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27

2002–2003

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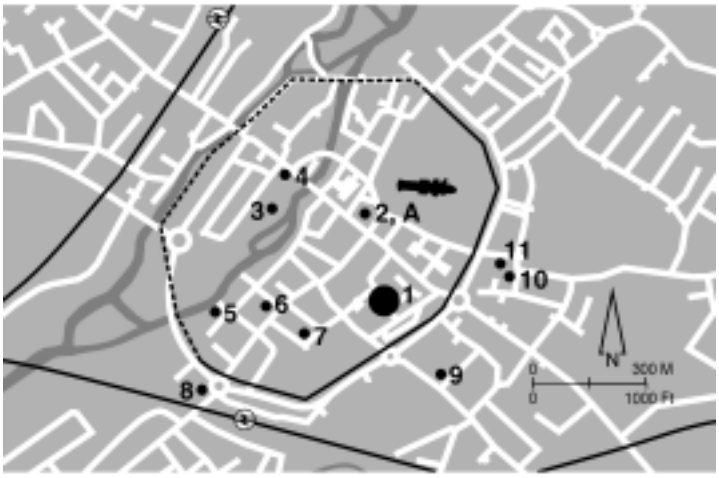

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1 Whitefriars
Alison Hicks and Mark Houliston

The weeks between April and August 2002 saw the completion of archaeological excavations in the southern half of the Whitefriars development area. This work began back in 1999, on the corner of Watling Street car park, and culminated on sites positioned around the former multi-storey car park and in a major open-area excavation on the site of the former Gravel Walk. The multi-storey car park sites were handed back to the developer at the beginning of July, the Gravel Walk site on 11 August, right on schedule. This brought to an end the largest campaign of archaeological work yet undertaken in the city.

The principal period examined during the final weeks of excavation was Roman. The earliest deposits uncovered were thought to have been plough soils, probably related to agricultural activity taking place on the fringes of the town. A few rubbish pits were also identified, together with a feature tentatively interpreted as a lime kiln, but no structural occupation was present during the early years of Roman rule.

Overhead view of the Gravel Walk site. The sites surrounding the former multi-storey car park are in the process of being backfilled by the developer.

The tessellated flooring within the corridor. Note the way the floor has slumped into underlying pits. Scale 2 m.

Detail of an area of one of the mosaic panels, set as features within the tessellated floor.

The first structural evidence encountered was a road, aligned north–south, cutting along the eastern fringes of the site. This was thought to have been constructed in the first half of the second century A.D., together with a lane, angled at about 80 degrees to the road, leading off to the west. Within the western angles created by these features, development occurred in the form of timber structures. Large areas of flooring, both clay and mortar, were excavated, together with post-holes, pads and slots providing evidence for the foundation lines of associated walls. In several places, the remains of the painted plaster once covering the insides of the walls survived.

Later on, probably in the third century, a large area located to the west of the road and north of the lane was cleared and a masonry town-house constructed. This house was of 'winged corridor' design. A main building range lay to the west, parallel with the road, separated from it by a large open courtyard. Further ranges ran off eastwards to the north and south, the southern range slightly askew because it was constructed along the line of the existing lane. A corridor, or portico, ran along the eastern side of the west range, separating it from the courtyard, whilst jutting out into the courtyard, in the centre, was a small room, presumably defining the main entrance. In the north, the corridor turned a right angle eastwards to flank the northern range, and continued towards the road, whilst in the south it terminated.

Evidence of the fine nature of this building was uncovered during excavation: the corridor had an expanse of tessellated floor, into which were set decorative mosaic panels (see above). Within the northern range remnants of painted plaster still adhered to portions of the wall whilst a further area of tessellated flooring was uncovered, upon which a small oven had later been constructed (below left). In addition, two of the rooms in the western range were heated, the pilae stacks originally supporting the overlying floor still surviving, together with portions of the arched flue connecting the two rooms (below centre and right). Recovered from overlying demolition deposits were also numerous fragments of painted wall plaster, all of which will provide clues of the original internal decoration of this building.

A number of alterations were made to this building during its lifetime, including a reflooring of the western corridor and the 'filling in' of the two hypocausted rooms. New walls were also added in the north-east and centre, in areas previously occupied by the courtyard. The central area appeared to have been re-used as a kitchen, within which numerous floors and occupation lenses were identified; soil samples from these will be carefully analysed for information regarding the final use of the building.

The small oven sitting upon an area of tessellated floor, under excavation.

In the foreground, the pilae stacks in one of the heated rooms. Towards the centre right can be seen the remnants of the arched flue leading into the second heated room. Scale 2 m.

Detail of the pilae stacks in one of the heated rooms, overlooked by visitors observing excavations in progress from the 'Big Dig' walkway.

Some of the ragstone blocks surviving in position along one side of the seven-sided structure, possibly a fountain. Scale 0.5 m.

One of the eight articulated burials within a narrow ditch, lying face down with one arm extended, together with remnants of other articulated burials. Scale 1 m.

To the north of this building, parallel walls were uncovered which suggested that a second building had been constructed alongside the first. Evidence of a third structure lay at the western end of the site, although here only the back of an apparent range of rooms was identified. Lying between this and the 'winged corridor' building to the east, however, were two structures of unusual design. One, arranged upon a different alignment from the nearby buildings, was rectangular in plan, subdivided in the centre and constructed from thick walls with deep foundations. No occupation deposits or floor surfaces were identified within it. To the south, against the lane, was a curious seven-sided structure originally built from large ragstone blocks, together with tufa fragments, some of which survived *in situ* whilst others were recovered as demolition material from the robber trenches (above left). It is suggested that the rectangular structure may have represented a water tower, the nearby seven-sided structure perhaps a fountain taking its run-off.

To the south of the Gravel Walk excavation, the sites examined around the area of the former multi-storey car park revealed no similar structural remains. Instead, the ground seems to have been largely open, used to cut pits for clay extraction and rubbish disposal, crossed by trackways laid diagonally to the Roman road grid (see Hicks and Houliston 2003, 5). An exception was along the edge of the road, where a sequence of Roman timber structures was uncovered, each formed by lines of substantial post-holes and containing a complex arrangement of clay floors and occupation deposits. These structures, associated with extensive spreads of gravel presumably forming yard surfaces, may well have been storage facilities, small-scale workshops, or livestock areas, possibly suggesting commercial activity, perhaps a market, on the edge of town.

An interesting burial site was also located within the southern area, consisting of the articulated remains of eight individuals, including two juveniles, buried unceremoniously within a shallow ditch. Only the first individual was buried with any care; the others sometimes intercut each other, whilst one was buried face down (above right), another with one leg tightly flexed against the chest and the other extended. The burials, provisionally dated to the fourth century or later (from a preliminary examination of a group of bracelets found on one body) did not appear to form part of a wider cemetery. The purpose of their burial in such a location, within the Roman town limits, and in such a bizarre fashion, is a mystery.

Anglo-Saxon activity was also identified during the final weeks of excavation, a total of four sunken-floored features being excavated. Three of these had well-defined edges and an array of post- and stake-holes cutting through the edges of their bases, indicating the arrangement of a wooden superstructure (below left). The fourth was less deep, and defined only by an extensive spread of burnt daub cut by a confusing mass of post- and stake-holes. All four structures were located near to the Roman road, suggesting that

An Anglo-Saxon sunken-floored structure, lying beside the Roman road located just out of shot to the left. The gravel foundations of one of the walls of a Roman building are visible in the centre of the photograph, cut through by the Anglo-Saxon structure. Scales 2 m and 1 m.

The cobbled street surface under excavation. Note the deep wheel ruts cutting through its surface.

this thoroughfare continued in use into the Saxon period.

Pits of Anglo-Saxon date, cut for storage, clay extraction and refuse disposal, were also identified. However, horizontal stratigraphy of Anglo-Saxon date had generally been removed by later, medieval ground truncations. In particular, the cobbled street, later referred to as Gravel Walk, cut deeply into the Roman sequence, leaving little Anglo-Saxon material intact. This street, lying on a similar alignment to the Roman lane, was very extensive, up to 8 m. wide in places, and clearly became a major thoroughfare during the medieval period. Its date of origin is not, at present, certain; it could have been late Anglo-Saxon, or perhaps not come into existence until the early Norman period. However, future analysis of pottery recovered from pits sealed by the earliest road metallings should provide a good date for its foundation. Gravel Walk was to remain in use, after many resurfacings, until the time of the current Whitefriars development.

Following completion of excavation work in August 2002, many of the Whitefriars team have

Post-excavation work: analysing site data during the preparation of site narrative reports.

been involved in a variety of post-excavation tasks. Some of these, such as the processing of finds and soil samples, and the archiving of the site records, had already been ongoing but could now be pushed rapidly ahead without the, albeit pleasant, distractions of fieldwork. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, an x-ray machine was also purchased. The equipment will be of great benefit to the Trust, ensuring that specialists have access to all the information they require to study the artefacts in detail.

The period of post-excavation has also enabled the supervisors to analyse preliminary data from the excavated sites and prepare site narratives, to be used by artefact and environmental specialists, working on materials recovered from the excavations, in determining the nature, relevance and importance of each context excavated. This post-excavation work will continue until the final phase of fieldwork begins in July 2003.

Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed to the success of the Whitefriars project so far and to all of these, too numerous to mention here, we extend our grateful thanks. Our most heartfelt thanks, however, go to the Whitefriars team of excavators, analysts, processors and support staff who have worked so incredibly hard to uncover further fascinating remains of the historic city of Canterbury.

2 Debenhams, Guildhall Street

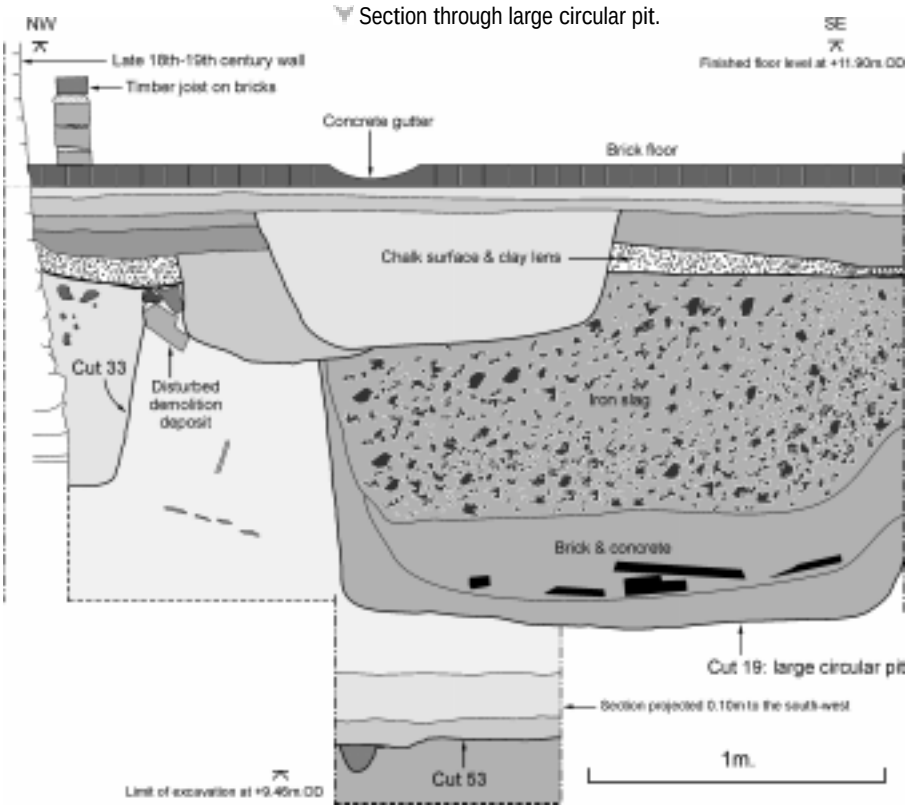
Richard Helm and Jake Weekes

In May and October 2002, refurbishments carried out on behalf of Debenhams Retail plc at their retail outlets in Guildhall Street, Canterbury were monitored by the Trust through a series of small-scale excavations and watching briefs. The construction work, at Nos 3–9, 11–14 and 15–16 Guildhall Street, entailed the installation of several new customer lifts as well as fire escape facilities.

The location of Guildhall Street within the established area of the Roman civic centre is of particular interest, especially as the layout of the Roman town plan is relatively speculative in this area, owing to a lack of recorded excavation in the past. Two finds of Roman and sub-Roman significance were made; a mortar surface with a series of small post-holes cut into it forced a change in construction method for the planned customer lift at Nos 3–9 Guildhall Street, and a damaged but still substantial masonry footing (at least 1 m. thick) was discovered in one of the piling positions for the lift at 11–14 Guildhall Street. A diamond-shaped *tessera*, second- and third-century pottery, and a number of fragments of painted wall plaster (mainly dark red decoration of unknown design) were found in association with these levels. The nature of the work meant that a detailed examination of the Roman structures could not be carried out. However, such 'key-hole surgery' continues to add to an overall understanding of the Roman forum and basilica at Canterbury.

A good deal of later stratigraphy was also encountered at Nos 3–9 Guildhall Street, with late medieval soils and intercutting pits, a wall footing and associated cobbled surface (possibly late medieval), and a number of interesting post-medieval features. The surprise find of human

Section through large circular pit.



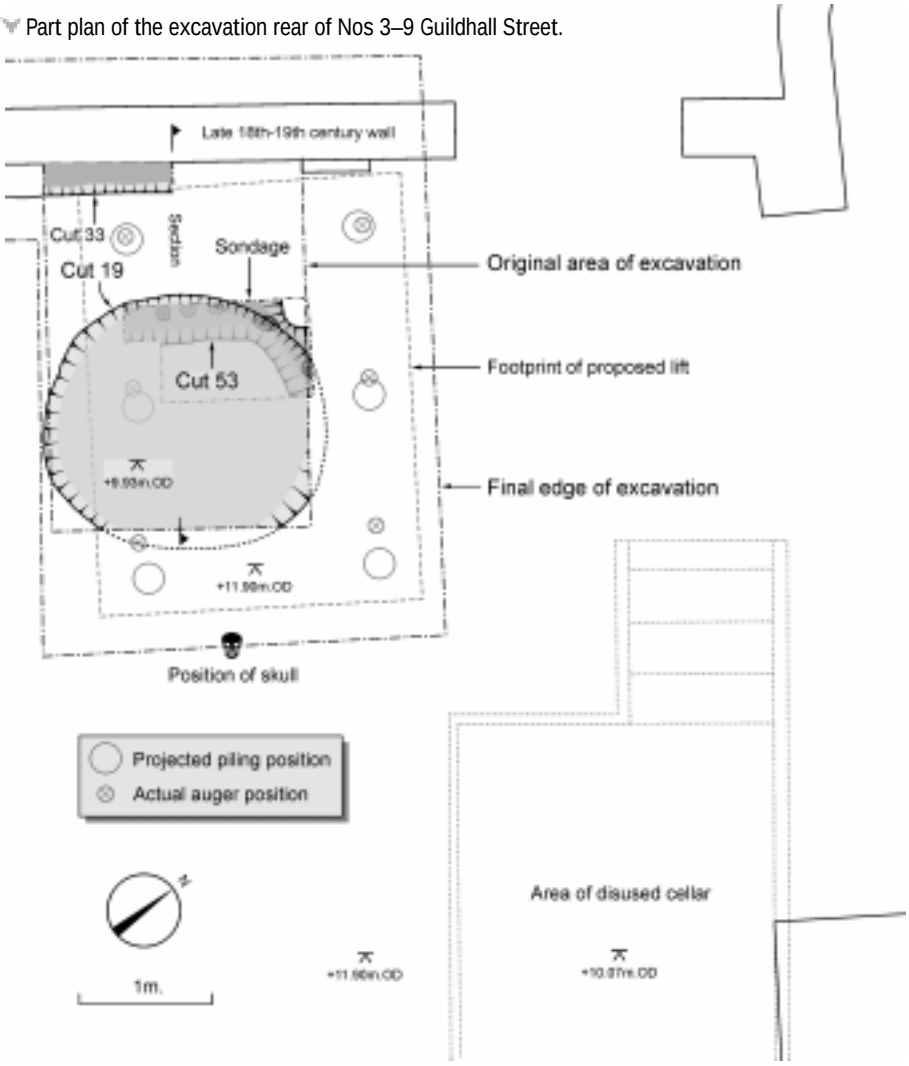
remains at the base of a post-medieval (eighteenth century?) pit was especially noteworthy; the skull and several post-cranial fragments were initially recovered by workmen enlarging the pit for the lift foundation. Closer inspection of the find spot suggested that the skeletal remains (possibly those of a young adult female) were disarticulated, and probably not in their original context. This probable residuality of the bones would tend to suggest a more mundane explanation for their unlikely context (post-medieval cemeteries are unknown in this area) than foul play. It seems most likely that earlier excavators (eighteenth-century labourers?) may have been the first to disturb the remains, and perhaps reburied them. The question as to actual date of the burial has still to be answered. A sample of the skeletal material (a tooth) provided a radiocarbon date calibrated to A.D. 1460–1650.

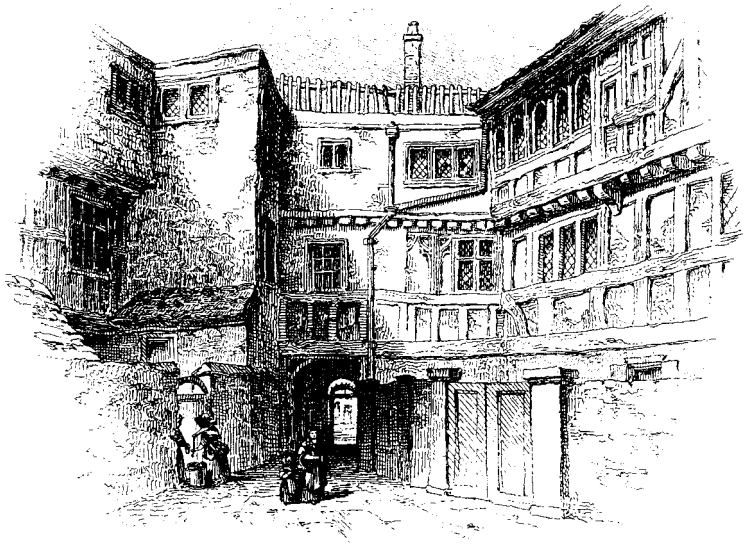
The excavation at Nos 3–9 Guildhall Street also produced evidence of light industrial metalworking at the site in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, in the shape of a large circular pit backfilled with a considerable amount of iron slag, as well as brick and concrete structural elements apparently associated with the casting process. The pit has been tentatively interpreted as a derelict casting pit, which would perhaps originally have been brick lined, and used for the casting of long cylindrical objects. On passing out of use, this installation had apparently been robbed of whatever building materials could be salvaged from it and the pit deliberately backfilled with slag and other debris. A rammed chalk surface sealed the feature, indicating a change of use for the plot in about the mid nineteenth century. Later still, the area was converted to an abattoir, with a brick floor and concrete gutters found to be still intact beneath the shop floor level. This use of the site continued into the living memory of an elderly relative of one of Debenhams' current staff.

During the creation of a fire escape stair exiting onto Mercery Lane, part of a substantial medieval flint wall was exposed. The wall, fronting the line of Mercery Lane, potentially represents the footings for the ground floor stone façade of the south-eastern range of the Cheker of Hope inn, built by Christ Church Priory between 1392 and 1395. The inn was erected during the last few years of Geoffrey Chaucer's life and is mentioned in *The Prologue to the Tale of Beryn*, an early fifteenth-century continuation of the *Canterbury Tales*, not written by Chaucer. Most of the eastern side of this building survives, though regrettably approximately half of the total structure was destroyed by fire on 22 August 1865. Building survey between Nos 1 and 2 High Street during 1988 (Austin 1988) and at Nos 8 and 8A Mercery Lane during 1989 (Austin 1989) has enabled an assessment of its surviving elements (see Rupert Austin's report, p. 41). The inn formed a large three-storied jettied building, with galleried internal court, and had an impressive stone arcade on the ground floor which still survives at the corner of Mercery Lane and the High Street.

The flint wall exposed during the watching brief survived to a height of 0.75 m. Immediately below this was an earlier dressed Caen stone and chalk wall, abutted by a mortar floor. A build up of loamy soils, cut through by a later rubbish pit, overlay the mortar floor. Pottery recovered from the rubbish pit firmly established a medieval date,

Part plan of the excavation rear of Nos 3–9 Guildhall Street.





Eighteenth-century engraving of the courtyard of the Cheker, with gateway opening onto High Street.

spanning the mid thirteenth to mid fourteenth century, suggesting that the earlier wall, mortar floor and later soil horizon and rubbish pit all pre-dated the construction of the Cheker of Hope inn.

The rubbish pit was sealed by a compacted clay floor, approximately level with the lower course of the upper flint wall and presumably contemporary with its build. An internal flint chalk block dwarf wall was then built upon the surface of the clay floor (abutting at right angle against the interior face of the flint wall) and a new clay floor laid. This flooring appeared to have been renewed at least once before the final modification of this building took place, represented by the cutting of two opposing cellars. With the exception of residual pottery of mid thirteenth-century date, the pottery from these later features spanned the late fourteenth and early sixteenth century, providing dated confirmation for the association of this structure with the Cheker of Hope.

Our thanks are extended to Debenhams Retail plc and their architects Bernard Engle.

3 Greyfriars

Simon Pratt

In late April 2003, a watching brief was maintained during path-laying and landscaping in the grounds of the Greyfriars, Canterbury's medieval Franciscan friary (TR 1469 5784). This revealed the presence of medieval and early post-medieval structures which were rapidly cleaned and recorded. Thanks are due to the Trustees of Eastbridge Hospital, who commissioned the work as part of an on-going garden restoration project.

A thick stone wall exposed during the work probably formed part of the eastern side of a Lady Chapel attached to the northern side of the chancel of the friary church. Following the Dissolution, the church was converted into a substantial mansion, as is shown on an anonymous map of Canterbury in *c.*1640. In the ground, this phase was represented by the stone footings for a large fireplace built against the outside of the chapel wall. A floor-levelling deposit of clay inside the building contained several fragments of medieval floor-tile and probably also dated to the post-Dissolution period. By 1752 the western part of the mansion had been demolished but those parts over the chancel and chapel were still standing. By the time of the 1874 Ordnance Survey, they too had gone.

One pottery sherd recovered from a rubble layer abutting the wall and fireplace is of particular interest. It is from the base of an early post-medieval bird pot, described here by John Cotter.

Greyfriars in 1752. The site of the chancel is marked C, that of the presumed Lady Chapel L (from the survey of Canterbury by W & H Doidge).

The early post-medieval bird pot

The sherd was residual in the rubble layer and found amongst other pottery dated *c.* 1825/50–1900. The bird pot (not illustrated) is in an unglazed hard red fine sandy fabric (LM17) typical of the period *c.* 1525–50/75 and probably produced in the Canterbury area. Bird pots were jug-shaped vessels designed for attachment under the eaves of houses or to the branches of trees with the aim of encouraging birds, particularly sparrows and blackbirds, to nest in them. From at least the early sixteenth century sparrows were regarded as vermin and a number of royal edicts were issued to encourage their extermination including the payment of a bounty for so many dozens of sparrow heads presented to the local churchwarden. Alternatively starlings and blackbirds made a tasty addition to the diet (hence the song five and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie …).

Bird pots are shown in numerous Flemish and Dutch paintings from the fifteenth century onwards and the earliest examples found in England were imported from those countries. They appear in English documentary sources from *c.* 1550 and were produced in this country from at least this time and even as late, in some rural areas (Kent included), as the nineteenth century. Only part of the base and lower walls of the Greyfriars bird pot survives. The underside of the base, however, retains evidence of the circular cut-away (usually a quarter or semi circle) which allowed the pot to be hung from a nail and to project horizontally from the wall. Bird pots are only rarely found on archaeological excavations and only about seven examples have been identified so far from Canterbury. The Greyfriars example is interesting in being the earliest example identified to date, suggesting the local production and use of this ceramic form from the Tudor period onwards.

Greyfriars, *c.* 1640. The church converted into a mansion is tinted as is a large building, possibly located during evaluation at Tower Way, see over. (CAT tracing of CALC Map 123)

4 No. 44 St Peter's Street/Tower Way

Richard Helm

During September 2002 the Trust excavated two evaluation trenches to the rear of No. 44 St Peter's Street, fronting Tower Way (TR 1465 5799). Situated on the alluvial plain of the River Stour, the site would in the past have been located on marshy ground, and was probably only intermittently occupied until the medieval period. During the medieval period the surrounding area is known to have attracted riverside industries, but in 1224 land to the south-east of the present site had been granted to the first Franciscan mission to England, and by 1392 the boundaries of this monastic precinct had enclosed an area which extended westwards to the present line of Black Griffin Lane and immediately south of Tower Way.

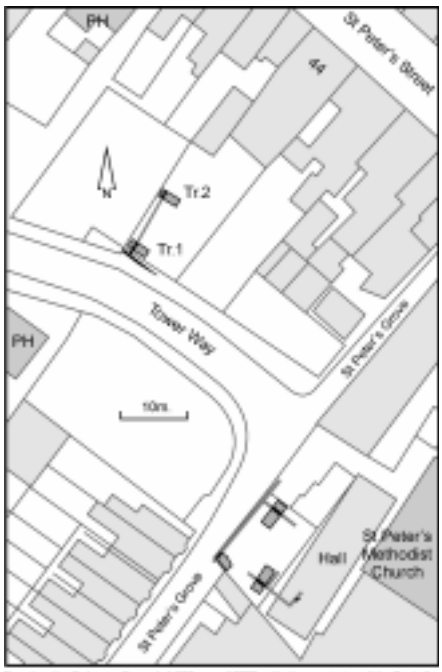
There is little archaeological evidence to illustrate the impact of the founding of the monastic precinct on the existing medieval topography of Canterbury. An evaluation undertaken at St Peter's Methodist School demonstrated evidence for thirteenth-century occupation within the grounds of the precinct, including features possibly representing dyers or fullers vats, associated with holdings known to have existed along the present line of St Peter's Grove, formerly called Criene Mill Lane (Pratt 2000). These were later removed when land surrounding Criene Mill Lane was acquired by the community in 1275, and the road enclosed within the expanding precinct boundaries by 1279 (Cotton 1924, 17).

Located just outside the northern precinct boundary, the evaluation revealed part of a late medieval building located against the western margins of the site. Segments of a flint and chalk dwarf wall aligned north-east/south-west defined the eastern limits of the building, abutted by a sequence of internal chalk and clay floors and external garden soils.

Further careful monitoring of groundworks during construction on site revealed that this wall abutted at right angle with a second flint and chalk wall. This wall defined the southern extent of both the building and its attached garden. Material recovered from a horizon of demolition rubble immediately above the latest phase of internal flooring was dated to the mid seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This ties in well with early cartographic evidence for a large building standing within the approximate area of the development (see tracing of *c.* 1640 map on p. 9).

The evaluation was restricted to the depth of uppermost significant archaeology and was not able to expose evidence for settlement pre-dating the founding of the friary. However, evaluation and watching brief work undertaken at St Peter's Methodist Church identified evidence for a comparable late medieval building fronting the former line of Criene Mill Lane (Helm 2002). Both buildings illustrate that settlement existed close to the precinct's northern boundary, perhaps during the final stages of the life of the monastic community dissolved by Crown in 1538, and certainly following the immediate post-Dissolution period.

The work was commissioned by Janus Developments Limited to fulfill the conditions of a planning consent granted for construction of a new residential building.



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:500 map of 2002 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL100021008

The location of evaluation trenches at Tower Way and St Peter's Methodist Church.

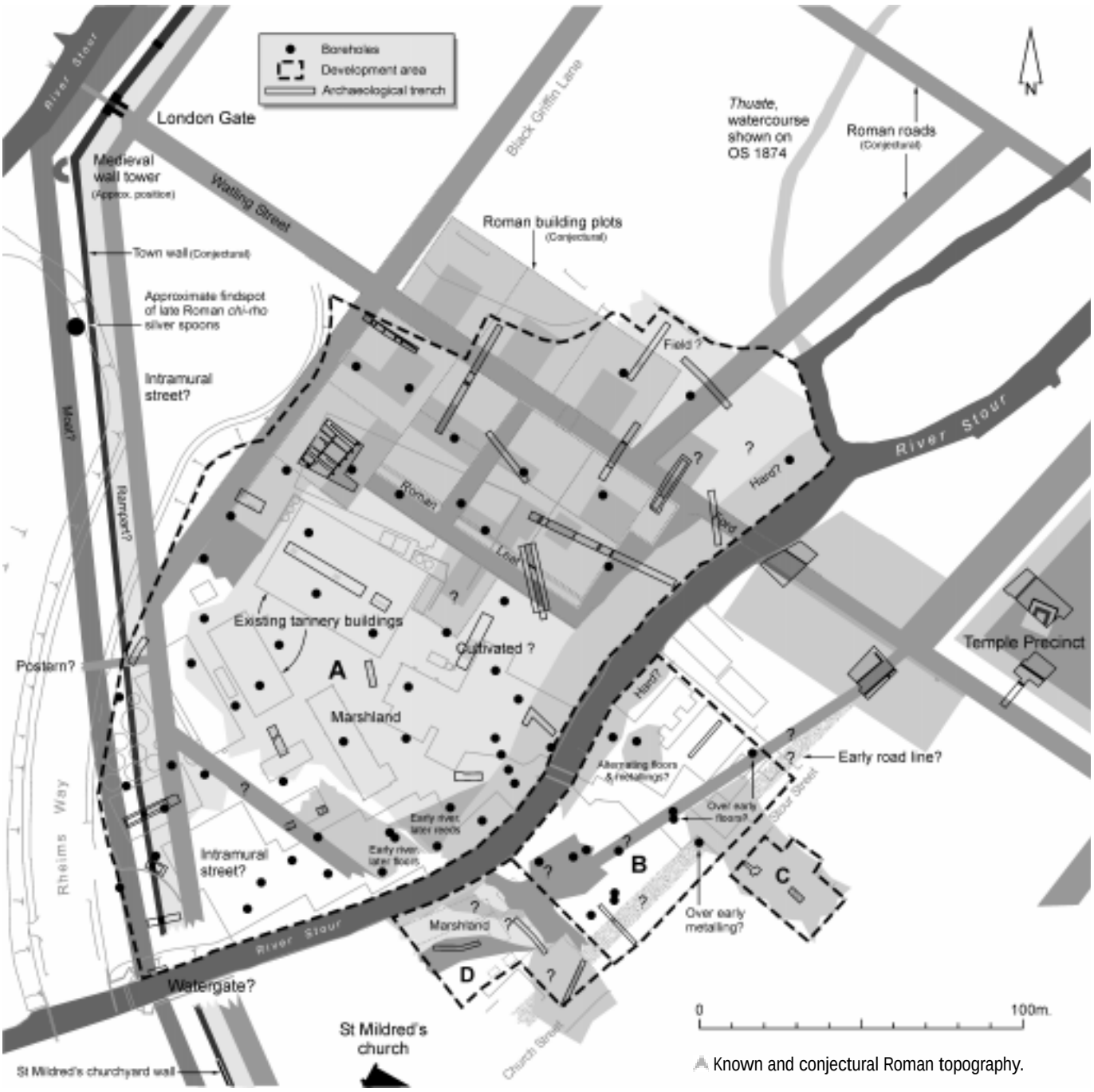
5 St Mildred's Tannery and Masons' Yard

Simon Pratt and Sheila Sweetinburgh

From 1999 to 2002 the Trust conducted two parallel programmes of archaeological work in and adjoining the southern part of the island of Binnewith, which is formed by two branches of the Stour as it passes through Canterbury. The larger project was at St Mildred's Tannery (centred at TR 145 577) and commissioned by the developers, Bellway Homes. The smaller was at a disused masons' yard (TR 1452 5758), on behalf of the developers, Ward Homes, and Ballast Wiltshier, from whom they acquired the site. At the tannery, desk-based assessment was followed by the excavation of a score of trial-trenches, probing for the city wall and watching briefs on two campaigns of geotechnical augering and test-pitting. This site comprised three sectors, the largest (A) lying west of the intramural branch of the Stour, another (B) between the Stour and Stour Street and the smallest (C), to the east of Stour Street. All this work was conducted whilst the tannery was still in operation and its staff and management were unfailingly helpful and informative. The former mason's yard (sector D) lay immediately south of sector B, between the Stour and Church Street St Mildred's. A watching brief on geotechnical augering and test-pitting here was followed by the cutting of three trial-trenches and a watching brief on construction works. The detailed recording and analysis of the arisings from the piles sunk on this site may be the first successful adoption of such a strategy. Grateful thanks are extended to all those involved in both projects but most of all to the Trust's field staff and groundwork contractors at the tannery, who tackled extraordinarily difficult conditions with rare good humour.

Roman

Though there had been some relatively shallow trenching in sector D and two pre- or early Roman cremation urns had been found 'at the tannery' (Bennett *et al.* 1982, 34; Frere *et al.* 1987, 108–13) there had been no previous archaeological investigation in sectors B or C and the remains of only two Roman buildings had been identified in sector A (Blockley 1987a, 183; 1987b, 314; Pratt 1992a, 8; 1992b, 10). The new fieldwork revealed a dense network of roads, courtyards, walls and floors extending over most of the northern part of the sector, with outliers to the south. A tentative reconstruction includes fifteen Roman building plots in the northern area. These flanked Roman Watling Street, two or three cross-streets, a short parallel street and a drainage leat. No evidence for the function of any of these

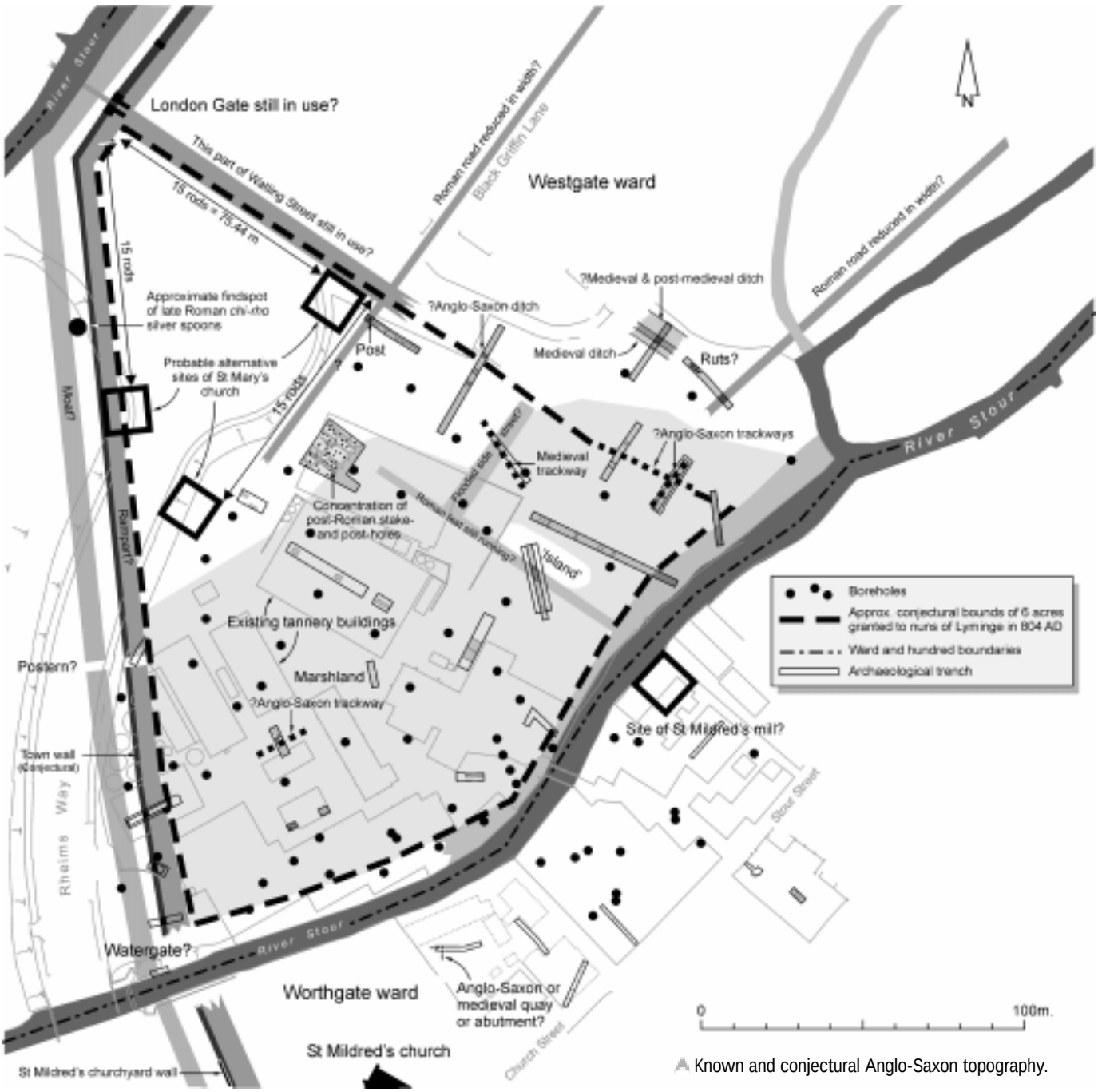


Known and conjectural Roman topography.

buildings was recovered, but it is assumed that they were largely residential, perhaps with some commercial or light industrial activity. Although it is possible that at least one of them was a *mansio* (as had been previously suggested), there is no reason to suppose that any of them were. A Roman metalling identified in an earlier evaluation was followed down towards the Stour, apparently forming a riverside 'hard' and finally confirming, along with other indicators from the site, that the intramural branch of the river was already in existence in the Roman period, albeit wider (and probably shallower) than at present. Watling Street, and the final floor levels of the buildings along it, dropped towards the river, suggesting that the road had crossed the intramural branch by a ford rather than a bridge.

One or two fields flanked a spur road in the extreme north-east of the sector and part of the area to the south of the main group of Roman buildings may have been cultivated, though most was open marshland. A small area of metalling may relate to another road, probably leading to a building which (on borehole evidence) seems to have been built out 10–15 m. into the Stour. The building's gravel and clay floors overlay river silts yielding (like the floors) fragments of Roman pottery, tile and other debris. Its erection would have forced the river to run faster and, probably, to cut deeper into the bed. A muddy shallow, into which many small twigs were carried, formed against the western bank immediately downstream of the building, eventually developing into a reed bed. On the eastern bank, in sector D, there appeared to be an inlet immediately opposite the building and a gravelled lane running down to a possible quay opposite the muddy shallow. The inlet may have been fed by a drain or spring running along the side of the lane but may have been entirely a consequence of the damming effects of the building and quay. It is possible that all these elements were associated with a Roman water-mill, although the arrangements as currently understood are dissimilar to known examples (Bob Spain, pers. comm.)

