

EAST WEAR BAY FOLKESTONE



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

January 2021

East Wear Bay, Folkestone:

Archaeological Conservation Management Plan

Project Code: OR EWB CMP

NGR: TR 2408 3699 (centred)

Report No: 2021/3

Archive No: 4565

Prepared by: Keith Parfitt and Andrew Richardson

January 2021

Document Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Version	Approved by	Position	Comment	Date
01	A Richardson	Outreach & Archives Manager		11/01/21

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Canterbury Archaeological Trust Limited
92a Broad Street · Canterbury · Kent · CT1 2LU
Tel +44 (0)1227 462062 · Fax +44 (0)1227 784724
email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk
www.canterburytrust.co.uk



EAST WEAR BAY, FOLKESTONE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Executive summary

This Conservation Management Plan is concerned with the historic environment of East Cliff, Folkestone, which overlooks East Wear Bay, including the Scheduled Roman villa and earlier archaeological remains located on the cliff top, as well as the finds from the area immediately surrounding the scheduled monument, including deposits on the foreshore below the cliff. The plan has been prepared by Canterbury Archaeological Trust with the aid of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund, awarded in July 2020.

The archaeological site at East Wear Bay has a complex history. As presently understood, following some activity during earlier prehistoric times, this area grew to particular importance during the Late Iron Age, when it served as the focus of a quern-stone production industry and probably functioned as a port of trade with the developing Roman Empire. After the Roman Conquest of Britain, a major villa complex, whose full extent is yet to be ascertained, was established on the site surrounded by a system of ditched fields and enclosures that replaced earlier ones belonging to the Late Iron Age settlement.

Continued survival of the remains on East Wear Bay is not assured because the area is subject to ongoing coastal erosion. However, the eventual destruction of the villa site, in the shorter term, provides a chance to turn adverse circumstances into positive archaeological advantage. A range of opportunities suggest themselves. These include public enjoyment, engagement and learning, and further advancement of archaeological knowledge through detailed fieldwork and research.

The potential of the archaeology that survives at East Wear Bay, in conjunction with the existing site archives, to add both to knowledge of Folkestone, and indeed Britain's past, cannot be over-stated. Nor can the potential of the archaeology to contribute, alongside the internationally important and unique natural environment of the Warren, to Folkestone's appeal as a place to live in and to visit.

Acknowledgements

The preparation of this conservation management plan would not have been possible without a Covid-19 Emergency Fund grant generously provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and it is first and foremost the NLHF, and of course players of the National Lottery, to whom thanks must go. The plan itself is largely the work of Keith Parfitt of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, ably assisted by colleagues Andrew MacIntosh and Paul-Samual Armour. Very valuable contributions were provided by David Holman of Dover Archaeological Group. As part of the preparation of the plan, Joe Smith of J C White Geomatics Ltd undertook a UAV survey of East Wear Bay, with the kind permission of the landowner, Folkestone and Hythe District Council, as well as the White Cliffs Countryside Project and the Kent Film Office. All are thanked for their support. Historic England are thanked for their support in securing Scheduled Monument Consent to excavate on the Roman villa in 2010-11, and for their continued support and advice thereafter.

Our thanks are also extended to those volunteers who have assisted with both the fieldwork and continuing post-excavation work at East Wear Bay, especially the members of the Folkestone Research Archaeological Group. The late Kate Holtham-Oakley deserves especial mention for her years of dedication to the project. Many professional colleagues and specialists from partner organisations have also assisted enormously with the Trust's work at the site, far too many to mention individually, though without Dr Lesley Hardy, formerly of Canterbury Christ Church University, it is likely that none of the work would have happened. Finally, warmest thanks are given to Professor Paul Bennett, who retired as Director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust in October of this year, for his support and encouragement, both in the preparation of this plan, and over the course of many years work by the Trust at East Wear Bay.

*Andrew Richardson
Canterbury
January 2021*

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1. Introduction

1.1 General background to the archaeology of East Wear Bay, Folkestone

Folkestone town had long been known as an important settlement since the Anglo-Saxon period, but it was not until the early twentieth century that archaeological discoveries at East Cliff, to the north-east of the main historic settlement, graphically revealed traces of Folkestone's earlier, Roman and pre-Roman past, otherwise forgotten (centred at NGR TR 2408 3699; see Fig.1).

Roman remains had first been discovered eroding from the cliff-top at East Cliff, above East Wear Bay in about 1919. Extensive excavations led by Sussex archaeologist S.E. Winbolt followed in 1923–4 (see Figs.2-3). These succeeded in exposing the foundations of a large Roman villa complex, with impressive sea views across the Channel to the French coast (Winbolt 1925). Throughout the period prior to the Second World War (1939–45) these archaeological remains were a major attraction for tourists visiting the town (Hardy in Coulson 2013).

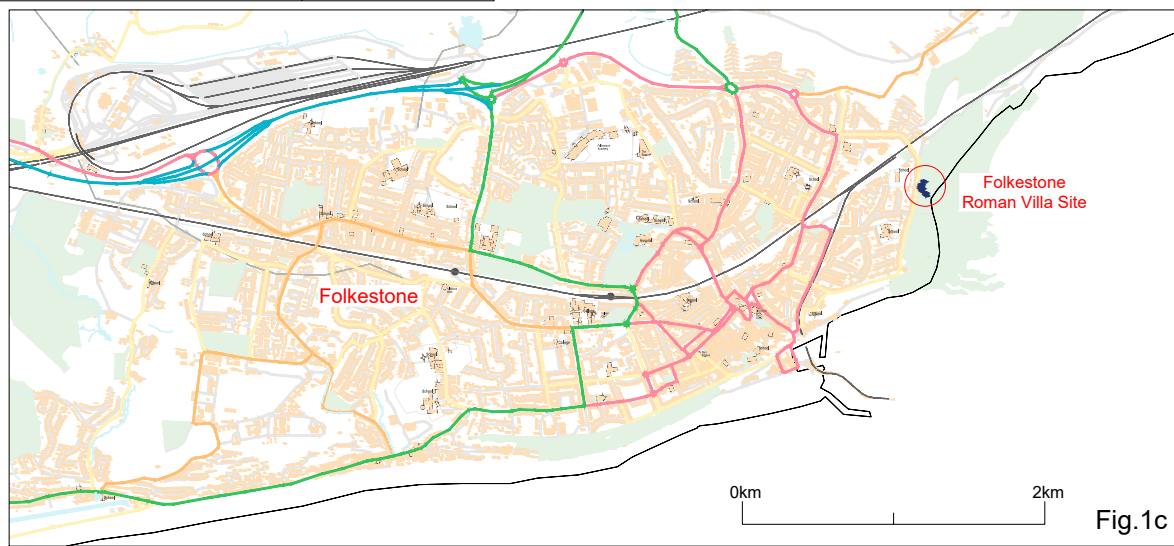
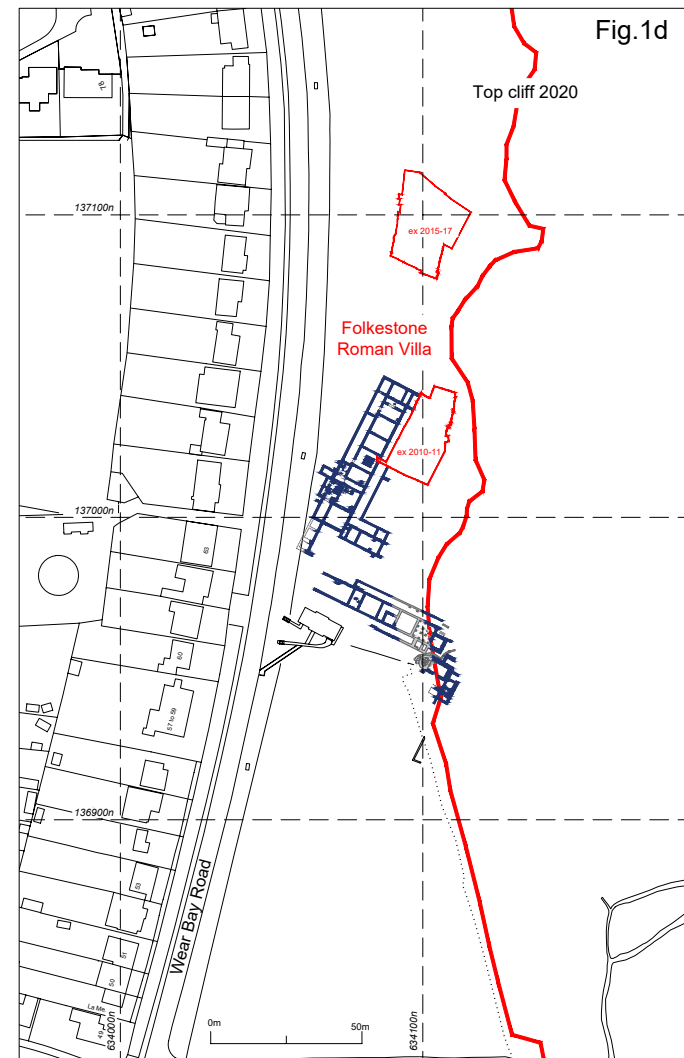
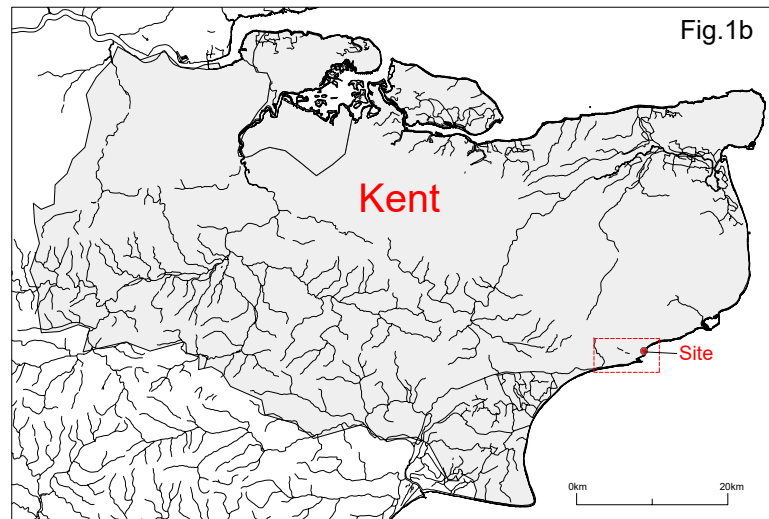
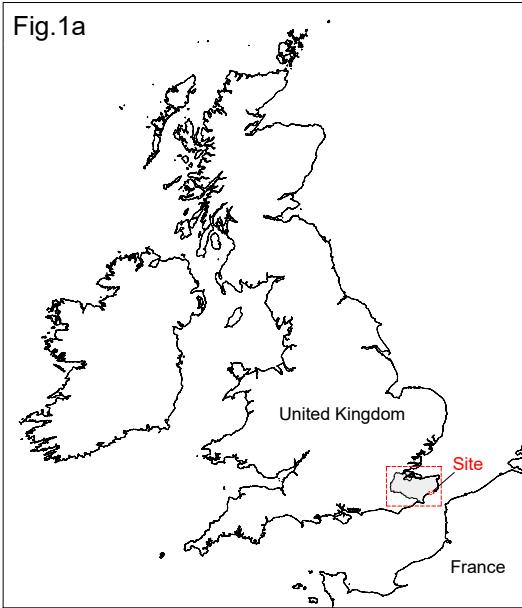
Winbolt's investigations, although not of the highest calibre by today's standards, established the basic sequence of events on the site and exposed a complete ground plan for the main buildings of the Roman villa. He was also able to identify the presence of pre-Roman activity on the site, although the extent, complexity and significance of this was not fully understood then.

After slow deterioration of the exposed Roman walls, damage and neglect during the Second World War and declining visitor numbers in the post-War years, the villa site was eventually backfilled and levelled in 1957. In 1946 the villa site had been Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, so identifying it as being of national significance (Monument No. 1005158).

Today, the villa site (Fig. 4) lies on Kent's designated Heritage Coast and falls within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as part of the Kent Downs AONB. The significance of the cliff landforms and geological exposures in this region have also led them to be included within a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). According to the designation, this site is of considerable biological, geological and physiographical interest.

Overall, the Folkestone Warren SSSI spans most of the coastline between Folkestone and Dover and encompasses the range of marine and terrestrial habitats associated with the chalk cliffs, and with the underlying Gault clay and Lower Greensand strata exposed at the south-western end of the site. These habitats support outstanding assemblages of plants and invertebrates, together with individual species which are nationally uncommon. The Roman villa itself lies just outside the SSSI boundary and is not included as part of the designation.

The villa site is owned by Folkestone and Hythe District Council. The area of the site between the cliff top and the foreshore does form part of Folkestone Warren SSSI and is managed by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership.



CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD. <small>A REGISTERED CHARITY</small>	PROJECT NAME	DRAWN BY	SCALE(S)
	PROJECT CODE	DATE	LAST REVISION
	SITE ADDRESS	CHECKED	
	REF/DRG NO.		
<small>92a Broad Street, Canterbury Kent, CT1 2LU Tel 01227 460960 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk</small>	East Wear Bay Archaeological Project EWB Wear Bay Road Folkestone Kent	P-S-A 13-01-2021 --- PSA_EWB-CMP20_Fig-1.dwg	SEE NOTES 14-01-2021

Fig. 1a- 1:15,000,000
 Fig. 1b- 1:1,000,000
 Fig. 1c- 1:50,000
 Fig. 1d- 1:2500

Notes: Trenches Geo-located onsite with Leica GS-08plus differential GPS
 Scales:



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Figure 1: Site location in the CMP



McSwan, Hackett, Jackson, S.E. Winbolt, Rosalind Winbolt, Boyd Wallis

Figure 2: S.E. Winbolt with his daughter Rosalind and some of his team at Folkestone Roman villa, 1924 (courtesy of Folkestone Museum).

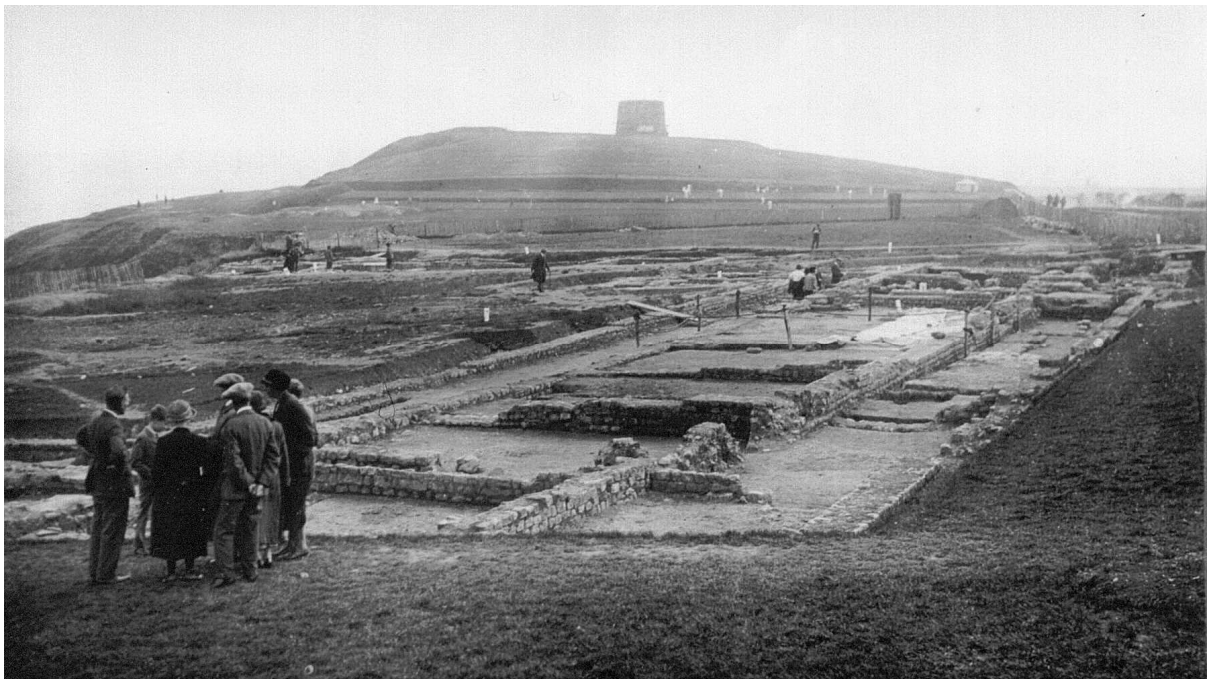


Figure 3: Folkestone Roman villa as excavated, 1924 (courtesy of Folkestone Museum).

1.2 The need for an Archaeological Conservation Management Plan

The gradual erosion of the coastal cliffs which first brought the Roman site to light in the early twentieth century has not stopped. Excavations carried out by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in 1989 established that up 10 metres of masonry at the south-eastern end of the villa complex had been lost since Winbolt's day. When the villa was first excavated in 1924 there was around 30 metres of land between the North-East Wing of the main villa house (Block A) and the cliff edge. By 2009 this figure had been reduced to 2.25m. The need for further fieldwork on this important site before more was lost was thus sharply reaffirmed.

Reference to the official Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for *South Foreland to Beachy Head*, issued by the Environment Agency in April 2006 (see below for full text) indicates that for the section of coast designated as 'Copt Point, Unit reference 4c07', the overall plan is to 'continue letting the Greensand cliffs erode under a no active intervention scenario.' Although recognising that the Scheduled Roman villa as an important heritage feature, was at risk, it has been determined that 'it would be technically difficult to prevent erosion of the cliffs, and not environmentally acceptable. There is no economic justification for defending this section of the coastline, providing cliff top development remains restricted.'

As a consequence of this Shoreline Management policy for the area, it has been recognised for some time that the Roman villa site and all the pre-Roman remains underlying it will ultimately be lost to the sea. Accordingly, some effort has been made to excavate those parts of the site that seem most imminently threatened by coast erosion.

In December 2009 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a major grant to conduct a three-year community archaeological and historical project entitled '*A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500*' (ATU). Further investigation at the threatened Roman villa site was planned as a major component of this project during 2010 and 2011, led by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), working in association with Canterbury Christ Church University and the Folkestone People's History Centre.

Fieldwork continued in 2015, 2016 and 2017 under the direction and leadership of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), supported by a number of local partners, as the *East Wear Bay Archaeological Field School*. This had the joint aims of providing high quality archaeological field training whilst at the same time continuing excavation of the archaeology along the cliff-top ahead of its loss to erosion. Since 2017, however, new fieldwork has been curtailed through lack of available funds.

The present halt to the fieldwork has allowed the information recorded to date to be assessed and the need for further research more closely articulated. Attempts have also been made to identify new sources of funding to allow fieldwork to continue and to make the results of the investigations fully available to the public.

With the renewed insight and guidance set out in the present Plan, it is hoped that fieldwork at East Cliff may be resumed in the coming years, working to a systematic and considered programme.

1.3 About the Plan

This Archaeological Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Scheduled Roman villa and other archaeological remains located above East Wear Bay, Folkestone has been independently prepared by Canterbury Archaeological Trust with the aid of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund, awarded in July 2020. It was produced during the summer and autumn of 2020 and

draws directly upon detailed research previously conducted by the Trust on the site between 2010 and 2017 (see above).

The Plan sets out what is currently understood about the site, what is archaeologically significant about it and the particular conservation issues that affect the site. From this understanding, proposals concerning the future conservation and management of this important archaeological site are set out.

The production of the Plan reflects continuing general concern that the site is under a constant threat from coastal erosion and important archaeological information is consequently being lost without record.

1.4 Aims of the Plan

The aims of the CMP are to:

- Identify and promote understanding of the significance and sensitivities of the archaeological site at East Wear Bay
- Provide an interpreted assessment of the ongoing threats to this site
- Further develop our relationships with the local community and key stakeholders
- Enhance Folkestone and Hythe District Council's understanding of the archaeology on the site
- Improve understanding and collate existing knowledge of the site and its finds
- Improve understanding of the local archaeological setting and context of the site
- Establish an informed and prioritised plan for mitigation works to offset the processes of natural erosion to the site
- Engage and enthuse local communities and volunteers through the production of the Plan and archaeological activities at the site
- To ensure all information about the site and its finds is adequately published, curated and detailed on appropriate County and National Heritage records

1.5 Scope and status of the Plan

The archaeological remains above East Wear Bay form part of a more extensive archaeological complex extending for some distance inland. Details of this wider site have been included in Section 3 below. Most specifically covered by the Plan, however, are:

- the structural remains of the Roman villa on the cliff top above East Wear Bay, located to the east of Wear Bay Road and Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Roman Villa Blocks A, B and C)
- Other Roman structures, features and deposits in the immediate vicinity of the villa complex
- All pre-villa archaeological structures, features and deposits in the immediate vicinity of the villa, especially those remains in imminent danger from coastal erosion

The Plan is intended to provide a key document for the future management and conservation of this important heritage asset.



Figure 4: Aerial view of East Wear Bay looking south-west towards Folkestone (courtesy of Kester Hackney).

2. UNDERSTANDING THE EAST WEAR BAY SITE

2.1 Introduction

This section of the Plan describes the local topography and aims to set out the evidence for archaeological activity in the vicinity of the East Wear Bay site. It demonstrates that the villa forms just part of a rather more extensive concentration of archaeological remains, a significant proportion of which belong to the pre-Roman period. Across the entire area there is widespread evidence for Iron Age and Roman quern-stone production using the local Lower Greensand rock of Copt Point (Keller 1988; 1989). This represents a highly important aspect to the site and may be seen as representing Folkestone's earliest industry (Green 2013).

