road passed through the cemetery, revealing two more undisturbed graves (314–315), as well as a disturbed skeleton in the top-soil (grave 316). The following year, road works revealed three barrows (two of which had penannular ditches) and one flat grave; these were planned but not excavated. A trench for a water-pipe disturbed three more flat graves (graves 317–19).

More recently, during 2013, anti-rabbit fencing was installed at the site in an effort to reduce damage to the monument by burrowing rabbits, which had become a considerable problem. Canterbury Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological investigation on the line of the fencing, which extended along the south-west and south-east limits of the cemetery. The work, undertaken between 12 August and 6 September 2013, comprised

the machine excavation of a c. 1m wide trench to the top of the chalk bedrock, along the entire length of the rabbit-proof fence, a distance of c. 550m.

Sixteen graves were identified during the excavation; fifteen within the area of the scheduled monument and one beyond its limits to the north-west. The graves were generally aligned west– east/south-west–north-east, with the head at the west end of the grave in the only two undisturbed burials. Five annular or penannular ditches were identified encompassing recorded graves and a further five burials were indicated by the presence of annular or penannular ditches and two more by polygonal enclosures.

Of the sixteen graves identified twelve were excavated and ten of these were found to contain human skeletal remains. At least twelve of the sixteen graves are thought to have been opened prior to the current works, probably in antiquity by the Reverend Faussett. Two graves contained intact articulated burials, one an infant and the other an elderly woman with a broken femur. In seven of the excavated graves the bones had been disturbed and redeposited at the base, in one a few bones were present distributed throughout the infill, and in two the bones, if initially present, had either not been replaced or had completely disintegrated.

The results of the 2013 made it clear that Faussett’s excavations were very thorough and that few graves were missed. It has been suspected that Faussett re-interred the skeletons within the graves he had excavated (since human remains are largely absent from his collection) and this appears to be supported by the findings of the 2013 work. Preservation of the bone is generally reasonable and a number of pathologies were observed. From this it can be concluded that there is still a great deal of data to be recovered from the site, and indeed from the other cemeteries excavated by Faussett, including considerable quantities of human remains.

The earliest datable graves from this site, containing Kentish garnet-inlaid disc brooches, are of the late sixth or early-seventh centuries, and the site appears to have continued in use until the very late-seventh, if not into the early-eighth century. The cemetery occupies the brow of a gentle south-west facing slope, overlooking the Little Stour valley to the west. The Chalk is covered by a thin soil. The site lies between the 70–90m contours. The field is now pasture. The remains of a small number of barrows are still barely perceptible on the surface.

In addition to the Kingston Down site, a separate Anglo-Saxon cemetery has recently been confirmed within the parish. This was first noted as a crop mark on Google Earth, and small investigative work has confirmed the presence of graves dating to the sixth century at this site, which may represent the precursor to the later cemetery on Kingston Down.

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## **9. Bifrons – Anglo-Saxon cemetery (Passing, on the right)**

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bifrons, like that at Sarre, was the focus of one of the earliest campaigns of excavation by the Kent Archaeological Society. The site, which lies on a north-west facing slope, overlooking the Little Stour which runs in a north-easterly direction below it, first came to attention in March 1865 when eighteen to twenty graves were discovered by workmen within an area of approximately nine to ten square metres. Finds recovered included two swords, two spearheads, a shield, some buckles, beads and knives. With one exception the graves were said to be orientated “east and west”.

In the Autumn of 1867, Godfrey-Faussett obtained permission from Lord Conyngham to excavate on the site for the Kent Archaeological Society. He excavated and recorded a further 91 graves containing 96 skeletons. At the same time, further graves were dug by Lord Conyngham's gamekeeper, but no records of these were made, though some of the finds were kept in grave groups. A further grave (grave 92) may have been excavated at this time.

No further fieldwork on the site is known to have taken place since 1867, although it seems probable that many graves remain undiscovered at the site. An aerial photograph in 1978 indicated a ring ditch and four pit-like features, three of which are rectangular or square.

The earliest burials at Bifrons appear to date from the second half of the fifth century, although many of the fifth-century objects were deposited in graves of the sixth century. There do not appear to be any finds from the site datable to the very late sixth or seventh centuries. In particular, the lack of Kentish disc brooches of Avent's Class 3 or later is notable. This may be because only a limited plot of a larger cemetery was excavated, although it may be that the site was abandoned before the end of the sixth century in favour of a barrow cemetery on a more elevated position.

Bifrons is notable as a site that has produced some of the iconic finds of Anglo-Saxon Kent, such as the silver relief brooch from grave 41. Like cemeteries at Sarre, Eastry, Buckland, Lyminge and others in East Kent, the material culture interred at Bifrons represents a mixture of locally produced Kentish items and general Anglo-Saxon material culture, but also significant quantities of continental Frankish, Scandinavian and North Sea Coastal zone material. The finds from Bifrons, along with those from Sarre and Lyminge, form the core of the collections of the Kent Archaeological Society, which today are housed in Maidstone Museum.

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Conference logo: Based on the late sixth century gold medalet of Bishop Liudhard, found at St Martin's Church, Canterbury, before 1844. World Museum, Liverpool.

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