A series of metallings and clay levelling deposits to the east of the inlet were probably from a Roman building platform overlying an early Roman street running roughly parallel to the river. This street probably continued (possibly over pre-



Known and conjectural Anglo-Saxon topography.

Roman Iron Age occupation) through sector B, where it was also capped by clay floors, and linked up with a Roman road found in an excavation of 1987, near its junction with Watling Street (Rady 1987a, 301–2). Borehole data suggested that the later Roman road had swung further to the west (perhaps leading directly to the quay), where metallings were found sealing Roman floors. Similar data suggested there was another Roman building between the realigned road and the river, from which it may have been separated by a hard. East of Stour Street, in sector C, Roman floor deposits were cut by late Roman rubbish pits.

Sector A lay entirely within the historic floodplain of the Stour, which is bounded almost exactly in this part of Canterbury by the two branches of the river. All the evidence from that sector indicated that the Romans had repeatedly tried to out-build a rising water-table (probably caused by downstream development restricting the river flow). They finally abandoned their efforts around the late third century and the buildings in the northern part of A (and, perhaps, the southern) were systematically razed to the ground, allowing the marshland to spread over them. Some timber posts were probably broken or sawn off and their stumps left in the ground: their water-logged remains still survive *in situ*. Only one case was found of a stone footing being removed. This ran alongside the leat and its robber trench was infilled with packed clay, presumably so as not to interfere with the (now widened) leat's function whilst demolition work continued elsewhere, leading to alternating bands of demolition debris and peaty silts in its lower fill.

At about the same time that this quarter of the city was abandoned, the first town wall was erected. The wall, the rampart backing it and the lip of a moat were located crossing the southern end of sector A. An apparent break in the rampart may mark the position of a postern gate (the evaluation trench here was abandoned after flooding with ferro-tannic ink) and there may have been an intramural road running along its foot. Although the town's defences enclosed almost all of sector A, it does not necessarily follow that the buildings within it were still in use when the wall's line was decided. The circuit certainly included large areas of permanent marsh in the

southern part of the sector and cultivated fields near the castle (Bennett *et al.* 1982). Its line across Binnewith may have been dictated purely by military considerations as it runs almost directly from a point near Worth Gate, which was probably built-up, to one near London Gate (under Westgate Gardens), where Watling Street crossed the extramural branch of the Stour, probably on a bridge. This was one of the smaller gates in the defensive circuit and may have been intended chiefly as a sally port.

Anglo-Saxon

A charter of 804 granted six acres of land, just within the city wall as it crossed Binnewith, as a refuge to the abbess and nuns of Lyminge Abbey, presumed to have fled inland from the Viking threat (Somner 1640, app. lxiv, 68; Sawyer 1968, 160). In the western part of sector A, a thin layer of soil found over Watling Street was cut by a ditch, probably of Anglo-Saxon date, which ran roughly along the crest of the former road. To the east, the approximate line of the street was continued through the marshland which had formed over it by a brushwood trackway, also probably Anglo-Saxon in origin. The ditch and trackway presumably marked the northern limit of the refuge as the area falling between them, the Stour and the town defences is approximately six acres. The charter records that the land granted belonged to an otherwise unknown church (St Mary's) and, of one boundary, that 'from the site of the church it extends to the north with a projection, it is said, of about fifteen rods' (about 75 m.). Depending on the conventional north one adopts and assuming the identification of the refuge's limits to be correct, then the church probably stood (i) at the junction of Watling Street with one of its spur roads or (ii) on the same spur road but close to its intersection with the presumed intramural road or (iii) on the city wall, at a point equidistant from a possible postern and the angle the wall makes near London Gate. The preserved stump of a large, apparently post-Roman timber post was found cutting the latest surface of the spur road near the first of these possible sites, but later disturbance had removed most, if not all, associated strata. The second site was not accessible during the evaluation. If the church stood at the third site, it probably developed from a Roman wall tower. This third site is now under Rheims Way and it may not be fortuitous that a late Roman silver hoard, including spoons bearing the Christian *chi-rho* monogram, was found around here during the construction of the modern road (Frere *et al.* 1982, 34; Johns and Potter 1985, 312–52).

The north-western part of sector A remained relatively dry, presumably due to the presence of somewhat higher Roman building platforms, as the marsh spread over the rest of the floodplain. All three suggested sites for the church lie within or beyond the north-western zone, as does a concentration of post- and stake-holes, found in the 1987 excavation, which probably related to Anglo-Saxon or early medieval stock pens. The brushwood trackway along the line of Watling Street had crossed over an earlier track of similar construction but continuing the approximate line of one of the Roman spur roads. The earlier track may have been heading for a small island of relatively dry, cultivated ground formed over one or two of the Roman house platforms abutting the leat, which was probably still open. A single post and a scatter of twigs found preserved in the southern part of sector A may also be from a trackway.

Part of the earlier Anglo-Saxon trackway crossing the line of Roman Watling Street (scale 1 m.)

There is tenuous documentary evidence for dwellings (Wallenberg 1931, 164; Sawyer 1968, 1621), other than the refuge by the river, in the Anglo-Saxon period and there may also have been at least one mill on this stretch. However, apart from a crude timber structure, possibly the abutment of an Anglo-Saxon or early medieval footbridge, discovered in sector D, and a possible trodden floor in sector C, no other archaeological evidence was found for this period.

Medieval

In the early medieval period, documentary evidence (Urry 1967, *passim*) suggests that the southern part of Binnewith had begun to be repopulated, albeit sparsely, before being acquired on behalf of the neighbouring Franciscan friary and given over to horticulture etc (as a mendicant order, land was usually held for the friars by others). At least one early medieval lane, an extension of Crienemeldne Lane, probably crossed the area, running south from St Peter's Street, perhaps to a postern. Though the lane was not detected in any of the evaluation trenches, an early medieval brushwood trackway discovered in one trench may have run east from it. The trackway appeared to have continued on across a water course on a stilted causeway or bridge: the water course may reflect the line of a Roman spur road flanked by slightly higher building platforms. This causeway appeared to be making for the small island, east of the main area of higher ground, noted above. Farther north, what appeared to be a narrow, ditched track was found near where an early medieval 'alley' had been postulated on documentary evidence. Rather poorly preserved medieval floor or levelling deposits were identified next to this track and in one other trench in the northern part of sector A. More substantial medieval or early post-medieval floors were found in a trench in sector B and in another in sector C, the latter associated with two medieval dwarf(?) walls.

Post-medieval

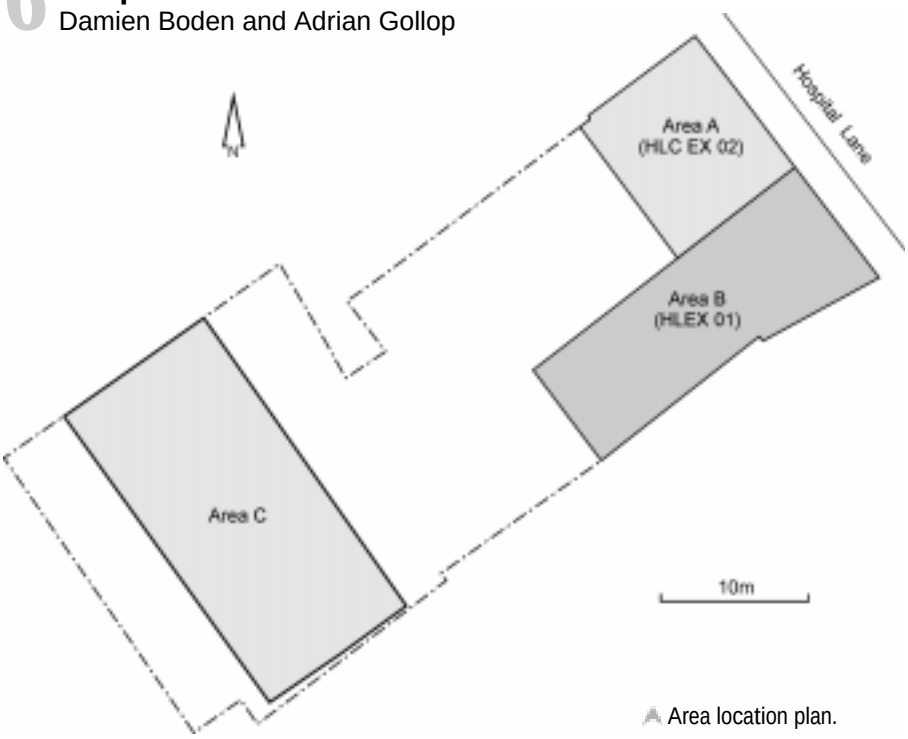
In 1538 the Franciscan friary was dissolved and their land acquired by Thomas Spylman, one of the King's Receivers, who sold it in 1544. It then consisted of well over seventeen acres of land. The southernmost twenty-four acres of Binnewith (including Bingley's Island to the south), chiefly meadow, was divided equally between the Archbishop and the Dean and Chapter by an indenture of 1545. The latter's portion lay to the south and Spylman, also their rent-farmer, was the first lessee. The twenty-four acres probably overlapped with the Franciscan estate as, south of St Peter's Street, there is insufficient land on the island to accommodate the combined acreage. Breaches were made in the Binnewith stretch of the city wall in consequence of the Christmas Day riot of 1647 and it had probably disappeared entirely above ground by 1835.

The tannery

The southern part of the island remained open land, chiefly meadow although with some market-gardening until well into the nineteenth century. A small tanning yard was set up on the west bank of the intramural branch around the middle of the century but by 1879, when John Williamson bought the site, it had grown very little. By 1900 the Binnewith holding had grown to the extent that the Williamsons owned approximately thirty acres of land. This was gradually reduced during the twentieth century: Tower House (the family home) and twelve and a half acres being donated to the city in 1936, forming Westgate Gardens; nearly three and a half acres went to the construction of Rheims Way and the park south of it in the 1960s and a small plot near St Peter's Grove was sold to the council in the 1980s. The tannery closed in 2002.

6 Hospital Lane

Damien Boden and Adrian Gollop



Area location plan.

Between December 2001 and January 2002 and again in September and October 2002, further excavation was undertaken on the site of the former GKN Scaffolding yard in Hospital Lane (TR 1457 5761). An earlier excavation had been undertaken in the summer of 2000. This was reported as Area 1 (Allen 2003, 9-10), but was later designated Area C by the developers. Excavation of Areas B and A, commissioned by L-P Archaeology on behalf of the developer Redchip Limited, and under the direction of Adrian Gollop and Damien Boden respectively, is the subject of this report.

Area B

Adrian Gollop

Area B, in the north-east corner of the site, was excavated in the winter of 2001–2. The area, measuring approximately 20 m. by 6 m. had been evaluated by 'strip and map' in 2000 and though none of the exposed features were sample excavated at that time, tentative interpretation of the results suggested that elements of a possible late medieval structure may have survived beneath Victorian buildings along the Hospital Lane street frontage. A deeper test pit to the south had highlighted the presence of Roman remains at less than 1 m. depth. The present excavation was limited to the depth of impact of the planned development and although this meant that excavation could not exceed 1.25 m., a complex sequence of stratigraphy from the Late Roman period, including evidence for continuous occupation of the street frontage from the fourteenth century to the present, was recorded.

The lowest deposits exposed comprised a large expanse of dumped Roman building materials (including brick, *tegulae, imbrex*, box flue tile, mortar, plaster, and flint) dated by pottery and the frequent coins within the deposit to the late third or early fourth century A.D. The material would seem to indicate the nearby presence of a Roman town-house. A Roman wall was recorded in Area C and James Pilbrow, City Engineer recorded a hypocaust beneath Hospital Lane during the laying of sewer pipes in 1868 (Pilbrow 1871, 151–64). Alternatively the demolished building may lay beneath the present site, a possibility substantiated by the presence of a possible Roman floor in Area A (see below). A third interpretation could be that the building materials were brought in as rubble perhaps to level ground otherwise unsuitable for building. Similar deposits were present in Areas A and C, but the constraints of the excavation meant that their depth could not be ascertained or any underlying deposits investigated, so their precise function remains unknown.

There was however no evidence for structures cutting directly into the Roman dumps and the site would appear to have been abandoned after the Roman period. A substantial build-up of 'dark earth' was present across the site. Pit-like features found cutting through the 'dark earth' proved to be of Anglo-Saxon and early medieval date.

Exactly when the first medieval structures were established on the Hospital Lane frontage is unclear. The lane itself was in existence in the twelfth century then referred to as 'Croccheslane' (Urry 1967, 203). Excavated remains dated from the fourteenth century. A short length of flint and mortar wall, parallel with Hospital Lane, represented the back of the building. The front of the structure probably lies beneath the modern pavement. The property occupied a plot approximately *c.*10 m. long against the frontage. The width of the building was not ascertained, but the current modern wall which forms the eastern boundary of the site, has much earlier flint and limestone lower courses and footings, and could have originally functioned as the eastern side of the building. At least two phases of internal clay floors were recorded, each with associated hearths. The later of these hearths was complete and comprised flints bedded in and sealed by burnt clay. Other internal structures were indicated by post-holes. Interestingly the lower clay floor had sealed several stake-holes indicative of an earlier timber structure. At the rear of the building a large flint and mortar cess tank was present, heavily robbed. The upper fills dated to the early sixteenth century, suggesting that the structure may have been in use for a considerable period.

The medieval building was subsequently overlain by brick walls and floors associated with a Victorian tenement and dwellings that are known to have existed up to at least the Second World War. The rear of these properties appears never to have been built upon and remained as gardens until the construction of the modern buildings. A large open brick- and mortar-lined ditch was recorded which may represent some form of industrial activity during the Victorian period.

The author would like to thank all those who took part in the excavation and the developer, Redchip Limited, who funded the work.

Area A

Damien Boden

The excavation of Area A formed the final phase of the works on the former GKN site. As in Area B, excavation was limited to the depth of the concrete foundations for the proposed building. This resulted in a general excavation depth of some 0.75 m. below modern ground surface, although this depth was slightly exceeded during excavation of a large pit [S121], located on the eastern side of the site.

Most of the area was covered in thick, steel reinforced concrete which in some places extended down to below the level of the proposed

The flint and mortar walled cess-tank under excavation, Area B.

The flint hearth, partially excavated, Area B. Scale 0.20 m.

development. The majority of this concrete was removed by machine, although some was removed by hand to prevent damage to the underlying archaeological deposits. The area was the smallest of those excavated, but the sequence of deposits was very similar and again produced cultural material spanning the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

The earliest deposits identified consisted of a clay and mortar floor surface which was visible in the base and side of a large pit [S121]. This lay below the level of the proposed development and could not be investigated beyond that depth, although given its composition, recorded depth and relationship with other deposits, it was considered to be of Roman date. The floor was truncated by several large pits and sealed by dumps of dark soils containing Roman building debris. These deposits were also identified on Area B and are discussed above. There the deposit was disturbed on its northern edge by a large linear feature or robber trench either from the robbing of an extant Roman building or the extraction of re-useable material from the Roman rubble. The fills of this feature, which extended to some 2 m. below the present day ground surface, were made up of many separate deposits or 'tips' of dark soil containing considerable quantities of crushed mortar, tile fragments and other building materials in association with medieval pottery and other domestic waste dating to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It is probable that these darker, more soil-laden deposits and the tips of building rubble are identical to those recorded here on Area A.

The remains of a later clay floor and associated hearth constructed of flint cobbles [S127] was also seen in the side of the pit. As with the Roman floor, it was not possible to record the full extent of this floor or the remains of the associated walls. No dating evidence was retrieved from the floor surface although given its relationship with other features, a later twelfth- or early thirteenth-century date is thought probable.

At some time in the early or mid thirteenth century a layer of silty clay [1023], some 0.30 m. thick was laid down. This deposit may be a later floor surface although as with the earlier surface, [S127], no post-holes or other evidence of walls was present, and it is possible that this clay was laid to 'cap' the softer, underlying deposits and pits in an attempt to consolidate the area. The layer was cut by numerous post-holes and pits associated with later occupation dating from between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries which were in turn sealed by deposits of dark soils containing domestic refuse dating to the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries.

Overlying these deposits, in the north-west corner of the site were the foundations and floor surfaces of a small flint and chalk structure [G200] dating to the later fifteenth or early sixteenth century. This structure was badly disturbed by the construction of the scaffolding works although finds recovered from a rubble deposit overlying its eastern wall suggest it was pulled down in the early eighteenth century.

Although much of the evidence for later post-medieval activity in the area had been removed by twentieth-century construction a number of floors and surfaces together with the remains of possible timber floor-beams survived toward the eastern side of the site along the frontage of Hospital Lane.

Demolition of a modern wall revealed the full extent of the southern gable wall of Maynard and Cotton's Spital. This hospital was founded by Maynard or Meiner the Rich in A.D. 1317 (Hasted 1798) and although altered and rebuilt on several occasions (1617, 1703 after a great storm, and in 1788), the building is still in use as an almshouse. Removal of concrete footings along the base of the wall exposed at least two phases of rough flint foundations and the corner stones (quoins) and three courses of flint belonging to earlier walls. It is probable that the lower foundations belong to the original early fourteenth-century Spital and that the stone quoins are those of the 1617 rebuild.

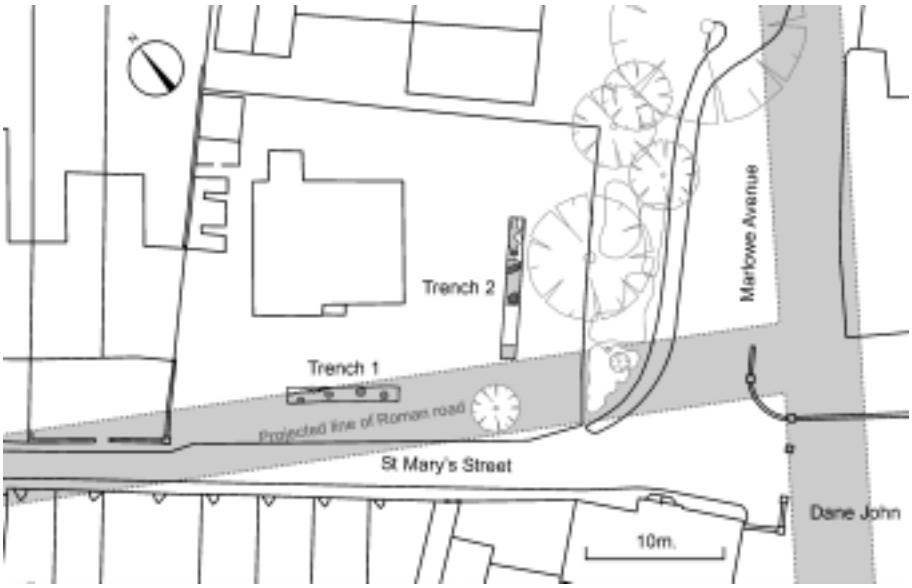
7 No. 8 St Mary's Street

Richard Helm

Evaluation work undertaken prior to a new residential development at No. 8 St Mary Street (TR 1476 5749) identified the remains of a previously unknown Roman building and street. Due to the need for *in situ* preservation, earlier levels including a north-south aligned ditch, dated to the late first century B.C. and mid first century A.D., could only be partially exposed, but did confirm the presence of significant late Iron Age or 'Belgic' activity previously known to have been concentrated within the St John's Lane area (Andrews 1985, Blockley 1987c, Houliston 1992).

The Roman building was represented by a clay floor with associated tile-lined drainage gully and post-holes. Unfortunately, walls defining the building's extent and morphology lay outside the limits of the evaluation trench. Pottery recovered from deposits above the clay floor dated occupation of this building between the late first and early third century A.D..

To the south-west of the building, a Roman street surface, metalled with flint gravel, defined the southern insulae between Castle Street and Marlowe Avenue. Post-holes aligned along the



street's north facing edge potentially represented part of a building frontage, but could equally have been associated with later settlement utilizing the ready-made flooring provided by the abandoned road surface. Both the street and the post-holes were sealed by a later soil horizon containing residual pottery dating between the late first and early third century A.D., contemporary with the occupation deposits observed above the clay flooring to the north-east.

Previous watching brief work undertaken by the Trust had identified similar early Roman occupation concentrated to the west at No. 17 St Mary's Street (Bennett and Bowen 1987) and extensive evidence for early to late Roman occupation has been excavated to the north, between St John's Lane and Marlowe Avenue (Rady 1987b). However, comparable evidence does not appear to exist to the south and east. Excavation in the grounds of the Dane John gardens found no evidence of settlement until the establishment of the early Norman motte and bailey castle centred on the Dane John mound (Rady 1987c), and a second-century Roman pottery kiln (normally an extra-mural activity) excavated east of Marlowe Avenue (Webster 1941), would both appear to define the limits of intensive Roman settlement.

Both evaluation trenches had a significant build up of homogeneous soil horizons. None of these soils was attributable to so-called 'dark earth' horizons commonly associated with a period of post-Roman abandonment, but consisted of intermixed medieval and later cultivation soils, confirmed by the abrasion and variability in date of the material they contained. Information derived from late twelfth- and early thirteenth-century property rentals indicates that the site remained on the margins of waste ground following the clearance of the early Norman defences in favour of the later Norman castle and keep on Castle Street, completed in the early twelfth century. Post-medieval maps of Canterbury show that the site formed part of open gardens and orchards through to the late nineteenth century.

The work was undertaken on behalf of Burgate Investments Limited.

8 Land adjacent to Nos 10–16 Wincheap

Grant Shand

During September 2002 excavations were carried out on open land adjacent to Nos 10-16 Wincheap (TR 14495736) prior to the redevelopment of the land for sheltered housing. This work was funded by the Mansfield Group Ltd. Previous evaluation by the Trust in 2001 had uncovered substantial quantities of early Roman pottery and a gravel surface thought to be a post-medieval yard (Diack 2003a, 17).

The depth of the 2003 excavations, restricted to the foundation depth of the new building was insufficient to expose Roman levels across the site. The earliest levels, only observed in a small part of the site, consisted of a pre-Roman land surface and two minor pits. A small assemblage of abraded pottery sherds and flint flakes tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age was retrieved from this level.

The earliest layers revealed in the south-east of the site consisted of a shallow sequence of loams and clay loams, interpreted as levelling deposits. Pottery, two copper alloy brooches and a copper alloy spatula were retrieved from the loams, all dated to between the late first and early second centuries. Above these levelling layers were a number of small patches of coarse flint metalling forming perhaps a crude yard surface.

On the eastern side of the site was a shallow, badly disturbed sequence of clay floors (one displaying evidence of patching and repair) and occupation deposits, possibly associated with a beam-slot running east-west for about 3.15 m. Above this sequence was a series of clay loam levelling deposits containing pottery of the late first and early second centuries, upon which lay a patchy sequence of clay floors and associated occupation deposits. Both sets of deposits implied the survival of a sequence of Roman timber buildings adjoining a courtyard which in turn adjoined the Roman street.

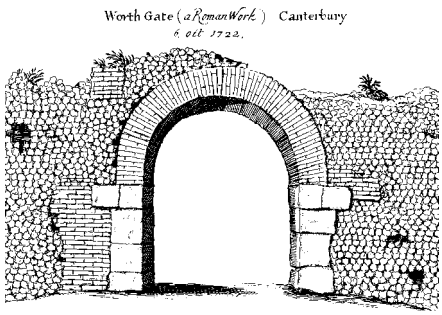
Although undated, a small rectangular fragment of imperial porphyry marble veneer recovered from a later (medieval) pit is probably of Roman date. This marble originates in North Africa and

Roman spatula.

Excavation in progress looking north-west towards the castle and the site of Roman Worthgate.

was exploited during the Roman period for its characteristic deep purple colour, used for veneers on border decorations on tessellated floors and prestige stone furnishings.

These sample-excavated ephemeral deposits are of considerable significance. The Wincheap site adjoins the north-west side of the Roman and medieval road to Wye, entering the town at Worthgate. Roman Worthgate is also approached from the south by a major Roman road linking the town to the line of Stone Street and Portus Lemanis (Lympne). Although cemeteries adjoin both streets at close proximity to the town defences and further along Wincheap, between the two streets (close to the intersection of Gordon Road and Wincheap) watching briefs and minor excavations have provided evidence for an expanse of gravel metalling, perhaps representing a domestic or commercial courtyard, and for domestic rubbish pits. Evidence of Roman rubbish pits, containing quantities of butchered animal bone, perhaps associated with an abattoir was recovered from the rear of No. 26 Wincheap (the Maiden's Head public house). The new site adjoining the Wye road appears to indicate, for the first time, the presence of extra-mural



Roman Worthgate drawn by the antiquarian William Stukeley in 1722.

buildings and perhaps ribbon development outside the Roman Worthgate extending along Wincheap. The combined evidence may suggest both ribbon development and perhaps an expanse of gravel (for a market?) flanked to the east and west by Roman roads approaching Worthgate.

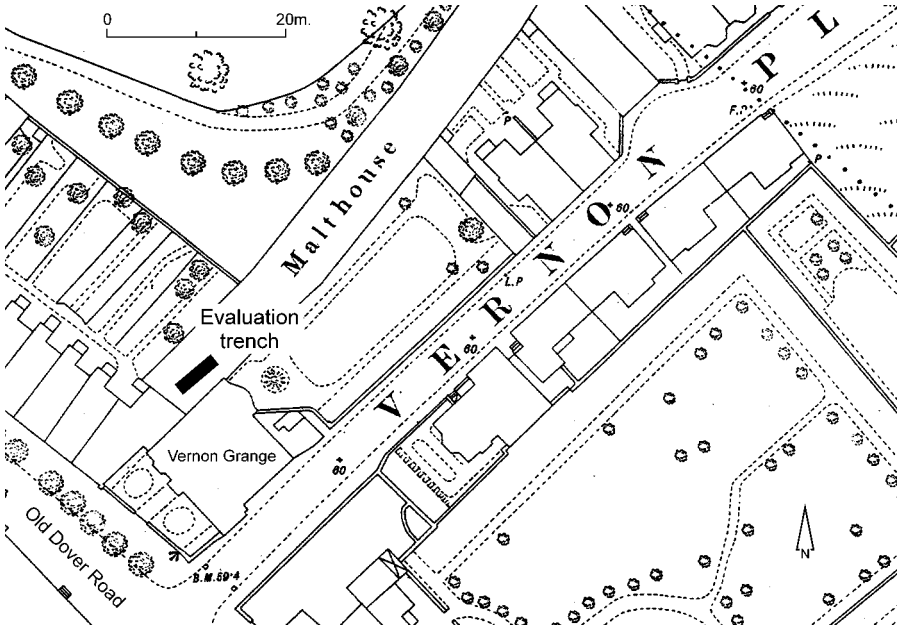
There was no evidence for Anglo-Saxon or early medieval occupation on the site. Two flint and chalk walls (heavily truncated and discontinuous) ran north–south across the site, probably representing the sides of buildings or boundary walls. An extensive spread of flint metalling, probably contemporary with the walls, may have represented an alleyway between them, leading from the Wincheap frontage to backlands. Documentary sources suggest that at least two properties were present in the vicinity during the twelfth century, whilst maps of sixteenth and seventeenth century Canterbury show houses on the street frontage separated by alleyways leading to gardens.

Associated with these medieval walls were a number of refuse pits dated to A.D. 1050–1250 and 1375–1525. A spread of metalling in the north-eastern side of the site may represent an external yard, but its relationship with the walls is unknown.

A number of post-medieval brick footings exposed during the excavation formed parts of a series of structures shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874. At the beginning of the last century a house known as 'The Cedars' occupied the site, situated between Wincheap Grove and No. 1 Wincheap. In 1963 these three properties were demolished prior to the construction of the first phase of the ring-road. The site has latterly been open ground and, more recently, a garden.

9 Vernon Grange, No. 35 Old Dover Road

Richard Helm



Trench location based on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874.

An evaluation was undertaken during August 2002 in the rear garden of Vernon Grange (TR 1512 5738). The site is located within a known extra-mural Roman cemetery extending along Roman Watling Street, the main route from Dover to Canterbury, which ran on approximately the same alignment as the present Old Dover Road. Previous archaeological work by Frank Jenkins in the 1960s had identified a number of Roman cremation vessels within the grounds of Vernon Grange (Andrews 1985) and an evaluation carried out by the Trust at 8 Vernon Place exposed three inhumation burials and a large square pit with burnt sides of Roman date (Houliston 1996).

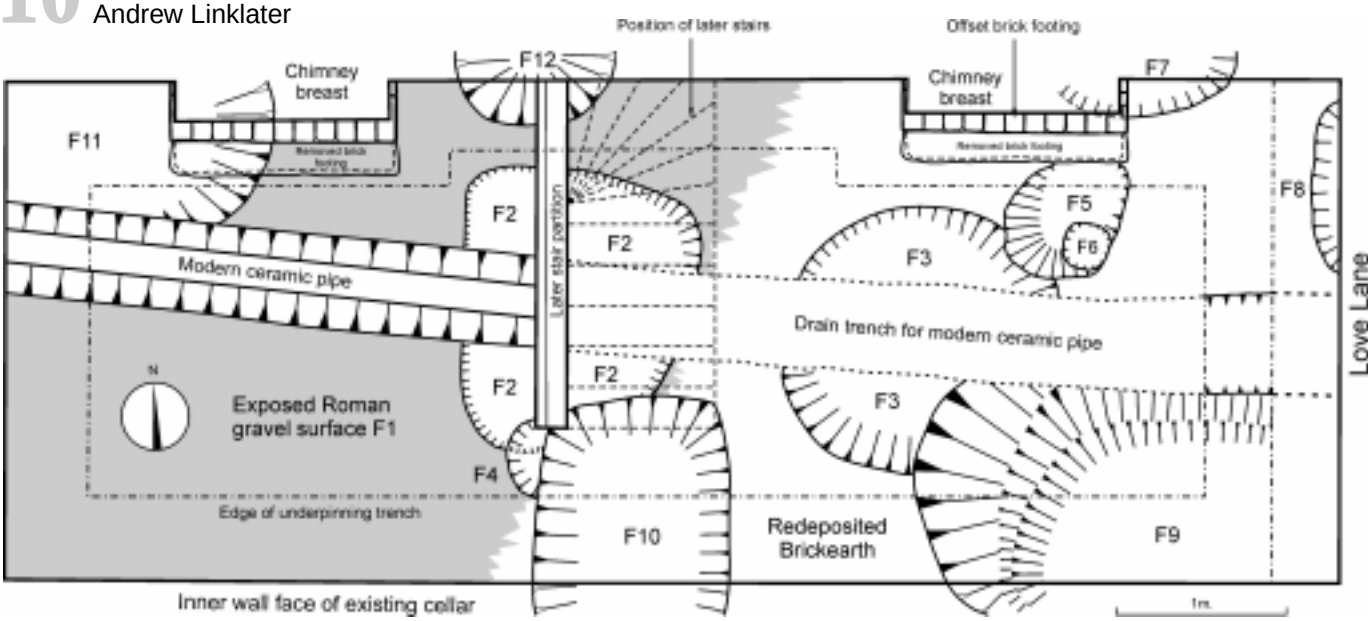
The evaluation comprised a single trench excavated by hand within the footprint of a proposed building extension. A clay floor, immediately overlying the natural brickearth subsoil was exposed. Whilst no datable material was recovered from the floor itself, it was cut by a later pit, containing Roman pottery dating between the late second and early fourth century. Two further shallow cut features, possibly the truncated remnants of post-holes could not be dated due to an absence of finds.

During the nineteenth century a malting house had occupied the site whose remains were represented by two ashlar footings. The construction of this building was seen to have truncated the ground surface to the level of the surviving clay floor; a thick layer of chalk, mortar and brick rubble represented the demolition of this building sometime after 1874. Above the demolition, a series of soil horizons built up during the re-use of the site as gardens attached to Vernon Grange.

The work was commissioned by Paul Roberts and Associates on behalf of their clients.

10 No. 6 Love Lane

Andrew Linklater



Detail plan showing the position of archaeological features in relation to the existing basement limits.

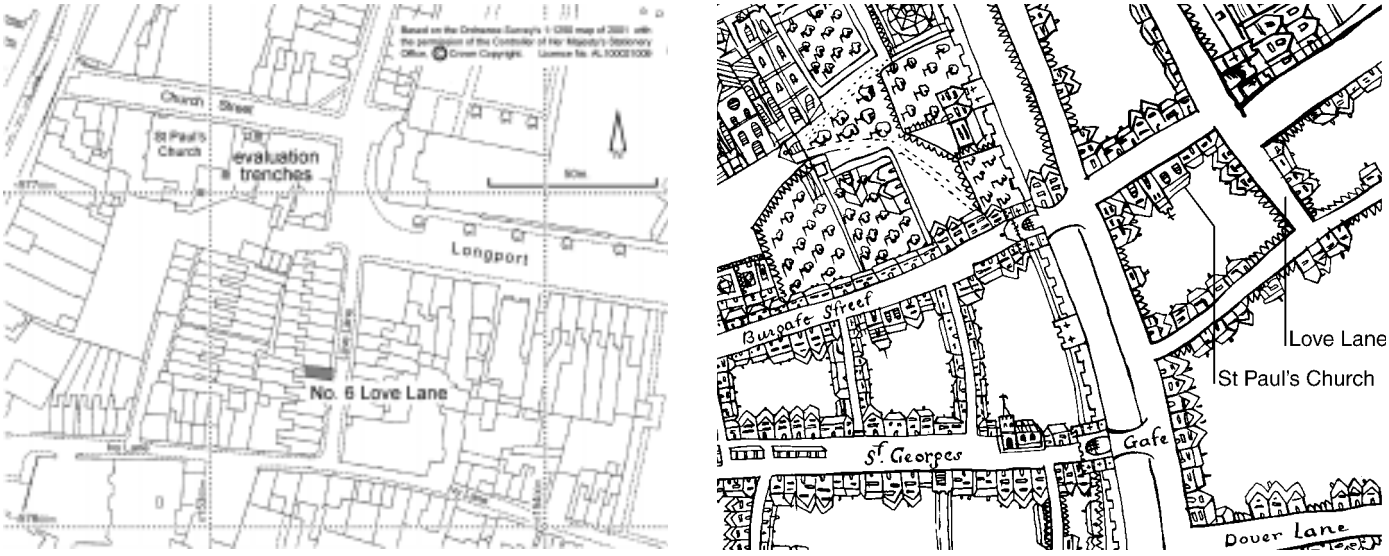
Between February and March 2003, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks associated with the lowering of an existing basement at No. 6 Love Lane (TR 1533 5765), a property situated within one of the medieval suburbs of Canterbury and close to the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey. Love Lane links the ancient district of the 'Longport' (Langport) to Ivy Lane (previously Loddere Lane), both early thoroughfares through the outer suburbs to the countryside beyond.

Although the development of the Longport district is closely bound up with the foundation and growth of St Augustine's Abbey, very little is known about the formation or history of Love Lane. Today it is fronted by numerous listed buildings, many of eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date. Opposite No. 6 an early post-medieval timber-framed building (concealed behind a later brick façade) may be one of the earliest buildings in the lane and may be depicted on a coloured map of Canterbury dated *c.* 1640. Prior to 1640 very few buildings had been constructed along Love Lane and a document in the East Kent Archives Centre dated to 1583 (EK-U270/T182) speaks of '… a Moiety of a messuage in Love Lane …', perhaps referring to the building opposite No. 6.

The level of the basement floor was around 1.87 m. below pavement level. Despite this depth archaeological deposits and features survived across virtually the entire area of the basement (22.62 square metres). The work entailed the archaeological monitoring of the hand excavation of a segmental underpinning trench along the basement's north, south and east walls, and the reduction of the main floor area by 0.55 m.

Overlying natural brickearth was an extensive spread of compacted flint gravel overlain at its eastern end by a layer of redeposited brickearth. Both deposits contained broken fragments of Roman tile and animal bone. These layers were cut by nine intercutting rubbish or cess-pits and two post-holes.

Most of the pits were filled with a sequence of silty clay and silty cess layers, interleaved with deposits of ash and carbon and containing animal bone, iron slag and oyster shells. About half produced pottery dating from around A.D. 850 to 1125, the majority from the earlier part of this date range. Only one of the two post-holes



St Paul's Church and No. 6 Love Lane located on a modern plan and on a tracing of the *c.* 1640 coloured map of Canterbury (CALC 123).

produced chronologically diagnostic material, a near complete (though fragmented) Anglo-Saxon vessel dating to around A.D. 850–925.

The watching brief at Love Lane demonstrated that potentially Roman and early medieval stratification lies intact nearly 2 m. below the existing ground surface in this part of the city. Thanks are extended to Mr Turner for providing every assistance during the project.

11 St Paul's Church, Church Street St Paul's

Grant Shand

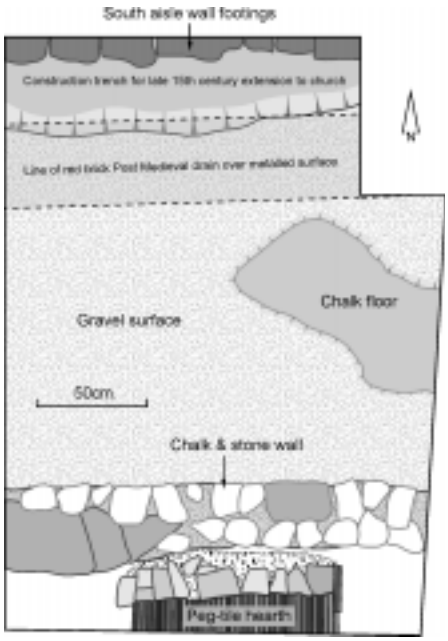
During April 2002 a small-scale evaluation on land adjacent to St Paul's Church (TR 1530 5771) was undertaken in connection with a proposal to erect a new church hall.

Three small trenches were excavated. The earliest deposit recorded was a dark soil, possibly pre-dating the church, but which produced no finds. It may represent a 'dark earth' or an early medieval agricultural horizon.

At the eastern end of the church, the substantial footings of a wall aligned north–south were located in trench 1. In trench 2 the remains of a wall running east–west were found, associated with a peg-tile hearth which was sealed by a sequence of floors and occupation deposits. Gravel metalling found in both trenches may represent a yard or pathway associated with the two walls.

