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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

1. AN IRON AGE SETTLEMENT EXCAVATED IN ADVANCE OF THE IWADE-QUEENBOROUGH ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Between 1992 and 2004 a phased programme of archaeological work took place in advance of the construction of the A249 Bypass, between Iwade and Queenborough, on the Isle of Sheppey. The initial phases of investigation conducted along the proposed route of the bypass identified numerous archaeological sites. These dated from the Bronze Age to the post-Medieval period and included Neolithic and Bronze Age enclosures; Iron Age and Roman occupation sites; and medieval sea defences, coastal salterns and sheepfolds.

The final phase of archaeological work in 2004 (centred on TQ 9282 7148) comprised a strip, map and record exercise along the line of the road scheme. These investigations uncovered a series of Late Neolithic pits; the remains of an extensive Iron Age settlement and a Roman pit complex, all concentrated on areas of higher ground. In addition, over forty Late Iron Age and Roman cremation burials were excavated and there was also evidence to suggest that prehistoric and Roman salt-working had taken place on the lower ground, close to the edge of the marsh near Humphrey's Loop. Evidence for Medieval or post-Medieval activity along the line of the road was minimal.

The earliest evidence on the site was for small-scale Neolithic and early/middle Bronze Age activity, provided by background scatters of worked flint. On the western edge of the study area, a number of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pits and Beaker burials were found underlying a later Iron Age settlement complex. The latter was revealed during the excavation of a relatively flat area of land located between Sheep Wash and the western extremity of the road strip at Neats Court. The remains of this extensive, multi-period prehistoric settlement is known to have spanned the whole of the Iron Age. The site's use peaked during the middle- and middle-late Iron Age periods, when it incorporated a number of large, intercutting boundary ditches and pit complexes. Environmental remains from the settlement found clear evidence of domestic activities, including storage- and rubbish pits and crop-processing. The excavation of a number of pits within the heart of the settlement complex recovered the broken remains of at least three suspended clay-oven floors. The floors were derived from domed or cylindrical ovens of a rare Late Iron Age type (Major in CgMs 2007).

During the Roman period, a large clay quarry pit was excavated on the western extremity of the disused Iron Age settlement complex. At the southern end of the study area, immediately to the north of Humphrey's Loop, a series of interlinked, amorphous pits and gullies were identified

close to the edge of the marsh. The discovery of Roman pottery and fragments of salt briquetage within these features suggests that salt was being produced by the local inhabitants on a small scale during the Roman period and possibly earlier. The notable absence of any later human activity in this area supports the palaeoenvironmental evidence, which indicates a significant rise in sea level around this time, culminating in the inundation of the southern zone and the formation of saltmarsh.

Forty-four features identified as potential cremation burials were excavated during the 2004 excavations. Three concentrations of cremations were found, which were geographically quite isolated, although all of the features were located in fairly prominent positions above the 5m contour. The cremations were located at the southern end of the road strip close to Humphrey's Loop; and to the north and west of Cowstead roundabout.

The earliest cremation burial features were dated to the Late Iron Age by the discovery of pottery and pre-Conquest Colchester brooches (with a date range of *c.*10-40/5 AD), within their fills (Crummy in CgMs 2007). The remainder were dated to the Early Roman period and spanned the period between the mid first and mid second centuries AD. Analysis of the fills of these features found a minimum of four urned burials and three unurned burials. The nature of the remaining deposits was inconclusive but probably included unurned burials with redeposited pyre debris and deposits of pyre debris. A minimum of nine adult individuals was represented in all (McKinley in CgMs 2007).

The small number of Late Iron Age burial features located close to the area of Cowstead roundabout may relate to the contemporary settlement complex located a short distance to the west. The settlement associated with the Roman cremation burials must lie somewhere outside the stripped area and was not identified. However, earlier archaeological work conducted on the eastern edge of Cowstead roundabout identified a substantial boundary ditch. This was interpreted as the westernmost boundary of a Roman enclosure, possibly associated with a nearby settlement further to the east, outside the area of the A249 Bypass.

The archaeological fieldwork in 2004 was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (part of Northamptonshire County Council), under the direction of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), who monitored the work on behalf of Carillion and Symonds Group. Simon Mason monitored the project on behalf of Kent County Council.

CgMs Consulting 2007, 'A249 Iwade Bypass to Queenborough Improvement, Isle of Sheppey: Report on the Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Excavation', unpubl. client report prepared on behalf of Carillion and Symonds Group.

2. EXCAVATIONS AT COLLEGE ROAD, RAMSGATE

In January 2005, Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land at College Road, Ramsgate, prior to redevelopment of the site for residential purposes. The evaluation revealed a deposit of natural, weathered Upper Cretaceous chalk, truncated by four ditches. Two of these ditches probably represent prehistoric field boundaries, whilst one probably represents a field boundary of unknown date. The largest of the four ditches was initially interpreted as a possible prehistoric palisade line, potentially associated with a round barrow situated to the north of the site.

An excavation was undertaken in February 2005, in order to further investigate any potential link between the possible palisade line and the round barrow. The excavation established that the 'palisade line' had been backfilled in the medieval period and had therefore been misinterpreted. It was concluded that the feature could not be associated with the round barrow.

Sixteen trenches, numbered 1 to 16, were excavated during the evaluation. Their dimensions were 20m by 1.5m, and they were distributed evenly across the site. One trench was opened up during the excavation, and centred on the supposed prehistoric palisade. The dimensions of the trench were 12m east-west and 1.5m north-south. The modern topsoil and subsoil was removed by machine, in order to expose any archaeological features or deposits cutting or sealing the natural chalk.

A linear feature, orientated north-east/south-west, was observed within Trench 5. It was over 5m long, continuing beyond the north-eastern and south-western limits of excavation. It was 1.12m wide and 570mm deep. The feature was interpreted as a possible prehistoric boundary ditch.

Another possible prehistoric boundary ditch, orientated north-west/south-east, was observed within Trenches 6 and 12. It was over 44m long, 1.01m wide and up to 640mm deep.

Partially truncating this ditch in Trench 6 was an ovoid feature with a radius of 250mm and a depth of 80mm. This probably represents a posthole that may form part of a later fenceline. This fenceline may have functioned as a field boundary, replacing the boundary ditch at a later date. No cultural material came from the posthole cut and it therefore remains undated.

A linear feature, orientated north-south, was also observed in Trench 16. It was over 3.75m long, continuing beyond the north-western and south-eastern limits of excavation, was 1.25m wide and 110mm deep. No artefacts were found here, and it was interpreted as a field boundary of unknown date.

In Trenches 8, 9 and 17, a linear feature orientated northwest-southeast was observed. Its dimensions were over 22.5m long, continuing beyond

the north-western limit of excavation, up to 1.72m wide and over 920mm deep. The feature butt-ended on the south-eastern side of Trench 17. It was initially interpreted as a possible prehistoric feature, perhaps representing a palisade associated with the Round Barrow to the north. However, the results of the excavation demonstrated that this interpretation was incorrect.

The open area excavation exposed the ditch in more detail. Whilst it appeared too substantial to represent a mere field boundary or drainage ditch, the presence of 14 pottery sherds of medieval date within its tertiary fill suggested that it could not represent a prehistoric palisade. The irregular, blurred nature of the division between its secondary and tertiary fills indicated that they may have been bioturbated in the past, perhaps by roots and rootlets. The feature was therefore interpreted as having had two incarnations, firstly as an enclosure ditch, possibly enclosing activity to the north-east, and secondly as a hedgeline. The available dating evidence suggests that it is probably medieval.

Rebecca Lythe

3. LATER PREHISTORIC AND YOUNGER ENCLOSURE DITCHES AND PITS AT UNDERDOWN LANE, EDDINGTON, HERNE BAY

Archaeological evaluation prior to residential development at Underdown Lane, Eddington, Herne Bay (NGR 618000 166935) revealed evidence for features of Late Bronze Age to Early Romano-British date (Oxford Archaeology 2000). Other archaeological evidence of various periods has been recorded in the vicinity of the site: Iron Age and medieval activity has been recorded to the rear of 'The Old House' (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 1999), c.235m to the north-west of the site, and more recent excavation there revealed at least four Iron Age round houses and associated enclosure ditches (Jarman 2005). Immediately to the east of the site, finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been recorded (**Fig. 1**).

