On 20th June 1994 work began on a large scale archaeological investigation in advance of the construction of a new dual carriageway along the line of the present A253 between the Monkton and Mount Pleasant roundabouts on the Isle of Thanet. The proposed road scheme is one of a number of improvements to the ‘Thanet Way’ and conjoining routes by Kent County Council Highways and the Department of Transport in recent years. The project, which was completed early in 1995, proved to be one of the largest and most complex rural operations that the Trust has been involved with. The scheme also marks a new and exciting advance in the development of strategies by the County Archaeologist for archaeological investigation in advance of road construction schemes in Kent.

The Isle of Thanet is widely recognised as one of the richest archaeological areas in Kent. Chance discoveries over the last century or so together with recent fieldwork and the plotting of sites from aerial photographs indicate that the island possesses an extremely high density of ancient sites spanning five millennia. The course of the new road, about 2.5 km. long, runs east–west along the island’s south side on a false crest of chalk downland escarpment, at a level of between 25 and 45 m. above O.D. The crest overlooks low lying marshland, once open water of the Wantsum Channel, which separated Thanet from the mainland until later medieval times. The section of the A253 from Sarre to Ramsgate roughly follows the line of ancient ‘Dunstrete’ (the road over the down). Although this name would perhaps...
indicate a possible Roman origin (supported by the location of a number of adjacent Romano British cemeteries), the presence of barrow cemeteries and other prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity suggests that the route may date from an earlier period.

A desk assessment of all known archaeological data for the new road was compiled by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology for Kent County Council Highways. This study, which indicated that a number of sites existed on line, was further supplemented by a geophysical survey of the route. The survey provided additional evidence for previously unknown sites. In 1992 and 1993 the County Archaeologist commissioned an evaluation of some of the sites identified by the earlier studies. This phase of work confirmed the presence of archaeological remains which included a large double ring ditch or enclosure; a system of linear ditches or structures; a group of rectangular sunken buildings; and a rare Beaker period double inhumation.

On the basis of this accumulated knowledge, the County Archaeologist decided that the most effective way of dealing with the archaeology was to strip the topsoil along the entire route, well in advance of construction works. A specification was drawn up to ensure that all earthworks were under the strict direction and continual supervision of the archaeological team, and in addition that all archaeological features so exposed were immediately mapped and recorded, thus ensuring a record of the entire archaeological resource prior to excavation. A number of preparatory works were necessary before the topsoil strip could commence. These included the surveying of a site grid, the erection of fencing around the entire easement, the formation of site entrances and compounds and the protection of existing services which included a British Telecom fibre optic cable.

The contract for the archaeological works at Monkton was let by competitive tender and awarded to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, in association with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. The topsoil strip commenced at the eastern end of the route on 11th July 1994. Mapping of the area, on average 35–40 m. wide, was carried out close behind the machinery whenever possible. Just over two weeks later the entire available length of the easement had been stripped to some degree and most archaeological features had been identified. Preliminary works involved the removal of about 25,000 cubic metres of topsoil or colluvium, revealing an exposed area of chalk subsoil in excess of 62,000 square metres. During six months of excavation, over 1,200 individual archaeological features were identified, mapped and excavated. These comprised a number of dispersed Neolithic and Beaker inhumation burials; parts of three prehistoric barrow cemeteries; a unique Roman settlement or village; a small Anglo Saxon cemetery; a twelfth century farmstead; and numerous isolated features of various dates. Included in the latter was a sequence of ancient hollow ways or trackways which extended over most of the route and a number of Second World War trenches sited at the western end of the easement.

At an early stage of the fieldwork the route was subdivided into ten areas numbered from east to west. These areas are referred to in the text to assist the reader locate sites or individual features.

The earliest features appeared to be connected with a Neolithic to Late Bronze Age ritual landscape associated with burial of the dead. The earliest of these comprised at least seven widely dispersed Neolithic and Beaker period graves, all unmarked by funerary mounds. Two high status burials, set closely together, were located in Area 9 at the centre of a later complex of burial mounds. Finds from these graves included a fine Beaker, a necklace of 217 minute jet beads and a copper
Fieldwork: III Kent Sites

A short way east of this group was a final grave containing a well preserved skeleton and, unusually, the stains of a rotted wooden coffin.

Of the six Early Bronze Age graves, four yielded Beakers, a very high percentage when the national average is one Beaker to every ten graves. In addition to this, fragments of at least another nine vessels were recovered from later ring ditch fills. The thirteen vessels recovered from the excavations have increased the number of Early Bronze Age Beakers found in Kent by 25 per cent.

No burial mounds were located during the excavation. These had all been removed by a long history of ploughing. Some ten individual ring ditches, originally surrounding burial mounds, were however located in three separate groups perhaps representing individual cemeteries at different locations along the route. The earliest of the ring ditches, comprising a ring of interconnecting pits possibly formed in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, was located in Area 9. Perhaps associated with this early mound was an east–west alignment of eighteen equidistant post pits. The post pits, perhaps marking a sacred row, were interrupted close to the barrow by
two Beaker inhumation burials. At this point the alignment of the row was found to change and a relationship between the mound, Beaker burials and post pit alignment is suspected.

These early features almost certainly encouraged the gradual development of a cemetery. The early barrow was provided with an outer ring ditch creating one of the largest Bronze Age barrows known in Kent and at least four additional burial mounds were constructed nearby.

Most of the mounds exposed in Areas 9, 7 and 3 were of Mid to Late Bronze Age date. Only three ring ditches produced internal cremations or burials; all were severely plough damaged. Four satellite cremations contained in pots of Deveril Rimbury type, were found immediately outside the ring ditches of the barrow group in Area 7.

An isolated ring ditch in Area 3 marked the easternmost cemetery (at least two further ring ditches are indicated by cropmarks nearby). Excavation of the entire ring ditch (within the easement) produced a jet bead, a copper alloy bead and an almost complete, but fragmented, pottery vessel found lying in the base of the ditch. The vessel, broken soon after the burial mound had been constructed in the Mid to Late Bronze Age, was of Trevisker cordoned ware, a pottery type from the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall and until now only found in south west England. The discovery has presented us with a new set of questions relating to trade and mechanisms of transport in the prehistoric period and is particularly relevant given the recent discovery in Dover of a Bronze Age boat.

That this part of Thanet appears to have been open rolling downland, punctuated only by prominent and visible cemeteries seems to be indicated by the excavated evidence. There is no indication of settlement in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods and this situation seems to have continued into the Iron Age. Although there is some small evidence of short term settlement in the form of two hut circles in Areas 1 and 9 and a small group of rubbish pits in Areas 7 and 8, overall, the landscape here seems to have been open and only sporadically occupied until the first century A.D.

One of the most surprising discoveries made during this project was evidence for hollow ways extending along the eastern half of the easement. The hollow ways for a minor road were formed by the constant passage of men, animals and carts during the Roman period. Although numerous hollows existed, these primarily formed one east–west route now partially beneath the existing line of the A253. A T junction was located at the eastern end of Area 6. Here the east–west road met a much deeper and broader hollow for a north east to south west aligned route. An earlier version of the T junction was observed to the west of the intersection.

Associated with the east–west route in Areas 4 and 5 was a Romano British settlement of the late first to second century A.D. The settlement, of which about 1 hectare (10,000 square metres) was examined, overlooked the former Wantsum Channel, c. 1.5 km. to the south. The bulk of the settlement extended for about 320 m. along the northern edge of the contemporary hollow way.
thus defining in all probability its east, west and southern limits. The northern boundary was outside the excavated area and remains to be determined, although recent air photographs have suggested that only about a quarter to a third of the settlement, at most, was exposed.

In addition to the usual suite of features commonly encountered on chalk downland sites (such as enclosure ditches, storage and rubbish pits and post hole structures), perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this site was that twenty two sunken floored or cellared structures, representing an unusual building type for this period, were present.