To the south of the church, away from the Church Street frontage, a sequence of clay floors and occupation deposits was revealed in trench 3.

The founding date of St Paul's church is unknown, but it was in existence by *c*. 1200, (Urry 1967, 210–11). Examination of the church fabric suggests there is no *in situ* material earlier than about the middle of the thirteenth century, when the church may have been extensively rebuilt

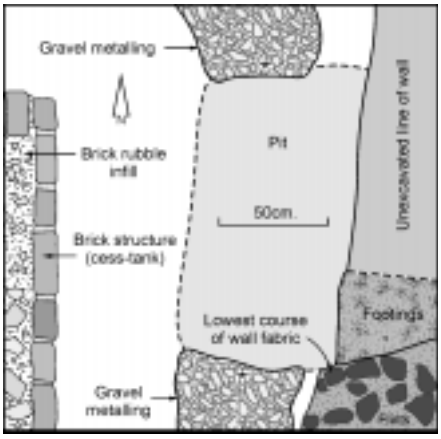


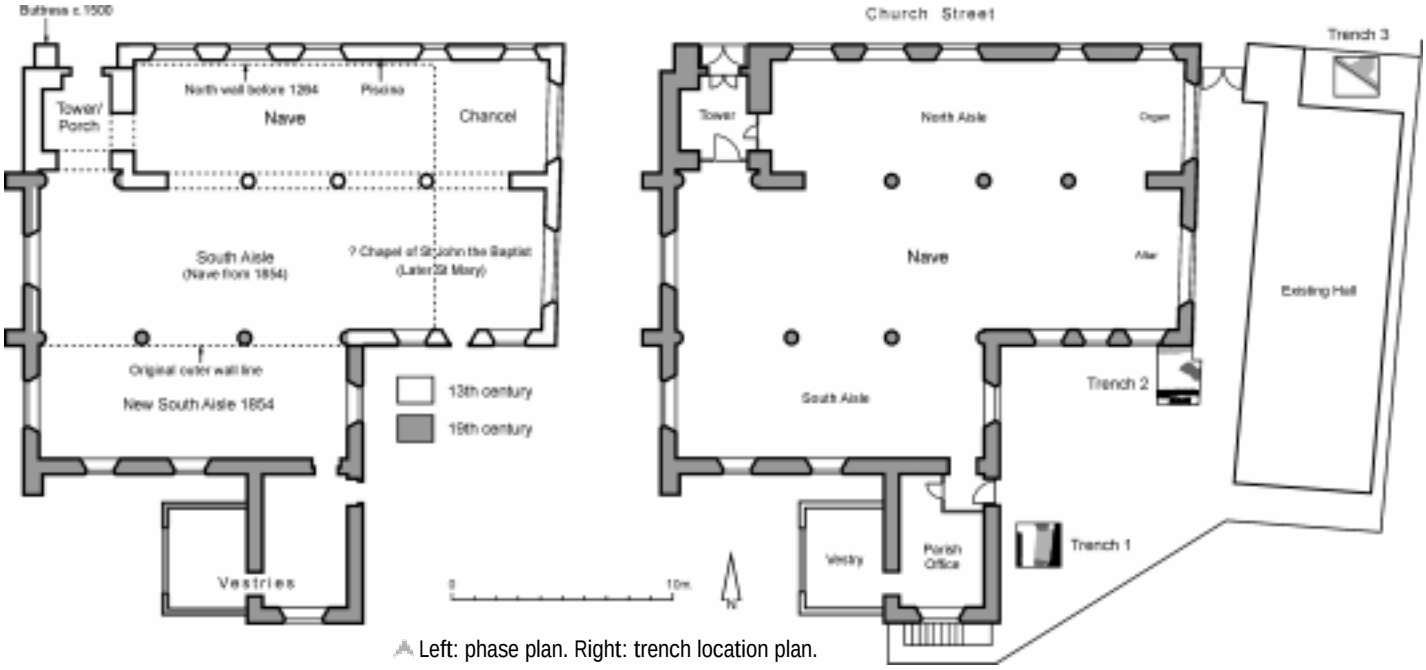
Tatton-Brown 1994, 196). The walls and related floor surfaces in trenches 1 and 2 probably represent the remains of medieval buildings fronting Church Street St Paul's. Braun and Hogenburg's map of *c*. 1572 shows buildings close to the eastern end of the church though it is difficult to tell if they adjoined the church itself.

The *c*. 1640 coloured map of Canterbury (opposite) shows buildings on Church Street towards the junction with Monastery Street. Neither bird's eye view is entirely reliable.

The floor in trench 3 may also relate to a medieval building, perhaps later than those revealed in the eastern trenches. It may have related to St Paul's Terrace, off Ivy Lane. Now a *cul de sac*, the street might have extended towards the church in the medieval period.

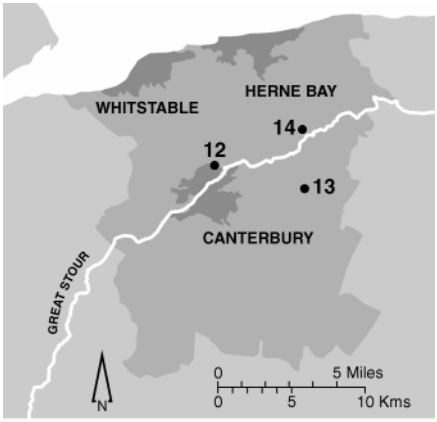
Plan of trench 2.
Plan of trench 1.





Left: phase plan. Right: trench location plan.

II Canterbury District Sites



12 Shelford Quarry, Broad Oak
13 Ickham Court Farm, Ickham
14 Island Road, Hersden

12 Shelford Quarry, Broad Oak

Damien Boden

Between 29 April and 1 July 2002 excavation took place at Brett's Shelford Quarry on the Shelford Farm Estate (TR 1610 6050). The area, roughly rectangular and some 4,000 square metres in extent, was due to be quarried to provide clay to line a landfill site immediately to the west.

The vast majority of the features investigated belong to elements associated with later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age occupation, *c*. 900–600 B.C.

The most complex area, hard against the north-east edge of the excavation, revealed a sub-rectangular or near-circular hut accompanied by a number of other structures to the immediate south, and various other features such as hearths and fire-pits. The hut [G121] was about 8 m. in diameter, consisting of at least fifteen upright timber posts set into near-circular post pits, with a porch or entrance on the south-east side, and as such it is typical of the 'round-houses' of the period. Although truncation from later ploughing and possibly from more recent activity had obliterated most of the shallower features, traces of stake-holes produced by the wattle uprights of the walls were visible between two of the post holes on the northern side of the structure. A number of post-holes and other shallow features were present within the hut which may represent internal 'furniture' and storage areas.

The hut appeared to be the focus of activity on the site during this period with the majority of the other structures and features located towards this northern end of the site.

A rectangular arrangement of post-holes, 6.8 m. long by *c.* 4 m. wide, may represent another structure [G127], perhaps a second dwelling or more likely a livestock pen.

In addition, there were at least two rectangular four-post structures [G100] and [G111]. These were of fairly similar size, (the largest some 2.5 m. square) and were located away from the main focus of the settlement. These are probably granaries where seed could be stored, well away from rodents, damp and the risk of fire. These are fairly common features on sites of this period and are often accompanied by two-post 'drying racks' where the newly harvested grain would have been dried prior to consumption or storage. Two possible examples of these, just to the north-east of the southernmost granary were identified on the site.

Most of the features investigated produced considerable quantities of flint-tempered pottery with three small pits [S49, 87 and 149] containing partially complete pottery vessels, which possibly represent small ovens, basins or other features associated with cooking, food preparation or storage. A small pit [S33] located on the periphery of the major activity produced several large fragments of pottery, quern stone fragments, hammer stones and considerable quantities of charred cereal grains, and may represent ritual deposition. Charred cereal grains were recovered from many other deposits, particularly a subrectangular pit or corn drier [S13], again located on the periphery of the site.

Other features included a possible furnace [G119] just north-west of structure [G111] (filled with quantities of crushed, calcined flint), perhaps used for the production of flint-tempering for pottery, and a near oval arrangement of stake-holes, surrounding a shallow, slightly off-centre pit [G118] which may also be related to some form of industrial activity.

There is some evidence that ditches enclosed the settlement on the north and south-east sides although these linear features, which were quite irregular, appeared to be following natural outcrops of the underlying London Clay. It is possible that these 'ditches' were formed, in part, by natural erosion of the softer clay and subsequently filled with derived cultural material. Alternatively, soft-spots were purposefully cut into or natural gullies enlarged. The northern extent of this possible settlement boundary [G117] was cut by a post belonging to a near-square nine-post feature [G116] measuring some 4 m. across. This may mark the site of another granary but if so, it is of a more complex form than normally represented on Bronze Age sites

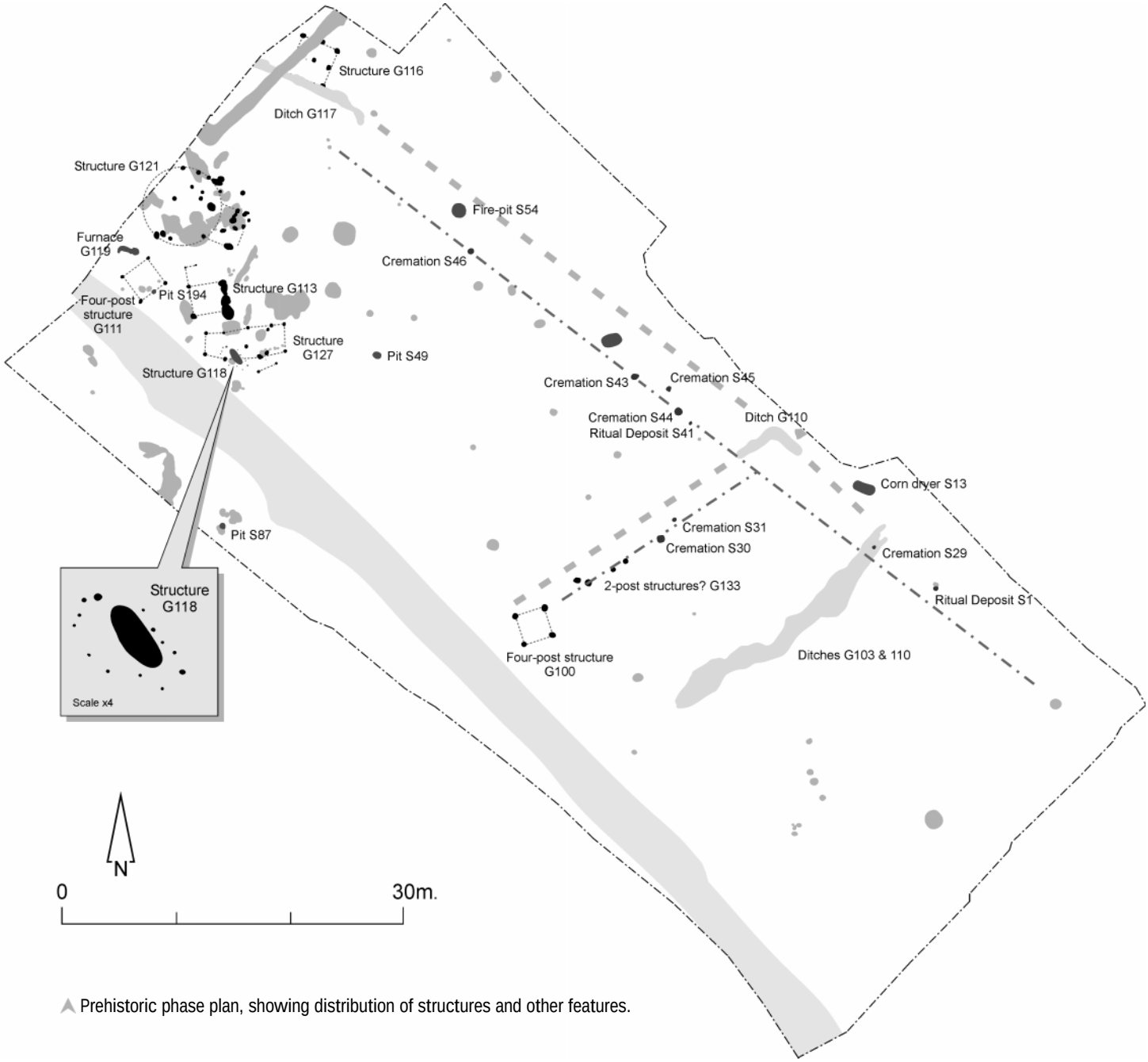
and, given its relationship with the ditch, may be much later in date (see below).

Although some suggestion of enlargement or reorganisation of the settlement may be suggested by the relationship between the possible boundary ditch [G117] and post-hole structure [G116], this is by no means definite and cannot be confirmed by any associated dating evidence. Some relationship does exist between individual post-holes from hut structure [G121], although this recutting is most likely to have occurred as part of maintenance or modification during the lifetime of the structure rather than indicating a separate phase of hut construction.

A group of seven cremation burials [G102] was present on the eastern side of the site, away from the main focus of the occupation. These consisted of only small quantities of cremated bone deposited in simple pits without accompanying vessels. Although the presence of the cremations demonstrates some degree of formal burial practice the absence of urns suggests an Iron Age rather than Bronze Age date (Cunliffe 1991, 505–7). It may also be suggested that these deposits represent 'token burials' as part of some ritualistic practice encompassing both burial and the settlement boundary.

Domestic sites of this period in south-eastern Britain commonly consist of one or more buildings or houses, nearly always of the ubiquitous 'round-house' type, accompanied by a few pits, perhaps one or two four-post structures and sometimes a pond. Associated finds can include storage and cooking vessels, loom weights, quern stones, and bronze tools (Brück 1999, 145). They are usually seen as relatively small, often short-lived farmsteads composed of no more than one family or an extended family group. Part of just such a site seems to be represented on this excavation at Shelford.

Settlements of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age date are becoming increasingly evident along the north Kentish littoral zone, often situated relatively high up on the London Clay, which was once thought to be virtually devoid of settlement activity, both at this period and later. This site is therefore one of a growing number located on the uplands of the Blean and nearer the coast north of Canterbury, attesting to a potentially considerable population density in the area (Willson 2002; Shand 2002; Allen 2002).



Prehistoric phase plan, showing distribution of structures and other features.

A single pit of probable Roman date was identified toward the eastern side of the excavation [S55], and a few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered as residual finds from the fills of a later ditch [G115]. The origin of this material is not known (although it is remotely possible that structure [G116] is of Roman date; see above) but given the proximity of the substantial Roman remains located to the south of the excavation (Boden forthcoming) identified during the work on the site of the Eastern Attenuation Pond, the presence of further Roman remains in the immediate area is probable.

Medieval activity in the area was limited to a short length of ditch [G115] located in the north-east corner of the site, nearest to the derelict yard buildings of Shelford Farm itself. Documentary evidence suggests the presence of a farmstead in the area with its origins in the later Anglo-Saxon period and continuing through into the medieval period (Cross 1996). This ditch probably represents a field boundary or section of enclosure ditch, and may well be associated with this farmstead.

An additional phase of work, to investigate whether the underlying gravels might contain artefacts and environmental indicators of Palaeolithic origin was carried out in tandem with the open area excavation and involved the sinking of eight test-pits. No artefacts or environmental information was identified from the samples obtained (Scott *et al.* 2003).

13 Ickham Court Farm, Ickham

Andrew Linklater and Christopher Sparey-Green

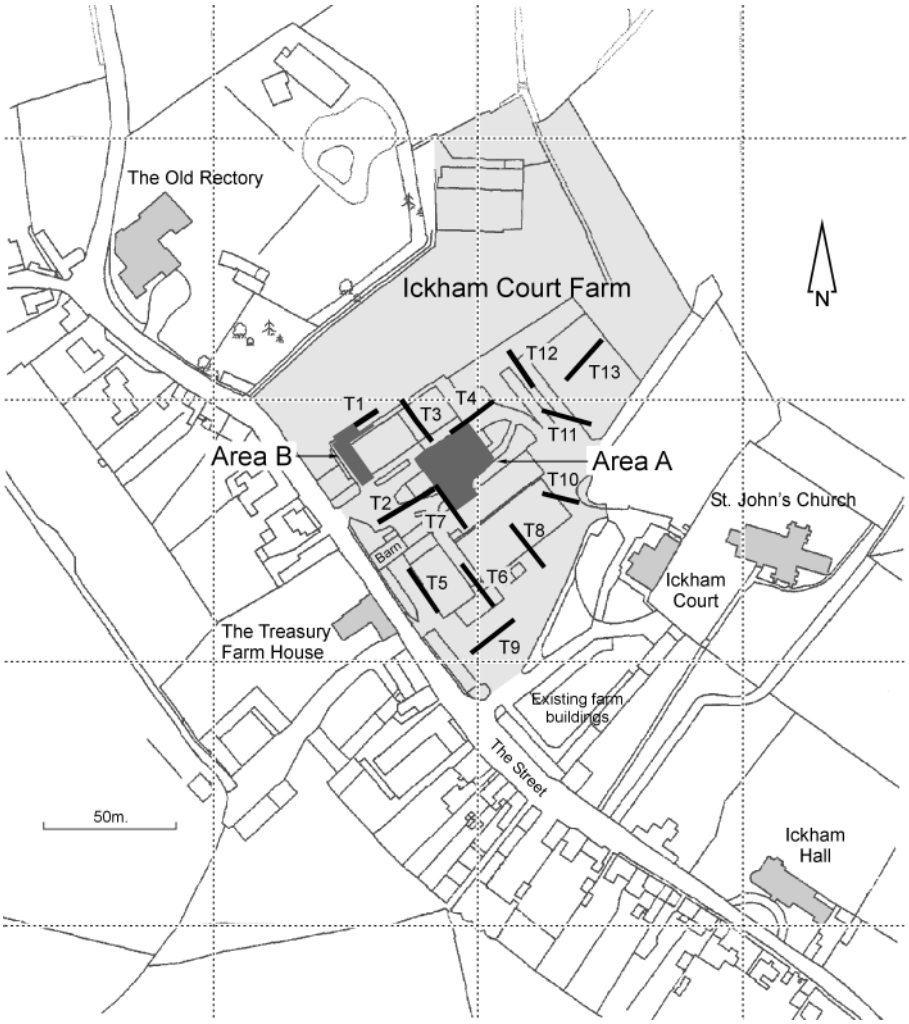
Excavation took place at Ickham Court Farm (TR 2210 5820) in October and November 2002 following evaluation in September. The excavation, near the centre of the historic village and only 100 m. west of St John's Church, was supervised by Andrew Linklater.

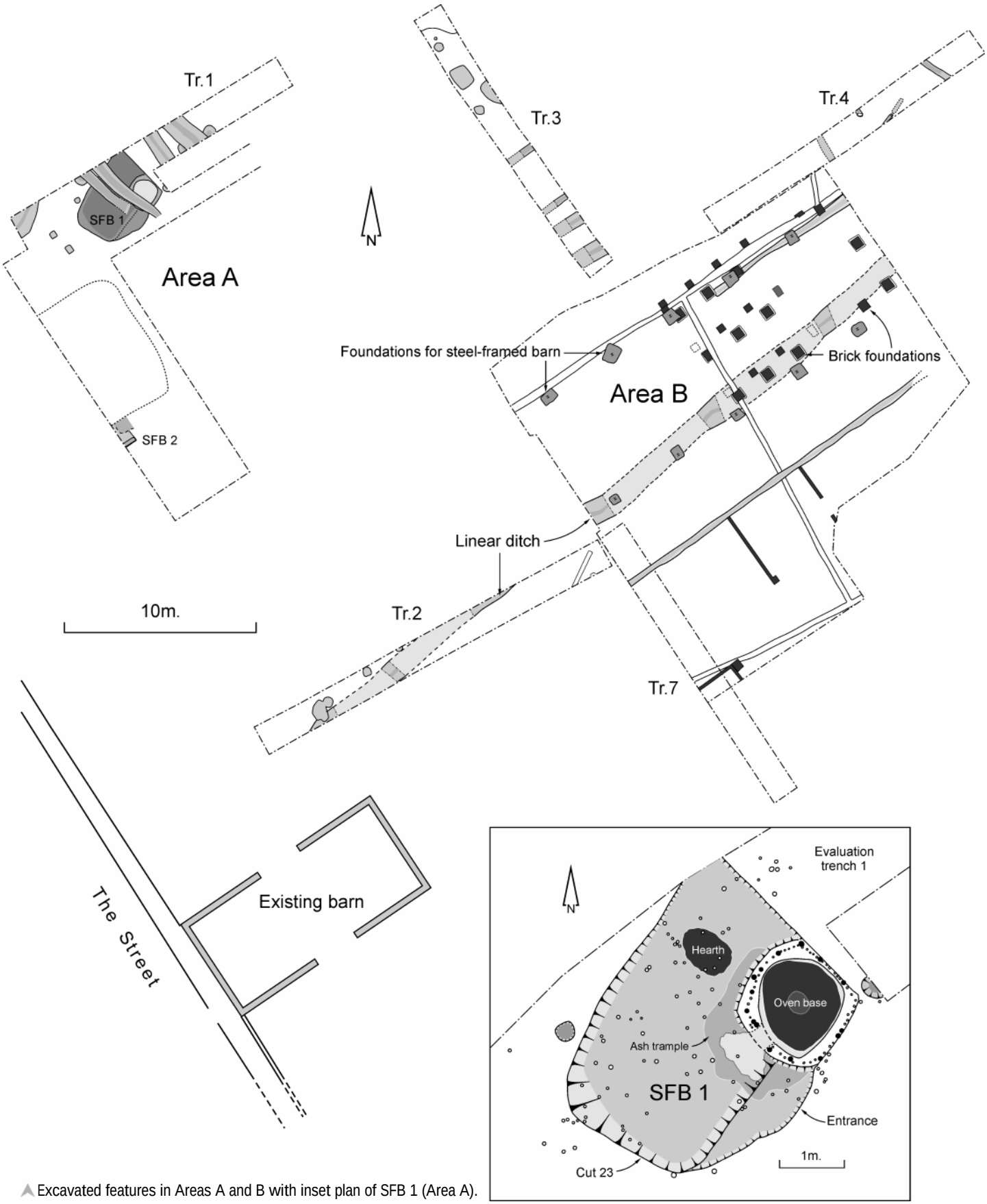
Although no specific finds from the site have been reported major archaeological sites are known close by. These mainly date from the Roman period and are located downstream on the Stour, close to Seaton (Young 1981; Spain 1984), but from the village itself there are finds suggesting the location of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The report of a bronze vessel from near Ickham church may relate to Roman or Anglo-Saxon burials. Anglo-Saxon urns are also reported from near the church and Anglo-Saxon brooches from an unspecified point within the parish. The village is first mentioned in charters of King Offa dated 785–6 and 791 (Sawyer 1968, nos 123, 125 and 1614), the village being granted in the latter to Christ Church, Canterbury. In Domesday, Ickham is valued slightly less than nearby Wickhambreaux, but has more mills and a greater number of ploughs, suggesting an arable setting. Of the early medieval village of Ickham, the church and the Old Rectory survive, east and west of the site respectively. The church is referred to in Domesday and parts of the present fabric date to the mid twelfth century. The earliest part of the Rectory dates to the thirteenth century.

During the evaluation in September, thirteen trenches were cut in those areas of the site most affected by the new housing scheme. Of these, seven trenches contained no archaeological deposits, all lying in the uphill, eastern part of the site where little of the brickearth subsoil survived, possibly having been quarried. The remaining five trenches revealed a number of archaeological features and as a consequence two areas (A and B), close to, or including, trenches 1–4 and 7 in the south-western part of the site, were investigated later in the autumn.

The earliest feature in Area A was a linear ditch (also located in Trench 2), traced for a distance of 47 m. and continuing north and south beyond the limits of the excavation. The ditch was of regular V-cut profile 1.00 m. wide and 0.40 m. deep to the north, becoming wider and deeper in Trench 2 (2.1 m. wide, 1.1 m. deep). The only datable finds were a sherd of perhaps Late Saxon pottery and a fragment of Roman brick; the lack of later material might suggest a date in the Late Saxon or early medieval period. A parallel ditch to the east may, from its alignment and contents, be contemporary (four sherds of pottery dating between the late eleventh and early thirteenth centuries).

These features were succeeded at a considerably later date, by a series of structures probably of eighteenth-century date. A number of brick foundations probably formed the supports for two or possibly three structures which had





Excavated features in Areas A and B with inset plan of SFB 1 (Area A).

preceded the existing steel-framed barn. This brick-piered structure was succeeded by another on almost the same alignment. Similar brick footings were recorded 3 m. to the north and may have formed part of another structure extending beyond the northern limits of Area A.

The eastern half of the area had been disturbed during demolition, but traces of footings and a foundation trench for a post-medieval structure were traced in an area occupied by an extensive building shown on the tithe map of 1842. This building was eventually succeeded by structures including the small barn on the road side retained in the present scheme.

Area B incorporated evaluation Trench 1. The earliest features identified were three post-holes, one containing pottery of later ninth- or tenth-century date.

A substantial subrectangular cut, aligned with its main axis approximately north–south and measuring 4.5 m. long by 3.3 m. wide and 0.45 m. deep, was interpreted as a sunken-featured building (SFB 1). The sides on the west and north were almost vertical, those to east and south sloped in more gently to a level base. A large oven, small hearth and a diffuse scatter of stake-holes were recorded in its base.

The oven was a complex structure set in a shallow, circular hollow. The base and a lower portion of the dome wall survived, within which was an inserted foundation of small flint nodules and a floor and lining of burnt brickearth. A series of fifty-nine stake-holes was preserved in the fired base of the dome; the dome wall survived to a height of 0.45 m. on the north. No wattle marks were noted in the wall, but collapsed burnt clay within the oven, probably debris from the dome, included some fragments bearing impressions of the framework. Sherds of pottery dated to the mid eleventh to early thirteenth century were also found amongst this debris. The collapsed superstructure sealed a deposit of sooty ash and charcoal which rested directly on the burnt floor of the oven. This debris contained charred cereal grains, chaff and other seeds, besides traces of smithing slag (see p. 59).

The hearth, represented by an oval area of burnt subsoil, lay to the west of the oven. A sample was taken for archaeomagnetic testing which provided a date of A.D. 1115–1160.

It was not possible to discern any distinct pattern in the proliferation of stake-holes in the floor of the building, other than that they seemed to be clustered along the western and southern sides and were absent from the south-eastern corner. A further twenty-six occurred around the exterior on the northern, eastern and south sides, again not in any discernable pattern. Two larger post-holes lay to the north-east and south-west of the structure respectively.

Area A under excavation. Looking north-east.

The fill of SFB 1 consisted of multiple layers of silty clay seemingly deposited in two phases. The first accumulated in the eastern side of the building and abutted the south side of the oven and contained pottery dating to the mid eleventh to early thirteenth century. The second fill sealed the hearth and stake-holes on the floor of the building and contained a small amount of residual Roman pottery, several sherds dated to the late eleventh or early twelfth century and two possible intrusive sherds of late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century date.

Two ditches, one to the north and one to the south-west of the building may, on the basis of a small quantity of pottery retrieved from their fills, have been roughly contemporary with SFB 1. Two ditches, cut across the fill of the building suggested that it was out of use by the early thirteenth century and that the hollow had filled rapidly.

In the eastern extension of Area B a second possible sunken structure (SFB 2) was identified, but heavy truncation by recent disturbance meant that it was impossible to place this feature within the stratigraphic sequence.

SFB 1 and its oven was undoubtedly the most significant find of the excavation. Preliminary examination of debris from the oven and building floor revealed the presence of charred grain and seeds, particularly in the oven. This debris may derive from the fuel used to heat the oven, but could also reflect its use for baking or malting. The presence of hammerscale proves the existence of a forge nearby and it is noteworthy that the early medieval documentary sources refer not only to the growing and storage of cereals and legumes but also the presence of a smith on the monastic farm (Sweetinburgh 2003).

A very similar, sunken-floored structure is known in the tenth- to eleventh-century settlement at Guesnain in Northern France (Compagnon *et al*. 2002, 23–5). There, the structure of similar size, but more regular outline, had a large domed bread oven offset and carved into the subsoil at its south end, rather than installed in the floor as at Ickham. At Guesnain the bread oven and sunken room were enclosed by the remains of a rectangular building 6 m. wide and more than 15 m. long, the oven situated near the mid point, the sunken area interpreted merely as a substantial stoke-hole. At Ickham the two post-holes recorded outside to the north-west and south-east may have been part of a surrounding building. A final comparison with Guesnain is an interesting one. At both sites the buildings with ovens formed part of an early medieval settlement of sunken-floored or cellared buildings, set close to the parish church, the size of the French oven suggesting that this had been some communal baking house, close to the centre of the village. In view of the monastic ownership of the manor at Ickham, the oven could have served the ecclesiastical establishment and perhaps the villagers as well.

In conclusion then, the excavation at Ickham Court Farm showed that the site, though badly disturbed in the eastern half, contained, in the remainder, significant archaeological deposits relating to the early medieval village. A survey of the extensive medieval and post-medieval documentary sources for the manor of Ickham formed part of the work at Ickham Court Farm (Sweetinburgh 2003). A cartographic study was also undertaken. A full report, incorporating these studies, is in preparation.

14 Island Road, Hersden

Dan Barrett

Between June 1998 and August 2000 evaluation and strip and map recording was carried out on the site of the proposed Lakeview International Business Park south of the A28 (Island Road) just east of Hersden (TR 2132 6230). This preliminary work, under the supervision of Alan Ward, indicated the presence of cremation and inhumation burials and a substantial palimpsest of Iron Age and Roman land boundaries (Cross and Rady 2002) Work was resumed in September 2002 and three phases of excavation have now been completed (July 2003). Further work will be completed when a timetable has been agreed with the developer.

The site lies on a ridge above country that in the past would have been salt marsh. The Stour valley is to the south and the Wantsum channel to the east. At this point the A28 follows the line of the Roman road; geographical expediency would suggest that earlier thoroughfares would have taken a similar route.

Western spine road and access road

This was one of the areas which had been stripped, mapped and where excavation had begun two years previously. Left exposed for such a length of time, re-stripping was unavoidable, but despite this additional truncation, much of interest remained.

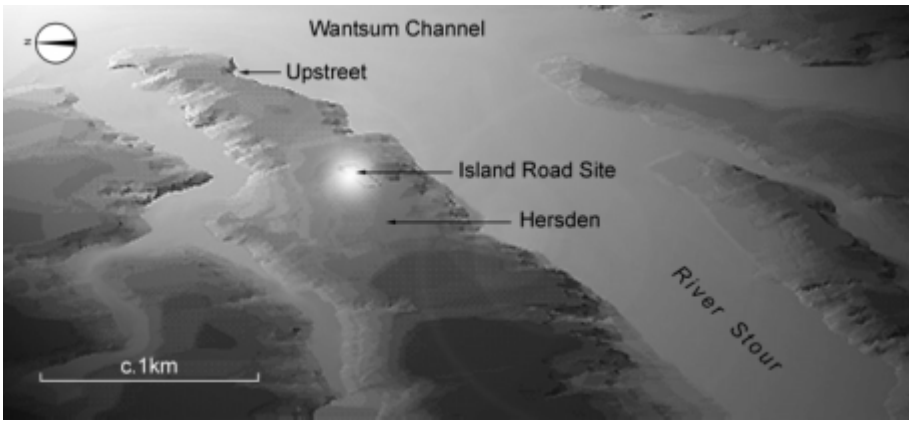
Evidence of pre-Iron Age activity was scant, limited to a few flints and potsherds, all residual or unstratified. There was, however, evidence for widespread Iron Age activity. At least two phases of land division could be seen preserved in field boundary ditches. There were also traces, though ephemeral, of a few round-house structures and areas of domestic activity and agricultural processing. At the extreme south-east of the area a large Roman rubbish pit had substantially destroyed a circular ditch and bank structure.

In the centre of the north–south access road a circular enclosure some 40 m. in diameter was discovered. Approximately half of this structure was revealed, the remainder lying under an area yet to be excavated. The enclosure had an entrance to the west, the northern terminal of which showed that the outer side of the ditch had a timber fence at this point and an exterior metalled surface. Within the enclosure were the remains of a possible house to the north, at least one six-poster structure, usually interpreted as a granary, and a storage pit. Unfortunately no associated occupation surfaces remained.

The Roman period saw the pattern of land division change in the first century A.D., and at least one more significant change was to occur in later Roman times. Associated with these boundary ditches were a number of four-posted granary structures, concentrated at the eastern end of the spine road. Samples from pits in the area (see p. 60) produced large quantities of carbonized cereals, and the remnants of a metalled road or track ran east–west immediately south of this area of activity. A well with plank lining and climbing rungs still preserved was also found in the vicinity. Though no domestic structures were identified, the storage and processing of the harvest in this area and the provision of a water supply would imply that the settlement would have been very near by.

A number of early Roman cremations were excavated in the area closest to Island Road. Most of the cremations were interred in ceramic vessels, usually in association with ancillary vessels. One cremation was in an amphora; another showed evidence of resting on burnt planking, and one vessel contained a brooch fused to cremated bone. Two badly preserved inhumations were also recorded. Surviving only as traces of bone in one case and as a soil stain in the other, the burials were oriented north–south but no grave goods were present. At approximately 100 m. distant from the cremations a bowl-shaped structure filled with redeposited cremated remains was discovered. Two metres

1 Iron Age structure & Roman rubbish pit.
2 Iron Age enclosure.
3 Roman four post structures.
4 Roman well.
5 Roman cremations.
6 Redeposited pyre remains.
7 Possible settlement boundary.
8 Iron Age structure & Roman rubbish pit.
9 Iron Age industrial activity & Roman cremations.
10 Roman metalled road.
11 Metalled surface.
12 Roman cremations.



Location map emphasizing the topography of the area.

in diameter, this feature had a central post and surrounding posts on one side, implying at least a partial superstructure.

Eastern spine road

Stripping and recording of this area began on 4 March 2003, and it was at once apparent that whilst Roman activity was less evident here, Iron Age remains survived along almost the entire length of the area.

These mostly consisted of north–south ditches marking land boundaries, a very wide ditch at the far east of the site possibly representing the limit of the settlement. At the far west an Iron Age structure had been cut away by a Roman pit, as had been seen with a nearby feature within the previous area of excavation. There were traces of another two small round-houses, but preservation was not good.

An area 50 m. from the western limit of the excavation and stretching 20 to 30 m. across the width of the trench proved to be exceptionally interesting. The area was deeply stratified and contained evidence of metalworking in the form of three furnaces, smaller hearths and deposits of ash and slag. There were also associated metalled working surfaces, clay floors and remains of posted structures. This location had obviously been used for similar activities over a long period of time, perhaps from 550–350 B.C. as a conservative estimate though earlier and later material is present. The finds of high status pottery and proximity to the large circular enclosure may be significant, but much awaits further analysis.

This area was later cut by more Roman cremations, again usually in vessels. One such proved to have an enamelled brooch adhering to the underside of the pot. In the same vicinity a very fine bronze two-handled urn was discovered. The handles were duplicates, having a human head with twin hair braids on either bottom finial. Placed in a pit, there was no immediate sign of a cremation within the vessel, which is awaiting conservation and laboratory excavation. It is interesting to note the discovery by metal detector of a similar vessel a few hundred metres to the east. Information about this find is currently being sought.

Western area

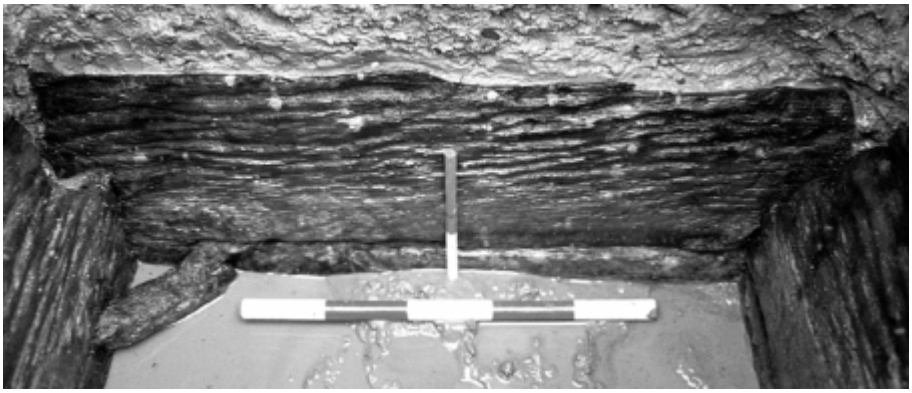
The strip and map of this area began in May 2003 and excavation finished on 18 July. By far the largest area yet examined, it was quickly evident quite how complex a sequence of land use and change over time was preserved at Hersden.

Prehistoric ditches were present, but many Roman features overlay them. Two of the linear ditches may form an avenue leading to and from the entrance of the large circular enclosure, but the date of these features has yet to be determined. Accurate phasing of these intercutting ditches will only be possible once post-excavation analysis has been undertaken. Initial impressions are of at least four main phases of land division, the enclosures becoming larger in area each time.

A possible metalled Roman road running north–south across the site, suggested in the evaluation trenches, was not apparent, though patches of metallings were found in several locations. A road or track was found running east–west across the southern part of the site. Some parts were very well preserved, other parts survived only where the surface had slumped into underlying features. Towards the central section of the road, where its direction seems to change slightly, a metalled surface and associated post-holes were found.

At four places in this lower third of the site human inhumations were found. Seemingly interred along the edge of the road, though not in ditches, all were in a prone position. Traditionally such burials have been interpreted as the graves of criminals; certainly a lack of the normal obsequies is implied by the absence of grave goods, the way the graves respect no conventions of orientation, and the informal postures of the bodies.

By contrast, at the western edge of the site yet more Roman cremations were excavated. There was evidence on this occasion of a boundary ditch around the burial area.



The plank-lined well, scale 0.50 m. (above) and one of the cremation groups, scale 10 cm. (below); both from the area of the access road.

Summary

It can be seen from the work so far that there is preserved at Hersden a complex record of changing land use. Further analysis and excavation should expand and clarify this picture. Early impressions are of an Iron Age settlement of some size and longevity, centred on a large enclosure with outlying small round-houses, an established metalworking tradition and a well-organized field system. Major changes occurred in the early Roman period with the laying out of new land boundaries. Iron Age structures were used for rubbish disposal and the focus of activity moved slightly westward. Changes within the Iron Age and Roman periods may prove to be equally interesting.

