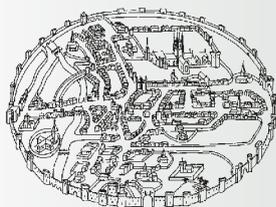


# Canterbury's Archaeology 2012 – 2013

annual review of the  
Canterbury Archaeological Trust





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Despite the difficulties brought about by the continuing recession throughout 2012 and 2013 and the paucity of new development, a series of remarkable discoveries was made across the county during the year, ranging from a Neolithic ritual enclosure (The Meads), Bronze Age burials and field systems (Claxfield Farm), an extraordinary new Iron Age settlement (St Edmund's School), Roman buildings (Wincheap, Canterbury) and Anglo-Saxon burials (St Margaret's Bay). These are described by Peter Clark in collaboration with Tania Wilson, James Holman, Ross Lane, Richard Helm and Keith Parfitt, respective project managers. During the year over 40 other sites were excavated, 60 evaluated and more than 100 watching briefs undertaken. Details of these can be found at our on-line gazetteer and reports pages at [www.canterburytrust.co.uk/research-and-reports](http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/research-and-reports).

# The Meads, Sittingbourne



In February 2013 the Trust returned to the Meads in Sittingbourne where new development adjacent to the extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated in 2008 was expected to uncover more burials, along with a large Bronze Age ring-ditch visible in aerial photographs. The team was to have an unexpected surprise.

The site lies on flat land just to the south of a gravel ridge running along the western edge of the valley of Milton Creek as it flows down into the Swale (NGR 589352 164771). Previous excavations in 2008 had revealed a few features of Neolithic date along with four Beaker burials dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age transition in the second half of the third millennium BC. The site continued to be used for burial later in the Bronze Age. A ring-ditch some 16m in diameter was most likely the remains of a Bronze Age barrow though no associated burial was found. Long after this barrow was built, the site was once again used for burying the dead. Stretching across most of the excavation area was an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating to the mid

sixth and seventh centuries AD. Nearly 230 individual burials were found, around two thirds of which produced grave goods including weapons (spears, swords and shields), jewellery (brooches, bead necklaces, and silver and gold belt sets) along with vessels of pottery and glass. Many of the objects in the graves came from far afield: amber beads from the Baltic, pottery from the Frankish Rhineland and amethyst beads from Persia via the eastern Mediterranean (Wilson 2010).

The new phase of development lay just to the north-east of the 2008 excavation, and it seemed very likely that the Anglo-Saxon cemetery would extend into this area. In addition, aerial photographs showed another ring-ditch here, much larger than that excavated before and thought to be another Bronze Age barrow.

However, as the site was stripped, some unusual features began to appear in the area circumscribed by the ring-ditch. Two concentric groups of post-holes forming a horseshoe shape, open to the south-east, lay at the centre of the monument.

The Meads excavation looking east. On the left is a series of prehistoric trackways running across the site. On the right, a post-pit alignment leads to a Neolithic ritual enclosure ditch.

The outer horseshoe (of fifteen post settings) was about 9m long by 7.5m wide, with the inner (of six post settings) just 4m long and 3.5m wide; they were separated by a gap of about 2m. The post-holes themselves varied in size but were generally around 0.25–0.40m in diameter and around 0.2m deep. There were no clear traces of post-pipes and they all were heavily truncated. Centrally placed within the enclosing ring-ditch, they were obviously related, but this arrangement was not what one would expect for a Bronze Age barrow.

The enclosure ditch itself was around 30m in diameter, about 1m broad and between 0.8–1.0m deep, though the whole site had been truncated and originally it must have been much wider and deeper. The south-eastern side of the ditch lay outside the excavation area. Unfortunately the primary silts of the ditch were relatively sterile, but some flint tools found in the central post-hole group were clearly of Neolithic type, and the whole monument can best be understood as a Neolithic ritual enclosure, a rare and important discovery for this part of Kent.

Also lying in the interior of the enclosure ditch was a number of apparently randomly distributed pits and post-holes. These have not yet been closely dated but probably belong to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age, though their relationship with the enclosure and the central setting cannot be demonstrated. One of the

have associated earthen banks, one or more gaps in the enclosure ditch taken to be ‘entrances’ to the enclosure, and several have central settings of pits, standing stones or, as at Sittingbourne, post-settings. These central settings do not seem to have any ‘practical’ purpose, as we understand the term today, and are universally understood to be the venue for some kind of ‘ritual’ activity, though what form this took we as yet have no idea. Likewise, we do not know what superstructure these concentric horseshoe-shaped groups of posts supported, if any. It seems unlikely, though not impossible, that they supported a roofed structure of some kind. They may have carried lintels of timber (like the much later Bronze Age ‘temple’ at Barger-Oosterveld in the Netherlands, similar to the stone ‘trilithons’ at Stonehenge) or may have been freestanding posts, perhaps elaborately carved in the manner of ‘totem poles’. In some cases these central settings of posts or stones are thought to relate to astronomical observations, a kind of ‘calendar’ to allow the prediction or celebration of seasonal events such as the summer and winter solstices, though given the symmetry of the Sittingbourne post-hole groups this also seems unlikely. The fact that the post groups seem to open to the south-east has suggested to some that there was an ‘entrance’ through the ring-ditch in this sector, though of course there is no way of proving



A Bronze Age Collared Urn that was inserted into an earlier crouched inhumation pit within the Neolithic enclosure.



### Ritual deposition at Sittingbourne?

Found in the post-holes of the central post settings of the ritual enclosure were some particularly fine Neolithic flint artefacts. Two were scrapers (in the centre of the photograph), generally understood to have been used for cleaning animal hides, and two arrowheads; on the left a possibly unfinished oblique arrowhead, and on the right a chisel arrowhead. These were probably not chance losses, but deliberately placed at the base of the post-holes when the post settings were erected. The precise significance of these ritual offerings remains a mystery.

pits produced a fragment of amber that may have been a grave good, whilst the fills of another had been cut into for the insertion of an inverted pottery vessel of prehistoric (probably Bronze Age) date.

Neolithic ritual enclosures can be found throughout Britain, although they do not seem to be a feature of the western mainland of Europe, where Neolithic enclosures are more generally understood to be settlements rather than ritual sites (Vaquer 1995), perhaps with the exception of the enclosure at Carsac-Mayrevieille near Carcassonne (Aude: Vaquer 1994; Vaquer *et al* 1994). They can vary enormously in size and morphology. Some

this as the ring-ditch here was destroyed by the earlier construction of the roundabout on Jacinth Drive.

