

## INTERIM REPORT ON WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1993 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST\*

### EXCAVATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

#### *Canterbury Cathedral*

Canterbury Cathedral's nave and south-west transept have been the scene of a major project between 4th January and 29th April, 1993. Excavations, in advance of re-flooring and the insertion of a new heating system, were conducted on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, revealing a most remarkable sequence of structures.

Excavation was restricted largely to the removal of eighteenth century deposits, laid down after the removal of most of the burials before the laying of a new floor in 1786.

#### *Romano-British deposits*

Only limited traces of Romano-British layers were recorded, but sufficient to indicate a 3.50 m. wide pebbled street running north-east/south-west beneath the cathedral. Fronting onto the street were timber-framed buildings and a masonry structure, as yet undated.

#### *Anglo-Saxon Cathedral*

By far the most important find was the remains of the Anglo-Saxon cathedral, just 0.20 m. below the 1786 floor. The remains may be divided into four main phases. The earliest, Phase I, is represented by narrow wall foundations at the east end of the nave. These foundations cut into post-Roman 'dark earth' deposits which sealed the Romano-British levels. They may well be part of the original church of St. Augustine constructed soon after his arrival in A.D. 597, which comprised a nave with possible *narthex* to the west and *porticus* to the north and south. The foundations were of re-used Roman stone with mortared stone and Roman bricks above. The plan and scale of the

building are similar to the early church of St. Peter and St. Paul at St. Augustine's Abbey (Fig. 1).

Phase II consisted of a partly subterranean masonry structure with a tile floor 1.20 m. below contemporary ground surface and walls rendered in *opus signinum*.

During the ninth or tenth century the early church was demolished and a larger structure (49 m. × 23 m.) was built with a squared end (Phase III). This building had substantial aisle foundations. The location of a central square tower was indicated by two cross walls and a 3 m. wide foundation on the south side.

Phase V saw the demolition of the squared western end and its replacement with a major west-work (the Oratory of St. Mary). A substantial part of this west-work was uncovered in the excavations, in the form of a deep polygonal apse with flanking hexagonal stair-towers (Plate I). At the same time the arcade walls were strengthened and towers added to the eastern corners – one of which was located in the south-west transept. Parallels for Phase V are to be found in the Ottonian Romanesque churches of the tenth and eleventh centuries in France, Germany and Switzerland.

The excavated remains of Phase V measured 58.50 m. × 30 m. However, the cathedral was 'bi-polar' having both eastern and western apses. It may, therefore, be postulated that to the east of the excavated area was a large ring crypt, possibly housing the remains of St. Dunstan. The original church may have been around 75 m. in length, bringing the east end close to fragments of pre-Lanfranc and Angevin masonry found below the crypt floor in 1895. Undoubtedly, the cathedral in the early years of the eleventh century would have ranked among the largest in northern Europe.

### *Archbishop Lanfranc's Norman Cathedral*

From 1071–77 the re-building of the cathedral was under way. We now have a good ground plan of most of the Norman cathedral's foundations and details of the stone floor – the bedding mortar of which preserved the impressions of each slab. The floor, of Marquise limestone, survived until 1786 when it was removed and a Portland floor laid. Some small traces of the original Norman floor paving remain intact, sealed below later pier bases. Scars of the Norman cruciform pier bases also survive below the overlying, but more slender, pier bases of the later fourteenth century cathedral. In the south-west transept was found a substantial masonry foundation for the central pier, which supported a tribune bridge and organ loft. The foundations for a central flight of steps, running north below the *pulpitum*, were found. The steps saw repairs, probably during the

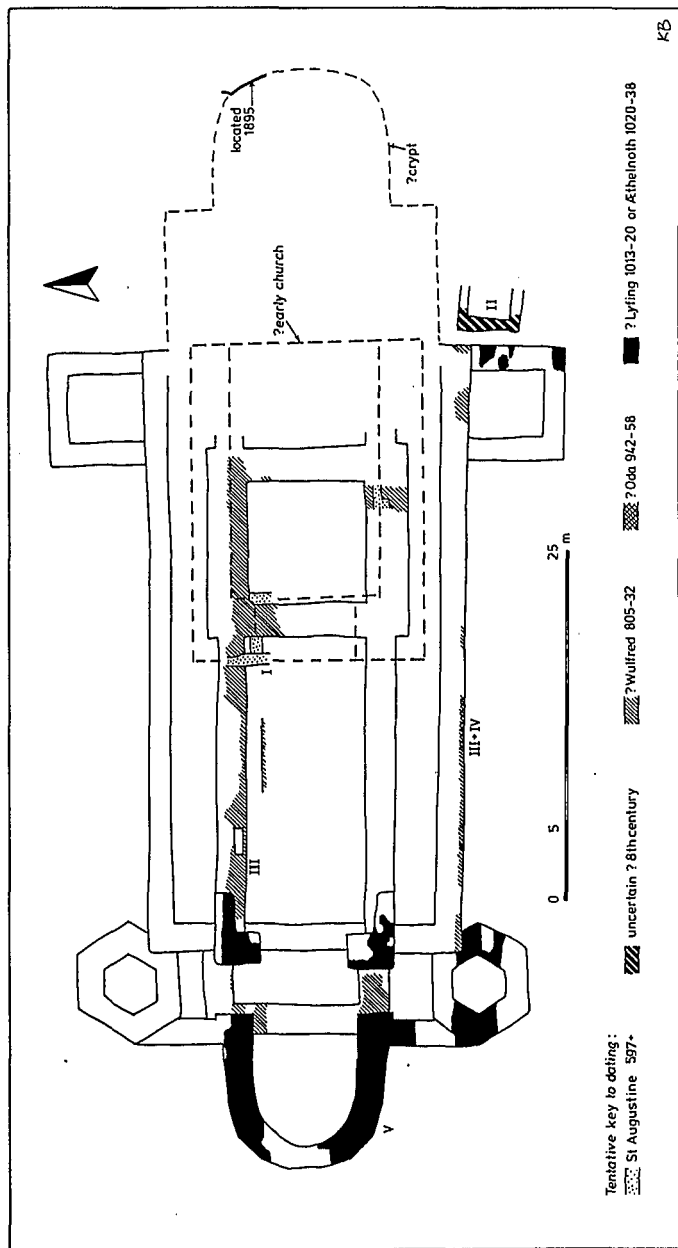


Fig. 1. Interim plan showing the postulated development of the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral.



Canterbury Cathedral. South-west stair turret of the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral. Looking west. Scale: 2 m.



Canterbury Cathedral; Western Apse of the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral. Looking north.  
Scale: 2 m.

twelfth century, and went out of use in the fifteenth century, when they were backfilled and a tunnel created through to the Martyrdom transept.

### *The later Cathedral*

New information on the fourteenth–fifteenth century fabric includes the location of the floor of the Lady Chapel at the east end of the present north aisle, and its doorway to the cloisters. Several medieval burials were also located. None was intact since all were removed in 1786, before laying the new floor.

Numerous brick vaults and three lead coffins were found, which had been left intact during the extensive work of 1786.

### 2. 2 St. John's Lane, Canterbury (Fig. 2)

During the first two weeks of June 1992 evaluation work was undertaken in the car park of 2 St. John's Lane, Canterbury (The Job

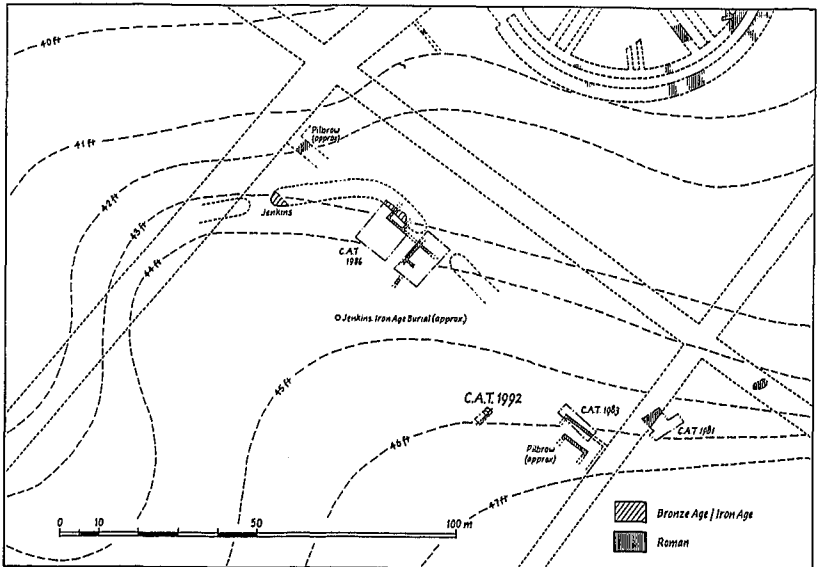


Fig. 2. Contoured location plan showing pre-historic and Roman discoveries in the St. John's Lane area.

Centre) in advance of a proposed extension. The excavation provided evidence of occupation from a number of distinct periods; the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, the Roman, and the Early Medieval. The most important was the soil horizon of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, which has supported speculation that a settlement of that period existed in the area.

The indications were that medieval pits and the uppermost Roman deposits lay, truncated, beneath a thick sequence of horizontal, dark brown loam deposits. It seems likely that the truncation horizon was created by agricultural activity associated with the formation of the first of these soils; and that layers of loam started to form some time after the first quarter of the thirteenth century. A later date is perhaps suggested by documentary records, which indicate that in 1349 the parish of St. John the Poor was incorporated into that of St. Mary de Castro, possibly as a result of the depopulation of the area in the aftermath of the Black Death.

No evidence was obtained from the evaluation to suggest the site was reoccupied before the present century. A brief examination of the available cartographic evidence supports the supposition.

### 3. Diocesan House, Canterbury

Two excavations at 'Diocesan House', 26 Broad Street, were carried out between April and October 1992, in advance of deep new foundations for an office block extension.

An evaluation trench, cut in the north-west corner of the area, uncovered a sequence of deposits of unexpected quality and depth, particularly for a site outside the city wall. It became apparent that a larger scale excavation of the entire area was necessary and a full excavation commenced between August and October. Preliminary analysis of the excavation records indicates five phases of deposits, beginning in the Late Iron Age and continuing through to the present, with every major period represented. This was all packed into a small L-shaped trench, about 25 m. in length and 5 m. wide. Most of the original area had been destroyed by Victorian basements.

#### *Phase 1: Late Iron Age–Roman*

The sequence began with a loam layer, broadly dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period, which may have been agricultural soil. A similar deposit, found 100 m. to the south at nos. 7 and 8 Church Street, indicates that a large portion of this area, immediately east of the city, may have been farm land during the late Iron Age or early Roman period.

#### *Phase 2: Later Roman*

Post-dating the agricultural phase were seven third-century burials, two of these cutting a boundary ditch, showing a change of land use sometime in the early Roman period.

Further up in the sequence a redeposited cremation urn was found, suggesting that the cemetery perhaps started sometime before the third century, before inhumation burial became the fashion.

The north-western corner of the site continued to be used as a cemetery, criss-crossed with metallated paths, apparently in and out of use over short periods of time. One of the burials found, of a teenager had three bronze bracelets on her right wrist. Her left wrist was missing, but where it had lain across her pelvic girdle were two bronze bracelets, and one of shale (Fig. 3). Where her left hand would have been was a fine silver ring, set with a cornelian stone with an intaglio figure of a hound. All the jewellery was characteristic of the third to fourth century A.D.

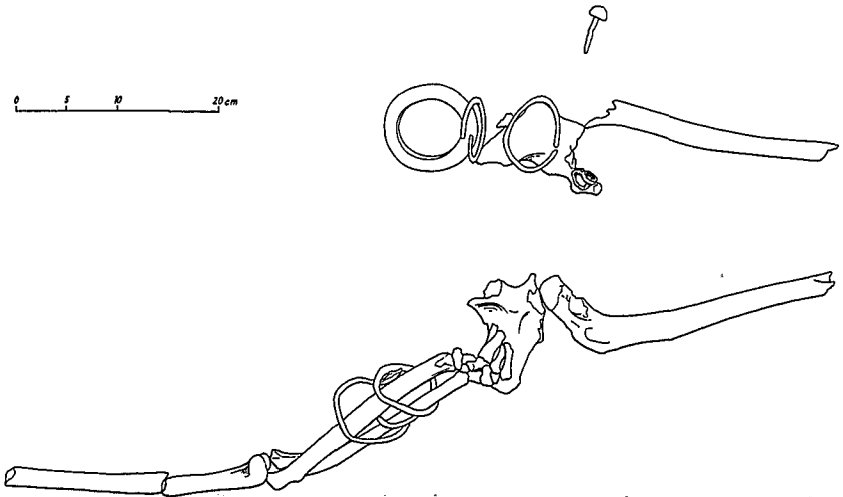


Fig. 3. Plan of the excavated burial showing the location of grave goods.