Throughout the second half of the twentieth century and up to 2021, the Roman villa site has lain within a larger area of amenity land, covering about 2.8 hectares, maintained by Folkestone and Hythe District Council as part of the East Cliff and Warren Country Park. This includes a piece of ground known locally as Jock's Pitch, with a children's play area in its south-western corner and a brick-built public lavatory block immediately adjacent to the villa site. Along the western side, this area is bounded by Wear Bay Road, with residential properties on the opposite side of that road. Along the eastern side is the present cliff edge. With its coastal scenery and grand views out to sea, this open recreational land overall is very popular with local residents and visitors to Folkestone alike.

The amenity land is mostly kept as mown grass. In the past this grass was mowed almost up to the cliff edge but today a buffer zone several metres wide is left. This zone is occupied by tall vegetation and bushes, which act as a safety barrier, keeping the public away from the edge and helping to stabilise and limit erosion the cliff face itself.

Between the cliff-top and the foreshore is an area of steeply-sloping, undulating terrain formed as a result of rotational slips in the Gault clay geology. This area is between 130 and 180 metres in width and is now heavily vegetated. It forms a toe between the cliff-face and the beach, but the seaward edge of this toe is subject to wave action at high tide and is thus constantly eroding. Landslides, which not infrequently occur along this section of the coast, involve both Chalk and Gault geology and have been intensively studied by engineering geologists (see below).

Although the Roman villa, and to some degree the pre-Roman remains directly under it, are reasonably well known in academic circles and to many Folkestone residents, it is less widely understood that the villa remains constitute just one element of a much larger prehistoric (predominantly Late Iron Age) and Roman complex, covering more than 3 hectares.

Investigations undertaken in areas beyond the main villa complex have established that associated archaeological features and deposits extend for some distance inland. On the seaward side, a significant amount of the site would appear to have already been destroyed by coastal erosion (see below).

In the light of these observations, it is important not to view the remains of the Roman villa at East Wear Bay in isolation but to set them within their immediate local context, both spatially and chronologically. Assessment of the 2010–2017 excavation results emphatically reaffirms that the site is of very considerable archaeological importance, perhaps especially so for its pre-villa remains.

2.2 Positioning of the site and communications

2.2.1 General location

The archaeological site is located on the English Channel coast within the eastern suburbs of modern Folkestone, some 1.4km to the north-east of the town centre (see Fig.1). It lies across gently sloping ground at the foot of the North Downs escarpment, overlooking East Wear Bay. The land in this area stands at an elevation of between 45 and 55m OD. The British Geological Survey records the natural geology here as being mostly Gault clay, partially overlain on the western side by chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. Lower Greensand underlies the Gault in this region, and it is exposed in the headland at Copt Point, a short distance to the south of the villa site.

Gaining a clear appreciation of the local topography as it was in ancient times is today made difficult by surrounding roads, housing, the deep cutting for the Folkestone–Dover railway line and the receding cliff line. Nevertheless, study of large-scale maps and aerial photographs establishes that the archaeological site occupies a spur of raised ground projecting from the base of the North Downs escarpment, delimited along its western side by a substantial natural valley and by land sloping away towards the sea on the east.

2.2.2 Land communications

Running across the North Downs is a line of paths, tracks, byways and roads which when linked together form a continuous, long-distance route that is clearly ancient. Referred to as the North Downs Trackway, this ancient trackway can be traced following the natural causeway provided by the escarpment of the Downs across Kent and into Surrey, Hampshire, then Wiltshire, crossing Salisbury Plain close by Stonehenge, and onwards to the West Country. In certain areas, it exists as both a high-level ridgeway and a lower terrace way, the alternative routes apparently being chosen by past travellers in response to varying ground- and weather-conditions as these changed with the seasons.

Significantly for the present study, the eastern end of the North Downs Trackway reaches the Channel coast on the high cliffs at the top of Dover Hill on the outskirts of Folkestone, some 700 metres uphill to the north of the East Wear Bay site. From here, the route is readily traceable inland as a ridgeway along Creteway Down and beyond. A narrow lane leading off Creteway Down and gradually descending the scarp towards East Wear Bay could very well represent an important branch route that took ancient travellers down to the seashore here.

2.2.3 Coastal and cross-Channel links

Since the breaching of the land-bridge across what is now the southern part of the North Sea (an event that took place approximately 6500 BC during the Mesolithic Period), east Kent has always been the closest part of Britain to mainland Europe. The shortest distance across the Strait of Dover - between the South Foreland, immediately north of Dover, and Sangatte on the French coast, is just 34 km (21 miles). The distance between East Wear Bay, Folkestone and the historic French port of Boulogne is 49km (30 miles). From such basic geographical facts, it will be readily apparent that people crossing the English Channel have very often passed through this part of east Kent. Other well-established but longer crossing zones also existed further down Channel to the west (McGrail 1993, 200).

Writing during the first century AD, the Roman geographer Strabo describes how:

'There are four crossings which are commonly used in getting from the continent to the island, namely from the mouths of the Rivers Rhine, Seine, Loire and Garonne. Those who put to sea

from the region around the Rhine do not, however, sail from the river estuary itself, but from the coast of the Morini, who are the neighbours of the Menapii and in whose territory lies Itium [Boulogne], used by the deified Caesar as a harbour when he crossed to the island.’ (Strabo, Book IV, 5.2).

In detail, the territory of the Menapii was located around the mouth of the Rhine itself and from there extended southwards along the River Scheldt. The neighboring Morini inhabited the low-lying plains and coastal wetlands adjacent to the North Sea coast in the area of historic Flanders in western Belgium and the northern-most part of France. The lands of the Gallic Morini tribe thus faced the east Kent coast.

Overall, then, the Folkestone site can be seen to occupy an important location, positioned at the eastern end of the prehistoric long-distance North Downs Trackway, very close to the shortest sea crossing of the English Channel to the Continent. Such a location cannot be fortuitous and must imply that this site had been of particular significance in the past.

2.3 Defining the geographical extent of the archaeological complex

2.3.1 Introduction

The available archaeological evidence presented below makes it clear that a major, multi-period archaeological site exists in the area of Wear Bay Road at Folkestone, overlooking East Wear Bay (Figs.5-8). This seems to have been at its most extensive during the late Iron Age and Roman periods when the complex covered more than 3 hectares.

The modern cliff-edge defines the seaward margin of the known site and there can be no doubt that a substantial portion of the archaeological complex eastward has already been lost to the sea. That this is the case is evidenced by the regular finds of archaeological material that have been collected from the foreshore of East Wear Bay over very many years (further see below).

Previous archaeological investigations suggest that the densest concentration of surviving archaeological deposits and structures occurs in the immediate vicinity of the Roman villa, close to the edge of the present cliff. Work in 2010–2011 along the cliff-edge immediately in front of the villa demonstrated that a remarkable thickness of stratified archaeological deposits occurred on this part of the site (see below). Most of the accumulated deposits here were associated with habitation that had occurred before the construction of the Roman villa itself.

2.3.2 The Roman villa site (NGR 624091 136988, centred)

The remains of the large Roman villa complex occupying the cliff-top above East Wear Bay were first discovered in about 1919 (Kent HER Ref. TR 23 NW 11). Extensive excavations by S.E. Winbolt followed in 1923–4, when the site became a major tourist attraction and first highlighted the existence of extensive archaeological remains on East Cliff, at some distance for the historic town.

Winbolt’s excavations (Winbolt 1925) established the basic sequence of events and a ground plan for the villa remains (Fig.5). As exposed by his team, the complex comprised a large domestic dwelling (Block A) provided with projecting wings and flanking corridors, facing south-east to the sea. Adjacent was a smaller house (Block B) set at a right-angle to the main block on its south-western side. A bath-suite (Block C) lay immediately beyond Block B to the south-east. It was also discovered that the foundations of Block A overlay earlier wall footings which related to a preceding Roman villa building

occupying the same site (Villa I). This seems to have been a substantial structure of broadly comparable size and layout to the later Block A.

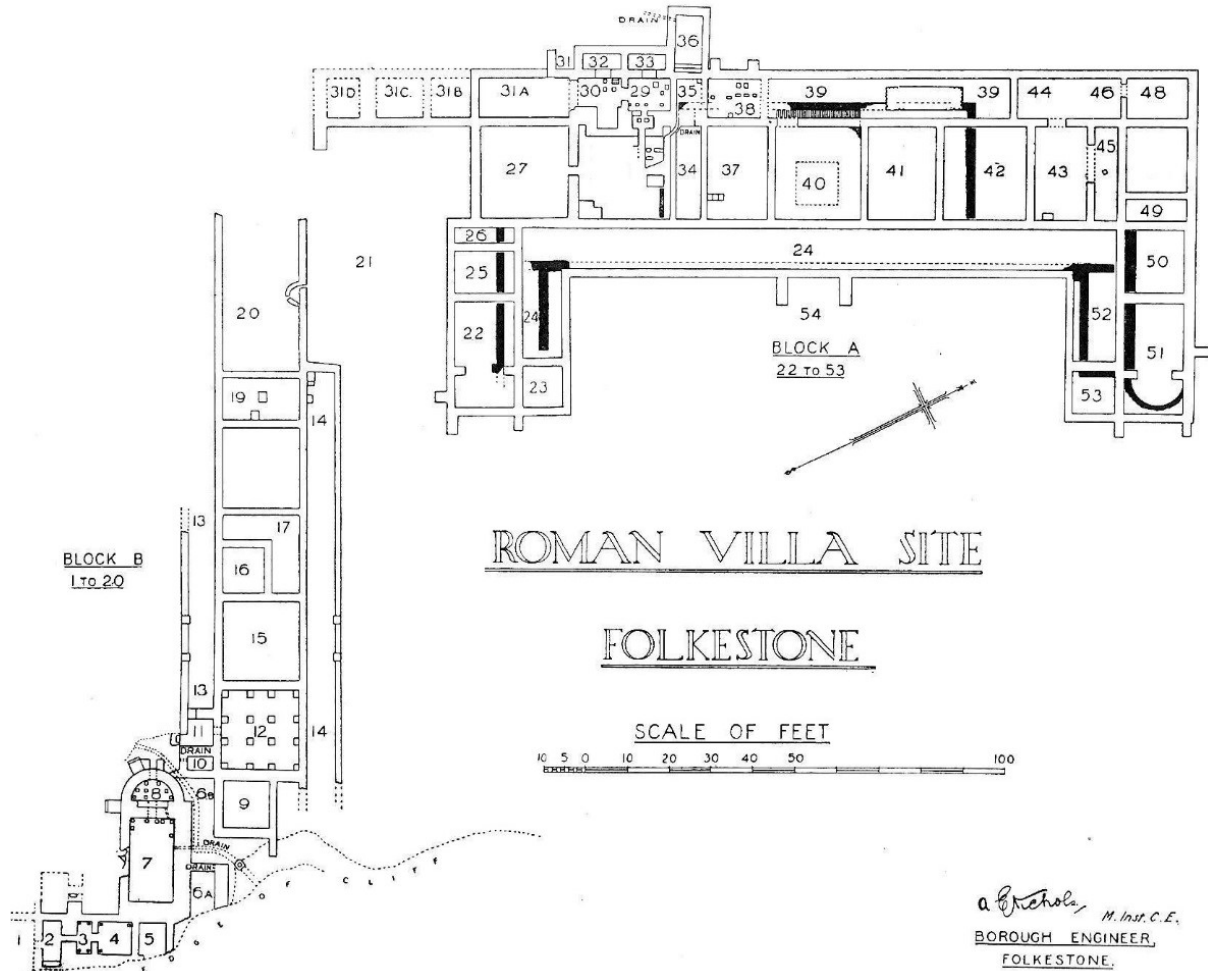
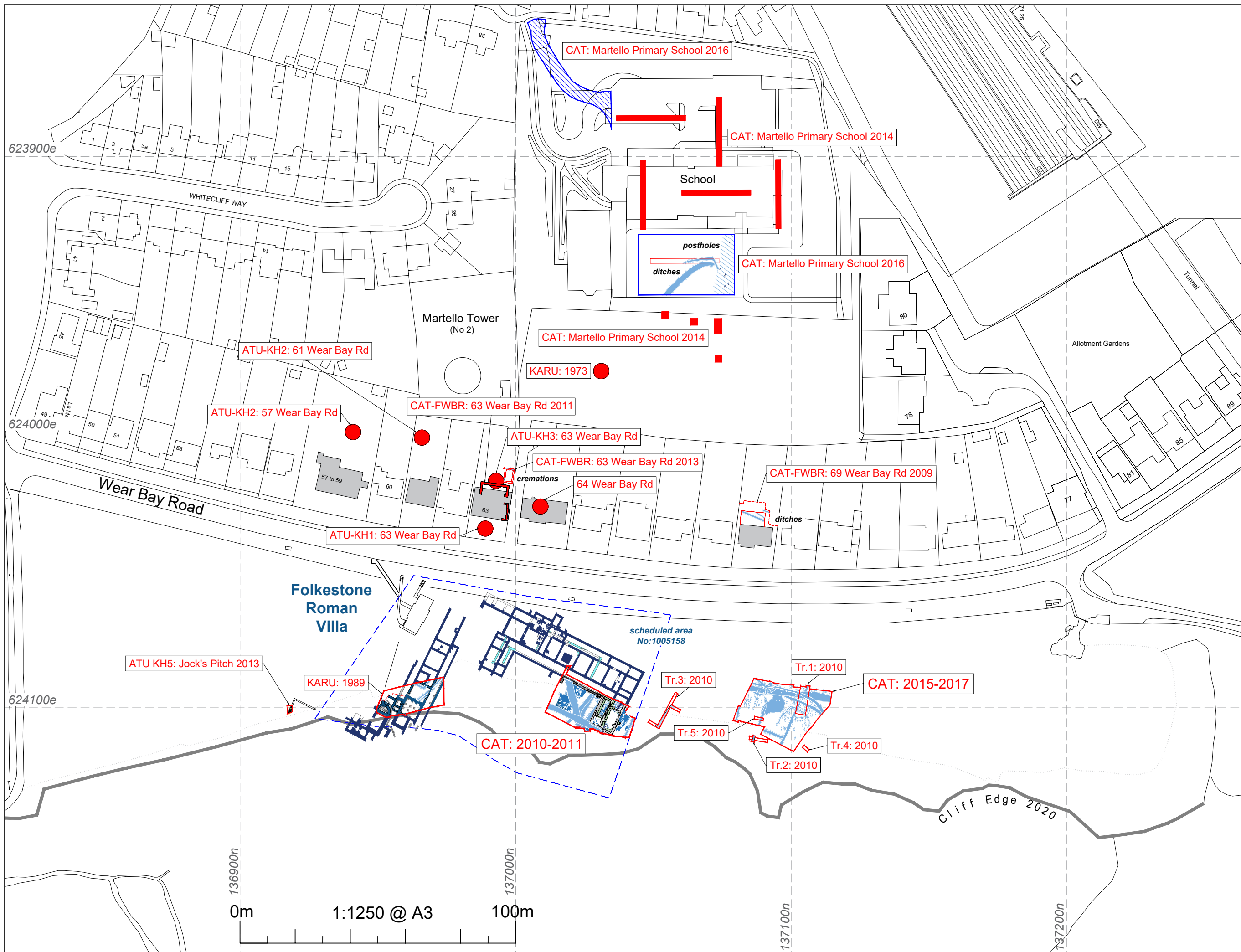


Figure 5: Plan of the Roman villas as excavated in 1924 (as published by Winbolt in 1925).

Although Winbolt had realised that there had been a certain amount of pre-villa activity on the site, he failed to fully understand the intensity or extent of this. The excavations of 2010–2017 (Figs. 6–8) added significant new details and established that there was intensive late Iron Age and early Roman occupation on the site well before any of the villa buildings were erected (Parfitt 2010; 2012a; 2012b; 2013a, 26–7; Richardson 2020; see below). Remains recorded included a metalled road, ditched enclosures and traces of simple timber buildings. These remains clearly represented several successive phases of habitation.

A small trench was excavated on the cliff edge south of the villa, on Jock’s Pitch, in August 2012 (site code ATU/4, KH5, NGR 6241 1369). This located a Roman stone-lined drain (Fig.9). This was presumably part of the drainage system associated with the villa, and currently represents the southern extent of the identified villa complex.



Archaeological interventions 1924-2017

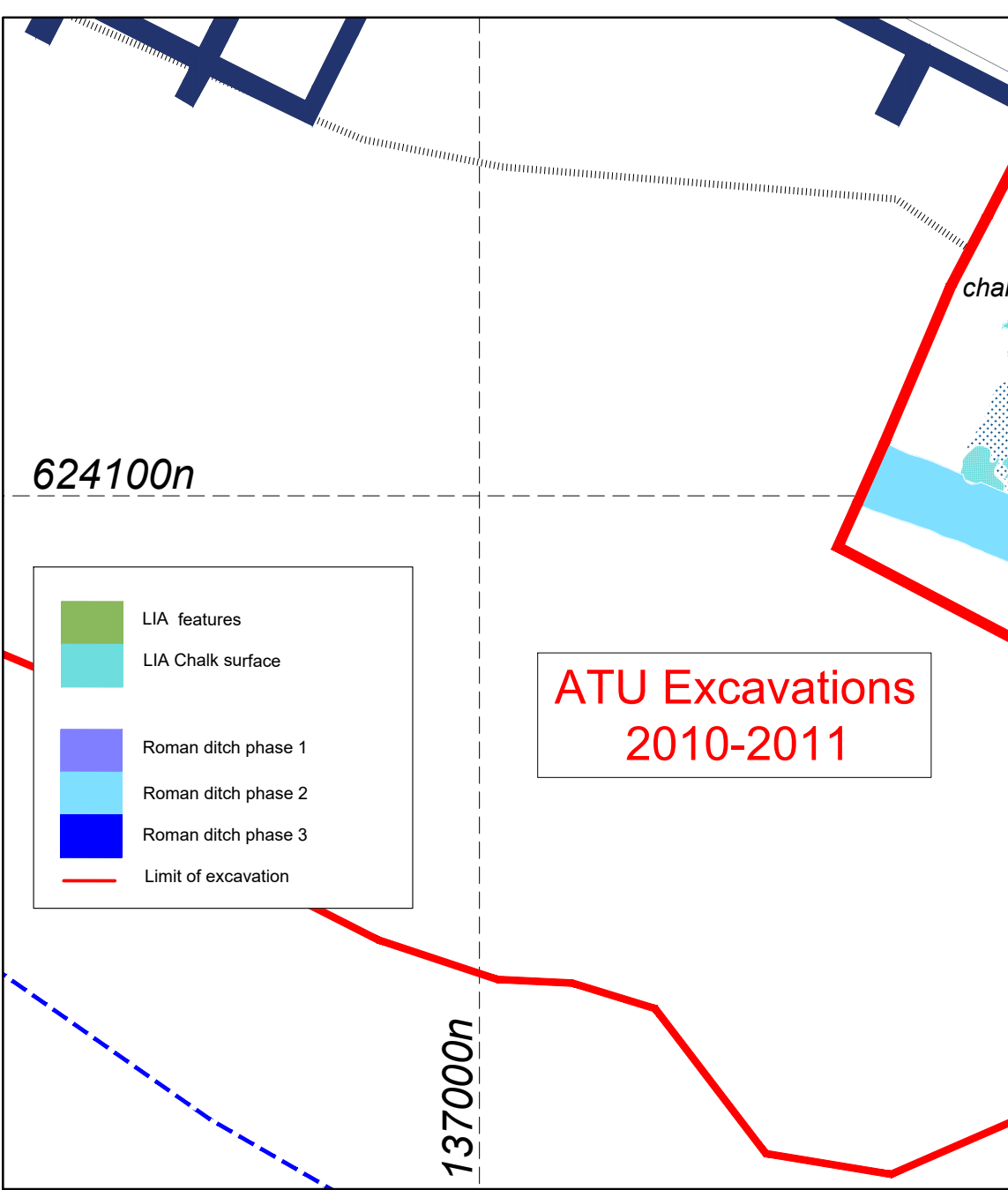
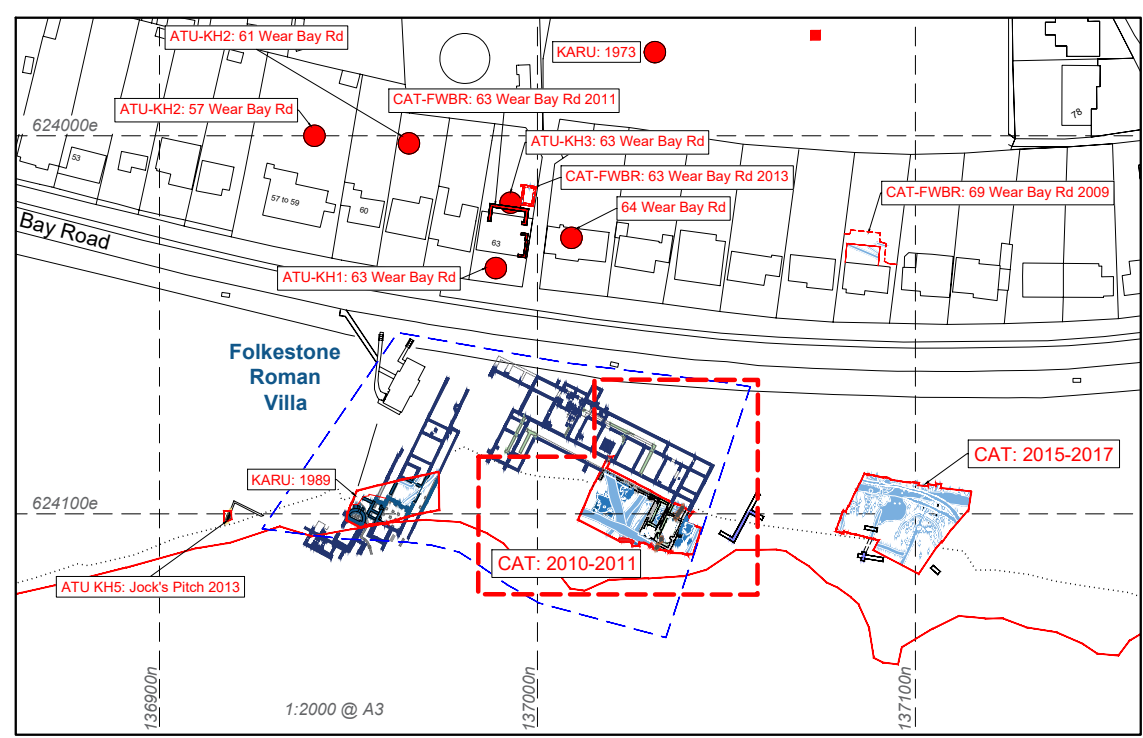
Archaeological Investigations
●

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PROJECT NAME East Wear Bay Archaeological Project	
PROJECT CODE EWB	
SITE ADDRESS Wear Bay Road Folkestone Kent	
DRAWN BY P-SA	SCALE(S) 1:1250 @ A3
DATE 04/01/2021	LAST REVISION 14/01/2021
REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED KP / AR

PSA_EWB-CMP20_Fig4.dwg

Figure 6: Plan of archaeological interventions, 1924-2017.