It is likely that more information about the Iron Age settlement will be revealed when the eastern plots are stripped and excavated. The remaining part of the large enclosure will be revealed, and perhaps the relationship of this with the complex metalworking area to the south will be clarified. It will be interesting to see if this enclosure had another entrance to the east and if there was any satellite settlement without.

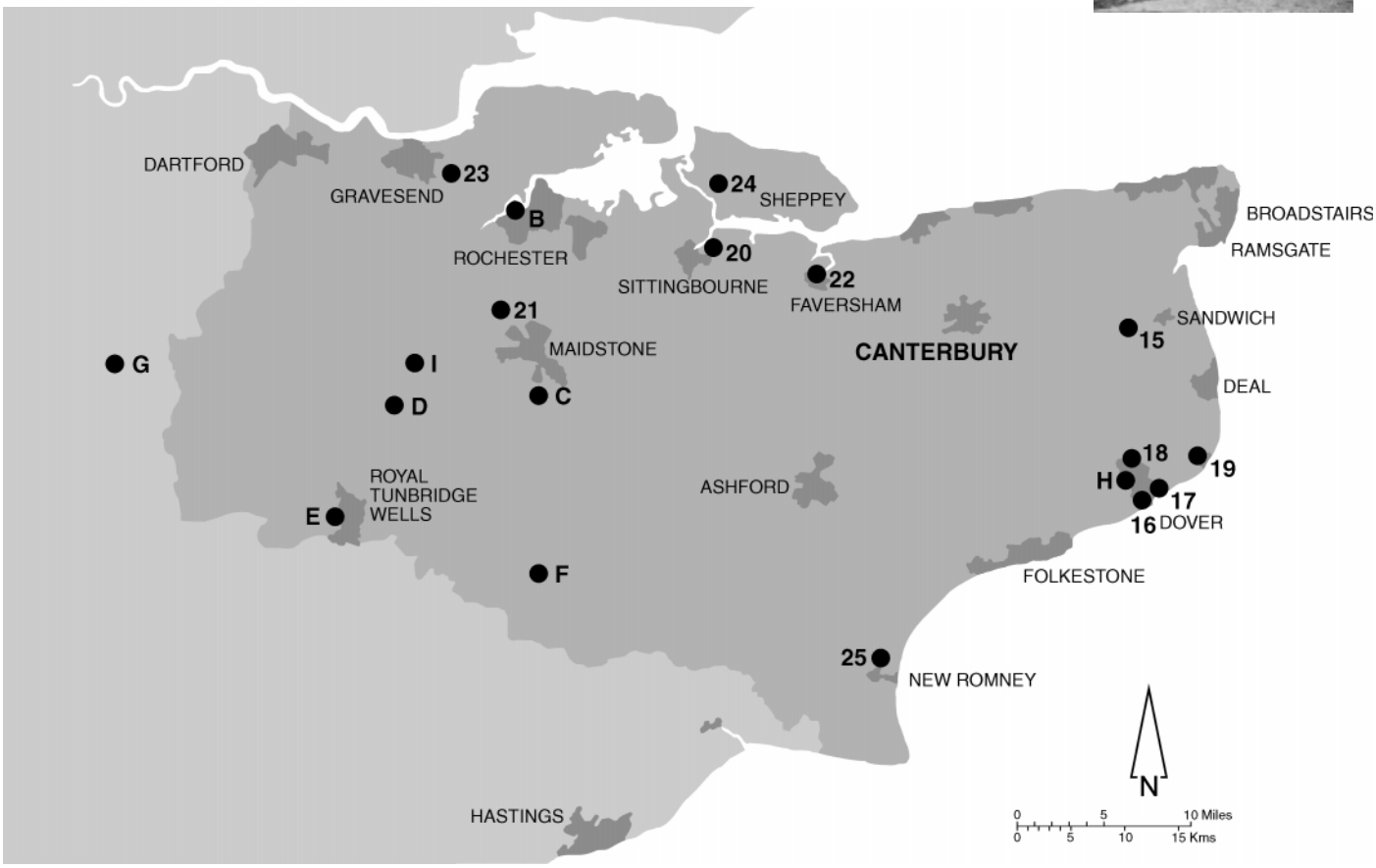
This area will also show whether the cremations found to the north and south make up one large cemetery or if two separate burial areas were used. Despite having found no Roman settlement so far, the areas examined were not merely fields, as can be seen from the granaries, roads, and the intriguing prone inhumations; as Roman practice was to dispose of the dead outside settlement boundaries, the extent and positioning of the cemetery areas may indicate where the focus of Roman activity lay.

With environmental evidence ranging from charred grains to whale vertebrae, closer examination of the processing areas and associated samples may well produce significant data about the economic strategies pursued at different times.

In summation, it cannot be stressed enough that this is an overview of work in progress. Much has been achieved but an awful lot of dirt still has to be shifted and the results sifted. It only remains to thank all who have worked on the site so far, digging in conditions from Somme-like mud to baked concrete. 'Fine archaeologists and valued colleagues' every one.

The bronze urn under excavation.

III Kent Sites



15 Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough
16 Town Yard, Dover Western Docks
17 Dover Eastern Docks supply water main
18 Honeywood Parkway, Dover
19 Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe
20 Castle Road, Sittingbourne
21 No. 488 Station Road, Aylesford
22 Lower Road, Faversham
23 Queen's Farm, Shorne
24 A249 Sheppey
25 Melaine, Fairfield Road, New Romney
B George Vaults, No. 35 High Street, Rochester
C Rock Cottage, Boughton Monchelsea
D Hadlow Place, Hadlow
E The Brokers Arms, Tunbridge Wells
F Manor House, Gill's Green, Hawkhurst
G Tenchleys Manor, Limpsfield, Surrey
H Crabble Paper Mill, Crabble, Dover
I Style Monument, St John the Baptist, Wateringbury

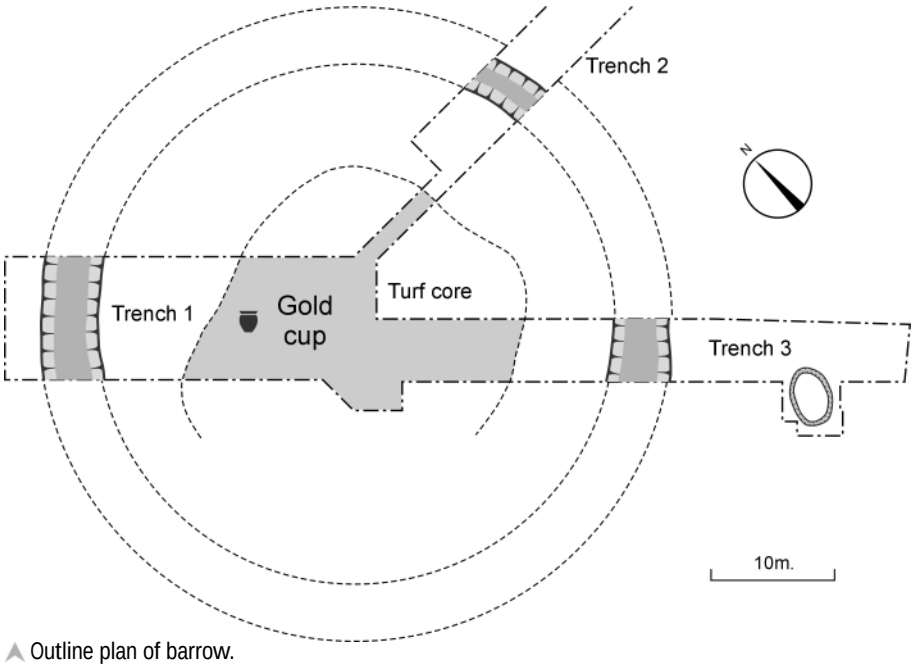
15 Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough

Keith Parfitt

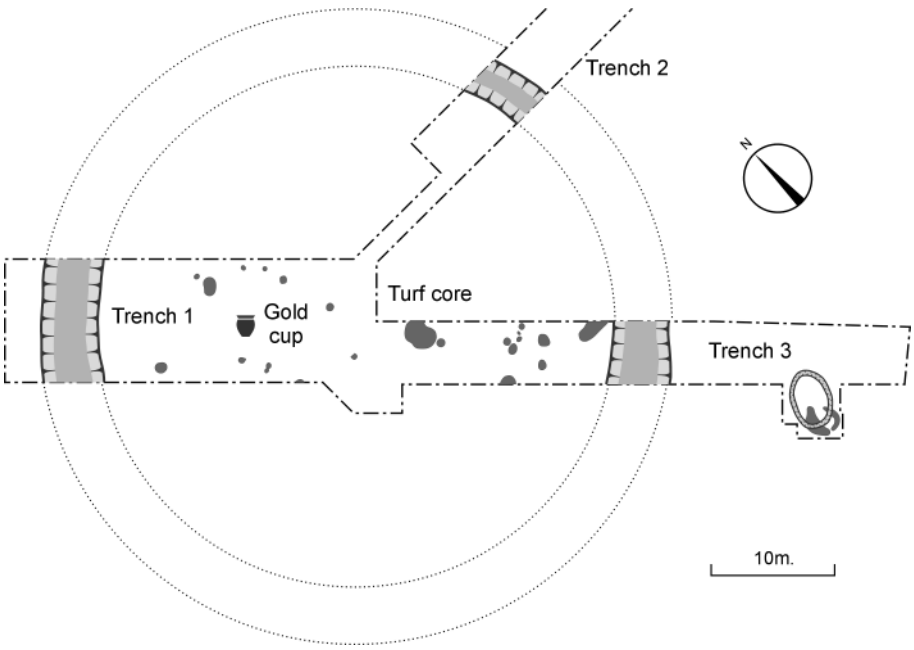
In September 2002 members from the Trust returned to continue excavations at the site (TR 2939 5698) where the spectacular early Bronze Age gold cup was discovered in November 2001 (Parfitt 2003a). This second trench was funded by the British Museum and was located on the eastern side of the barrow mound previously identified. The enclosing barrow ditch was again located and sectioned but it was found that the upper part of the ditch profile had been truncated by terracing, probably during the medieval period.

In March 2003 a third trench was opened. This work was funded by substantial grants from the K.A.S., the B.B.C. and the British Museum. Progress of the excavation was filmed throughout by the B.B.C. for screening sometime in September 2003.

The great ditch encircling the barrow mound can now be confirmed as being 41.50 m. (136 ft) in diameter. Excavation of the ditch revealed that it was over 2 m. deep and in times of wet weather



Outline plan of barrow.



Plan of pre-barrow features.

had sometimes held water. The ditch seems to have been completely silted and invisible by the Roman period. Many centuries of ploughing have removed all but the base of the barrow mound; originally it might have stood to a height of around 5 m. (16 ft). Such dimensions would have made the barrow one of the very largest in southern Britain.

It can now be seen that a major Late Neolithic settlement had existed on the site of the barrow around 700-1000 years earlier. The inhabitants of this settlement used decorated Grooved Ware pottery and the assemblage of such pottery from Ringlemere is now by far the largest from Kent and one of the largest from anywhere in south-east England. Whether the location of the Neolithic settlement is purely fortuitous remains to be considered in the light of further excavation.

In order to set the site into its local context, field-walking and metal-detecting of the adjacent field was undertaken, in search of evidence for any settlement associated with the barrow. This has confirmed that a spread of prehistoric struck flints and calcined flints occurs across the entire area. Metal-detector surveys have also revealed a light scatter of Roman coins but the most significant discovery was a rare Early Iron Age brooch probably imported from France. This represents an important new find for Kent but belongs to a period not previously represented at Ringlemere.

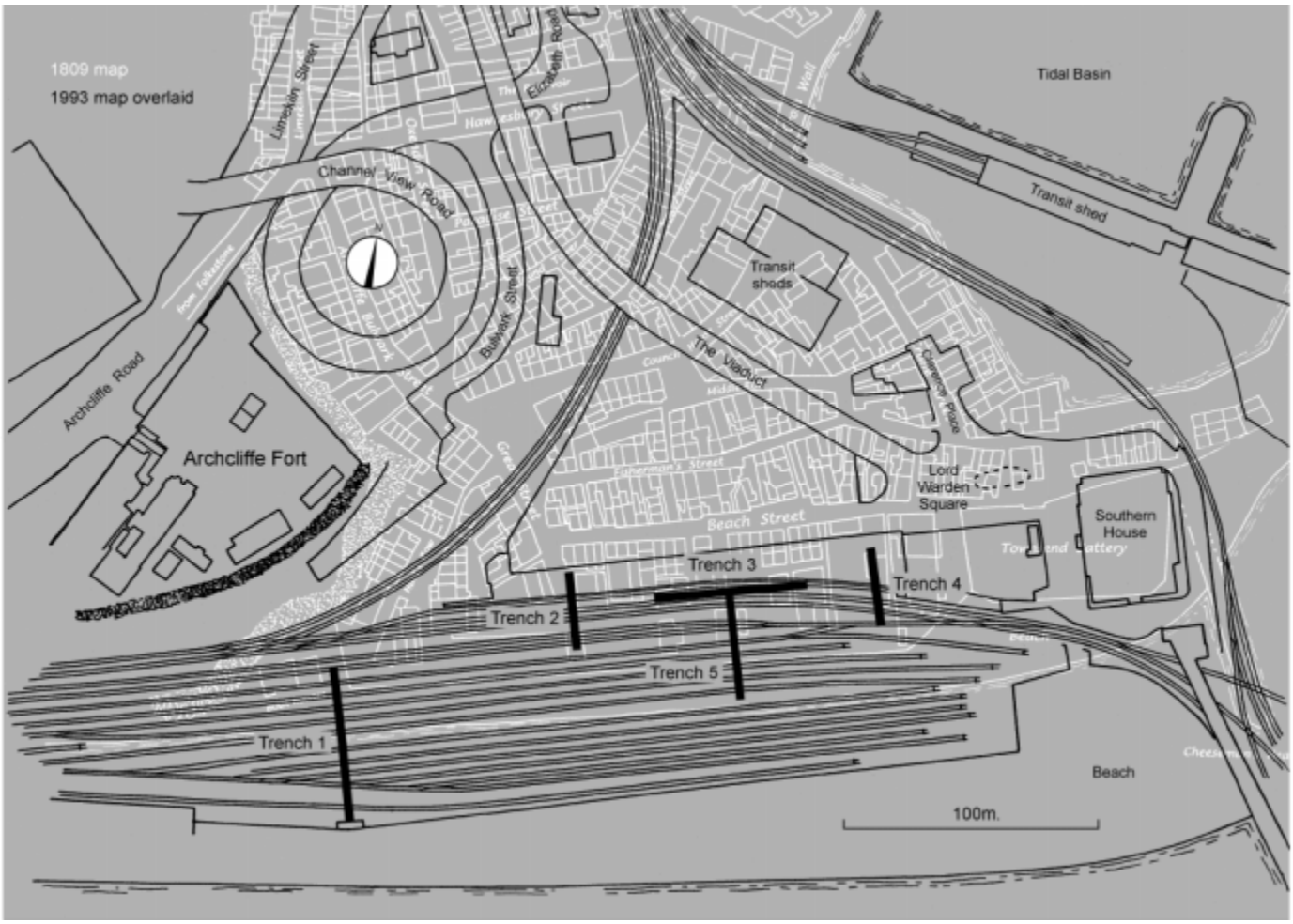
Ploughing continues to erode the Ringlemere barrow and it is intended to fully excavate the complete monument over the course of the next few years. Some of the other, smaller barrow sites known from cropmarks in the same field will, hopefully, also be examined. The field-walking too will be continued as the crop rotation allows. The general impression is that the entire Ringlemere area has a very high archaeological potential and more important discoveries are anticipated.

16 Town Yard, Dover Western Docks

Keith Parfitt

In connection with general plans to redevelop the Town Yard site adjacent to Dover's Western Docks, the Trust was engaged by Dover Harbour Board to undertake evaluation trenching on the site to ascertain if any archaeological remains were present. The work was conducted during a five day period in May 2002. A previous desk-top assessment (Parfitt 2000a) had indicated that the area may once have contained some significant archaeological remains but how much might have survived subsequent railway activity was initially unclear.

The excavated area lay on the seaward side of Dover's Western Docks complex, between Shakespeare beach and the Archcliffe Fort headland (TR 317 402 centred). It consisted of a roughly rectangular piece of ground, measuring about 400 m. (east–west) by 90 m. (north–south). Situated to the west of Lord Warden House and bounded along the northern side by the line of old Beach Street, the area had been previously occupied by railway sidings and the former South-Eastern Railway station. A raised platform relating to the former station still occupied the northern margin of the site, adjacent to the line of Beach Street. However, these railway structures had been laid out across an area that had previously seen a variety of activities during the early post-medieval period. Beach Street, itself, appears to have come into existence during the later eighteenth century. By the mid nineteenth century the area formed part of what had become one of Dover's most densely populated areas – the Pier District. The subsequent effects of the expansion of the railway, slum clearance programmes, the devastation of the Second World War and modern road and dock



An 1809 map overlaid by a 1993 map showing the position of trenches 1–5.

development projects have now combined to remove virtually all traces of this once busy maritime quarter of old Dover (Parfitt 1992).

The Town Yard site was evaluated by means of five long machine-cut trenches. The 'natural' in every trench consisted of clean, loose beach shingle. There had been some significant damage by later, railway associated structures, particularly in Trenches 1 and 4, but the excavations were successful in demonstrating that areas of early post-medieval buildings and deposits survived on certain parts of the site. Several small but useful groups of mostly eighteenth-century pottery and clay tobacco pipes were recovered.

17 Dover Eastern Docks supply water main

Keith Parfitt

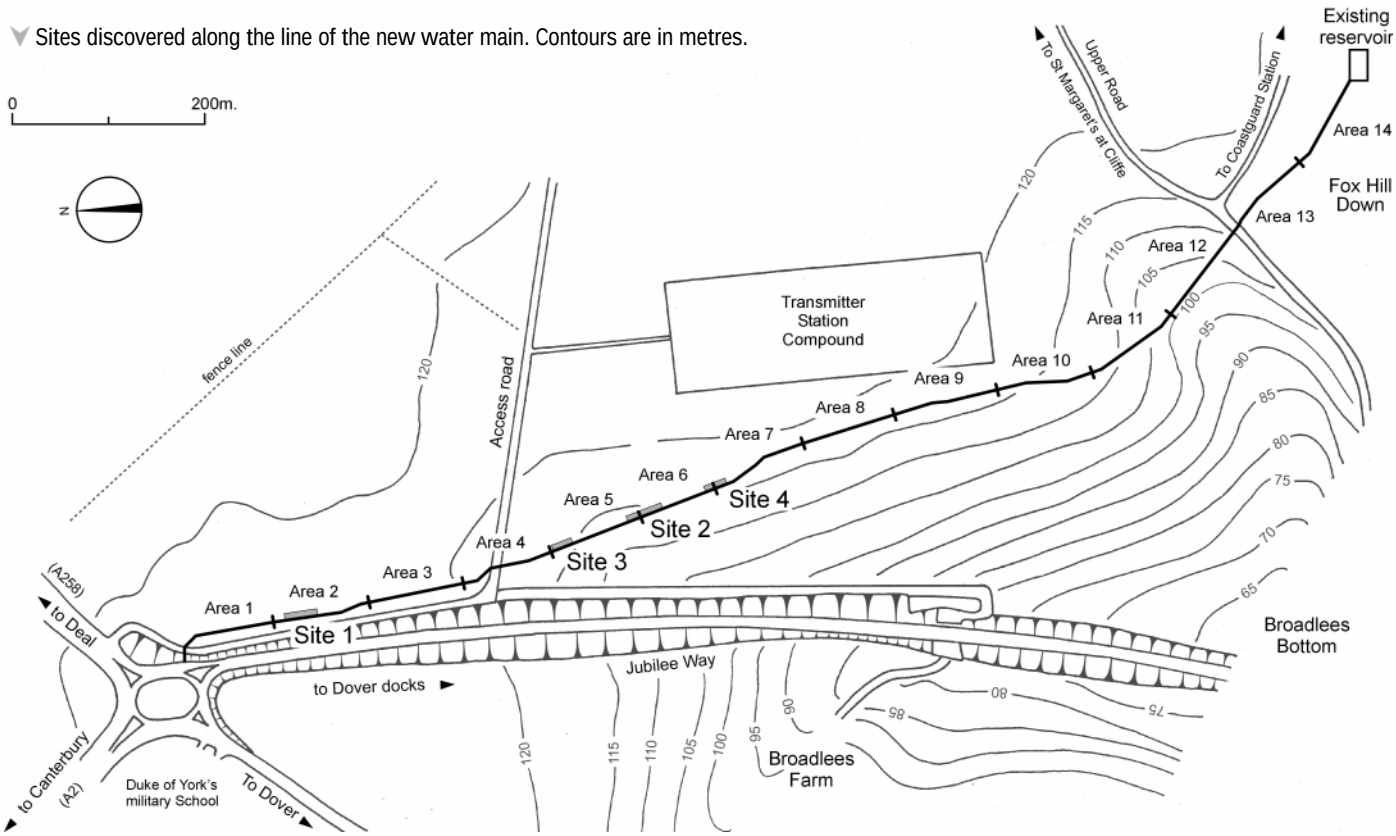
During the autumn of 2002 and the spring of 2003 a new water main was laid across some 1.5 km. of chalkland east of Dover. The Trust was engaged by Folkestone and Dover Water Services, through their archaeological consultant Maureen Bennell, to maintain a watching brief along the route and a number of interesting discoveries were made.

Along the entire route, the underlying solid geology was Upper Chalk but this was partially masked by deposits of Clay-with-Flints. The clay was found to occupy vertical pipes within the chalk but formed a continuous surface layer at the northern end of the route. Examination of the 4–11 m. wide strip of ground cleared of plough-soil ahead of pipe trenching allowed the location of features cut into the subsoil and the collection of finds. Four previously unknown sites of archaeological interest were located and examined ahead of the cutting of the trench (Sites 1–4). Of these, Site 1 was of particular interest.

Site 1 lay a short distance to the south-east of the Guston (Duke of York's) roundabout (TR 3320 4343) and revealed a scatter of four shallow pits dug into the natural Clay-with-Flints. The area they occupied was partially delimited on the south side by a shallow ditch, which appeared to be contemporary with them. All these features produced sherds of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery and it seems clear that they represent some sort of settlement site, the full extent of which was not revealed. One of the pits contained significant quantities of charred grain. A carbon sample from this pit was submitted for radiocarbon dating and gave a result of 920-800 Cal BC (2 Sigma; Beta 179754). This implies a Late Bronze Age date for the filling of the pit, which is consistent with the stylistic dating of the pottery recovered.

Field boundary ditches revealed at Sites 2 and 3 are perhaps most likely to have been of medieval date but there is insufficient dating evidence. Site 4 appeared to be a small prehistoric chalk quarry but only limited excavation was possible.

A continuous scatter of prehistoric struck flints was noted in the plough soil along the route. The earliest finds recovered were three Acheulian hand-axes and other Lower Palaeolithic flints which came from an area of Clay-with-Flints at



Sites discovered along the line of the new water main. Contours are in metres.

the northern end of the route, close to Site 1 (see above). The positive correlation between such Palaeolithic implements and outcrops of heavy clays in the Dover area is now very well established and their occurrence on the present pipeline follows a familiar pattern. The great majority of the prehistoric flint artefacts recovered from the pipe-line, however, appear to be Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date, suggesting the presence of contemporary prehistoric settlements across this area. No specific surface concentrations were recorded.

18 Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, Dover

Keith Parfitt

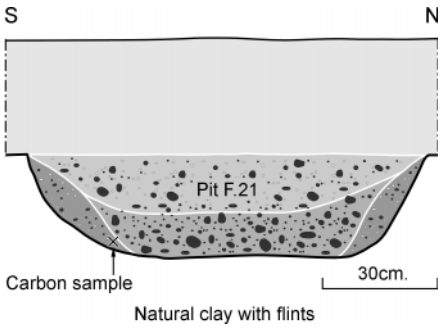
In connection with proposals to erect a new industrial warehouse, with parking, across an extensive area of land off Honeywood Parkway, Whitfield, on the outskirts of Dover (TR 3098 4439, centred), the Trust was engaged to excavate twenty machine-cut evaluation trenches across the area in November 2002 (Parfitt 2002). This work revealed four minor archaeological features, together with a small collection of prehistoric struck flints. One pit containing significant quantities of burnt flint was identified as a probable prehistoric cooking pit, but the trenching suggested that there were few other archaeological remains present on the site. It was, however, recommended to K.C.C.'s Heritage Conservation Group that a watching-brief be maintained during the groundworks phase of the new building programme in order to collect more prehistoric flints and to record any further archaeological features that might be revealed.

Earlier work in the region had previously demonstrated the presence of prehistoric struck flints here (Parfitt 2000b), with a Roman occupation site lying a short distance to the west (Pratt 1998; Parfitt 1999). A general archaeological implications report for this whole area was produced in 2000 (Parfitt 2000c).

During February 2003 the builders stripped the topsoil from an area covering about 19,500 square m., using heavy machinery. This work allowed a search of the cleared surface for archaeological features and also the collection of artefacts, as previously recommended.

A careful search of the stripped area was made on four separate occasions and this revealed a light scatter of prehistoric struck flints and occasional calcined flints. No noticeable concentrations of such material were observed. The bulk of the struck flints appear to be of common Neolithic-Bronze Age type but a few heavily patinated pieces are more probably Palaeolithic. These include two bifacially worked hand-axes, which are characteristic of this period. The hand-axes were located some 21.50 m. apart in the southern quarter of the site.

Only one new feature of archaeological interest was discovered. This consisted of another shallow pit filled with calcined flints, very similar to the cooking pot pit found in the evaluation. The new pit was located about 33 m. to the west of the first. Oval in shape and measuring 1.04 m. (north–south) by 0.94 m. (east–west), the pit was 0.28 m. deep with steep sides and a flat base. A sample of carbon from the filling was submitted for radiocarbon dating and gave a result of 2270-2260 Cal BC (4220-4210 BP) or 2220-2020 Cal BC (4170-3970 BP) (Beta 179755). This suggests a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date for the filling of the pit. No other datable finds were recovered.



Section through prehistoric cooking pit, F.21.

19 Bay Hill, St Margaret's at Cliffe

Keith Parfitt

In connection with proposals to erect a new dwelling on land adjoining 'Eden Roc', The Droveway, Bay Hill at St Margaret's at Cliffe, the Trust was engaged to excavate evaluation trenches across the area in order to determine if any archaeological remains were present. The work was carried out during a one-day operation in January 2003, with some significant results.

The area investigated lies on the south-western side of the existing house, across an area once largely occupied by a tennis court, now disused and laid to lawn. The plot occupies a gentle south-east facing chalkland slope, overlooking the English Channel at an elevation of about 81 m. above Ordnance Datum (TR 3642 4448 centred).

Very particular archaeological interest attached to this area because a substantial round barrow, presumably of Bronze Age date, had occupied the north-western end of the plot until the early twentieth century. During the course of the twentieth century the barrow mound was removed, in stages. Much of the barrow had been levelled in 1920 to allow the construction of the tennis court (Parsons 1929) but fragmentary remains still seem to have been surviving in 1964. During the course of the levelling work in 1920 six extended inhumations burials, fairly certainly of Anglo-Saxon date, had been discovered, together with an earlier crouched burial most probably associated with the original barrow.

Taken in conjunction with other evidence for Anglo-Saxon burials in the area, the likelihood of further graves surviving on the site seemed high from the outset. Four trenches were excavated with the aid of a JCB-type machine, in areas previously indicated by the County Archaeologist's department. A total of 58 square m. was cleared and this revealed three Anglo-Saxon graves and an earlier ditch, which is likely to be related to the round barrow.

The three graves located were quite widely spaced in Trenches 2 and 3 and were all aligned roughly east–west. They ranged in length from 2.20 m. to 2.45 m., and in width from 0.64 m. to 0.75 m. As surviving, their depth varied from a minimum of 0.24 m. to 0.35 m., although it seems fairly clear that there had been some truncation caused by the previous terracing of the area. No attempt was made to fully excavate any of the graves but a narrow slot was cut across each in order to confirm the presence of human remains. In every case a slot dug towards the eastern end of the grave revealed leg bones, indicating that the bodies had all been placed with their heads to the west. No grave-goods were discovered.

20 Castle Road, Sittingbourne

Peter Clark

An archaeological excavation commissioned by Peter Brett Associates for Blue Circle Industries was undertaken at the Eurolink industrial park late in 2000 under the direction of Paul Hutchings. The site lay on the eastern side of Milton Creek, near Sittingbourne (TQ 9212 6492) where two enclosure ditches of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date were revealed (Enclosures 1 and 2). The gap between these enclosures formed a corridor about 5 m. wide, running roughly east–west at a right angle to the creek.

The enclosure ditches appeared to delimit three areas of complex stratification (complexes A, B and C); these areas may have originally been more extensive, however, having been subsequently truncated.

These complex sequences appear to consist of a repeated cycle of construction of minor structural features, their use and subsequent demolition, followed by episodes of dumping and pit digging. The features appear to be associated with grain processing; there was no unequivocal evidence of domestic occupation, the structural elements representing ephemeral ancillary constructions. Pottery recovered from the excavations suggested the site was of low status, perhaps part of a larger farm or estate complex. A Late Iron Age enclosure ditch lay just to the north of the site, and nearby finds of Roman masonry, cremations and inhumations are all suggestive of more widespread occupation and agricultural exploitation of this riverside zone, perhaps also taking advantage of the good communication routes provided by the river and the Roman road network.

Whilst there was evidence for grain processing, the thoroughfare formed by enclosures 1 and 2 was also suggestive of animal husbandry, providing access to the water meadows and grazing at the creek edge. Relatively common finds of oyster shell also suggest this marine resource was being exploited.

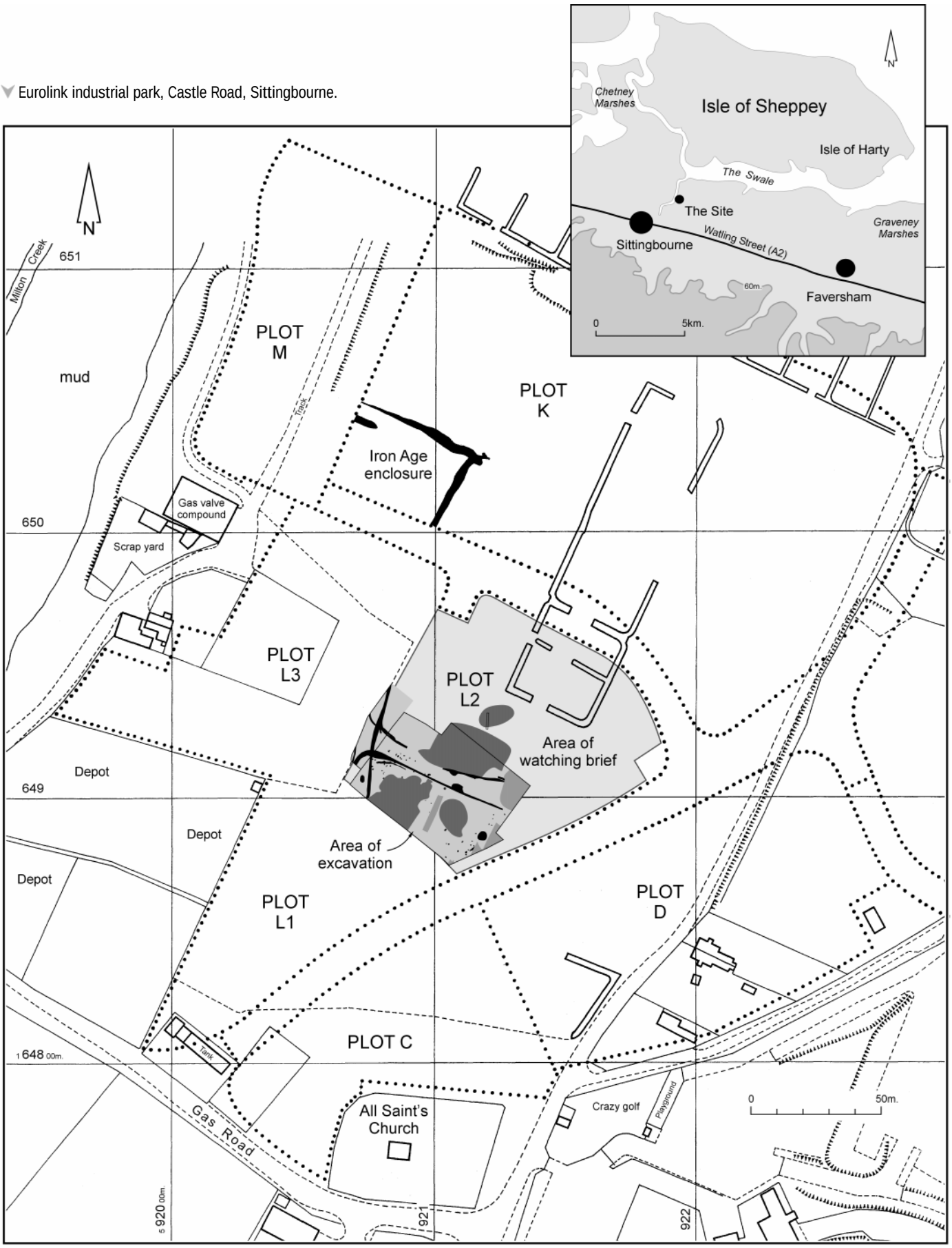
It is clear that the site had its origins in the later Iron Age and was abandoned sometime in the mid third century A.D. The site lies about 160 m. east of the present course of Milton Creek, and was well situated to exploit both the fertile soils of the valley floor and the nearby marine and coastal environment. The creek appears to have been navigable in antiquity (as suggested by the nearby discovery of a probably prehistoric dug-out boat (SMR Number TQ96 NW12)), providing good waterborne communications north into the Swale and along the north Kent coast. Upstream, a major east–west land route (latterly adopted by Watling Street) lay less than 2 km. away.

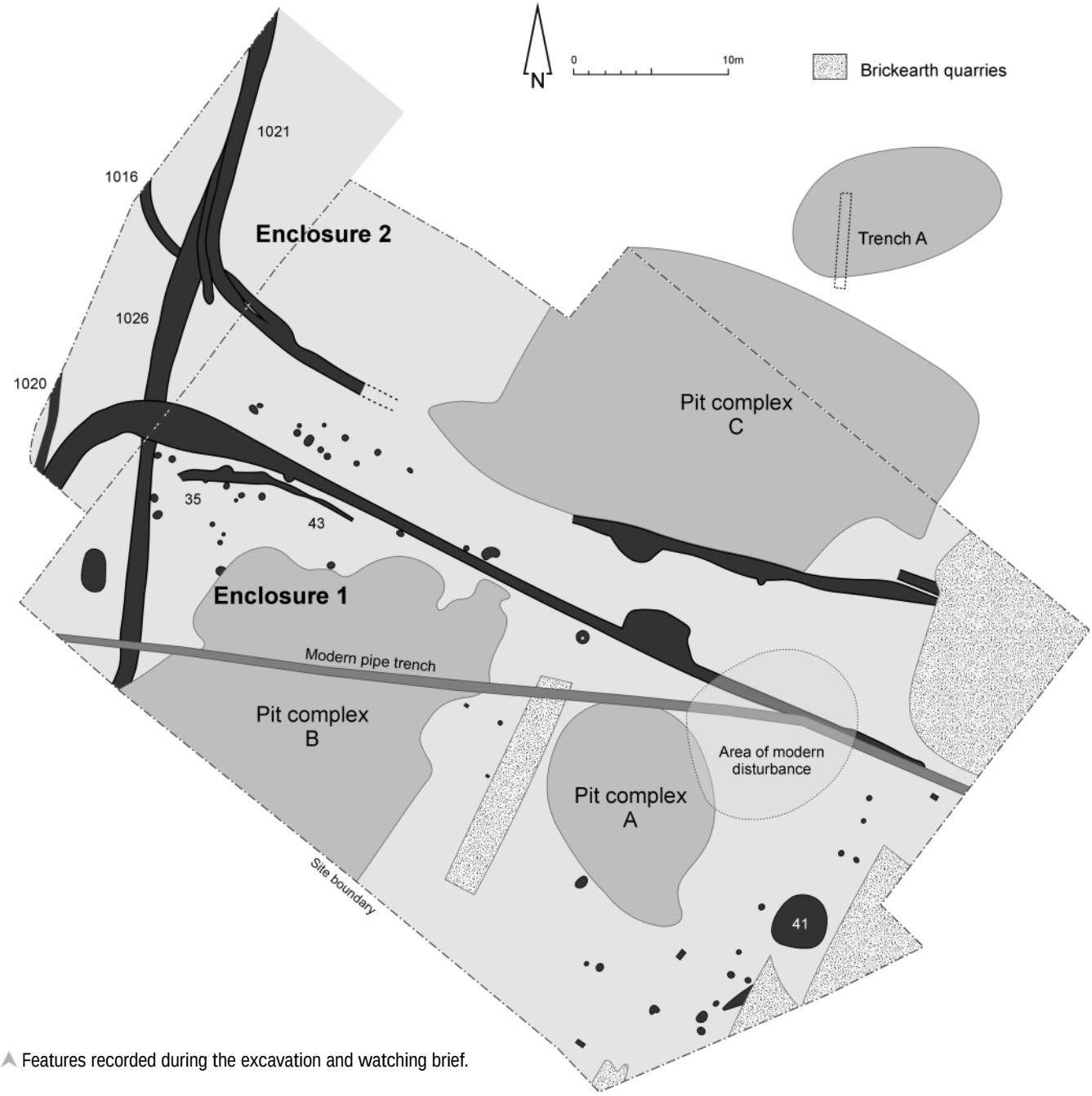
The evidence (including a Mid to Late Iron Age enclosure some 100 m. to the north; Houliston 1998) suggests a number of enclosures lying at right angles to the creek. Although their complete plans were not retrieved, the parallel ditches of Enclosures 1 and 2 appear to form a thoroughfare leading towards the creek edge, perhaps suggesting that one function of the enclosures was concerned with livestock management, perhaps related to seasonal grazing at the water's edge. Study of the animal bone suggests that sheep and cattle were exploited, with sheep being bred for both meat and secondary products and cattle being kept into adulthood to supply milk and work as draught animals, then slaughtered at the end of their working lives. Finds of charred grain suggest that arable farming was also part of the settlement's subsistence strategy, including cereals (chiefly spelt wheat and barley), pulses and flax. Abundant finds of oyster shell show that this resource was exploited, and though bone survival was poor, it is clear that fish also contributed to the diet.