#### *Phase 3: Late Roman–Early Saxon*

Most of the area, including the cemetery, was then covered by a 'dark earth' layer of soil, found as an extensive deposit in many British towns of the period. Found within this soil was an assemblage of decorated pottery, including a boss-decorated vessel and fragments of Kentish chevron-decorated pottery. Both of these are characteristic decoration types of early Jutish vessels of the late fifth or early sixth century A.D. The assemblage is exceptionally fine for an extra-mural site, only equalled by groups from city centre sites at Stour Street and Marlowe Car Park. This may suggest a high status residence near by.

#### *Phase 4: Medieval, Monastic*

At the end of the Saxon period the area was again covered with a horticultural soil. Essentially, this area appears subsequently to have been used for rubbish disposal by the nearby Almonry and adjacent dwellings. Found within these pits was an extensive and interesting assemblage of medieval ceramics, which should help illuminate the socio-economics of the Almonry and the residences bordering onto it. Of particular note was a rare example of a decorated stove tile of German provenance.



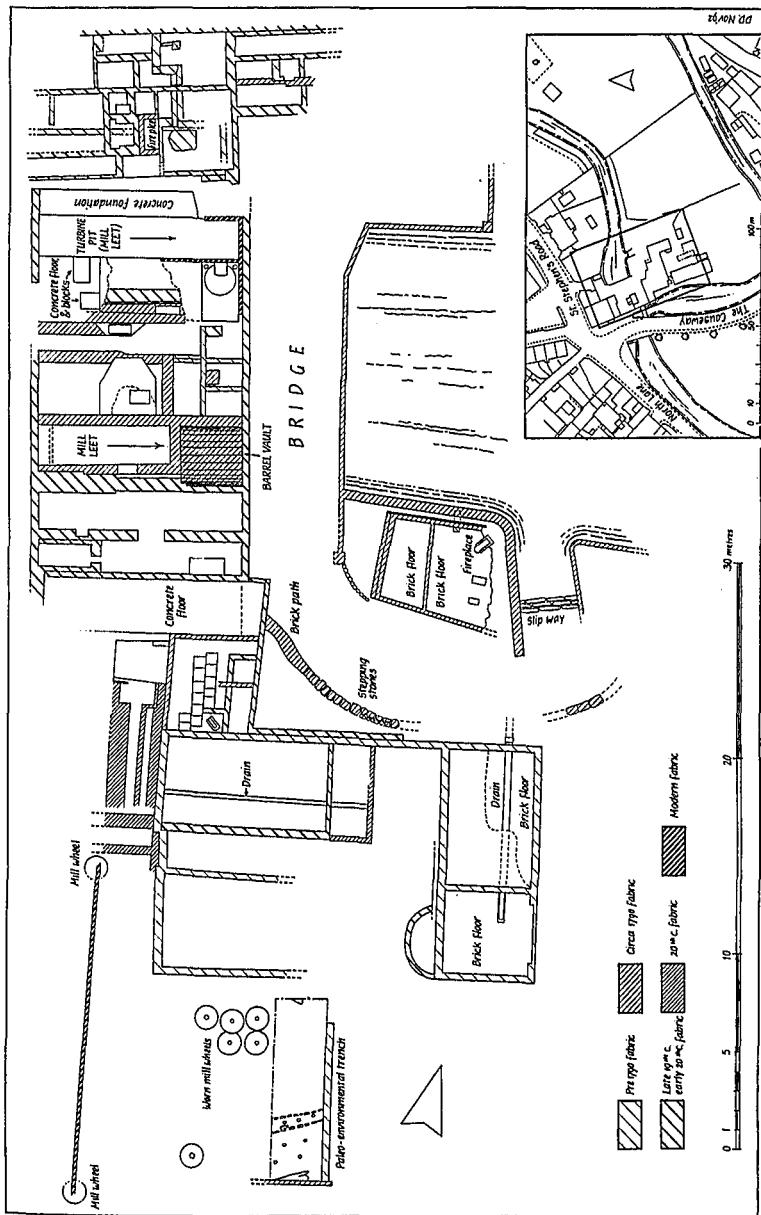


Fig. 4. Location plan and tentative phase plan of excavated foundations at Dean's Mill.

*Phase 5: Post-Dissolution*

Between the mid fifteenth and mid seventeenth centuries several cottages were built on the street frontage against the corner of Lady Wotton's Green. These dwellings can still be seen in a photograph taken during the 1920s. Cellars were constructed in the Victorian period and, as mentioned above, these removed most of the archaeological deposits fronting onto Broad Street. The cottages appear to have been destroyed during World War II, leaving only rubble in-filled cellars, which were later landscaped over.

## 4. Dean's Mill, The Causeway (Fig. 4)

*The Survey*

Documentary evidence shows that a mill was erected on the banks of the Stour at the Causeway from the twelfth century onwards, and an archaeological survey, conducted by the Trust in August and September 1992 prior to redevelopment, was expected to provide reliable evidence concerning its evolution from medieval times to the twentieth century. However, as no large-scale excavations were included within the schedule of archaeological works, it was clear that this evidence would necessarily be limited.

The main component of the archaeological earthworks comprised the non-destructive stripping of modern levelling and debris deposits that covered the site. This work exposed an extensive range of brick foundations and gravel and brick courtyards probably representing the full extent of the mill complex in its final phase. Further investigation revealed that several earlier phases of construction were either incorporated within or covered by this latest phase. Consequently, a detailed brick and mortar survey was undertaken in order to identify these phases. The remaining upstanding structures situated around and over the two mill leats in the north-west part of the site were included within this survey.

From this work the documentary evidence for an early medieval mill on the Dean's Mill site was supplemented by archaeological evidence wherever stratified deposits were exposed. The site strip indicated that these deposits survived intact at least between the two mill leats and in the area to the north.

Wall foundations constructed of brick and mortar of Tudor and Jacobean type were exposed in most areas occupied by the later mill and also further to the south. This corroborated evidence provided by the 1752 Doidge map of Canterbury, but suggested that the buildings shown may already have been old when the map was published.

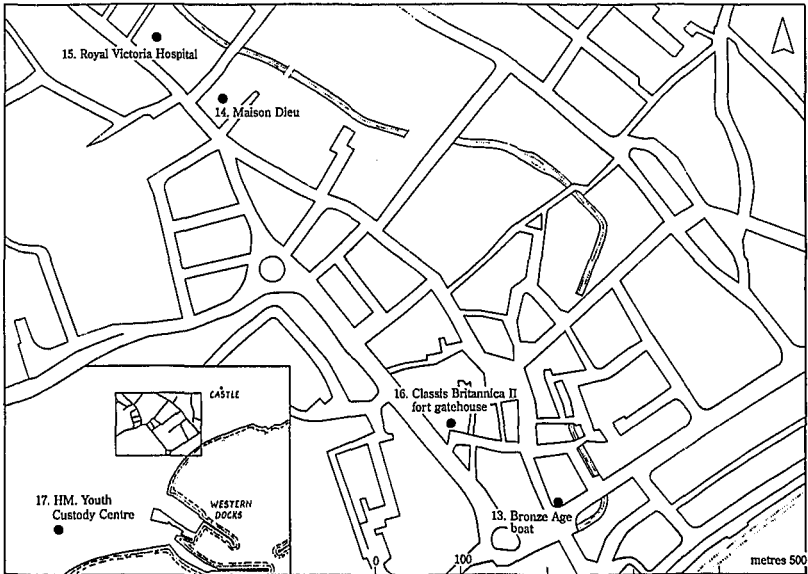


Fig. 5. Plan locating Dover sites discussed in this section of the report.

A deep trench cut on the south of the site for the purposes of palaeo-environmental study exposed a complete and undisturbed stratigraphic sequence. This sequence proved to be of great archaeological as well as palaeo-environmental interest as it extended from the Roman to the late medieval periods and contained large quantities of ceramic and other materials.

Well-preserved timber structures were also exposed. These proved to be of medieval and Roman date. The Roman structures almost certainly represented the Roman river frontage. These comprise the only positive evidence locating the course of the Great Stour in Roman times; a most important discovery. The many fluvial and man-made deposits within this trench also provided important information about the changes in the flow and course of the river. These deposits were rich in both micro- and macro-organic remains. These are undergoing detailed analysis.

##### 5. The A20/Dover Sewers Project (Fig. 5)

Work on the A20 at Dover, funded by English Heritage, continued throughout 1992–93 and many new discoveries have been made. The

bulk of the operations in the last 12 months have been concentrated around Bench Street and Townwall Street.

### *The Medieval Town Wall*

Significant traces of Dover's lost medieval town wall have been exposed in contractor's excavations between the River Dour and York Street round-about. Traces of the Boldware Gate and Butchery Gate were also discovered (see below). In places, the 2 to 3-m. thick curtain wall survived just below pavement level and still stood to a height of almost 5 m.

The southern (seaward) face of the wall was constructed from large, neatly-shaped greensand blocks. The lower facing stones were water worn, demonstrating that the sea once washed the foot of the curtain. It seems probable that the wall was constructed on the original medieval fore-shore, below the high water mark.

Details of the wall's foundation were recorded east of the Boldware Gate. The southern side of the wall stood upon a line of timber beams supported by closely spaced timber piles. Under the core of the wall there was a shallow mortared foundation of large chalk and flint lumps but no timber-work (Plate III).

Evidence for at least three breaches of the curtain wall by the sea were recorded. At the Boldware Gate the entrance passage had been greatly enlarged by wave attack. Immediately to the east was a second breach in the wall and another was recorded some 50 m. west of the Boldware Gate.

Despite the later damage, it is clear that the construction of Dover's medieval defences was a major undertaking, with large quantities of stone being imported from neighbouring Folkestone.

### *The Boldware Gate*

The remains of the Boldware Gate were discovered at the southern end of Bench Street. No contemporary illustrations survive and its form was unknown before work began. The surviving remains were fairly meagre, and it was clear that the major part of the structure had been destroyed by the sea, the ruined site subsequently being buried under the Elizabethan Customs House and Three Gun Battery. (Significant traces of these sixteenth-century structures were also recorded).

The gateway seems to have originally consisted of a square or rectangular tower, projecting northwards (i.e. inland) from the main curtain and pierced by a single entrance passage. Part of the western side of the gate-tower remained, although the masonry had collapsed and when discovered it was leaning at an angle of about 30° from the

vertical. On the eastern side of the fallen fragment, cut into a column of large, squared ragstone blocks was a well defined vertical slot, clearly for a portcullis. A shingle-filled breach in the main curtain wall, running for some 5 m. from the remaining western side of the gate tower must include the site of the main entrance passage and eastern side of the gate-tower, all traces of which had gone. It is clear that extensive marine erosion had taken place before the construction of the sixteenth-century gun battery.

Beach shingle abutted the town wall on the seaward side and this contained frequent lumps of fallen masonry derived from the curtain and gate-tower. It seems clear that the Boldware Gate was a water-gate giving access from the town to the harbour. This implies that the water-front lay immediately outside the gate. In this context a series of substantial timbers found just in front of the main curtain may be significant.

### *The Butchery Gate*

This substantial tower once spanned the River Dour and remained largely intact until the early nineteenth century. With the removal in 1992 of the 1960s concrete road bridge, preparatory to the laying of a new branch sewer across the river and the complete reconstruction of the bridge, traces of the gate-tower and the adjacent curtain wall were unexpectedly revealed. In the river bed, under a thin layer of modern river gravel, the eastern edge of the original Medieval 'Hole' through the town wall was recorded.