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Archaeological excavations
2010-2011
Multi-phased

scheduled area
No:1005158

Tr.3: 2010

ditch

Villa-I

Villa-II

chalk floors

round-house

mapped 2020 cliff edge

624100n

137000n

1:200 @ A3

0m 1:200 @ A3 10m

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92a Broad Street, Canterbury
Kent CT1 2JQ
Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724
Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk

PROJECT NAME
East Wear Bay
Archaeological Project

PROJECT CODE
EWB

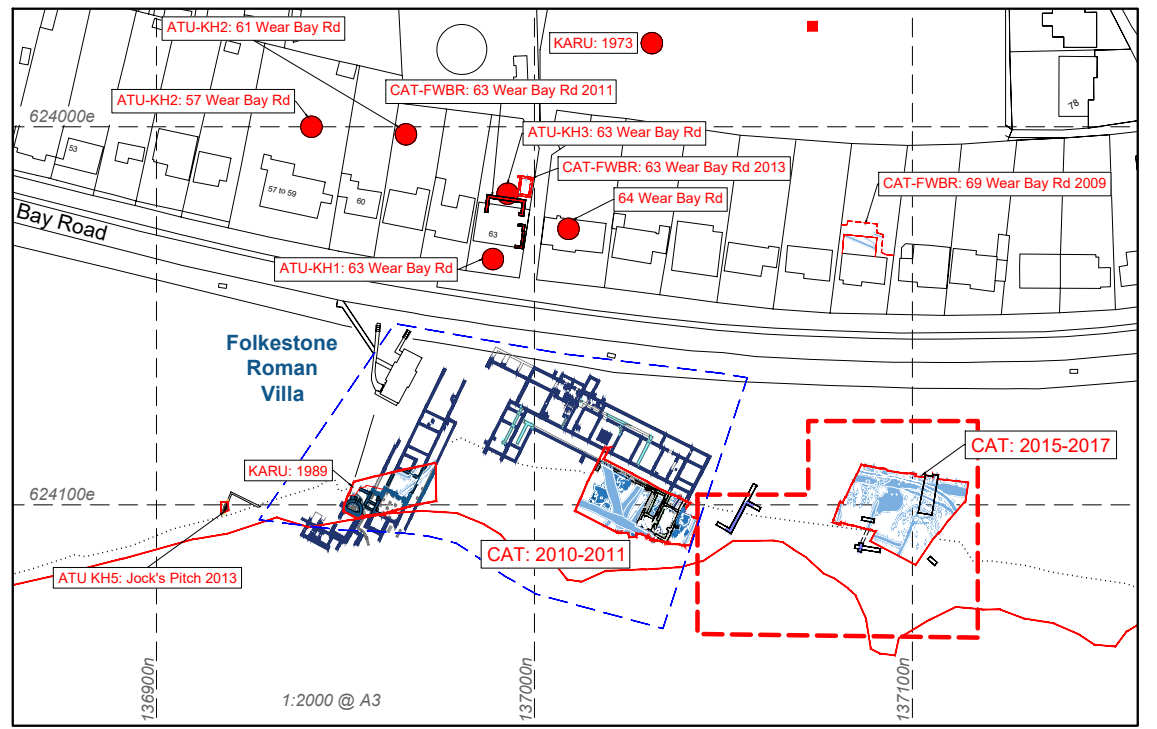
SITE ADDRESS
Wear Bay Road
Folkestone
Kent

DRAWN BY	SCALE(S)
P-SA	1:200 @ A3 1:2000 @ A3
DATE	LAST REVISION
04/01/2021	14/01/2021
REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED
	KP

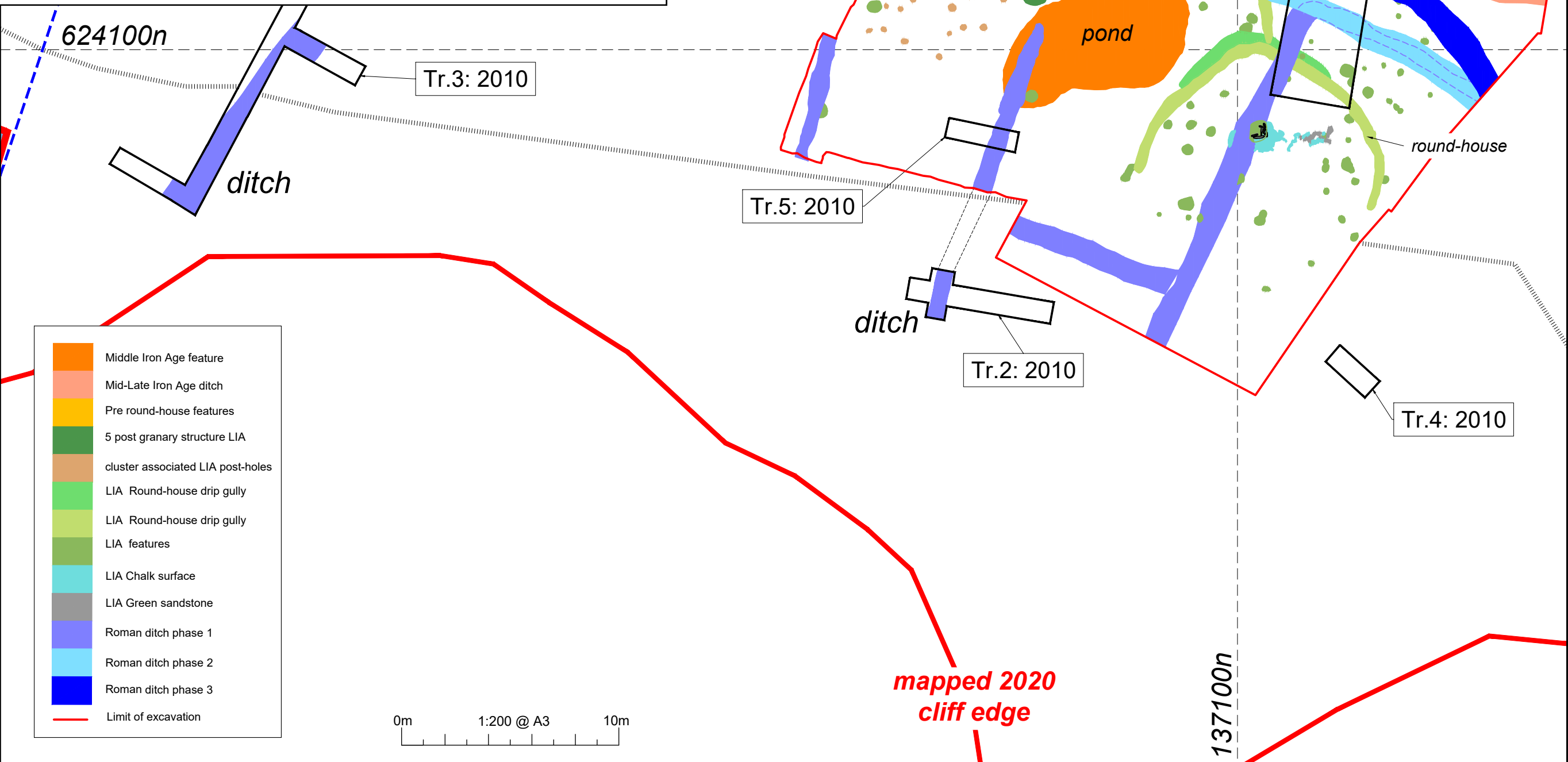
PSA_EWB-CMP20_Fig-7.dwg

Figure 7: Plan of excavations 2010-2011.

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EWBAFS Excavations 2015-2017



- Middle Iron Age feature
- Mid-Late Iron Age ditch
- Pre round-house features
- 5 post granary structure LIA
- cluster associated LIA post-holes
- LIA Round-house drip gully
- LIA Round-house drip gully
- LIA features
- LIA Chalk surface
- LIA Green sandstone
- Roman ditch phase 1
- Roman ditch phase 2
- Roman ditch phase 3
- Limit of excavation

Archaeological excavations
2015-2017
Multi-phased

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DATE 04/01/2021	LAST REVISION 14/01/2021
REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED KP

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Figure 8: Plan of excavation 2015-2017.

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Figure 9: Roman drain excavated on Jock's Pitch, to the south of the villa complex, 2013.

2.3.3 Discoveries on the foreshore below the villa

Over many years there have been quantities of Iron Age and Roman coins, pottery and other archaeological material, including occasional prehistoric flint implements, discovered at the foot of the collapsing cliffs and foreshore of East Wear Bay (Fig. 10). Some of these finds are probably derived from the spoil tipped over the cliff during Winbolt's excavations of the villa in 1923–4 but more would seem to come from parts of the archaeological site previously destroyed by coastal erosion.



Figure 10: View looking north of the foreshore at East Wear Bay, immediately below the Roman Villa site.

Abundant good Lower Cretaceous fossils, derived from the natural clay, are also to be found at East Wear Bay making the beach and the slumped Gault deposits popular with collectors, both amateur and professional.

By the 1980s it had become apparent that archaeological material was also being regularly recovered by numerous individuals searching the foreshore immediately below the villa site. If not discarded on the beach, a proportion of this archaeological material was being taken into casual private collections leaving the details unrecorded.

Local resident Mike Dugdale began to identify and collect large numbers of ancient rotary querns (i.e., corn grinding stones) in various stages of manufacture lying amongst the rocks on the beach (Fig.11). These were shaped from the local Lower Greensand rock which outcrops at Copt Point, immediately to the south-west.

Guided artefact recovery, led by Peter Keller, subsequently confirmed the presence of a major quern manufacturing site here, as well as recovering a range of other occupational material dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods (Keller 1988, 59–68; 1989, 193–200). There can now be no doubt that the hard sandstone naturally occurring in this area was being worked throughout the late Iron Age and into the earlier Roman period to produce such querns, making this area an example of a very rare and important early manufacturing site.



Figure 11: Unfinished rotary quern found on the foreshore at East Wear Bay (courtesy of Peter Keller).

Blocks of essentially stratified soil deposits containing archaeological material, that have derived from now collapsed areas of the Gault escarpment and slumped down the cliff, have also been located and examined ahead of their destruction by the waves on several occasions. Significantly, these slumped deposits have included layers of Greensand dust and chippings, produced during the manufacture of querns (Keller 1982, 209; Frere 1991).

Amongst the pottery collected from the foreshore are some sizable sherds, mostly local wares but also including fragments of imported *samian* (Weston 2005), Gallo-Belgic butt beaker, *terra nigra*, *terra rubra* and Dressel 1 Italian wine amphorae (Weston 2020). There is also a large quantity of Roman ceramic building material, including tiles of recognisably *Classis Britannica* fabric, some of which are stamped with the familiar CLBR mark, which have been studied and published by Weston (2017).

Adrian Weston has also reported in detail on the amphorae (Weston 2020) and notes that the complete assemblage from the East Wear Bay site is of national importance, presently being the only site collection in Britain where all three Dressel 1 sub-types (Dressel 1A, 1B and 1C) are represented.

David Holman has made a detailed study of the Iron Age coinage recovered from both the foreshore and the cliff-top excavations (Holman 2005, 30-33) and the corpus reported on then has since been increased by almost 100 further coins, including 69 from the excavations between 2010 and 2017.

The question is raised as to how far out the Gault clay cliff might have been during the late Iron Age and Roman period. This question is very difficult to answer; current best guess estimates suggest that the coast was then perhaps around 800 metres further out. Very possibly, there was erosion taking place even at this date, but it may not have been until the first half of the nineteenth century AD, when the harbour at Folkestone was constructed beyond Copt Point to the south-west, that erosion became more severe. It seems likely that changes caused to the sea currents, and the impeding of the

deposition of shingle, then led to erosion of the beach at East Wear Bay, leading to direct wave attack on the fragile clay cliffs behind.

2.3.4 *Discoveries inland of the villa*

Since the 1970s, various archaeological observations and pieces of fieldwork undertaken in areas beyond the main villa complex have established that associated features and deposits extend for at least 200 metres inland. The landward side of Wear Bay Road was not developed with houses until the second half of the twentieth century. A clipping from the *Folkestone Herald*, dated 19 November 1955 provides more precise information and indicates that the first dwelling of the row (now No. 64) was completed in that year. A Roman wall is said to have been discovered during the excavation of the house foundations then (see below) and it now seems certain that a significant amount of other archaeological information was lost when other houses along this road were constructed shortly afterwards. In more recent years, archaeological investigations during the course of new house extensions and garden landscaping works, etc. have revealed some significant archaeological remains, which clearly all formed part of the late Iron Age and Roman complex. The recorded archaeological interventions in the area are as follows:

Martello Primary School, Warren Way (NGR 623938 137065, centred)

Work ahead of the construction of a new primary school off Warren Way in 1973 revealed some significant archaeological remains. Excavations here by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (KARU) in 1973 were focussed on what had previously been an allotment garden, worked for many years by a Mr Smith. Over the years Smith had diligently kept everything of archaeological interest that he found during the cultivation of his ground (mainly as a result of double digging, Richard Cross *pers comm.*). Amongst the finds was a major collection of late Iron Age and Roman pottery, several Roman tiles, one stamped CLBR, several querns and many prehistoric worked flints (Keller 1982, 209).

The KARU investigations revealed sections of nine ditches and gullies, ranging in date between the first century BC and the third century AD. These must represent a succession of field boundary ditches and enclosures of late Iron Age and Roman date. Also recorded were pits and deposits containing over 300 flints and potsherds of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date (Keller 1982).

Further archaeological work was carried out on the site when the school was rebuilt in 2015–16. More finds and features of Iron Age–Roman date were then recorded (Macintosh 2015; 2016).

No. 69 Wear Bay Road (NGR 624032 137085)

A watching-brief maintained during ground works for the construction of a new rear extension in 2009 revealed three small north–south aligned ditches of late Iron Age–Roman date (Kent HER ref. TR 23 NW 581). Finds recovered included pottery, animal bone, marine shell, daub and a large fragment of locally produced Greensand quern (Parfitt 2009).

No. 64 Wear Bay Road (NGR 624027 137009)

A Roman wall is said to have been discovered during the excavations of the house foundations in the early 1950s (see above). This was not seen by any archaeologist. If correctly dated, such a wall would be positioned too far west to have formed any part of the excavated Roman villa buildings located about 40 metres away, on the opposite side of the Wear Bay Road. More probably, it relates to another, otherwise unknown, Roman structure belonging to the same villa complex. Further details concerning such an important discovery would be of considerable archaeological interest.

In the 1970s, the original owner of the property informed Richard Cross that he had also found cremation burials on the site (Richard Cross *pers comm.*, Jan 2014). Any such burials would have lain within 25 metres of those discovered at No. 63 (see below). Taken with the evidence for similar burials below the villa site, the presence of a dispersed late Iron Age cremation cemetery across this area is implied.

No. 63 Wear Bay Road (NGR 624025 136991/624035 136989)

Observation of the terracing and foundation trenches cut for a new front, side and rear-extension to house (NGR (NGR 624025 136991) revealed a series of stratified deposits containing archaeological material ranging in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Many of the deposits appeared to be somewhat mixed and no associated archaeological features were recorded. Finds of Iron Age and Roman date were most abundant.

Small test pits or 'keyholes' were excavated in the rear and front gardens of No.63 in July 2012 under the auspices of *A Town Unearthed* (site code ATU/4). Trench KH1 (NGR 624035 136989) in the front garden revealed modern and disturbed deposits, but did produce a number of finds, including Iron Age and Roman pottery, part of an Iron Age baldrick ring, a Roman coin, and Greensand fragments, including at least one quern. Trench KH3 (NGR 624019 136994) in the rear garden revealed the lower legs of an adult human laid in a ditch of probable Late Iron Age or Roman date.

In March 2013, hand excavation of the trenches required for a new summerhouse to be built at the rear of the house revealed an important sequence of stratified deposits containing archaeological material ranging in date from c. 50 BC to AD 100. The earliest features located were a gully and a probable pit or ditch, cutting the natural Gault clay. The pit/ditch and a rubble dump over it yielded a significant number of locally produced Greensand quern fragments (Fig.12). Two early first century AD cremations had subsequently been interred before the entire area was sealed with soil deposits. Damage to the cremation urns suggested that this ground had been ploughed at some time.



Figure 12: Dump of unfinished querns and quern fragments, found to the rear of 63 Wear Bay Road.

No. 61 Wear Bay Road (NGR 624002 136966)

A small test pit or 'keyhole' was excavated in the rear garden in July 2012 under the auspices of *A Town Unearthed*. This trench (ATU/4, KH2) revealed part of a ditch containing Iron Age and Roman pottery in its fills.

No. 57 Wear Bay Road (NGR 624000 136941)

A 'keyhole' (ATU/4, KH4) excavated in the front garden in 2012 as part of *A Town Unearthed* produced an unstratified Late Iron Age copper alloy brooch.

2.4 Defining the chronology of the archaeological complex

2.4.1 Introduction

From the amount of archaeological material discovered in the area of Wear Bay Road and the Roman villa site, it is apparent that there was considerable human activity in this region over many centuries. The most obvious reason for this is the proximity of the coast—although the character and position of this will have been continually changing over the centuries.

2.4.2 Prehistoric (circa 8000 BC–100 BC)

Mesolithic

Mesolithic worked flints have been found during the most recent excavations at the Roman villa site. More have been found on Copt Point a little further away (Gibson 1973; Kent HER ref., TR 23 NW 93). Also, perhaps of this period is a perforated mace-head made of quartzite found somewhere in the East Cliff area (Kent HER ref. TR 23 NW 20 = NW 102).

Neolithic

Traces of Neolithic activity has also been recorded locally. Concentrations of Neolithic flintwork have been discovered at a number of localities around Folkestone, notably on the surface of Creteaway Down, overlooking the site, some 750m to the north (Dunning 1966, 11; Keene 2003), but also at East Cliff and at the Martello Primary School site. Excavations on the villa site in 2010 yielded a fine example of an early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (Parfitt 2013a, 16) and more recently (January 2014) part of a polished flint axe was found on the beach below the site (Holman 2020). On the School site, excavations in 1973 revealed a bowl-shaped hollow and two pits which, from the struck flints and pottery they contained, appeared to be of Neolithic date. A large number of prehistoric worked flints had also been previously collected from the surface in this area (Keller 1982, 209; see above).

Bronze Age

A flint barbed and tanged arrowhead of early Bronze Age date has been recovered from excavations to the north of the villa (see below). More significant quantities of less diagnostic prehistoric flintwork were also recovered during these excavations; a proportion of this material is also likely to be of Bronze Age date, whilst other pieces could be Neolithic.

Two complete early Bronze Age Beakers were discovered during building work at the eastern end of Creteaway Down above the site during the 1950s (Clarke 1970, Corpus Nos 391 and 392; Kent HER ref. TR 23 NW 64).

A complete late Bronze Age sword of *circa* 1000–700 BC date, was dredged from the sea-bed about 40 metres off shore in East Wear Bay during 1951 (Cowen 1952; Parfitt 2013a, 21, 24; Kent HER ref. TR 23 NW 12). This provides further evidence for Bronze Age activity in the region, although whether it was cast/lost overboard from a prehistoric vessel using the bay or had fallen from some long-eroded cliff remains unknown.

A collection of pottery recovered from the Roman villa and on the foreshore below may be broadly dated to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age periods. Some sort of settlement in the area at this time is thus clearly indicated, although recorded features are presently somewhat fragmentary.

Early to middle Iron Age

On the villa site during the 2010–2011 excavations a scatter of early features was located at some depth below the Roman levels, cut into or lying directly above, the natural clay. Associated pottery and other finds indicate that this initial habitation occurred during the Iron Age period *circa* 300–100 BC. The stratigraphic evidence suggests that there are at least two phases of Iron Age occupation within the areas excavated, represented by a series of post-holes and occasional small pits.