During the excavation, which was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2001 on an area of 1,100m² (Wessex Archaeology 2003), a significant scatter of Early Postglacial Long Blade flints was exposed within two slight natural hollows or undulations (2103 and 2307) in the underlying London Clay which was capped by a thin veneer of 'brickearth' (Gardiner *et al.* in prep.). Other features, which are the subject of this note, include three ditches as well as several shallow hollows and an irregular feature.

Ditch 2311 was in the north-eastern corner of the trench, and ran for 5.61m from the eastern edge of the trench. Ditch 2310 ran from the northern edge of the trench southward for 4.91m and merged with ditch 2311. However, no certain relationship could be established between the two ditches. Ditch 2311 was 1.80m wide and 0.39m deep with an

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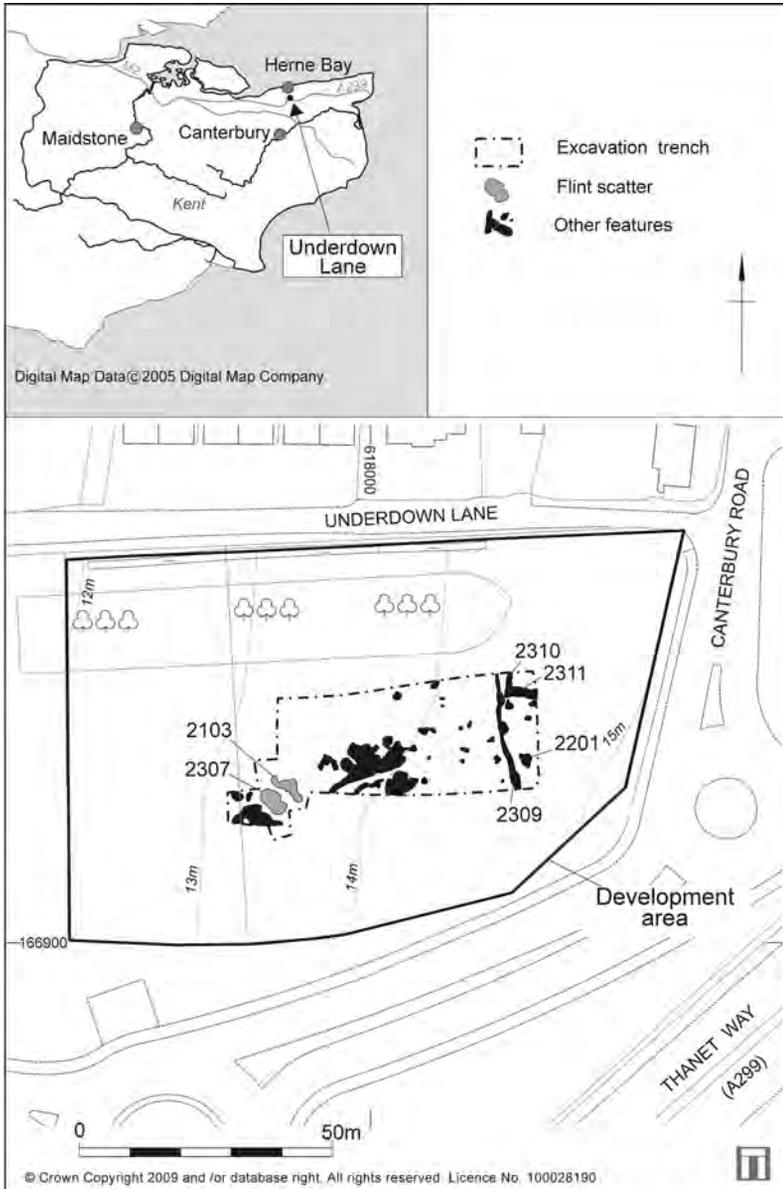


Fig. 1 Underdown Lane, Eddington, site location.

asymmetric profile. Its lower fill contained prehistoric pottery and the upper fill medieval pottery. Ditch 2309 ran from north to south across the width of the trench, a distance of 22.7m. The single fill of the ditch contained unidentifiable animal bone and Romano-British pottery. A further possible ditch extended 1.54m into the trench from its eastern edge. It was 0.08m deep and its fill produced two small sherds of prehistoric pottery.

Sections were also excavated across a number of other possible features of varying sizes, subsequently interpreted as natural anomalies and undulations. Many were smaller than 1m in diameter, no deeper than 0.2m and produced no or only limited dating evidence, mostly of late prehistoric date. A larger anomalous feature (c.6.2m x 3.6m x 0.1m), had an irregular base. It contained rare stones, fragments of prehistoric pottery, a sherd of Romano-British pottery and a piece of worked flint.

The prehistoric pottery in flint-tempered, flint-/grog-tempered and sandy fabrics represents long-lived ceramic traditions in the region, which have a broad potential date range from Middle/Late Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age, although the sherds found here are likely to date no later than the Middle Iron Age.

Grog-tempered wares characteristic of the transitional Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period were also present, together with 'Romanised' coarse sandy wares; again, the lack of diagnostic sherds prevents closer dating within the Roman period.

A small number of sherds in sandy/shelly and shelly fabrics have been dated as medieval, and include jar and pitcher rims of probable 12th- or 13th-century date. The ditches are likely to relate to unspecified agricultural use of the area in the vicinity of nearby settlements, but the mixed nature of the limited finds assemblage does not allow to reliably attributing these to a particular period.

Jörn Schuster, James Wright and Lorraine Mephram

Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 1999, 'Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the Rear of the Old House, Underdown Lane, Eddington, Herne Bay, Kent', unpubl. Client Report.

Gardiner, J., Allen, M.J., Lewis, J.S.C., Wright, J. and Macphail, R.I., in prep., 'A Long Blade site at Underdown Lane, Herne Bay, Kent, and a Model for Habitat Use in the British Early Postglacial', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 75.

Jarman, C., 2005, 'Underdown Lane, Eddington', *Canterbury's Archaeology 2003-2004, Annual Report* 28, 14-16.

Oxford Archaeological Unit, 2000, 'Land at Underdown Lane, Herne Bay, Eddington, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation Report', unpubl. client report.

Wessex Archaeology, 2003, 'Land at Underdown Lane, Eddington, Herne Bay, Kent. Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report', unpubl. report

CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST INTERIM REPORTS

CANTERBURY CITY SITES

1. *Whitehall Road, Canterbury (TR 14365 57883)*

In November 2006, monitoring of a pit associated with provision of a power supply to the St Mildred's Tannery development produced further evidence of pre- and early Roman occupation to the west of the River Stour. The excavation was located in the turning area at the end of Whitehall Road about 5m north-east of the line of Roman Watling Street. The earliest evidence was vestigial topsoil partially overlain by a light metalling, the latter being cut by a small pit or large post-hole. This was in turn cut by the edge of possible enclosure ditch, aligned approximately north-east/south-west, and perhaps cut as early as c. 25 BC. The infilled ditch was marked by a series of wheel-ruts running roughly north-east to south-west, some with flint and gravel packing. This activity probably dated to the mid first to mid second century AD. A large pit was later dug into these levels, containing a daub-rich band of residual material apparently associated with tile making from c. AD 120-250. Further wheel ruts (on the same alignment), and two phases of gravel metalling containing Roman tile fragments superseded this feature, as well as a loam suggesting cultivation to the north-west. A further loam, no more than 0.07m thick, appeared to represent the entire post-Roman sequence prior to the cutting of two post-holes, these being overlain by a post-medieval gravel path.

2. *Barton Court Grammar School (TR 15740 57567)*

During the winter of 2006-2007, watching briefs and excavation within the school grounds investigated a series of medieval features. Residual late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period material, including worked flint, pottery and tile fragments was also recovered. The earliest features on the site were Middle Saxon (c. AD 720-875), including two rectangular pits that may have originally been used for storage but which had subsequently been the focus for deposition, the fills containing pottery, animal bone, carbonised wood and daub. An intermixed soil, perhaps representing cultivated land, was also present and appeared to be contemporary. These features and deposits appear to accord with early charter evidence relating to the home farm of the manor, as does the subsequent cutting of a boundary ditch across the area. A later deposit in this feature contained pottery dating to the late Anglo-Saxon/early Anglo-Norman transition, and the ditch had been re-cut at least once, following considerable silting.