Of the very few Neolithic ritual enclosures that have been excavated in Kent, the most significant is probably that at Ringlemere, which has been interpreted as a ‘henge’ (Needham *et al* 2006); other Neolithic enclosures are known from Thanet at the Lord of the Manor (Macpherson-Grant 1977; 1980) and Northdown, Margate (Rosa 1982). Just over three and half miles to the south of the Sittingbourne site, just north of Trundle Wood between Bredgar and Frinstead, the cropmark of an oval enclosure ditch between 30 and

40m across with opposed entrances on the south-east and north-west sides has been interpreted as another Neolithic ritual enclosure, in this case a 'class 2' henge. An unpublished report by the RCHME lists a further ten cropmarks appearing on aerial photographs in Kent that may potentially be Neolithic (RCHME 1989, list 18; Bewley *et al* 2004, 72), though of course without excavation this cannot be demonstrated.

Running from the north-western side of the Sittingbourne enclosure was an external alignment of five post-pits, stretching for 8.5m. It was aligned with the geometric centre of the enclosure and was presumably contemporaneous. Its significance is unclear.

The enclosure ditch itself was probably cleaned out or recut several times during its period of use. The final recut seems to have filled up during the early Bronze Age. Layers of gravel tip lines in this last infilling suggest that there was an internal bank, probably thrown up when the monument was originally created and perhaps deliberately slighted when it finally went out of use. There was no evidence to suggest that the ritual enclosure was later remodelled as a barrow mound during the Bronze Age, as seems to have been the case at Ringlemere, Monkton-Mount Pleasant and elsewhere (Parfitt 2006a; 2006b; Clark and Rady 2008, 23–34; Clark 2008, 96–9; Perkins 2004).

To the north-east of the enclosure were a series of ditches and a trackway aligned north-west to south-east which have not yet been dated, but are probably of prehistoric date. Intriguingly the same alignment was followed by a much later, post-medieval or modern ditch.

The much anticipated extension of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery did not materialise; only six graves were discovered, a group of four at the western edge of the excavation area, three of which contained grave goods and an outlier of two more potential graves about 25m to the north. The majority of graves therefore focussed on the area to the south-east of the Bronze Age barrow excavated in 2008. The establishment of cemeteries focussing on, and sometimes cutting into, prehistoric burial mounds is a phenomenon well known elsewhere in Kent and southern England, of which examples can be seen at Ringlemere, Dover, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe and Mill Hill, Deal in Kent, Bishopstone in Sussex, Saxton Road, Abingdon in Oxfordshire and Dunstable in Bedfordshire (Needham *et al* 2006; Parfitt and Corke 2006; Evison 1987; Parfitt *et al* 2013; Bell 1977, 192–5; Leeds and Harden 1936; Matthews 1962).

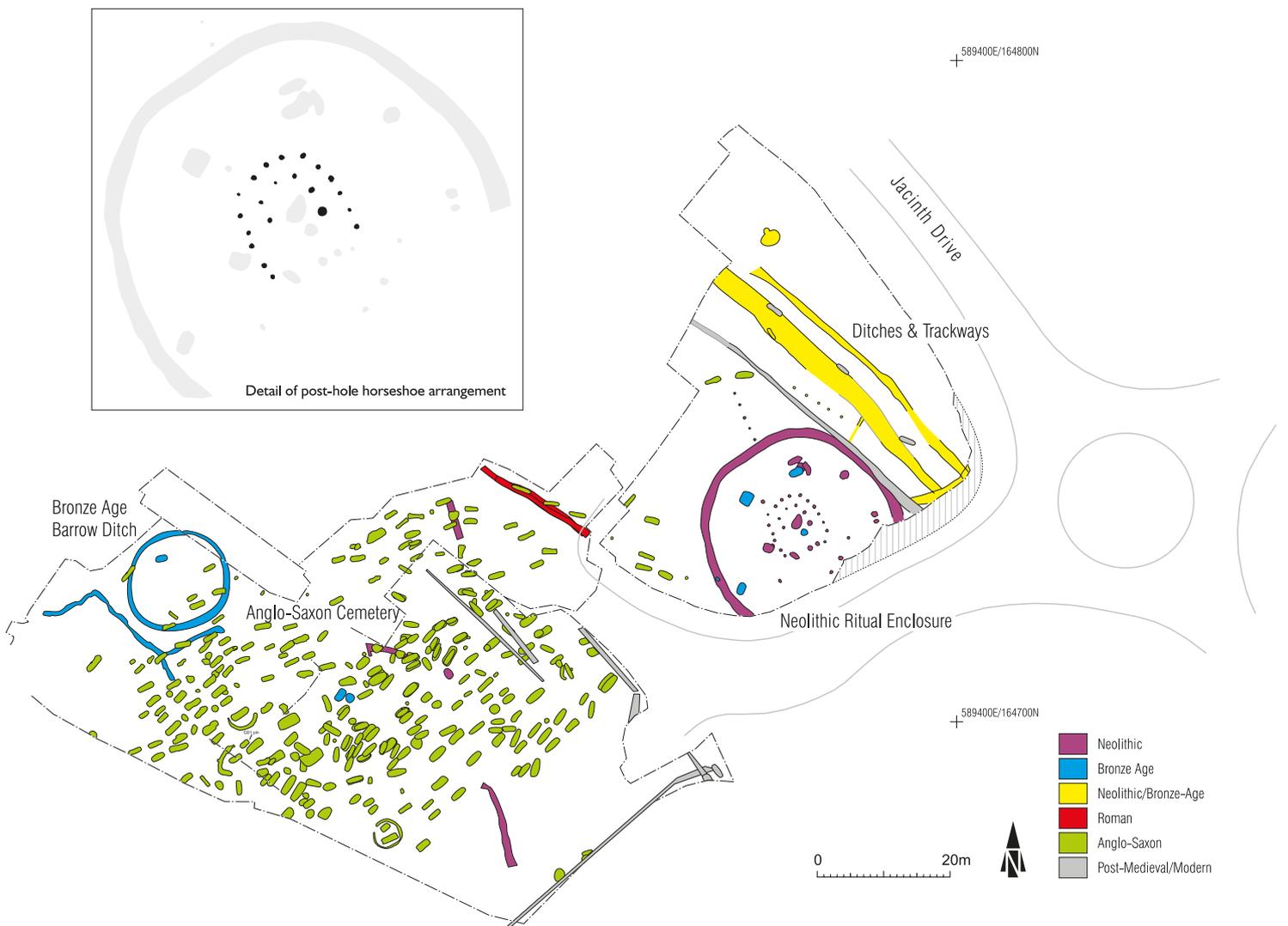
We can only speculate why Anglo-Saxon peoples were drawn to bury their dead close by these ancient burial mounds, which would have been over 2,000 years old



One of the few Anglo-Saxon graves. The skeleton had completely decayed away, but a copper alloy bracelet and an iron knife survived.