2.4.3 Late Iron Age (*circa* 100 BC–AD 43)

From earlier Iron Age beginnings (see above), the East Wear Bay site started to expand and develop around 100 BC. Clues as to the presence of an important late Iron Age site at East Wear Bay were already there before Winbolt's work at the villa site. During the later nineteenth century at least half a dozen Iron Age coins had been discovered, including a Gallo-Belgic gold stater found below the villa site (Winbolt 1925b, 79-80, plate xvi, B. 1). Discovered on the foreshore, sometime before 1891, was a La Tène III silver brooch, provided with a chain and dating from the first half of the first century BC (Stead 1976, 406).

The excavations of 2010–2017 greatly clarified the arrangements in the immediate area of the Roman villa where a significant build-up of stratified deposits had occurred before the villa was established. Investigation showed how a succession of small timber buildings, both circular and rectangular and sometimes provided with hearths on simple chalk floors, were erected across this part of the site (see further details below). These seem to have been located within substantial ditched enclosures, amidst ditched fields and paddocks.

Further inland, other late Iron Age ditches and gullies have been recorded at the Martello Primary School site and at Nos 63 and 69 Wear Bay Road. Cremation burials come from below the villa and at Nos 63 and 64 Wear Bay Road, along with the partial remains of an inhumation at No. 63.

The large amounts pottery, coinage and other artefacts associated with the late Iron Age remains at East Wear Bay indicate dense occupation in this area prior to the Roman invasion. Amongst the pottery recovered are significant quantities of Italian wine amphorae (Weston 2020) and high-status ceramic table-wares imported from the near-Continent. There are also a considerable number of Iron Age coins, some of continental origin (Holman 2005).

Taken together, the material recovered suggests significant contact and trade between east Kent, Gaul and the Mediterranean world occurring under the influence of the Roman Empire. A convincing case can be advanced for East Wear Bay being the site of a pre-Conquest trading port—one of no more than half a dozen such sites postulated along the English Channel coast.

Quern production

Evidence for the production of rotary querns at the East Wear Bay site during the late Iron Age and continuing into the early Roman is also now well established (Keller 1988; 1989; Green 2013). All the major excavations on the site since 1924 have produced finds of unfinished quern stones, in addition to over 100 which have been recovered from the base of the cliff since the late 1980s and a pit containing 13 unfinished quern stones excavated in 2013. It is now clear that the production site covered a large area on the cliff-top. The querns found on the beach have been left there as a result of erosion of cliff-top deposits. The Greensand itself outcrops at the base of the cliff to the south of the archaeological site, where the raw material required can be extracted without the need for mining.

Excavation has confirmed the presence of a rotary quern and mortar production area, comprising spreads of Greensand debitage interleaved with laid stone surfaces and large quantities of querns and mortars in various stages of production, ranging from a large slab of unworked Greensand through to nearly finished half or complete querns, many with partially drilled holes. The discovery of this workshop area, dating to the first century AD, and perhaps the first of its kind to be excavated in Britain, represents a find of considerable archaeological significance.

All told, several hundred partially finished querns and mortars, along with considerable quantities of various grades of Greensand raw materials and debitage, have been recovered from the cliff top and foreshore at East Wear Bay. Overall, it is clear that quern production at the site covered a considerable area and it seems quite likely that waste heaps and spreads of quern-making debris once littered an extensive area above East Wear Bay.

Quern production at the site (or at least those parts of it investigated thus far) appears to have ceased before the end of the first century AD, although finds elsewhere in Kent of late Roman millstones and early Anglo-Saxon querns manufactured from Folkestone Greensand point to the continued exploitation of this source of stone somewhere in the vicinity (Chris Green *pers. comm.*).

2.4.4 Roman (AD 43– circa AD 450)

From the late first century AD the site at East Wear Bay underwent a fundamental change in character, which saw the construction of the first of two substantial winged corridor villas in grand Roman style. The quern production industry appears to have largely ceased by this time, at least at this location (see above).

The villa buildings on East Cliff first investigated by Winbolt in the 1920s seem to have been the focus of Roman activity in the area. It seems probable, however, that other associated villa buildings occur in the vicinity and still await discovery. Traces of one of may have been located during the construction of No. 64 Wear Bay Road (see above). Outlying field boundary ditches have been located at some of the inland discovery sites (see above). Another complex of Roman masonry buildings lay at a slightly greater distance, in the Warren Road area, some 550 metres further inland. Exactly how these related to the East Wear Bay buildings remains unclear. There are also local rumors of the presence of 'Roman walls' on Copt Point.

At East Wear Bay itself, the earliest villa building (Villa I) seems to have been established in about AD 90/100, half a century after the initial Roman invasion. Such a date is comparable with the dating from

a dozen other Roman villas known in Kent (Millet 2007, 152). Villa I comprised a grand stone-built house, with a long central range of perhaps eight to ten rooms fronted by a porticus and bow-fronted wings projecting forward from either end – a detail of some considerable architectural sophistication. The structure was clearly designed to face south-eastward to take in a commanding view across the English Channel. A short distance to the south of this building, the detached bath-suite (Block C) was perhaps built around the same time, intended to serve the inhabitants of the new house. The overall architectural layout of the complex indicates that a Roman style of living, with all that this implies in terms of domestic and social structure, had been fully embraced. The key issue remains, however, as to whether the occupants of the villa were descended from indigenous native stock or were immigrants from some other, longer established part of the Empire.

Towards the end of the second century, *circa* AD 170–200, the main villa house was completely reconstructed. The new building (Villa II, Block A) followed more or less the same outlines as its predecessor and was again carefully laid out following the symmetrical form of classical architecture. It too was designed to face south-eastward towards the sea; the projecting wings were made slightly larger but the essentially ornamental bowed ends of Villa I were now done away with, to be replaced by more conventional straight fronts. Both wings, however, included a large, prestigious bipartite room which probably served as important public reception places. The porticus running along the front of the building was maintained and extended along both wings. An additional porticus was provided along the back of the main range to provide access to an integral bath-suite now included at the rear of the main range. A stone paved courtyard was laid immediately in front of the villa.

Several of the rooms in Villa II contained evidence for red tessellated floors but only Room 40 was provided with a decorated mosaic. Centrally positioned in the main range, this was clearly one of the principle rooms of the new house, most probably the summer dining room (*triclinium*). Here guests, reclining on their couches, could look out through opens doors across the courtyard to the sea beyond, in the finest Roman style. There are no close parallels for the design of the mosaic itself, which was composed of a series of decorative motifs positioned within and around square and circular panels, seemingly without any human or animal figures represented. Its general style suggests that it should be broadly dated to the second century AD, so it is likely to represent an original feature of the rebuilt house (Neal and Cosh 2011, 376–7).

Probably at the same time as the main residential block (Block A) was rebuilt, a second, slightly smaller house (Block B) was erected a short distance to the south, at a right-angle to the main block. This connected with the pre-existing bath-suite (Block C) and probably represents a separate, independent dwelling connected to its own baths. What would now seem to exist on the site were two separate houses, each provided with a bath-suite. The differing size of these two dwellings is suggestive and might imply that the occupants of the one house (A) were of slightly superior status to those of the other (B). Villas with more than one dwelling house have been noted at a number of other sites in southern Britain but nowhere is the exact meaning of this clear.

The coin and other finds evidence suggests that occupation of the villa complex ceased at some point in the second half of the third century AD, the almost total lack of coins in this period being highly unusual for British sites (David Holman *pers. comm.*). Occupation appears to have resumed during the fourth century, by which time the villa appears to have been in a semi-derelict state, but finally came to an end sometime during the early fifth century. The final make-up of the courtyard fronting the main villa house has produced pottery datable to the later fourth or early fifth century, largely confirming the evidence of the coins, that the courtyard could not have been laid much before the last quarter of the fourth century AD.

The villa at Folkestone is one of a only a few known in Roman Britain where the main house had at some stage been completely demolished and rebuilt on the same site, as opposed to the original structure being added to, modified and extended over the years. There are no other villa sites in Kent where this occurrence has been identified and outside the County examples are not numerous. Broadly comparable sites include Boxmoor and Gorhambury in Hertfordshire; North Leigh, Oxfordshire, and, on a much grander scale, Fishbourne in Sussex. At each of these other sites, however, the replacement structure tended to be larger and architecturally more coherent than its predecessor, implying improved wealth and circumstances of the owner (the original building at Boxmoor was of timber). In contrast, at Folkestone, the new structure does not seem to have been greatly different in terms of size and layout, even if a completely new range (Block B) had been built adjacent.

The suggestion may be that at Folkestone it was not the intention to rebuild Block A on a much grander scale but to replace a structure whose layout was more or less as required, but whose fabric was in a generally poor state of repair. If this is correct, it may well be a reflection of the difficult clay subsoil upon which the site was built, with the possibility of soil slippage/movement and/or ground heave. Certainly, the depth and width of the foundations for the new building were considerably more substantial than those of the preceding structure, suggesting a more solid structure was required to suit the ground conditions. It is also noteworthy that whilst the foundations and walls of villa I consisted of a mix of flint, *Tufa* and ironstone, those of villa II were almost exclusively constructed using the locally available Greensand. Why this abundantly available material was not used in the construction of the first villa remains an open question.

2.4.5 Anglo-Saxon (circa AD 450–1066)

There is rather less evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the Wear Bay Road/East Cliff area compared with prehistoric and Roman times. This might reflect a general shift in the focus of occupation towards the site of the modern town and The Bayle to the west. There is some evidence for continued activity around East Cliff, however, suggesting that any shift is likely to have been a gradual process. On Dover Hill, some 500 metres north of the present site, an early Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery is known. Graves have been discovered here on several occasions; in the winter of 1906/7, during road works, thirty-six burials were revealed and carefully excavated. The site seems to have been in use from at least the mid-sixth to late seventh centuries AD (Richardson 2013, 61–3).

On the main Roman villa site a few finds suggest some limited Anglo-Saxon activity in this area. In 2010 excavation of a Roman ditch located just north of the main villa produced eighteen sherds of pottery datable to the middle Anglo-Saxon period, *circa AD 650–850*, implying that traces of the open ditch still survived into post-Roman times. A silver penny of Alfred the Great, dating to the late ninth century (*circa AD 880–899*), found a little further to the south-west in 2011, provides some additional evidence for activity on the site in this period.

Somewhere in the general area of the East Wear Bay site, there was once a farmstead with the placename 'Walton'. This is believed to be derived from the Old English '*Weala tun*', meaning 'farmstead of the wealas'. *Weala* was the Anglo-Saxon term for foreigner, and is the origin of the name Welsh, apparently applied by the Anglo-Saxons to native Britons. The occurrence of such a name in this area has been suggested as evidence for the survival of a group of native British speakers (descendants of workers at the Roman villa perhaps), into at least the sixth century AD. However, caution must be exercised because locally, Walton Farm is not recorded until the early thirteenth century (Richardson 2013, 67). Nevertheless, the possibility of an enclave of native Romano-Britons surviving the Anglo-Saxon take-over of the area remains a fascinating possibility.

By later medieval times activity around the Wear Bay Road/East Cliff seems to have been limited to agricultural activity conducted by a few farms then lying well outside the main town.

2.5 Summary of East Wear Bay excavation results 2010 to 2017

2.5.1 Introduction

The continuing threat of coastal erosion in the vicinity of the Roman villa site led to a programme of summer excavations in 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (see above). This work was focussed along the cliff edge section of the site, regarded as being in most imminent danger of loss. The investigations provided some impressive new information and made it clear that much still remains to be found on the site following Winbolt's work, which was primarily focused on the villa buildings themselves.

A considerable and growing assemblage of material culture has now been recovered from both the cliff top and the foreshore at East Wear Bay. In particular, significant quantities of pottery (approaching 100,000 sherds), ceramic building material, animal bone, marine shell, coinage and an interesting range of small finds have been recovered. The vast majority of this material dates to the late Iron Age or Roman period (roughly 150 BC to AD 400), although a significant amount of generally residual earlier material is present. Relatively little post-Roman material has been recovered from the cliff top site.

Analysis of the finds assemblages remains very much a work in progress. However, some detailed work has been undertaken or is ongoing at the time of writing on the pottery, animal bone, marine shell, ceramic building material, coinage and Greensand industry (querns and mortars), allowing some preliminary overviews of these classes of material to be produced. The results of each season's excavation work are summarised below.

2.5.2 2010 excavation

Fieldwork for 2010 began with a geophysical survey, undertaken in June. Excavations started in August and lasted until the end of October. More than 200 volunteers participated and over two thousand members of the public visited the site, together with around 400 school children. Work focussed on the north-east wing of Block A, nearest the cliff, together with a previously undug area immediately to the north-east. Five test-trenches were also cut to the north of the villa. These all revealed significant stratified deposits and features, mostly dating to the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

The re-exposed villa foundations were found to be reasonably well preserved (Fig. 13). They were confirmed as relating to two successive buildings (Block A, Villa I and Villa II) occupying the same site, as previously reported by Winbolt. Below these remains were found important pre-Roman deposits and structures, mostly dating to the late Iron Age and largely untouched by the earlier digging. The primary clays over the natural produced quantities of early prehistoric pottery and flintwork. A late Iron Age curving gully dug into these clays seemingly represented the drainage ditch enclosing a timber roundhouse. This was overlain by a rough chalk floor, probably relating to a subsequent building, cut through by the earliest villa foundations.

Substantial quantities of finds were recovered, including some important pottery and flint assemblages. A total of 23 coins was discovered, of which thirteen are of Iron Age date. Many fragments of querns were also collected, all but one made from the local Greensand. Previous research (Keller 1988; 1989) had established that such querns were being manufactured at the site and this was fully borne out in 2010, when two working floors were located in one of the outlying trenches.



Figure 13: The north wing of Block A under excavation in 2010.

The archaeological deposits present on the site were found to be considerably more extensive and complex than previously realised. The finds suggest that habitation in the area occurred at various times throughout prehistory, beginning in the Mesolithic. The main period of occupation, however, was during the late Iron Age, perhaps *circa* 150 BC – AD 50. The first of the two Roman villa buildings was probably erected sometime before the end of the first century AD. Whether there was a gap between the final occupation of the Iron Age site and the construction of this villa presently remains unclear.

2.5.3 2011 excavation

The 2011 excavation was set in the angle between the front corridor wall of the villa's central range and its projecting north-east wing. It covered an area measuring approximately 16 by 14 metres. The work re-affirmed the findings of the previous year and again demonstrated that a substantial thickness of stratified archaeological deposits existed on this part of the site, with a recorded thickness of up to 1.75m below the base of the modern topsoil.

The first major feature encountered in 2011 was an extensive layer of rubble representing the final courtyard surface of the late Roman villa and this marked the start of a long, stratified sequence going back into prehistory. At the base of this sequence, the surface of the natural Gault was found to be

sealed by a succession of clay deposits producing significant amounts of prehistoric struck flint, flint-tempered prehistoric pottery, animal bone and marine shell, although there were only two small associated features.

The surface of the uppermost clay layer was cut across by a sunken, metalled trackway, running north-west by south-east and associated with pottery provisionally dated to around 100 BC (Fig. 14). An infant burial had been casually deposited by the side of this track at some stage. A short distance further to the north-east was a substantial sub-rectangular oven pit. These discoveries, together with a scatter of odd post-holes, appeared to represent the earliest features of a settlement area continuously occupied throughout the late Iron Age and into the Roman period.

Eventually, the trackway fell out of use and the hollow became filled with soil and domestic rubbish. At one point a pit had been cut into these accumulated soils to allow the insertion of a burial urn containing cremated bone. Subsequently, the levelled area became occupied by hearths and chalk floors relating to two separate timber buildings, each one rebuilt several times but neither very large nor of substantial construction. Traces of a possible four-post structure, perhaps a raised granary, were also recorded close by. All these structures would seem to date from the late first century BC.



Figure 14: Metalled late Iron Age trackway running from beneath villa Block A down towards the sea.

After these timber buildings had gone out of use the area was cut across by a succession of ditches, running on various axes (Fig. 15). These probably served to delimit rectangular fields and enclosures, further traces of which had been found during trenching to the north-east of the villa in 2010. Some of the ditches were of substantial proportions and the latest ones discovered in 2011 seemed to be early Roman in date. The final ditch in the sequence had been deliberately backfilled, probably sometime during the late first century AD, to make way for the construction of the first villa.



Figure 15: Sequence of intercutting ditches under excavation in 2011.

Once the ditches were levelled, the 2011 area was covered by more soil and clay before rough, patchy metalling was laid down as a courtyard in front of the Roman villa. No evidence of any associated garden or ornamental features was discovered and the whole arrangement appeared somewhat work-a-day and lacking much refinement. The metalling did, however, yield one important find – an engraved gemstone, found near the main entrance (Fig. 16). This had presumably been lost by someone entering or leaving the house, becoming trampled into the pebbled yard surface without being noticed.



Figure 16: Roman *intaglio* gemstone found on courtyard surface.

On the north-east side, during the later third or earlier fourth century, the yard became covered by a mixture of abandonment soil, building debris and accumulated domestic rubbish. Quite clearly, this portion of the courtyard was now out of use. Subsequently, a section of the villa roof collapsed onto the courtyard (Fig. 17), followed by masonry from the walls. It would seem that at least part of the villa was by then ruinous and unoccupied.



Figure 17: Collapsed roof from front corridor of Block A.

Later, however, the roof-fall, collapsed walling, and soil and debris layers over the courtyard were all sealed by a deliberately laid rubble surface which seemed to constitute a new (upper) courtyard (Fig. 18). Mortar fragments and obvious building stones were scarce suggesting that much of this material did not come from demolished walls of the villa. Along the south-western side of the excavated area, closest to the main entrance into the villa, the new rubble layer occurred at two distinct levels. Nearest the building it existed as a clear platform, the outer edge of which lay some 6.25m forward of the front wall. A sloping rubble bank around 0.30m high separated this raised area from the remaining spread. As well as pottery and animal bone, the soil matrix in which the stones were set produced eight coins. Their dates indicate that the rubble cannot have been laid before the mid-late fourth century AD. It is not entirely clear what was going on then but the heyday of the villa had certainly passed and the new courtyard may have been laid down as a work area after the main house was abandoned.



Figure 18: Rubble deposit representing the final phase of courtyard in front of Block A.

A thin layer of dark soil accumulated over the rubble surface. This contained much broken pottery, animal bone and marine shell, together with a further nine coins, all of which are of fourth-century date, one perhaps being as late as *circa* AD 390. The general absence of the very latest Roman coin issues reaching Britain, however, suggests that activity on the site did not continue much, if at all, into the fifth century. After the villa was finally given up the site appears to have remained largely unoccupied until the present-day, with the exception of some activity during the mid-to-late Anglo-Saxon period.

A significant quantity of finds was recovered from the 2011 excavation. The bulk of the material consists of pottery, animal bone, marine shell, Roman roofing tile and prehistoric flintwork. There are also more than 800 registered small finds, including coins, brooches (Fig. 19), glass, iron implements, rolled lead weights probably from fishing nets and quern fragments. Of special interest were the engraved gemstone, four pieces of a small Mother Goddess figurine, a complete iron writing stylus, a decorated Iron Age bead of blue glass, and an important collection of Iron Age coins.



Figure 19: Zoomorphic plate brooch in the form of a hare, recovered from courtyard deposits in front of Block A.

As in 2010, many fragments of rotary querns were recovered from the 2011 season. Virtually all of these are made from the local Greensand. About sixty-five examples were discovered in 2011, including many broken fragments and unfinished pieces, further confirming that these items were being made in the immediate vicinity. No evidence for any specific production site was located. From the associated datable finds, a production period of *circa* 25 BC–AD 50/60 may be very tentatively suggested for the main Folkestone quern industry.

Winbolt recovered seven Roman tiles from the site bearing the stamp of the *Classis Britannica* (CLBR, or in some cases CLASIS BRIT). Another example was recovered from Winbolt's backfill in 2010 and the 2011 season produced one further, unstratified specimen, again a round stamp.

2.5.4 2015–2017 excavations

Following up on the discoveries made in trial trenches cut to the north of the villa in 2010, larger areas were open here in 2015–2017. A complex of Roman and pre-Roman features was again revealed, although the overall thickness of deposit was found to somewhat less than in the 2010–2011 area.

The recorded remains included numerous Iron Age and Roman features, such as field ditches, and a roundhouse that had the remains of a floor paved with Greensand slabs, and a sunken stone-lined chamber in its centre (Fig. 20). Adjacent to the roundhouse was a discrete quern production area with large numbers of unfinished quern stones, unworked Greensand and debitage (Figs. 21–22). The oldest feature discovered was a broad hollow, probably a small pond/waterhole. A flint barbed and tanged arrowhead recovered dates to the Bronze Age.



Figure 20: Late Iron Age roundhouse with remains of a floor paved with Greensand slabs and sunken stone-lined central chamber, under excavation 2015.



Figure 21: Quern production area, and intercutting sequence of ditches and gullies, under excavation 2015.



Figure 22: Detail of quern production deposits showing debitage, unfinished querns, and Greensand slab.

Analysis of the pottery recovered from these excavations (Lyne 2020) has identified a number of discreet assemblages and allows the broad sequence of excavated features to be dated. This information is summarised in Table 1 below.