During the later medieval period (c.1250-1550) the boundary ditch seems to have been purposely backfilled prior to the construction of a crudely metalled yard in association with a new building with roughly coarsed chalk block foundations, a trackway, and a number of pits and post-holes. These appeared to be agricultural in function and to have related to the general Barton Court complex in some way. Post-medieval modifications included the resurfacing of the metalled yard as well as the cutting of a gully and pits, one containing a semi-articulated horse burial. The old Barton Court manor house had been demolished by 1750 when a new mansion house was built and it is probable that the building identified in the excavation was dismantled around this time. By the early twentieth century the site had reverted to cultivation and since the 1940s formed part of school grounds.

3. *Canterbury College (TR 1560 5750)*

Intermittent watching briefs were maintained on widespread works across the college campus during 2005 and early 2006, and an excavation was carried out on the west side of the campus during May and June 2006. Watching brief work to the north-west of the excavated area produced an assemblage of eighty-two Neolithic or Bronze Age worked flints, consisting mainly of unworked waste fragments with very few blades; some retouched flakes and one core were also present. Early features comprised pits of indeterminate function dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, the late Iron Age/early Roman period, and to AD 70-200. Unstratified human remains were also recovered during watching briefs, but otherwise no secure evidence of Roman period cemetery use was observed in an area where this had seemed likely. Features associated with Anglo-Saxon activity were present across the site, including an early linear feature (c.575-750), and a Middle Saxon cess pit (c.750-850). A general lack of structural or occupational activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods reflects the area's later use as open farmland, hop gardens and orchards.

4. *Nos 3-4, Oaten Hill (TR 15300 57348)*

Three small evaluations on land to the rear of Oaten Hill post office between February and April 2007 uncovered medieval archaeology on the site. One of two pits located towards the north-east corner of the new building footprint was cut by the rounded terminal of a V-shaped ditch containing burnt flint, oyster shell and shell-tempered pottery of later eleventh- to thirteenth-century date. The ditch was seen to extend beneath the north-east edge of the site, and appeared to be related in some way to a second ditch running along the south-eastern limit of excavation before

turning south. Pottery from this ditch dated from the eleventh to the mid fourteenth century. This feature had been cut by a large shallow scoop at its southern end, from which medieval roof tile fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and some 40 potsherds were recovered. The pottery was mostly of Tyler Hill sandy ware dating to the early thirteenth to mid fourteenth century, although over a dozen sherds of Wealden fine sandy ware (1525-1650) were also included in the assemblage. Given the site's location, it is probable that the features encountered represent activity associated with St Sepulchre's nunnery.

5. Nos 20A-21A Palace Street (TR 15000 58090)

During August 2006, and between December 2006 and February 2007, evaluation and excavation at the former premises of the RSPCA clinic and shop produced evidence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation. A complex Roman period sequence was revealed, including evidence of an early to mid Roman timber building with successive clay floors and a well. Pottery from the upper layers of the building suggests that it was demolished before AD 300, after which a series of later Roman gravel yard surfaces were laid and another well cut. This well was apparently backfilled after AD 350, when further metallings were superimposed, these surfaces eventually sealed by an apparent levelling deposit containing a large fragment of Roman masonry.

A relatively thick soil, interpreted as garden soils, had accumulated between *c.* AD 850 and 1125, variously truncated by late Saxon and later medieval pit sequences. The earliest of these pits contained a significant amount of burnt daub with distinct wattle impressions (perhaps from a burnt building); the latest pits seem to have been back-filled not later than *c.*1250. At the south-west end of the trench a further sequence of clay floors was encountered, probably associated with an outbuilding relating to a structure fronting onto Palace Street early in the later medieval period. These interfaces were sealed by further levelling deposits, and the plot seems to have been largely vacant after the building went out of use, with several large late medieval and post-medieval pits being cut, as well as what appeared to be an open drain running along the street frontage. A brick wall and two associated clay floors suggests that a further building occupied the area at some time after *c.*1750 prior to the building of the late nineteenth-century premises.

6. St Lawrence Cricket Ground, Old Dover Road (TR 15725 56725)

Following a geophysical survey, two phases of evaluation were carried out in the autumn of 2006. Several walls and other linear features of later medieval and post-medieval date were located, associated with the

Hospital of St Lawrence (founded AD 1137) as well as post-Dissolution occupation of the site. A cemetery, evidently associated with the hospital, and complete with anthropomorphic grave cuts and one anthropomorphic chalk cist, was also discovered. All of the burials were aligned east/west with the head to the west, and several of the graves were intercutting, suggesting prolonged use of a restricted site. Certainly the burial area seems to have been demarcated by medieval buildings to the west and a post-medieval wall (probably following an earlier boundary) to the south. Two of the deceased showed distinctive signs of leprosy, in keeping with the hospital's known function, and anthropomorphic grave cuts and cists are thought to pre-date 1350. A ploughed soil horizon seen in one trench contained pottery dating to 1475-1550, and disarticulated human bones were recovered from another ploughed soil sealing burials in trenches 2 and 3, suggesting a predominantly agricultural use of the area from the immediate post-medieval period onwards. However, clay tobacco pipe fragments of a type not produced until the seventeenth century were also found in association with features apparently representing formal gardens and buildings connected with the post-Dissolution manor house.

7. No 1 Ryde Street, St Dunstons (TR 14223 58237)

An evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to No 1 Ryde Street in July 2006. The earliest feature, possibly a pre-Roman boundary ditch, was sealed by a series of metallised layers approximately 0.3m thick which were dated via a substantial portion of Central Gaulish Samian dish (c.AD 120-80). Earlier metallings had slumped into the upper deposits of the ditch despite an apparent attempt to stabilise the ground with a layer of largish flints. The thickness of the metalling suggests that this was a street rather than a yard surface.

8. Rhodaus Town (TR 14991 57362)

In late autumn 2006, evaluations to the rear of Augustine House and the Canterbury Motor Company respectively produced evidence of Roman period quarrying and an inhumation burial in an area known to be a dispersed extra-mural Roman cemetery. Sample excavation of quarry deposits at Augustine House recovered dating evidence of Roman period pottery from the lower fills (c.AD 50-150), while upper fills contained medieval and later material ranging from c.1050-1150 to c.1850 onwards. No skeletal material had survived in the inhumation burial in Trench 1 at the Canterbury Motor Company, but iron hobnails were present within the well defined grave cut.

9. *Parham Close, Sturry Road (TR 15780 58850)*

During the latter half of 2006, evaluation and excavation to the rear of 95–103 Sturry Road revealed a number of prehistoric ditch segments, together with Roman activity and a series of medieval pits, ditches, post-holes, beam slots and two large areas of clay extraction. The corner of an enclosure formed by three lengths of shallow ditch and a small post-hole were interpreted as probably prehistoric, the fills containing both burnt and worked flint. Residual Roman period pottery fragments recovered from later features suggested some form of occupation in the later second and third centuries AD. The medieval features included a possible structure as well as ditches and several pits, one of which contained a large amount of burnt daub and charcoal, perhaps the remains of a collapsed oven. One of the clay extraction quarries dating to this period contained a near complete Tyler Hill ware globular jug. This had been discarded spout downwards; its base had been removed by later ploughing of the area.

SITES OUTSIDE CANTERBURY

10. *Fordwich Village Hall (TR 1815 5976)*

A watching brief in advance of alterations to the hall in June 2006 led to more careful examination of a sequence of Saxon and Anglo-Norman ditches and soil horizons, as well as two pits of similar date and residual material relating to activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods. The ditches were all apparently substantial and on very similar alignment, probably representing the maintenance of a boundary of long standing (in fact, a post-medieval ditch and footpath also followed the same alignment).

The second ditch in the sequence cut through a layer containing a fragment of Ipswich Ware (c. AD 720) and was sealed by a layer containing pottery dated AD 1225–1350. Finds from its lower fills included a fragment of tile dating to the Roman period as well as burnt and worked flint. The upper fill was also truncated by the cut of a further ditch, this containing finds of Middle Saxon pottery (AD 750–850), as well as daub, animal bone, prehistoric pottery and burnt flint. A large pit nearby with pottery dating to c. AD 1050 contained a deposit of cessy material from which bird, fish and mammal bones were identified, suggesting nearby occupation.