Most of the structures, though quite variable in form, shared a number of common details. The buildings were generally rectangular in plan with their long axis aligned at 900 to the Roman road at the southern edge of the site. They were cut, on average, about 30 cm. into the chalk bedrock with steep sides and flat bottoms. Some of the structures contained hearths or scorched areas, post and stake holes (occasionally in great number), internal partitions and made up rammed chalk floors, though others were virtually featureless internally. The existence of the hearths and floor surfaces in particular, demonstrated that the occupied floor level was actually on the base of the sunken area. In addition, many had well defined entrances, occasionally marked by post settings for door jambs and provided with ramps or steps cut into the chalk, descending to floor level. These entrances were nearly always positioned on the west or south sides of the buildings.

Although a number of the buildings contained obvious structural elements, either longitudinally aligned post settings or post pits around the edges of the cellared area, generally little evidence for the form of the superstructure survived. This suggests that the main walls of the buildings were often outside the sunken area, and may have been formed of turf or alternatively supported by timber plates laid directly on the ground surface. It is likely that some of these buildings were used as dwelling houses (many contained querns), but generally their function is still open to question.

In addition to sunken buildings, other building types are represented. Two deeply cut sub rectangular structures located in Area 4, were probably storage cellars. Both possessed roughly cut steps leading down to cellar floor level. Two other curious and virtually identical features, were located toward the eastern end of Area 4. These square ‘tank like’ structures, each set within a surrounding circular hollow, may have been industrial features. At the western end of Area 4 was a group of six large post pits describing a rectangular building, possibly a granary.

Most of the structures forming this settlement are very unusual in a first to second century Romano British context. At present it is not possible to cite any close parallels in Britain. A continental origin for the building type has been suggested, based largely on their superficial
resemblance to sunken featured buildings of the Anglo Saxon period, but none of the finds appear to suggest a continental connection. It is possible therefore that the buildings represent a previously unrecorded local development.

Late in the life of the settlement a ditched enclosure was formed in Area 5. The rectangular enclosure, measuring some 40 m. east–west and in excess of 25 m. north–south, was provided with a chalk causeway entrance, flanked by a pair of post holes that might represent a gate. A separate enclosure located some 60 m. further west may have also been constructed at this time.

Perhaps contemporary with the formation of the eastern enclosure was the construction of a surface built structure, represented by a series of linear foundation trenches. The building of unknown function, located immediately south east of the enclosure, appeared to be associated with a rectangular well and adjacent clay lined water trough. Although safety considerations only allowed the excavation of the upper few metres of the fill of the well, subsequent bore holing showed this feature to be some 40 m. deep.

On the western fringes of the settlement in Area 5 a more usual type of Romano British building was located. This 6 m. square cill beam structure, found lying adjacent and parallel to the road, has been interpreted as a roadside shrine. A ‘ritual’ pit, excavated within the building, yielded a votive offering of a Rhenish ‘hunt cup’ decorated with a relief of hunting dogs and a stag.

The road extended from the settlement to Area 6 where a T junction with a north east to south west aligned hollow way was encountered. Between the settlement and the junction a prolific number of hollows had been formed, these representing short and long term tracks following the same route, but effectively joining with the north east to south west aligned road to the north of the main

At least one chalk quarry was cut within the Area 4 settlement late in the occupation phase and filled with domestic rubbish. This feature, containing pottery of c. A.D. 175–225, appears to provide the latest possible date for occupation on this part of the settlement. A small number of other similarly dated pits were found cutting earlier buildings and overall the main Romano British settlement appears to have been abandoned in the late second or early third century.

A resumption of occupation following the abandonment of the settlement appears to have occurred in the fourth century this being represented by the cutting of a number of ditches associated with late Roman field systems and possibly enclosures, most of which lay north of the excavated area.

Post excavation analysis of this apparently unique site is still at a very early stage and the information given above is at best a simplified version of a complex story. What is clear however, is that this site at Monkton represents one of the largest and most thoroughly investigated Roman period rural settlements in East Kent and presents a possibly unique and certainly unusual corpus of Roman structures.

Area 2 provided the next chronological link with the discovery of a small Anglo Saxon cemetery comprising some eighteen graves. A possibly contemporary north west to south east aligned hollow way flanked the east side of the cemetery with all but one grave being grouped in an area some 18 m. by 10 m. to the west of the track. The remaining grave lay at some distance from the others to the east of the hollow. The hollow way itself appeared to be aligned to approach Minster Abbey at the foot of the ridge approximately 1 km. away. The burials were almost certainly those of local people, perhaps members of an extended farming family or community working the land nearby.

Of the eighteen interments, few were accompanied by grave goods; two graves contained spearheads,
Fieldwork: III Kent Sites

three had knives, one a pot probably made in northern France in c. A.D. 650–75 and one burial was provided with a zoomorphic buckle of c. A.D. 670–700.

Although other perhaps earlier burials may exist beneath the present road and further to the south, on the basis of excavated evidence burial appears to have commenced at this cemetery in the second half of the seventh century, perhaps shortly before Minster Abbey was founded in c. A.D. 670. The latest burial, that containing a wolf’s head buckle, dated at the latest to A.D. 700 indicates that the cemetery was open for only 30–40 years and was perhaps in use for a generation or so.

Some of the richest Anglo Saxon cemeteries in Kent (all earlier than the present site) exist nearby at Sarre and Monkton with others only a few kilometres to the east at Ozengell near Ramsgate and St Peter’s and Bradstowe School at Broadstairs. Despite its size, date and artefact poor nature, the present site is arguably of comparable importance. The cemetery may represent one of the last downland ridge sites in Thanet to have been used for traditional burial practices following gradual conversion to Christianity and a change in burial practice to interment around churches and chapels.

A group of seven post holes found at the eastern edge of the cemetery probably post dated the use of the place for burials and may represent some sort of structure.

Also of possible Anglo Saxon origin but located 1200 m. west of the cemetery was a large north–south aligned ditch. The ditch coincides almost exactly with the boundary between Monkton and Minster parishes and may mark that boundary. The bounds of Minster in Thanet were established by Domneva the first Abbess of Minster in the late seventh century.

A rare twelfth century farmstead fell within the excavated area just by the tenth milestone from Canterbury in Area 8. Most of the settlement lay within a pair of adjoining enclosures with each enclosure containing buildings defined by post holes or posts in slots. Three separate north–south aligned rectangular buildings were identified in the western enclosure and at least one in the eastern.

The westernmost building, possibly a byre or barn appeared to have been of two phase build, with both phases using a post in slot technique of construction. Insufficient evidence was obtained to determine which was the earlier. A short way east was a separate building, possibly a domestic residence. The surviving remains indicated a principal hall with a narrower annexe at its northern end and a lean to structure set against the north west end of the hall. Large opposed post holes against the walls about half way down the hall’s length may have held principal posts. Major post settings were also found in the slots at the angles and beside both of the principal posts. Chalk packing in the post slots indicated that the bulk of the walls consisted of split logs set upright with their flat sides facing inwards.

In the eastern enclosure a fourth building also sported a north annexe. The main room was divided into two, probably about halfway along, by a transverse post slot. Unfortunately a modern service trench crossed the building at this point, leaving only tantalising indications of framing.

The third and fourth buildings had end walls set between projecting side walls. One possible interpretation for the framing of the Monkton buildings, based on the archaeological evidence, is that they may have been primitive forms of

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Anglo-Saxon zoomorphic buckle from the Area 2 cemetery. Length: 63 mm.


Plan of Area 8.
Earthfast crucks or base crucks. Although this interpretation has yet to stand up to detailed scrutiny, if this is the case they are arguably the most easterly and potentially amongst the very earliest post Anglo Saxon examples of this type of building yet identified in Britain.

A cruck frame building employs pairs of curved timbers usually of large cross section that rise from or near ground level to meet at or near the apex of a roof. The timbers effectively form a bowed A frame which supports the roof of the building independently of the walls. The structural remains at Monkton are reminiscent of an early medieval building tradition sometimes employing crucks (James, Marshall & Millett 1984). However, the buildings of this tradition, which appear to have died out around A.D. 800, are characterised by opposed doors in the long sides. These are quite lacking at Monkton and their absence not only implies significant differences in structural terms but suggests that, at this social level anyway, the days of humans and livestock occupying opposite ends of a longhouse were over.