### *The Roman Harbour Wall*

In a deep contractor's excavation at the junction of Bench Street and Townwall Street a short section of a large timber structure was exposed. This apparently formed part of a massive timber box framed harbour wall of typical Roman construction (Plate III). Two horizontal side timbers aligned roughly east-west formed the southern wall of the structure and horizontal cross-beams braced it laterally. The timbers were set within a construction trench 0.77 m. deep, but the upper parts of the structure had been subsequently removed, presumably by marine erosion. The surviving top of the timbers was at +0.559 m. O.D.

The structure is of a very similar build to a more extensive harbour wall discovered in 1855-56, off Dolphin Lane. The new discovery lay on roughly the same axis, but was located about 180 m. to the south-west of the previous find, on the other side of the present river. It clearly represents a completely separate and otherwise unknown harbour structure and greatly modifies our view of the extent of the Roman harbour works at Dover.



Dover, Bench Street, Roman Quay timbers. Looking north-east.

#### 6. The Discovery of the Bronze Age Boat

In September 1992, more timbers were revealed at a lower level in the same contractor's pit which contained the Roman harbour wall. The timbers lay some 6 m. from ground level, just below Ordnance Datum and a rapid inspection indicated that they formed part of a boat preserved within the water-logged deposits. The use of twisted withies within the construction, and the associated tufa and peats, suggested that the vessel was prehistoric. It was soon obvious that the lower portion of the boat was largely intact (Plate IV).

Initial investigations revealed that the timbers extended for some 6 m. across the full width of the pit, and it became clear that they represented the substantially complete mid-section of a very well preserved prehistoric plank-sewn boat, a find of international significance.

Since the boat would have to be removed to allow the contractors to excavate even deeper to complete their work, a period of six days to fully excavate, record and salvage the remains was arranged with the road engineers through the Department of Transport. Work on the boat continued for 13 hours each day. It was decided that the safest way to



Dover Bronze Age boat. Detail of yew rope binding.

lift the craft was to cut it into manageable sections, thereby safeguarding key structural features. Working in conjunction with English Heritage conservators, the boat was carefully cut into 10 lettered portions, each being manoeuvred onto a pallet and then removed from the excavation using a crane and lorry kindly supplied by Dover Harbour Board. The timbers were then placed in a large water tank previously prepared by the Harbour Board in one of its store buildings on the quay-side only a short distance away.

From its construction, the craft must have been the product of a master boat-builder working within a long established tradition. The two oak base planks were held together by transverse timbers passing through a pair of central longitudinal rails carved from the main base timbers. The side planks were held in place by individual stitches of twisted yew wood with moss caulking between the joints (Plate V).

It was clear that further substantial sections of the vessel must lie to the north and south of the mid-section first lifted. Although these sections were beyond the limits of the contractor's excavations, there were fears that the local water-table would be reduced by the pedestrian under-pass and its associated water pumping chamber which was being



Dover Bronze Age boat. View of the southern end of the boat. Looking north east.  
Scale: 2 m.



constructed. Therefore, there seemed no certainty that, if the remaining parts of the vessel were left *in situ* for future generations to excavate and study with improved techniques, the sediments would remain sufficiently waterlogged to allow the continued preservation of the boat timbers. Consequently, it was decided to attempt to recover more of the boat.

The close proximity of tall Victorian buildings to the north precluded excavation here, but a second coffer dam immediately to the south of the first was inserted and a further eight days allowed for the excavation of the southern section of the vessel.

Another 3.50 m. of the craft, including the remains of an original end – whether this represents the bow or stern is not yet clear – was exposed. The same procedure as for the first part of the boat was agreed for the lifting of the second section. A total of 9.50 m. has now been raised in all, which perhaps amounts to about one-half to two-thirds of the overall length. There seems little doubt that the craft represents a sea-going vessel, which presumably made regular trips across the Dover Straits. When conserved, it is hoped that the boat will be placed on permanent display at the new Dover Museum.

Initial C<sup>14</sup> dates indicate that the boat is of Bronze Age date. Preliminary examination suggests that the boat was old and deliberately abandoned. It appears to have been left in, or adjacent to, a freshwater channel eroded into a compact peat deposit. No evidence for brackish or saline water organisms has so far been found either in the mollusc or pollen assemblages, despite the proximity to the present coast. This suggests considerable palaeogeographic change since the boat was buried.

In addition to a significant amount of struck flints and pot-boilers, a rich assortment of palaeo-environmental data has been recovered from the boat and immediately adjacent contexts. Significant quantities of animal bone were found both in and around the boat. From the material studied so far the animal bones appear to come largely from domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*).

The boat now rests in water-filled holding tanks, awaiting detailed recording and study next year. Ultimately, we hope to conserve the boat, probably by freeze-drying, and place it on display to the public. The process of conservation may take some years to complete, but we hope that one day the general public will be able to share the sight of this remarkable find, possibly in Dover Museum (Fig. 6).

## 7. Watching Briefs at the Maison Dieu, Ladywell, Dover

Dover Town Hall at Ladywell is a substantial stone-built structure consisting of thirteenth–fourteenth century medieval fabric and nineteenth-century Gothic work.

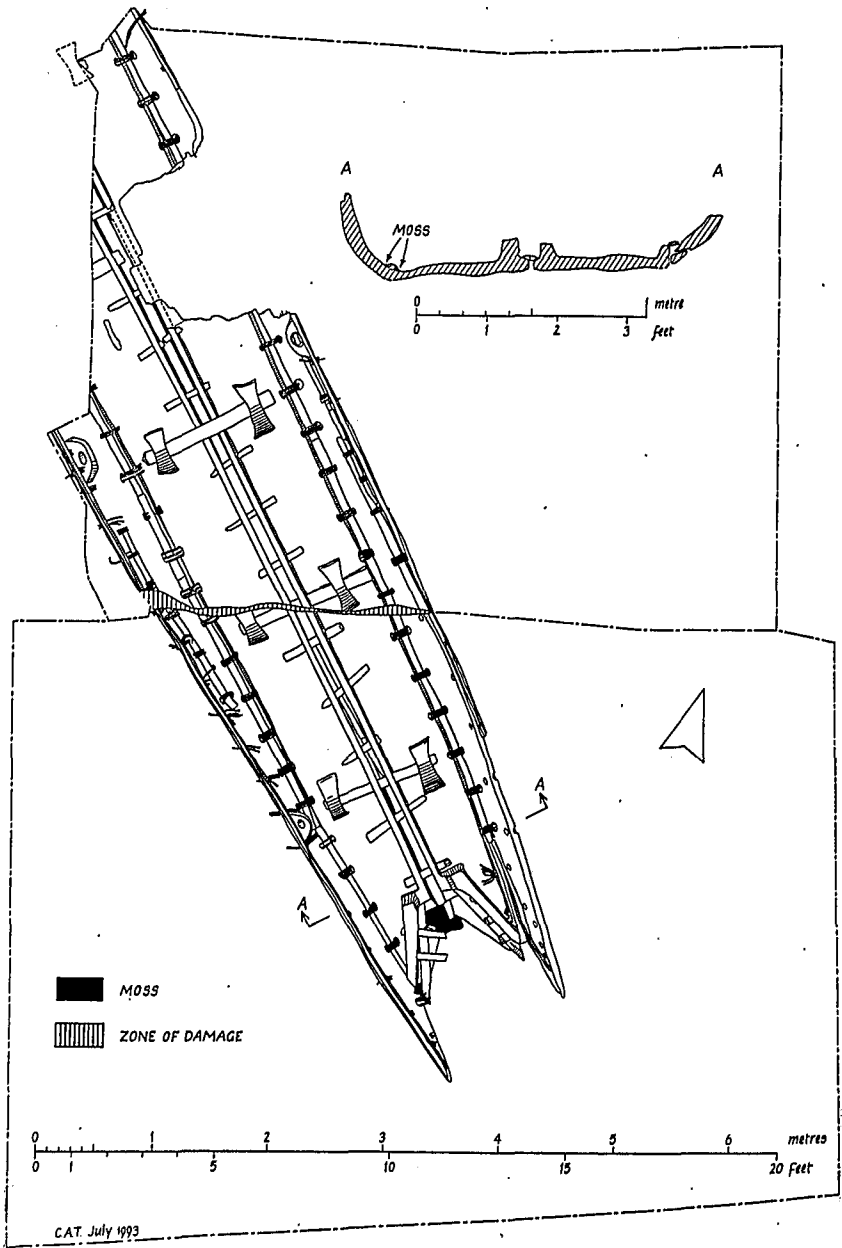


Fig. 6. Plan and section of the Dover Bronze Age boat.

From 1203 to 1544, a hospital for travellers and pilgrims existed on the site, which then passed into Royal hands. It eventually became a Royal Navy Depot until 1830. During that time a splendid brick house, Maison Dieu House, was constructed south of the main hospital complex and now houses the town Library.

In the 1830s a stone prison building was constructed across the northern part of the original hospital complex, adjoining the main medieval hall. The prison remain in use until 1877 and, in 1881, its buildings were demolished to be replaced by a new concert hall and meeting place in the form of the Connaught Hall. This still serves as Dover's Town Hall.

The Connaught Hall was built at first-floor level, supported on a network of solid brick piers. After the last war, the space under the hall was converted into the town's museum, only recently relocated to its original site in the Market Square.

### *The Old Museum Site*

In August 1992, contractors began the excavation of a large rectangular pit in the floor of the old museum for the insertion of a lift. This provided a rare opportunity for archaeological investigation, and it is most unfortunate that time was not allowed for more than the briefest record of the exposed remains to be made.

The excavation revealed the massive footings of the present Connaught Hall and a contemporary disused cellar with a vaulted roof. Much of the soil excavated consisted of nineteenth-century disturbed deposits and an extensive demolition layer containing large amounts of fragmentary medieval building stone and crushed mortar. This demolition layer was cut by the Connaught Hall foundations and appeared to be lying within a large negative feature, probably an early nineteenth-century robber pit, which was not clearly defined.

An area of intact stratification was revealed in the south face of the shaft and this included a section of a stone-built medieval wall running north-south, which had been largely cut away by the robber pit. The wall was made of mortared flint with occasional chalk lumps in the core.

On the northern side, in the base of the robber pit, another medieval wall was located. This was of different construction and aligned east-west. It was 0.58 m. wide, built of large, roughly squared greensand blocks set in mortar and was traced for a distance of 1.60 m.

The two medieval walls clearly formed parts of a larger structure. A map of the naval victualling office, drawn in February 1677, shows a series of buildings in this area. At least some, if not all, of these must be of medieval origin. Positioning the recorded walls on this map, it

seems possible that they formed part of what was then either the 'Pump yard' or the 'Coale House'.

From the limited recording undertaken, it is clear that some significant medieval and post-medieval remains still survive below the floors of Dover's Town Hall.

#### *Maison Dieu House (The Library)*

During October and November 1992, a cable trench was dug westwards from the front door of Maison Dieu House, to the north-eastern pavement of Biggin Street. Three ancient walls were exposed under the Biggin Street pavement. From the mortar used in two of these walls, it seems fairly certain that they were of medieval date (one also contained fragments of slate and peg-tile).

Within Maison Dieu House, itself, examination of a small test pit dug in the cellar ahead of a new lift being installed revealed natural river gravel below the laid brick flooring at + 4.51 m. O.D.

#### 8. Evaluation trenching at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover

In connection with the re-development of the Royal Victoria Hospital site on the north-east side of London Road, Dover, two evaluation trenches were cut in the metalled yard to the rear of the existing hospital buildings in December, 1992. The site lies well outside the historic town centre and is situated on land which slopes gently down to the River Dour at an elevation of between 9.00 m. and 6.50 m. above O.D.

The stratification recorded in each trench was different with the oldest deposits appearing to lie towards the valley edge and the youngest close to the modern channel of the Dour. Significant early Roman, medieval and post-medieval layers were revealed, together with a deposit of natural tufa of great geological interest.