11. *The Grange, Greenhill Road, Herne Bay (TR 16339 67116)*

This evaluation, conducted in mid 2006 in advance of residential development, revealed extensive evidence of a medieval rural settlement, including two potential timber built structures and a rammed gravel floor, as well as a shallow gully on a north/south alignment. Pottery recovered

from the features was generally dated to between AD 1050 and 1400 and included local Kent and Sussex coarse wares. The metallised floor surface also produced a single sherd of Saintonge ware imported from southern France. The site adds to a growing body of evidence for a scatter of later medieval settlement in the area.

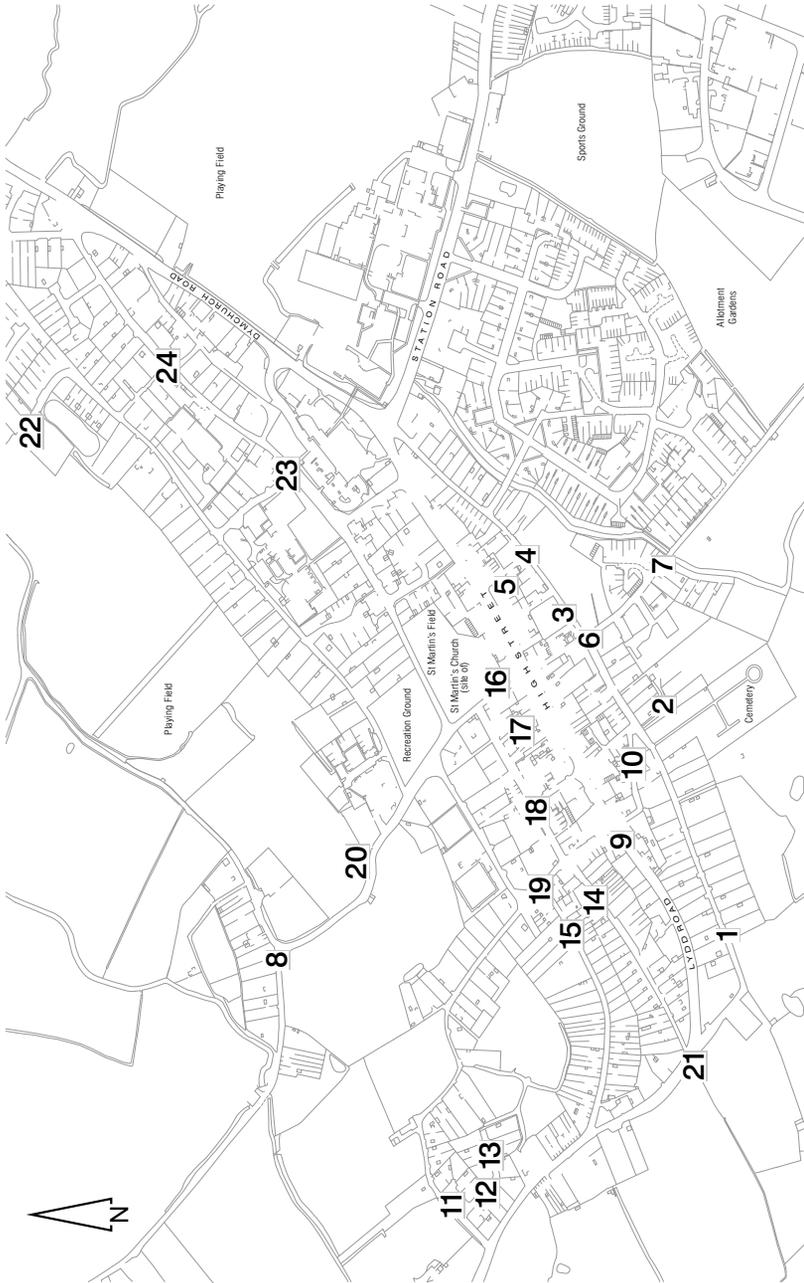
12. *Church Farm, East Langdon (TR 33270 46050)*

Evaluation and subsequent watching briefs in March 2007 investigated a number of archaeological features, with some securely dated to the medieval period (twelfth to thirteenth century) and one post-medieval. Medieval artefacts were mainly recovered from two of three distinctive pits, all of which were deep and rectangular with near vertical sides.

13. *New Romney Sewerage Scheme*

Watching briefs on the installation of the new sewerage were carried out between November 2005 and March 2007, recording much evidence of the medieval town, and recovering material dating from c.AD 1175-1550 (**Fig. 2**). Features included road metallings and a complex sequence of clay floors in the Church Road area, and traces of a building at the junction of Tritton Lane and the High Street. The apparent discrepancy between the floor level of St Nicholas' Church and adjacent higher ground levels, traditionally interpreted as caused by deposits associated with the 'Great Storm' of 1287, was in fact shown to be more likely a result of a build-up of many street metallings in this important area. The church might also have been built in a hollow between sand dunes. Further buildings, represented by various wall footings and clay floors, were recorded at the junction of Lydd Road with West Street and Lion's Road (evidence of a relatively large town house with outbuildings), in North Street (probably remains of the Priory of St Jacob), and at various other locations. In addition, a possible leper burial associated with the Hospital of St Stephen and St Thomas was excavated in the area of Spitalfield Lane and Priory Close, along with a series of very large drainage ditches. Evidence of the Hospital of St John was encountered in St John's Road, and several further inhumations were recorded and left *in situ* along the south side of Sussex Road. An area stripped for a compound and reservoir to the north-west of Rolfe Lane exposed a number of features that may well relate to a probable moated site nearby, and two parallel ditches and a row of post-holes were identified at the junction of Craythorne Lane and Fairfield Road. Large quantities of slag, burnt clay and hammerscale recovered in the area of Oak Lodge Road and Walner Lane indicate a focus of metalworking, and further evidence of medieval industry was found along Spitalfield Lane.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES AND SUMMARIES



14. *Lower Upnor Ordnance Depot (TQ 75905 70807)*

In the late summer of 2006 archaeological evaluation at the Royal School of Military Engineering on the banks of the lower Medway sought to investigate both military and civilian use of the site in the past. The earliest feature encountered was a collapsed brick kiln that may have been either military or civilian, provisionally dated to the 1700s. In general, the site was dominated by large-scale and impressive remains of the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century ordnance depot, including houses, large magazines, etc. The combined standing buildings and buried archaeological evidence represent an entire naval ordnance facility of national significance, especially given its association with the proposed World Heritage site of the Royal Naval Dockyard at Chatham.

15. *Jeskyns Farm, Cobham (TQ 66400 69200 centred)*

A range of investigations over this 150ha site was commissioned by the Forestry Commission in March 2006. While metal detecting and fieldwalking produced relatively sparse evidence, geophysical survey and evaluation trenches revealed the presence of two ditched enclosures as well as other features. Features sampled archaeologically were dated to the Roman period (approximately second-century in one case at least). A linear feature corresponding to a hollow way earlier recorded during Channel Tunnel Rail Link work was investigated, the feature's presence being confirmed. This work also revealed the foundations of a rectangular structure with a crushed chalk floor, again thought to date to the second century on the basis of pottery finds.

Fig. 2 (opposite) New Romney: sites along the Sewerage scheme.

1. Church Road, 2. South of Church Road, 3. Opposite St Nicholas Church, 4. Tritton Lane, 5. Tritton Lane / High Street, 6. St Nicholas Church, 7. Church Lane/Tookey Road, 8. Cockreed Lane, 9. Lydd Road / West Road / Lions Road, 10. Lions Road / Victoria Street, 11. Spitalfield Lane / Priory Close, 12/13. Former St Stephen and St Thomas hospital, 14. St John's Road, 15. Sussex Road, 16. Ashford Road, 17. North Street, 18. Broadacre Hotel, North Street, 19. Sussex Road / West Street, 20. Ashford Road, 21. Lydd Road / St John's Road, 22. Rolfe Lane, 23. Craythorne Lane/Fairfield Road, 24 Oak Lodge Road / Walner Lane.

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
SUMMARY REPORTS

Compiled by Vince Gardiner and Karen Thomas

SITES IN THE LONDON BOROUGHS OF BEXLEY, BROMLEY, GREENWICH AND LEWISHAM

1. *Hall Place, Bexley (TQ 50147 74315)*

Geotechnical test-pits around the seventeenth-century stable building and within and around the main manor house were examined in preparation for redevelopment to improve the current visitor facilities. A series of geotechnical boreholes, window samples and trial trenches were also excavated in the grounds of the house by Soil Mechanics.