In addition to the main buildings, the enclosures contained an unbottomed well or chalk pit and various fence lines and internal ditches. A large cess pit containing well preserved organic deposits lay just north of the domestic building with a smaller pisoire draining into it.

Stripping of the western end of the new road revealed some of the most recent features; three lengths of military ditch cut during World War II for the protection of the nearby Manston air base.

The archaeological strategy devised by Kent County Council for this section of the new Thanet Way proved to be immensely successful. More Beaker period burials and barrows were excavated during this single project than in a century of excavation across the entire county. In addition the discovery of a unique Roman settlement with a road system, a hitherto unknown Anglo Saxon cemetery and the first twelfth century farmstead excavated in Kent (arguably containing buildings of rare type), combine to endorse the unusual decision to strip the entire section of new road well in advance of construction.

Buckland Anglo Saxon Cemetery
Keith Parfitt and Cathy Haith

An earlier evaluation of this site indicated the presence of a small number of burials set against the northern boundary of the development and this led the excavators to believe that these were an outlying group of inhumations associated with the Buckland Cemetery to the north. A specification for the excavation of this supposed satellite group of burials was prepared by the County Archaeologist and a contract, let for competitive tender, was awarded to the Trust.

Funded by the developers, Orbit Housing Association, and working in close co-operation with the contractors, Denne Builders of Canterbury, it was soon found that the site was considerably larger and more complex than the initial evaluation work had suggested. Notwithstanding the terms of the original contract, Orbit Housing agreed to provide additional time and finance to ensure that the archaeological remains were fully recorded. Moreover, as the excavation progressed and the extraordinary quality of many grave goods was revealed, the developers generously agreed to donate the finds to the Nation.

Despite an extended excavation period the project required a considerable amount of very hard work by the core team. The team was assisted throughout by an Anglo Saxon specialist from the British Museum, Miss Cathy Haith, and a number of enthusiastic and very competent local volunteers including members of the Dover Archaeological Group. On completion of the thirteen-week excavation the team had excavated some 244 individual graves.

The excavation area lies on the steep chalk hillslope which forms the lower part of Long Hill, a broad spur on the north-eastern side of the Dour valley, some 1.75 kms inland from Dover’s historic town centre. Professor Evison’s excavations of 1951–53 were to the north east, above a railway cutting and revealed a series of 170 Anglo Saxon graves dated to the period c. A.D. 475–750 (Evison 1987).

During the summer of 1994 the Canterbury Archaeological Trust conducted extensive excavations covering some 1.3 hectares of ground on the old Shatterlocks allotments site above Mayfield Avenue at Long Hill, Buckland, on the outskirts of Dover. This work, necessitated by plans to terrace and build over the entire area, unexpectedly revealed a large portion of a pagan Anglo Saxon cemetery already known from major excavations conducted nearby by Professor Vera Evison in the 1950s. Extensive evidence for both pre- and post-cemetery agricultural terracing of the hillside was also recorded.
In addition to the Anglo Saxon graves, it was found that the steep hillside had been cut by a series of cultivation terraces sealed with thick deposits of colluvium. The terraces appeared to be of differing dates, with some earlier than the Anglo Saxon graves probably belonging to the Iron Age period and others of medieval date. The down washed soil masking the terraces contained large quantities of prehistoric flints and some pottery, implying earlier occupation further up the slope.

The 244 Anglo Saxon graves excavated in 1994 lay below the railway cutting, between the 33 and 44 m. contours. The distribution of the burials across the site was uneven and various discrete groupings could be discerned. The positions of the graves within the cemetery must have been carefully marked in some way as they were generally respected by later grave diggers. All the burials were broadly aligned north west by south east, following the contour of the hillslope and the head of each interment was generally placed at the western end of the grave. Some thirteen graves contained evidence for the presence of a double burial and one was apparently a triple. About a fifth of the graves produced some evidence to show that they had contained a coffin or bier. Of particular interest were two rows of clench nails found under a skeleton in one grave, indicating
that the body had been laid on some sort of wide board, possibly part of a boat. Two graves were enclosed by small ring ditches implying that they were originally covered by earthen mounds, which had subsequently been ploughed away.

It was clear that most of the bodies had been interred fully clothed and most were equipped for the journey into the 'after life'. Just over two thirds of the burials contained grave goods and a significant number were richly furnished. The available dating evidence suggests that all the graves belong to the general period c. A.D. 475–625.

Recovery and analysis of the skeletal material from the site was conducted by Trevor Anderson, the Trust's resident palaeo osteologist and a report on some of his findings appears below (p. 69). Bone preservation was variable and although a number of moderately complete skeletons were recovered, many graves contained very poorly preserved human remains; in twenty six graves no human bone whatever had survived. The size of these empty graves suggested that they had been cut for the burial of children. A cross section of the community appeared to be represented with men, women and children of all ages present. Very rarely is it possible to identify the cause of death but sword injuries to the skulls of two separate adult male burials were recorded together with a very rare case of bone cancer.

Seven male graves each contained an iron sword, which indicates that the occupants were of a high social status. Other male burials were provided with a spear and sometimes a shield. The number of graves with weapons recorded was fairly small, totalling just twenty eight individual burials. Of the sword graves, one contained an iron axe head and another produced a large iron ‘bill hook’. The burials of high status women were accompanied by fine brooches, beads of coloured glass and amber, and a variety of other fittings and personal equipment.

A total of some seventy five brooches was recovered. This included a range of well known types including square and radiate headed forms; button and annular brooches; Kentish and Frankish disc brooches; occasional cruciform and small long types; and several pieces of more unusual form. The number of brooches present in any one grave varied from one to five, groups of two or three being most common. The majority of the brooches were found in the area of the neck, chest and lower body, suggesting that they were
being worn as clothes fasteners. A few were found in positions that suggest that they were not being worn but were probably contained within a small purse at the waist.

Well over 2,000 beads were recovered. The bulk of these were found in the area of the neck and chest and must represent the remains of necklaces. Occasionally single beads and small groups of beads were found in the area of the waist and upper legs indicating that they had been suspended from the belt or contained within a purse at the side. The majority of beads recovered were of amber or glass (monochrome, polychrome and segmented types), together with a few of amethyst and white chalk like material. There were also three gold bracteates and several small pendants. Other personal equipment recovered included buckles; finger rings; keys; tweezers; spindlewhorls; two rock crystal balls in bronze slings; a rock crystal pendant; a set of scales and weights; eighteen pottery vessels; thirteen glass vessels; and a small bronze bound wooden bucket. The glass vessels included examples of cone beakers, claw beakers and bowls. Other interments were poorer, sometimes containing just a small iron knife and a considerable number of people were seemingly buried with no grave goods.

Although all traces of fur, leather, fabric and other organic material had long since rotted, the various metal fittings on brooches, belts and fastenings occasionally preserved traces of decayed organics amongst the corrosion products. Detailed analysis of these products in the British Museum laboratories should hopefully provide some useful clues concerning Anglo Saxon clothing.

There can be no doubt that the Anglo Saxon burials recorded in 1994 belong to the same cemetery as that excavated in the 1950s and it is now clear that a very considerable number of graves must have been destroyed during the construction of the Dover–Deal railway line cut through Long Hill between 1879 and 1880. The complete cemetery might once have contained well in excess of 500 graves.

The cemetery represents the traditional burial place of a peaceful, well established, local community which included some individuals of a high status. It seems likely that several Anglo Saxon villages had been established within the Dour valley by the sixth century. These are mainly represented by their cemeteries located on the valley sides. Although some significant occupational evidence has been recorded in the old Roman town, a separate settlement would appear to be represented by the large cemetery at Buckland. The location of this settlement is unknown, but presumably lies somewhere below the cemetery, perhaps adjacent to the Roman road and the River Dour, an area now engulfed by the suburbs of modern Dover.