Pottery Assemblage	Derived from	Dating	Notes
1	Waterhole 2194	c. 1700-50 BC	Primary fill of waterhole suggests it was formed between 1700-1000 BC and remained in use until Late Iron Age.
2	From consolidation over the fills of the Waterhole	c. 100-25 BC	
3	Primary and lower fills of Ditch 1656	c. 50-25 BC	Large N-S ditch
4	Middle fills of Ditch 1656	c. 50-25 BC	Large N-S ditch
5	Upper fills of Ditch 1656	c. 50-25 BC	Large N-S ditch
6	Roundhouse drip gulley 1585/1612	c. 50-25 BC	
7	Roundhouse drip gulley 2016	c. 50-25 BC	Cuts fill of Ditch 1656
8	Fills of Ditch 1536	c. 25 BC- AD 30	Cut by Ditch 1516
9	Fills of Ditch system 1516	c. 0 to AD 80	
10	Fills of Ditch 1531	AD 30-100+	Cuts Ditches 1516 and 1536

Table 1: Summary of pottery assemblages and general archaeological sequence from 2015-2017 excavations (after Lyne 2020).

The pottery indicates occupation across this part of the site that commences with the establishment of the waterhole during the second millennium BC, through to the establishment of field boundary ditches that were in use through to at least the late first century BC, with an intensive phase of activity, including the construction and use of roundhouses, during the second half of the first century BC. It should also be noted that coins indicate some activity on this part of the site through to the fourth century AD. Taken together with the evidence from the earlier excavations of the Roman villa in the 1920s, 1989 and 2010-11, it can be seen that there was significant activity at and around the site from at least the Middle Bronze Age through to the Late Roman period.

3. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EAST WEAR BAY SITE

3.1 Introduction

The weight of local archaeological opinion is that the site at East Wear Bay, Folkestone is of very considerable significance in terms of understanding the early (and unrecorded) history of Kent and issues of cross-Channel contact and trade during the later prehistoric period. Some criteria for further measuring significance are set out below.

3.2 Methods for determining value and significance

3.2.1 *Standard Criteria*

The UK Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that “Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value” (NPPF 2019, 54). Indeed, the significance of a heritage asset is central to the approach to conservation of the Historic Environment set out in the NPPF (ibid, 54-7). Valuing heritage assets in terms of significance is not, however, a straightforward process leading to a clear ‘statement of fact’ but one that relies on subjective assessments of value. What might be called the standard approach is to rank significance in terms of a geographical scale, running from local to international or universal, as reflected in the NPPF. These can be translated into a range of ratings from very low to very high, as set out in Table 2.

Level	Criteria
Very high (International/National)	Archaeological remains of International/National significance such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence associated with designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Listed Buildings Non-designated remains of equivalent status to the above, such as those identified in national research frameworks as being significantly rare
High (National/Regional)	Archaeological remains considered as being of particular significance according to national and regional and/or academic research frameworks, making a special contribution to knowledge of past societies
Moderate (Regional/District)	Archaeological remains considered as being of Regional, District or academic significance, adding comparative data for developing knowledge of past societies
Low (Local/Parish)	Archaeological remains considered as being of local significance, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites of a local or parish value or interest for education or cultural appreciation Sites so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion within a higher grade
Very Low/Negligible	Archaeological remains considered as being of little or no significance, or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion within a higher grade

Table 2: Criteria for assessing the significance of heritage assets.

The Roman villa site at East Wear Bay has been a Scheduled Monument since 1946. The designation covers ‘an unenclosed Iron Age urnfield and Roman villa’ so recognising the existence of the important Roman villa complex but also significant pre-villa remains. This part of the overall site at least, is thus

automatically placed in the ‘Very high’ (International/National) importance category under the ‘standard criteria’. The ‘standard criteria’ represent a widely used and reasonable approach to the question of rating significance. However, there are a range of other useful approaches, which are set out below.

3.2.2 Conservation principles

English Heritage (now Historic England) Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008), provide a useful definition of the significance of ‘place’ in terms of conserving heritage (*ibid*, 21, sections 3.2–3):

“The significance of a place embraces all the diverse cultural and natural heritage values that people associate with it, or which prompt them to respond to it. These values tend to grow in strength and complexity over time, as understanding deepens and people’s perceptions of a place evolve.”

In order to identify the significance of a place, it is necessary first to understand its fabric, and how and why it has changed over time, and then to consider:

- who values the place, and why they do so
- how those values relate to its fabric
- their relative importance
- whether associated objects contribute to them
- the contribution made by the setting and context of the place
- how the place compares with others sharing similar values”

Under this approach, four overall groups of heritage values that should be considered in assessing heritage significance can be defined: Evidential Value, Historical Value, Aesthetic Value and Communal Value; subdivisions of these, such as Illustrative Value and Social Value, can also be considered (Table 3).

Value type	Definition
Evidential value	“Derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.”
Historical value	“Derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.’ <i>Conservation Principles</i> identifies two main subdivisions of historical value: illustrative value and associative value. Illustrative value depends on the visibility, and perhaps also the intelligibility, of historic features; it ‘has the power to aid interpretation of the past through making connections with, and providing insights into, past communities and their activities through shared experience of a place.’ Associative value connects the place with important historical figures or events.
Aesthetic value	“Derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place’ and ‘can be the result of the conscious design of a place’ (Design value), or ‘the seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time.”
Communal value	“Derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory’ and includes commemorative and symbolic values which ‘reflect the meanings of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links to it.’ It also includes social value, ‘associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence.”

Table 3: Conservation principles for assessing significance of heritage assets.

Applying *Conservation Principles* (English Heritage 2008) to the archaeological site and setting of East Wear Bay has the potential to measure a wide range of values and perceptions about these heritage assets.

3.2.3 *Kerr's method*

James Semple Kerr, in his *Conservation Plan* (2013) presents useful refinement of Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) guidelines to the *Burra* Charter, and ICOMOS New Zealand criteria, for assessing cultural significance. Kerr's method is paraphrased in Table 4:

Criteria	Qualifications
Ability to demonstrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophies and customs • Designs, functions, techniques, processes, styles (early, seminal, intact, representative, rare, climactic?) • Uses, and associations with events or persons <p>Both in terms of particular elements and cumulative significance of various elements</p>
Associational links without surviving evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associational links not attested by any known evidence
Formal or aesthetic qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the place a considerable degree of unity in its scale, form and materials? • Does the place have a relationship between its parts and the setting which reinforces the quality of both?

Table 4: Paraphrasing Kerr (2013) on significance types.

Kerr's qualifications of method are particularly useful in fine-tuning the Conservation Principals approach in terms of the ability of the heritage asset(s) to demonstrate heritage significance and formal and aesthetic qualities.

3.2.4 *Regional Research Agenda*

In addition to the methods described above, Martin Carver (1996) has further considered the issue of defining 'archaeological value' and suggests that such 'archaeological value' derives from the extent and character of the deposits present at the site on the one hand and the current research agenda on the other. Thus, the archaeological value of a piece of land may be gauged by matching the site deposit model to a relevant research agenda.

On this basis, value judgements on the significance of the East Wear Bay site can be set against the *South East (Archaeological) Research Framework* (SERF). The SERF document provides a period by period *Resource Assessment*, with academically considered *Research Agendas*, that collectively aim to identify what we know about the South East's historic environment and what we want to know more about (viewed on line 14.9.20, KCC). The topics of the SERF Research Agenda that directly pertain to the site at East Wear Bay are set out in section 3.3 below, whilst holistic assessments of the significance of the different aspects of the archaeological resource at the site are set out in sections 3.5-3.8.

3.3 Selected general topics from SERF Research Agenda especially relevant to the Wear Bay site during the Iron Age and Roman periods

3.3.1 *Introduction*

The known archaeology of the East Wear Bay site indicates a long chronological sequence of past human activity in this vicinity (see above). The nature, quantity and significance of the archaeological evidence varies between periods. As such, the importance of the archaeological evidence for each period needs to be assessed separately (details are presented in Table 2, below).

From the twenty-odd broad research topics and themes listed on the SERF Iron Age and Roman period Research Agendas, the following are matters to which the site at East Wear Bay can add significant new information.

3.3.2 *Iron Age architecture*

The post-built roundhouse, often regarded as a diagnostic artefact of the later prehistoric periods in southern Britain, is in fact something of a rarity in the region. There were clearly much more diverse architectural traditions, including post-built structures of many different plans, but perhaps also building styles that left no trace in the form of cut features. This varied and fragmented body of evidence has received little attention. There should be a synthesis of the existing evidence for later prehistoric structures of different types in the region. The reasons for the variability in the nature of house construction should be more carefully investigated.

3.3.3 *Iron Age coinage*

Though the impact of coinage in providing a new means of structuring social relations through the manipulation of wealth is clear, the social context of its original introduction and acceptance needs further research.

3.3.4 *Iron Age technology and material culture*

Despite the obvious potential of material culture to contribute to our understanding of later prehistoric societies, its significance has been downplayed and there have been few studies of any craft or industry in the region. Much research could be done with material from previous excavations, but other questions will require new fieldwork. There is scope to exploit material already excavated and to carry out regional reviews of several productive or extractive industries, including, Bronze, Bone, Antler, Flint, Stone and Textiles. In future, particular attention should be paid to production sites of all crafts and industries.

3.3.5 *Iron Age eating and drinking*

Little work has been done in the region, partly because of the limited evidence of animal bones and plant remains, and partly because of the lack of large ceramic assemblages. There is great scope for the more detailed study of pottery, focusing on the types and sizes of pots in use, evidence of use-wear, and scientific analysis. The major changes visible in the late Iron Age in the serving and consumption of food and drink need further examination, to document how rapid and how far reaching these changes were in society.

3.3.6 *Iron Age regionality and wider context*

The emergence of marked regional variation in settlement patterns, architecture and material culture is a key feature of later prehistoric society in Britain. At the same time, the south-eastern region is, by virtue of its geographical location, optimally placed for the exploration of wider regional connections with other areas of Britain and with the near continent.

Further research should be devoted to investigating small-scale regionality within the region of the south-east.

The external connections of the region require further analysis, especially connections with other areas of southern and eastern England and across the Channel with France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

3.3.7 *From the Iron Age to Roman Britain*

The period between Caesar's raids (55 & 54 BC) and the Claudian conquest (AD 43) needs to be better understood. The influence of Gallic or Roman contacts on all aspects of society and material culture must be identified. The structure of society, nature of trade and examples of continuity or change, pre- and post-Conquest, need mapping out. Specifically: were there instances of early contact or Roman presence in Britain pre-conquest? Did the native elite remain in place post-conquest; did they adopt, adapt or resist? Can the impact of conquest be detected in settlement changes in this period? Is the dearth of evidence of military presence genuine, and if so, what does it signify?

3.3.8 *Roman military activity*

Can our understanding of the Classis Britannica, and its relationship with inland sites, be enhanced?

3.3.9 *Roman rural settlement*

Examples of continuity and change in rural settlement patterns and types throughout the Roman period are important. All instances of rural settlement sites are valuable resources that require mapping, phasing, dating and comparison with other known examples in order to determine patterns of change or regionality. What building types are used on rural settlements? How common are roundhouses and how late do they remain in use? Villa sites remain over-represented in terms of known rural settlement sites but conversely are not well-understood in terms of function, layout, phasing, origins or end of use. Particular attention needs to be focused on ancillary buildings forming part of the villa complex, especially 'detached bath houses' and aisled buildings. Sites which have been excavated but not properly published must be resolved. An emphasis should be placed on non-intrusive means of investigating such sites where there is no pressing threat of development or on-going damage from agriculture (or, as in the case at Folkestone, erosion). The villas' position within the wider landscape also needs investigation, potentially identifying new examples from 'gaps' in known distributions, while a much greater emphasis on environmental evidence from these sites would be very beneficial.

3.3.10 *Roman craft, industry and domestic consumption*

Sites spanning the Iron Age and Roman period are of particular interest in relation to rural production in terms of what evidence they may provide for continuity or improvements. The same is also true for related technology.

Stone extraction sites need further research, in terms of likely quantities removed and where this material was sourced from.

3.3.11 *Late Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxon period*

What impacts on the landscape came about during the later period and into the sub-Roman phase? Are there discernible changes in agricultural practices and reforestation?

The relationship between early Anglo-Saxon sites and Roman sites needs further exploration. Older excavations could be reviewed for evidence of continuity or reuse of sites. Instances of fifth and sixth century activity on such sites warrants careful scrutiny.

3.4 Combined approach

The assessment of significance for the late prehistoric and Roman archaeological landscape overlooking East Wear Bay has been undertaken with reference to all the above systems, considering elements and standalone historic assets within the complex from the different perspectives to achieve an overall qualitative rating which can be developed into a statement (see Section 3.8 below).

Significance ratings tend to be provided with the ‘standard’ approach outlined above as a method of working out relative impacts of proposed change. Conservation Principles does not provide a rating scheme. The ratings here have been used to inform a combined scheme based on that suggested by Kerr (2013, 19), as follows:

A	Exceptional significance
B	Considerable significance
C	Some significance
D	Little significance

3.5 Roman villa complex: statement of significance

3.5.1 *Standard criteria*

The designated heritage asset comprising the Folkestone Roman villa complex readily achieves a ‘very high’ significance rating through its Scheduling as an Ancient Monument since 1946. The Schedule description notes that:

‘Despite some damage and disturbance in the past, particularly during the Second World War, the Roman villa 60m ESE of No. 64 Wear Bay Road survives well. The walls survive to a substantial height and the masonry remains are among the best preserved at any Roman villa site in Britain. The villa also contains a Roman mosaic with a tessellated design which is unique in this country. The site retains potential for further archaeological investigation, which will improve our understanding of the phasing of the buildings and the history of the villa.’

3.5.2 *Conservation principles*

Applying the approach outlined in Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008), it is clear that the Roman villa complex at Folkestone exhibits *evidential value* through its extensive buried remains and *historical value* through its role in the transformation of society and economy during the Roman period, and its potential connection to the *Classis Britannica*. Although little archaeology is currently visible on the site, its spectacular setting, with views of the adjacent White Cliffs and across the Dover Strait to the

French coast, contributes to a strong *aesthetic value* for the site. This would be enhanced were any of the Roman masonry structures to be placed on permanent public display. The Roman villa also has considerable *communal value*, derived from collective local memories of the site when it was open before the mid-1950s, but substantially reinforced by more recent archaeological excavations at the site, in which several hundred local residents directly took part, and which were visited by thousands. This communal value has been further strengthened by the thousands of volunteer hours spent washing, marking and packing the finds from the 2010-11 and 2015-17 excavations (primarily carried out by members of the Folkestone Research Archaeology Group), and the many lectures and presentations that have been delivered on the site since 2010.

3.5.3 *Kerr's method*

Folkestone Roman villa possess a clear 'ability to demonstrate' as a result of its well-preserved buried archaeology, including extensive masonry structures. It also has considerable formal and aesthetic qualities, with one of the most spectacular landscape settings of any comparable site in the south-east region. These could be greatly enhanced by sympathetic conservation and presentation of the site.

3.5.4 *SERF*

Reference to the SERF research topics listed above indicates that the villa site overlooking East Wear Bay has either produced or has the potential to produce evidence relevant to all those selected. Thus:

- With its preceding late Iron Age settlement, the site is well placed to provide information on continuity and change in rural settlement between the pre-Conquest period and the post-Conquest period when the villa was established.
- Villa I with its long central domestic range, apsidal ended wing rooms and (?)detached bath house would seem to place this site on a higher status level than many first century villas in southern Britain.
- The apparent military, *Classis Britannica*, link with the villa site as suggested by the stamped fleet tiles recovered represents a curious anomaly that requires further consideration and explanation.
- How the villa fitted into the local Romano-British settlement pattern needs further study in the light of the most recent discoveries made in the region.
- It seems likely that the pre-Conquest quern producing industry (see below) was coming to an end or had ceased by the time the villa was established. The dating needs further clarification.
- How far into the fifth century occupation at the villa continued needs to be fully ascertained. This will have a bearing as to whether there was any direct contact between the last residents at the villa site and incoming Anglo-Saxon migrants, and to what extent continuity (or lack of it) in the settlement of the immediate area during the fifth century can be discerned.

3.5.5 *Combined rating*

Statement of significance: Overall, Folkestone Roman villa can be rated as being **A: of exceptional significance**.

3.6 Late Iron Age settlement and quern production site: statement of significance

3.6.1 *Standard criteria*

The Schedule Ancient Monument description notes that:

‘The unenclosed Iron Age urnfield underlying the Roman villa is a rare example of its type... The Iron Age urnfield at East Cliff holds potential for the recovery of further cremation burials and grave goods, which will provide significant information relating to the social structure, burial practice and cultural influences in the region prior to the Roman conquest.’

Since the Scheduled was drawn up much more evidence for late Iron Age activity below and around the villa site has been recorded (see above) and although a few more cremation burials have been found on this site and further inland, these now appear to represent a lesser activity on a site that was primarily a settlement rather than a cemetery. On this showing, the site probably achieves a ‘high’ significance rating but other aspects of the Late Age site including its extent, high status as evidenced by the coinage, imported pottery and Roman wine amphorae, together with the evidence for the large-scale manufacture of rotary querns and other products at this time must elevate it to a ‘very high’ significance rating. The implication that the site served as a pre-Conquest port-of-trade with the Roman Empire must enhance its probable importance still further.

3.6.2 *Conservation principles*

Applying the approach outlined in Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008), the Late Iron Age site at East Wear Bay exhibits *evidential value* through its extensive buried remains and *historical value* through the important role it played as a point of contact between Britain and Gaul and, after the mid-first century BC, with the Roman state. In terms of the transition from Late Iron Age Britain to Roman Britain, the site is clearly very significant. Although little archaeology is currently visible on the site, its spectacular setting, with views of the adjacent White Cliffs and across the Dover Strait to the French coast, contributes to a strong *aesthetic value* for the site. This would be enhanced were any archaeological features or finds (for instance the large assemblage of unfinished rotary querns) to be placed on permanent display at the site. The site also has considerable *communal value*, derived from collective local memories of the site when it was open before the mid-1950s, but substantially reinforced by more recent archaeological excavations at the site, in which several hundred local residents directly took part, and which were visited by thousands. This communal value has been further strengthened by the thousands of volunteer hours spent washing, marking and packing the finds from the 2010-11 and 2015-17 excavations (primarily carried out by members of the Folkestone Research Archaeology Group), and the many lectures and presentations that have been delivered on the site since 2010.

3.6.3 *Kerr’s method*

The Late Iron Age archaeological complex at East Wear Bay possess a clear ‘ability to demonstrate’ as a result of its well-preserved buried archaeology, which includes evidence of settlement, production, trade, land use and funerary practices. It also has considerable aesthetic potential, with one of the most spectacular landscape settings of any comparable site in the south-east region. This could be greatly enhanced by sympathetic conservation and presentation of the site.

3.6.4 *SERF*

Reference to the listed SERF research topics noted above shows that the East Wear Bay site has good potential to provide relevant evidence. Thus:

- The evidence for timber buildings of various forms on the site adds to the somewhat limited corpus of known Late Iron Age buildings from Kent.

- The evidence for pre-Roman crafts and industry at Folkestone, particularly the quern industry, is of great importance to our understanding of the late Iron Age economics and production methods, and potentially, export systems and mechanisms.
- The changes noted during the late Iron Age in the serving and consumption of food and drink are well reflected in the East Wear Bay pottery assemblages. The Italian wine amphorae recorded on the site imply that imported Roman wine was being introduced into what was traditionally a beer drinking society. The imported Gallo-Belgic platters found on the site in some number similarly imply changes to the food types being consumed here to more Mediterranean fare.

3.6.5 *Late Iron Age production and exchange at East Wear Bay: a model*

Significant quantities of imported materials, dating from the second century BC to the early first century AD, have been recovered from East Wear Bay since the 1920s, from excavations on the cliff top but also via both casual and systematic collection of artefacts from the foreshore. This includes material from further west along the coast of southern Britain, namely pottery from Cornwall and a coin from Dorset, as well as small numbers of pudding stone querns from Normandy. In addition to this evidence of exchange along the Channel, material from across Gaul, and from Roman Italy and Spain, was reaching the site during the first centuries BC and AD, namely Dressel 1A, 1B and 1C wine amphorae (it is believed to be the only British site known to have produced all three sub-types), Spanish olive oil amphorae, Gallo-Belgic finewares, including central Gaulish *Terra Nigra*, as well as coinage (as discussed above). There can now be little doubt that East Wear Bay was an important point of contact between late Iron Age Britain and Gaul and the western Mediterranean.

On present evidence, then, it would seem that the site should be viewed as a Kentish equivalent to Dorset's late Iron Age port on Hengistbury Head (Cunliffe 1987, 340) – but located on a much shorter sea crossing and positioned at the end of the North Downs Trackway. East Wear Bay also seems to exhibit a marked upsurge in activity after about 50 BC, by which time the site at Hengistbury Head had passed its peak. Indeed, a case could be made that following the Roman conquest of Gaul by Julius Caesar, East Wear Bay supplanted Hengistbury Head as the main point of cross-Channel exchange on the British coast. Imported goods which appear at East Wear Bay, such as Italian and Spanish amphorae, also occur across the Aylesford-Swarling cultural zone that is the distribution area for the querns and stone mortars produced at East Wear Bay. The fact that these do not seem to cross the Channel with returning ships may suggest that most material (imported goods plus Folkestone querns) was carried onward around the coast and river systems of south-east Britain by the same vessels that had crossed from Gaul and unloaded some of their cargo at East Wear Bay; that is, a system of cabotage. This must remain a tentative model pending further fieldwork and research at East Wear Bay and beyond, but it would explain the apparent absence of Folkestone querns in France or Belgium, since Gallic or Roman traders are likely to have emptied their holds once at their point of furthest destination north of the Thames, and refilled them with whatever trade goods the people of that region had to offer, perhaps the hides, grain, slaves and hunting dogs mentioned by Strabo (*Book IV*, 5.2).