This pattern of mixed farming did not appear to change with the Roman occupation; from an economic viewpoint, at least, life appears to have gone on much as before under Roman administration. Despite the presumably enhanced communications network suggested by the creation of Watling Street, and the continuing importance of continental trade with southern Britain and the Thames estuary following Augustus' reorganisation of the Gallic provinces and the later Claudian occupation, there is little evidence of anything more than very localised trade around the Swale and the Medway estuary.

There was no evidence for dwellings on the site;

Eurolink industrial park, Castle Road, Sittingbourne.





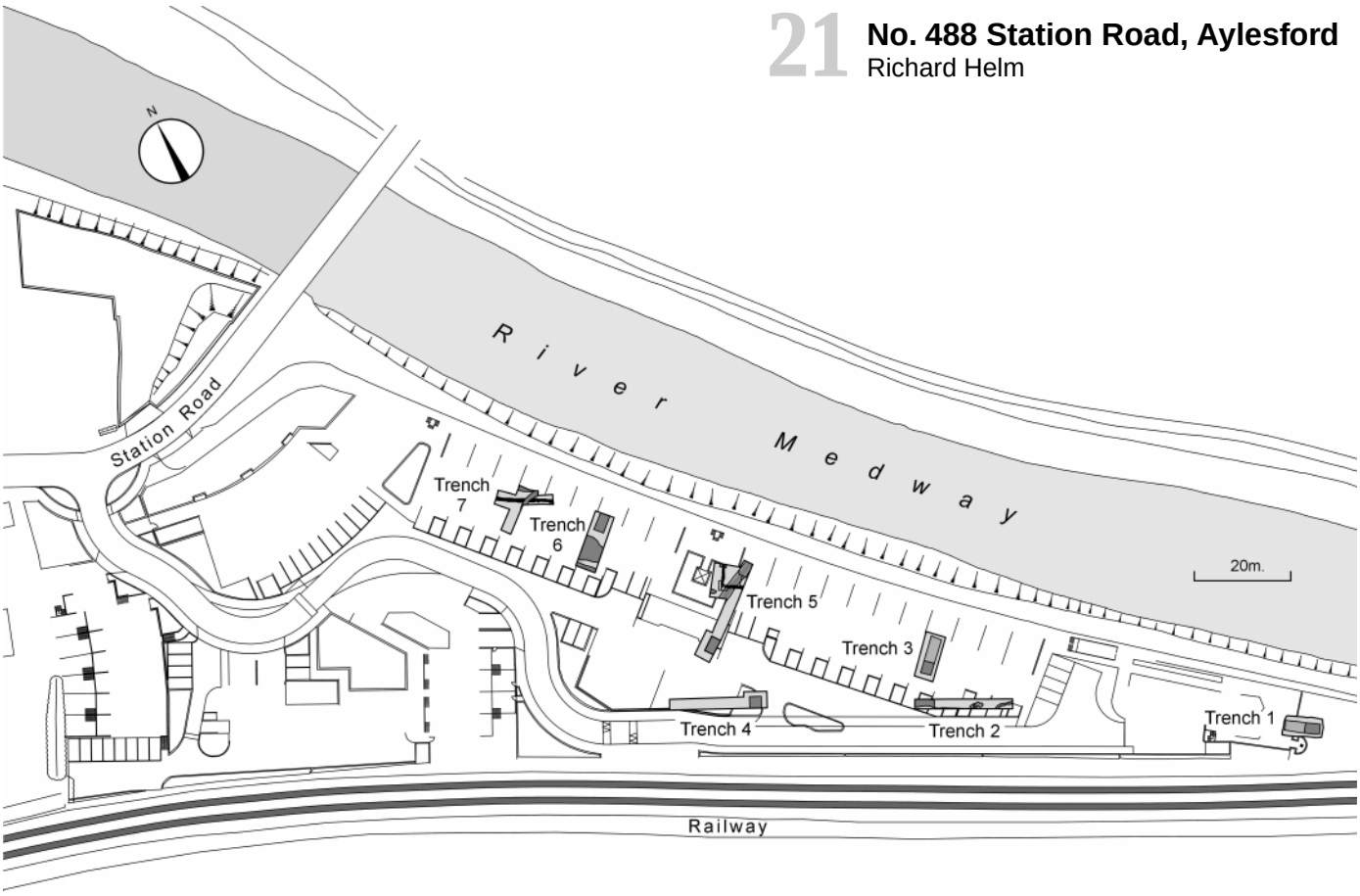
Features recorded during the excavation and watching brief.

the palimpsest of features found in complexes A, B and C most probably relate to agricultural processes and refuse disposal. It seems likely that the activities undertaken at the Castle Road site were peripheral to a farm some way distant. A Roman inhumation burial in a decorated lead-lined coffin with three glass vessels was discovered 250 m. to the east (SMR TQ 96 SW 8); a little further east lay Roman occupation debris and building foundations of Roman date (SMR TQ 96 SW 9). To the south and south-west of these finds were cremation burials (SMR TQ 96 SW 50) and a flint dry course wall of probable Roman date has been found just to the south-east of the site. Taken together, these discoveries may suggest a settlement site (perhaps a small villa and associated estate) with associated cemetery set on a slight rise near to Milton Creek, albeit with its origins in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age. Alternatively, it may be that the occupants of this site were part of a 'satellite' farm, an agricultural based industrial settlement dependent on a landowner or estate centre much further afield, as has been suggested at Westhawk Farm near Ashford (Millett 1990, 208–10). If this was the case, however, we might expect to locate dwelling places in the near vicinity to accommodate the labour force.

The site seems to have been abandoned over a short space of time in the mid third century, not much later than A.D. 250. The cause for this abandonment is unclear, but may be related to the downturn in the economy during the third century A.D. and related political troubles that may have been particularly problematic for coastal settlements. Other rural sites in Kent, such as Monkton and Westhawk Farm (Hicks forthcoming; Booth *et al.* forthcoming) also appear to have seen serious decline and abandonment in the same period. Alternatively, the mass of infilled pits, refuse and other debris that formed within the enclosures may simply have eventually become too unpleasant for the occupants, and they moved their activities to a nearby spot, yet to be uncovered.

21 No. 488 Station Road, Aylesford

Richard Helm



During November 2002 the Trust carried out an evaluation on land at the former United Carriers Depot in Station Road, Aylesford (TQ 730 588) after planning permission had been granted for residential development. The site is situated on the outskirts of Aylesford village, on a strip of land following the southern bank of the River Medway. The development site had previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment (Pack and Hunt 2000). Due to past ground disturbances, buried contaminants and on-going groundworks associated with the proposed development, excavation was only possible in seven trenches.

The underlying geology of the area is Lower Greensand Hythe Beds to the south, with Lower Greensand Sandgate Beds and Folkestone Beds to the north, rising to gault clay and chalk forming the North Downs. Both are overlain by alluvium and other recent River Brickearth and gravel drift deposits extending up to 1 km. either side of the river.

High concentrations of Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered during extraction of the Medway gravels and Folkestone sand beds, and the evaluation purposefully sought to identify their presence within the development area. However, bulk samples collected from the upper horizon of the Medway gravels failed to recover any Palaeolithic artefacts.

A geotechnical survey undertaken within the site boundaries failed to find any evidence for alluvium overlying the natural River Brickearth, and it was assumed that this had been removed during the construction of the former road haulage depot. Significantly, whilst the absence of alluvium was confirmed during the evaluation, the assumption of modern removal was questioned following the identification of buried soil horizons containing pottery dated to the 'Belgic' Iron Age and Roman periods, immediately above the River Brickearth. Considerable evidence exists for activity of these periods within the surrounding area. The important 'Belgic' Iron Age cremation cemetery to the north of Aylesford, is the type-site for the Aylesford-Swarling culture and several Romano-British burial urns have been recovered from Aylesford friary.

Further confirmation that the alluvium had been removed in antiquity was provided by the presence of medieval structures overlying the buried soil horizons. These included stone wall foundations exposed in trenches adjacent to the river frontage, and pit-like features to the south. The wall foundations were constructed of ragstone, chalk and flint. The easternmost wall appeared to form a boundary aligned with the river frontage, and was abutted by a crushed ragstone and mortar surface to the north potentially representing a trackway or tow path. Walls identified to the west appeared to represent the corner of a building perhaps part of a warehouse fronting the river. Fragments of medieval roof tile and pottery sherds dated to the mid thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries were incorporated into the build of this structure.

The medieval centre of Aylesford was located on the north bank of the River Medway, represented by a Norman keep guarding the river crossing (now spanned by a fourteenth-century bridge) and later incorporated into the Norman tower of St Peter's Church. Previous archaeological work to the west of the medieval bridge had revealed evidence for timber revetment of the southern river bank, associated with comparable pottery of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (Priestley-Bell 1996). However, no such evidence was observed during a similar watching brief to the east of the medieval bridge and immediately north of the present proposed development (Dunkin 1995), and it was therefore assumed that medieval riverside activity lay to the west. The evaluation has now shown this to be incorrect, and it is clear that the southern bank of the River Medway, either side of the medieval bridge, provided a significant focus for riverside activity.

The work was funded by Ward Homes Ltd.

22 Lower Road, Faversham
Jake Weekes

Archaeological evaluation in advance of housing development at Lower Road, Faversham in May 2002 revealed evidence of extensive quarrying activity associated with twentieth-century brickearth extraction, as well as a small, largely undisturbed area (probably surviving as a result of the need for quarry access) with archaeological features dating to the medieval period. A ditch and at least one area of localised burning yielded an assemblage of potsherds representing approximately six vessels with a narrow date range (A.D.1200–1225/50). Some of the vessels were sooted from their use as cooking vessels.

A watching brief was subsequently undertaken in August 2002 in the area of the site designated for use as a soakaway trench. During this phase of the work, additional medieval features (directly associated with those seen in the evaluation) were investigated, including possible structural evidence. This particular feature was roughly square in plan, with a maximum width of 2.82 m. and was observed to extend beyond the limits of the trench. Although this could plausibly be interpreted as evidence of a sunken-featured building, a scarcity of finds from the feature may suggest that it simply results from small-scale quarrying of brickearth in the medieval period.

Further *in-situ* burning, two hollows and several pits were also excavated, though evidence for their function was inconclusive. Pottery recovered from these features dated broadly to the late twelfth century, suggesting, overall, quite a brief period of occupation of perhaps a domestic nature. Any further evidence of medieval occupation in the surrounding area would unfortunately have been extracted, along with the brickearth, during twentieth-century quarrying of the site.

Plan and sections. ➤

23 Queen's Farm, Shorne
Adrian Gollop

During January and February 2003 the Trust carried out an archaeological excavation at Queen's Farm, Shorne, near Gravesend (TQ 6936 7335). The work was commissioned by the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust in advance of the construction of new farm buildings.

The site is located north of Shorne village on the outskirts of Shorne Marshes in an area considered to be of considerable archaeological potential. Aerial photographs indicate features interpreted as Bronze Age barrows, a Bronze Age enclosed settlement, an Iron Age enclosed settlement, and other undated trackways and field systems. During the 1950s extensive gravel extraction, in the fields to the west of Queen's Farm, unearthed the remains of a large Roman settlement. Isolated Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains are known from the immediate vicinity, and the Domesday Survey makes reference to the village of Merston. Possibly of Anglo-Saxon origin this lost medieval village is believed to have been in the vicinity of Green Farm, *c*.1000 m. to the south. The remains of a 'Norman' church were uncovered in this area in 1957 (Bignall 1975).

The excavation revealed the presence of a multi-period site with evidence for activity ranging from the Neolithic through to the present day.

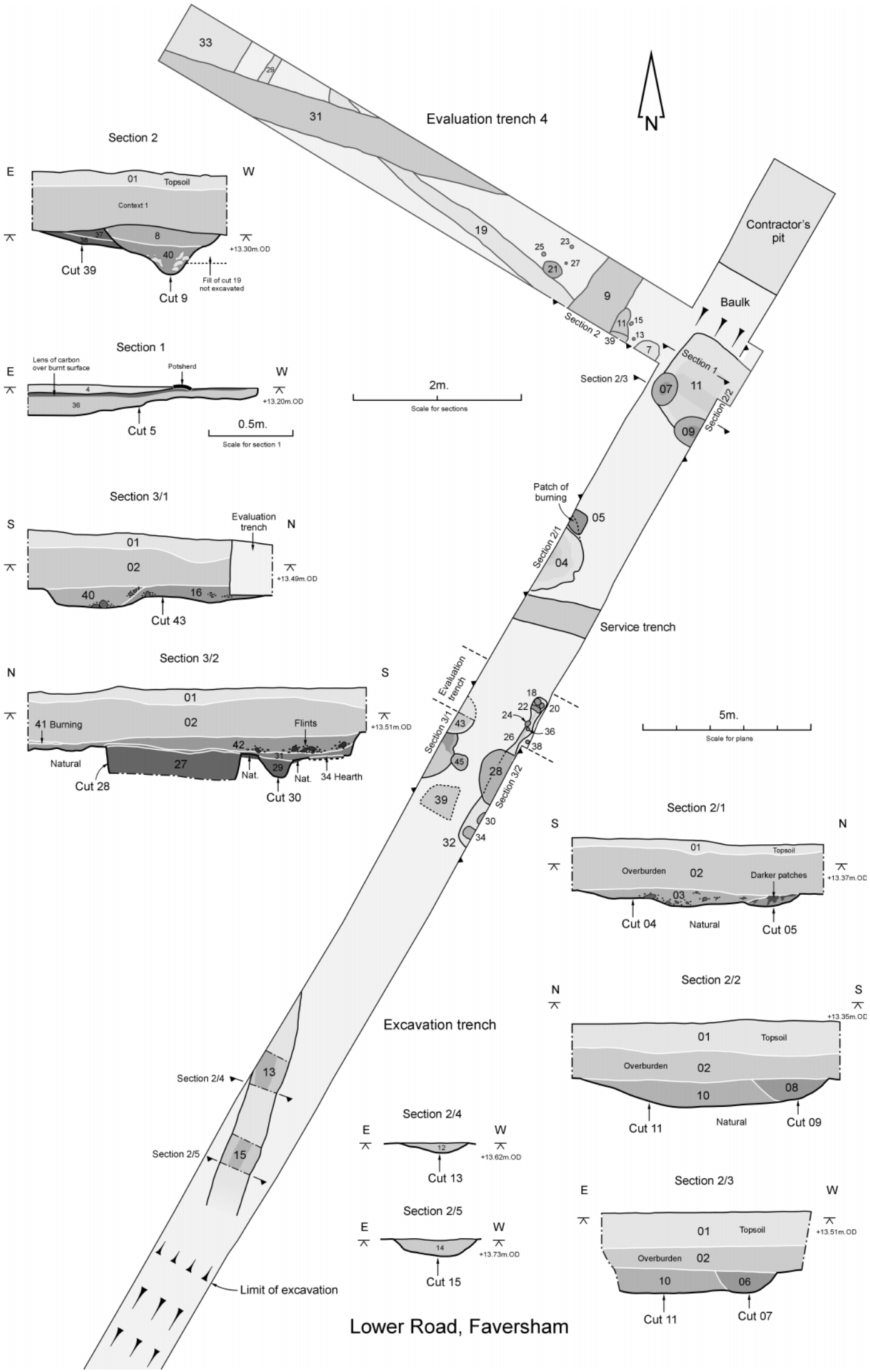
The earliest phase of activity was represented by flintwork, including a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead of Neolithic date recovered from natural gravels. Other struck flints of Neolithic or Bronze Age date were recovered from the fills of later features.

The earliest features date to the Iron Age (*c*. 600–350 B.C.) and appear to have formed part of a large ditched enclosure with causewayed entrances. A large slightly curving north–south aligned ditch at least 55 m. in extent was exposed. Measuring as much as 1.66 m. wide in places, with a variable depth up to 1.45 m., the ditch became shallow at both its southern and northern limits, suggesting that there may have been causeway entrances. The slight curve to the ditch suggests it enclosed an area outside the eastern limits of the excavation area, possibly where the current farm buildings stand. Several features including possible gullies, pits and post-holes were present east of this ditch. Most however remained undated but appeared to be of contemporary origin. No structures were identified, but one small pit contained an assemblage of pottery suggesting that it may have functioned as a domestic rubbish pit.

At some stage during the same period, the ditch went out of use and was allowed to silt up. Further ditches, presumably representing a field system, were cut on the western side of the ditches. Although these ditches slightly overlapped the first ditch they did not extend beyond it to the east, suggesting that it still remained a landscape feature.

Despite the presence of nearby pottery kilns and settlement traces, there were surprisingly few

▲ Two of the excavated features relating to the medieval farmstead. Left: a sunken-floored chalk structure with steps. Looking north. Scale 1 m. Right chalk garderobe with a rammed chalk floor. Looking west. Scale 5 m.


Evaluation trench 4
N
Contractor's pit
Baulk
Section 2
E
W
01
Topsoil
Context 1
37
8
40
+13.30m.OD
Cut 39
Cut 9
Fill of cut 19 not excavated
Section 1
Lens of carbon over burnt surface
Potsherd
4
36
+13.20m.OD
Cut 5
0.5m.
Scale for section 1
2m.
Scale for sections
Section 3/1
S
N
Evaluation trench
02
+13.49m.OD
40
16
Cut 43
Section 3/2
41 Burning
Flints
42
31
Natural
27
29
Nat.
34 Hearth
Cut 28
Cut 30
+13.51m.OD
Section 2/1
Patch of burning
05
04
Section 2/3
07
11
09
Section 2/2
Service trench
Evaluation trench
43
45
39
28
18
22
20
24
36
26
38
30
32
34
5m.
Scale for plans
Section 2/1
Overburden
02
Darker patches
03
+13.37m.OD
Cut 04
Cut 05
Section 2/2
+13.35m.OD
10
08
Cut 11
Cut 09
Excavation trench
Section 2/4
13
Section 2/5
15
12
+13.62m.OD
Cut 13
14
+13.73m.OD
Cut 15
Section 2/3
06
+13.51m.OD
Cut 07
Limit of excavation
Lower Road, Faversham

traces of Roman occupation within the excavation. The only feature securely dated to the period (late first to early third century) was a single east-west aligned ditch transversing three quarters of the site. Having been recut on at least one occasion, this ditch appears to have partly followed the route of an earlier boundary. The eastern end of the ditch turned a sharp right angle to the north before terminating, suggesting that it may have formed part of an enclosure or field. A parallel aligned ditch to the north, which provided no datable finds may have been a contemporary boundary. Other undated features may have also formed part of a poorly-defined system of fields.

Most of the excavated features appeared to relate to a small medieval farmstead which flourished here between *c*.1275–1550. Although badly damaged by agricultural activity and more recent quarrying, the presence and distribution of chalk structures, occupation deposits, beam slots, eaves-drip gullies, post-holes, potential hearths and remnants of tile floors suggested three or possibly four structures.

In the post-medieval period there appeared to be intermittent use of the site. It is likely that encroaching sea levels and flooding led to abandonment at the end of the medieval period. Re-occupation was probably not possible until well after the marshes came under the jurisdiction of the Commissions for Sewers, who were charged with the construction of sea defences to protect the lower and marshy grounds. Although the commission was established in 1531, there are few records prior to 1690, but the sea wall is known to have been in place prior to the construction of the first Shornemead Fort in 1795. Features dated to this period include a drainage ditch, aligned north–south parallel to Queens Farm Road. Also of this period was a chalk-block lined well. Although constructed in the late medieval period, the well was refurbished in brick in the nineteenth century. A series of large pits was also cut, one of which (to the south of the medieval farmstead) is of seventeenth-century date and was probably for clay extraction. A series of large shallow scoops along the northern edge of the site possibly relate to the gravel extraction activities in 1950, or earlier.

The author would like to thank all those who assisted with the excavation and especially the 'diggers' who worked on through 'wintry showers'.

24 A249 Sheppey

Simon Pratt

Preparations are underway for a new bridge across the Swale to Sheppey and for the improvement of the existing road (the A249) onto the island. Through their agents, Mott MacDonald, the Highways Agency commissioned the Trust to undertake desk-based assessments of the route followed, in September–October 2002, by physical evaluation in those areas where early access could be arranged. Much of the route is within or adjoins environmentally important areas and all aspects of the operation were agreed with the landowners, tenants, DEFRA, English Nature, the Environment Agency and Swale Council. Specialist analyses were undertaken by the Universities of London, Wales and St Andrews. Our sincere thanks are extended to all those involved with the project.

The fieldwork was conducted from the site of the new Swale crossing (TQ 913 694) to near Neats Court (TQ 923 714). Electro-static cone penetration testing (CPT) and boreholing was undertaken in the marshy southern and central sectors, where several metres of alluvia blanket the London Clay. Trial trenching was conducted in the higher, northern sector and (unsuccessfully) a magnetic susceptibility survey in the central part of the area, between two medieval saltern mounds ('coterells') which stood on what would once have been the foreshore.

The borehole samples and CPT data provided significant information on the environment of the Swale basin over the last 7000 years. Though there were no direct indicators of human activity, such as cereal cultivation, variations in the pollen record may reflect human-induced changes. A marine sediment near the base of a major palaeochannel (to the north of the current Swale) was dated to about 5300 B.C. As relative sea-level rose, this weed-rich, muddy brackish creek silted up and the surrounding lowlands would have been inundated: a saltmarsh may have formed over the early channel, perhaps flanked by a later palaeochannel to the north.

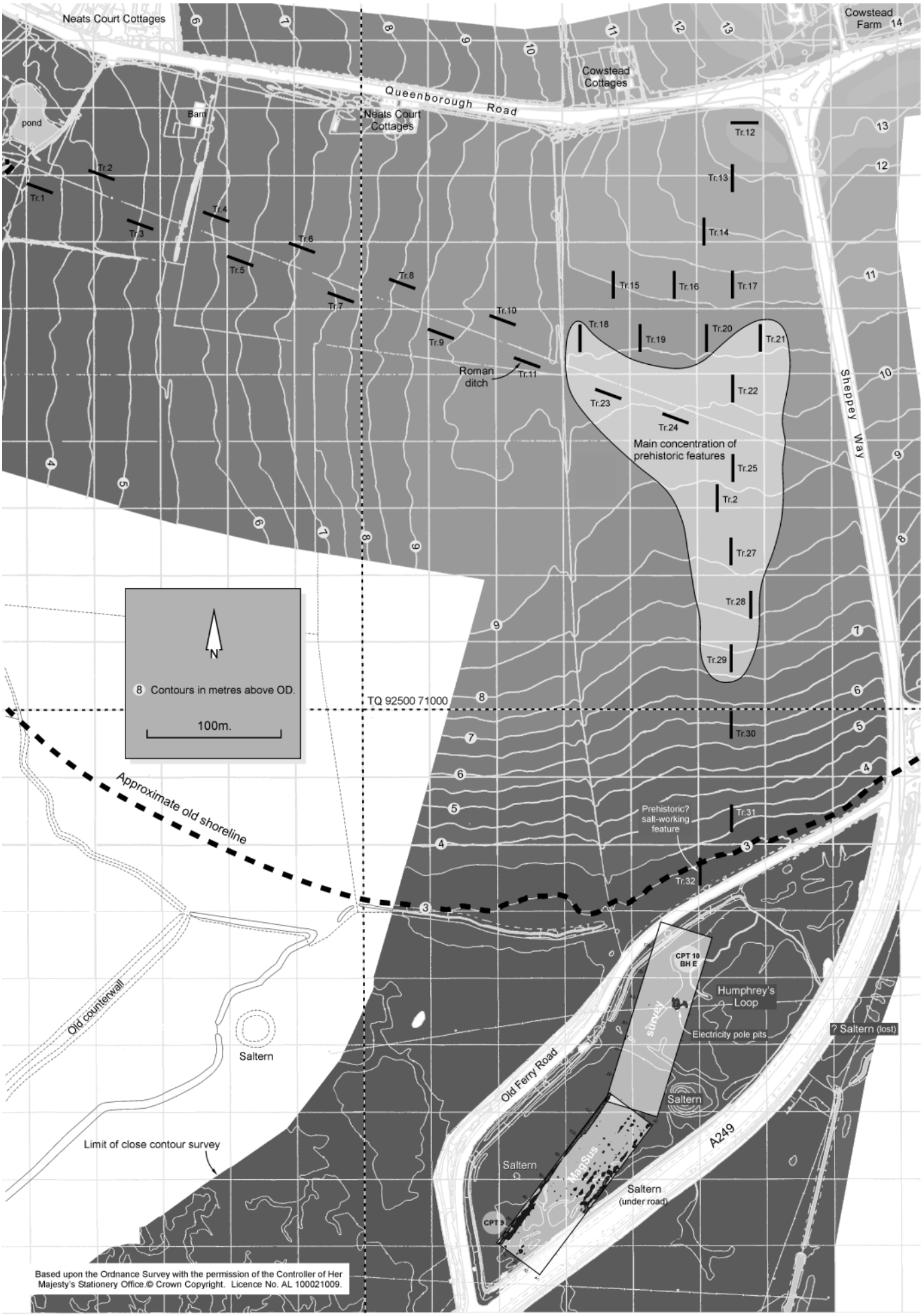
The trenching discovered a prehistoric occupation site (village or large farmstead?) near Cowstead Corner (TQ 928 712). Most of the pottery probably dated to the pre-'Belgic' Late Iron Age, although some Late Bronze/Early Iron Age material was present. The latter included a smashed vessel, possibly a cremation urn but perhaps representing on-site pottery production.

The later of two features cutting the alluvium in the southernmost trench yielded briquetage indicative of salt-working. It dated to the Late Iron Age and was sealed by a spread of redeposited London Clay overlain by a thin deposit of alluvium.

One ditch contained, in its upper fill, much Roman material including pottery, bone shell, briquetage, a fragment of a quernstone and another of a whetstone. The distribution of certain or possible Roman features and material suggests that the ditch formed the western boundary of an enclosure, probably for a farmstead-sized settlement, and that the centre of domestic activity was not far from that trench.

No evidence was found for earlier prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon activity on the site, nor for any significant medieval or early post-medieval activity, despite the proximity of the coterells and of the island end of Old Ferry Road.

General plan after preliminary fieldwork.


Neats Court Cottages
Cowstead Farm
Cowstead Cottages
Queenborough Road
Neats Court Cottages
pond
Barn
Tr.1
Tr.2
Tr.3
Tr.4
Tr.5
Tr.6
Tr.7
Tr.8
Tr.9
Tr.10
Tr.11
Roman ditch
Tr.12
Tr.13
Tr.14
Tr.15
Tr.16
Tr.17
Tr.18
Tr.19
Tr.20
Tr.21
Tr.22
Tr.23
Tr.24
Main concentration of prehistoric features
Tr.25
Tr.2
Tr.27
Tr.28
Tr.29
Tr.30
Tr.31
Tr.32
Sheppey Way
N
8 Contours in metres above OD.
100m.
TQ 92500 71000
Approximate old shoreline
Prehistoric? salt-working feature
Old counterwall
Saltern
Limit of close contour survey
CPT 10 BH E
Humphrey's Loop
survey
Electricity pole pits
? Saltern (lost)
Old Ferry Road
Saltern
A249
Saltern
MagSus
Saltern (under road)
CPT 9
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25 ‘Melaine’, Fairfield Road, New Romney

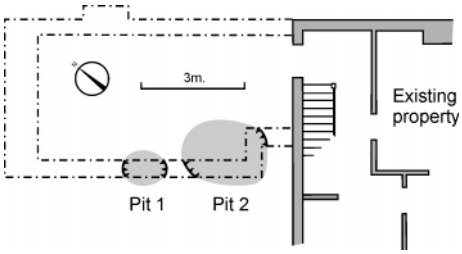
Andrew Linklater

In February 2003, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during preliminary groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of ‘Melaine’ Fairfield Road, New Romney (TR 9899 2508). Recent discoveries of medieval structural remains in the general vicinity of Fairfield Road (Willson and Linklater 2003; Linklater 2003; Willson 2003) means that the area is now considered to be of high archaeological potential.

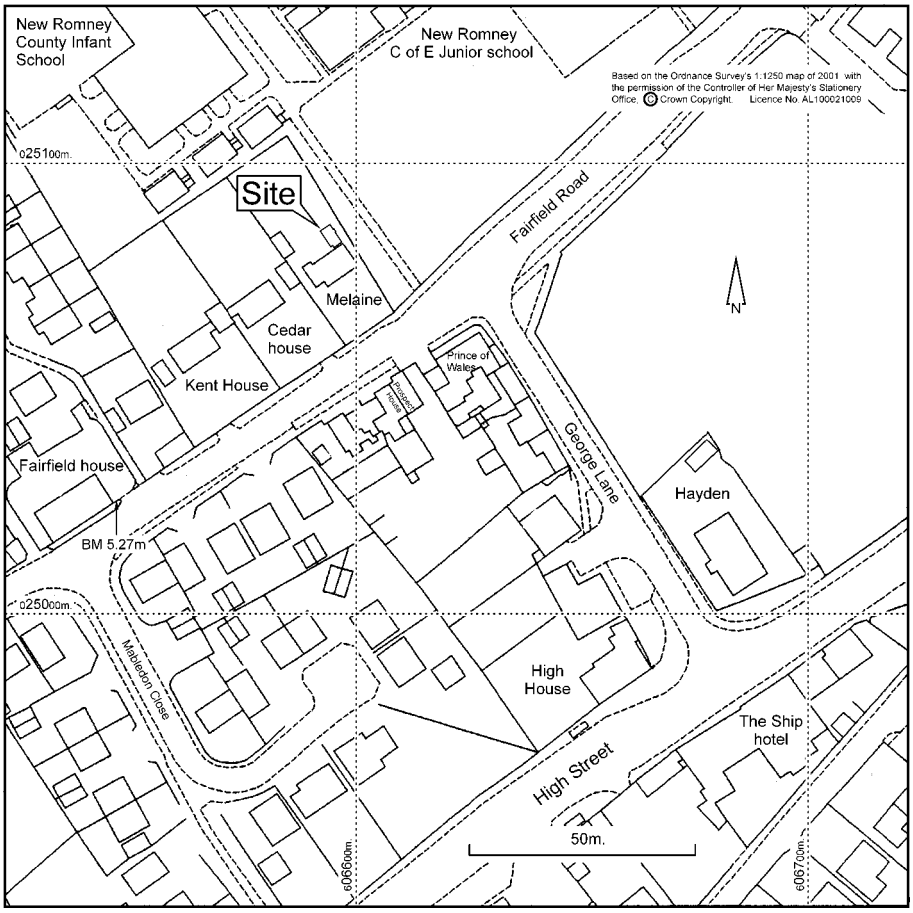
The present site is situated towards the north-west boundary of the old town on one of the medieval streets clearly shown on a map of 1614 where both sides of Fairfield Road are depicted lined with stylized dwellings. It was considered likely that medieval building remains might survive within the front garden of ‘Melaine’ and that to the rear, the possible survival of tenement boundaries or rear garden features (rubbish or cess-pits) might be expected and two circular pits were found, but contained no datable finds. They were sealed by a deposit of mixed grey sands which covered the entire site, and contained a considerable quantity of broken pottery, dating between A.D.1250 and A.D.1325. This deposit was in turn sealed by a firm compacted gravel surface, perhaps representing a trackway, or area of hard standing to the rear of a building which possibly fronted Fairfield Road. A fine grey topsoil, which sealed the gravel surface, may represent an abandonment of the site to arable farming during the later fourteenth century.

Our thanks are extended to Miss E. Coates of ‘Melaine’ and to her builder, Mr. S. Pluckrose, who provided every assistance during the project.

Plan of pits 1 & 2 located within the base of the foundation trenches to the new rear extension.



General site location showing the position of ‘Melaine’ in regards to the town of New Romney.



Other sites investigated during the year

This section gives a list of some of the many sites investigated in the period April 2002 to March 2003, but where very little or no archaeological evidence was encountered.

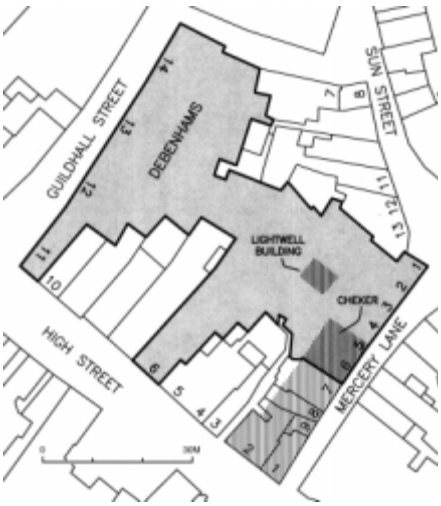
Aylesham, Ackholt RoadBapchild, School Lane
Birchington, Darynton Avenue
Boughton Monchelsea, Back Lane
Bredgar, The Street (Old Post Office)
Broadoak, Mayton Lane
Broadstairs, Thanet Reach
Burham, Scarborough Lane
Canterbury, Barton Court School
Canterbury, Nos 8–9 Butchery Lane
Canterbury, Canterbury College, New Dover Road
Canterbury, Canterbury Motor Company, Rhodaus Town
Canterbury, Chantry Hall Gardens
Canterbury, Choir House, The Precincts
Canterbury, Hollow Lane
Canterbury, Luxmoore House, The Precincts
Canterbury, Nason’s, High Street
Canterbury, No. 18 New Street
Canterbury, Orange Street
Canterbury, No. 134 Old Dover Road
Canterbury, No. 32a Palace Street
Canterbury, Parham Road (east)
Canterbury, Parham Road (west)
Canterbury, Police Station, Old Dover Road
Canterbury, St Dunstan’s Railway Crossing
Canterbury, Tower Way
Canterbury, Westgate Grove
Canterbury, No. 75 Wincheap
Chatham, Clover Street Chapel
Cooling, Cooling Castle
Dover, Archcliffe Fort
Dover, Western Heights (Young Offenders Institution)
Dunkirk, Red Lion Public House
Farningham, Oliver Crescent
Faversham, Whitstable Road
Folkestone, Foord Valley
Folkestone, Guildhall Street
Hoath, Ford Hill
Hoath, Maypole Road
Hythe, Orchard Valley
Lower Hardres, Iffin Lane
Maidstone, Buckland Lane
Maidstone, Tonbridge Road
Minster-in-Sheppey, Former Pumping Station
Nackington, Sextries Farm
Ospringe, Anchor Public House
Petham, Stone Street
Queenborough, Abbott Laboratories
Rochester, Castle Hill
Rochester, High Street TV Masts
Rochester, No. 44 High Street
Sandling, Museum of Kent Life, Cobtree
Sandwich, Pfizers (West Site)
Seasalter, Church Lane
Sittingbourne, No. 51 High Street
Tonbridge, Slade Primary School
Thurnham, Thurnham Court Farm
Tyler Hill, Wood Hill
Westbere, Church Lane

PART TWO

Building Recording

A Debenhams, Guildhall Street, Canterbury

Rupert Austin



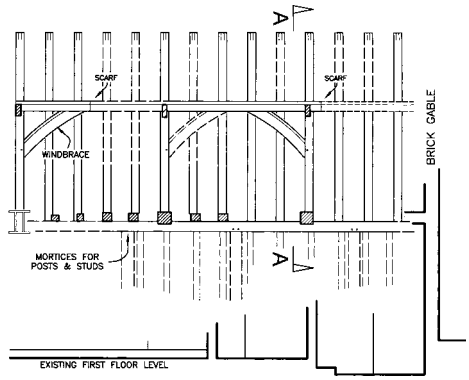
Location of Debenhams main department store.

A major campaign of refurbishment was undertaken within Debenhams main Canterbury retail store during 2002. The Trust was commissioned by the store, at the request of Canterbury City Council Conservation Department, to maintain an archaeological watching brief during these works. Some of the work impacted on the buried archaeology (see p. 7), other activities affected the historic fabric of the standing building. Debenhams store lies within the heart of medieval Canterbury, occupying the majority of the area bounded by Mercery Lane, High Street, Guildhall Street and Sun Street. Numerous buildings are contained within this area, many of which have been amalgamated to form the present store.

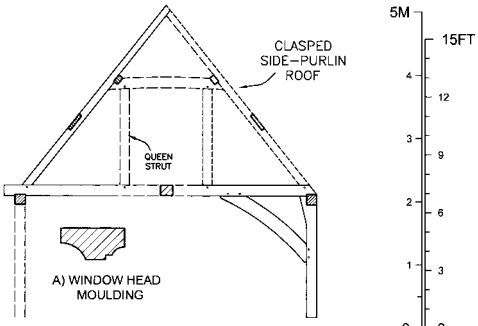
The store has its origins in the premises of J. Hunt & Sons, general drapers, furnishers and tailors. Hunt & Sons occupied the whole of the present Mercery Lane frontage of Debenhams by the beginning of the nineteenth century, and had begun the process of amalgamating once separate properties into one large department store. In the 1920s the construction of a new art deco store along Guildhall Street, on the site of the former Theatre Royal, further increased the size of Debenhams. In the 1960s properties on the other side of Guildhall Street were pruchased, including the former 1876 Congregational Church.

Of the many buildings that have been amalgamated to form the present department store the earliest is undoubtedly the Cheker of the Hope. The Cheker was the largest and most important of Canterbury's pilgrim inns. It was built in the late fourteenth century and originally comprised two enormous timber-framed ranges separated by a central courtyard. A vaulted stone undercroft, can be seen beneath the easternmost corner of Debenhams. This is now a basement restaurant, but once formed an undercroft for another in called 'The Crown'. Little is visible of any other early structures that may survive within the boundaries of the store. Many were undoubtedly swept away when the large open shop floors were first formed. An exception is that part of the store known as the 'light-well area' located at first-floor level behind No. 3 Mercery Lane.

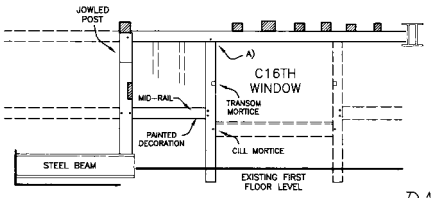
For many years this light-well had been walled in, forming an obstruction in the first-floor retail space. Debenhams were keen to remove the obstruction. On inspection fragments of a clasped side-purlin roof were observed and the light-well area was consequently stripped out so that the full extent of the historic structure could be ascertained, and the feasibility of their proposals determined. Once this was done it became clear that the historic remains were those of a small two storey north-west to south-east aligned wing, dating perhaps to the late sixteenth century. The wing must have lain behind a larger property that faced Mercery Lane.