A previously unknown foreshore revetment structure, likely to be contemporary with the first known phase of *Hall Place* (sixteenth-century), and a possible later phase of steps contemporary with the seventeenth-century extension were identified to the south of the main building ranges. Evidence for post medieval industry, comprising of structural remains in the area of the nineteenth-century former mill building, possible evidence of outbuildings and a brick built water channel were identified in the area of the proposed HUB development. A possible porch structure was located on the inside of eastern wing of *Hall Place*. A number of ditches, though mostly undated, were identified in the enclosed yard to the south of the Jacobean Barn in an area that previously would have occupied the flood plain to the north of the River Cray.

Structural opening up works within Hall Place were monitored and details of the brick-built fabric of the seventeenth-century extension of the building were recorded, while limited investigation in the sixteenth-century building revealed information regarding the construction of the timber frame and floor on the western side. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century and modern alterations to the building were also recorded. Natural sandy gravels were observed in several trenches.

(Aaron Birchenough, Nathalie Cohen and Simon Gannon; evaluation, watching brief and standing building recording Feb-Oct 2006; Giffords & Partners, in partnership with Bexley Heritage Trust HPA06.)

2. *Queen Anne Outer Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich (TQ 38651 78021)*

Work continued from 2005 (LA Vol.11 Supp.2 (2006)35). Excavations revealed the eastern end of the Chapel Royal of the Tudor Greenwich Palace, c.1504. The chapel had a tiled floor and stone moulding on its

walls and doorways. An integral drain was found below. To the east was an integral vestry with an additional (probable) vestry beyond. There was considerable evidence for alterations and additions in the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. In the 1740s the site was razed and new courtyards and privy blocks built.

(Julian Bowsher) excavation September 2005-February 2006
The Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College RND05.)

3. *Pirelli Works, Crabtree Manor Way, Belvedere (TQ 50463 79542)*

The site work comprised the drilling of thirteen boreholes in two transects on the western and eastern edges of the site. This revealed a deposit sequence which measured up to 9m in thickness and is likely to date from the Mesolithic to the Historic period. The basal deposit consisted of Late Pleistocene floodplain gravels which were found to occur at between -9.5 and -7.5m OD. However, a prominent gravel high was located in the north-eastern corner of the site where the gravel surface occurred at -6.5m OD. As yet no dating or environmental assessment has been undertaken on the core samples collected from the site. However, the sequence has provisionally been interpreted on the basis of the known stratigraphy from this part of the lower Thames and dates recently obtained from other sites in Erith. Above the gravels, sands of an Early Holocene date were deposited as possible channel bars in a braided river environment. The lower lying part of the site saw the development of a thin humified peat unit which probably dates to the Mesolithic period and equates to the Tilbury II marine regression. Following a rise in RSL the site was inundated by alluvial clays and silts which probably equate to the Thames II marine transgression. Following a drop in RSL a thick peat unit probably began to develop across the site encroaching from the north. This peat unit represents a wooded flood plain floor and probably equates with the Tilbury III and IV marine regressions. The upper part of the sequence consisted of alluvial clays deposited by overbank flooding, giving rise to a mud flat environment, followed by the development of a seasonally flooded grass meadow. These upper units are probably of an Iron Age to historic date. The core samples obtained from the boreholes have good potential for environmental examination and dating and will contribute to our understanding of the evolving landscape of the Erith area. It is hoped that dating and environmental analysis of the core samples will be undertaken as a further phase of work.

(Craig Halsey geo-archaeological evaluation April 2007
Astral Developments Ltd PWK07.)

4. *Greenwich Wharf (TQ 39120 78635)*

Three evaluation trenches were excavated to assess its geo-archaeological potential. Evidence of washed-in gravels and sands, and dry land surfaces were found as well as some features containing burnt and struck flints. Evidence was also found for a shallow creek filled with alluvium to the south of the site. A small amount of prehistoric pottery was retrieved from some deposits. Approximately 1m depth of peat deposits were located in the centre of the site; these are thought to date to the late Neolithic/Bronze Age period. A number of monolith and bulk samples were retrieved for environmental analysis. Core samples were also taken from six boreholes located across the centre of the site. The assessment of the geo-archaeological evidence is still ongoing.

(Andy Daykin, Aaron Birchenough; evaluation December 2007
Greenwich Wharf Ltd GWW07.)

5. *Landscaping Works, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich (TQ 38560 77915)*

Following earlier work in 2005 a watching brief was carried out on landscaping works on the lawns west of the King Charles and King William Quarters, on the car park east of the Queen Anne Quarter, and on four tree-planting trenches in the south-east corner of the site. During the stripping of the lawns only two archaeological features were observed; at the eastern edge of the King Charles lawns a 19th-century water tank was recorded, while along both sides of the north-south pathway, west of the King Charles Quarter, were traces of the original retaining walls. In the Queen Anne Outer Court, a brick and stone lined well (dated broadly to the 15th/16th centuries?) had been truncated by a wall of early 18th-century date.

In the car park east of the Queen Anne Quarter, five inhumations from a previously unknown row cemetery were discovered. They do not appear to be related to the Greenwich Friary (c.1491-1534) which lay some 250m east of the site and a boundary ditch to the west may suggest that they lay outside the palace grounds. Radiocarbon dating and associated finds suggested a date between the 15th and 17th centuries though it is hoped this can be refined.

(Julian Bowsher watching brief March 2007; Chris Blandford Associates
on behalf of The Greenwich Foundation RNE05.)

REST OF KENT

6. *Brown and Mason Yard, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich (TR 33300 61000)*

The site lies within what was once the Wantsum Channel. A previous

geoarchaeological deposit model, based on data from geotechnical interventions on the site and the surrounding parts of the Wantsum Channel, recommended a limited number of boreholes and trenching across the site. The results of these interventions formed the basis for the present geoarchaeological report. Microfossil analysis refined the detail of the nature of the sediments and the environments they formed in. The analysis confirmed the marine sand beach deposits were overlain by estuarine mud and sands which in turn were buried beneath sediments associated with salt marsh progression. Dated deposits overlying the whole sequence just below the made ground suggested the site location was possibly an extension of a spit extending southward from the northern shore by the beginning of the Bronze Age.

(Graham Spurr geoarchaeological investigation July-August 2006:
Thanet Waste Services KT-BWM06.)

7. Westfield, Furfield Quarry, Boughton Monchelsea (TQ 78100 51900)

A watching brief monitored top and sub-soil stripping of a roughly pentagonal plot of former agricultural land in advance of a new housing development. The site, within an identified Iron Age earthwork, had been evaluated by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in August 1996. Of ten trenches excavated only one provided archaeological evidence at the northern end of the field, revealing two linear ditches of probable post-medieval date. Stripping at the northern end of the field located one of these ditches, as well as a group of undated linear and circular features around the ditch. These features were probably the result of agricultural activity or clay extraction. A further four isolated features were recorded to the south and south-east of the linear and circular features. Two of these were interpreted as late post-medieval postholes. The other two undated circular features were interpreted as the remains of camp fires, due to the high concentration of charcoal.

Monitoring of the eastern edge of the site failed to produce the expected continuation of features relating to an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement exposed during the field excavation carried out by MoLAS in the neighbouring East Field in 2005 (KT-BMS05).

The outline of a large circular gully, linear features, circular features and two sets of semi-circular gullies arranged in a circle were exposed during the stripping of the access roads at the southern end of the field. Investigation of the large circular gully (approximately 10m in diameter), by means of sample slots exposed two distinct construction phases of a round house. The first phase showed a much smaller structure (approximately 6m in diameter) the entrance of which was heavily truncated by a post-medieval/modern soakaway. It was unclear if the second phase incorporated sections of the northern and eastern sides of

the smaller round house into the larger round house, or if they were removed prior to the later phase of construction. However it was clear that the western side was of a later construction which removed the remaining western side of the smaller round house to form the living space. Presumably the central timber support to the second phase round house was heavily truncated by the post-medieval soakaway, while access was via an entrance on the northern side of the structure.