An aerial view of The Meads excavation. The Neolithic ritual enclosure can be seen on the right of the photograph with its concentric horseshoe-shaped post settings.





when they were re-used. Was there some folk memory that the mounds were associated with ancient ancestors and these newcomers with their new language and way of life sought to legitimise their place and claim to the land by physical association with these mute memorials of the distant past? It was not just the Anglo-Saxon

communities that felt this need. Across the water in northern France and the Low Countries, extensive Merovingian cemeteries are sometimes found clustering around and cutting into Bronze Age burial mounds, as at Fréthun and La Calotterie in Pas-de-Calais (Bostyn *et al* 1992; Desfossés 2000, 158–65) 

## A ‘Henge’ at Sittingbourne?

Thomas Kendrick first coined the term ‘Henge’ to describe a specific type of Neolithic enclosure in the 1930s (Kendrick and Hawkes 1932). The key features of a henge are an enclosure ditch with an external bank, pierced by one or more entrances often with a variety of internal features such as timber or stone circles, pits or burials. Classic examples include the site of Avebury in Wiltshire, the Ring of Brodgar in Orkney and the Thornborough henge complex in Yorkshire. The word itself derives from ‘Stonehenge’ (from the twelfth century *‘Stanenges’*, literally ‘stone gallows’). Stonehenge itself is not a true henge, as its ditch lies external to its bank.

If the Neolithic enclosure excavated at Sittingbourne can be described as a henge it would be only the second such monument in Kent confirmed by excavation (the other being at Ringlemere), but evidence for the key features of a henge could not be demonstrated. There was no evidence for an entrance, although one might have existed in the south-eastern, unexcavated part of the ditch as suggested by the alignment of the horseshoe-shaped post settings, but there was no sign of one on the aerial photographs. Likewise, truncation of the site meant that any trace of a bank associated with the ditch (either internal or external) had been removed. The tips of gravel infilling the final recut of the ditch, suggest that there was an internal bank around the inside edge of the ditch, which is not a feature of a henge *per se*. This is not to diminish the importance of the Sittingbourne enclosure however. With the growing awareness of the heterogeneity of Neolithic ceremonial enclosures the classification of henges has become bewilderingly complex and it is in this context that we must understand the Sittingbourne enclosure, a local expression of a peculiarly British phenomenon of the later Neolithic.

# Claxfield Farm, Lynsted

More prehistoric discoveries were made during the year at Claxfield Farm, lying just south of the A2 between Teynham and Lynsted, just under 4 miles east of the Sittingbourne enclosure (NGR 594675 161157). Here an archaeological horizon is gradually being exposed, year by year, as the fields are stripped of topsoil for the extraction of brickearth, usually in strips 330m long and 75m wide undertaken each May. Quarrying has been taking place on the site since 2005, working from the south-east to the north-west across the fields. So far a total of 4.3ha has been stripped. In the southern part of the stripped area was a substantial ditch, around 2m wide and 1.3m deep, marking three sides of a rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 1) measuring around 37m by 27m; no trace of the ditch was found on the south-eastern side. Though finds from the ditch have yet to be studied in detail, the enclosure probably dates to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. This was cut through by another enclosure ditch 1.4m broad and 0.6m deep seemingly describing another rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 2) around 31m long and 21m wide, though the ditch could not be traced at the north-eastern corner. This was probably of a similar date to Enclosure 1, and it was abutted on its northern side by a roughly contemporary boundary ditch 1m wide and 0.46m deep which ran north-west–south east for 70m before turning through 90 degrees and running a further 45m to the north-east. Such enclosures were a feature of the prehistoric landscape from around the middle of the second millennium BC and these enclosures or rectilinear field systems show a move to organised systems of land division which was to last perhaps seven or eight hundred years (Champion 2007, 100).

This organisation of the landscape was accompanied by a break from the tradition of building monumental burial mounds or barrows (Clark 2008, 100) and examples can be found all over Kent as at Westhawk Farm and Brisley Farm near Ashford (Booth *et al* 2008, 25; Stevenson 2012, 87; forthcoming), Thanet Earth (Rady 2010), Mill Hill, Deal (Champion 1980) and indeed in several regions throughout southern England (Yates 2007). They are increasingly being recognised on the near continent, with very extensive Bronze Age and Iron Age enclosure systems in the Netherlands (Kooistra and Maas 2008) and further south in Normandy at Tâtihou and Revillé (Manche: Marcigny and Ghesquière 2003a; Marcigny *et al* 1997), Bernières-sur-Mer (Calvados; Marcigny and Ghesquière 2003b) and Saint-Vigor d'Ymonville (Seine-Maritime; Clément-Sauleau *et al* 2002).