SOUTH-WEST SLOPE OF ROOF



SECTION A - A TO NORTH-EAST



NORTH-EAST WALL

South easternmost truss of clasped side-purlin roof.

Reconstruction of first floor chamber showing Elizabethan wall paintings and clasped side-purlin roof (Rupert Austin and Will Foster).

Only the south-west slope of the three-bay roof survived, the principal rafters typically reduced above the collar and wind-braced to the side-purlins. Queen struts were located beneath the collars, of which two survive in the south-easternmost truss. A partition within this truss divides the attic here from the roof of the adjoining Mercery Lane range. The north-westernmost truss no longer survives and the roof now terminates in a modern brick gable. Whether the roof and range continued further to the north-west is uncertain.

Part of the attic floor survived, including two north-east to south-west aligned tie-beams and three north-west to south-east aligned spine-beams. A series of common joists lay between these beams, but numerous redundant mortices and grooves on these timbers revealed that most were re-used. Interestingly the tie-beams, spine-beams and joists were placed such that their undersides were flush. This arrangement is inconsistent with medieval or early post-medieval work and is more usually associated with the eighteenth century, when floor-frames were completely underdrawn by plaster, hiding their timber construction. It is suggested therefore that the attic floor here is a later insertion and that only the tie-beams and spine-beams were originally present.

The first-floor chamber would therefore have been open to the roof, something that was not uncommon at this time. This suggestion appears to be confirmed by wall paintings which were observed along the north-east wall continuing for a short distance above the ceiling line, something that would have been impossible to achieve if the ceiling were present from the outset.

Beneath the attic floor only the eaves-plates and a few first-floor timbers remained. At ground level the structure had been swept away, the timbers left isolated and supported by modern fabric that included steel posts and riveted beams. Along the north-east wall a jowled principal post, secondary post and mid-rail survived (nothing remained of the south-west wall). Surprisingly these timbers revealed a lot about the original arrangement of the elevation including the presence of a large mullioned and transomed window within the centre of the elevation.

Mortices for the cill, transom and head of this window were visible in the side of the secondary post. The window head was planted beneath the eaves and housed slightly into the post, its moulding therefore revealed by the shape of the housing. This comprised a small cavetto externally then a shallow rebate for the leaded lights and a large internal cavetto. As the window head was planted, evidence for the number of mullions had been lost along with the timber, but given the proportions of the opening, four lights above and below the transom seem likely. The use of a mid-rail in the elevation revealed the form of framing employed within the wing. The small square panel style of framing that is created by the use of mid-rails is typical of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

Further inspection revealed the faint remains of hand-painted Elizabethan decoration on the internal faces of the timbers. Careful cleaning of the timbers revealed a richly coloured floral design with tulips, daffodils, carnations, cherries and pomegranates intertwined with leaves in a vine like pattern. The decoration once continued uninterrupted from the timbers onto the adjoining lath and daub panels but these have been lost. Along the eaves-plate, above the flowers, a striped red and white border, similar to a barber's pole, could be seen. Painting such as this is an important and rare survival, with few other similar examples so far found in Canterbury. The decoration suggests that the chamber belonged to a well appointed building of some quality.

Once the extent and nature of the sixteenth-century fabric was clear it was agreed that the inserted stairs and light-well could be removed, but that the remains of the wing should be restored and made into a feature in the refurbished shop. Drawings for the reconstruction were prepared by Canterbury City Council Conservation Department, using the Trust's archaeological survey as a basis.

Re-roofing and other minor works along the Mercery Lane side of Debenhams afforded an opportunity to record the roof structure over the north-east corner of the Cheker. The roof was found to terminate in a hip. The joists and beams of the second-floor frame of the Cheker immediately below this element of the roof were also recorded. The substantial common joists cantilever over the jetty-plate into the street in the usual manner and are plain and undecorated. Although the elevation beneath the jetty-plate no longer survives, pegs in the side of the plate revealed the positions of several of the missing posts.

The Trust has surveyed a great deal of this huge medieval building over the years. The recent work in the roof, when combined with these earlier surveys, has allowed a complete section through the surviving Mercery Lane range to be produced

B George Vaults, No. 35 High Street, Rochester

Rupert Austin

The Grade II* listed George Vaults lie within the walls of Rochester beneath an eighteenth-century property that was until recently a public house. The vaults form an impressive medieval undercroft and are located along the north side of the High Street at the corner of George Lane. An extensive campaign of refurbishment, including an extension to the rear of No. 35 High Street and conservation of the vault, was undertaken at the premises during 2001 and 2002. The vault was in poor condition and had suffered some collapse whilst other unstable areas were supported by temporary shoring.

Archaeological evaluation and historic building recording formed a condition of the planning consent for the refurbishment and conservation. The Trust was commissioned by G.M. Everard Architects to undertake both below ground archaeology to the rear of the property (Ward 2003, 45–46) and a measured survey of the vault. A total station was employed to create an accurate base for the survey of the vault. Detail was then added to this electronic base by hand.

The four-bay undercroft measures approximately 17.55 m. by 5.10 m. and stands to a height of 3.15 m. Its internal walls comprise roughly coursed Ragstone rubble laid in a coarse shelly, lime mortar. The bays are of ribbed construction, the sandstone ribs supporting intermediate webs of chalk. The ribs rise from corbels positioned in the corners and sides of the undercroft. Four of these corbels sit atop engaged shafts; elsewhere they are located directly in the rubble walling. Bosses are located down the spine of the vault at the intersection of the ribs. The bosses and several corbels are decorated in high relief with mainly floral motifs that include oak leaves and acorns, vine leaves and grapes and acanthus leaves. A bearded face and several creatures are also present.

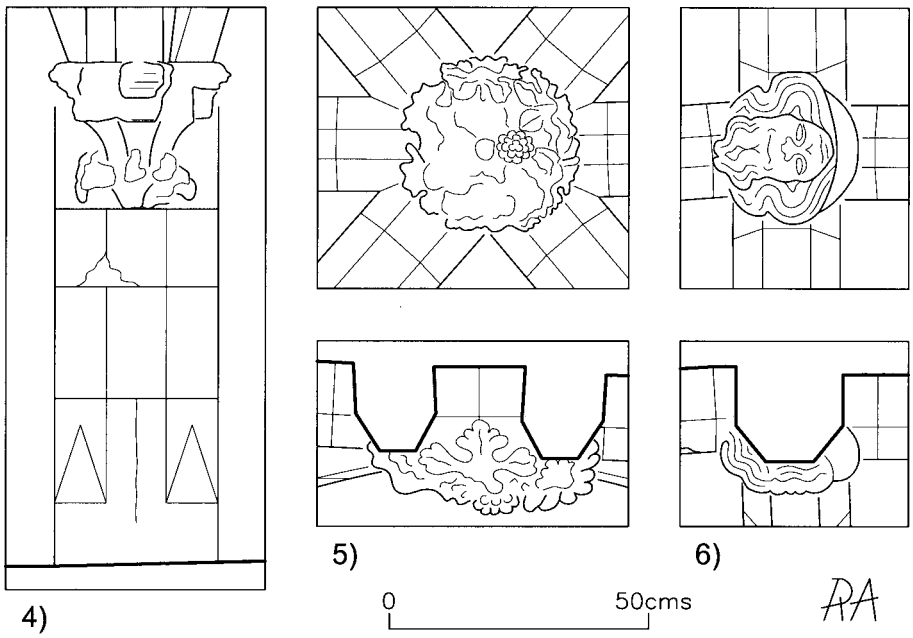
The undercroft now lies entirely below street level, the vaulting of the southern bay rising up to meet the street entrance. The northernmost bays are rectangular in plan but the southernmost is slightly irregular, placing the undercroft at slightly less than 90 degrees to the street. Presumably this was the alignment of the plot or building above. The vault is presently entered through an opening in the north wall. The north wall undoubtedly represents the northernmost limit of the undercroft but this entrance is a more recent insertion.

Two original but blocked points of access survive within the east wall. That within the southernmost bay is large, measuring 1.35 m. in width. Rebates and iron pins on the rear face of its jambs indicate that it was fitted with a door that must necessarily have opened out of the undercroft. A stairwell leading to the ground floor of the premises may have lain behind the door or perhaps it simply led into an adjoining cellar. A smaller opening measuring only 0.74 m. in width lies within the northernmost bay. This may have provided access to a yard at the rear.

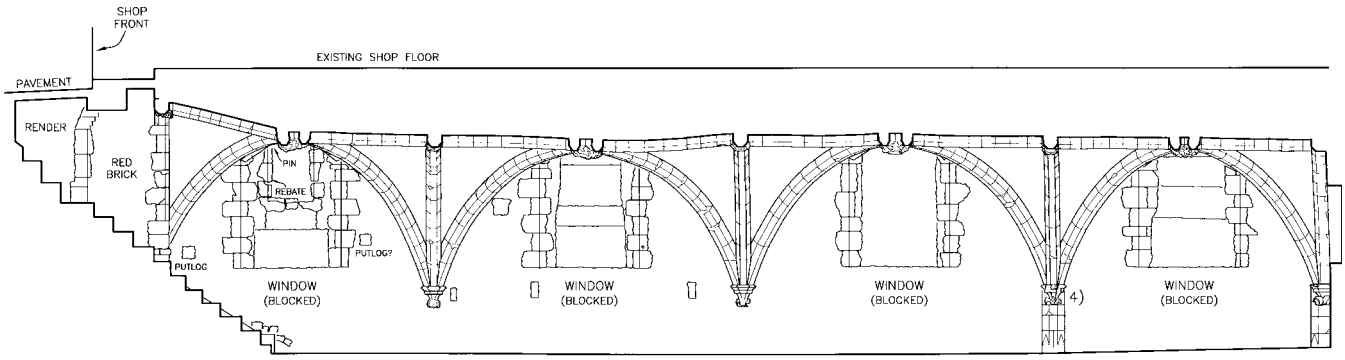
A wide central entrance within the south elevation provides access to the street. The internal face of this entrance is chamfered and topped by a segmental arch. Empty sockets for hinge pins can be seen on its internal face, suggesting that a pair of doors once secured the opening. These may be a later fitting as there is no rebate for them and they would have obscured the chamfer. Stone steps must have led up to the street from the undercroft, later replaced in brick. Shallow recesses with stone arches lie on either side of the entrance. Blocked medieval windows, which once drew light from the street, can be seen within these recesses. Rebates around the openings indicate that wooden shutters were used to secure the openings.

Windows are also present along the west elevation of the vault. These have two-centred window heads and splayed internal reveals. All

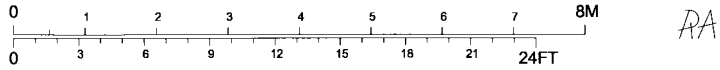
The eighteenth-century building above the medieval vault.

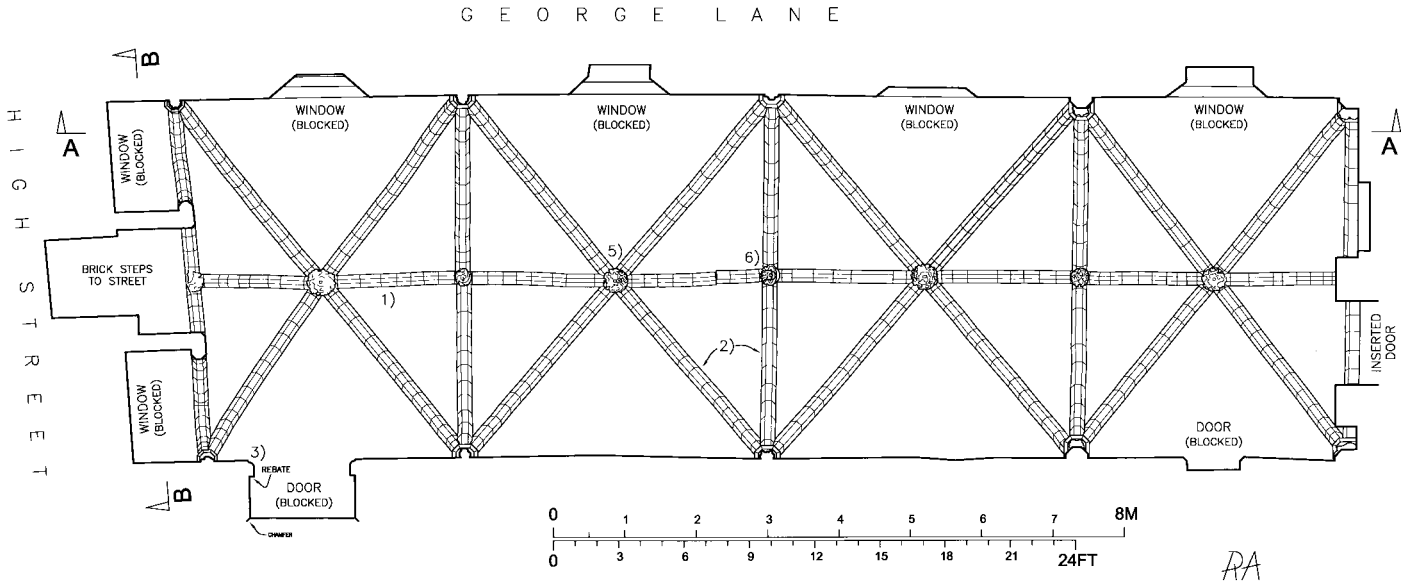


DETAIL OF BOSSES AND ENGAGED SHAFT/CORBEL

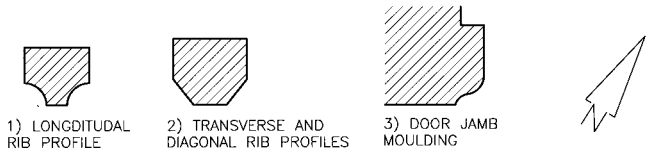


SECTION A - A TO WEST





PLAN SHOWING REFLECTED VIEW OF VAULTING

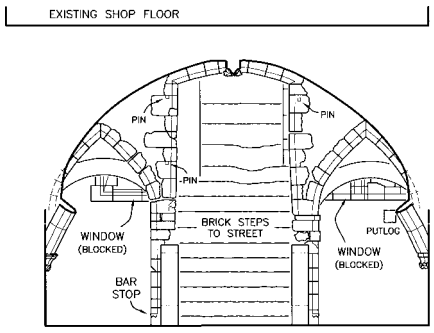


are now blocked and it is only within the southernmost opening that the outer jambs remain visible. Rebates and an iron pin can be seen here, suggesting therefore that a shutter once again secured the opening. How this worked is not clear for the inner arch lies close to the outer jambs and would have prevented a wide shutter from opening. Perhaps the shutter was dropped onto the pins or folded in some way.

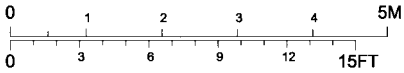
The outer cill of the southernmost window lies around 1.5 m. below external ground level. It seems likely that ground levels have risen since medieval times and that the vault was originally only part buried. Previous excavations within this area have suggested that up to 4.0 m. of archaeology lies beneath the present streets and pavements, below approximately a metre of overburden. If so the aforementioned windows would have allowed light to enter the undercroft directly without recourse to light-wells.

Undercrofts are most often found in towns but examples in village or rural settings are not unknown (Austin 2001, 57–8). The term usually implies a vaulted chamber set either partly or wholly below ground level. On occasion simple cellars ceiled by beams can be referred to as undercrofts. The earliest undercrofts that survive in our towns date from the late twelfth century but their construction continued into the fifteenth century when they were eventually replaced by simpler cellars of brick, vaulted or otherwise.

Undercrofts had a variety of uses. In urban situations they might be situated below shops and be used in connection with the trade above and the most common use for undercrofts was undoubtedly for storage. Wine was perhaps the most commonly stored item, but many other goods are suited to the cool damp conditions. Undercrofts therefore often lay beneath the houses of wealthy citizens and merchants. Those in towns however, and particularly the larger examples, were often used by the middle of the fourteenth century as taverns or alehouses. A few examples used for religious worship have also been recorded.



SECTION B - B TO SOUTH



View of vault and blocked door within east elevation of northernmost bay.

Steps to street in south wall.

The magnificent George Vaults, a splendid example of an urban undercroft, date perhaps to the first half of the fourteenth century. The importance of the undercroft has already been well stated in previous reports (OAU 1998; Payne 1900) which suggest it was built to function as a shop or tavern. The quality and detail of its carvings imply that it was a public rather than private space. Good access to the interior was afforded via steps from the street and also through doors in the east wall. It was well lit for an undercroft with window openings along both the south and west walls. These windows suggest perhaps that illuminating the interior was more important than security. The features of the undercroft do therefore lean towards its use as a shop or tavern rather than as a store or warehouse. What lay above the undercroft is unknown but a substantial timber-framed building would seem likely at this date; stone buildings are more typical of the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries.

C Rock Cottage, Boughton Monchelsea

Rupert Austin

Rock Cottage, a Grade II listed timber-framed building, is located in a semi rural setting approximately 0.5 km. to the north of Boughton Monchelsea. It lies on the north side of a small valley at the western extremity of Boughton Quarries (which were heavily worked for Ragstone during the medieval period). The property, which dates perhaps to the third quarter of the sixteenth century, has recently changed hands and repairs and alterations to the building have been proposed. An archaeological record of the external elevations of the building, and a brief inspection of the interior, was undertaken in November at the request of Walrond Fuller Architects.

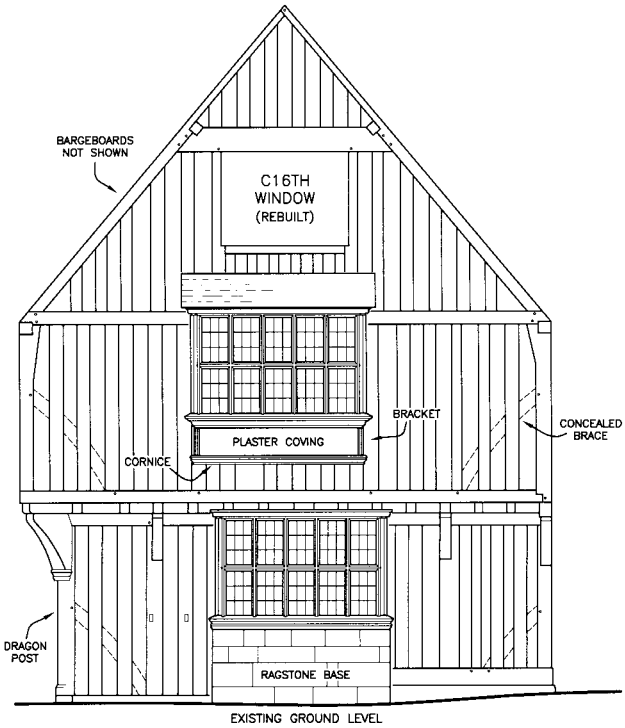
Rock Cottage is a transitional house, one that in terms of architectural development lies somewhere between the smoke filled open-halls of the medieval period and the more fully developed 'modern' houses of the late Elizabethan and Jacobean periods. Transitional houses retain many of the features of medieval houses, such as a cross passage and high and low ends, but significantly abandon the smoky open-hall, with its open hearth, in favour of a floored hall with chamber above. Some form of chimney such as a timber and plaster flue, or in better houses one of brick, replaces the open hearth.

Transitional houses generally dating from the first quarter of the sixteenth century in Kent and the open-hall, which had dominated buildings both architecturally and socially up until then, fell in status. The development of such houses came as a result of changing attitudes and a willingness to abandon old traditions rather than by any great technological advance. Despite the improvements, many transitional buildings were in many respects still comparatively crude, often retaining for example, unglazed windows and unceiled upper chambers.

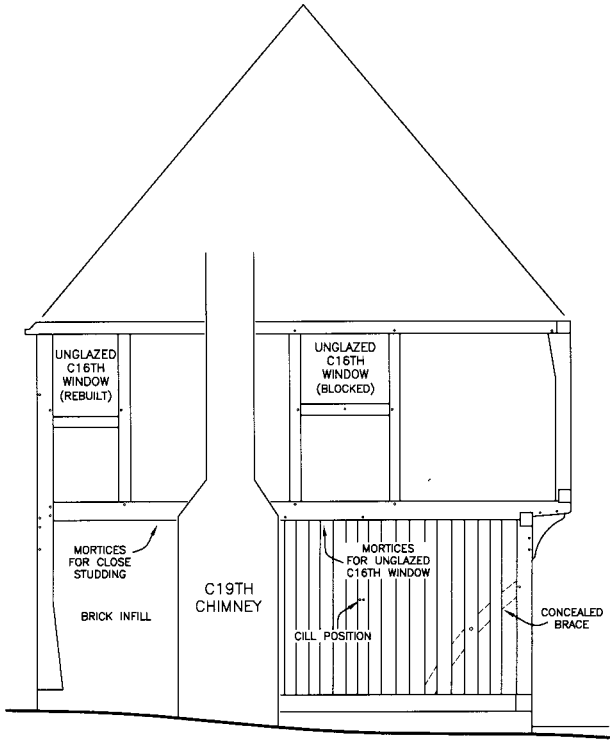
Rock Cottage is five bays long and aligned east–west. It measures approximately 15.5 m. by 6.6 m. and is covered by a peg tile roof. This roof, which is of clasped side-purlin form with windbraces, is gabled to the east but hipped to the west. Attic rooms were present within the roof space from the outset. The structure is two storeys high and is continuously jettied along its more prominent south and east elevations. These are close studded, whereas the less visible rear north elevation is not.

The ground plan of the building, with the exception of an extra bay for the chimney and stairs, reflects that of a typical medieval house. The front door affords access to a cross-passage that leads directly through the central two-bay ground-floor hall to a door at the rear. There was originally no division or screen between the

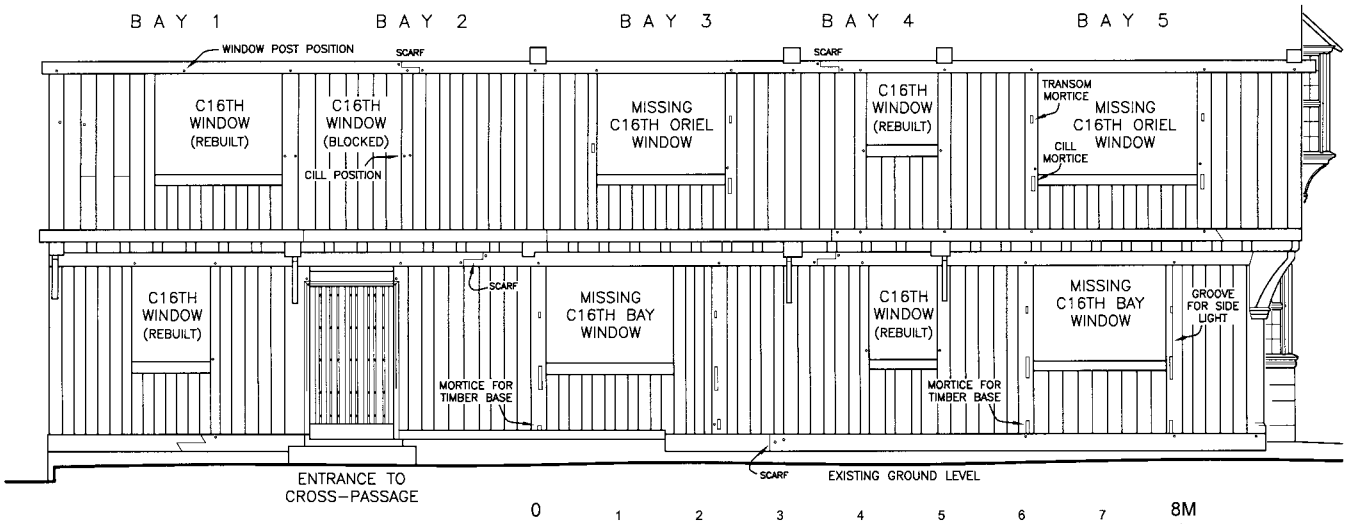
South façade during restoration.



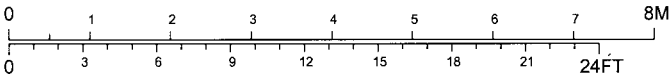
EAST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



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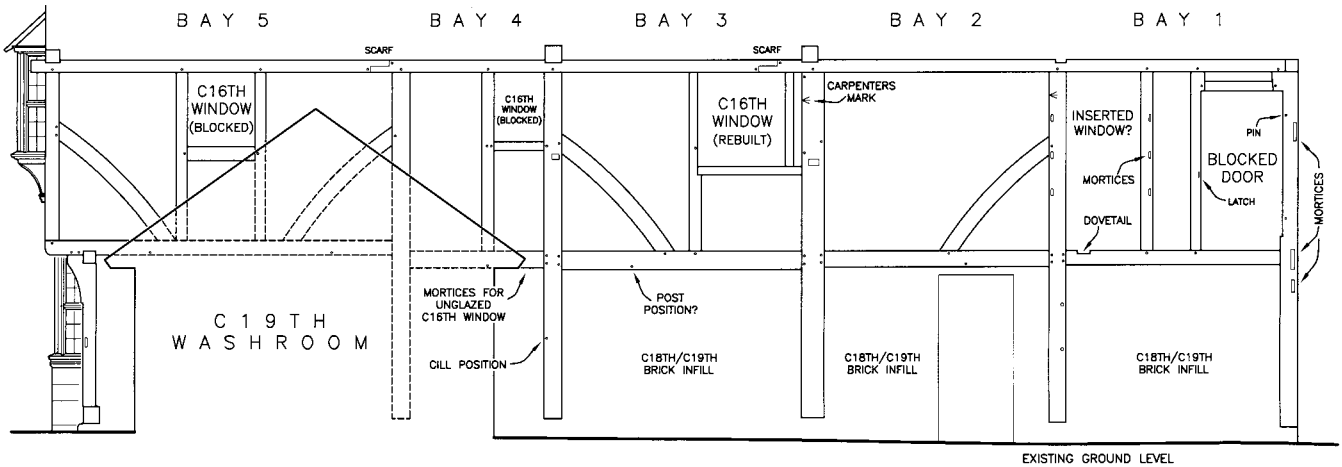


NORTH ELEVATION

passage and hall but a partition has since been inserted. Two doors led from this passage into the service rooms that once occupied the west bay of the building (typically a buttery and pantry).

A parlour lies beyond the hall, within the east bay of the property. This was a private room used by the family when they wished to retire from the hall. A substantial brick chimney rises up through the building between the hall and parlour in its own short bay. Winding newel stairs to the first floor lie in front of the stack. Back to back fireplaces within the chimney heat the hall and parlour. Three chambers or bedrooms are located on the first floor, two of which are also heated by the chimney (the hall chamber and parlour chamber). The upper chambers are reached by the aforementioned newel stairs and also by steps in the north-west service room.

The close studded east elevation has survived largely unaltered. A handsome five-light oriel window is centrally located within the elevation at first-floor level. The window is supported by plain brackets and plaster coving above an applied cornice. The window head, cill and cornice are all typically moulded with combinations of cavettos, chamfers and cyma mouldings. The window mullions are diamond shaped with narrow flats for the leaded lights. The oriel is covered by a small pitched roof. A similar bay window supported on a Ragstone base (it seems likely the stone replaces a timber base) is centrally located at ground level beneath the first-floor jetty.

A substantial dragon post with curved blade and moulded base and capital lies at the south-east corner of the building. Externally the dragon post appears to support the double jetty in a typical manner. Internally however we see that the framing comprises only north–south aligned joists. Interestingly the east jetty has been contrived without the use of a dragon beam and is supported by a series of short spur joists.

The close studded south elevation also survives largely in its original form. The entrance to the property lies in its original position within bay 2. An original plank and ledge door survives here within a moulded door frame (the planks are moulded externally and the door frame has a square door head). The extant windows all lie in their original position but each has been refurbished or modified in some way. Some have been narrowed whilst others have been widened or increased in height.

Within the bays 3 and 5 there is evidence, in the form of mortices, for ground-floor bay windows (illuminating the hall and parlour) and for first-floor oriel windows (illuminating the hall and parlour chamber). Typically these projecting windows, which were undoubtedly similar to examples along the east elevation, were reserved for the better rooms of the house. Empty mortices within the window posts suggest the ground-floor bays were once supported by timber bases. The remaining ground and first-floor windows were less elaborate, comprising perhaps flush fitted leaded lights. Shutter grooves can be seen above many of the windows including those that were clearly glazed from the outset. Shutters in combination with glazed windows are unusual but not unknown and again are a feature of transitional houses.

The west elevation of the house, which was also once close studded, has been altered rather more than the east and south elevations. A nineteenth-century chimney has been built against the elevation and much of the ground-floor framing replaced in brick. Evidence for an unglazed window, illuminating the southernmost of the two service rooms, can be seen to the right of the chimney. Presumably a similar window illuminated the northernmost service room. Two similarly unglazed windows, now blocked, can be seen at first-floor level.

The rear north elevation of the property is typically not close studded, the framing simpler with only principal posts, secondary posts and down-braces present. Evidence for the original windows can be seen, several of which are unglazed, none projecting. Interestingly a blocked door can be seen at first-floor level within bay 1. The door does not appear to have been inserted, suggesting therefore that the opening is an original feature and that some form of extension or outshot once extended from the rear.

It is suggested, from the limited evidence, that the missing outshot was a small affair, not a substantial wing. Indeed there is insufficient space to the rear of the building for anything large as the ground rises sharply. The outshot may have accommodated a garderobe or perhaps a staircase.

D Hadlow Place, Hadlow

Rupert Austin

Hadlow Place is located in a rural setting approximately 2 km. to the south of Hadlow set alongside a modern farm (Hadlow Place Farm), it is now a domestic residence independent of the farm. A timber-framed structure of probable late sixteenth-century date survives at the east end of the property, the majority of which is of brick construction.

Extensive remodelling and repairs to the exterior were undertaken during 2002. The works included the refacing of a modern and rather unattractive twentieth-century wing in a more sympathetic and traditional style. A modern cement render to the older timber-framed element was also removed and replaced with a less damaging lime

North and east elevations of primary timber-framed range.

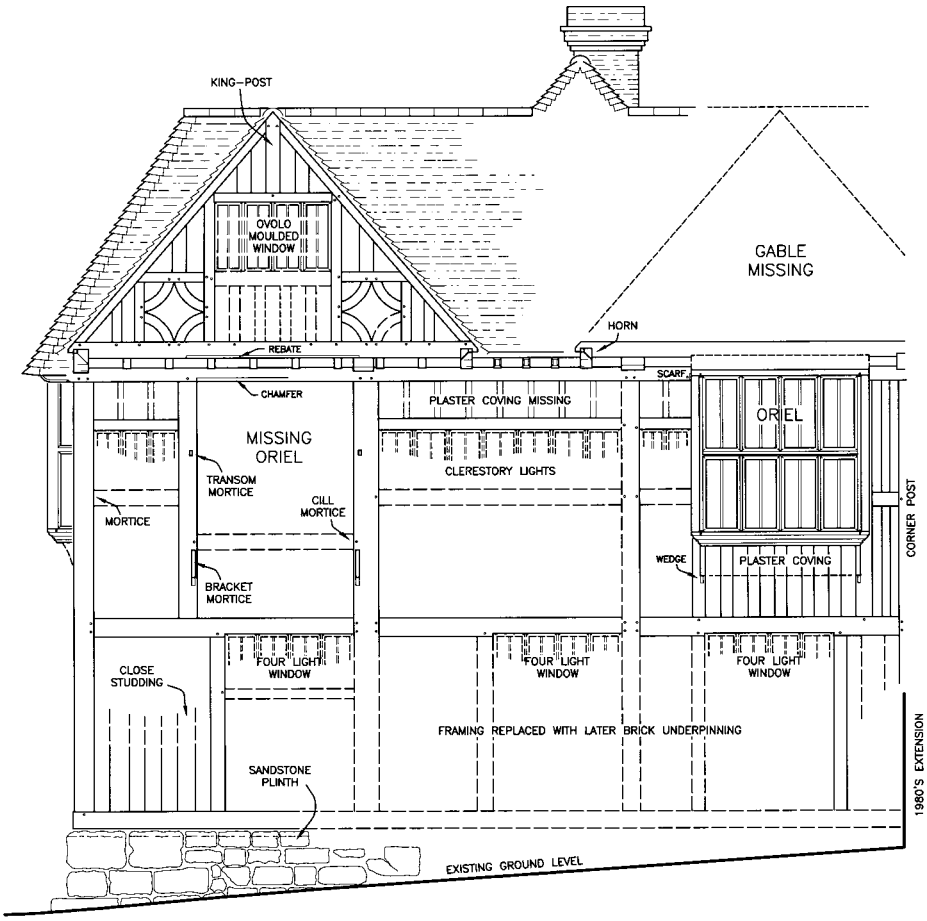
East elevation of primary range showing secondary range to rear.

render. The Trust was commissioned by the owner of the property to undertake an archaeological record of the timber-framed part whilst it was exposed. More fabric survived beneath the cement render than had been expected.

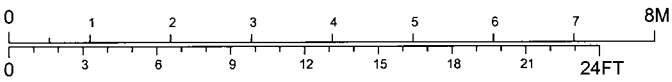
The timber-framed elements comprise two contemporary ranges arranged in an 'L' shape, both unjettied and of two storeys with garret rooms in the roof space. The primary range is the northernmost of the two and is three bays in length and aligned east–west. Its first floor is particularly tall, measuring a little over 3 m. in height. Only parts of its north façade survive, but these were sufficient to enable a near complete picture of the once elaborately framed and illuminated frontage to be reconstructed on paper.

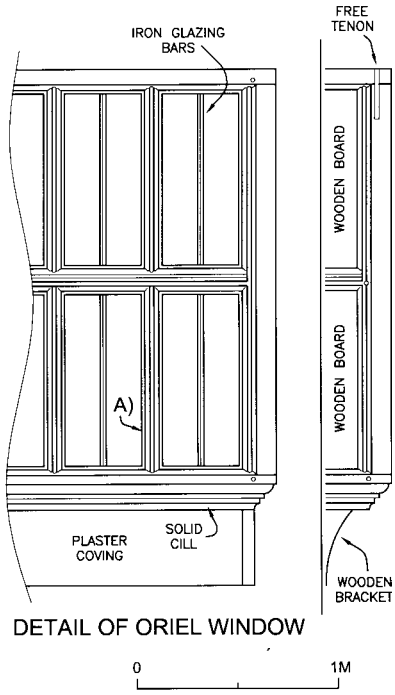
An attractive jettied gable survives above the easternmost bay. Evidence for an ovolo-moulded window flanked by square panels with decorative bracing can be seen in the gable. Above the window a short king-post rises to the ridge. King-posts are common in gables in this area but the arrangement may not continue into the roof behind, which is perhaps of side-purlin or simple rafter couple form. The gable is supported by a bressumer which has a shallow rebate along its lower edge. This rebate accommodated the head

Detail of oriel window within north wall of primary range.

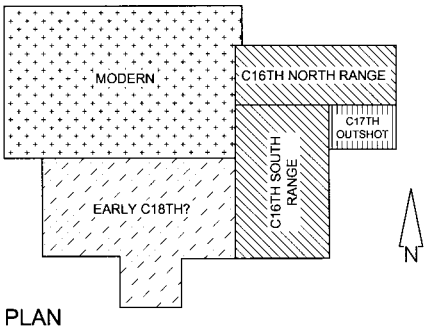


NORTH RANGE NORTH ELEVATION

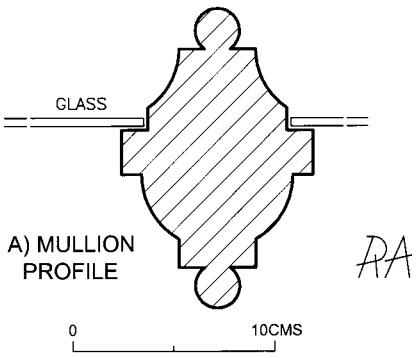




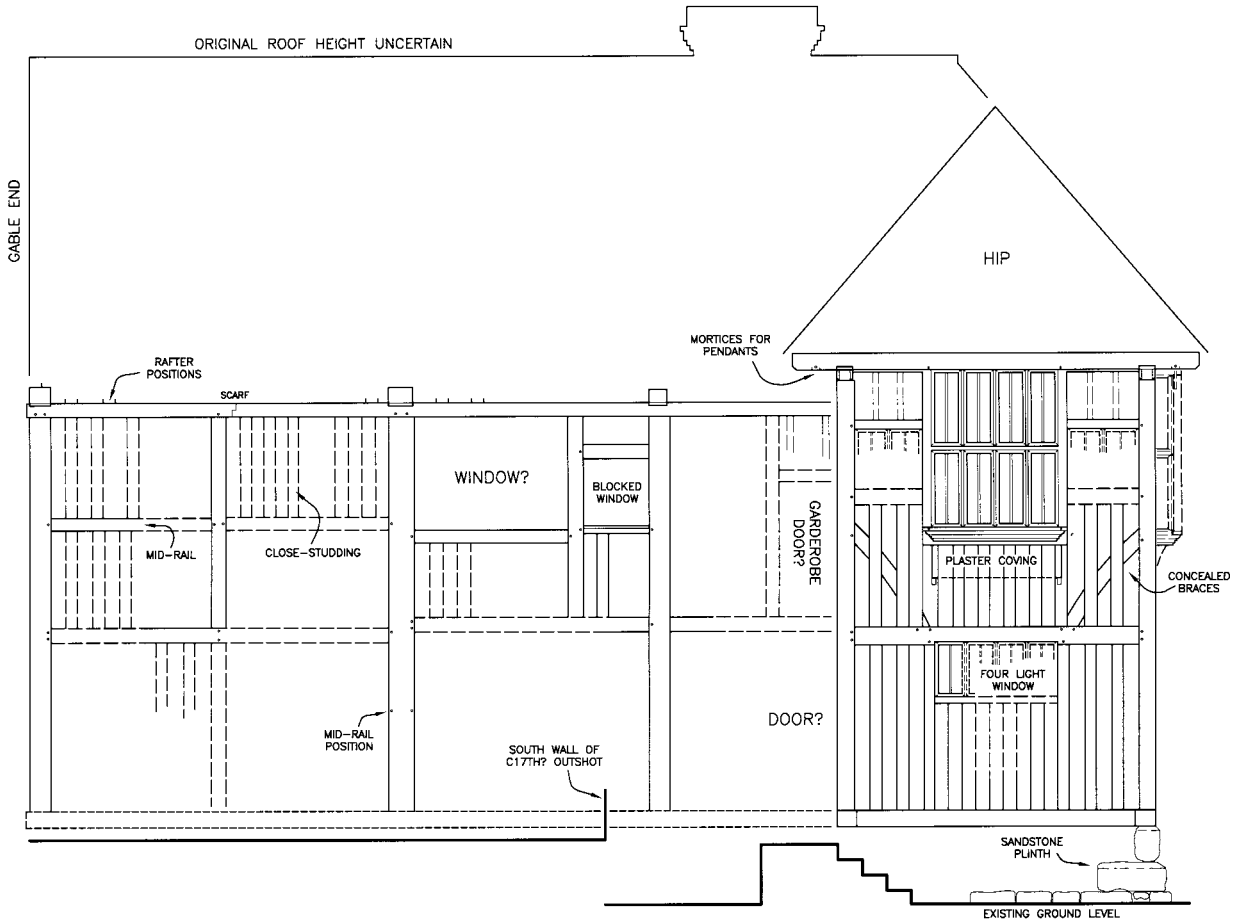
DETAIL OF ORIEL WINDOW



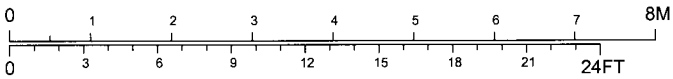
PHASED GROUND PLAN



A) MULLION PROFILE



SOUTH RANGE RANGE EAST ELEVATION



RA

of an oriel window. Empty mortices for the transoms, cills and brackets of the missing oriel can be seen on the underside of the bressumer.