The richness and importance of the Anglo Saxon burials makes the Buckland site now one of the most important post Roman cemeteries to be excavated anywhere in southern Britain. Detailed research on the finds recovered will be undertaken in conjunction with the British Museum. An assessment report has been sent to English Heritage and a second monograph on the cemetery is planned for the future.

During the course of the work programme it was possible to organise three public open days over the August Bank Holiday weekend and well over 1,000 people visited the site. Amongst many visitors we
were pleased to entertain was Professor Evison and Doverian Mr William Lachem, a member of the 1950s excavation team. We were most grateful to the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Friends of Dover Museum and Dover Museum staff for assisting us during the open days.

On completion of the excavation an open lecture was given at Dover Museum at which Orbit Housing and Dennes Builders presented the author, Trevor Anderson and Mike Halliwell (the project conservator) with engraved glass tankards in acknowledgement of a job well done and to mark the excellent working relationship that prevailed between the developers, contractors and the Trust team. More recently, with the housing estate nearing completion, the developers have named two of the new roads Evison Close and Parfitt Close.

For our part we would wish to thank Orbit Housing Association and Dennes Builders of Canterbury for all the assistance they gave us during this exceptional excavation and for their generosity in donating the Buckland finds to the Nation.

A watching brief begun early in 1994 (Canterbury’s Archaeology 1993–94, 20–21) continued throughout the year during groundworks for the redevelopment of the former Royal Victoria Hospital. The drilling of ninety two piles (including piles for a temporary concrete base for a tower crane) and the cutting of ground beam and service trenches by mechanical excavator was regularly monitored by members of Trust staff.

A sequence of pits, possibly of Roman date, was located immediately behind the main hospital buildings (formerly an important town house) and a deposit containing Anglo Saxon pottery, was encountered in an adjacent trench. These discoveries, together with other deposits and features predominantly of medieval date, largely confirmed the sequences previously recorded. By April 1995 the groundworks were substantially complete.
In the summer of 1994 the Trust was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of a site off Granville Street in advance of the construction of a new Royal Mail delivery office.

Two evaluation trenches were cut by machine and two boreholes were drilled by the Geoarchaeological Service Facility, Institute of Archaeology, London, subcontracted by the Trust to undertake the palaeoenvironmental work.

The site lies on the floor of the Dour valley, approximately 70 m. south west of the River Dour, at an elevation of between 8.5 and 9.0 m. O.D. Located within the historic parish of Charlton, almost immediately opposite the former site of the medieval parish church, the area investigated stands a short distance to the north west of Bridge Street thought to represent the line of the Roman road from Richborough (Margary 100; Margary 1955, 34). Roman cremations were discovered nearby in the last century and the site must lie close to the position of the Roman crossing of the River Dour.

Although significant archaeological features were not encountered and despite considerable areas of damage caused by earlier cellars, the evaluation trenches revealed an interesting sequence of palaeoenvironmental deposits. These comprised a broadly continuous series of waterlaid deposits across the site. Natural flint river gravel lay at a depth of just over 1 m. below existing and was sealed by layers of well bedded, carbonate rich sediments, including an upper sequence of silts containing tufa pellet gravel and a lower fine grained carbonate rich silt containing molluscs and organics. Analysis of these well defined deposits by our subcontractors has demonstrated that they are important in furthering our understanding of the changing environment of the Dour valley from prehistoric times onwards. It is hoped to undertake further work on the samples recovered once funding has been arranged.

A watching brief was maintained during construction activity early in 1995 and we acknowledge the help and assistance of Coombs builders, the main contractors, in obtaining further information pertaining to the palaeoenvironmental sequence.

In April 1994 a watching recording brief was maintained during the construction of an extension to 22 Knights Templars off Citadel Road. The building of this new extension involved the excavation of a 1 m. deep pit extending across an area measuring some 9 m. by 6 m.

The Knights Templars housing estate was constructed on the Western Heights during the 1960s on land formerly occupied by a series of nineteenth century military structures situated between the Drop Redoubt and the Citadel. These included the Old Garrison Church, Officers Quarters, Infants School and stores. More importantly, the site lies just 70 m. to the north east of the ruins of a twelfth century, round naved chapel (NGR TR 3128 4071), traditionally associated with the Knights Templar (Scheduled Ancient Monument, Kent 65), but more probably relating to the lost medieval village of Bradden.

Although visible on sixteenth century prints of the port and town of Dover, it would seem that all visible traces of the Knights Templar chapel had disappeared by the eighteenth century. Its precise location was lost until military engineers of the nineteenth century uncovered it. The structure seems to have been first exposed and partially destroyed in 1806, although it was not until 1877 that a short description and plan was published in Archaeologia Cantiana by Edward Knocker.

The remains of the chapel now stand above a great cutting made to carry the South Military Road to the nineteenth century fortress. The ruined walls are presently about 2 m. below the present road level and are enclosed within a small fenced compound, maintained by English Heritage. A new plan, drawn by Keith Parfitt in 1985, is published here for the first time.

The watching brief provided little of interest. No evidence of any nineteenth century military structures was noted nor any trace of medieval occupation, even though the chapel is unlikely

Location plan.

Plan of the Knights Templar Chapel on the Western Heights.
to have been an isolated structure. A thorough inspection of the sides of the pit revealed only an undulating surface of natural upper chalk at a depth of between 0.3–0.9 m. below existing with this overlain by an undisturbed deposit of natural clay with flints.

21 Castle Street, Dover
Keith Parfitt and Barry Corke

In October 1994 a narrow gas pipe trench being excavated at the south western end of Castle Street unexpectedly cut through the vaulted roof of a small medieval structure buried at a depth of 1 m. under the road immediately adjacent to the Market Square. This interesting discovery was rapidly recorded following a message received from Dover Museum.

The chamber was rectangular in shape and measured approximately 2.20 m. by 1.45 m. It had a barrel vaulted roof, some 0.50 m. high, made from neatly shaped chalk blocks set in a cream gritty mortar typical of the type associated with medieval Dover. The north and south side walls were mainly of mortared greensand with some flint and chalk and stood to a minimum height of 0.50 m. The western wall, at least 1.0 m. high, was more complex and appeared to be a later insert abutting both the north and south walls and the vaulted roof. It was not of one build. The central part, consisting of large mortared chalk blocks, appeared to represent the later blocking of an original opening, perhaps a narrow door, window light or waste chute. The walling on either side of this was of mortared greensand, but the character of the blockwork was very different, making it clear that each side had been built independently and seemingly before the central chalk blocking was added. The lower part of the structure was filled with loose rubble and soil and the level of the floor could not be ascertained. No datable finds were recovered during these limited investigations.

The structure was clearly of medieval date and its occurrence under the middle of a well established street initially appeared curious. However, Castle Street is a nineteenth century creation and before its construction in 1836 the yard and stables of the Antwerp Hotel closed this side of the Market Square. The present structure formed part of an even earlier building on the site, perhaps that shown on a map of the town of Dover of 1737 and may have been an annexe to a larger cellar or undercroft to the west. Alternatively, the structure may have been a garderobe shaft or cess tank. It is not an unusual find as similar structures have been recorded in nearby areas of the medieval town.

22 Ladywell Car Park, Dover
Keith Parfitt

During March and April of 1995 Trust members observed the installation of a new surface water drainage system at the Ladywell car park. This work was undertaken at the request of IMPACT, the joint environmental initiative of Kent County Council and Dover District Council. The site lies adjacent to the River Dour a short distance to the north east of the medieval Maison Dieu hospital (now the town hall). It covers an area known to have been previously occupied by outbuildings associated with the medieval hospital complex and later post medieval structures associated with the naval victualling yard.

In addition to traces of early post medieval work noted in the extant riverside wall, six fragments of stone walling were recorded in the trenches on the north east side of the site. There were few associated floor or occupation deposits, although two areas of post medieval courtyard metalling were recorded. The dating of the walls is based solely on their general construction and the mortar types used. From this it would seem that all but one belong to the earlier post medieval period. Re used medieval building stone noted in at least two walls probably implied a post Dissolution date for their construction. Two others included fragments of early brick in their construction. The earliest wall, aligned north east by south west and constructed of mortared chalk and flint, appeared to be medieval and may not be connected with the other walls.