Sample slots through one set of three semi-circular gullies exposed postholes in each of them and closer examination of the central area determined the remains of a central posthole. These groups of features undoubtedly formed another structure though less formed than the large and smaller round house. The second group of semi-circular gullies also appeared to form a crude circle, though only two of the three gullies had postholes in the base of them. The third gully was heavily truncated and it was unclear whether or not any posts were associated with it. Despite this these group of features probably form another crude structure. The linear and circular features excavated were interpreted as either agricultural features and or clay extraction pits for the manufacture of pottery.

Conclusively the two sets of semi-circular circled gullies and large round house form a small settlement or farmstead, but it is inconclusive if this settlement or farmstead had any association with either the Romano-British enclosure or the Iron Age earthworks mainly due to the lack of substantial dating evidence. This lack of dating material can only place a much broader date on the settlement placing it sometime between the Bronze Age and Roman period. Nevertheless these remains are of significance in understanding the overall development of the site when placed in context with the nearby Iron Age earthworks and the Romano-British enclosure.

(Bruce Ferguson watching brief October 2006 – April 2007
George Wimpey South East Ltd KT-BMW06.)

8. *Leigh Technology College, Green Street, Green Road, Dartford (TQ 55337 73215)*

Following two earlier evaluations in 2005, a watching brief was carried out during ground reduction. A single Roman burial and a large Roman boundary ditch were recorded, in addition to two postholes and two ditches of uncertain date. Natural sandy clay and gravels were observed.

(Stephen Turner watching brief July 2006 Kent County Council
Department for Education and Skills KT-LGA05.)

9. *The Bridge, Bob Dunn Way, Dartford (TQ 55400 75700)*

Following on from work in 2005, a watching brief was carried out on

groundworks associated with the redevelopment of The Bridge site into a mixed use scheme. Monitoring included observation of topsoil stripping, excavation of drainage trenches, removal of foundations from Joyce Green Hospital, and ground reduction for bridges and access roads. The site had been heavily truncated by previous buildings and by landscaping in the Joyce Green area. Littlebrook Nature Park, in the centre of the site, had been quarried leaving little potential for archaeological survival. Ten possible postholes dating to the medieval or later period which survived in the Joyce Green area contained residual prehistoric flint debitage and pottery. No evidence was found indicating that the known Bronze Age features to the south-east or the Roman cremation cemetery located to the east extended into the site, although residual finds of both periods were recovered. Natural gravel was observed at 6.50m OD in the west of the site; alluvial and peat deposits survived to a height of 0.12m OD in the east of the site.

(Elaine Eastbury watching brief January-April 2006
Alfred McAlpine Capital Projects KT-BLL05.)

10. *Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm, Romney Marsh (TQ 96582 22910 - TQ 97733 24465 - TQ 94598 29591)*

The excavation of an electricity cable trench was monitored. This runs north-east from the new wind farm at Little Cheyne Court to White House Farm, where it turns north-west and runs across part of Walland Marsh to the Royal Military Canal. It continues due west to join the Hastings to Ruckinge 132Kv overhead power line west of Appledore.

The first two areas of excavation contained only natural clayey sand beneath modern make-up and tarmac. The next section revealed a sandy clay deposit which may represent a dumped deposit to fill erosion in an earlier road surface. The fourth section uncovered a blue-grey sandy clay deposit which may be the infill of a ditch or drain. This deposit contained no datable finds and gave off fumes suggesting it was contaminated with diesel or petrol.

The fifth section of trench monitored contained two deposits beneath the topsoil; one of sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and CBM fragments sealing another consisting of clayey sand with similar inclusions. Both appear to be backfilling within a field which is prone to erosion. The sixth section exposed blue-grey clay with frequent inclusions of peat towards the bottom of the fill of what may have been a backfilled drainage ditch. The seventh area monitored contained similar deposits and again may be backfill including redeposited natural material.

The final area monitored contained a sandy clay deposit with frequent peat in the middle and bottom of the fill, with a cut which is visible only

at the north end of the feature. The feature appears to be a section of road some 3-4m above the surrounding peaty/marshy area and has been built up using material from there, although no evidence was found for the date when this occurred. In addition, a trench was monitored near Court Lodge which revealed a series of timbers in the sandy clay at the base of the excavation which were interpreted as a possible revetment around a medieval fish pond dated by associated pottery from the same context to between 1125 and 1250.

(Nikki Rahmatova and Simon Gannon; watching brief July 2007
EDF Energy KT-CWF07.)

11. *Peter's Village, Wouldham (TQ 71429 62437)*

Fifty evaluation trenches were excavated over an area of 75 hectares. Previous evaluations by Archaeology South-East had established evidence of late Iron Age and Romano-British activity at the northern and southern ends of the evaluated area. This latest phase of evaluation trenches established the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) on the site is very low probably the result of ploughing or natural weathering or environmental changes of the site. The evaluated areas, however, established positive evidence of cut features represented by field boundary ditches, enclosure ditches; postholes, quarry pits and drainage ditches in 31 of the 50 evaluation trenches; a number of natural features were also recorded.

The cut features relate to the Iron Age, Roman/Romano-British, medieval/early post-Medieval (16th to 18th century) and the later Post Mediaeval (late 19th/early 20th century) periods. Retouched/worked flint pieces recovered from some features may indicate the presence of Mesolithic, Neolithic and/or Bronze Age activity; however, these are residual. Roman and Iron Age evidence relates largely to agricultural use though inferential evidence was present for a Roman building or buildings previously identified to the west of the site. Medieval or early-post-medieval structural remains to the south of Hall road may represent Wouldham Hall or associated buildings.

A watching brief was carried out on the construction of three newt ponds near the intersection of Scarborough Lane and Old Church Road, Peter's Village. Archaeological features recorded during the excavation established evidence of post-medieval quarrying, two linear features and two small circular postholes. Small fragments of reddish orange brick recovered from the fill of the postholes imply they were 18th or 19th century in date, probably the result of agricultural activity. The two linear features consisted of a north-west/south-east aligned Roman field or boundary ditch possibly relating to the Roman structures previously

discovered to the south-west. The second feature represents a construction/demolition cut for a dismantled east-west aligned railway line.

(Bruce Ferguson evaluation and watching brief July-September, December 2007 CgMs Consulting KT-PVG07.)

12. *Kingsmead Sports Stadium, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury (TR 15349 58729)*

A geoarchaeological borehole survey was carried out to target an area of the site where a previous watching brief had identified a Boreal Age peat horizon buried beneath a series of alluvial clays. This part of the site contained a more varied deposit sequence than identified across the rest of the site. The borehole survey aimed to refine the site's stratigraphy and assess the preservation level of the palaeoenvironmental remains.

The basal deposits on the site consisted of the Pleistocene gravels which were deposited in a fast flowing braided river system c.18,000-15,000 years BP. These were overlain by a series of finer grained sands and clays which are thought to be of a Late Glacial date (c.15,000-10,000 BP). Bulk samples through these deposits demonstrated a good level of survival of invertebrate remains, suggesting deposition in a low energy river environment. The upper part of this deposit contained land snails suggesting that dry land surfaces had formed within these deposits probably in the early part of the Holocene.

Towards the north the finer grained deposits and the gravels were overlain by a fibrous brown peat. Radiocarbon dating of this unit indicated the onset of the peat formation at c.11,000 BP. The peat appears to be infilling a former channel of the Stour which had gradually migrated in a northwards direction. The dating of the peat suggested that the original channel may have been cut at the end of the Late Glacial period, when the channel adopted a deeper incised meandering form. The peat was found to have moderate levels of pollen preservation, which suggested a surrounding flora typical of the Boreal and Atlantic periods. The plant macro fossils were, however, less well preserved.

Above the peat horizon, an organic clay developed, which suggested a rise in river levels and the flooding of the channel margins. This probably dates to the Climatic Optimum when the climate became warmer and wetter with high levels of precipitation.

The uppermost units consisted of alluvial clays deposited by overbank flooding and forming accretionary soil horizons. A pot sherd recovered from one of the cores dates the onset of these deposits to the medieval period. Analysis is continuing on the material from the site.

(Craig Halsey geoarchaeological assessment February 2007 Berkeley Homes (Kent) Ltd KT-KMS06.)