Fortunately it was not necessary to conjecture the form of the window because an intact example survives within the west bay of the range. The surviving oriel no longer lies beneath a gable, but the jettied bressumer above indicates that one was once present. Ovolo and cavetto mouldings embellish the cill, transom and mullions of the oriel. The cill is wrought from a solid piece of oak and is supported by brackets and plaster coving. The oriel is shallow in depth, its side-lights blanked by wooden boards, a typical feature of early oriels. Small clerestory windows once flanked the two oriels, forming continuous fenestration along the façade at first-floor level. Plaster coving once rose from above the fenestration to meet the jettied gables. The elevation beneath was close-studded, but most of this has now been replaced.

The westernmost end of the elevation terminates in an odd way. The continuous fenestration stops at the oriel and the westernmost post of the range falls short of the far corner of the missing gable. This suggests the range may once have adjoined an earlier structure to the west of which nothing now remains. At ground level brick now replaces the timber frame but evidence for the original arrangement can be seen on the undersides of the wall-plates. Empty mortices for small four-light windows were located in each bay. Between the windows the elevation appears to have been close studded. A short section of the original sandstone plinth, upon which the timber-frame sits, survives beneath the east bay.

The east elevation of the range is similar in many respects to the north elevation but better preserved. The roof of the range terminates here in a hip, beneath which lies an intact oriel window of similar form to the aforementioned example. Small clerestory windows again flank the oriel, thereby extending the continuous fenestration around the east elevation of the property. Close studding survives beneath the fenestration and at ground level. Again a small four-light ground-floor window is present. The south elevation of the range is now internalised by a later outshot, but can be seen from within the building. At first-floor level the elevation is virtually unaltered and comprises close-studding with a mid-rail. No windows were present.

A single chamber (now divided) once occupied the first floor of the range. This would have been well lit by the oriels and continuous fenestration. A handsome four-centred stone fireplace lies within the south wall of the room. The jambs of the fireplace are embellished with cyma mouldings that terminate in simple run out stops. A coved plaster ceiling, possibly a period feature, lies above the chamber. Two doorways, their better elevations facing into the room, lie on either side of the fireplace. The easternmost door led into the north–south range whereas the westernmost door led perhaps into a missing range to the west.

At ground level the range again appears to have comprised a single room. The absence of partitioning suggests a door was not present along the north frontage as one would expect to see evidence for a lobby or passage behind the opening. However, a door to the adjoining range can be seen within the south wall. Interestingly its better face lies to the south, suggesting

perhaps a lower status for the poorly illuminated ground-floor room of the north range.

The south range is also three bays in long. It is lower than the primary range (the roof has since been raised) but wider and larger. Despite its greater size its elevations are less elaborate and poorly illuminated compared with those of the north range, again suggesting a lower status. The east elevation is the best preserved although many alterations are present (at ground level the elevation has been rebuilt in brick). Close studding and mid-rails were once present but have since been removed. Two possible window positions, one large and one small, were identified within the central bay. Where the elevation is internalised by a later outshot an opening, perhaps a garderobe door, can be seen.

A substantial chimney rises up within the northernmost bay, heating both the north and south ranges. Its substantial northernmost first-floor hearth has already been mentioned. A second stone hearth heats the principal chamber of the south range. Although this hearth is smaller and differs slightly in detail there is nothing to suggest it is not genuine. All four walls of the chamber are lined with scratch moulded oak panelling but this is probably a later seventeenth-century refurbishment. Similarly panelled doors are located in the four corners of the room but two are perhaps later insertions. A curious 'secret' fifth door, comprising a section of sliding panelling, can be seen in the north-west corner of the room. This is now fixed in place and its purpose unknown. The southernmost bay of the range is now divided from the panelled chamber. At ground level the exposed joists are plainly chamfered with step stops. No evidence for partitioning could be seen suggesting therefore that only a singe room was present.

Before this survey it had not been appreciated how fine and handsome the timber-framed element of Hadlow Place had been. By the sixteenth century it must have been a property of some size, perhaps belonging to a wealthy yeoman/merchant or country gentleman, who contrived to display wealth and status by embellishing the front of their property with so many decorative details.

E The Brokers Arms, Tunbridge Wells

Rupert Austin

North façade showing the three main elements of the property.

The Grade II listed Brokers Arms lies approximately 2 km. to the west of Tunbridge Wells town centre. The property lies along the south side of Langton Road on the edge of the common. An evaluation of the building was undertaken at the request of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council following a proposal to turn its upper floors into staff accommodation for the Spa Hotel (located opposite). The ground floor was to remain as a public bar.

The property comprises three distinct elements. The earliest and largest comprising the remains of a timber-framed building dating perhaps from the mid to late sixteenth century, lies at the west end of the premises. The second element, a small timber-framed structure dating perhaps to the eighteenth century, survives in part at the east end of the premises. These two structures were originally built free-standing. The third phase, a brick built structure of late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date, now lies at the centre of the property and links the two elements together.

The Phase 1 timber-framed structure has been heavily altered. Interpretation proved difficult but some understanding of its arrangement was possible. The structure is three bays in length and aligned parallel to the street. It is three storeys high with garret rooms in the roof. The lower ground floor comprises a half-sunken sandstone cellar, upon which the timber-framed upper floors sit. The building was unjettied and covered by a side-purlin roof. This roof is gabled to the west but hipped to the east, a less common arrangement than a double hip, but not unknown. The unclasped purlins are supported directly by angled and slightly curved queen-posts, suggesting use as a garret or for storage. All three bays are floored at ground-, first- and second-floor level. A substantial but later brick chimney lies externally against the west elevation, its hearths heating all the three floors.

No evidence for internal partitions was found, suggesting therefore that single rooms occupied each floor. The range appears to have been poorly illuminated, as no evidence for windows was found, and it was probably unheated. No original fixtures or fittings survive within the structure, only the later hearths and plank and ledge doors. These observations suggest that the building may have had a non-domestic agricultural use.

Externally the Phase 2 element of the property appears to have been brick-built with a tile hung and rendered first-floor elevation. Once inside however, we see that it is also timber-framed, dating perhaps to the eighteenth century. Only the upper parts of three jowled posts, a tie-beam and an eaves-plate are presently visible. These reveal that the structure was two bays in length and one and a half storeys in height, the upper storey lying partly within the simple collar rafter roof. This roof was originally half hipped to the east and west. The structure appears to have been poorly illuminated. Whitewash on its rafters suggests there was originally no first-floor ceiling. It is possible the first floor, which places the upper rooms partly within the roof space, is a later insertion. These observations suggest this building may also have been non-domestic in nature.

The Phase 3 element of the property is entirely brick built and perhaps the first truly domestic structure on the site. It appears to date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Before this time the Phase 1 and Phase 2 elements would have been separated by open ground.

F Manor House, Gill's Green, Hawkhurst

Rupert Austin

Manor House (formerly Limes Grove Farm) is located beside the A229 at its junction with Limes Grove Road and lies in a rural setting approximately 2 km. to the north of Hawkhurst. A barn and two oast houses adjoin the building to the west, but the property is now entirely residential and no longer part of a farm complex. Plans to extend and modify the rear of the property led to an architectural appraisal being made in March 2003 at the request of the Gale & Dunn Partnership.

Manor House presents a fine early Georgian façade to the world but this is a deception. Behind the façade is an older timber-framed building dating perhaps to the third quarter of the sixteenth century. Manor House is a sizeable two storey structure approximately 19.2 m. by 5.8 m. in extent and aligned east–west. Presumably built as a farmhouse the building appears to have been divided into six bays, one of the central bays accommodating a substantial, axially placed chimney. The farmhouse is of lobby entry form, the lobby located in front of the central chimney. Doors lead from this lobby into the rooms to the east and west.

Only a few sixteenth-century features are visible within the rooms of the range. At ground level to the west of the chimney, within Living Room 1, the overhead beams are exposed. Mortices on these reveal that a large room, perhaps a ground-floor hall, occupied the second and third bays of the building. This was heated by a central chimney although the hearth here has been rebuilt. The hall was divided from the westernmost bay by a partition. Only the ground-plate and a post presently survive. Mortices in the sides of the post reveal that the partition was of mid-rail construction. Mortices beneath the spine-beam in the west bay reveal that the building was subdivided into two rooms, an arrangement that one typically associates with a buttery and pantry at the service end of a building. To the east of the chimney the beams are boxed in and the original arrangement is therefore uncertain. It seems likely that at least two rooms would have been present, one of which was perhaps a parlour.

The best sixteenth-century features on the first floor are the hearths of the central chimney. These are typical of the period, comprising plainly chamfered oak bressumers, the chamfers continuing down the brick jambs of the fireplace. The beams have unfortunately been boxed in throughout the length of the range and the original arrangement is therefore uncertain. They do however form a genuine attic floor, not just a ceiling.

The roof is of clasped side-purlin form with windbraces and probably once terminated in full hips to the east and west. Garret rooms would have occupied the roof space from the outset. A handsome sixteenth-century chimney rises above the roof. Recessing and diagonal 'keeling' down its centre typically emphasise its four shafts.

Much of the timber-framed rear elevation of the primary range survives, internalised by later rooms. The northernmost corner post, with its long swelling jowl, is one of the most visible timbers. Mortices in the sides of this post show that the north and west elevations of the property were of mid-rail construction. Within the westernmost bay evidence for shuttered and unglazed, diamond mullioned windows could be seen. Whilst these windows are antiquated in form, those within the more important elevations were more likely to have been glazed.

Early Georgian doorcase along south façade.

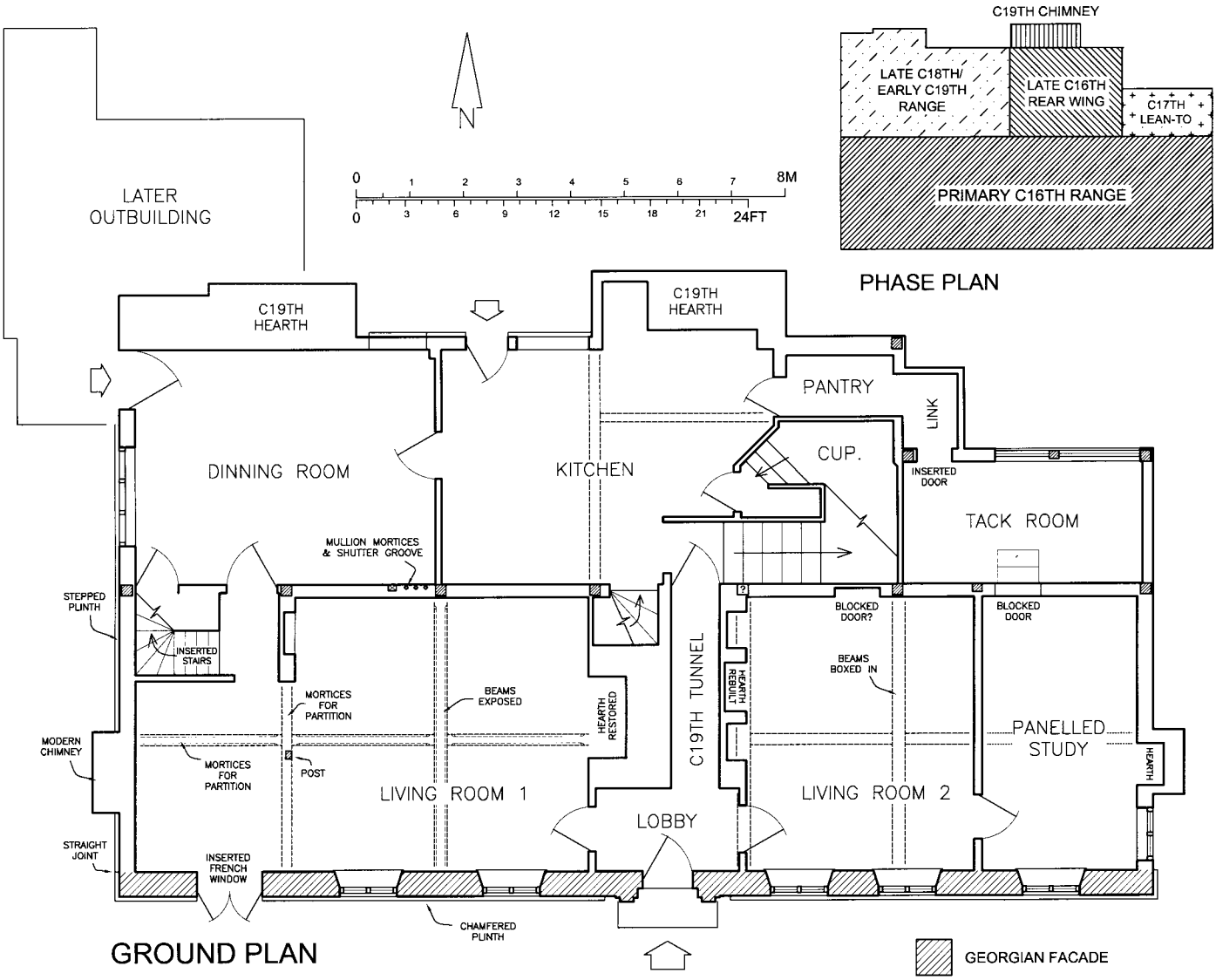
The splendid early Georgian façade of the property, which dates perhaps to the fourth decade of the eighteenth century, is not the earliest element of the building but certainly one of its most important features. Within the centre of the elevation (the façade has a general but not exact symmetry that reflects the layout of the earlier building to which it has been attached) a handsome wooden door-case of Doric style affords access to the lobby. Dormer windows burdened by heavy moulded pediments punctuate the roof and illuminate the attic rooms. A moulded and dentilated wooden cornice embellishes the eaves whilst the first floor is marked by a projecting brick string course. The ground-floor windows have segmental rubbed brick window heads and retain their original eighteenth-century frames with square ogee moulded central mullions.

It seems likely the interior of the property was thoroughly refurbished when it was refronted in the eighteenth century. Numerous fielded and ovolo moulded two panel doors and similarly detailed folding window shutters can be seen. All four walls of the study are lined with fielded and ovolo moulded Georgian panelling above and below a moulded dado rail. A large brick-lined cellar lies beneath the range.

A long tunnel passing through the base of the central chimney is a rare (but not unique) feature, that was most likely introduced in the nineteenth century. Its construction necessitated the rebuilding of the easternmost ground-floor hearth. The tunnel provides independent access from the lobby to the rear of the property, thereby eliminating the need to walk through one of the principal ground-floor rooms.

A small north–south aligned two storey timber-framed wing now lies to the rear of the primary range. This is of similar build but is perhaps a later addition. Little original fabric is visible from within its rooms and it is again the roof that provides the most information. The roof terminates in a gable to the north and is of clasped side-purlin construction. One of the principal rafters of the primary range has been internalised by this roof, which overlies it. Redundant tile batten nails on this rafter suggest the rear wing is a later addition, although the similarities in construction suggest it is perhaps only slightly later in date.

A large mullioned and transomed window is located within the east elevation at first-floor level, illuminating the dogleg stairs that now rise up through the structure. These stairs and the window are perhaps later insertions. The stairwell is of boxed in form, the partitions that create it comprising lath and daub (not lath and plaster) supported by light irregular studs. A moulded and ramped handrail now runs up the walls of the



South facing early Georgian façade.

Ground floor room looking west from the chimney, showing exposed beams.

stairwell above plainly panelled wainscot. A large landing lies at the head of the stairs. Interestingly the ceiling of this landing has been raised (by cutting through the attic floor of the wing) and embellished with a deep plaster cove. The stairs, landing and coving are perhaps of early to mid eighteenth-century date.

A small lean-to, perhaps the third addition to the property, lies behind the east end of the main range. This is again timber-framed and covered by a catslide roof. The eaves of the outshot are surprisingly low, only 1.22 m. above external ground level. It seems likely that re-used timber has been employed in its construction as several features observed in its fabric are inconsistent with each other. Access to the outshot was perhaps through a door in the rear wall of the main range. An east–west aligned structure, the last significant addition to the property lies behind the west end of the primary range. This dates perhaps to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century and is brick-built at ground level and timber-framed and tile hung at first-floor level.

G Tenchleys Manor, Limpsfield, Surrey

Rupert Austin

Tenchleys Manor is a substantial and handsome property that dates perhaps to the first half of the seventeenth century. The manor lies within a rural setting approximately 2.5 km. to the south-east of Limpsfield and is approached along an unmade track. An archaeological record of the south elevation of the south range of this Grade II* listed timber-framed building was undertaken during September 2002 in advance of restoration. The elevation bears the brunt of the weather and was in poor condition.

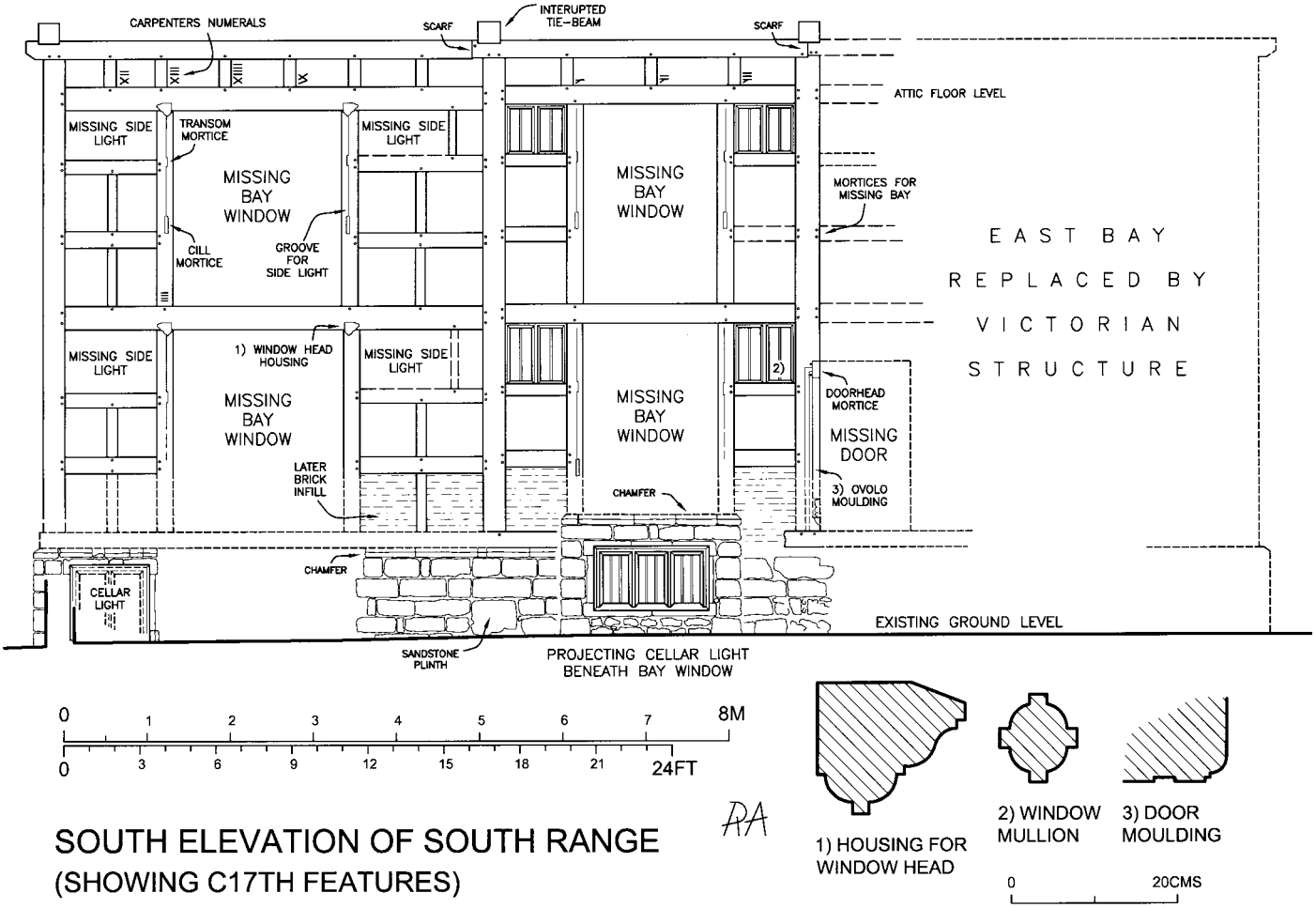
The south range is two and a half storeys in height with further rooms in the garret and a cellar beneath. It is aligned east–west and is presently two bays in length, but inspection quickly revealed that it was once longer. A third bay lay to the east but has been demolished and replaced by a Victorian structure. The south range forms a 'T' in plan with a contemporary north–south aligned range to the rear. A more modern wing lies to the north. The south range was probably the principal range of the property, containing therefore the better rooms of the house whereas the north range was perhaps the service wing.

The south elevation of the south range is the principal façade of the property. Evidence for its elaborate but now largely missing fenestration was revealed during the survey. Mortices for the cills and transoms of two bay windows that were once attached to the façade could be seen. These were two storeys in height above stone bases. The mortices are cut at right angles to the façade, indicating that the windows had square not canted sides. A vertical groove between the mortices reveals where the leaded side-lights were located. In several places the cyma and ovolo moulded profiles of the window heads could be seen where they were housed slightly into the timber-frame. Small clerestory lights (side-lights) flanked the bay windows, creating a nearly continuous freeze along the façade. The bay windows and most of the clerestory lights have now been removed and the arrangement almost entirely replaced by later windows.

Where the elevation is not interrupted by windows it is divided into small square panels by mid-rails and secondary posts. A secondary plate approximately 350 mm. below the eaves of the elevation relates to the garret rooms within the roof space. The roof is of butt side-purlin form with interrupted tie-beams, the attic floor able therefore to lie a little lower than the tie-beams, at the level of the secondary plate. The garret rooms consequently have good headroom and appear to have been illuminated by windows in the gables. Carpenter's numerals survive on the external face of the timber frame, beneath the eaves where the elevation is protected from the weather.

Evidence for the missing east bay can be seen on the last surviving post of the façade. Mortices on the side of this timber reveal where the wall-plates, rails and window cills of the missing bay were once located. An ovolo moulding and mortice on the lower part of the post reveals that a door was once located within the missing bay. This may have been the principal entrance to the property, leading perhaps into a lobby.

A plainly chamfered stone plinth, now partly rebuilt, lies beneath the elevation. The plinth comprises large, reasonably square blocks of grey and occasionally tan sandstone. It is now heavily



SOUTH ELEVATION OF SOUTH RANGE
(SHOWING C17TH FEATURES)

South elevation of south range during restoration.

Timber-frame of south elevation exposed prior to repair.

weathered but simple punched tool marks can still be seen. Galleting in a contrasting dark stone can be seen between the blocks. Within the centre of the east bay the plinth projects forward where it once supported one of the missing bay windows. A wide three-light stone mullioned window lies within the projection, illuminating the cellar. The projection beneath the former west bay window has been lost.

The timber-framed west elevation was inspected but not recorded. The elevation is of similar construction but here a substantial and particularly tall brick and stone chimney rises externally against it. The chimney sits atop a plainly chamfered plinth that is of similar build to the original footings but above its fabric is distinctly different in character, comprising neatly squared blocks of grey sandstone. The stonework is finely jointed, each block worked with regular horizontal tool marks. Masons' marks can be seen on many of the blocks; these define the height of each block in inches. Above eaves level the chimney reverts to brick construction. The lower part of the brickwork presents a shaped gable to the west with stone copings and brick finials; the upper part terminates in two separate, undecorated, diagonally placed flues.

Small windows, similar to the clerestory lights in the south elevation, were perhaps located on either side of the chimney at ground- and first-floor level but these have now been blocked or hidden by tile hanging. A small ovolo moulded window survives in the gable end of the roof. Stone footings like those beneath the south elevation again survive beneath the elevation. To the south of the chimney these incorporate a blocked cellar light. To the north, behind a later outshot, an original doorway leads down into the cellar.

Little of the original fabric of the north–south aligned east range is visible externally. All that can be seen is a small area of timber-framing within the middle of the elevation at ground level. Presumably more survives at first-floor level behind later tile hanging. A substantial chimney lies against the north end of the range. In common with that at the west end of the south range, this sits atop a plainly chamfered plinth. The masonry above does not however employ the same neatly squared and finely jointed masonry. Above eaves level the chimney once again reverts to brick construction. Here three separate and undecorated flues can be seen, the central flue turned diagonally.

The north range is of more modern construction than the south and east ranges and does not appear to contain any seventeenth-century fabric. It seems to have started life in the eighteenth century as a single storey structure. The second storey appears to be of twentieth-century date and has simply been built atop the earlier brickwork.

H Crabble Paper Mill, Crabble, Dover

Peter Seary

In February 2002 an archaeological survey was made of the site and standing structures at Crabble Paper Mill during their redevelopment. The survey was augmented by limited documentary research. It was possible to reconstruct in some detail the changing processes and spatial organization of paper manufacture at the mill.

The history of the site before the paper mill was built is unclear. At least two high-status, medieval, stone buildings, of uncertain function, are known from a recent excavation (Parfitt 2003b, 37–8), and there is evidence of another building on the site during the early modern period (Amos 1939). These had probably gone by about 1790, when the mill was established. It was built by William Phipps, who appears, previously, to have been a journeyman at the nearby River Paper Mill.

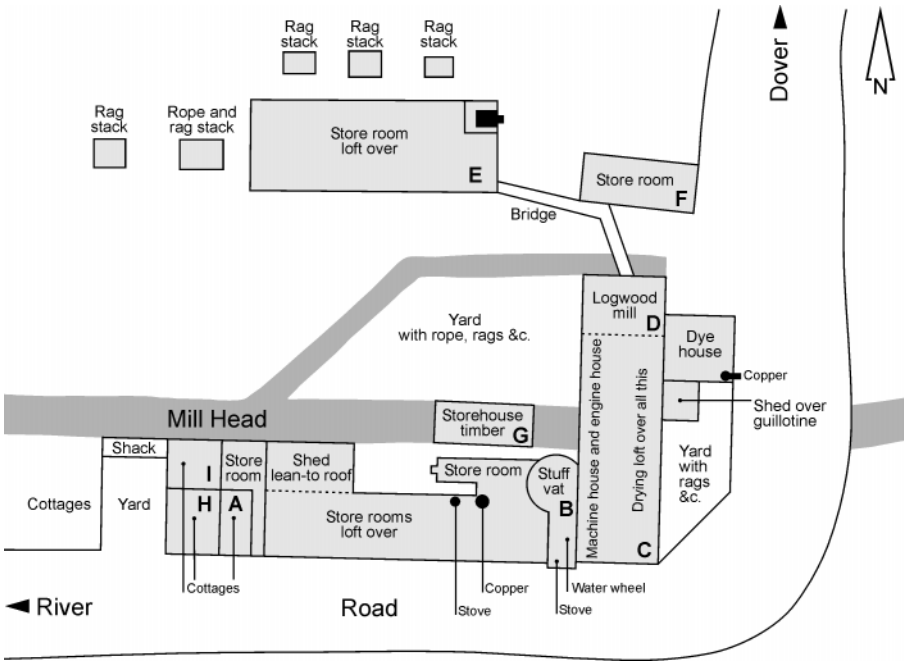
At this time, the Dour paper-making industry, which had emerged in the late seventeenth century, was expanding rapidly, with five mills in the river's three mile length. Paper manufacture was still by the vat process, but the final stages of rag preparation had been mechanised by the adoption of the wheel-driven 'hollander' or 'beating engine'. The mills around Dover seem to have depended on the cleanliness of the River Dour, whose waters could be used directly in the preparation of the pulp or 'stuff'.

The paper-making operation at the Crabble mill was centred in a long range straddling the main channel of the Dour. This was, according to a contemporary fire insurance survey, 'constructed of brick, stone and timber, with the roof covered in paper (tarred)', it probably had a timber-framed upper storey, an arrangement typical of Dour Valley paper mills. Paper was still laid by hand, sheet by sheet, by the vat process, in which a

wire 'deckle' was lowered into a vat of pulp then lifted out and drained.

By August 1793 a drying building had been added, on the north side of the river, with three presses to expel water from the newly laid sheets. After pressing, usual practice would have been to finish drying the sheets in the air, hung over cow's-hair ropes, in a drying loft.

In 1807, William Phipps installed a very early Fourdrinier paper-making machine. The Fourdrinier machine was a turn-of-the-century French invention, developed in England by Bryan Donkin under the patronage of Henry and Sealy Fourdrinier. It replaced the manual vat process. At the 'wet end' of the machine the pulp was delivered onto a continuous web of wire like a conveyor belt. It emerged, at the 'dry end', as waterleaf ready for pressing. This was the first such machine on the Dour, the second in Kent (the first was at Dartford), and at least the seventh in the country.



Crabble Paper Mill in 1821, based on plan from Kent Fire Insurance Company Mill Book (CPD F123569) (Not to scale).

The early plan and organisation of the site is still quite obscure. The first clear picture of the mill complex comes from 1821, when John Smith made a written and drawn survey of Crabble Paper Mill for the Kent Insurance Company. By this date, the mill buildings consisted of two, long, two-storey ranges, 'brick on the ground floor, timber above and papered roof', encumbered with lean-tos. One range (A–B) lay along the south bank of the Dour, and the other, with the Fourdrinier and hollanders, straddled the river (C–D). In addition, there were three storehouses (E, F and G). The two northern storehouses were linked to each other, and to the north end of the main north–south range, by timber bridges, from drying loft to drying loft, at first-floor level. There were also two workers' cottages (H and I), attached to the west end of the long east–west range.

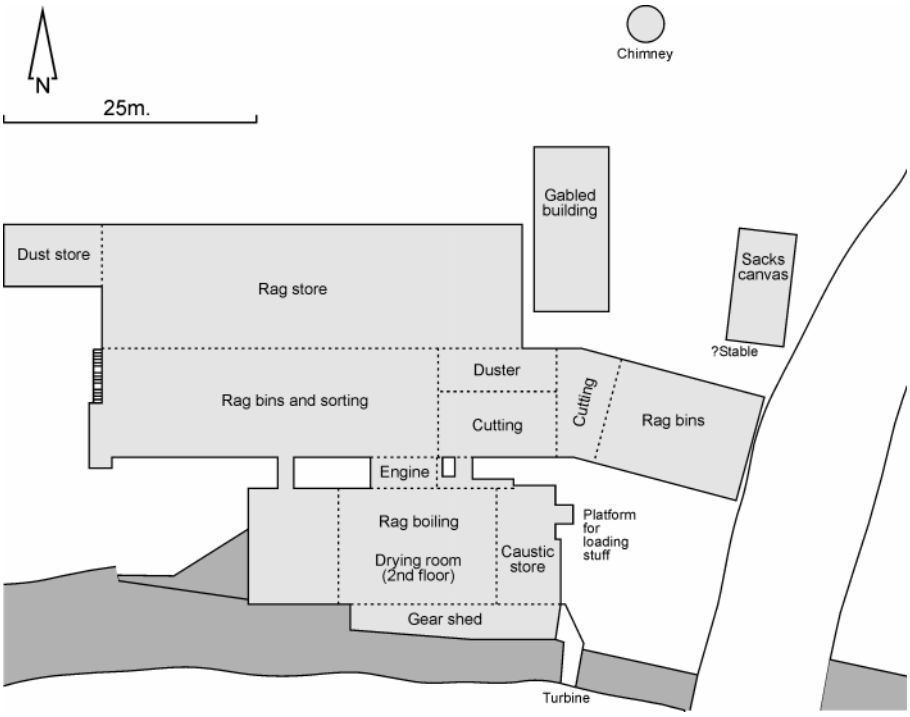
The raw materials: rags, and some ropes, were stored in stacks along the north side of the site. After cutting and sorting, the rags were boiled, probably in an alkaline solution, to clean and weaken them. Next, they were beaten in the hollanders, to reduce them to fibres, and then poured into the stuff-chest. Wheel-driven agitators in the circular stuff-chest kept the liquid pulp ready for use. The prepared stuff or pulp was bucketed into the wet end of the Fourdrinier machine.

The mill appears to have expanded considerably between 1821 and 1865. The additions include a high, brick, industrial chimney, and two additional ranges. The process of paper making was increasing in complexity, and in the extent of its mechanization. A Lancashire boiler and 'compound condensing beam engine' were installed after 1844 to provide a more reliable power source, and to drive new machinery.

In 1895 Crabble Paper Mill was sold to the firm Wiggins Teape, who owned the Buckland Paper Mill. It was rebuilt as a rag mill, supplying prepared 'stuff' to Buckland, and it is from this build that the earliest standing structures survive. By this time the process of rag preparation had been transformed, and extensive alterations were required. The main ranges of the eighteenth-century mill, along with the mill cottages, were demolished. The chimney and its associated range were retained, and part of building E may well have been incorporated into the new 'rag sorting' shed. A small new, two-storey building, possibly a 'stable' with a sack store over, was built along the eastern boundary.

Rag preparation was becoming increasingly mechanized. Power was supplied by a turbine in the Dour and by a steam engine. By comparison of the standing fabric with contemporary technical literature, maps, documents, and with a plan published in a local history book (Welby 1977), it has been possible to map out this

Crabble Rag Mill *c.* 1900 (based on Welby 1977, 132).



complex process with some confidence, and in considerable detail.

The rags were dusted and cut up by special machines. They were then sorted by hand before being transferred into the new 'rag boiling' range, where they would have undergone the heavier, chemical and mechanical stages of preparation. They were steam boiled in an alkaline solution for six to twelve hours in a huge rotating boiler. Then they were 'broken' in an engine called the 'breaker.' The 'stuff' was then drained before being transported by road to Buckland Mill.

The mill suffered a major fire in 1906, and was rebuilt the following year. The new mill buildings extended further north, and were terraced further into the hillside. The mill buildings now occupied a roughly square footprint, and again consisted of three parallel ranges. It looks as if the north range was built first and the central range inserted later, but the interval may have been very brief. The present brick boundary wall was erected on the east side of the site, and the site facilities were modernized. A dining room and recreation hall was provided, and a steel footbridge built, providing access from Lower Road.

The boiling house was damaged by shell fire during the Second World War. When it re-opened, it was no longer as a rag mill, but as a store for raw materials.

I Style Monument, St John the Baptist, Wateringbury

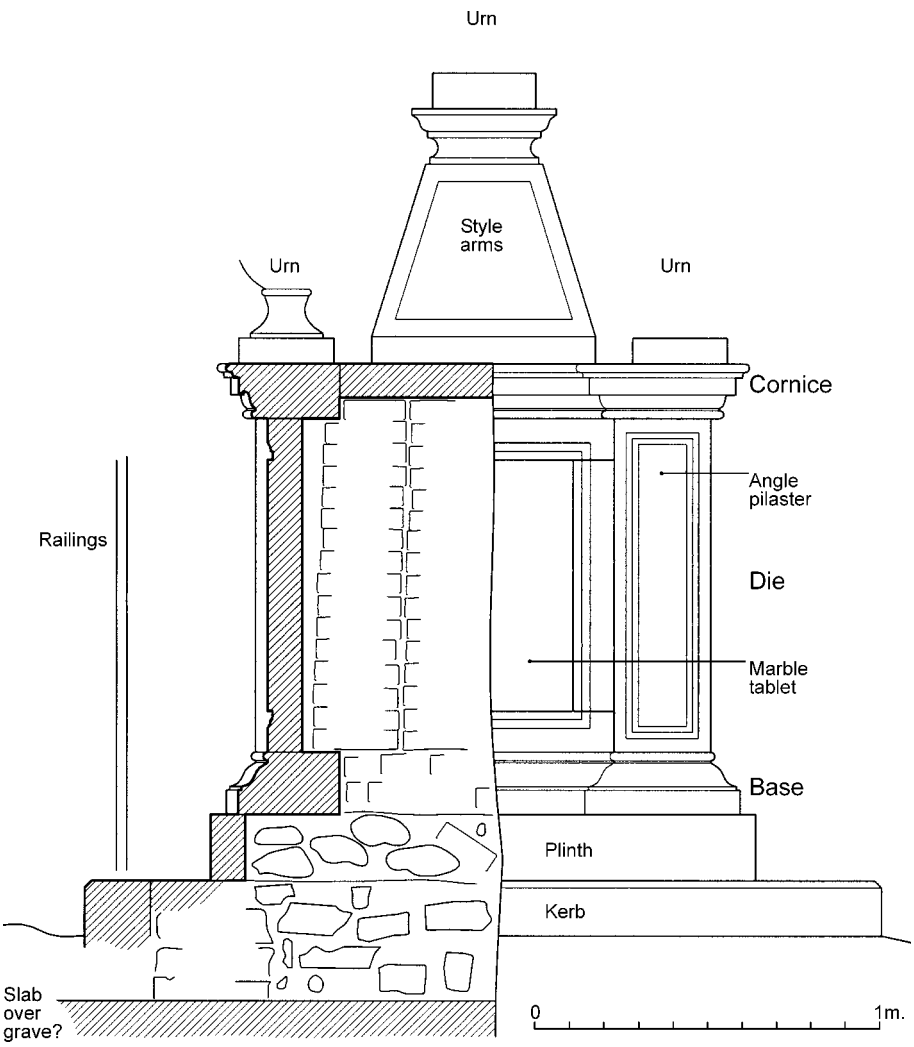
Peter Seary

The tomb of Sir Oliver Style, third Baronet of Wateringbury (d. 1702/3), was restored during November and December 2001. The process would reveal much about its construction, and the Trust was commissioned to perform a watching brief during the works.