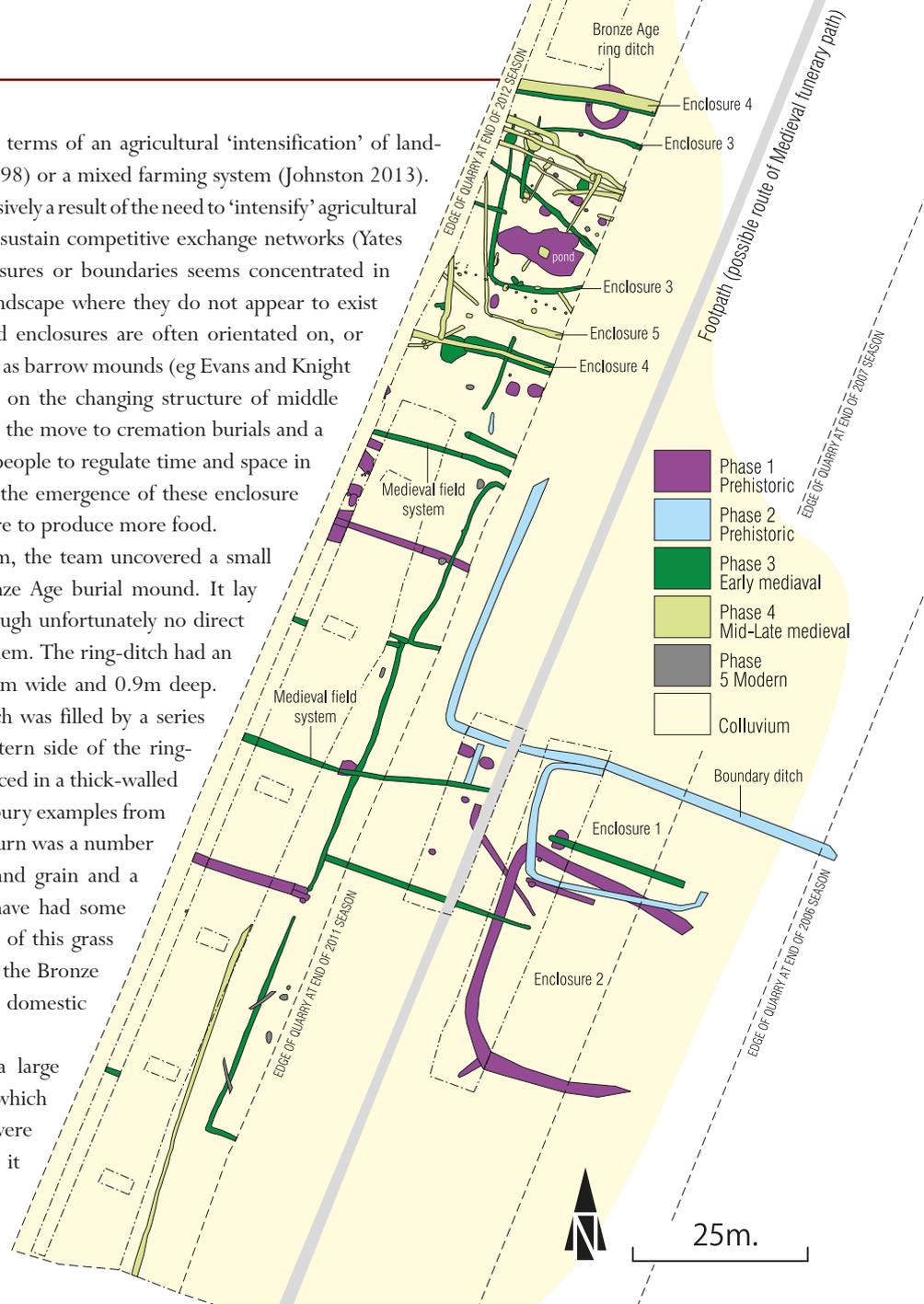
The Deverel-Rimbury (Bronze Age) cremation burial during and after excavation..

These land divisions are generally understood in terms of an agricultural ‘intensification’ of land-use, possibly focussed on raising livestock (Pryor 1998) or a mixed farming system (Johnston 2013). However, it may be that this phenomenon is not exclusively a result of the need to ‘intensify’ agricultural production to meet greater demand for food or to sustain competitive exchange networks (Yates 2007). The distribution of these systems of enclosures or boundaries seems concentrated in distinct areas, separated by extensive swathes of landscape where they do not appear to exist (Yates 2007, fig 12.2), and furthermore these land enclosures are often orientated on, or accommodate within them, earlier monuments such as barrow mounds (eg Evans and Knight 2000). It may be there were other reasons, based on the changing structure of middle Bronze Age society evidenced in other ways, such as the move to cremation burials and a more sedentary way of life increasing the desire of people to regulate time and space in their daily lives (Brück 2000). The reasons behind the emergence of these enclosure systems may be more complex than the simple desire to produce more food.

In the latest phase of fieldwork at Claxfield Farm, the team uncovered a small ring-ditch, probably the vestiges of a middle Bronze Age burial mound. It lay to the north of the enclosures described above, though unfortunately no direct spatial relationship could be determined between them. The ring-ditch had an external diameter of 7.6m and was on average 1.4m wide and 0.9m deep. There was no trace of a central burial and the ditch was filled by a series of erosion deposits. Cutting these fills on the western side of the ring-ditch was a middle Bronze Age cremation burial, placed in a thick-walled bucket urn that can be paralleled with Deverel-Rimbury examples from elsewhere. Mixed in with the cremated bone in the urn was a number of carbonised sloe stones, charred thorns, seeds and grain and a possible tuber of onion couch grass, which may have had some significance in the cremation ritual; charred tubers of this grass are most commonly found in cremation deposits in the Bronze Age, whereas in the Iron Age they mainly occur on domestic sites (Roehs *et al* 2012).

About 20m to the south of the barrow was a large infilled depression about 7m broad and 0.5m deep which probably represented a pond. No datable finds were recovered from its fills, though it seems likely that it was extant during the prehistoric period.

There was little evidence of activity during the Roman or Anglo-Saxon periods, though a set



of decorated Roman tweezers, probably residual, was recovered from a later medieval ditch that cut the edge of the infilled pond.

Renewed activity in the early medieval period appeared to focus on this pond. A small ditch was excavated around the pond, just 0.8m broad and 0.4m deep, forming a rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 3) measuring 29m north–south and at least 20m east–west, though the eastern side of the enclosure lay outside the area of excavation. The pond lay in the south-west corner of this new enclosure, which seemed to have an entrance at its north-west corner.

This enclosure was flanked to the north and south by two large parallel ditches which may themselves have formed another enclosure (Enclosure 4). The northernmost of these ditches lay just 5m to the north of Enclosure 3 and was about 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep with a pronounced V-shaped profile. Approximately 47m to the south of this (and 12m south of Enclosure 3) was a much wider ditch, 2.2m across and 0.5m deep. A number of refuse pits lay within Enclosure 4, all containing medieval pottery and large quantities of oyster shell.

Taken together these features probably represent a small agricultural settlement that was most likely occupied from the late eleventh or early twelfth century to the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. The settlement clearly extended to the west and it seems likely that more will be revealed in years to come.

Settlement activity continued into the later medieval and post-medieval periods, in the area of the pond, though this feature had probably silted up or was backfilled during the thirteenth century. Enclosure 3 went out of use and was replaced by another enclosure (Enclosure 5) on a slightly different alignment, and the northern ditch of Enclosure 4 was recut. More pits



were dug, and one large example, 1.8m long, 1.6m wide and over 1m deep, was probably a cess pit. The palaeoenvironmental samples from this pit suggest that the settlement was involved in mixed pastoral and arable farming.

It is not clear when the settlement went out of use. Agricultural land management continued well into the post-medieval period with the excavation of a well and further enclosures were constructed in the area of the earlier medieval enclosures, probably related to stock management.