KAS WEBSITE SUMMARIES

1. AN IRON AGE SITE AT HARTSDOWN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, MARGATE

During February 2001 an archaeological excavation was carried out by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust on land at Hartsdown Technology College, George V Avenue, Margate (TR 3450 6985) (**Fig. 3**). The previous evaluation on this part of the site had revealed the presence of

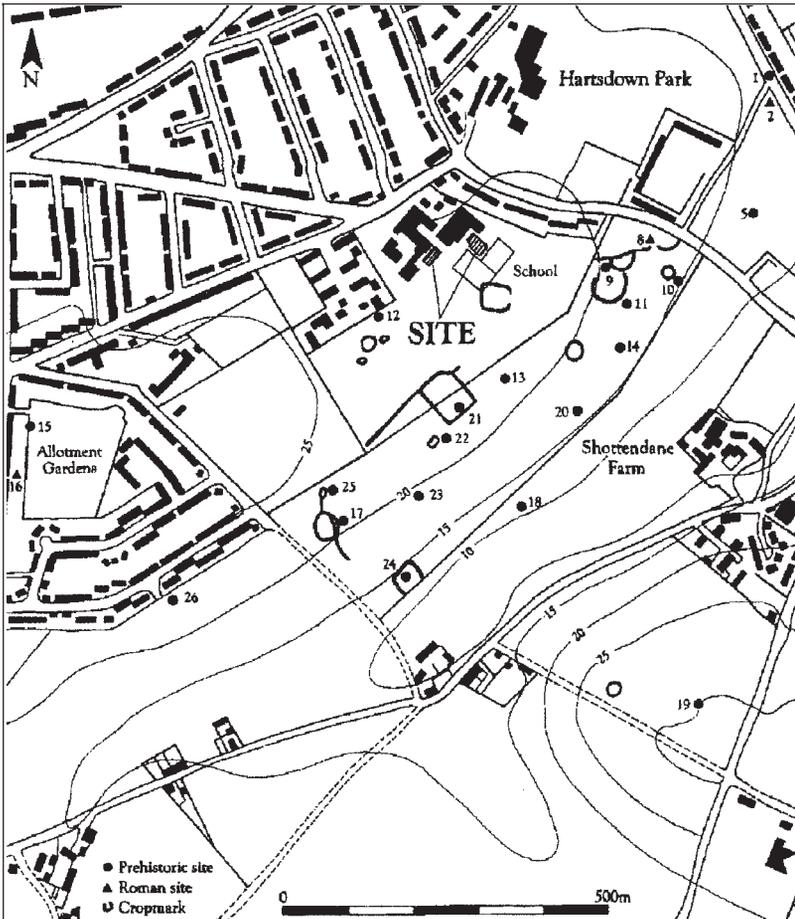


Fig. 3. Hartsdown Technology College: site location.

two large enclosure ditches on differing alignments, dating to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age. One of these was associated with a crouched inhumation burial. The excavation provided further evidence of the Iron Age ditched enclosures and demonstrated that the burial was actually placed in a pit that cut the enclosure ditch. A pit within the enclosure contained a large quantity of material culture, including three copper alloy objects and a semi-complete pot. The evidence suggests the presence of two Iron Age field enclosures, probably related to pastoral activities. These features were part of a busy late prehistoric domestic, economic and ritual landscape, as indicated by surrounding cropmarks.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Dr Rhodri Gardner and Dr Catriona Gibson

2. A LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMAN LANDSCAPE AT HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL, BULLOCKSTONE ROAD, HERNE BAY

Between July 1999 and September 2001 a programme of archaeological investigations was carried out by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust on land at Herne Bay High School, Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay (TR 1682 6604). Archaeological features were revealed in various areas of the site. These were predominantly of Late Iron Age to Romano-British date, likely relating to field systems and associated pits, on the periphery of a relatively low status rural settlement. An earlier presence was indicated by the occurrence of residual struck flints. Sparse medieval activity was indicated. Previous work by Canterbury Archaeological Trust on an adjacent site, on the opposite side of Bullockstone Road, revealed a similarly complex landscape with evidence of enclosures. It is likely that the features encountered there represent the main focus of the settlement during the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Rhodri Gardner

3. EXCAVATIONS AT MOLEHILL ROAD, CHESTFIELD

An archaeological excavation was undertaken in 1998 at Molehill Road, Chestfield, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, ahead of development of the site for housing (TR 1400 6570) (**Fig. 4**). Late Bronze Age activity was indicated by an assemblage of lithic material recovered from later features and a ploughsoil deposit, which covered the site. Postholes and

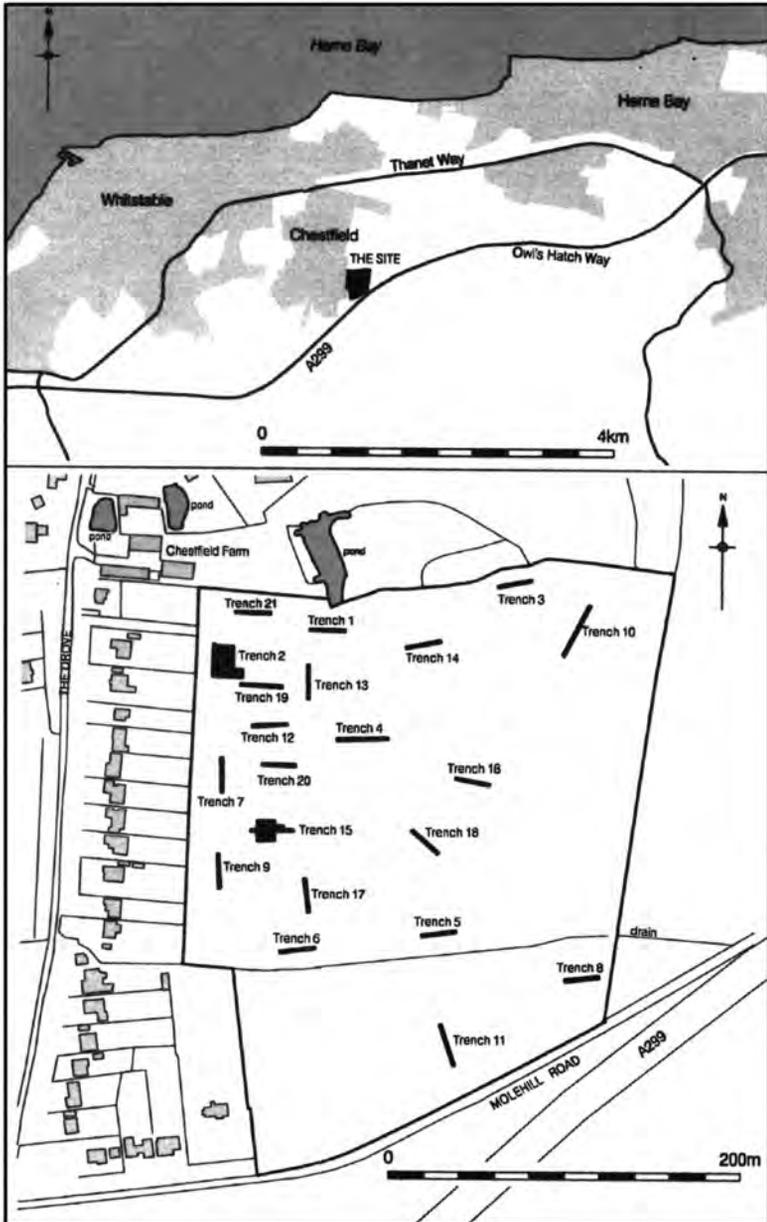


Fig. 4. Molehill Road, Chestfield: site location.

a semi-circular ditch possibly dated from this period. A number of pits were uncovered, which contained pottery, and kiln furniture indicative of Romano-British pottery manufacture in the vicinity. The pits also contained briquetage derived from the salt industry. Other residual finds recovered from the ploughsoil included a quantity of medieval ceramics, mainly of the Tyler Hill industry, alongside some post-medieval wares, indicating occupation nearby, with exploitation of the area for agricultural purposes.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Kevin Wooldridge, Malcolm Lyne and Victoria Ridgeway

4. IRON AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH FEATURES AT WHITSTABLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BELLEVUE ROAD, WHITSTABLE