Although the remit allowed only limited archaeological investigation, it seems clear that the walls located must relate to a range of buildings running along the riverside. As such they represent a useful addition to our limited knowledge of the outbuildings of the Maison Dieu complex. The varying characters of the walls suggests that the range may contain more than one phase of construction. Plans of the area for 1677 and 1834 suggest that at least two phases of post medieval structures should exist here and earlier medieval structural remains could lie buried below these or have been incorporated into the later buildings.

23 Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone
Martin Hicks

Two archaeological watching briefs were conducted in the grounds of the Harvey Grammar School in 1994, the first in April in an area designated for a new car park and playground and the second in June during the cutting of foundations for a new art room and extension to the Science and Technology building. The Trust has maintained an archaeological presence during previous building works at the school (Canterbury’s Archaeology 1992–93, 34).

The first watching brief of the year recorded nothing of historical or archaeological merit.
However, during the cutting of the foundation trenches in June a hitherto unknown section of wartime air raid shelter was uncovered. During the Second World War the school was evacuated and the buildings used as a training centre for the Home Guard and police. An extensive complex of interconnecting tunnels and air raid shelters was constructed beneath the tennis courts and football ground to the east of the school and the playing fields to the north, with access shafts within the school buildings. The shelters and connecting passageways uncovered in 1994 were all found to be dry and in good order. A brief survey and record of them was made before the network was permanently sealed and infilled with concrete as part of the foundation works.

Following archaeological evaluation of this site by the Trust in 1993 (Canterbury’s Archaeology 1993–94, 53), a watching brief was maintained during groundworks for the new development in April 1994.

The accompanying plan shows that the site subdivides into three parcels of land separated by man made branches of the Delf stream. Phases I and II of the construction work, the subject of this brief, took place in the northernmost sector where the 1993 work had confirmed the presence of fragmentary remains of buildings dating from the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries.

Prior to building work, buried settling tanks of the former tannery were removed to avoid contamination from residual chemicals. This operation resulted in the destruction of the archaeological soil sequence over a large part of the site. In addition, spoil from the construction of a site access road was dumped at the northern end of the site, before piling operations began and a 2.5 m. deep modern sewer trench was cut across the area. The scope for recording intact archaeological levels was therefore very limited.

Piling operations began in April 1994. In total some 209 piles were drilled over a two week period. An intermittent watching brief was maintained during this phase of the works, but no significant archaeological evidence was located. Excavation of the ground beam trenches showed that very little archaeology had survived the earlier disturbances. However, along the Loop Street frontage on the north west side of the site, traces of a pre tannery wall foundation, probably of eighteenth century date, indicated the survival of at least some earlier deposits.

At the extreme north east corner of the site an interesting sequence of deposits was recorded although the levels here were badly disturbed and only isolated islands of intact stratigraphy survived. Natural alluvium was located at a depth of about 1.00 m. below present ground surface and overlying this a series of silty clay layers probably represented the earliest archaeological soil deposits recorded on the site. These layers yielded one sherd of roulette decorated Andenne type ware of early thirteenth century date.

Traces of two, or possibly three, successive road frontage masonry buildings of medieval date capped the early deposits. Though badly disturbed by later features the earliest building was represented by two contemporary walls of mortared flint with associated clay floors and occupation layers. The later building was provided with larger masonry walls aligned south west to north east, one of which was surmounted by large greensand blocks. A contemporary floor and possible occupation deposits provided fifteenth century pottery and a coin of Henry VI (1427–1430). A separate foundation of mortared flint located to the south east of the earlier walls and set at 90° to them may have formed part of a medieval property boundary. The adjacent modern site boundary follows a similar line.

Despite considerable disturbance and the fragmentary nature of the surviving evidence, it was clear that significant medieval timber framed structures had occupied the Loop Street frontage in the northern part of the site.

Loop Street is situated in the north western quadrant of the walled town in a low lying area which seems to have been largely undeveloped until recent centuries. The earliest reference to Loop Street is in 1566 when it is described as ‘leading to a sluice near the Butts’ (Water loop: sluice; SLHS 2). In 1625 four dwellings ‘near the Loop over against the Beagrams’ were given for the use of four poor tradesmen (SLHS 1976). Another undated reference refers to ‘the regular clearing of public latrines’, ‘the privy at Pillory Gate, at Davy’s Gate, at the Loop ...’ (SLHS 1976). With the poor...
dwellings, the often foul smelling Delf, the sluice and a public latrine, it is probably safe to assume that this was never a salubrious part of town.

Although little documentation appears to survive, it seems likely that the position of the Delf played an important part in the siting of certain industries here, well away from harbour orientated trades and services. William Boys' map of 1787 (Boys 1792) shows that the site was then occupied by two structures, which were still standing in 1865. During the nineteenth century an extensive tannery works stood on the south eastern side of Loop Street. This comprised store houses and workshops adjacent to a series of large timber framed or concrete lined settling tanks set into the ground.

The earliest documentary reference to a tannery on the site dates from 1832 when it was owned by one of the Dorman family. In 1865, only a portion of the present site was occupied by tannery buildings, whilst the remainder appeared as gardens and allotments. The tannery subsequently expanded southwards towards the town wall (the Butts) whilst a coachworks occupied the original buildings at the northern end, fronting Delf Street.

Ownership passed through several hands up to 1930 when the tannery became Sandwich Tannery Ltd which traded for around ten years before being sold to Mr Simmonds and Mr & Mrs Roper who used it for the storage of pickling materials. Around 1950 it was sold to Murgatroyd who again operated the site as a tannery with a button factory sub letting part of the site (C. Wanostrocht, pers. comm.). The tannery buildings were demolished in the 1980s in preparation for redevelopment.

Sandwich has a long established association with the leather trade. Early documents record Nicholas the tanner before 1227, William the tanner in 1299, William Chapman, tanner within the parish of St Peter, in 1423, John Horolff, tanner, in 1419, Thomas Clerk, skinner, in 1458 and others (SLHS 1).

The Delf was intended to provide a continuous supply of fresh water into the town, if in doubt also acted as a means of flushing away materials derived from industrial processes and general waste products. An abattoir and malthouse had also been established nearby, forming a concentration of noxious industries in this part of the town.

A small corpus of pottery was recovered during the two seasons of work on the site. Although limited in quantity, it is considered to be of some significance because little is known about the general wares traded through Sandwich during its busiest period or how much of them remained in the town. Trade from the continent is well documented, but it is not generally understood whether this was through trade to Canterbury or London or for a more local market. The finds from the Loop Street site suggest that whilst some foreign wares (c. 12 per cent) are present in the assemblage, the majority are locally produced Tyler Hill or Wealden types.

Of the imported material the most notable include North Italian maiolica (c. 1400–1475); Spanish (Malaga) amphora (c. 1475–1525); North French/Saintonge whiteware (fourteenth century) and Flemish, roulette decorated Andenne type ware (c. 1125–1175). A substantial number of Dutch imports dating from the mid sixteenth century onwards were amongst the assemblage and their presence correlates directly with documentary evidence for the arrival in Sandwich of Dutch and Flemish immigrants at that time.

**25** Mill Wall, Sandwich

Barry Corke

The installation of new public lighting along the Mill Wall at Sandwich required the excavation of six pits for lamp standards and a continuous trench for the power cable. Since the Mill Wall forms part of the town's medieval defences which are scheduled as an Ancient Monument an archaeological watching brief on these works was requested by Dover District Council in January 1995.

The town wall of Sandwich was constructed during the late fourteenth century following the issue of a royal order in 1385 by Richard II. The area enclosed was roughly D shaped in plan and covered a substantial area. The straight riverside wall was built of masonry, whilst the landward defences comprised a wet moat below earthen ramparts surmounted by a wooden palisade (Parkin 1984). Traces of almost the complete circuit of the town wall survive today.