To the south of the medieval enclosures were the field boundaries of a contemporary coaxial field system, running 170m southward to the edge of excavation. No doubt more of this field system will be revealed in future campaigns of fieldwork 🏠

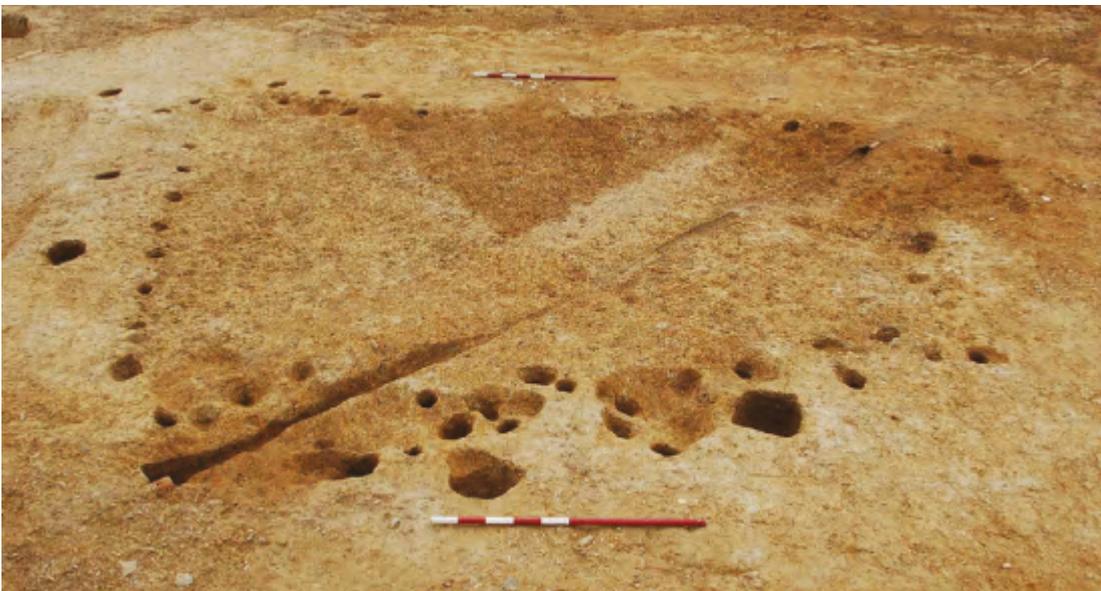




# St Edmund's School, Canterbury

Another later Bronze Age enclosure system was found during excavations at St Edmund's School, just north of the city of Canterbury (NGR 613400 159400). Here, on sloping ground running north-west to south-east was a series of eleven shallow ditch segments, on average 0.55m broad and just 0.12m deep, probably representing 'field boundaries' rather than enclosures *per se*. They

may have provided the footing for lengths of wattle fencing or bedding for the planting of thorn bushes. A discontinuous line of boundary ditches ran south-west to north-east across the slope, following the contour line, for around 75m from the south-western section. It probably continued to the north-east but here a later ditch on the same alignment may have removed any trace



Structure 5: this enigmatic feature was built of closely-set posts and stakes, maybe supporting wickerwork walls. It probably dates to the Iron Age, but its function is unknown.

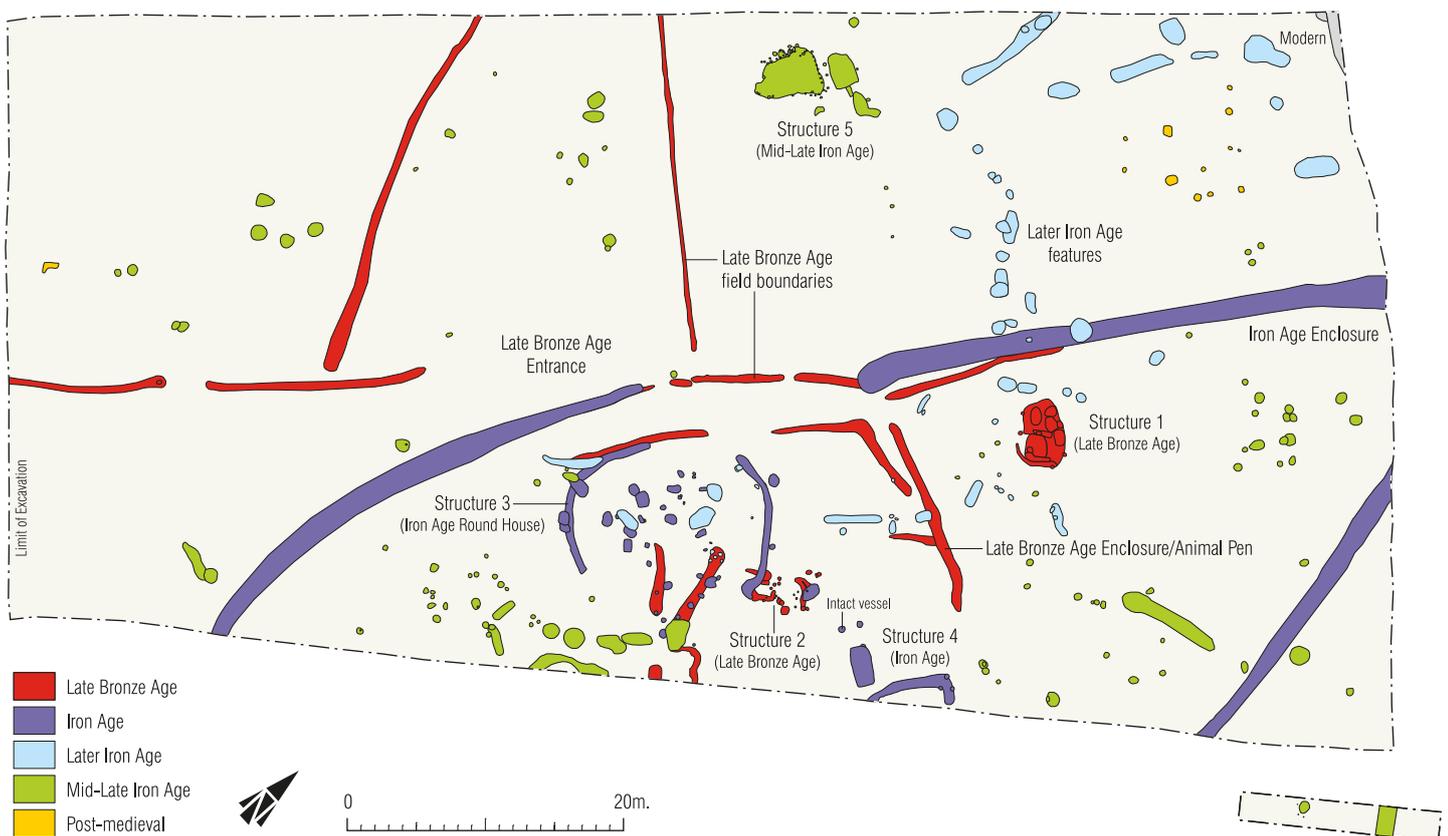


of it. There was a gap in this stretch of ditches about 17.5m wide that may have been deliberate, providing access through the boundary. It roughly coincided with a converging pair of ditches that ran directly up the slope, 25m wide to the south-east, narrowing to 12.5m upslope, where the ditches entered the edge of the excavation area. This arrangement may relate to stock control, perhaps intending to corral animals up slope, the converging ditch arrangement providing a 'corridor'

allowing animals to be herded downslope, perhaps for watering or for access to summer pasture.