A branch of the Style family had occupied a seat in Wateringbury since the early seventeenth century. Sir Oliver Style had been the Crown's representative at Smyrna, a post he held when that town was devastated by an earthquake in 1688 (he reputedly survived by sheltering under a table). His monument is an early pedestal tomb, of Portland stone. It stands in the churchyard of St John the Baptist church, and dominates the approach to the south porch.

Dr Roger Bowdler, of English Heritage, attributes the monument to the London workshop of the Stantons, a highly successful family of mason-sculptors. He bases this attribution on parallels with the tomb of Edmund Waller at Beaconsfield, Berkshire, by William Stanton; and on earlier patronage of the Stantons by the Beckenham branch of the Style family.

Cut-away view of the Style Monument, from the north.



Almost every aspect of the monument was innovative: its form, decoration and location. The burials of the aristocracy were, by the start of the eighteenth century, more or less free from the restrictive heraldic funeral tradition (Gittings 1984), and could express individual choices. Most of the innovations in the Style monument reflect an explicit identification with classical culture.

The components, of the tomb correspond, more or less, with those of the pedestal in classical architecture. Like a pedestal, it resolves into base, die, and cornice, and rests on a plinth. Pedestal monuments were used in antiquity, and the form enjoyed a revival in the eighteenth century; the Style monument is an early example. In construction it resembles a chest-tomb, but it differs from traditional tomb chests in being square rather than rectangular in plan, thereby shaking off its traditional 'altar tomb' associations.

The north and south faces of the die contain marble tablets with Latin inscriptions. The southern panel gives details of Oliver Style's pedigree whilst the northern panel goes on to describe him. The praise is typically fulsome and unrestrained for its period. He was illustrious at home and abroad, contemptuous of flattery, ambition, 'worldly glory' and 'courtly luxury'. Instead, he was pious, modest, learned, sincere, and philosophical. It also, significantly, praises his gift for classical learning. It closes with some philosophical considerations on death.

The centre of the pedestal is occupied by a truncated pyramid, surmounted by classical mouldings which form the platform for a central urn. Pyramids and obelisks, are well attested among antique pedestal monuments. The faces of the pyramid display the Style arms. These are the only feudal references on the monument, leaving the rest to the Classical style, and care was taken to integrate them without compromising the overall scheme. In the

selection of motifs, the monument rejects the traditional iconography of frailty and decay: skulls, scythes, hour glasses, which is still much in evidence in the later gravestones nearby. Instead, a classical reference is made. There are five urns, based indirectly on Roman vessels, on the monument: one on the top of the pyramid, and four smaller ones at each corner.

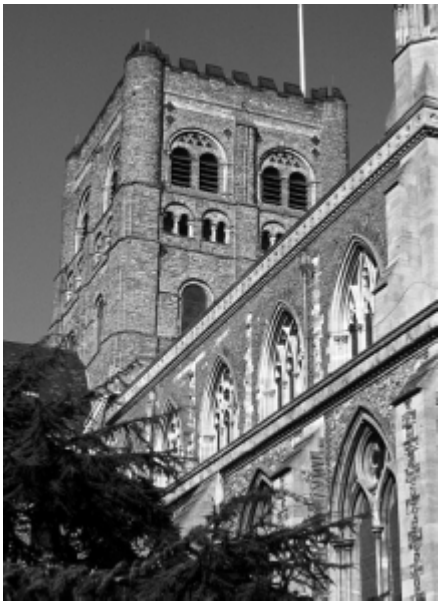
The outdoor location is another innovation. Burial within churches was becoming problematic due to concerns about hygiene. This change was especially early in Kent, where it began during the early seventeenth century. It was, however, still rare to site such a major tomb in a churchyard at this date. Dr Bowdler observes that outdoor burial could attest to the 'humility' of its recipient, and Oliver Style's epitaph draws attention to his rejection of 'worldly glory'. It may also be significant that the tombs of antiquity were outdoor structures.

The monument, despite its opulent appearance, made very sparing use of stone. The corner pilasters are triangular in section, halving the quantities of freestone required; whilst the mouldings of the base and cornice are carried on four clever, right-angled, wedge-shaped blocks. Pairs of wedges could be derived from single rectangular blocks with minimal waste. The plinth and kerb stones are very slender and the freestone components were assembled with very little overlap, much of the weight being carried by the brick core and rubble foundation.

The rubble foundation was largely composed of re-used fragments from a single, monumental source some of which bore traces of paint. There were also fragments of combed ragstone window jamb which may have been removed from the church during a late nineteenth-century phase of restoration. This lends weight to the idea that the tomb may have been rebuilt in the past. The tomb shows evidence of more than one phase of repair, reflecting its continuing importance as a status symbol.

J St Alban's Cathedral, Great Tower

Peter Seary

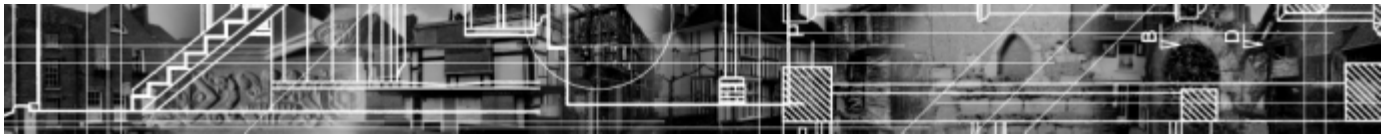


An ambitious scheme to re-organise the bell-chamber and bell-ringing floor within the tower of St Alban's Cathedral is presently under consideration. In February 2003, the Trust was commissioned, by Richard Griffiths Architects, to record the fabric likely to be affected, and to assess the archaeological implications of the work.

St Alban's Cathedral was built in 1077 as a Benedictine abbey church. The predominant building material employed was re-used Roman brick, which by its regular size and shape helped determine much of the architectural detail of the building. Large parts of the cathedral have now been rebuilt but remarkably the Norman crossing tower remains.

The tower, one of only three left in the country of this period, escaped the worst of the nineteenth-century restorations that befell much of the building below and is therefore an important survival. The exterior of the tower was covered in a hard cementitious render, something that caused significant damage to the Roman bricks. This render was fortunately removed in the 1950s and many of the damaged bricks carefully removed and turned through 180 degrees.

The interior of the tower was largely untouched. Above the ringing chamber the walls have never been rendered or painted and much of the original unaltered fabric can be seen. A stone for stone drawn survey and photographic record was made of the interior walls here, in the areas to be affected by the proposed scheme. Evidence concerning the replacement of the bell-chamber floor in the fourteenth century and the medieval roof (replaced in the nineteenth century) was observed and a written report prepared.



PART THREE

Post Excavation and Research

I The Finds Department

1 History's lost property office

Louise Harrison and Diana Holmes

Hold a brooch in your hand and imagine the tales it could tell.

All finds, even the most corroded of nails, can tell a story. It is the task of the finds department to ensure that all objects recovered from excavations are dealt with in the best possible way to enable their stories to be told.

This means that finds staff have a wide range of responsibilities from excavation through to the post-excavation phases of a project. During an excavation we might be called upon to lift fragile objects (for example mosaic flooring), but most of our involvement is post-excavation. We liaise with conservation laboratories, x-ray finds and liaise with specialists. Ensuring the long term survival of finds means that they are all recorded and packaged according to professional standards and guidelines (issued by the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation and English Heritage). These constantly updated guidelines specifically apply to the treatment of small finds and attendance at regular refresher courses is generously funded by the Friends.

Volunteers play a vital role in the finds department. Most, if not all, of the finds washing and pottery marking is carried out by a very loyal and hard working 'army' of volunteers, many of whom have been with the Trust for a great number of years. Our army varies greatly in age, profession and interest, and without them we would certainly lose the battle with grubby finds and drown in a sea of pottery, stone, flint and bone.

The workload of the finds department has increased dramatically since the Whitefriars project began in 1999. Before this the department was solely based at Broad Street with three core members of staff. Now there is a mobile department within a short walk of the Whitefriars site, dedicated to the processing of the huge quantities of finds produced from the excavations. Whitefriars has four staff working on the care and recording of small finds, bulk finds and x-raying objects. Over the past four years the Whitefriars excavations have continued to produce a myriad of finds, ranging from nails, human remains, a coin hoard, bangles and an iron cauldron briefly treated as an unexploded Second World War bomb!

Excluding our activities at Whitefriars, perhaps the most exciting sites for finds over the past twelve months were St Dunstan's Roman cemetery (Diack 2003b) and the rural site at Island Road, Hersden (see p. 25).

The urban setting of St Dunstan's cemetery produced an amazing array of different materials. Objects of glass, iron, copper alloy, ceramic and

Two of the Roman glass vessels from St Dunstan's cemetery.

The copper alloy vessel from Island Road, Hersden.

One of the whale vertabrae.

stone were discovered, along with organic remains of wood, bone and leather. Possibly the best example of unexpected survival was that of two extremely fragile glass vessels buried under tons of earth for nearly 2000 years. Another beautiful find was a copper alloy annular brooch decorated with a bold design consisting of dots in dark blue enamel along its length and across its top. A rare find was a Roman *speculum,* or mirror, with ring-and-dot design. Although in a fragmentary condition, the mirror provided us with enough of the jigsaw for future reconstruction.

In addition to these wonderful objects, over 100 ceramic vessels, mainly cremation urns with accompanying ancillary vessels, were unearthed. Once again our army of volunteers proved their worth, and set about excavating and recording both the urns and their contents. These vessels were diverse in their form and fabric. Some larger vessels held surprises; smaller versions of themselves sitting amongst the cremated remains within.

The excavation at Island Road, Hersden produced large quantities of iron and many sherds of pottery. Additional materials found included bone, lead and copper alloy. Two objects of copper alloy stand out from the rest. A very rare example of a virtually complete jade-green enamel brooch was found attached to the underside of a very fragmented and battered cremation urn. The second copper alloy object was found by metal detector. This flagon-shaped vessel was almost complete, its handles being found nearby. The vessel is in a very poor state of preservation and is in need of urgent conservation treatment at a laboratory in order to stabilise it before it is lost forever. However, the most surprising find was undoubtedly two whale vertebrae recovered from a Roman pit. Finds from the site are still undergoing processing and perhaps more mysteries await.

The recent acquisition of an x-ray machine has facilitated identification and provides us with a permanent record of many previously mysterious objects. Purchased with a generous donation from the Friends, the machine allows all metal finds to be x-rayed in house. The importance of x-radiography cannot be underestimated, and current guidelines suggest mandatory x-rays of all metal objects. Iron objects are often heavily corroded when they reach the finds department and in many cases a positive identification is impossible without an x-ray.

To compliment the Trust's new procedure of x-radiography we now have a newly fitted finds storeroom which has been shelved from floor to ceiling providing more space for storage. The storeroom is temperature and humidity controlled, so helping to stabilise finds and contributing to their long term survival.

Much of our work would not be possible without assistance from the Friends and our many volunteers and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for their continuing support. With their help, we continue to maintain history's lost property office.

The brooch in your hand might now be able to tell its story time and again to future generations.

Diana Holmes excavating bangles on a Roman skeleton at Whitefriars.

II Palaeoenvironmental studies

1 Ickham Court Farm

Enid Allison

Soil samples for environmental analysis were taken from the fill of a circular oven and from a deposit on the brickearth floor of an early medieval sunken-floored building excavated at Ickham Court Farm (p. 22). An archaeomagnetic date of A.D. 1115–60 (Linford 2002) was obtained from a circular burnt patch (possibly a hearth) on the floor of the building. Unfortunately it was not possible to take samples for dating from the oven, but it appears to have been in use at this time. Pot sherds recovered from backfill deposits overlying the burnt patch are of types dated *c.* A.D. 1050–1125 (Cotter 2003).

The sample from the oven produced an assemblage of charred plant remains consisting of charred cereal grains and chaff, pulses and weed seeds. Much of the grain was clinkered, although a proportion was well preserved. Chaff and other seeds tended to be better preserved than the grain. The sample also contained daub from the oven structure. Burnt flint was common, and there were traces of pottery, slag, flake hammerscale and domestic mammal bone. Some of the bone was calcined, but fragments were too small for further identification.

The sample from the building floor produced a smaller charred plant assemblage together with an identical range of materials. Calcareous granules from arionid slugs were present. Again, bone recovered was too fragmentary for further identification.

Future analysis of the plant remains will hopefully elucidate the function of the oven, for example to determine whether it was used for malting, or if the recovered assemblage represents disposal of waste from cereal processing. Identification of taxa present will provide data for the crop record of this area and on local agriculture and economy. The assemblages are of particular interest because they are well-dated and taken from the oven and an associated deposit within the same building.

The material from Ickham Court is of similar date to plant remains recovered from a collapsed oven excavated in Townwall Street, Dover in 1996. The latter oven was found to contain charred malted mixed grains. A second deposit of malted material at a different stage of the process was found on the floor adjacent to the oven (Campbell, forthcoming).

2 Island Road, Hersden
Enid Allison

About half of the bulk soil samples taken from the Island Road excavation were from Roman cremation deposits, taken to ensure maximum recovery of bone and associated artefacts. Samples were also taken from several inhumations. Generally speaking, soils in the Island Road area do not favour the preservation of buried bone. When bone is burnt in a cremation, however, changes take place in the crystal structure of the mineral component of bone (hydroxyapatite). These changes are not well-understood but have the effect of making cremated bone much more resistant to breakdown in the soil than unburnt bone in an inhumation. Consequently, although recovery of human remains from the cremations was good, very little bone was recovered from the inhumations.

Other samples were taken from Iron Age and Roman features and deposits including the fills of pits, post-holes, ditches and gullies, hearths, a furnace, a well, and a possible Iron Age round-house. A number of samples were taken from Roman deposits thought to be related to metal-working or some other industrial process. However, the samples showed no evidence for this, but did produce substantial assemblages of cereal grains and chaff, and other seeds. The fill of an Iron Age hearth produced charred plant remains consisting mainly of cereal chaff, with smaller amounts of grain and weed seeds.

3 Whitefriars
Enid Allison

The environmental department at Kingsmead.

Features of Roman to late medieval date are still being sampled at the ongoing Whitefriars excavation. Deposits sampled have generally been dry and the range of animal and plant remains recovered reflects this. The following is a general summary of the types of remains recovered from bulk samples to date:

Charred plant remains are common to abundant and generally well preserved. Plant remains become charred either accidentally, for example during drying of crops for storage or during malting, or by deliberate burning. In both cases, charring would occur if insufficient oxygen was present to cause complete burning. Whole seeds, etc, are converted to pure carbon, often perfectly preserving all surface details so that identification can be carried out. Little work has been carried out on plant remains from Canterbury so this material will provide valuable information on local land use and the agricultural history of the area from the Roman period onwards. By their nature, charred plant assemblages tend to be biased towards cereals and other crops and associated weed seeds, and the information that is obtained from them usually concerns the production, processing and storage of crops. Unusual assemblages have been identified from Whitefriars, however, including a deposit containing possible burnt thatch or flooring material.

Mineralised plant remains are present in some cess deposits.

Bones of mammals, fish, amphibians and birds are well preserved and common. The vast majority of these are the remains of food, comprising both butchery waste and debris from domestic consumption. Analysis of the assemblages will produce dietary and economic information for the different periods represented. For domestic species it will be possible to provide information on stock management and butchery techniques. Domestic mammals and birds are much more numerous than wild species among the bones but hunting and wildfowling may have been of importance, perhaps seasonally. For the fish, it will be possible to compare the relative importance of marine and freshwater fisheries, and to determine whether inshore or deep-sea fishing was carried out. Mammal bone assemblages have been analysed from previous excavations in Canterbury but, with the exception of assemblages from St Gregory's Priory in Northgate (Smith 2001, Serjeantson 2001), few fish and bird bones have been examined in detail. The material from Whitefriars will be very valuable in this respect. The extent and scale of the present excavations at Whitefriars will allow selection and comparison of larger groups of bones than is often possible, enabling more reliable conclusions to be drawn.

Human remains of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date have been recovered. The skeletons are generally in very good condition, some showing pathological features of both bones and teeth.

Insect remains are rare due to the lack of waterlogged deposits on the site, although

Bob Robson sorting through dry residues from soil samples from Whitefriars.

Skull of a pig found in a late Roman pit at Whitefriars.

mineralised remains, most commonly fly puparia, have been recovered from some cess deposits. Only one sample, also from a cess-pit, contains a fair-sized assemblage of beetles.

Shellfish are common but often not particularly well preserved. Oysters and mussels are the most commonly occurring species, although whelks, cockles and other species are represented in lesser quantities.

Snails are rare. The only samples where they occur in any numbers tend to be from deposits containing large amounts of marine mollusc shell. The latter appears to have increased the alkalinity of the soil in particular features enhancing the preservation of shell of all kinds.

Marine crustacean remains have been recovered from medieval deposits associated with the Friary.

Eggshell is common in medieval deposits associated with the Friary, but has only been recovered in small quantities elsewhere.

The range of material recovered is biased towards food remains. Information on living conditions, vegetation and local environment in the Whitefriars area at various stages in the past will be limited by the relative lack of non-food plant remains, insects and snails. It is possible that some data on vegetation, particularly on a regional scale, might be obtained from monolith samples that have been taken from various locations at Whitefriars. The monoliths consist of intact blocks of sediment contained within a tin. They will be used primarily for soil micromorphological analysis but can also be sampled to assess initially whether pollen is preserved in the deposits, and if it is, to provide material for palynological analysis.

Acknowledgements

Julie Martin continues to carry out wet-sieving of bulk soil samples from the Whitefriars sites. Since the end of the dig this season, Jess Twyman has been sorting through the dried residues from the soil samples to recover animal and plant remains and artefacts. Volunteers Elaine Brazier, Marie Goodwin, Bob Robson and Krystyna Zaleska have given much valuable time to help with sorting of residues. We are very grateful for their continuing support.

Julie Martin wet sieving environmental samples.

4 Shelford Quarry, Broad Oak

Enid Allison

Samples from prehistoric features and cremations were examined. As with the Island Road area, the soils at Shelford do not favour the preservation of bone, unless it is calcined. Reflecting this, fragments of burnt bone were recovered not only from cremations but also from many other samples, albeit only in trace amounts from some.

One of the most interesting features was the remains of a late prehistoric furnace or oven. Upper and lower fills were collected in their entirety, and samples from four different locations were selected to determine the composition of the deposits. The upper fill appeared to be rather varied in composition, one area in particular containing a high proportion of cinders. The lower fill was more homogeneous.

The samples are all rich in cereal remains. Preservation was quite variable within each sample and many grains were poorly preserved and rather fragmentary in the upper fill. Grains, chaff and charred seeds from the lower fill were reasonably well-preserved, however.

The cinders recovered were whitish in colour. Minute traces of iron slag were recovered from the upper fill of the feature and small amounts of rusty-coloured material were extracted with a magnet from the lower fill. The latter did not look like typical hammerscale or obvious iron slag. It seems unlikely therefore that the feature was an industrial furnace. It is possible that the cinders are a product of burning cereals and/or straw (from the fusion of silica from phytoliths, the glassy granules found in the leaves of grasses and cereals) although most of the cinders are very much larger than would normally be expected for this.

Further work on the plant remains and cinders will elucidate the function of the feature and will also provide data on local prehistoric agriculture and land use, a subject on which there is little published work for Kent as a whole. It will be of great interest, for example, to compare the assemblages from Shelford with the middle Iron Age assemblage recovered from different soils on the route of the Whitfield-Eastry by-pass (CAT Site Code WEB 95/2; Campbell, 2001). The composition of the latter assemblage indicated that emmer wheat continued to be an important crop in Kent at least until the middle Iron Age in contrast to other areas of the south of England, and also suggested an intensive agricultural regime with rotation of cereal and pulse crops to maintain soil fertility.

III Publications

1 The City Wall Trail

Jane Elder

In April 2002 a number of interpretation boards were installed around Canterbury's city walls. The boards were set up along the route of a City Wall Trail. In the autumn a booklet was finished, designed to guide the walker around the route.

Canterbury's City Wall Trail forms part of the Historic Fortifications Network, which is a collaboration between seventeen fortified towns in Kent, Nord Pas de Calais and West Flanders. Canterbury City Council secured grant aid for the 'trail' project from the European Union Interreg fund and commissioned the Trust to research, write and design the boards and booklet and to organise the installation of the boards.

The City Wall Trail passes through two other areas with information boards prepared by the Trust. Those at Canterbury Castle were our first commission, installed in 1997 and then updated in 2000 when new floodlighting and other works in the castle grounds provided the opportunity to replace weather-damaged or vandalised boards. Our second commission was for a number of boards to be displayed in and around the Dane John Gardens as part of the city council's restoration project there. At that time boards were installed at Wincheap Gate, some of the bastions along the rampart walk, at the Dane John mound and at Ridingate. A board illustrating the history of the gardens was designed by Simon Hopkins of the council's conservation section, using text researched by the Trust.

Photograph by Maurice Hart.

Booklet available from Trust offices at £1.00 (+50p p&p) or from the Tourist Information Office, Buttermarket, Canterbury.

The board at the Dane John Mound.

The period spent researching text and illustrations for this latest project was an interesting one for both myself and Mark Duncan. The enthusiasm of the staff at the Cathedral Archives, in particular Cressida Annesley and Heather Forbes, was very helpful as was the ready co-operation of local photograph collectors, Ian Anderson, Derek Butler, Paul Crampton and Terry Hougham. Ken Reedie, curator for Canterbury Museums, provided access to the city's collection of prints and engravings and allowed our photographer, Andrew Savage, to take copies of several of these. Paul Bennett made a major contribution when it came to writing the words for the boards.

... St Peter's Postern

Starting on the ramparts above the Dane John Gardens, the trail follows a 2.7 km. long route around the walls. The booklet guides the walker along the route and, with the seventeen information boards sited at strategic points, hopefully gives an idea of the importance of the town walls to Canterbury at different times in its history. In the north part of the city, where much of the wall has long since disappeared, it is hoped that the trail will encourage people to explore some of the lesser known parts of the town, such as the gardens close to the former Abbot's Mill and the riverside walk around the Causeway in St Radigunds. Further round, the trail passes through the Westgate Gardens, into the meadow beyond and on into the castle grounds. An alternative route to the castle, avoiding the rough ground of the meadow and the steps to the bridge across the river, goes through the Greyfriars Gardens.

Stewart Signs, manufactured and installed the boards, and AGET Limited, provided translations for both the boards and the booklet. The booklet was printed by Geerings of Ashford. We thank all three companies for their very friendly efficiency.

... and St Radigund's Garden.

Finally, I would like to express my personal thanks to Mrs Margaret Sparks who gave freely of her time and provided generous advice, which was, as always, very much appreciated.

2 Other publications during the year

Jane Elder

Two articles were published in county journals for 2002. 'The Kentish Copperas Industry' by Tim Allen, Mike Cotterill and Geoffrey Pike appeared in *Archaeologia Cantiana* (volume cxxii), and 'Excavations on the south-eastern defences and extramural settlement of Little Chester, Derby 1971–2' by Christopher Sparey-Green and others was published as volume 122 of the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*. Though the Little Chester excavations were obviously not undertaken by the Trust, various members of staff became involved in the very last stages of the report's production, under the direction of Christopher Sparey-Green. The work was funded by a grant from English Heritage.

PART FOUR

Education

Marion Green

Canterbury Whitefriars: The Big Dig

The year opened with another phase of the Big Dig visitor attraction at the Whitefriars excavations. There were some rapid staff changes during this season and I joined the team to help with the daily running and managing the school visits.

Nicola Hughes' article (p. 00) commends the work of members of the Big Dig team since its inception. In supporting her commendation I would also wish to add that Nicola's management of the team of forty-plus volunteers was invaluable and without their support the venture on such a scale really would not have been possible.

Special interest groups

Many different groups took the opportunity to see the live archaeology. Among these were the school children. A few of the Big Dig stewards were ex-school teachers and we arranged briefing sessions for those others who had a rapport with young people but were not so familiar with the school curriculum. So with a little support, their enthusiasm and some common sense the job was done.

I want to give a very sincere thank you to the team of volunteers who have shared the visits for the duration of the Big Dig venture: to Helen Burney, Jean Crane, Janet Fadden, Isabel Flower, Freda Geary, Mary Hodges, Margaret Hofman, Marjorie and Lawrence Lyle, Caroline Mettam, Joan Pearson, Ron Pepper, Bridget Russell, David Shaw and Martin Taylor. I worked with many of you during the summer of 2002 and it was a great pleasure. Good 'visuals' are really important for young people and so, thank you to Bev Leader and Dominique Bacon (Trust illustrators) for their teaching resource designs, and to Andrew Savage for his fantastic photography, as always.

Many thanks to all of you who took part and kept your cool when it got pretty hot!

There was always plenty for the young visitors to see and do.

'Thank you for a BRAINBURSTING day!' This is what one young visitor thought of the Big Dig. He also said 'It was different to see lots of women digging' – well noticed Sean.

So what were we able to offer schools?

We saw this project as a stimulating opportunity to support classroom teaching; in History for example:

- Looking at types of evidence (all Key Stages)
- Studying the Romans or the Anglo-Saxons (Key Stage 2)
- A Local Area study (Key Stage 2)
- Looking at Medieval Society (Key Stage 3)
- Teaching GCSE (Key Stage 4) or A Level Archaeology

There were other applications, for example in Geography and Citizenship.

A typical visit included:

The aerial walkway. Children were fascinated by the different tasks going on. We wanted our young visitors to use this opportunity to look at what was happening (there was so much) and ask their questions. After some experimentation we found that a simple pictorial 'jobs' record sheet was a useful aid to focus young primary school pupils. Large colour photos of the spectacular discoveries brought the site to life!

The exhibition. There were finds from the site for children to identify and mini-digs with finds hidden in gravel. Children could identify the period they came from, using a simple stratigraphy diagram. A range of finds from other excavations were housed in cases. Wall displays illustrated the history of the area and the varied work of the archaeologist and a plasma screen presentation showed the latest discoveries.

A small shop. Here there were small souvenirs for the pupils and resources for the teachers.

School groups were welcomed with an introduction in the Big Dig exhibition.

The Big Dig resource pack

Teachers were given a free Big Dig pack including background material and ways to incorporate a visit into teaching plans. Even without a site available, many elements of the pack provide a valuable classroom resource for History, Geography and Citizenship programmes. Jonathan Barnes, William Stowe and Stephen Scoffham of the Faculty of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University College wrote the content and production of the pack was funded by the Kent Archaeological Society whose members have consistently supported the Trust's education work over a number of years.

Who came?

Most were primary school groups. One school brought all its children, from 4 to 11 year olds – mercifully not all at once. We also had secondary schools and some special schools, for students with learning difficulties.

Where did they come from?

Most pupils came from Kent schools; Ashford, Hersden, Folkestone, Dover, Gillingham, Broadstairs, Sheerness, Monkton, Margate, Whitstable and the Canterbury area. Many of the non-Canterbury teachers had planned the visit to include other local sites, and the Dane John public gardens nearby were a perfect spot for their lunch break in fine weather.

Why did they come?

Teachers are recognising the role that Archaeology plays when investigating the past and reasons for coming included work on local history, Roman lifestyle, Anglo-Saxon lifestyle, the city of Canterbury, Tudor times, medieval towns, Underground, the Ancient Greeks, the Indus Valley and A Level History. For many of them, answering the question 'How do we know?' was in the forefront of their thinking – and if the levels we were digging on the day coincided with their area of study, then so much the better!

Time for consolidation

A lot had happened during the Big Dig and at the end of the season some time was spent assessing the visitor data, meeting with teachers and collating visual materials for future teaching and Trust publicity. Ian Coulson, K.C.C. History Adviser for the county's schools, arranged some in-service training for East Kent primary school teachers in co-operation with the Museum of Canterbury in Stour Street. Paul Bennett gave them an illustrated talk about discoveries to date and teachers could see the Education room, part of the museum's current programme of expansion. Further liaison is planned between the Trust and the Museum for the near future.

Going out …

A number of events took the Trust out to meet students and teachers.

Greenacre School, Chatham hold an annual Science and Technology Day in July, the purpose of which is to introduce the 12–13 year old boys (Year 8) to aspects of Science and Technology and associated career opportunities. This year Medway Education Business Partnership invited the Trust to contribute. Dr Enid Allison, our environmentalist, joined me and our workshop was composed of two parts.

- How Archaeology works in the twenty-first century and the discoveries we can make.
- What we can learn about our ancestors from animal and plant remains (the 'Smelly Bits and Skeleton Pits' part).

The session was both visual and tactile and was repeated seven times throughout the day (150 students in all and we knew it by the end!). We had plenty of hands-on material ranging from minute seeds to massive horse bones and even samples of preserved human faeces – which went down well with teenage boys. Medway councillor Patricia Rozencroft attended the event and was very appreciative of our input. Our session was featured in the local press and we expect to be invited back next summer. The day was hard work but both Enid and I found it rewarding and satisfying.

'Feely Bags' went down well at Wincheap Primary School, Canterbury on a 'What do we know about Canterbury in Roman times?' visit and at Gap House School, Broadstairs, a school for children who experience language difficulties. The bag adds a note of excitement as well as encouraging certain skills. Children plunge their hands into the bags where finds are hidden. They can describe the features of their find to teacher or classmates and, perhaps with a clue, try to work out what it is. For the Gap House children in particular this combined some useful and motivating experiences and it was fun!

The feely bags were also appreciated by undergraduate student teachers at Christ Church University College where we gave our lectures and workshops which are an established part of the teaching programme.

Undergraduate teachers get to grips with the feely bags.

'A Sense of Place' was the theme for the Canterbury Diocese Church Schools' Day this year and schools from all parts of the county within the diocese were invited to Canterbury Cathedral to sample a range of themed workshops. Groups of Year 6 children (10–11 year olds) moved smoothly around the cathedral and its education centre. We held our sessions in St Gabriel's Chapel (an intimate setting) and we took the opportunity to present some of the Whitefriars discoveries, Whitefriars being a place which has

Church Schools' Day at St Gabriel's Chapel.

experienced many diverse changes throughout its history.

Sir Roger Manwood School at Sandwich asked the Trust to participate in a careers evening attended by local and national employers and a number of college and university departments. With so much Archaeology portrayed on television in recent years in a rather glamorous light, this was an opportunity to give perhaps a more balanced view of what it is to be an archaeologist. We took along some useful material including guidance from the Council for British Archaeology website.

Coming in …

Other events brought students into our Broad Street offices.

AS Level Archaeology students from Highsted School at Sittingbourne came to see some typical post-excavation activities to complement their course work. Dr Enid Allison's environmental work can tell us so much about diet, farming and so on in the past, so her base at Kingsmead was a 'must' on the route. The girls also had a taster of pottery studies, illustration and skills involved in unravelling stratigraphy.

We again hosted the UKC Medieval Monasticism week for Humanities undergraduates, which is always well received by the students. This is an opportunity for them to get some hands-on experience of studying the past by encountering osteoarchaeology, environmental archaeology, the study of ceramics and the archaeology of Canterbury's monastic houses.

There are always more requests for Work Experience places than we can deal with. This year we had students from schools in Tonbridge, Canterbury, Faversham, Ashford, Dartford and Westgate-on-Sea. Thank you to all members of staff who willingly share their time and expertise with the individual students, as we give them an insight into the daily work of an archaeological unit.

For more about The Big Dig and the Whitefriars excavations, visit **www.canterburytrust.co.uk**

PART FIVE

The Big Dig

Nicola Hughes

February 2002 saw the success of the Heritage Lottery fund application which meant that the third phase of the Big Dig, this time located in front of Gravel Walk, could take place. Sadly, this period also saw the departure of Helen Evans who had prepared the successful application entitled 'Archaeological Access to All' and who had managed the previous phases. Her position was filled by her deputy, Helen Parker. The Big Dig visitor attraction, complete with the newly refurbished Titan portakabin exhibition, plasma screen and a team of willing volunteers, re-opened to the public on Saturday 23 March and I arrived to run the shop and act as volunteer co-ordinator.

The initial visitor figures for the first week were disappointing probably because of bad weather, but the team of stewards and front desk volunteers bravely endured the conditions and visitor numbers soon picked up when the Easter Bank Holiday festivities began. Over the weekend there were Viking re-enactments and 'Time Warp' (Saxon spinners and weavers) encouraged visitors to take part in their demonstrations, so bringing some of the artefacts exhibited in the Big Dig to life. The broadcasting of the Time Team Special on 15 April meant visitor numbers rose to unprecedented levels.

Jo Hall assumed the post of project manager from Helen Parker in May. She added new events into the Big Dig diary to keep the visitor numbers rising during the summer period. An artefact identification day gave members of the public the opportunity to bring any artefacts and oddities that they may have found in their back gardens to The Big Dig for identification by members of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This was very popular with the public. Other events such as medieval re-enactments in the Dane John Gardens over the National Archaeology Days of 20 and 21 July drew more crowds. This programme of events ensured that The Big Dig continually got the attention of the local and national media. The city of Canterbury

The aerial walkway was a wonderful vantage point for visitors.



The display in the Dane John Gardens by the Medieval Siege Society and the installation of the Little Dig drew in the crowds.


Two of the events that attracted media attention. Actresses Shirley-Anne Field and Anne Charleston were keen to visit the site in time off from the Marlowe Theatre and staff members Talya Bagwell and Tim Allen donned period dress to bring medieval Gravel Walk alive.

and the surrounding area was bombarded with promotional leaflets, posters, information on special events and talks, banners in the street and medieval musicians handing out leaflets as they played.

There were regular articles in the Kentish Gazette and Adscene, though not always the result of a planned 'photo opportunity' or press release. The evacuation of the site due to a supposed Second World War bomb (actually a Victorian cooking pot!) was widely publicised.

Evening events of special talks by members of the Trust staff and tours by Paul Bennett proved to be very popular. Visitors were sometimes found banging on the exhibition door, desperate not miss the lectures and tours!

Renewed calls for Big Dig volunteers in the local newspapers saw the team extend to over 40 willing participants who were sometimes called upon at the last minute to work in the exhibition. These people coped incredibly well with large numbers of visitors and school children in all sorts of weather. They communicated wonderfully and acted as friendly faces to tell visitors about what they could see on the site before them. Some took part in the excavation at weekends, others helped with the pot-washing for the site. The volunteers played a vital role in the smooth running of The Big Dig and our grateful thanks are once again extended to them.

Jo Hall's initiative to install 'The Little Dig' was met with great enthusiasm by the public and children who took part. The idea, borrowed from the Museum of London's 'The Dig', was to create reconstruction trenches filled with sand, with mock-up archaeological features and actual artefacts. The participants had great fun excavating the trenches, learning about archaeological sequencing and handling real archaeological finds. Many of the archaeologists working on site were eager to have a go on 'The Little Dig' even though they had their own real archaeology to contend with.

This season of The Big Dig ended on a high note on 2 August. During the 19 weeks Big Dig was open, 26,111 visitors passed through the doors. One of the conditions of Heritage Lottery funding was that there should be at least limited free access to the public, so no admission charge was made on Wednesdays. It is interesting to note that 7,901 visits were made on Wednesdays, 1,390 of these on the last before closing.

The Big Dig was not only appreciated by the visitors; staff and volunteers generally agreed that, in spite of all the hard work, the experience was generally well worth the effort!

The author is currently completing her MA in Museum Studies at the University of Southampton and worked as deputy project manager on 'The Big Dig'.

PART SIX

The Friends

The Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Norman Smith

Outgoing chairman, Lawrence Lyle (left) receives a presentation from Norman Smith at the Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture.

I write this as a new Chairman – the third in the history of the Friends. After more than sixteen years in the post, Lawrence Lyle stepped down at Paul Bennett's annual Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture in January. The presentations made and the tributes paid on that and other occasions were inevitably an inadequate recognition of the unparalleled contribution he has made to our work. The year also saw other changes to the Committee. Tony Redding joined us as Publicity Officer, while long-standing member Laurence Fisher resigned. We thank him for his help over many years.

During the year our total payments to the Trust at £10,728 were only £1,000 less than the previous year's all-time high and were again only achieved at the expense of drawing on our general reserves. For each of the last three years, payments have exceeded our annual net income. This is a process which clearly cannot go on indefinitely and since the Trust's needs are unlikely to diminish, we must find means of raising our income. It is difficult to see how this can be done without increasing our membership, which continues to stagnate at just below 400 (384 at the time of writing). Thanks to Tony Redding we have already redesigned our application form, now with a supporting folder, and received improved press coverage. We intend to continue to raise our public profile in the hope that this will in due course help to increase our numbers.

We have made a number of small grants to send members of staff, including the finance staff, on conferences and courses, using the Donald Baron Fund bursaries where possible and appropriate. The main piece of capital equipment provided for the Trust was an x-ray facility, which (with associated training) alone absorbed approximately £6,000.

The year was less dominated by the Big Dig than its immediate predecessors, although Friends continued to assist as stewards during the period of active excavation. In November, we were rewarded by a Whitefriars Lecture given by Mark Houliston and Alison Hicks. This dedicated presentation enabled Paul Bennett to concentrate on other sites during his annual lecture two month's later. Other memorable lectures were given in the autumn by Carenza Lewis ('Ten Years of the Time Team') and Dr Peter Nicholls ('DNA in Archaeology').

In April, Ann Vine and Meriel Connor led a successful short break to Norwich and Meriel Connor's Festival walks were more popular than ever with new walks and new guides. In February, Paul Bennett led a small group on a 'mystery tour' by minibus and on foot to sites in the Wantsum Channel and the lower Stour valley, which was much enjoyed by those participating. More generally, I am pleased to report that our collaboration with the Canterbury Archaeological Society over excursions is now well established.

Thanks to José Rogers' organising ability and the work of our distributors who save hundreds of pounds in postage each year, three Newsletters and two Annual Reports have been distributed. To them, and to all the hard-working members of our Committee, I extend my grateful thanks.

FRIENDS of the CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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