3.6.6 *Combined rating*

Statement of significance: Overall, the Late Iron Age archaeological site at East Wear Bay can be rated as being **A: of exceptional significance**.

3.7 Earlier prehistoric and post-Roman occupation: statement of significance

Traces of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age activity, and some traces of Anglo-Saxon activity, have been recorded across the East Wear Bay site, although the remains so far found are somewhat fragmentary and disparate, making their significance difficult to gauge. Nevertheless, it may be noted that good evidence for Mesolithic activity is generally scarce throughout the Folkestone region. Hints of Bronze Age activity at and immediately around the site, along with evidence for earlier Iron Age activity at East Wear Bay, are of some potential significance as indicators as to the origins and development of the evolved late Iron Age settlement.

Much more needs to be learnt about these periods on the site. Further fieldwork has the potential to elevate the significance rating of all these periods. All have the potential to add to the emerging story of the East Wear Bay site and collectively they provide background and context for the development of a major settlement here by the end of the prehistoric period, and for activity on the site in the post-Roman periods.

Statement of significance: Overall, the earlier prehistoric and post-Roman archaeological remains at East Wear Bay can at present be rated as being **C: of some significance**, but it is likely that further fieldwork will produce more evidence of these periods at the site, with the potential to raise their collective significance to **B: of considerable significance or higher**. This assessment of significance does not cover the Martello towers or twentieth century defensive structures adjacent to the site, which are not within the scope of this plan. However, there can be little doubt that Martello Towers Nos.1-3 would collectively merit the highest significance rating, continuing to reflect that fact that East Wear Bay was considered to be a potential landing ground for (in this case hostile) cross-Channel shipping.

3.8 The archaeological resource at East Wear Bay: overall statement of significance

Table 5 summarises the overall significance of the archaeological resource at East Wear Bay.

Phase	Period	Summary	Significance of known remains	Estimated Potential with more investigation
1	Mesolithic	Scatter of worked flints; no features	C: Some significance	B: Considerable significance
2	Neolithic	Scatter of worked flints; a few pits and ditches	C: Some significance	B: Considerable significance
3	Bronze Age	Possible round barrow on Copt Point, pottery, metal work	C: Some significance	B: Considerable significance
4	Early to middle Iron Age	Occupation - pottery, ditched enclosures	C: Some significance	B: Considerable significance
5	Late Iron Age	Occupation - coins; pottery; ditched enclosures; buildings; quern manufacturing	A: Exceptional significance	A: Exceptional significance
6	Roman	Occupation - coins; pottery; ditched enclosures; villa buildings; continued quern manufacturing?	A: Exceptional significance	A: Exceptional significance
7	Anglo-Saxon	Pottery and a coin suggest casual activity	C: Some significance	B: Considerable significance
8	Medieval	Very little evidence	D: Little significance	C: Some significance
9	Post-medieval	Very little evidence	D: Little significance	C: Some significance
10	Modern	Martello Towers; Second World War defences; Cold War ROC bunker	A: Exceptional significance	A: Exceptional significance

Table 5: Archaeological significance by period at East Wear Bay.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Introduction

Following the above review of the available archaeological evidence, this section of the Plan sets out the key management and conservation issues pertaining to the East Wear Bay site.

4.2 Management and conservation issues

4.2.1 *Threats to the continued preservation of the archaeological asset*

The rich and varied archaeological asset known to exist at the East Wear Bay site is today essentially invisible on the ground, meaning that the significance of the place can easily be overlooked and pass unrecognised. It is also readily apparent that the continued preservation of this important archaeological resource is not assured, with damage and destruction of remains which are not immediately obvious, being an ongoing issue. All of this combines to make the conservation of the site problematical, even though this is certainly warranted.

On the inland side of Wear Bay Road, new building work in an area which constitutes a residential suburb of modern Folkestone will constitute a relatively localised, intermittent but on-going issue for the continued preservation of the overall archaeological site. Threats posed by such new building work, however, should be routinely dealt with through existing Council planning procedures, allowing for excavation and recording of these remains as required. On the seaward side of the site, east of Wear Bay Road, ongoing coastal erosion and cliff collapse into East Wear Bay must constitute a perpetual and much larger scale threat to the archaeological resource – particularly to the villa complex and the pre-Roman deposits immediately below.

Occupying open amenity land with no plans for any significant future building development of the area, at first sight the Roman villa complex overlooking East Wear Bay might seem to be safely preserved below ground and in no imminent danger. But the cliffs here are slowly receding, being unstable and having a long history of localised land slippage and slumping. The cliff-edge is thus gradually advancing towards the villa complex. Indeed, some of the building remains have already been lost since Winbolt's day.

4.2.2 *The ongoing threat to the East Cliff villa site from natural erosion*

East Wear Bay has been formed where the sea has eroded into softer Gault clay deposits to form a shallow embayment between the Greensand headland of Copt Point and the chalk escarpment of the North Downs. Occurring between the top of the forty- to fifty-metre-high clay cliffs here and the foreshore is an area of sloping, undulating terrain formed as a result of major slips in the Gault (The Warren). This area, although now heavily vegetated, is subject to wave action at high tide and is thus constantly eroding. At low tide there is a sandy foreshore, strewn with rocks and boulders largely derived from the erosion of Copt Point. Eroded archaeological material is also regularly found here (see above).

Pressure on the Gault from the adjacent Downs also produces a gradual seaward movement which further contributes to the erosion of the site. The actual mechanics of the coastal landslides that occur in this region were considered in some detail by J. N. Hutchinson (1969). Involving both the Chalk and the Gault, these movements are considered to be among the most important geological processes occurring in southern England. All the deep-seated landslides recorded during the past two centuries

are shown to have occurred within the period of seasonally high ground-water levels from December to March. Hutchinson has suggested that the initiation of the present landslides probably took place somewhere between 3500 and 500 BC.

Cliff loss in the area of the Roman villa site is characterised not so much by gradual, constant erosion but by periodic rotational slips and occasional large-scale landslides (the last significant one occurred early in 2020). Thus, parts of the archaeological site are at risk of loss in the short to medium term. This has been recognised in the official Shoreline Management Plan for the region (South East Coastal Group 2006) which contains no provision to protect the eroding section of undeveloped coastline in the Copt Point–East Wear Bay area (text reproduced below). The cliffs in this region have considerable biological, geological and physiographical interest, but the gradual and unstoppable natural forces at work here will ultimately lead to an important archaeological site being lost to the sea.

Something of the cliff erosion rates at East Wear Bay may be charted from the nineteenth century onwards using large scale Ordnance Survey maps, aerial photographs (including one taken following Winbolt's investigations in 1924) and various archaeological surveys of the more recent years (Figs. 23-24 below). Study of these confirms that part of the original course of Wear Bay Road has been lost since it was first laid out in the late nineteenth century.

Losses at the villa site itself can be detailed by reference to reports concerning previous site investigations. Excavations by KARU in 1989 showed that about 30ft (c.10m) of the Roman villa's Block C had been lost since it was first excavated in 1924. Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of that block were completely gone and parts of Rooms 7 and 9 had also been lost. Winbolt's plan shows that parts of Rooms 1 and 5 had already been lost by 1924. When Winbolt first exposed the villa walls there was around 30 metres of land between the North-East Wing of the main house (Block A) and the cliff edge. By 2009 this figure had been reduced to 2.25m.

The official Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for *South Foreland to Beachy Head*, dated April 2006 provides 'a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.' In doing so, an SMP is a high-level document that forms an important part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strategy for flood and coastal defence. The plan concerning the vicinity of Copt Point was prepared by technical officers and representatives from the then Shepway District Council. No significant changes to the Policy document for this area have been made since 2006. The document recommends that the existing cliff line be left unprotected and allowed to gradually retreat as the forces of nature determine. It is fully acknowledged that the Roman Villa site will be progressively lost as a consequence of this general policy (see below).

4.2.3 Extract from *South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan April 2006*

Copt Point; Policy Unit reference: 4c07

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

Undeveloped, eroding cliffs, designated for their nature conservation and landscape value. The long-term policy for this frontage is to maintain the environmental and geological value of the cliffs, by allowing erosion, which will result in the partial loss of cliff top recreational amenities along with the Scheduled Roman Villa. The seashore is of nature conservation importance for its marine life. Residential developments are set back from the cliff top and are not significantly at risk under this plan.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present-day policy for Copt Point is to continue letting the Greensand cliffs erode under a no active intervention scenario. The only significant assets at risk on this frontage are the Roman Villa Scheduled Ancient Monument and the mini golf course. The Roman Villa is an important heritage feature, but it would be technically difficult to prevent erosion of the cliffs, and not environmentally acceptable. There is no economic justification for defending this section of the coastline, providing cliff top development remains restricted. This approach has no adverse environmental affects, sustaining the Folkestone developments whilst retaining a dynamically functioning shoreline.

Medium-term: In response to sea level rise and a lack of defences it is anticipated that cliff erosion will increase slightly during this period under a policy of no active intervention. Inputs from increased cliff erosion will provide foreshore cover and cliff toe protection before being fed into the system.

Long-term: The long-term policy is to continue with no active intervention; allowing the Greensand cliffs to erode, the rock platform to lower and the shoreline to retreat. It is undesirable to defend the coastline here because of the geological and biological importance of the cliffs and the landscape value of the frontage, which would be adversely affected if a defence structure were to be constructed. Some cliff top land/amenities will be lost, during the latter stages of the Shoreline Management Plan, due to increased rates of cliff erosion, in response to sea level rise. The general character of this frontage will not alter significantly and with transportation rates along this frontage being low, impacts on evolution downdrift are minimal.

Time Period	Management Activities	Property, Built Assets & Land Use	Landscape	Nature Conservation	Historic Environment	Amenity & Recreational Use
2025	Cliff erosion will continue, providing nominal feed (fines) to the system	No built assets are at risk during this period	Land is lost but the coastal landscape is maintained	The continued erosion of the cliffs maintains the biological and geological assets	Roman Villa SAM will be progressively lost	The current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained
2025 – 2055	Cliff erosion will continue, providing nominal feed (fines) to the system	No built assets are at risk during this period	Land is lost but the coastal landscape is maintained	The continued erosion of the cliffs maintains the biological and geological assets	Roman Villa SAM will be progressively lost	The current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained
2055 – 2105	Cliff erosion will continue, providing nominal feed (fines) to the system	Cliff top assets may start to become vulnerable due to erosion but no properties will be lost	Land is lost but the coastal landscape is maintained	The continued erosion of the cliffs maintains the biological and geological assets	Roman Villa SAM will be progressively lost	Cliff top erosion will result in some loss of the mini golf course

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

4.2.4 *General principles of preservation for buried archaeological sites*

Past and current UK guidance places an emphasis on the conservation of heritage assets, based on the fundamental principle that once destroyed such assets can never be replaced. For buried archaeological sites where there is no imminent threat of destruction ‘preservation *in situ*’ is widely

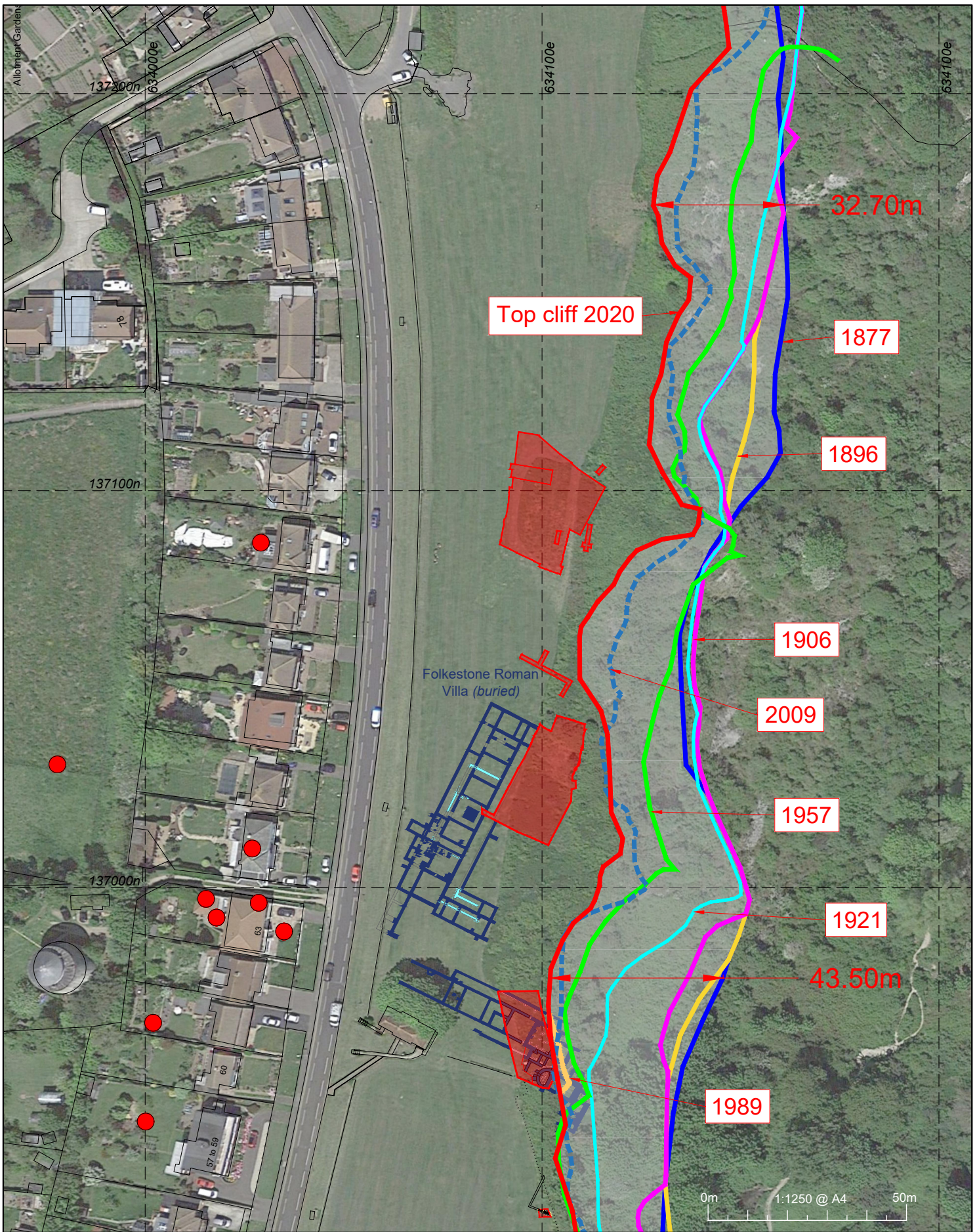
considered to be an ideal option, leaving the surviving remains untouched for future generations to examine with more advanced techniques. Where this cannot be achieved, often due to pressures of vital modern development or unstoppable natural erosion as at Folkestone, such an approach may not be viable.

Where a site or part of a site cannot be saved, excavation is generally required so that the remains are 'preserved by record', even though nothing then physically survives. This is regarded as a second-best option. In the case of East Wear Bay, Folkestone, however, there are no long-term conservation alternatives; the construction of artificial sea defences at the base of the cliff would be likely to be more expensive than excavation of a zone along the cliff top and would have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment of the site.

4.3 Opportunities at East Wear Bay

The eventual destruction of the East Wear Ba villa site provides a chance in the short to medium term to turn adverse circumstances into positive archaeological advantage. A range of opportunities based around the villa remains suggest themselves, utilising this important heritage resource whilst it still survives.

The opportunities may perhaps follow two main strands: (i) public enjoyment, engagement and learning; (ii) further advancement of archaeological knowledge through detailed excavation, fieldwork and research (see more below).




CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD. <small>A REGISTERED CHARITY</small> 92a Broad Street · Canterbury Kent · CT1 2LU Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk	PROJECT NAME East Wear Bay Archaeological Project	DRAWN BY P-S.A	SCALE(S) 1:1250 @ A4	
	PROJECT CODE EWB	DATE 11/01/21	LAST REVISION 14/01/21	
	SITE ADDRESS Wear Bay Road Folkestone Kent	CHECKED ---	REF/DRG NO. PSA_EWB-CMP20_Fig-23.dwg	
	Historical cliff retreat 1857-2020			

Figure 23: Plan showing historical cliff retreat up to 2020 (i).

(Based on Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL1000210099) © Google Earth, 2019

5. DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Introduction

The present Plan is concerned with the open land on the eastern side of Wear Bay Road, owned by Folkestone and Hythe District Council, part of which is occupied by the Roman villa and designated as a Scheduled Monument. In the long-term, the complete loss of the Roman villa here, together with all the underlying pre-villa archaeological deposits, seems certain. For the short and medium term, however, the site continues to represent a highly important archaeological resource, which has the potential to be exploited in a number of different ways for the general benefit of public education and learning and advancement of archaeological knowledge.

5.2 Current amenity assets

The site, already popular as a recreational area for the public, has a number of positive assets which could be complemented by any future archaeological activity here. These current assets may be listed as:

- Fine views across the English Channel to France, access to the beach and plenty of open space makes the area popular with both local residents and Folkestone visitors for spending leisure and recreation time.
- The area is large so there is ample space for archaeological excavation, display and other related activities to take place without over-crowding. (The total area of the amenity land here is 2.8 hectares).
- The area lies reasonably close to Folkestone town and can be reached on foot (moderately strenuous) and via local bus services*.
- The area is served by a public toilet block (originally provided for the use of visitors to the Roman villa).
- A spare central room in the toilet block could be converted into a small display centre for the villa complex and the natural history of the Warren area.

*It must also be noted that there is currently very limited car parking available for the site, being mostly confined to road-side parking in adjacent residential streets.

5.3 Ideas for enhancement and development of the villa site

The existence of a large late Iron Age settlement, production and trade centre, and a subsequent Roman villa complex overlooking East Wear Bay and the Warren at Folkestone deserves to be more widely known and better understood. Accordingly, a consultation of all stakeholders as to ways in which the site might be enhanced and developed should be undertaken with the views expressed reported for further consideration.

6. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

6.1 Introduction

This section sets out a series of recommended actions for the future conservation and management of the East Wear Bay archaeological site.

Proposed actions are grouped under three broad headings: the addition of the Scheduled Monument to the National Heritage at Risk Register (**6.2**); further advancement of archaeological knowledge (**6.3-6.6**) through detailed fieldwork, excavation, research and publication; and public benefit (**6.7**) through interpretation, engagement, learning and enjoyment. It is expected that these actions will be enhanced and modified in the light of the stakeholder report proposed above.

It should be noted that in recent years the unmown strip along the cliff edge has increased in width so that it is now encroaching onto the Villa site. The area could very usefully be cut back to some degree, tidied and rationalised to keep the villa area clear of damaging roots.

6.2 National Heritage at Risk Register

Since 1998 English Heritage (Historic England) has published an annual Heritage at Risk Register. This Register includes Grade I and II* Buildings, Listed places of worship, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wreck Sites and Conservation Areas all known to be at risk as a result of neglect, decay, erosion or inappropriate development.

It is strongly recommended that the Scheduled East Cliff villa site is now added to the national Heritage at Risk Register. Addition of the site to the *Register* will readily signal at national level the threat to the site. This should greatly assist in raising the profile of the site, highlighting the threat to it and gaining access to sources of funding to allow investigation and enhancement of the asset, while it still survives.

6.3 Continuation of archaeological excavation programme

6.3.1 Introduction

The case for carrying out further fieldwork on the East Wear Bay site, including the scheduled Roman villa, rests on three main planks; the ongoing and unstoppable process of destruction of archaeological deposits (both recorded and unrecorded) caused by erosion of the site; the need to fully assess the nature and extent of the surviving archaeology at the site; and the need to enhance our understanding of the site, and of its place within the wider landscape. Such necessary work will also furnish first rate opportunities to engage with the general public on this open amenity site, thus contributing to the actions and objectives outlined under 7.4 below. Watching the progress of an archaeological excavation is always popular with the general public and the East Wear Bay site is an ideal place to provide such an experience, as was the case in the 1920s and at every excavation since. It is probably fair to say that greatest public interest will lie in the more tangible masonry remains of the Roman villa and probably less so with the clay-cut features and structures of the late Iron Age settlement. This point in itself suggests opportunities to develop and expand on visitors' knowledge of both archaeological techniques and the nature of pre-Roman Britain, by comparing and contrasting the evidence recovered from the prehistoric and Roman periods.

A phased programme of excavation working along and ahead of the retreating cliff line seems logical, although the rate of erosion is essentially unpredictable and not constant. Large chunks of ground periodically fall away from the cliff face at certain points leaving other areas intact. It is not impossible

that much of the villa site could be taken at some stage in one massive movement. Nevertheless, excavation priority ought to be given to areas closest to the present cliff edge as these are obviously in more imminent danger. The safety for workers on the immediate cliff edge may mean that that certain sections will always be out of bounds.