The initial work on this site has demonstrated the presence of some significant geological and archaeological deposits at a depth of between 1.00 m. and 2.50 m. Least expected were the dumps of early Roman domestic rubbish, clearly implying settlement nearby. The date of this material, c. A.D. 50-80, is particularly interesting when set against the known background of the Roman occupation of Dover. The main Roman (military) settlement, a little further down the valley, appears to have started during the first half of the second century A.D. and there is only limited evidence for earlier 'native' occupation in this area. Nevertheless, the discovery of a considerable number of early Roman cremation burials on the outskirts of the modern town, including a few containing Gallo-Belgic imports, strongly suggests that the main Dour

valley and its side valleys were occupied in the years immediately before and after the Roman conquest. This conclusion is now reinforced by the early Roman material recovered from the Victoria Hospital site, which provides fairly clear evidence for occupation, well beyond the area of the main Roman settlement, and probably at an earlier date.

The proximity of the present site to the supposed line of the main Roman road (here represented by London Road) running from Dover to Canterbury and London may perhaps be significant, although it seems likely this was not constructed before the main military base was established in the early second century.

The occurrence of later medieval deposits, including part of some sort of riverside revetment is also of interest. The proximity of the important Maison Dieu hospital complex (founded 1203) some 65 m. to the south-east must be significant, as it no doubt owned large tracts of the adjacent land.

#### 9. The Ash by-pass (A257) (Fig. 7)

For nearly three weeks at the end of March and the beginning of April 1992, an archaeological evaluation of the route of the new Ash by-pass was carried out. The work was implemented according to a specification supplied by the County Archaeologist, Dr John Williams.

The method, of which Trust staff have now had much experience on other projects, consisted of cutting a minimum 50 per cent linear sample of trenches along the centre line of the new road, and investigating any archaeological remains exposed. The trenches were excavated using a JCB type machine, using a toothless ditching bucket, which removed the topsoil down to either natural subsoils or the upper surface of archaeological deposits, if present. All unstratified artefacts were kept during this process, their approximate positions recorded and any archaeological features sample excavated and recorded. In addition, a borehole investigation of the palaeoenvironmental sequence of deposits at the eastern end of the route was undertaken by the Geoarchaeological Service Facility of the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London (GSF).

The route of the new by-pass, just over 5.5 km. long begins on the west at Green Man Farm, c. 1 km. west of Guilton (N.G.R. TR 270583), and follows the course of the present road for about 600 m. before diverging to the north to skirt the margins of Ash. The route passes immediately north of Molland Farm, just south of Chequer Court, then curves to the east, crossing Molland Lane and ascending to the higher ground north of Ash itself. Crossing Cop Street Road, it then curves to the south, rejoining the present Sandwich road south of Goss

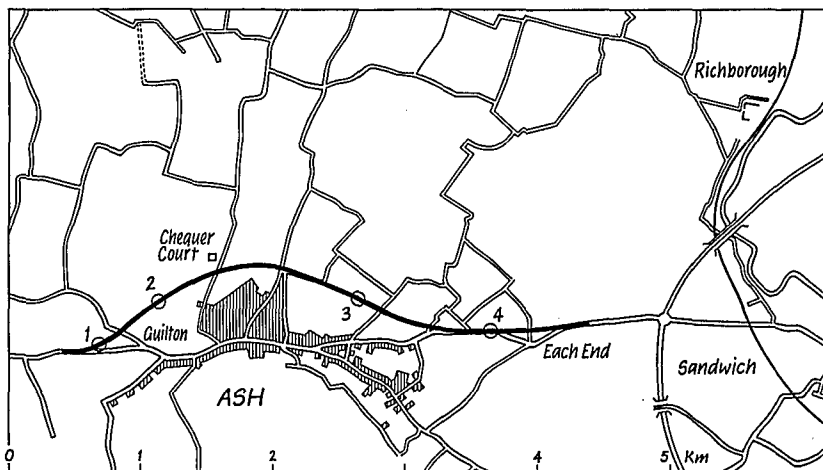


Fig. 7. Location plan for sites discovered on the line of the Ash by-pass.

Hall. The new road then follows the present alignment but slightly to the north, except for a 500 m. length which by-passes Each End on the north side, descending to the low-lying marshy ground to the east of Each End and finally terminating at the roundabout on the Sandwich by-pass.

In all 110 trenches were excavated, most 20 m. or more long, providing a total length of trench excavated of just over 2,300 m. or about 42 per cent of the route. In addition 24 boreholes were sunk by GSF, through deposits relating to the Wantsum Channel. Although the sedimentary sequence revealed by the borehole survey has not been studied in full at this stage and is at present undated, a number of conclusions can be made. The stratigraphic sequence contains information for a major marine transgression overlying terrestrial organic-rich sediments, in turn superimposed on older marine or fluvial sediments. The sediments contain abundant organic material that suggests that analysis could provide a detailed picture of palaeoenvironmental change. It is likely that the bulk of the later sediments date to the Middle to later Holocene. The earlier underlying marine sequence of sands, may just possibly be remnants of a Pleistocene 'warm stage', and as such could be of considerable importance to our knowledge of the Pleistocene history of east Kent.

Four main areas of ancient activity were located. Of these only one, at Each End represented an archaeological site on the line of the new

road. This site was subsequently excavated prior to road construction (see below).

However, two or three other possible settlement sites are almost certainly indicated from this work. These are either just off the route of the road, probably on adjacent higher ground, or are perhaps sites that have been totally ploughed out, or otherwise destroyed.

#### 10. Each End, Ash (Fig. 8)

As described above, trial trenching was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in advance of construction work for the Ash bypass. No archaeological remains had previously been identified within the impact area. Upon the discovery of a single cremation burial and a metalled surface within one of the trenches, suggesting the location of a site of archaeological significance, a broad area of topsoil was stripped in order to determine its full extent. The site subsequently revealed contained much of interest including the line of a Roman road, two cremation groups and a complex sequence of linear features. Excavation was, therefore, undertaken between April and July 1992 to investigate that part of the site which lay within the path of the road scheme.

The occupation uncovered upon the site was principally of Roman date. However, towards the east of the area a sequence of gullies was excavated from which only daub and worked flints were found, suggesting a prehistoric date. In addition, 31 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered, although most were residual within Roman features. Also residual within later features were a flint axe and a barbed and tanged arrowhead. Towards the west lay a broad, linear ditch-like feature, up to 1.70 m. in depth and of a length not bounded by the excavation area. It was cut by a number of gullies of certain Roman date and yielded a single Iron Age pottery sherd. Curiously, the ditch was filled with a succession of apparently waterlain silts, perhaps indicating that it had been cut for drainage and gradually became backfilled as material slowly trickled into the sides.

Roman occupation was extensive across the entire excavation area. The most prominent feature was a road and its associated drainage ditches. Constructed from a broad band of compacted metalling, it was aligned in a roughly north-east-south-west direction. Running parallel to the north and south was a succession of ditches, cut to assist with drainage from the road surface. These had undergone numerous phases of silting up and re-cutting suggesting that for a time the road was well maintained. This was also confirmed by a number of metalling patches. Although of substantial width, the depth of metalling was insufficient for this to have been a major Roman road and could not have supported

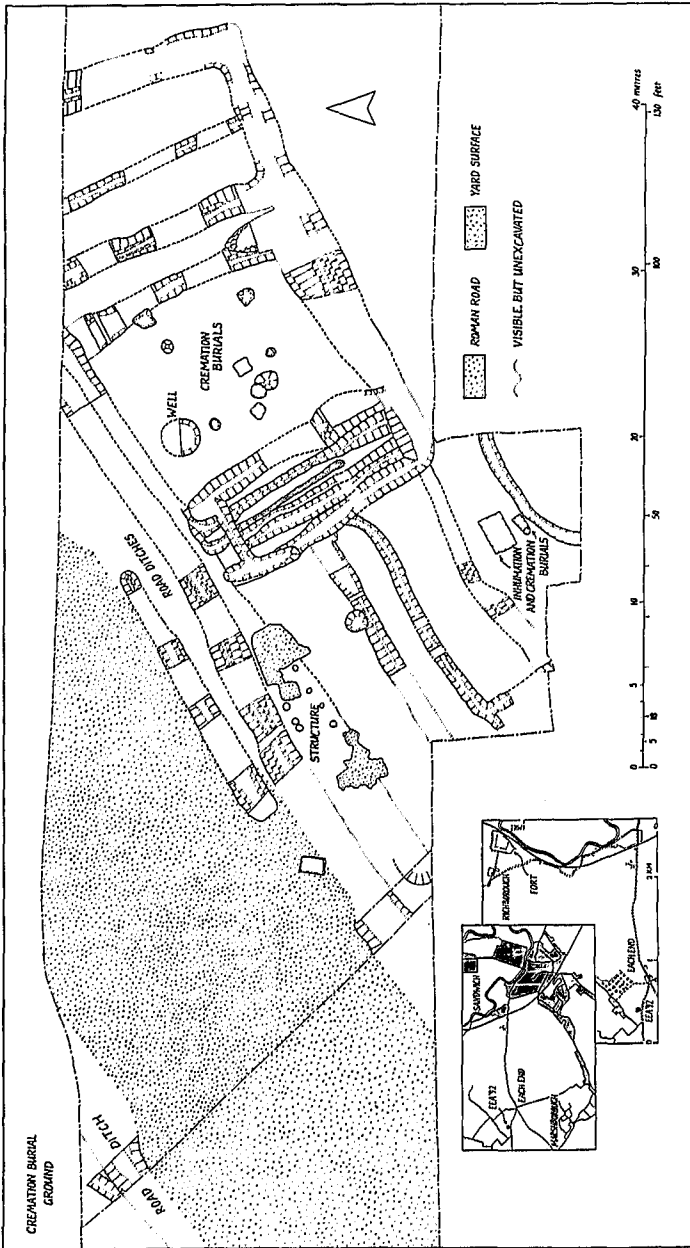


Fig. 8. Location plans and general plan of excavated remains at Each End, Ash.



any volume of traffic. Heading directly towards Richborough Castle, located on the opposite side of the Wantsum Channel, it may have provided a link with the Roman fort perhaps via a ferry crossing. However, this link would have taken the form of a local trackway, probably connecting small villages or farmsteads. Towards the south-west the road may have met the junction of the Canterbury and Dover roads running off to the west and south, respectively.

Lying on either side of the road were two groups of cremation burials. Those to the north, the smaller group, were heavily truncated but those to the south were mainly intact. In all, 15 cremation burials were excavated, yielding a total of 49 pottery vessels, including one lamp. One cremation had no ceramic remains, but instead appeared to have been placed in a bag and then into a wooden casket. Though bag and wood had decayed, the corroded iron nails of the casket remained in place surrounding a central mass of cremated bone. With one exception, all the cinerary urns exhibited characteristics of a type known at Canterbury as 'Native Coarse Ware', generally dated mid-second to third century A.D., with an emphasis on the late second to mid-third. Numerous samian vessels were contained within the burials, mostly dating to the mid- to late second century. Also present were Rhenish rough-cast colour-coated cornice-rimmed beakers of similar date and cupped ring-necked sandy ware flagons, probably made at Canterbury and generally dated mid-second to early third century.

In addition to the pottery vessels, a single glass beaker and a number of metal objects were recovered as grave goods from the cremation burials. Some of the burials had the remains of hobnails lying at the base of the grave suggesting that the occupants were buried with their boots. Analysis of the cremated remains has determined that all the burials were of adults. Curiously, burnt pig and bird bones were recovered from amongst the remains, suggesting animals were placed on the funeral pyre, whilst the skeletal remains of a small rodent were also recovered from one of the cremation urns, the mammal probably using the vessel as a nest.

A single inhumation burial was also excavated, though largely decayed and only consisting of fragments of the skull and long-bones. The body had been laid within a wooden coffin, also decayed but with the staining of wood still visible, set within a deep, narrow shaft in turn cut into a massive, outer rectangular cut, 2.90 m. by 1.50 m. in plan and 2 m. in depth. The body was that of a woman, aged between 35-45, possibly of high status to judge by the size and nature of the grave.

Associated with the road and burials was evidence of a small Roman settlement, probably a farmstead. In addition to a hearth, three wells and numerous rubbish pits, evidence of a small timber structure was revealed, surrounded by a cobbled yard surface. This small building

had been positioned above the line of the primary road ditch which appears to have been deliberately re-aligned slightly to the north to allow this structure to be inserted.