Just to the east of the putative entrance and downslope of the main boundary was a collection of other ditch segments that perhaps delineate a small enclosure or animal pen for stock control.

Also associated with this early (late Bronze Age/early Iron Age) field system were two unusual structures that may have been associated with industrial activity.





Pupils from both the junior and senior schools came to the site. Some had also visited the Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire. The excavation on their own playing field brought the Iron Age to their doorstep.

One was located just downslope of the small enclosure just outside the entrance to the main field boundary (Structure 2) and another lay about 10m to the north-west (Structure 1). They were both around 4m long and 2m wide comprising a number of structural post-holes associated with short lengths of eaves-drip gullies. Structure 1 produced slag residues associated with metalworking and Structure 2 fragments of loomweights.

This arrangement of field boundaries went out of use and was replaced by a substantial enclosure in the earlier Iron Age (probably around 600–400 BC), with its focus to the south-east, downslope of the earlier enclosure ditches. Running across the excavation area on a roughly north-east to south-west alignment was a large ditch, about 1.8m broad and 0.5m deep with a gap around 15m across forming an entrance. Immediately downslope of this entrance were the remains of a large circular house (Structure 3) around 15m in diameter represented by a number of structural post-holes and arcs of eaves-drip gullies.

Middle Iron Age round-houses like this example from St Edmund's School are relatively uncommon in Kent, though they are characteristic of the early and middle Iron Age in many other parts of southern and eastern England such as the upper Thames valley and in East Anglia (Champion 2007, 107; Allen *et al* 1984; Knight 1984). A group of five, possibly six, penannular house gullies dating to around 500–400 BC was excavated at Highstead, around 10km north-north-east of Canterbury (Bennett *et al* 2007, 39–41). These were mostly about 12m in diameter, though one (Building B311) was 16m in diameter, making it comparable in size to the St Edmund's School example. Another group

of perhaps eight early to middle Iron Age round-houses were excavated a little further north at Eddington, though these were somewhat smaller, averaging 9–12m in diameter (Jarman 2005).

About 12m to the east of Structure 3 part of a curvilinear ditch running for about 5m into the section was recorded. It may be this was part of a structure (Structure 4), but too little of it was revealed to be certain. A large rectangular pit lay just to the west. Another structure lay close by the north-western section (Structure 5). It consisted of a sub-square shallow scoop approximately 4.8m long, 3.8m wide and 0.3m deep that formed a sunken floor, surrounded by over twenty stake-holes and several post-holes. Adjacent to this was a second much smaller sunken-featured structure that may have been related. The finds from Structure 5 have not yet been studied or dated, but the feature bears some resemblance to a rectangular structure formed by a double row of posts at Highstead (Structure B200; Bennett *et al* 2007, 47). The Highstead example was about twice the size of the St Edmund's School example and had no trace of a sunken floor; its date is equivocal, but may have been built in the mid to late Iron Age.

It seems that the site continued to be occupied into the later Iron Age with a series of shallow pits and short, shallow linear features possibly dating to this time. However, it seems that the site was abandoned by the time of the Roman conquest. There were no features of later date apart from a group of post medieval post-holes in the northern corner of the site. This is perhaps not surprising as the site is poor land to modern eyes; what drew people to this marginal ground in the Iron Age is as yet a mystery .



# Wincheap, Canterbury

Evidence for the Roman occupation of Canterbury was found, however, on the southern side of the city at 45–47 Wincheap (NGR 614363 157175). The excavation focused chiefly on two areas: Area A, set a few metres back from the street frontage, and Area B, around 9m further back.

In Area A, at a depth of around 1.5m below the existing ground surface layers of silty clay and crushed lime plaster overlay the natural gravel subsoil. The plaster layer formed a bedding deposit for an alternating sequence of clay floors and silty clay occupation deposits, presumably the floors of a Roman building that once fronted onto the Roman street to the north. The uppermost clay floor had an area of intense burning, probably representing the position of a hearth. This sequence of floors was only seen in section and the deposits were not excavated, and so no datable finds were recovered from them. The same was true of two badly truncated pits, one of which cut into the floor sequence. This structural sequence was sealed by a thick layer of silty clay, probably representing post-abandonment occupation during the post-Roman period. Three sherds of (probably residual) pottery derived from these deposits were dated to AD 175–300.

In Area B, set further away from the street frontage, there was further evidence for a Roman building, though it could not be ascertained if this was the same structure as that on the frontage. A compact layer of orange clay was interpreted as an internal clay floor. It lay at about the same depth as the floors towards the street frontage, and produced a single sherd of pottery dated to around AD 50–250. Above this floor was a layer of lime plaster, which was sealed by a metallised surface of compacted flint, possibly another floor or maybe an external yard surface. It produced three fragments of pottery dated to around AD 150–300 and was overlain by a silty clay occupation deposit. As in Area A, the structural sequence was sealed by silty clay that formed after the abandonment of the building during the post-Roman period and which produced residual pottery dating to AD 250–400.

This tantalising glimpse of Roman structural remains well over a metre below the modern street level extends our knowledge of the spread of Roman ribbon development along Wincheap to the south-west. Wincheap itself follows the line of the Roman road established in the late first century leading from Canterbury to the Ashford Gap, where a small Roman settlement was established at Westhawk Farm within