6.3.2 Proposed future excavation areas (Fig. 25)

Continuing the investigation programme begun in 2010–2017, the following areas of the site may be put forward as being the priorities for excavation in the short to term (say, 2021-2025):

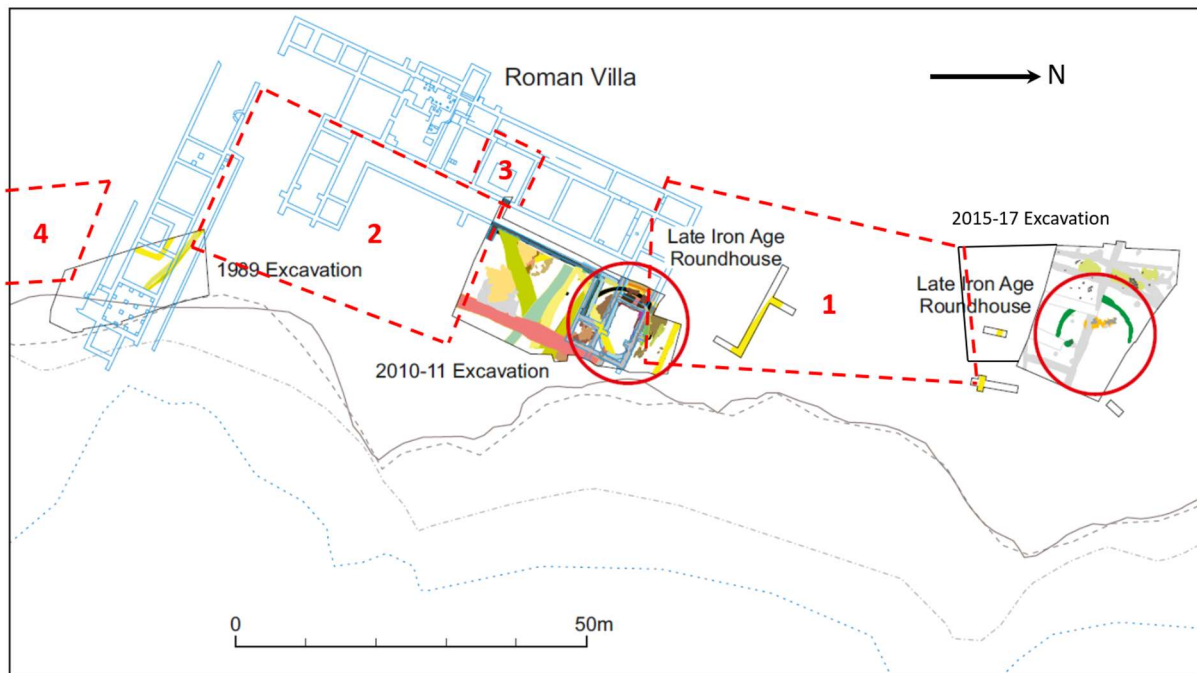


Figure 25: Proposed future excavation areas, 2021-25.

Area 1, Land between the 2010 and 2017 excavations.

An area excavation about 35m by 10m across designed to link with the areas previously examined in 2010 and 2017. A range of enclosure ditches is known to lie in this area and one of these has produced Anglo-Saxon pottery in its upper filling suggesting post-Roman activity on this part of the site.

Area 2 A large area excavation across the courtyard in front of Villa Block A.

This will continue the excavation of 2011 across an area known to contain a thick sequence of pre-villa structures and deposits under Roman villa courtyard. The excavation will be deep and complex.

Area 3, Villa Block A; the site of mosaic (Room 40).

All the available evidence suggests that the mosaic in Villa II did not significantly survive after its neglect during 1939-45, but this needs to be confirmed by its re-excavation. Whatever does survive needs to be carefully recorded. If any *in situ* fragments still remain, these could be lifted for exhibition at Folkestone museum or in a new onsite visitor centre. Any loose tesserae could also be saved and re-used in some appropriate villa-related display.

An absence of *in situ* mosaic could allow excavation down to the foundations of Villa I and the pre-villa levels on the site. It is not impossible that an earlier mosaic, relating to Villa I, lies under the one already known. This can be readily tested by excavation.

Area 4 Roman drain on Jock's Pitch, to the south of the public toilets.

Moving away from the known villa buildings, a west–east aligned Roman drain previously located to the south-west of Block B during trial trenching in 2013 is likely to be running away from another, otherwise unknown, building. This structure needs to be located and its nature and importance assessed: it has the potential to significantly change our understanding of the villa complex overall.

Beyond this preliminary list of potential excavation areas, the locations for future investigations will at least partially be determined by the results of these preceding ones and aimed at resolving issues raised by the earlier work, as well as keeping ahead of the immediate threat of erosion.

6.4 Specific research questions to be address by future excavations

6.4.1 Local topography

1. How has East Wear Bay formed and evolved?

- Where was the prehistoric and Roman coastline?
- Were there any ancient harbour works?

2. How does the depth and configuration of the natural clay change across the villa site? What is the nature of the apparent infilled hollow buried below Block A? What is the origin of this (stream valley or clay slump/ancient cliff movement)?

6.4.2 Prehistoric

3. What is the chronological range, extent, nature and importance of occupation in the area during the prehistoric period, prior to the establishment of the Late Iron Age settlement?

- How important is Mesolithic activity in the area?
- What is the evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement or other activity on or around the site?
- What influence does any earlier Iron Age habitation have on the establishment of the Late Iron Age settlement – is there continuity?

6.4.3 Late Iron Age

4. What was the nature, extent, status and layout of the late Iron Age settlement?

- Are there any associated outer defences?
- What was the nature of the coastal topography during this period?
- How much of the site has since been lost to coastal erosion?
- How does the site compare with and relate to other local settlements of the period?

5. What is the chronological range and significance of the Iron Age coin assemblage from the site.

- Is there any evidence for coin production on the site?
- Does the quality and nature of the coinage differ significantly from other Kent sites and from comparable sites elsewhere in this period?

6. What can the animal bone assemblage tell us about animal husbandry and the agrarian economy at the site and in the wider local area?

7. Was fishing important to the site's economy?

8. Is there is any firm evidence for salt production at the site?

9. What was the extent of quern production at the site?

- When did the industry begin and end?
- Are there any structures such as works-sheds associated with the manufacturing process?
- Where exactly was the raw material being obtained?
- What is the national and international distribution of the Folkestone querns?

10. What is the extent of the evidence for the existence of a Late Iron Age port of trade at the site?

- When did it flourish?
- Where did trading vessels come from?
- What evidence does the amphora assemblage from the site provide?
- How does the distribution of Gallo-Belgic pottery from the site compare with other late Iron Age sites in the South-East?

11. What affect did the Roman invasion of AD 43 have on the site?

- Was any Iron Age port eclipsed by Dover around AD 80?

6.4.4 *Roman*

12. When was the Roman villa first established?

- Who by?

13. What was the extent and overall layout of the Roman villa complex?

- Are there any further masonry buildings to be discovered?
- Where does the drain discovered at Jock's Pitch in 2013 lead from?
- Can the reported 'Roman wall' on Copt Point be re-located?
- How does the villa site fit in with other local settlements of the period?

14. What was the nature and extent of the *Classis Britannica* connection with the villa site?

- When did it start and finish?

15. What was the economy of the villa based on?

- Had quern manufacture ceased before the villa came into existence or was this industry part of the villa's economy?
- What can the animal bone assemblage tell us about local farming activity in the region?

16. Is the apparent late third century hiatus in occupation on the villa site real?

17. Was the villa complex in use during the fourth century?

- If so, which parts and how did they function?

18. When did Roman occupation at the villa come to an end?

6.4.5 *Anglo-Saxon*

19. What was the nature and extent of any early–middle Anglo-Saxon settlement on the site?

- Can any such settlement be related to the sixth to seventh inhumation cemetery on nearby Dover Hill?

6.5 Extent of future excavation works

It is hoped that this Plan will serve to highlight the importance of the East Wear Bay site overall and will accordingly lead to grants and donations that will enable further fieldwork to be undertaken. It is expected that a variety of different funding sources will be approached and that no one grant will cover all the works planned. The extent of funding available will be the main factor in determining the extent and character of all proposed future works. It is important that an appropriate proportion of any grant for excavation obtained is ring-fenced to cover the cost of post-excavation analysis of the remains examined in the field.

6.6 Publication of excavation results

Although several summary and interim reports on the site have been published (e.g. Coulson 2013), a significant amount of unpublished data from the 2010–2017 excavation has yet to appear in print. Much of the analysis work required, however, has been done or is presently ongoing. Reassessment of Winbolt's finds from the 1920 excavations would also be of considerable benefit to future studies, along with consideration of the archive of the 1989 KARU excavation and records of finds recovered from the foreshore by various parties.

Future excavation work will undoubtedly produce more important archaeological information worthy of detailed publication but it is already clear from the data recorded so far that much information of relevance to the research objectives set out above has been recovered. Such information now needs to be distilled and reworked to produce a suite of academic research papers.

Future publications concerning the site will be of two broad types:

- i) Detailed academic papers providing definitive accounts of discoveries for the use of archaeological researchers, both now and in the future.
- ii) More popular narrative accounts for interested visitors, local residents and a wider general readership.

In both types, a combination of formally printed works and WEB-based information sites are likely to be involved. The results of new research can be fed back into any on-site information panels and museum displays as appropriate.

6.7 Public benefit through interpretation, engagement, learning and enjoyment

6.7.1 Introduction

The existence of a large prehistoric settlement and Roman villa complex overlooking East Wear Bay and the Warren at Folkestone should be more widely known. Accordingly, enhancement of visitor information concerning the archaeology of the site is warranted. With the centenary of the original excavation by Winbolt approaching (2024), and dependant on available resources, a range of actions could be implemented to mark this. These are outlined below.

6.7.2 Options for enhanced interpretation and public engagement

- New information boards erected on the site. These might include QR codes leading to appropriate web sites providing additional information. Any boards will need to be designed to be resistant to criminal damage and weather.

- Outline the Roman villa buildings on the ground using traditional sportsfield line marking techniques (this works well at the Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester; see Fig. 26). This would ensure that the exact location of the villa buildings were readily apparent and could be constantly monitored relative to the receding cliff edge. This would be a very cost effective and low impact means of providing some level of public interpretation at the site.
- The display of excavated villa material housed at Folkestone Museum to be upgraded, with appropriate notices at East Wear Bay directing visitors to the museum.
- The spare central room in the toilet block could be converted into a small display centre for the villa complex and the natural history of the Warren area.
- However, the wider site contains enough open space, at a sufficient distance from the cliff edge so as to not be at risk of loss to erosion in the before the very long-term, to enable the construction of a new visitor centre that could potentially serve as a visitor centre for the Warren, within which the archaeology could be interpreted and celebrated.
- Themed events, such as re-enactor displays, could be arranged at the villa site, as was successfully done during the A Town Unearth project.
- Renewed archaeological excavation to further investigate the site and refocus attention on the remains.
- The setting up of a 'Friends of Folkestone Roman villa' scheme to help provide funds and support for future works, and to provide volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the site.



Figure 26: Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester.

6.7.3 *The case for re-exposing the villa remains*

A strong case can be made to permanently re-expose some or all of the villa remains to public display, until such time as they are lost to coastal erosion. Given the pace of erosion at the site, it is probable

that much of the surviving structure will have been lost to erosion by the end of the century, especially if the pace of erosion is accelerated by sea level rise as a result of climate change. However, this still leaves the potential for the remains to play a role as a renewed visitor attraction for many decades to come and means that present and future generations would be able to enjoy them and learn from them. Indeed, with the right presentation and safety precautions, the ongoing process of gradual erosion and loss of a major archaeological site could be made an integral part of the visitor experience, giving the site a unique flavour and added educational value.

The cost of conservation of exposed masonry and general ongoing site maintenance will be key issues here, although there is no reason why the building cannot be exposed and consolidated one section at a time, over a period years. There are opportunities here for training in the appropriate and sympathetic conservation of ancient masonry, as well as for volunteer engagement in the ongoing maintenance of the site. A further issue that would need to be resolved is the disposal of the ash deposits used to backfill the villa in the 1950s. Tests carried out ahead of the excavation in 2010 confirmed that this ash is not toxic, but it would still count as contaminated waste. However, it may be possible to integrate it into onsite landscaping, for instance as part of bunding. Another alternative would be to establish whether it could be used as infill material in the Dover Western Docks scheme, which has already received demolition rubble from a number of sites in Dover.

From a heritage tourism point of view, Roman villas in South-East England that are formally open for public inspection are surprisingly few, with none close to Folkestone (see Table 6 below). The nearest Roman building to Folkestone available for public viewing is the Roman Painted House at Dover. This is probably part of an Imperial *mansio* and is certainly not a villa; nevertheless, its standing painted walls and preserved hypocaust system serve to provide the general visitor with a flavour of Roman interior layout and design, providing in wall height and structural details features less well preserved at Folkestone. In contrast to the half-dozen visible rooms presented at Dover, the Folkestone villa with over 50 rooms, has the potential to inform on something of the overall scale and layout of Roman domestic structures. Visited together these two monuments would combine to provide visitors with a more complete picture of Roman domestic architecture.

Villa site	Distance from Folkestone (km)
Lullingstone, Kent	76
Crofton, Orpington, Greater London	84
Bignor, Sussex	129
Fishbourne, Sussex	144
Littlecote, Wiltshire	200
Rockbourne, Hampshire	214
Chedworth, Gloucestershire	233
Great Witcombe, Gloucestershire	252
Roman Painted House, Dover	9

Table 6: Distance from Folkestone to other Roman villas available for public inspection

6.7.4 Requirements and cost implications for re-exposure

Re-exposure of the villa remains would constitute a major undertaking that could not be instituted without careful planning and appropriate funding in place. The following details would need to be addressed:

- Permission and encouragement of the owners – Folkestone and Hythe District Council.
- Appropriate permission and Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England.
- General support by residents of Wear Bay Road.

- Removal and disposal or reuse of the dumped ash infilling the site.
- Stabilisation of exposed masonry.
- Provision of carparking for site visitors.
- Ongoing general care and maintenance of the exposed remains.
- Health and safety considerations relating to the seaward-facing edge of the site exposed at the cliff top, including provision for dealing with a managed retreat of this edge in coming years.

Nonetheless, it is the view of the authors that the potential benefits of such re-exposure outweigh the potential costs and challenges of such a scheme. Certainly, any plans for the future conservation and management of the site, should include serious consideration of the option to re-expose the villa to public view.

6.8 Conclusion: The future of the past at East Wear Bay

The unique coastal landscape at East Wear Bay contains an extraordinarily important archaeological resource (Figs. 27-29). It is, particularly for the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, of international significance. The site is also foundational in the story of Folkestone as a place. It is the precursor to the town and port that would later develop around the mouth of the Pent Stream and on the West Cliff, and which grew into the modern town. The placename 'Folkestone' is probably derived from the Greensand, the hard sandstone that was exploited on an industrial scale at East Wear Bay over 2,000 years ago to make querns. In short, the importance and relevance of the archaeology at the site, to the story of Britain's relationship with the Roman world, and to the origin of Folkestone itself, cannot be overstated.

The site thus has very considerable potential to contribute to Folkestone's sense of itself. There is also the potential to create a unique heritage attraction that will benefit the people of Folkestone and draw new visitors to the town. The ongoing erosion of the site threatens the future of the surviving archaeology, and this has long been viewed as a major problem. But the interplay between the natural and historic environments at East Wear Bay, between long term geological processes and human action, could also be viewed as a positive. The landscape here is a place where the dynamic relationship between land and sea, between archaeology and geology, between the human and the natural worlds, and between Britain and continental Europe, could become the basis of a unique and first-rate visitor leisure and educational experience. Investment, in further scientific fieldwork and understanding, and in conservation, management and celebration of this landscape, is what is required to realise this potential. It is hoped that this plan will contribute to encouraging such an approach in future.



Figure 27: The site under excavation in 2015.



Figure 28: Some of the team on the final day of the 2015 season.



Figure 29: Artist's reconstruction of Folkestone Roman villa circa AD 200 (Smith Kriek Productions).

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF LATE IRON AGE SITES AROUND FOLKESTONE

This gazetteer lists known Late Iron Age (circa 150 BC to AD 50) sites and finds recorded within a 6km radius inland of East Wear Bay. It is not exhaustive. A number of old archaeological discoveries cannot now be accurately located. Details below are taken from the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), original published reports and available local field archives. East Wear Bay is listed first under each category, followed alphabetically by other sites within Folkestone Town and then alphabetically by parish. Figures within the gazetteer are separately numbered with the prefix 'G'. A map showing the location of the sites and finds listed can be found at Fig.G11 below.

ROUTEWAYS

North Downs prehistoric trackway (multiple parishes).

Running across the North Downs is a line of paths, tracks, byways and roads which when linked together form a continuous, long-distance route that is clearly ancient (Parfitt in Coulson 2013, 22–3). Referred to as the North Downs Trackway, this ancient trackway can be traced following the natural causeway provided by the escarpment of the Downs across Kent and into Surrey, Hampshire, then Wiltshire, crossing Salisbury Plain close by Stonehenge, and onwards to the West Country. In certain areas, it exists as both a high-level ridgeway and a lower terrace way, the alternative routes apparently being chosen by past travellers in response to varying ground- and weather-conditions as these changed with the seasons.



Figure G1: View of the ancient trackway running along the crest of Creteway Down (Crete Road East), at the point where a spur road leads down the scarp towards East Wear Bay.

The eastern end of North Downs Trackway reaches the Channel coast on the high cliffs at the top of Dover Hill on the outskirts of Folkestone, some 700 metres uphill to the north of East Wear Bay. From here, the route is readily traceable inland as a ridgeway along Creteway Down and beyond. A narrow lane leading off Creteway Down and gradually descending the scarp towards East Wear Bay could

represent a branch route that took ancient travellers down to the seashore (Fig. G1).

SETTLEMENTS

East Wear Bay, Folkestone. Area of NGR TR 240 370 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 11; Fig. G2).

Beginning around 150–100 BC, a pre-existing occupation site overlooking East Wear Bay started to expand and develop. Excavations have established how a succession of small variously shaped timber buildings, sometimes provided with hearths on simple chalk floors, were erected across part of the site. These seem to have been located within substantial ditched enclosures, amidst ditched fields and paddocks (Parfitt 2010; 2012; Parfitt in Coulson 2013, 24–30). Investigations undertaken at properties along Wear Bay Road and at Martello Primary School, have established that associated archaeological features and deposits extend for some distance inland.



Figure G2: Chalk floored building excavated at East Wear Bay in 2011 (scale, 1m).

Large amounts of pottery, coinage (Holman 2005b) and other artefacts were associated with these settlement remains indicating dense occupation. Numerous broken and part finished rotary querns, shaped from the locally available Lower Greensand rock, confirm that there was a major stone-working industry based here (see below). Amongst the pottery recovered are significant quantities of Italian wine amphorae and high-status ceramic table-wares imported from the near-Continent. There are also several Gallic (French) coins, some rarely ever found in Britain (see below). Taken together, this material suggests significant contact and trade between east Kent, Gaul and the Mediterranean world occurring under the influence of the Roman Empire. A convincing case can be made for East Wear Bay being the site of a pre-Conquest port.

Ashford Road, Cheriton (Site C), Folkestone. NGR TR 1927 3687 (Kent HER TR 13 NE 13 & NE 85).

Building work in 1948 revealed a hearth deposit containing domestic refuse including pottery, animal bone, burnt clay and a potin coin (Tester and Bing 1948, 36). These discoveries must imply the presence of a Late Iron Age settlement somewhere in the area, and a cremation cemetery was located nearby (see below).

Folkestone Cricket Club, Folkestone. NGR TR 2143 3680 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 112 & NW 693).

Pottery and a number of poorly dated boundary ditches suggest activity throughout the Iron Age and into the Roman period. The ditches appear to relate to a long-established field system probably connected with a farmstead located in this area (De'ath 2015).

Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone. NGR TR 2120 3665 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 645).

Investigations during building work revealed evidence of Late Iron Age–Roman occupation. The earliest phase of activity was evidenced by two dark soil filled hollows. These each produced pottery from the first half of the 1st century AD. Starting in the early Roman period a series of ditched enclosures were subsequently laid out across the site (CAT 2008).

Hockley Sole House, Capel-Le-Ferne. NGR TR 2464 4039 (Kent HER TR 24 SW 25).

A pipe trench dug in 1996 near Hockley Sole House at Capel located a rubbish pit containing an interesting assemblage of pottery datable to the period *circa* 150 to 50 BC. With the sherds were also two small iron objects, pierced by copper alloy rivets, that probably relate to part of a leather strap (Bennell 2002). These discoveries must imply the presence of a Late Iron Age downland settlement somewhere in the area.

Hawkinge Aerodrome, Hawkinge. NGR TR 2120 3950, centred.

Excavations on the site of the former Hawkinge Aerodrome revealed evidence for settlement throughout most of the Iron Age. A light scatter of pits and post-holes could be specifically dated to the Late Iron Age. These included one large pit containing more than 4000 sherds of pottery and several potin coins (Stevens 2003, 6–11, see below).

Great Hougham Court Farm, Hougham Without. NGR TR 2686 3936 - TR 2734 3955 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 233).

Pipe trenching in 1998 revealed the remains of a substantial rural settlement adjacent to Great Hougham Court Farm (Parfitt and Corke 2002). This probably covered an area of at least 7.5 hectares. The excavated features represented a continuous sequence of occupation extending from about 100 BC to AD 250 (Fig. G3). About two-thirds of the features examined were shallow ditches and gullies relating to a complex of rectilinear ditched fields and enclosures. The stratigraphic evidence suggested that there were probably at least five or six successive phases of these, with the earliest belonging to the pre-Conquest period. The site seems to have been established about 100 BC and included a small cremation cemetery (see below). Any associated buildings were presumably of timber but no certain traces of these were observed.