Initial assessment of the pottery retrieved suggests a predominantly later second- to third-century date for the settlement. Only a tiny proportion of the ceramic assemblage was of late first- to early second-century date, principally of a few sherds of samian and fine grey Upchurch type ware.

Apart from the pottery, finds recovered during the excavation were few in number. The majority of the copper alloy, lead and iron objects were simple domestic pieces including buckles, brooches and the ubiquitous nails and fragments of strips and sheets. Of particular interest was a copper alloy cheek piece from a horse harness, inlaid with enamel.

Much of the occupation activity was concentrated towards the south-west corner of the site and could be seen to extend beyond the boundary of the excavation area, suggesting perhaps that only the corner of the settlement was clipped and the remainder lies further up the hill slope, upon drier land, to the south-west. Evidence of late or post Roman occupation was slight. Small quantities only of distinctively fourth-century pottery were recovered. That some sort of local activity persisted into the second half of the fourth century was suggested, however, by the presence of a few sherds of late Roman shelly ware, mainly from a gully fill. An extensive deposit of dark loam overlying the line of the road metalling, indicating a build up of earth following the period when the road ceased to be maintained, yielded numerous coin dated to the fourth century A.D. Thus, it is probable that the line of the road, although not the actual road metalling itself, continued in use as a trackway throughout a part of the fourth century and possibly beyond, but the settlement itself was probably abandoned well before the early fifth century.

Post-Roman occupation was represented solely by a few fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered from the topsoil.

## 11. Maidstone Barracks (Fig. 9)

During the first two weeks of December 1992, an excavation was conducted in the southern corner of Maidstone Barracks close to the site of a known Roman villa. This work followed an archaeological evaluation of the area undertaken by the Trust during January 1992 (CAT 1992) as part of an assessment of potential sites along the proposed Maidstone Spine Road commissioned by the County Archaeologist. The evaluation revealed intact Roman deposits in the south-western corner of the barracks, close to areas containing known

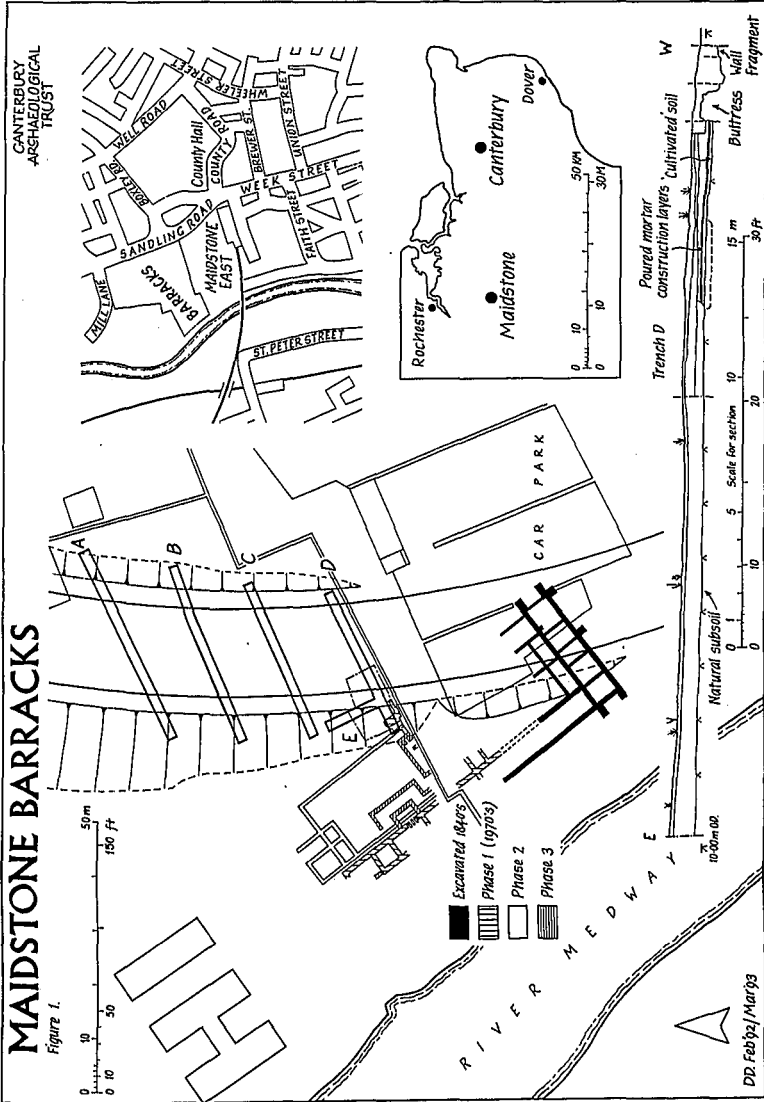


Fig. 9. Location plan, section and reconstructed plan of the Maidstone Roman Villa, showing the line of proposed road works and the position of evaluation trenches.

villa remains. The objectives of the excavation were to determine the full extent of these deposits and to excavate fully the areas in which they lay. Only masonry walls of a substantial nature were to remain *in situ*, if only when it could be demonstrated they would be unaffected by the road scheme.

The site lay on a gently sloping shelf of Atherfield Clay overlooking the River Medway. Numerous springs were located in the area, and because of this the ground was wet and boggy. The excavation did not produce evidence to suggest occupation prior to the first century A.D. By the second century, however, and probably earlier, the area had been cleared and the cultivation of crops was taking place. Evidence of root action and worm activity was visible in the 'cultivated' loam.

This period of activity was brought to an end by the construction of the villa, two walls of which were uncovered during the excavation. These walls, probably the north and east buttresses of the north-east corner of the main villa range, were previously exposed during trial trenching undertaken in the 1970s. They were assigned by the excavator to the first of the three main structural phases then identified. Pottery recovered from the recent excavation suggests the villa was built in the mid to late second century. The buttresses were trench-built and consisted of ragstone blocks set in light brown sandy mortar. During their construction an irregularly laid sequence of poured mortar layers built up in the surrounding area. Fragments of ragstone and Roman tile were found in the mortar, as well as the casts of two short linear objects with rectangular cross sections, perhaps timber battens used in the construction process.

After an indeterminate period of time a subsidiary series of walls was built north of the main villa range – most of these have been assigned to the phase 2 structure. Only a small fragment of the foundations of one of these walls – seemingly the southern corner of the main east wall – was uncovered during the excavation. During the lifetime of the building surfaces of coarse gravel built up north of the mortar construction deposits.

Ceramic dating indicates occupation in the area continued well into the fourth century. Rain washed 'pea'-grit built up over the last of the external surfaces, and over this was dumped a thick deposit of loam mixed with building demolition rubble. No later Roman, Anglo-Saxon, or medieval deposits were identified during the excavation.

## 12. Longport House, Folkestone

As part of the continuing expansion of the Channel Tunnel terminal at Folkestone, the Trust was requested to undertake a four-week programme of trial trenching ahead of the construction of a new Police

Station within the grounds of Longport House, located beside the A20 between Cheriton and Newington.

The site is situated on the lower slopes of Newington Hill at an elevation of about 65 m. O.D. and was bounded by the A20 Ashford Road to the south, a Eurotunnel access road (Access 9) to the west and a railway cutting to the north and east. These boundaries defined a triangular plot about 1.25 acres in extent. Just over half this area was available for excavation.

The required preservation of all trees and large bushes on the site slightly hampered the work, but over 380 m. of a 1.50 m. wide trench were cut by machine. This investigation constituted Phase II of the Longport House project, with Phase I, the initial recording of the historic building, being completed by Rupert Austin in July 1992.

In all, some 124 contexts and 49 soil-cut features were recorded. These ranged in date from the medieval period (*c.* twelfth century) to the twentieth century and comprised principally a series of pits, ditches and post-holes. In the south and east areas the earliest phase of occupation was represented by five ditches and one small pit, yielding sherds of medieval date (A.D. 1125–1325). A long period of ploughing then ensued which truncated the ditch tops. This activity seems to come to an end around the middle of the fifteenth century. Further pits and ditches were cut into this plough soil and these produced pottery dating from the mid-fifteenth to the mid-seventeenth centuries. A second period of ploughing followed, truncating the earlier features, and this probably continued until the mid-eighteenth century. A number of later nineteenth- and twentieth-century features were also recorded.

Longport House itself, revealed structural evidence dating from the sixteenth century. Finds from the excavated features suggest that the area was in use considerably earlier. A small amount of residual Roman and Iron Age pottery was recovered, and it is not impossible that cultivation of this area first began long before the Norman conquest. The excavated medieval features include a series of probable field boundary ditches quite possibly associated with predecessors of the present Longport house; it seems fairly certain that the extant remains represent just one small part of the long agricultural history of the area.

### 13. Fordwich Farm, Fordwich (Fig. 10)

During the third week of March 1993, an evaluation was undertaken at Fordwich Farm, Fordwich, to assess the archaeological potential of an area of the farm prior to its proposed redevelopment. Eight evaluation trenches were cut, the first seven by a mechanical excavator, the eighth

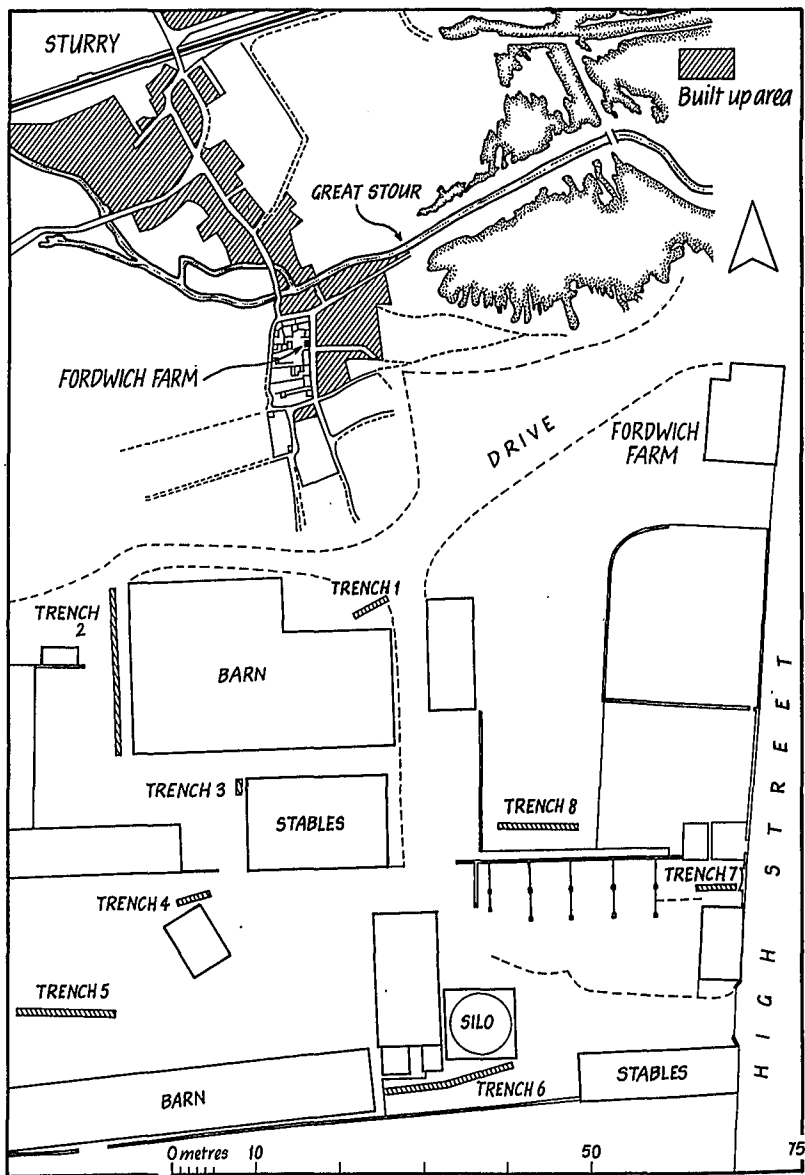


Fig. 10. General location and trench location plans for evaluation works at Fordwich Farm, Fordwich.

by hand. Each was positioned so that it lay as close as possible to the long axis of a proposed building.