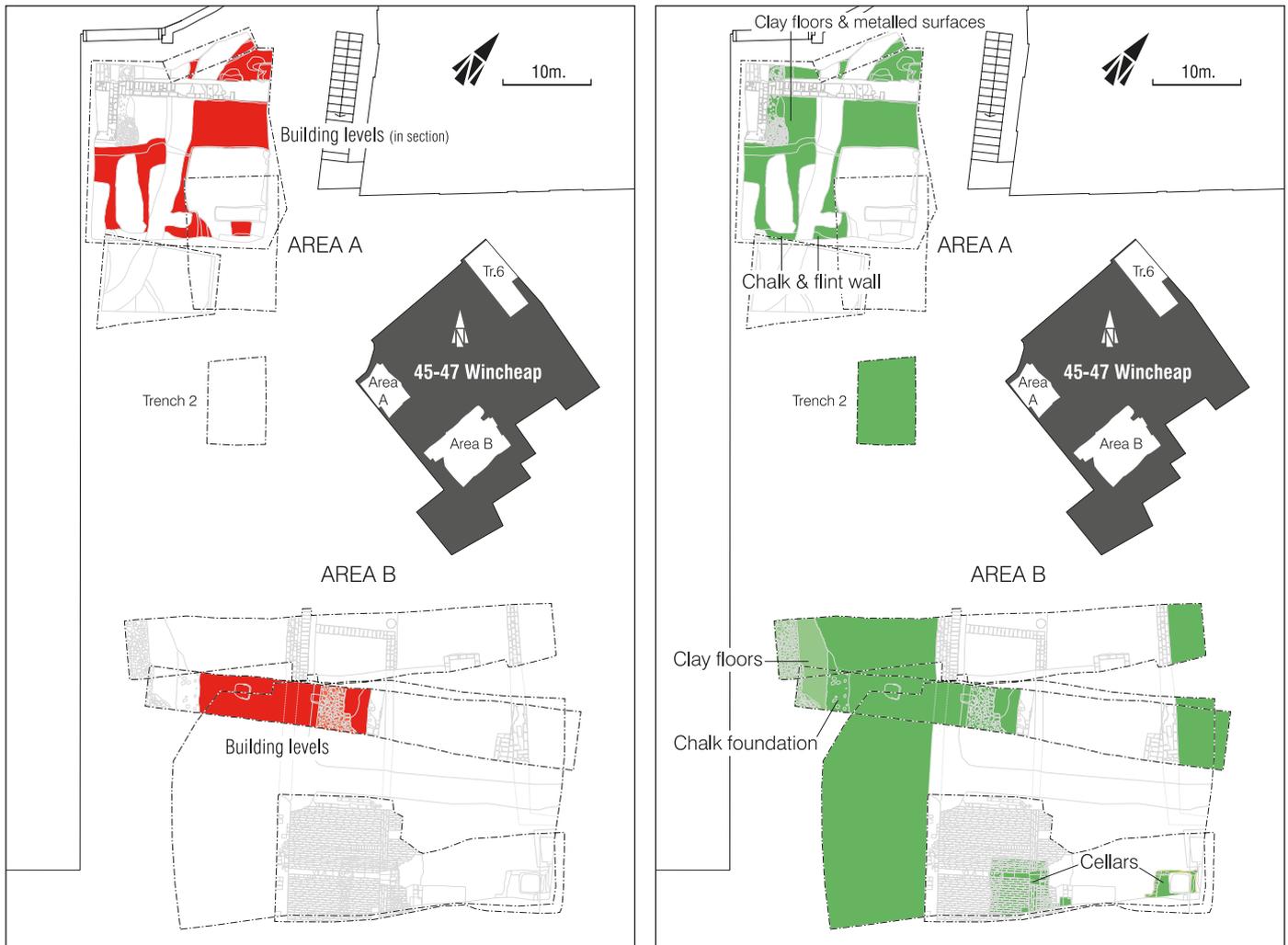
a generation of the Roman conquest (Booth *et al* 2008, 388–9) and on to the Weald. A second Roman road, linking Canterbury to the port at *Portus Lemanis* (Lympne) on the south coast may have had its junction with the Canterbury-Weald road a little over 200m to the north-east of the structures at 45–47 Wincheap (but see below):

Even small trenches like those at Wincheap can provide important clues to the development of Canterbury in the past.

To the south is an old obscure gate called Worth gate, partly walled up: it is under the castle. This is intirely a Roman work: the semi-circular arch is of Roman brick, beautifully turned; the piers of stone; the thickness of it is three Roman feet. I suppose this the original gate of the Roman city, and from hence went the road which presently divides itself into two: the one goes by Chilham to Durolenum, over the river at Sharnford, as we said; the other goes in a very strait line, by the name of Stone-street to the port of Lemanis.

(Stukeley 1776, 122)

This intersection, the only place where two major Roman roads met before entering the urban limits of *Durovernum Cantiacorum*, was from the outset a focus for extra-mural burials. A number of late first- and early second-century cremation burials have been found over the years clustering around this intersection in the general area of Wincheap roundabout (Bennett and Sweetinburgh 2007, 9–10; Weekes 2011). However, the situation is not particularly clear. The direct extension of the line of Stone Street would intersect with Wincheap in the area of Victoria Road, almost half a kilometre



south-west of Wincheap roundabout. Likewise the southern extension of the line of Stone Street does not lead directly to the fort of *Lemanis*, but passes about a kilometre to the east. The precise arrangement of the road system at either end of Stone Street remains a subject for further study.

Settlement seems to have developed against the Canterbury-Weald road from around the early second century AD onwards, possibly a commercial suburb like that known to the north-west of the early Roman town or perhaps ribbon development along the line of the road, as suggested by the structural evidence at 45–47 Wincheap. Structural features, metallated surfaces and rubbish pits have been found on a number of sites along the line of the road. It seems likely that the earlier cremation cemetery went out of use as the town extended to the south-west.

This may be reflected in the presence of later burials further to the south-west, along the line of the Canterbury-Weald road, perhaps placed here to comply with Roman law that burials should be placed outside the urban area. The disarticulated bones of an 18 month old child were found associated with two complete pottery vessels of late second- or early third-century date in Simmons Road, about 130m west of 45–47 Wincheap, whilst a pottery group of similar date, probably representing a cremation burial was found

260m to the south-west adjacent to the road line. This all changed with the construction of the city defences in the late third century, which physically circumscribed the boundaries of the town and identified the existing settlement along the Canterbury-Weald road as definitely extra-mural. This change in perception of the area seems to have brought about its decline; there is little evidence for any settlement activity along the route during the fourth century AD, and indeed the creation of the late Roman cemetery at Pin Hill and Station Road East suggests that the perception of the boundary of the town had moved north-east, so that burials in this area could now be considered as outside the town (Weekes forthcoming).

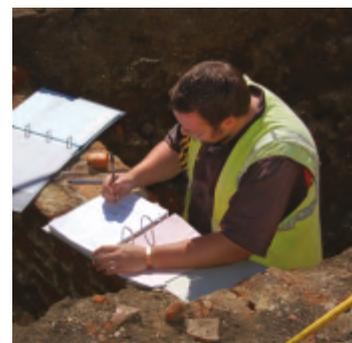
There was no evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation at 45–47 Wincheap, but this is true of all excavations carried out in the Wincheap area: ‘The only evidence that (so far) seems to survive of an Anglo-Saxon *‘wægn ceap’* or ‘wagon market’ is its name’ (Helm and Weekes forthcoming).

Following the decline of the Roman settlement in the third century AD the area seems to have been given over to agricultural or horticultural use, as shown by the build up of clay silts over the abandoned Roman buildings at 45–47 Wincheap. It may not have been until the twelfth and thirteenth centuries that new development began (Urry 1967, 189).