Within the large pottery assemblage recovered from the site are a few pre-Conquest imports, including fragments of a Tiberian butt beaker and a residual sherd of Dressel 1B amphora. There is also a sherd of Dressel 2–4 amphora. These amphorae gradually replaced the Dressel 1B type around the end of the first century BC. The proximity of this site to East Wear Bay, located some 3.75km to the south-west, where such imports would seem to have been landed (see above), appears to be of some significance.

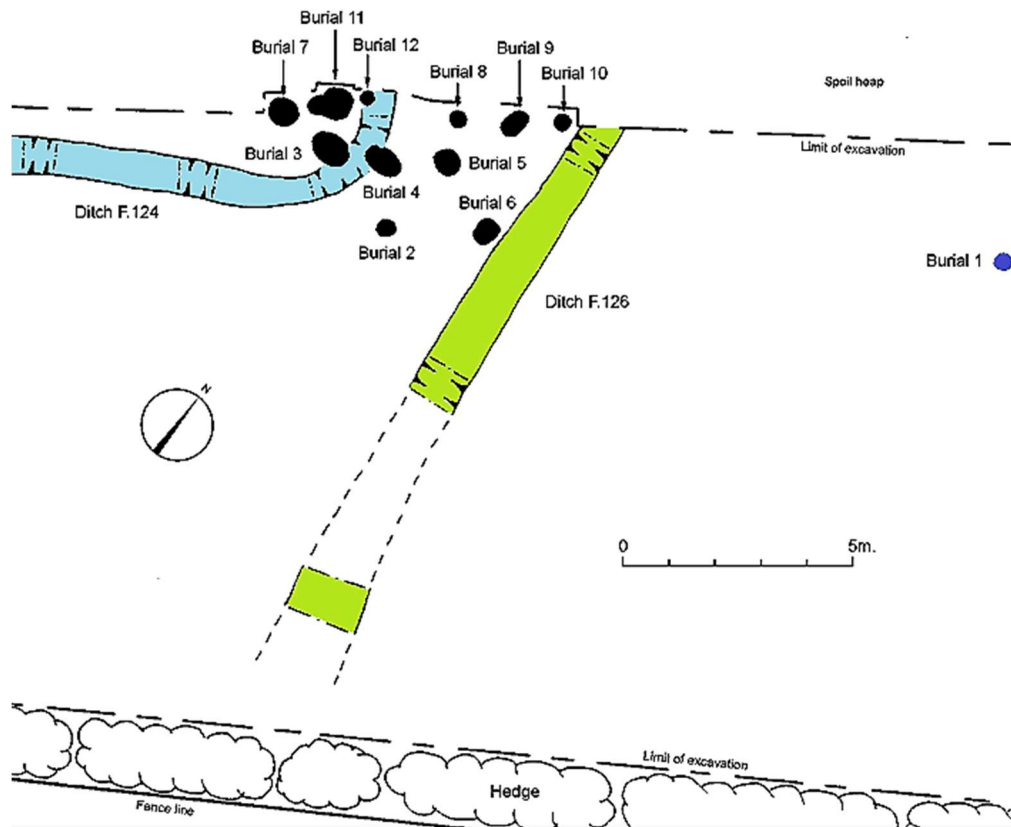


Figure G3: Plan of cemetery and adjacent ditches at Great Hougham Court Farm (after Parfitt and Corke 2002).

Peene Quarry, Newington. NGR TR 1892 3812 (Kent HER TR 13 NE 28).

Above Peene Quarry, a scatter of Iron Age pottery and crop-marks (Fig. G4) suggest that a broad promontory projecting from the chalk escarpment here could represent the site of a substantial settlement, partially protected by ditches cutting off the headland. More investigation of this potentially very important site is needed.



Figure G4: Cropmark of unexcavated double-ditched enclosure above Peene Quarry, Newington (©Google Earth 2017).

BURIAL SITES

East Wear Bay (East Cliff), Folkestone. NGR TR 2407 3700 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 109).

Several pre-Roman cremations, the earliest probably dating from to the late first century BC, were discovered during Winbolt's excavations at the East Wear Bay Roman villa site in 1924 (Winbolt 1925, 111). Two of the burial urns contained a brooch (Stead 1976), probably used to close the top of a cloth or leather bag within which the ashes of the deceased had originally been placed. These burials relate to the extensive native settlement that existed here before the Roman villa was built (see above).

East Wear Bay (63 Wear Bay Road), Folkestone. NGR TR 24025 36991.

Excavation of the trenches required for a new summerhouse at the rear of No. 63 Wear Bay Road revealed two early first century AD cremation burials (CAT/ATU archives) cutting through earlier Iron Age deposits (see above). Cremation 1 contained the truncated remains of a single pottery vessel holding burnt human bone. Cremation 2 lay about 3.50m south-east of Cremation 1 and contained the damaged remains of two pottery vessels. The eastern vessel contained a quantity of cremated bone. Damage to all the pots suggested that the ground here had subsequently been ploughed.

Ashford Road, Cheriton, Folkestone. NGR TR 1927 3687 (Kent HER TR 13 NE 13 & NE 85).

Building work in 1948 between Horn Street and the main Ashford Road, revealed a small cemetery containing at least nine cremation burials. Most of these burials are of first century Roman date but a few earlier pottery vessels suggest that one or two might just pre-date the Conquest of AD 43 (Tester and Bing 1949).

Radnor Park, Folkestone. NGR TR 2177 3652 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 15).

A small cemetery site was discovered close to the junction of Julian Road and Wilton Road, near Radnor Park in 1918. Of the three cremations located here, one was certainly of post-Conquest date but the other two more probably belong to the earlier part of the first century AD (Bushe-Fox 1925, 20–21; Fig. G5).

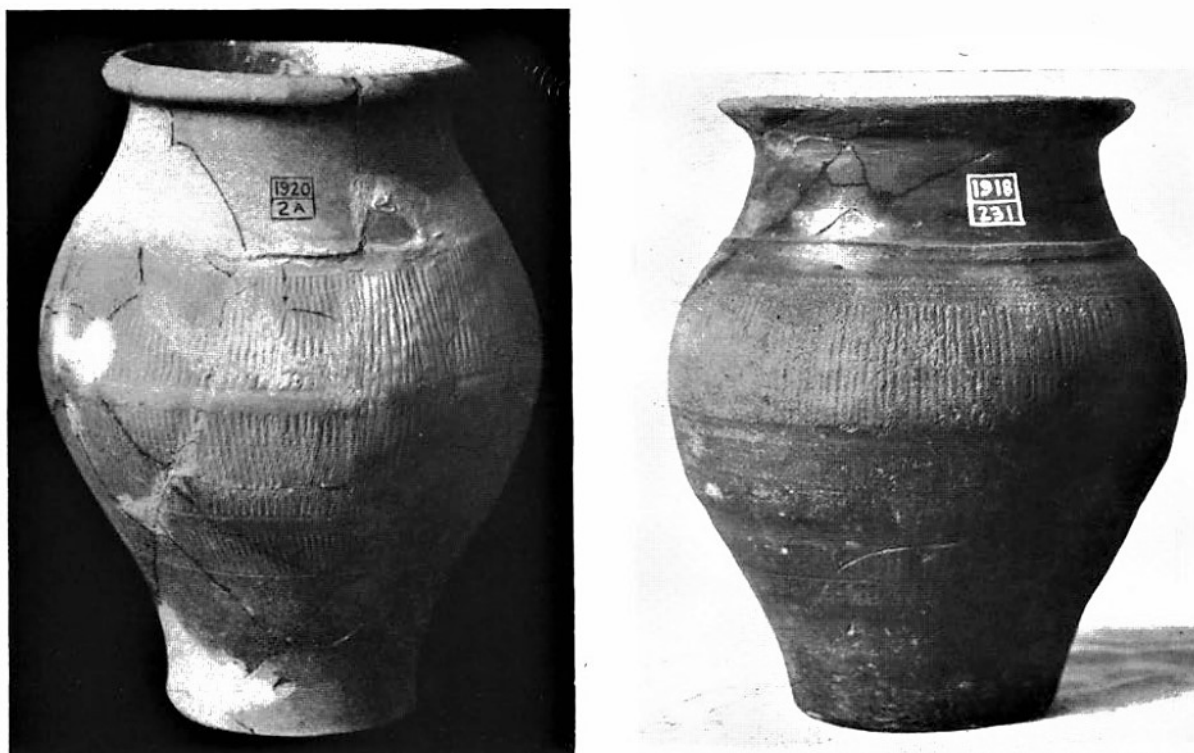


Figure G5: Cremation urns found in 1918 at junction of Julian Road and Wilton Road, Folkestone. Height of tallest vessel (1920/2A), 25cm (after Bushe-Fox 1925).

St Martin's Plain, Shorndcliffe, Folkestone. NGR TR 19022 36684, centred.

Excavations in 2015 revealed a Late Iron Age cremation cemetery containing nine burials enclosed by an associated boundary ditch (Seddon 2016). No further details are presently available.

Malmains Farm, Alkham. NGR TR 255 424.

Part of a cremation cemetery containing at least four burials was located on a south-east facing chalk hillside overlooking the Alkham valley in 1989. One burial was partially enclosed by a gully forming a small enclosure, which could perhaps suggest that this burial had originally possessed a covering mound. All four burials contained pottery vessels and three had also been provided with meat offerings and various metal items. The cremation deposits in Burials 3 and 4 were each contained within a wooden 'bucket', bound with decorative copper alloy bands and ornamented handles, indicating that these were high status individuals (Philp 2014, 9–21). The burials are dated to between 75 and 1 BC and some of the material is now on display in the British Museum (Fig. G6).



Figure G6: Restored bucket from Burial 4, Malmains Farm, Alkham, dated between 75 and 1 BC. Height 26cm (©Trustees of the British Museum).

Great Hougham Court Farm, Hougham Without. NGR TR 2719 3963 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 233, part of). At Great Hougham Court Farm, a cremation cemetery, perhaps set within its own ditched enclosure, was excavated in 1998. A dozen burials were recovered, with others probably lying beyond the excavation limits (see Fig. G4 above). The bulk of these cremations date to the period c.50 BC to AD 50 but one, set slightly apart from the rest, seems to date to c.150–100 BC (based on the style of the

pottery), implying that the cemetery was in use over a significant period (Parfitt and Corke 2002, 16). Other discoveries made in the area indicate that this cemetery belonged to a sizable settlement, occupied for several centuries and continuing into the Roman period (see above).

COINS AND COIN HOARDS

East Cliff/East Wear Bay foreshore, Folkestone. Area of NGR TR 240 370.

The largest local assemblage of Late Iron Age coins in the area comes from the settlement site at East Cliff and the adjacent foreshore of East Wear Bay. Over 150 examples are now recorded (Holman 2005b and unpublished CAT/ATU archives). These include issues of gold (Fig. G7), silver and copper alloy (bronze), produced both in Kent and much further afield. Of the non-local coins there are more than 20 bronze and silver specimens from Gaul (modern France and Belgium). These originate not just from the areas closest to Kent but also from central and even southern Gaul, hinting that the occupants of the Folkestone settlement had some extensive trading connections. There are also a few non-local British 'imports', from Dorset and from areas well to the north of the Thames, suggesting further trading links.



Figure G7: Gold coin minted in Kent, c.50–30 BC, found during excavations at East Wear Bay in 2010.

Ashford Road, Cheriton (Site C), Folkestone. NGR TR 1927 3687 (Kent HER TR 13 NE 13 & NE 85).

A single potin coin was recovered from a Late Iron Age hearth deposit, together with other domestic refuse, during building work in 1948 (Tester and Bing 1949, 36; see above).

Castle Hill, Folkestone. NGR TR 214 379

A silver coin was picked-up on the surface of Castle Hill in 1965 (Mynott 1974). This bears the name of another prince or king of Kent, *Amminus*, who seems to have succeeded *Eppillus* in about AD 30. The coin also carries a mintmark, indicating that it was struck at a place then known by the name of *Dun...*

This was probably in Kent, but its exact location is unknown.

Cheriton, Folkestone. NGR TR 2037.

A gold coin, possibly of the *Nervii*, is recorded as having been found at Cheriton (David Holman pers. comm.).

Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone. NGR TR 2136 (CAT site HGSF-IA-01).

A potin was recovered during an excavation by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 2005.

North East of Round Hill, Folkestone. NGR TR 220 385 (CCI 01.1776).

A bronze unit of the *Ambiani* was found north east of Round Hill.

Pilgrims' Spring, Folkestone. NGR TR 2238 (CCI 10.2880).

The Celtic Coin Index records a bronze unit of Eppillus from Pilgrims' Spring.

Round Hill, Folkestone. NGR TR 2179 3818.

A scattered hoard of Iron Age coins was discovered by a metal-detectorist searching the southern slopes of Round Hill in 1979. Containing at least sixty-seven individual specimens, the coins belong to the Kentish Primary potin series and probably date to around 150 BC. The finds would seem to represent a hoard, dislodged from its original place of burial further upslope (Holman 2005a).

Sandgate, Folkestone. NGR TR 2035 (CCI 95.3686 and 95.3687).

Two Armorican silver units were allegedly found together at Sandgate. One is of the *Coriosolites*, the other is a Jersey type.

Sugar Loaf Hill, Folkestone. NGR TR 223 379 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 71).

In 1972, the summit of Sugar Loaf Hill yielded a coin of king *Eppillus*, who appears to have ruled in Kent between about AD 15 and 30 (Fisher 1973).

Alkham. NGR TR 254 410 (Treasure case 2016 T148).

A scatter of Iron Age coins was discovered by a metal-detectorist searching the high plateau land to the south of Alkham (Fig. G8).



Figure G8: Potin coin c.150 BC from the Alkham hoard showing head of Apollo (photo by D. Holman).

More than 100 individual specimens were recovered in a localised area. The finds would seem to derive from a single scattered hoard, disturbed by ploughing. Excavation on the site in 2016 yielded more loose coins but no focussed deposit. The coins, numbering more than 235, are all Kentish Primary Series (also known as 'Thurrock') potins and probably date to *circa* 175-125 BC. Such coins copy Southern and Central Gaulish prototypes, showing the head of Apollo with a bull on the reverse (Haselgrove 1988). The only associated finds were numerous fragments of a light slag-like material. Similar material has been noted in association with the hoard of about 2000 potins of this type found at Thurrock in 1987 (David Holman pers. comm.).

Capel-Le-Ferne. NGR TR 2539 (CCI 01.0990).

A gold coin of the Gallic *Morini* tribe is recorded in the Celtic Coin Index as having been found at Capel.

Capel-Le-Ferne. NGR TR 247 387 (CCI 95.0167).

A silver unit of the *Iceni*, struck in the name of ANTED, was recorded as having been found at Capel in the Celtic Coin Index. This has been described as a rare find for Kent (David Holman pers. comm.).

Hawkinge Aerodrome, Hawkinge. NGR TR 2120 3950, centred.

A large pit excavated on the former Hawkinge Aerodrome site in 1998 produced a complete Class I potin coin and fragments of several others, together with much Late Iron Age pottery (Stevens 2003, 84).

Dolland's Moor, Newington. NGR TR 1737 (CAT records).

A potin and a bronze unit of Amminus were excavated by CAT at Dolland's Moor ahead of the construction of the Channel Tunnel terminal.

Arpinge, Paddlesworth. TR 1939 (CCI 69.0440 and 98.1147).

Two bronze units from Arpinge are recorded in the Celtic Coin Index, one of Tasciovanus (Sego) and one of Dubnovellaunos.

QUERN PRODUCTION SITE

East Wear Bay, Folkestone. Area of NGR TR 240 370 (Kent HER TR 23 NW 211).

The Lower Greensand rock outcrops at Copt Point and the foreshore below were worked during the Late Iron Age and continuing into the earlier Roman period, to produce rotary querns for grinding corn, as well as stone mortars. Production was focussed in the area of the extensive settlement above East Wear Bay, with such stone working apparently being a major activity on the site (Keller 1988; Green in Coulson 2013, 50–1). Actual working areas have been location during excavations on East Cliff (Figs G9 & G10). Further inland, small scale excavations at the rear of No. 63 Wear Bay Road revealed a dump of rubble containing more than a dozen Greensand quern fragments.



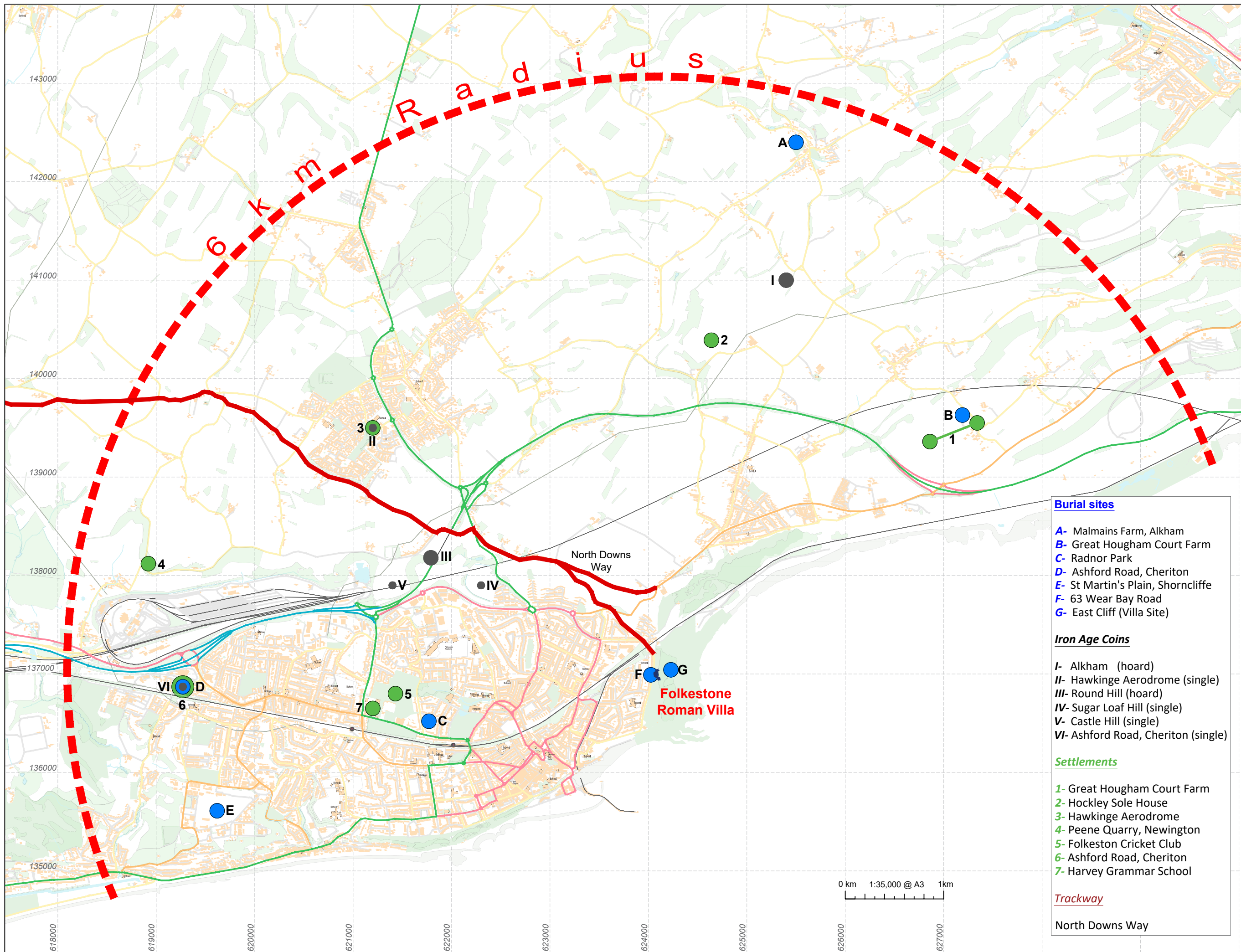
Figure G9: Unfinished rotary quern surrounded by chipping debris at the East Wear Bay site.



Figure G10: Dump of unfinished rotary querns at the East Wear Bay site.

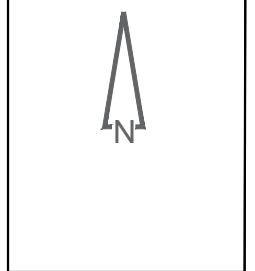
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Iron Age sites
and finds
6km radius
Folkestone
Roman Villa

- Burial sites**
- A- Malmaims Farm, Alkham
 - B- Great Hougham Court Farm
 - C- Radnor Park
 - D- Ashford Road, Cheriton
 - E- St Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe
 - F- 63 Wear Bay Road
 - G- East Cliff (Villa Site)
- Iron Age Coins**
- I- Alkham (hoard)
 - II- Hawkinge Aerodrome (single)
 - III- Round Hill (hoard)
 - IV- Sugar Loaf Hill (single)
 - V- Castle Hill (single)
 - VI- Ashford Road, Cheriton (single)
- Settlements**
- 1- Great Hougham Court Farm
 - 2- Hockley Sole House
 - 3- Hawkinge Aerodrome
 - 4- Peene Quarry, Newington
 - 5- Folkeston Cricket Club
 - 6- Ashford Road, Cheriton
 - 7- Harvey Grammar School
- Trackway**
- North Downs Way



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SITE ADDRESS	Wear Bay Road Folkestone Kent
DRAWN BY	SCALE(S)
P-SA	1:35,000 @ A3
DATE	LAST REVISION
11/01/21	14/01/21
REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED NO.
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Figure G11: Map of Iron Age sites and finds around Folkestone.



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