The earliest activity in the area suggested by the results of the evaluation was probably Roman. It was represented by a horizon of possibly cultivated silty clay that overlay the weathered surface of natural Head Brickearth (trenches 1, 2, 5, and 8). Only one find was retrieved from this deposit, a fragment of *tegula* (trench 2), though a small pit containing a collection of approximately 60 sherds datable to the late first century A.D. cut the horizon (trench 8). The assemblage consisted almost entirely of locally produced coarse wares, cooking-pots, storage vessels, etc., although some sherds of Canterbury sandy ware were also represented. Two other pits were also observed cutting the cultivated horizon (trench 5), but devoid of finds. Assuming the contents of the trench 8 pit are not redeposited, the excavation may indicate that, during the early Roman period, domestic occupation probably took place in the area near the trench, and that this occupation would have been contemporary with the agricultural use of the surrounding land.

No Anglo-Saxon artefacts or deposits were discovered during the evaluation. This negative evidence possibly suggests the Saxon settlement lay on the higher ground further to the west or south-west.

The character of land use in the area in the medieval period is hard to determine from the results of the evaluation since only in the trench located closest to the High Street were medieval deposits revealed (trench 7). Here the Roman 'agricultural' deposit was not encountered. Instead Head Brickearth was overlain by two relatively clean deposits of dark brown loam. These were cut by a pit situated at the east end of the trench, just 0.80 m. from the street. It had been backfilled with domestic waste such as oyster shells, daub, carbon, animal bones, etc., as well as two sherds of early thirteenth-century pottery. The discovery of this pit may support the supposition that by the early medieval period the High Street had been established along its present line. On the western side of the excavation no clear evidence of medieval or later occupation was revealed, although this does not disprove the existence of the proposed street on that side. Loam deposits devoid of datable finds overlay the Roman in trenches 1, 2, and 5, and these are probably medieval, although they could also be Anglo-Saxon or post-medieval.

The tentative identification of Roman domestic and agricultural occupation in the evaluation area is of importance. As a result of these discoveries alone all proposed developments around central Fordwich should be archaeologically evaluated, and, if development proceeds, excavated wherever Roman deposits are encountered.

#### 14. Reculver Church, Reculver

A chance find of human remains was made by two members of the public whilst walking along the cliffs at Reculver. Bones were found protruding from a newly eroded section of cliff face near the north-west tower to the ruined church. The remains were deposited with the Coroner's Office at Canterbury Police Station. Following the satisfaction of the coroner that the bones were not recent, the Trust was contacted by the police and were given the remains in early October 1992.

Two members of the Trust visited the spot where the human remains were found, shortly after receiving them from the police. Debris consisting of soil, stone, post-medieval peg-tiling and animal bone were scattered down the newly exposed cliff face. A total of three individuals were found consisting of an adult, a juvenile and a child approximately 4–5 years old. It seems very likely that the remains belonged to a cemetery associated with the church, a large portion of which has been claimed by the sea.

#### 15. Duke's Head Bridge, Hythe (Plate VI)

The Trust is currently engaged on a five-phase project at the Duke's Head Bridge, Hythe, Kent. The assignment started on the 13th April, 1992, and to date four phases of the project have been completed.

Duke's Head Bridge is located at the north-west fringe of Hythe, opposite the Duke's Head public house. The bridge, completed in 1806, spans the Royal Military Canal of the same date, a defensive waterway 30 miles long built between Shorncliff in Kent and Cliff End in Sussex. The canal was excavated primarily to form a physical barrier across Romney Marsh, but also as a means of conveying troops along the coastal reaches and as a supply route for the Martello Towers lining the southern coast from Dover to Hastings. Both the towers and the canal were constructed as a defense against threat of invasion from Napoleon.

The current redevelopment of the area required the demolition of the original bridge followed by the construction of a larger and stronger canal crossing. Also affected by the redevelopment was a section of wharf, which was to be dismantled and re-built after the new bridge construction had been completed.

The first part of the archaeological project was to record in detail the original bridge structure. The second was to record the wharf and number each block to be removed during construction, and finally dismantle the wharf itself. The third phase involved conducting an archaeological excavation behind the area of the wharf, along the line





Hythe, Duke's Head Bridge. Looking east. Scale: 2 m.

of a proposed new sewer pipe. The fourth and fifth phases required a watching brief whilst demolition of the bridge continued and finally an archaeological presence was required during the re-building of the wharf.

The detailed recording of the bridge showed that four bridges had been erected at the Duke's Head site. The first of these was a timber swing bridge built in 1805. This original structure was replaced in 1808–09 by a static timber bridge with oak decking. By this date all 20 of the original bridges across the canal had to be rebuilt due to dilapidation and wear. By 1810, guard houses were required to be built against each bridge crossing the canal to prevent smuggling and to protect against wilful damage. These were manned by one non-commissioned officer and eight men. In 1813, a much larger and more substantial bridge was erected. This was constructed out of brick, with stone abutments. Contemporary records mention the presence of a crane located on the upper bank behind the wharf. The crane was originally installed to build the bridge, but was retained for the

unloading of barges that regularly plied the canal. Following the end of hostilities, a new bridge structure, incorporating surviving elements of the former, was built in 1827 from bricks and large ragstone blocks. It is essentially this structure that has survived to the present day.

The second phase of the archaeological project recorded the wharf, a large section of which was to be removed during the laying of a new sewer and subsequently replaced following the completion of the sewer network. Phase three of the project was to examine fully the route of a new sewer pipe and manhole shaft on the grass bank behind the wharf. No remains of a gun emplacement, or a crane platform, were discovered.

A watching brief saw the recording of any surviving fragments of earlier bridge structures during the demolition of the standing bridge. Elements pertaining to the 1809 and 1813 bridges were found. Large portions of brickwork and stone had survived intact from these earlier structures, particularly from the 1813 crossing.

Currently, the final phase to the project awaits completion of the new bridge. Following its construction, a cladding of stone reflecting the style of the 1827 bridge is to be supervised, together with the reconstruction of the wharf.

#### 16. The Hawkinge–Denton by-pass (A 260) (Fig. 11)

During late September and October 1992, an archaeological evaluation of part of the route of the proposed Hawkinge–Denton by-pass was carried out. The work was implemented according to a specification supplied by the County Archaeologist, Dr John Williams.

The evaluation consisted of the cutting of a linear sample of trenches along the centre line of the new road and investigating any archaeological remains thereby exposed. The percentage of the route sampled depended upon the likelihood of the presence of archaeological remains, based on a field survey of the route, carried out by the Trust in July, October and November 1991. The linear sample was either 25–30 per cent or 50 per cent. The trenches were excavated using a JCB type machine, using a toothless ditching bucket, which removed the topsoil down to either natural subsoils or the upper surface of archaeological deposits, if present. All unstratified artefacts were kept during this process, their approximate positions recorded and any archaeological features sample excavated and recorded.

The route of the proposed road lies wholly across elevated chalk downland from the southern escarpment of the North Downs at Hawkinge to north of Denton. The route, in all about 11 km. long, begins west of Coombe Farm, at White Hill, Hawkinge (N.G.R. TR 213406), and follows a north-western course across the former R.A.F.

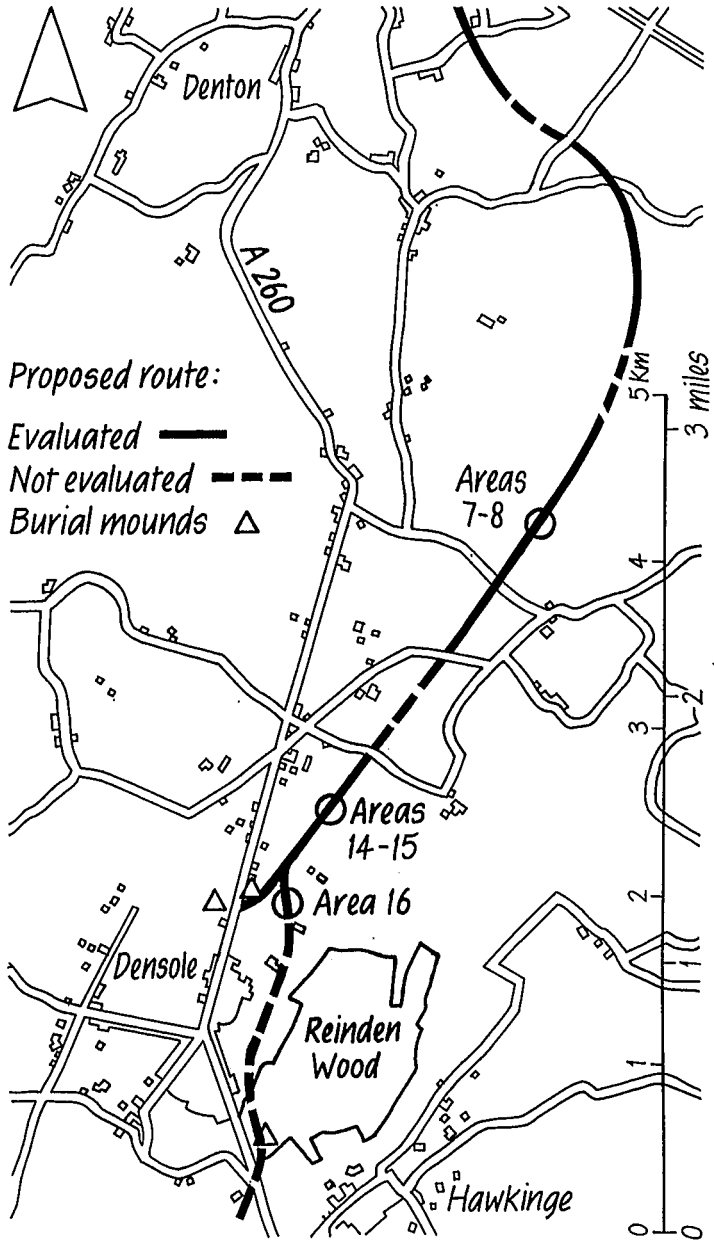


Fig. 11. Plan showing the proposed route of the new A260 and the location of study areas 7-8 and 14-16.

aerodrome, by-passing Hawkinge on the west and crossing the present A260 at Milgate Farm. It then cuts through the south-western corner of Reinden Wood, south-east of Densole and continues north to the east of Swingfield Minnis. Just north of Densole it spurs to a junction with the present A260 at Red House Farm. From Stockham Lane, it curves north-westward around the east side of Wootton, passing Geddinge Farm on the east and Shelvin Farm on the south west, rejoining the present road immediately south of Broome Park.

In all 107 trenches were excavated, most 15 or 20 m. long, providing a total length of trench of 1,925 m. The areas investigated were (a) between the A260 north of Denton to south of Shelvin Farm (Areas 1 and 2); (b) between Dumbrill Hill and West Lees Wood (Areas 3 and 4); (c) from the north corner of Park Wood to Oak Hill, Smersole (Areas 7-9) and (d) between Boyington Lane and Red House Farm and Pound Farm (Areas 14-16;). These areas comprise c. 5,770 m. of the route.

Surprisingly, no archaeological features were located, and only a small quantity of artefacts, all unstratified, were recovered. The material ranged in date from possible Late Bronze/Early Iron Age to medieval and was concentrated in three places.

A spread of tap slag located in areas 7 and 8 also produced large quantities of medieval pottery. A small corpus of Belgic and early Roman ceramics was also recovered, suggesting the possibility that the slag may be Roman in derivation.

Areas 14 and 15, immediately south of Boyington Lane, produced small but significant quantities of Belgic and early Roman pottery as well as possibly earlier material. None of this pottery was evident from the field survey. Area 16, near a Roman tumulus, yielded a small amount of Belgic and early Roman ceramics.

## 19. Park Farm, Ashford

A two-phase archaeological project was conducted near Ashford in Kent. The assignment was undertaken in an area of open farmland due to be developed into a small new town.

Within the 120 acres earmarked for construction are the surviving remains of a medieval moated farm complex giving the area its name of Park Farm. Previous surveys in the surrounding region have indicated the presence of archaeological sites belonging to the Iron Age and Roman periods, evident in the form of burials, chance recovery of coins and known Roman roads.

The first phase of the archaeological project consisted of a field-walking programme over areas that were due for immediate development. The second involved small scale excavation in regions

producing significant archaeological finds. The aim of the second phase was to determine the extent of any archaeological remains and to assess whether further work would be necessary.