The cable trench ran along the top of the town ramparts from the south end of Knightrider Street westwards to within 8 m. of New Street, a distance of approximately 170 m. A sequence of mixed green grey clays (the uppermost portion of the rampart dumps) overlain by a pea gravel pathway and modern tarmac was observed in the trench. Similar sequences were observed in the holes cut for the six lamp standards spaced at regular intervals along the ramparts.

This limited information gleaned during the watching brief largely confirms previous work on the town's defences which has indicated that they were constructed from dumps of local alluvial clay (see Philp 1980). No evidence for any contemporary structures surmounting the rampart was noted.

**26** Moat Sole, Sandwich

Martin Herdman

In February 1995 an archaeological evaluation took place on a site destined for redevelopment in the west of the town, just inside the medieval defences. The triangular parcel of land is bordered on one side by the defences (the Butts), one by Moat Sole and the third boundary adjoined the former tannery site evaluated by the Trust and described above. The site was considered to be of potential archaeological interest due to its close proximity to two medieval hospitals, (St John's to the east and St Thomas's to the south) and the Butts.

Eight evaluation trenches were opened and the drilling of a series of geo technical test pits and boreholes was monitored. One trench, on the Moat Sole frontage, yielded a limited sequence of deposits and masonry, suggestive of at least two phases of buildings probably of medieval date. Most of the other archaeological features recorded related to various cuttings and infillings either associated with the system of leats which crossed the area or with attempts to raise the ground level of this wet area. Industrial debris from the nearby tannery on Loop Street and a foundry which once stood on part of the site was also encountered.

The greater part of the area proposed for redevelopment was found to be void of archaeological features, almost certainly the result of the consistently high water table and the susceptibility of the area to flooding.
27 Manwood Road, Sandwich
Martin Herdman

During February an archaeological evaluation of a small plot of land on the edge of Sandwich was undertaken prior to residential development. The site lies south east of the town, just outside the late fourteenth century town ramparts, and close to the site of the Sandown Gate. Opposite the site, ‘Castle Field’ contains an earthwork thought to be the remains of a medieval castle (Tatton Brown 1983). Excavations in the field (Bennett & Blockley 1983) confirmed the presence of a large ditch enclosing a mound. Beneath the mound material dating to the eleventh or twelfth century and a number of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints were found. Although this focal point has received some archaeological attention, the castle has yet to be traced and may be much more extensive.

A trench 1.5 m. wide and 27.8 m. long was cut across the development site, through topsoil deposits down to natural clay. Three large features were revealed. The earliest, a 3.2 m. wide steep sided ditch, produced a small but interesting assemblage of local and continental ceramics dating to c. 1150–1200. The second feature, probably another ditch, was excavated to a depth no more than 0.3 m. due to waterlogging. Only brick and Kent peg tile fragments were recovered from it. The third feature was located at the north west end of the trench and was sealed by a layer of rounded flints, occasional nodules of ironstone, Kentish Rag and fragments of Roman tile, perhaps material from the demolition of the castle. The two latter features were not fully defined in terms of depth or width, but their recorded contours would suggest they were of considerable size.

If the present dating of Sandwich Castle is correct then the earliest feature located at Manwood Road would pre date the earthwork and could represent pre castle activity in the area, perhaps an agricultural field boundary. However there is no definitive date for the construction of the castle. Absence of documentary evidence and the suggested motte and bailey form might favour a date well before the end of the twelfth century. If this is the case, the twelfth century ceramics from the evaluation could be associated with the development of the nearby fortification.

A watching brief and further excavation will take place when the site is developed and this may provide sufficient information to identify and date the features exposed during the evaluation.

28 No. 14 Knightrider Street, Sandwich
Mark Houliston

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of wall foundations for a garage at 14 Knightrider Street, Sandwich (TR33005808). The sides of four trenches were cleaned and examined, similar sequences being observed in each, and the northern side of the northern trench was fully recorded.

The site lies close to the medieval waterfront of Sandwich, and even closer to a postulated Strand Street waterfront of the Anglo Saxon town (see Parkin 1985 and Tatton Brown 1984). Overlying natural brickearth was a deposit of blue grey silt which may have been waterlain and accumulated throughout the Anglo Saxon and medieval periods.

A series of clay floors and floor repairs interspersed with occupation/make up material overlay the clayey silt deposit. The floors were made from redeposited brickearth, and a number of the earliest of them showed signs of having been burnt. The date of the building defined by these floors is unlikely to have been earlier than the thirteenth century. The front and back walls of the structure were generally defined by shallow slots identified by features located on both sides of the northern and southern trenches. On the northern side of the northern trench, however, the front wall of the building was defined by a ragstone post pad, indicating the position of a timber upright.

The abandonment of the building is represented by a dump deposit overlying the floor sequence. This may date to the later medieval period when the town’s importance as a port was in decline. The presence of a loam layer above this deposit appears to indicate that land use in the area latterly became one of cultivation.

Although no Anglo Saxon or Norman layers or features were identified during the evaluation the identification of an early building against Knightrider Street would suggest that the street marked the western limit of the Norman suburb of St. Clements and may perhaps have been on the periphery of the Anglo Saxon town. A large pit located at the eastern end of the northern trench, pre dating the early building, may just be of Anglo Saxon or Norman date.

The watching brief demonstrated that archaeological deposits in this part of Sandwich survive in a good state of preservation. It is hoped that any future opportunities for controlled excavation will be fruitfully exploited.

Location of the evaluation trench in relation to the postulated castle mound.
Throughout July and August of 1994, an excavation at Park Farm, Ashford, (TR 0204085), recovered extensive evidence of Mesolithic occupation from low-lying colluvial deposits at the edge of the flood plain of the River Stour. In addition, the team recovered artefacts of Palaeolithic date, together with flints and pottery from the Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Plans to build a housing estate at Park Farm had led to an evaluation of the area by Martin Hicks in 1992 (Canterbury’s Archaeology 1992 93, 41 2). He found a scatter of flint artefacts lying on what appeared to be natural brickearth. The date of the flints was surprising; several artefacts appeared to be of Upper Palaeolithic date (up to 28,000 years old), and included a rare tanged point. This material was accompanied by many flint artefacts of the Mesolithic period. Sites of both periods are uncommon in this part of Kent, and the Palaeolithic material in particular was most exciting. The developers, Park Farm Ashford Ltd, therefore agreed to fund an excavation on the site, and a large area some 56 m. by 51 m. was dug into the site to an understanding of the nature of the site.

The thrust of our research objectives therefore changed from studying the spatial distribution of a surface scatter of flint artefacts (i.e. the horizontal dimension) to an understanding of the nature of the sequence, essentially by studying the vertical dimension of the site. To this end we started excavating a series of 1 m² sondages, twenty three in all, positioned across the site to allow us to sample the whole area and identify any differences in the nature of the flint assemblages and deposit profiles. This proved a highly successful strategy, by the end of the excavation, though we only sampled 1 per cent of the total area, we had recovered over 10,000 flint artefacts and had a much better understanding of the nature of the site.

A small 1 m² sondage was dug into the site to examine the deposit formation processes, and it was in this hole that we discovered that we were not simply examining a surface scatter, but that flint artefacts were present for up to 0.8 m. down through the stratigraphic profile. It was clear that the methodology for excavating the site would have to be changed; to excavate the entire area could mean removing some 2,000 cubic metres of sediment, with potentially 800,000 artefacts to be plotted and retrieved. This was clearly impossible with our small team and in the few weeks available.

The vast majority of material was of Mesolithic date. The few pieces of Palaeolithic material were probably derived from further upslope, to the south of the excavation area. In the north eastern part of the site, several ditches and other cut features of Romano British date were found in the sondages completely sealed by deposits containing exclusively Mesolithic material. Other cut features were buried by up to 0.6 m. of colluvium, and these may be of later prehistoric date. The sections revealed in the sondages suggested that the colluvial stratum had not moved very far, perhaps only 20 or 30 m. from a low lying alluvial ‘terrace’ in the southern part of the site onto the flood plain of the River Stour. The boundary of the flood plain ran roughly east–west across the excavation area. Interestingly, the distribution of the artefact concentrations appeared to correlate with underlying cut features, suggesting that material was accumulating in the upper parts of already largely infilled features. The reasons for this colluviation on a site with such low relief will hopefully become clear during post excavation study of the many soil samples and monoliths recovered from the sondages.