In August 2004 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological excavation on land at Whitstable Community College, Bellevue Road, Whitstable, (TR 11680 65720) (**Fig. 5**). An earlier trial trench evaluation revealed several pits and a ditch, which were either undated, or contained sparse middle Iron Age pottery. The excavation revealed a sequence of late Iron Age and Romano-British coaxial ditches, probably part of an agricultural field system peripheral to settlement. Other features included dispersed rubbish pits and tree hollows. Post-medieval agricultural features were also recorded. Artefacts were sparse, and comprised struck and burnt flint, largely undiagnostic, and much abraded late Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds and ceramic building material.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Leonora O'Brien

5. EXCAVATIONS AT THE FORMER BEXLEY HOSPITAL, DARTFORD HEATH

The site is located within the grounds of the former Bexley Hospital situated to the south of Old Bexley Lane on Dartford Heath and centred on TQ 5125 7275 (**Fig. 6**). Following an application to redevelop the site for housing, an initial phase of field evaluation followed by excavation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology across the western and central parts of the site during June and August 2001. A further phase of field evaluation followed by excavation was conducted across the eastern part of the site during August and September 2002. Concurrent archaeological evaluations investigating the potential of the site for Palaeolithic remains

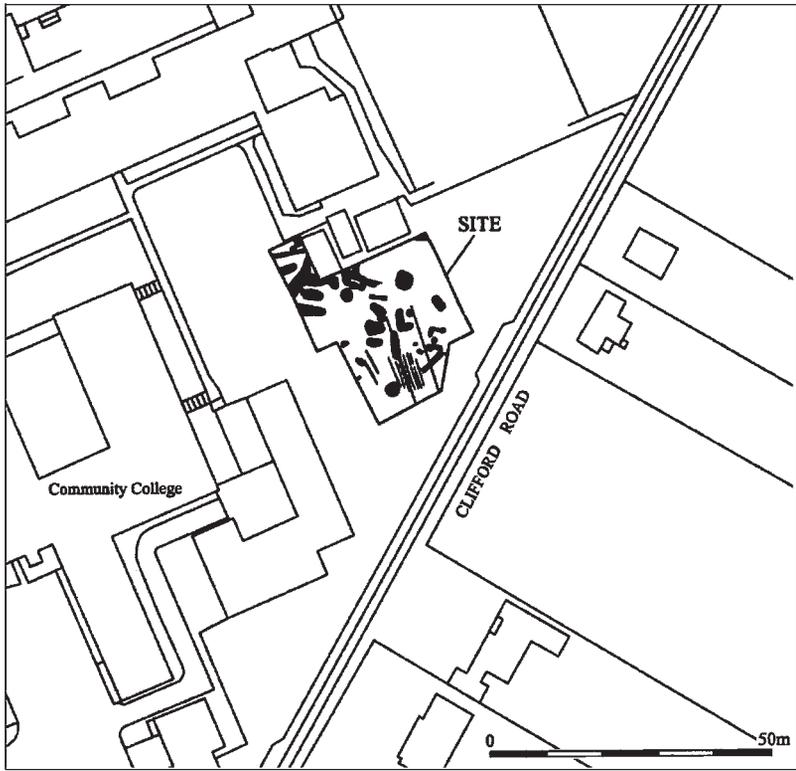


Fig. 5. Whitstable Community College: site location.

were undertaken by Francis Wenban-Smith, Martin Bates and Gil Marshall; no organic remains from this period were encountered although a single Palaeolithic handaxe or core was recovered from the second phase of evaluation.

The earliest evidence of human activity at the site consisted of numerous tree-throw hollows, one of which contained the broken head of a Mesolithic tranchet axe. Other recorded features included three pits containing partially refittable Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork. Later activity in the form of a ditch and numerous pits and postholes was also identified. These are thought most likely to represent later prehistoric settlement although little dating material was recovered and their interpretation remains problematic. Although possibly potentially forming part of an agricultural landscape during the prehistoric and Roman periods, the

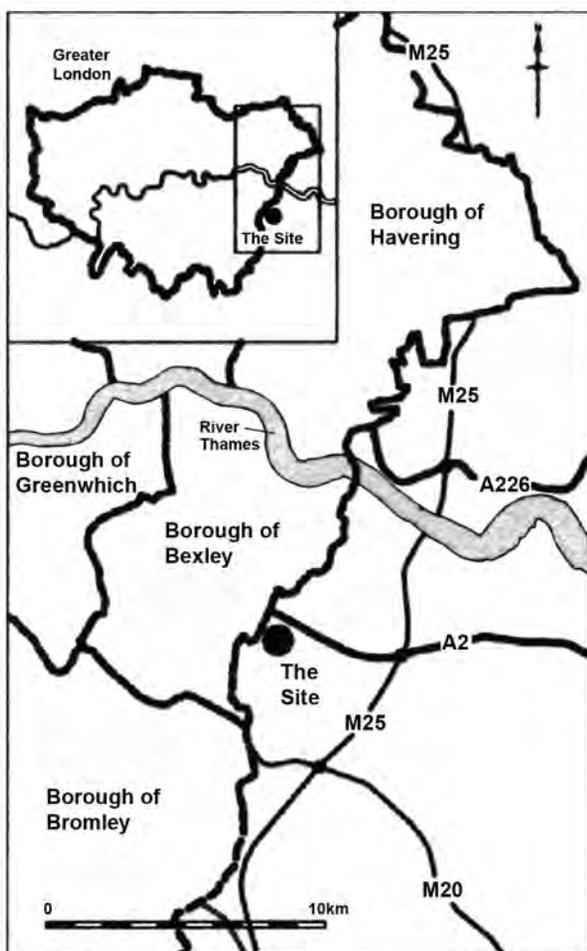


Fig. 6. Bexley Hospital: site location.

relatively remote and open heathlands that the site was situated within appear to have been only sporadically utilized throughout much of the historical period, such as for pasturage and sand quarrying. The earliest documentary records indicate that the site was incorporated as part of the estate of *Baldwyns* manor house by the early nineteenth century, and by the end of that century had been acquired as part of the former Bexley Hospital, with substantial buildings occupying the northern and central

parts of the site, but much of the rest remaining as open parkland forming the hospital grounds.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Barry John Bishop

6. A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE SITE AT SITTINGBOURNE

An archaeological watching brief was conducted in July 2003 at East Hall Farm (NGR TQ 927 645) by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on preparatory works for the Sittingbourne Northern Distributor Road, commissioned by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Trenport (East Hall Park) Ltd. and Symonds Group Ltd. The site is located north-east of Sittingbourne and abuts an existing section of the Sittingbourne Northern Distributor Road at the eastern boundary of the Eurolink III site (code KEHF 03). The site was supervised by Alexis Haslam and the project was managed by Peter Moore.

In all, six features were exposed and recorded in the northernmost part of the site. The remainder of the site appears to have been exposed to heavy brickearth extraction during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to supply the brickworks at Murston, which process had clearly removed the archaeological horizons.

All of the six features under East Hall Wood were cut into the natural brickearth, and all but one of the features (a shallow hearth) took the form of either pits or postholes. Large amounts of pottery fragments were recovered from the fills consisting of coarse, medium and finewares, all in the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. Of particular interest was an Ardleigh-type 'bucket urn', possibly deposited ritually. The site importantly adds to the number of single period Bronze Age assemblages in Kent and suggests that the Kent Deverel-Rimbury tradition was less isolated than previously thought.

Redeposited struck flint, including a 'nosed' long-end scraper characteristic of Mesolithic/Neolithic industries, was also recovered.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Alexis Haslam with Barry Bishop and Mike Seager Thomas

7. MESOLITHIC OCCUPATION AND LATER PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY AT HILLBOROUGH, NEAR RECVLVER

A desk-based assessment following proposals to redevelop land at the Hillborough Caravan Park, Reculver (TR 2064 6800) led to archaeological

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field evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology consisting of fifty 20m long trenches across the site. These revealed archaeological features and flint scatters and, accordingly, two open area excavations were carried out in January and February 2000. A significant assemblage of struck flint in mostly pristine condition was recovered from a 'relict' soil horizon. Typology indicates that it dates from the Early to Middle Mesolithic period and may possibly have 'Horsham' industry affinities. Two ditches and two pits contained relatively large pottery assemblages comprising both Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury and Late Bronze Age types. Iron Age activity was represented by a series of narrow trenches, postholes and stakeholes producing some Late Iron Age pottery. Large quantities of burnt daub suggest the presence of former structural features.

(The full report on this site is published on the KAS website, kentarchaeology.ac)

Barry John Bishop and Malcolm Lyne

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