### *Phase 1 Field-walking*

The field-walking programme started on the 21st August, 1992, and during a seven-week project a total of 46 acres had been covered, and numerous surface finds retrieved.

However, in September 1992, attention centred on a field earmarked for residential development, covering a total of 100 m. × 260 m., which was found to contain regions of discoloured and disturbed soils. During a provisional search, this area yielded a large quantity of surface finds, including significant amounts of animal bone and a total of nine Mesolithic–Neolithic flint fragments, waste flakes and complete knife blades. As a result, a concentrated recovery programme was undertaken. The study area produced 195 fragments of pottery covering a date range between first century B.C. and second century A.D., and a large collection of Mesolithic–Neolithic flints. Of these, three were flint cores, 20 flakes and 19 blades. Two of the blades were manufactured from a flint not local to the Kent region.

At the close of the field-walking programme it was clear that only one parcel of land (subsequently labelled land plot 13) produced significant quantities of finds. The possibility that there was an isolated settlement, confined within this 10-acre plot, resulted in phase 2 of the project.

### *Phase 2 Assessment*

During October 1992, a small team excavated four trenches within the plot. A total of six shallow ditches and two large pits were recorded cutting brickearth. The brickearth clay appeared to be eroded, possibly indicating a used land surface.

In total 145 flint artefacts were identified on the surface of the brickearth. One flint core had markings indicating unidirectional flaking, used for the sole production of blades, whilst another had been reduced by knapping beyond the point of usefulness. This indicated that small scale tool production was being carried out on site. A high proportion of the flint flakes was fresh and unpatinated, indicating that they originate from a settlement source, and therefore had not accumulated in the area by environmental means or farming practices. Other implements included a tranchet-ended chisel, a saw blade, a prepared graver point, end scrapers, a slug knife, blades and two flakes from a flint not local to the Kent region.

The high number of used flakes suggests that many have been used as one-off implements produced for a number of minor task requirements. This evidence of manufacture *in situ* and usage of tools suggests the presence of an important pre-historic settlement site. Some of the flint artefacts have been tentatively identified to be Upper Palaeolithic in date, but the majority of the assemblage appears to be Late Neolithic suggesting that the main settlement is c. 8000–5000 B.C. in date.

The ditches and pits all proved to be Roman in date. A known Roman road servicing the Roman fort at Lympne lies 60 m. to the south. Large amounts of pottery dating between the first and second century were retrieved from the features. The overall impression gathered from the ceramic material and the features indicated the presence of a settlement site and a managed field system. Some of the vessel fragments had traces of pitch sealant, indicating that the settlement was purchasing sealed products. In addition, several of the pottery sherds indicated that they were associated with the regional distribution of salt.

The results of the field-walking programme and assessment clearly demonstrated settlement activity possibly ranging from the Palaeolithic to the second century A.D. The brickearth is due to be sampled by the Geoarchaeological Service Facility at the Institute of Archaeology to assess the nature of the prehistoric land surface. Hopefully, the combined results of the assessment and the samples will enable a full archaeological examination of the land to be undertaken prior to development.

## 2. BUILDING RECORDING

### 20. Longport House, Cheriton

The dismantling of Longport House in partnership with the Weald and Downland Museum provided the Trust with one of its more unusual and interesting projects of the year.

Externally the house, which was entirely clad in later brickwork, did not appear at first to be of much interest. Once inside the building, however, a considerably longer and more complex history began to reveal itself. The first, and easiest, phase of the building to be identified was a mid sixteenth-century timber-framed cross-wing. This element, with clasped side-purlin and wind braced roof, was attached to the south-west end of the main range. Without further investigation it would have been natural to assume that the wing was a later addition to the main range. However, once later lathe and plaster had been removed, it became apparent that the arrangement was not so simple.



Longport House, Cheriton, during dismantling. Looking north-west.

The cross-wing's former jetty was uncovered, buried at the junction with the main range. Clearly the main range, which now had to be a later phase, was built against the jettied exterior of the cross-wing.

Dismantling confirmed that the sixteenth-century cross-wing was indeed the earliest standing element of the building. Its 'hall', of which no trace now survives, was almost certainly located to the south-west where there is now only an empty garden. It also transpired that the ground floor of this building was built in stone rather than timber. At some point in the seventeenth century a new range was constructed to the north-east of the cross-wing, hiding the former jetty inside the new structure. Although this new range was added later, its timbers were in fact those of an earlier medieval building that had been dismantled and re-erected. Rather surprisingly this had been done with very few alterations to its original design, enabling a good picture of its previous form to be constructed.

This structure, which was perhaps built c. 1500, originally comprised

a central 'open-hall' flanked on both sides by floored bays. An aisle was incorporated into the rear of the property whilst a continuous jetty ran the length of the frontage. A gallery, which crossed the front of the open hall at first-floor level, linked the floored ends of the building. The integral aisle and gallery contained within the structure are certainly unusual features which add considerably to the interest and value of the building.

The building will be re-erected by the Weald and Downland Museum on their site near Singleton, to serve as a visitor reception centre.

#### 21. 14 Mercery Lane, Canterbury (Fig. 12)

14 Mercery Lane is a typical example of the many buildings recorded by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Its initial medieval form has been altered and changed so many times since the building was first constructed that only a small part of its original fabric still survives. Most of the visible fabric dates from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, though a considerable amount of earlier timber-framing still survives, buried within the walls of the present structure. A programme of renovation, undertaken during the spring and summer of 1992, enabled the Trust to survey the property. Although the repairs and alterations were limited, enough of the timber-framing was exposed to provide a reasonable picture of the original medieval building, which probably dates from the end of the fifteenth century. The timber frame, which rises to a height of three stories, runs away from the street frontage. Only the first two bays survive, though a small amount of isolated fabric confirms the existence of a third. There is nothing to suggest whether the structure continued further to the rear. A crown-post roof, which may originally have been jettied and gabled towards the street frontage, survives in part over the first two bays. Unfortunately, with the construction of a new façade and parapet, the roof now terminates in a hipped end. A garret floor was inserted into the roof space, probably a seventeenth-century modification, to provide additional storage or sleeping space.

Only the floor framing at first floor level was visible. All the floor joists in the first bay survive together with an intact sequence of carpenter's marks; however, no provision for stairs was observed. Later modifications, in particular the insertion of a brick chimney stack, have resulted in the loss of all but two of the joists in the second bay. The front bay at ground-floor level, perhaps used for retail purposes, was separated from the second bay by a stud partition. Access to the rear of the property was afforded by a doorway located at the south-west end of this partition.



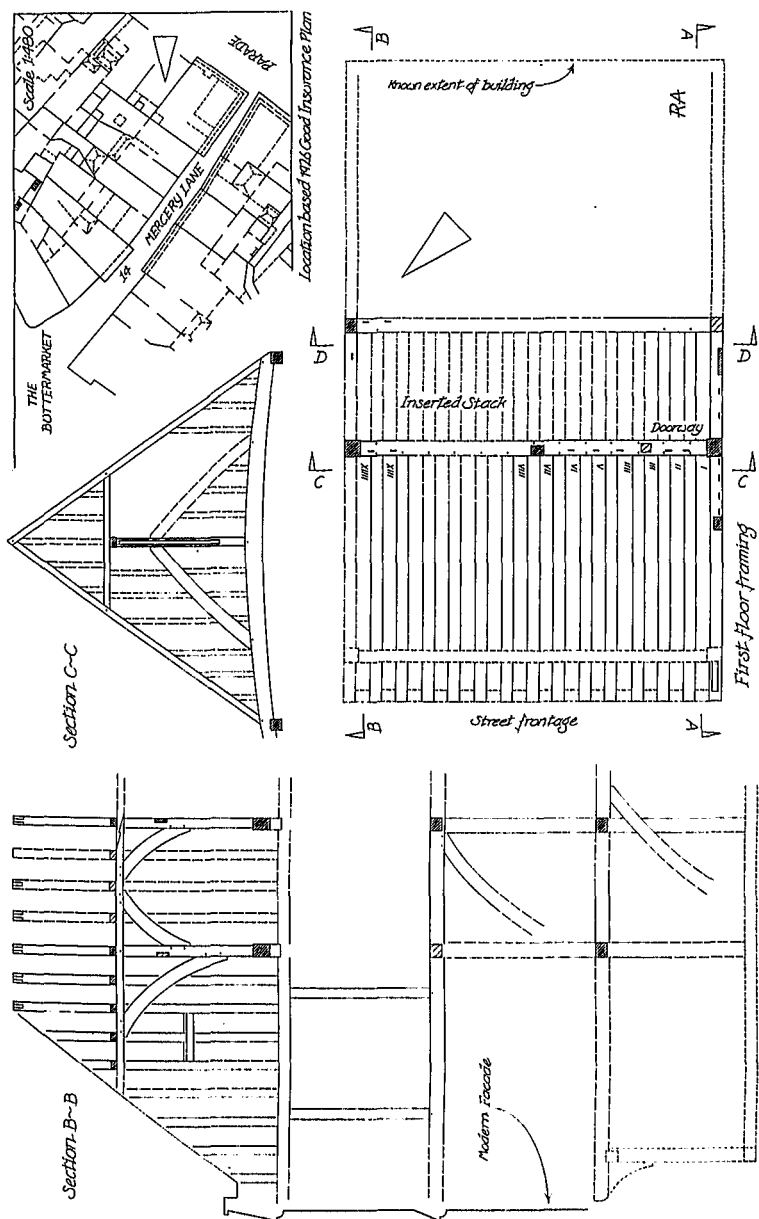


Fig. 12. 14 Mercury Lane, Canterbury; location plan and sections taken from the survey.

## 22. 8 The High Street, Canterbury

The early fabric contained within the property was first discovered by the Trust in 1978 during repairs works to the shop front. The oak joists and timbers revealed behind the plain nineteenth-century façade and low-pitched slate roof of this building clearly belonged to a medieval building. Unfortunately, most of the historic material remained hidden, and it was only possible to record small elements of what was originally a very substantial structure. The opportunity for further recording work came only as the result of a disastrous fire in the summer of 1992. Much of the building was seriously damaged, though nearly all the surviving timber frame was uncovered as a result of the fire and subsequent repair work. Not surprisingly a considerable amount of this material was severely burnt and damaged, making its analysis extremely difficult.

In its original form the building comprised a large double-jettied two storey structure set 'end-on' to the street. The second floor was divided into five bays and was almost certainly covered by a crown-post roof. Large sections of the building had already been lost in a fire in 1865 and the roof was replaced at that time. Considerable alterations were undertaken in the eighteenth century resulting in the loss of the original façade and much of the internal framing. Nineteenth-century brickwork now replaces virtually all the framing along the south-east elevation.

One of the most unusual features of this building is the use of double tie-beams at eaves level. The upper cambered tie-beam is framed into the roof structure in the usual manner. Rather surprisingly a second uncambered tie-beam is located immediately below. This additional beam supported a contemporary attic floor, of which only the joists in the rear bay now survive.

The north-west elevation, which is the most complete, contains several interesting features. Of these the use of brick infill is the most surprising. In most cases each panel, the space between the principal posts, is divided by three studs and crossed by a substantial tension brace. Small buff bricks, which can only be contemporary with the framing, infill the areas between the timber. The wide spacing between the studs is certainly not designed to support lathes and daub. Additional mortices for further lightweight studs, necessary for lathes, are not present. An offset to the recessed sides of the northernmost post provides for the thickness of the brickwork. These details confirm that the framing was constructed to support a brick infill. This brickwork represents some of the earliest discovered in vernacular use in Canterbury.