Study of a sample of the flints from Park Farm reveals a heavy emphasis on tool production and knapping processes. It seems likely that the site was a tool production site, in use some time during the seventh millennium B.C. The assemblage is dominated by flint chips, spalls and unretouched flakes, whilst only 2 per cent of the sample were of completed (i.e. retouched) tools. That so few tools entered the archaeological record suggests either a very short period of use (which seems unlikely) or very good tool curation, most being held on to and eventually removed from the production site. Another possibility is that the people working at the Park Farm site some 9,000 years ago were simply making use of a localised flint source for the production of ‘blank’ flakes and blades, perhaps for conversion into tools at a later date and at a different site. The technique most commonly used for the production of flakes and blades was ‘hard hammer’ percussion, identified through the presence of plain striking platforms, present on 88 per cent of the flakes and blades with platforms present. Only 12 per cent displayed evidence for possible ‘soft hammer’ percussion in the form of prepared or faceted platforms.

There is much still to do before we can tell the full story of the discoveries at Park Farm. The ten thousand flints will be studied by Dr Rob Young and his students at Exeter University. The sediments and profiles will be studied by Dr Tony Brown and his students at Leicester University. It is only when we have the results of their detailed scientific analyses that we shall be able to shed more light on the lives of these early inhabitants of Kent.
Waterbrook Farm, Ashford
Jon Rady

Waterbrook Farm, Site A and location map.
During 1992 a large block of countryside owned by Eurotunnel Developments Ltd around Waterbrook Farm, to the south east of Ashford, was evaluated to determine its archaeological potential prior to large scale development (Canterbury's Archaeology 1991–92, 32–4). This evaluation located two major areas of prehistoric occupation on the site, one to the north of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age date (Site B) and a larger area to the south (Site A) primarily of 'Belgic' or Romano British date.

Site A, the main subject of this report, was situated on a low mound within the flood plain of the River Stour, and appeared to extend over an area of at least 20,000 square metres. About a year after the initial work the site was directly affected by the first phase of new development, which was destined to impact upon the ancient settlement's south and east quadrants. Consequently an investigation of that part of the site took place in advance of the construction of a lorry park, access road and associated buildings. The work, funded by Eurotunnel Developments Limited, was carried out to a specification drawn up by the County Archaeologist, Dr John Williams.

The limits of the excavated area were primarily determined by the extent of the development combined with the results of the previous year's work, though in the event it was found that archaeological deposits extended further east than was anticipated. In addition, a concurrent watching brief on construction works was carried out. This included some excavation work on features relating to Site B, exposed during the construction of a re aligned access road from the Southern Orbital Road which bounds the development area to the west.

The area excavation, some c. 7,500 m² in extent, revealed parts of an extensive occupation site, located on both banks of an ancient watercourse, possibly an ancient alignment of the present East Stour. This feature bisected the area north to south and was between 17–25 m. wide. It was only sample excavated. A complex sequence of deposits was found to have completely filled the channel. Some of this material was natural in origin, but other layers contained rubbish from the settlement including large quantities of pottery. There is also evidence to suggest that attempts were made to canalize the watercourse late in its life.

The main area of excavation lay west of the river bed, where features concentrated in the northern half of the exposed area. These comprised a complex system of enclosure and drainage ditches of more than one phase, some of which discharged directly into the old river course. Various other features, including pits and cremation burials were also encountered. Only at the very northern limits of the excavation was evidence for buildings encountered. Here traces of a roundhouse of two phases were discovered, defined by post holes and eaves drip gullies.

The subsoil in the southern part of the western excavated area was markedly different to that elsewhere, consisting of an intractable, heavy and impervious Wealden Clay. Although numerous soil stains were evident here, most of these were natural features, possibly formed by water action.

The area examined to the east of the ancient watercourse was much smaller in extent, and was lower lying. Archaeological deposits in this area were sealed by a layer of flood silts. Features unexpectedly exposed in this area were far more concentrated than to the west, and consisted of drainage and boundary ditches. However a large number of post holes and post pits were also recorded. Some of these appeared to represent a rectangular structure, perhaps with internal partitions and associated fence lines. The structure was set centrally between two boundary ditches located to the north and south, the southern of which possessed a causeway flanked by two large post pits possibly representing a gate.

A large proportion of this area was not examined as the archaeological horizon lay below formation for the new development. Much of the archaeological resource hopefully still survives with minimal disturbance under the present development. A number of features in this area, including the watercourse, were examined and recorded during the cutting of a balancing lake and associated drainage ditches for the development.

The cultural materials recovered during the course of the excavations comprised mainly of pottery with more than 25,000 sherds being recovered. The bulk of this corpus probably dates to the mid–late first century A.D., with much smaller quantities of later material present, suggesting perhaps that the settlement as a whole was relatively short lived. Prehistoric pottery, recovered from a small number of features, indicated an earlier period of occupation of the site.

Thanks are extended to Eurotunnel Developments Ltd for funding the archaeological work, and to the small band of excavators who coped with very unfavourable site conditions. The remaining part of Site A and all of Site B await excavation.

31 Ball Lane, Kennington
Martin Hicks

In December 1994 a series of ten evaluation trenches were machine cut in a field along the south side of Ball Lane, Kennington near Ashford (TR 02454520) in advance of a housing development. It was considered likely that the development might encounter Roman remains since the course of a known Roman road linking Canterbury and Ashford crosses the site.

In the event few archaeological features were located during the evaluation. The most significant feature consisted of a massive disturbance some 50 m. in diameter, filled with redeposited clay and weathered pottery dating c. 1150–1200. The feature, probably a backfilled quarry or pond, was associated with a small platform formed from green sandstone blocks and gravel. Pottery from beneath the platform dated to the thirteenth century.
In September 1994 a series of evaluation trenches was excavated in advance of brickearth extraction in a large field adjacent to the B2045 east of Ospringe (NGR TQ 9960/6125 centred).

Excavations and observations since the late eighteenth century has proved this area to be rich in Roman remains. Indeed, it is considered by some that the earthworks south of Watling Street on Judd’s Hill mark the Roman station of Durolevum mentioned in both the Peutinger Table and the Antonine Itinerary. The chapel or church of Stone by Faversham located nearby is a rare example of a Roman building (a mausoleum or temple) incorporated into an early Christian church.

In the late eighteenth century the stone chapel in the valley and the ditched earthwork on the summit of Judd’s Hill are mentioned by Hasted (1782, vol ii, 800). The first excavation in the area took place in 1872 when the Kent Archaeological Society carried out excavations at Stone Chapel. Further work took place at the chapel in 1926, 1967–8 and 1971–2 (Fletcher & Meates 1969; 1977). In 1981 Taylor and Yonge published a summary of these excavations and reassessment of the results in the light of some and previously unpublished material (Taylor & Yonge 1981, 118–46).

In 1920–5 excavations immediately to the east of Ospringe revealed one of the largest Roman cemeteries excavated in Kent (Whiting et al. 1931). The same campaign of excavations uncovered remnants of structures in the Syndale valley to the south of Stone Chapel (H2 on the figure) and Syndale Park (H1). Extensive trenching immediately to the north of Watling Street, within the field recently evaluated, produced Roman pottery and a single inhumation burial (Whiting et al. 1931, 2, F on the figure). This single inhumation presumably represents the ‘Roman burial ground’ marked 100 m. to the east of this point on the modern Ordnance Survey 1:250 map.