An early cellar, of possible thirteenth-century date, still survives beneath the later building, now forming part of a larger basement. The best area of facing, which comprises a mixture of chalk, Caen stone and

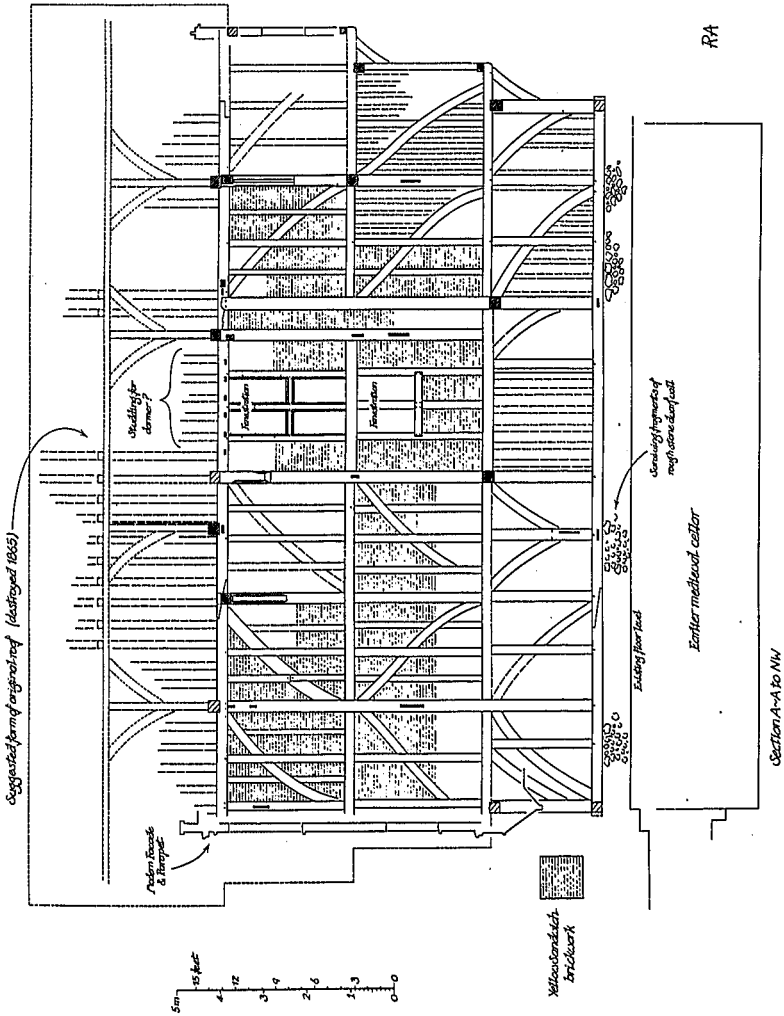


Fig. 13. 8 High Street, Canterbury; reconstructed longitudinal section through the building.

flint, survives along the north-west elevation. A small niche, with Caen stone jambs and small pointed arch, together with sizeable areas of ashlar are also visible along this wall. Clearly, an earlier building occupied this site before the construction of what survives today.

In sum, evidence survives of an interesting and sizeable late medieval building, revealing several important and unusual features; in particular the early brick infill and double tie-beam roof. Evidence of an earlier preceding stone structure, not affected by the recent repair works, suggests an area for future investigation. The opportunity to survey this structure has provided a valuable addition to our growing knowledge of Canterbury's vernacular architecture.

### 3. OTHER OBSERVATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

A variety of other archaeological field work was carried out during the year including the following:

#### 12 Castle Street, Canterbury

A foundation trench for an extension to the rear of this property was examined; no significant archaeology was revealed.

#### 61 Cossington Road, Canterbury

Foundation trench for a new extension to the rear of this property was encountered and nothing of significance found.

#### 8 Whitehall Road, Canterbury

Foundation trenches at the rear were examined. Evidence of early road metalling was found, on the line of a road from the junction of the forum and temple in Roman Canterbury.

#### 48 High Street, Canterbury

An evaluation trench behind the premises was excavated to a depth of 3.50 m.; pre-medieval deposits or natural brickearth were not encountered. Nearly all medieval deposits had been removed by a sequence of later cellars.

#### Christ Church College, Canterbury

Evaluation trenches uncovered foundations of part of the cellarers

range of St. Augustine's Abbey. A larger excavation has taken place and will be reported on next year.

#### St. George's Street, Canterbury

The excavation of pile cap positions for the construction of new premises afforded glimpses of upper archaeological layers, though little had in any event survived construction of foundations for the previous buildings. A few medieval pits could be seen. Across much of the site there were extensive layers of post war demolition rubble.

#### East Gate House of the *Classis Britannica* II Fort, Dover (Fig. 14)

Work on the north tower of the East Gatehouse in the White Cliffs Centre at Dover was undertaken, for general ground clearance and removal of concrete, as well as controlled stratigraphic excavation and detailed survey of the surviving fabrics, prior to its consolidation, capping and re-display.

#### H.M. Youth Centre, Western Heights, Dover

Three areas were investigated in the area of the Youth Centre, which was land once occupied by the Western Gasworks and the Citadel of the Western Heights Defences. Evidence of eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries fortifications was found, but evidence of occupation, pre-dating the fortifications (if such evidence exists) may be trapped under layers of clay probably upcast from the Citadel ditch.

#### Cobham College Gardens, Cobham

Four trenches from 5 to 30 m. long, 1 m. wide and 1-2.30 m. deep were excavated by machine within a plot immediately to the east of Cobham College buildings, for an evaluation in advance of development. The trenches went down to brickearth. Only Victorian foundations remain and some associated post-medieval rubbish pits were found.

#### St. Rumwold's Church, Bonnington

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of a modern drainage system at St. Rumwold's Church. None of the five layers exposed had any archaeological value.

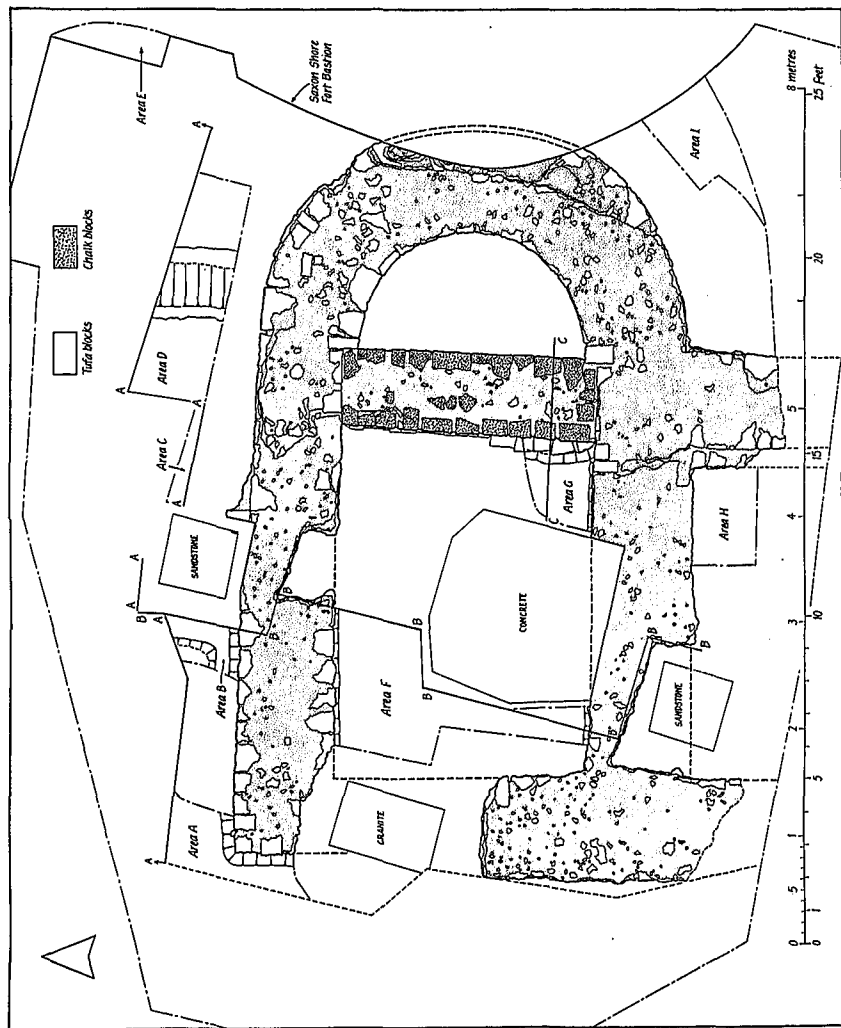


Fig. 14. Plan of the North Tower of the East Gate House of the Classis Britannica fort (II), Dover.

#### St. Martin's Plain, Cheriton

An evaluation of this site for Eurotunnel Developments Ltd. provided no evidence for ancient habitation.

#### Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone

This was a watching brief on the excavation of a trench for a water pipe. The trench was to a maximum depth of 0.70 m. Three layers were exposed, but nothing earlier than nineteenth century material was found.

#### Gore Lane, Eastry

An evaluation of this site for Sanctuary Housing Association, provided little evidence for occupation.

#### Cooling Castle, near Rochester

A small trench was dug below the remnant of the north-east tower, prior to underpinning. At about 0.24 m. down, natural chalk was reached, there being no foundation for the wall, as was the case also with the main northern wall of the castle.

#### River Stour, near Kennington, Ashford

Examination of weathered upcast from dredging in 1992 of the Great Stour between Kennington and Wye has produced a considerable quantity of finds with an unexpectedly wide chronological range. The material includes a Neolithic unpolished axe, Beaker pottery, Late Bronze Age coarse ware, a cooking-pot and bowl rims of Bronze-Iron Age date, some late Iron Age materials, Saxon sherds, samian ware as well as examples of medieval and late medieval domestic ware.

Although the material is unstratified, further analysis may give some indication of a chronological bias in occupations of the area.

#### 4. PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEYS

Numerous smaller building recording projects have been undertaken, in particular an increasing number of photographic surveys. The Trust's large format camera has seen increasing use this year (in conjunction with a powerful flash system) in situations where its high quality is desired and also for rectified photographic surveys.

Several surveys were undertaken on the cathedral and within its precincts during the past year including a comprehensive survey of the exterior of the south quire and rectified photographs of the north quire clerestory.

A rectified photographic survey is presently in progress on several sections of Rochester City Wall including the large crenellated length adjacent to the Blue Boar Lane car park and adjoining drum tower. A large format photograph was also taken inside Rochester cathedral to record the ceiling of the crossing tower before restoration.

Rectified photographs were taken of the Duke's Head Bridge in Hythe to aid a drawn survey of the structure.

Further smaller photographic projects included work in the basement of 'K' Shoes, the site of Canterbury's Guildhall and an earlier twelfth-century undercroft, as well as the remains of one of Canterbury's early bridges, behind the Eastbridge Hospital. Finally, a small section of the Dominican Priory was photographed in advance of a planned extension.

## 5. BONE STUDIES

### St. Gregory's Priory

Human bone studies have continued on material from the St. George's, Cathedral, Diocesan House and St. Gregory's Priory excavations and are reported on elsewhere; however, there is one study which is worth special mention. This was a skeleton from St. Gregory's Priory which displayed clear evidence of cleft lip and palate. This example is the first evidence for both cleft lip and palate in British archaeological material.

The skeleton also had a swelling above the left second molar in the floor of the sinus, containing an amorphous mass of dental tissue, or *odontome*. The extracted object is irregular in outline and appears to be composed largely of dentine and cementum and bears little resemblance to a normal tooth. The presence of an abnormal tooth, or *odontome*, is also a very rare find.

The presence of cleft lip and palate, with direct communication between the mouth and nose, would mean that the child could not be adequately breast-fed. Despite his physical handicap and possible social stigma, the individual had survived into old age. No other congenital anomalies were discovered. The only visible pathology is spinal joint degeneration. The presence of two rare anomalies in one individual is very interesting. No relationship has so far been established between odontoma and facial clefting. However, the fact



that the manifestation of both cleft palate and odontoma have been related to vitamin deficiency suggests that their combined presence may not be entirely fortuitous. Is it possible that osteoarchaeological evidence may provide a clue to modern day research on facial clefting?

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\* The summary of work carried out in 1992 by the CAT has been prepared by Dr Frank Panton and Paul Bennett, from reports submitted by staff members during the year. Authors of the original reports included Paul Bennett, Kevin Blockley, Mark Houliston, Andrew Hutcheson, Tim Allen, Simon Pratt, Keith Parry, Alan Ward, Keith Parfitt, Jon Rady, Alison Hicks, Martin Hicks, Barry Corke, John Cotter, Nigel Macpherson-Grant, Andrew Savage, Rupert Austin, Peter Clark, and Trevor Anderson. Fuller versions of the original reports will appear in *Canterbury's Archaeology 1992-1993* (17th Annual Report).