Observations along the line of a gas pipe trench along the north side of Watling Street in 1965 (Philp 1967, 1976) recorded some Romano-British occupation material and structural remains in Syndale Bottom. A series of test pits extending from close to the chapel south eastwards towards Watling Street were dug at that time and revealed more stratified deposits the extent of which led the excavator to postulate that a settlement of about 4 acres might exist stretching north and south of the road. Later excavation south of the road revealed similar occupation (Rose 1967, 6) and the theory was put forward that Durolevum might be sited in Syndale Bottom (Philp 1976, 64).

During the evaluation nineteen 10 x 2 m. trenches, covering 2 per cent of the proposed quarry area, were opened by machine. Eighteen of these trenches were archaeologically sterile; the nineteenth (Trench 3) contained two features, one either a clay quarry or tree root and the second a small man made depression of unknown date or function. Apart from residual finds of a Roman tile and a sherd of second or third century pottery, no artefacts were recovered. This lack of occupation evidence was disappointing, but probably indicates that the quarry area lies safely beyond settlement limits.

In late October 1994, a watching brief was undertaken at the former Invicta Motors site, West Street, Faversham during the removal of below ground petrol tanks and structures associated with the former garage. Observations made during the brief, in particular the number of rubbish pits and areas of flint metallising possibly associated with medieval or post medieval West Street, were considered to warrant further archaeological investigation and consequently a number of evaluation trenches were cut during November.

Four trenches and one test pit were machine excavated; two were found to contain modern cellars and though the remaining trenches were excavated down to the natural brickearth, no trace of the thick deposits of flint and gravel recorded during the watching brief was observed at the appropriate depth in section, though similar flints were detected at a much greater depth in the bases of Trench 2 and 4. The isolated and truncated remains of a chalk block wall were recorded in Trench 4, but no related dating evidence was retrieved.
A watching brief was undertaken in November during the excavation of foundations prior to the installation of new fermenting tanks at Shepherd Neame’s brewery in Court Street. Despite the close proximity of the site to the historic centre of Faversham, no intact medieval or post medieval deposits were observed. The ground had been considerably disturbed, probably during the construction of the adjacent building at 12–15 Court Street in 1899.

A watching brief was conducted during the cutting of foundation trenches for five new houses at Main Road, Longfield in December 1994. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed in the sides of the trenches, these cutting ‘made ground’, probably formed by dumping. Natural gravel and chalk was noted beneath the ‘made ground’ at a general depth of 2.75 m. beneath ground surface.

Excavations on the eastern approach of the Medway Tunnel resumed in January 1995 following an extensive programme of archaeological works undertaken jointly by the Trust and the Geoarchaeological Services Facility in 1993. The earlier work had revealed beneath alluvial sediments an 11 m. high gravel capped chalk cliff which once overlooked the ancient Medway flood plain to the west (Canterbury’s Archaeology 1993–94, 30–31).

The results of the 1993 excavation can be summarised as follows. An extended period of prehistoric occupation on the cliff top site, during which preparatory flint working took place, was terminated by a sudden and long lasting rise in water levels. This covered the site with a thick band of alluvial sediments (clay and silt). Occupation resumed in the Late Iron Age when a circular hut was constructed on the surface of the now dry alluvial silts. This hut was dated by associated ceramic evidence to c. 75 B.C. to A.D. 50. Settlement on the cliff top, now showing only as a low bank, continued into the Roman period although in considerably changed form. A series of intercutting ditches and a substantial gravel consolidation layer pointed to the existence of a Romano British settlement, probably ditch enclosed, east of the excavated area. This settlement appeared to have been abandoned in the early to mid third century A.D. when water again engulfed the site, and covered the area with alluvial clay silts. The site continued to be more or less waterlogged until the construction of Chatham sea wall prior to the northward extension of the dockyard in 1863.

The 1995 excavation added substantially to the already detailed story. Eight test trenches were cut, four some 15 m. north of the 1993 excavation, and four approximately 20 m. to the north.

The trenches to the south confirmed that the previously identified pattern of settlement terminated by flooding also prevailed 15 m. to the south and beyond. In addition, the most westerly of these trenches revealed that the sloping cliff face was abutted and covered by the highest of
the continuous peat layers. This contained large quantities of Belgic and Romano British pottery, confirming earlier evidence that the Late Iron Age and Romano British cliff top occupation coincided with a regression in the water levels. The ceramic evidence suggested that this regression was of approximately three hundred years duration (c. 50 B.C. to A.D. 250). Whether this was a local or more widespread phenomenon is unknown.

The four trenches to the north provided evidence which pushed the story back into early prehistory. Here an extensive 1 m. deep depression in the gravels was exposed in section. This was filled by a series of increasingly finely sorted sandy silt bands. In the upper part of this a hand axe of bout coupé type was discovered. This very distinctive tool type which dates from the early Devensian (the last glaciation) is thought to have been manufactured by pre modern humans about 60,000 B.C. The good condition of this artefact, along with signs of frost damage on its surface, suggested it was a residual object, which in turn suggested that the sandy silt and gravels in which it lay had been exposed for many thousands of years. It is thought that the gravels capping the chalk cliff in the area may be of pre Devensian origin (before c. 70,000 B.C.).

Four localized charcoal spreads, probably fire sites, a substantial quantity of worked flints including blades, scrapers and a massive core along with the general debitage of flint working, were exposed within the sandy silts overlying the bout coupé hand axe. Two apparently deliberately cut gullies were also present. However, none of this evidence could be assumed to derive from a single period of occupation. One of the fire sites provided a radiocarbon date of 1800 B.C. indicating Middle Bronze Age activity in the area, whereas preliminary specialist examination of the worked flints identified a preponderance of Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic forms. This, along with the evidence of the bout coupé hand axe, appeared to confirm that the gravels and sandy silts had formed part of an exposed land surface for an extremely long time.

The sandy silts which filled the depression in the gravels were sealed by a discontinuous peat accumulation. This peat was found by radiocarbon testing to have accumulated between c. 1600 and 1400 B.C. After 1400 B.C. a continuous clay silt layer was deposited over the entire cliff top during a period of protracted inundation. This lasted until the Late Iron Age.

Episodic re occupation of what was now the flood plain margin was indicated by two fire sites represented by charcoal spreads with associated ceramic material. These fire sites were situated within the upper part of the clay silts about 10 cm. from their surface. This suggested that fires were built here when the estuarine mud flats were temporarily exposed. The fire sites provided a radiocarbon date of c. 100 B.C.

The complete skull of a horse was recovered from the clay silts immediately underlying the fire sites. Such a well preserved specimen from a datable context is a rarity and may provide important information about the evolution of the domestic horse. The skull is at present the subject of specialist analysis at the Institute of Archaeology.

The fire sites discussed above probably represent evidence of incursions onto the mud flats in order to exploit the rich food resources (fish, shell fish, wild fowl) of the estuarine environment. Such opportunistic incursion appears to have taken advantage of an incipient regression in water levels. As this regression continued a substantial peat layer formed over the alluvial clay silts indicating that drier conditions then prevailed. Ceramic evidence within the peat showed this to have coincided with the establishment of the Late Iron Age settlement discussed previously, and its continuation, in changed form, into the Romano British period. The ceramic evidence also suggested that this regression ceased about A.D. 250 when the cliff top site was again flooded. This period of flooding apparently continued into the modern period.

A systematic programme of environmental sampling was maintained during the three major phases of archaeological works on the Medway Tunnel site. This programme, again under the direction of Chris Pine of the Geoarchaeological Services Facility, led to the compilation of a comprehensive sample collection, now held at the Institute of Archaeology. These samples will be studied and the results correlated to the cultural evidence for human colonisation of this part of the Medway estuary.

The possibility of setting evidence for long term human settlement patterns against a detailed description of environmental changes during the formation of the Medway estuary is exciting indeed. In recognition of this fact the Department of Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council, has provided further funding for a comprehensive integrated report.

This flint bout coupé hand-axe is one of several examples from the South of England and France. Three examples have been recovered from Canterbury alone.

The dating of this type of hand-axe falls within the Middle Palaeolithic before the Devensian glacial maximum of the last Ice Age, at about 18,000 BP.