**45–47 Wincheap: Roman phases (left) and medieval (right).**

Potential medieval structures were also present at 45–47 Wincheap, cutting the cultivated soils overlying the Roman structures, but very little dating evidence was found. In Area A, a chalk and flint wall foundation ran roughly north-east to south-west for about 3m, surviving to a height of 0.19m and lying parallel to the road and set back about 10m from the street frontage. In the south-west corner of Area A was an area of flint gravel metalling that had been resurfaced at least twice and it was abutted by a sequence of clay floors on its north-east side. In Area B, another building might have been represented by a 0.65m wide foundation of compacted chalk running 1.7m north-east to south-

west, perpendicular to Wincheap. The south-west side of this wall was abutted by clay, probably an internal floor, which was in turn sealed by a metallised surface overlain with demolition material apparently derived from the wall footing. The remains of two rectangular cellars lay at the south-east boundary of Area B, both of roughly coursed flint and chalk walling, the easternmost 1.15m wide and the westernmost 1.8m. The south-eastern walls of both cellars lay outside the area of excavation. A sequence of silty clays extending over much of Area B produced a sherd of pottery dated to AD 1200–1500 and fragments of Tyler Hill type roof tile, dated to around AD 1175–1400 



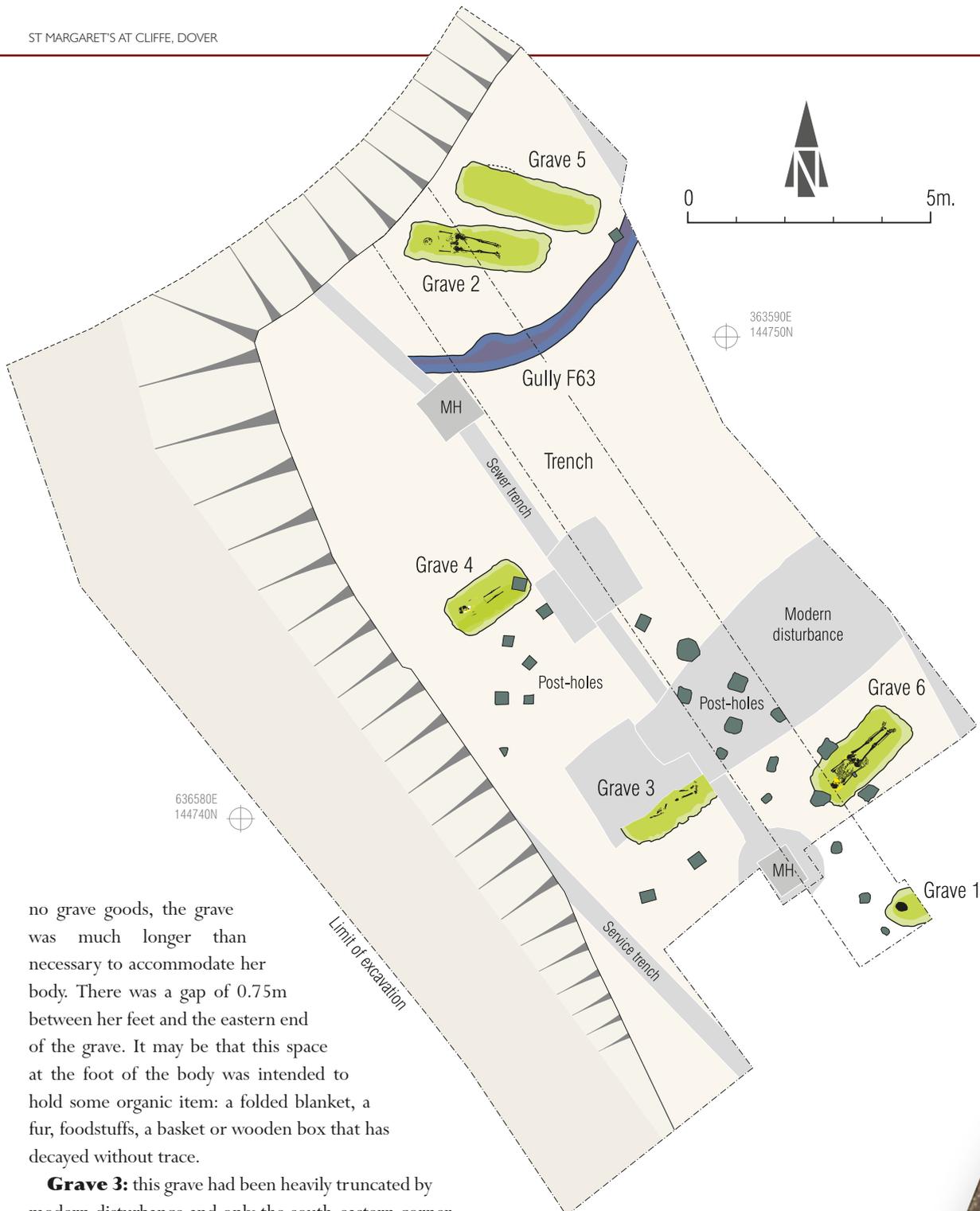
## St Margaret's at Cliffe, Dover

Whilst there was no evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation in the Wincheap area of Canterbury, the Trust did excavate five Anglo-Saxon graves on a chalk ridge overlooking the sea at St Margaret's at Cliffe, to the east of Dover (NGR 636585 144745). Six graves were in fact uncovered though one (Grave 1) was not going to be affected by the development and was left undisturbed. All the graves were simple chalk-cut rectangular pits with no sign that they had ever held a coffin. They varied in depth from 0.3 to 0.65m deep, with vertical sides which sometimes preserved the marks of the tools used to cut them. These marks indicated the use of a metal pointed pick and a mattock with a blade about 60mm

wide. Four of the graves contained a burial and two of these produced grave goods:

**Grave 2:** this grave was 0.8m wide, 2.9m long and 0.6m deep and orientated roughly east–west. At the western end of the grave was the extended supine skeleton of an adult woman about 1.7m tall (5ft 6ins), with her head at the west end of the grave. She had suffered two severe blows to the head at some point in her life; a 50mm long oval shaped depression probably represents a healed depression fracture, but this was perforated by a 10–20mm hole that showed no signs of healing and may well have been caused by sharp force trauma that resulted in her death. Although there were

Recording the burial of a young girl (Grave 4).



no grave goods, the grave was much longer than necessary to accommodate her body. There was a gap of 0.75m between her feet and the eastern end of the grave. It may be that this space at the foot of the body was intended to hold some organic item: a folded blanket, a fur, foodstuffs, a basket or wooden box that has decayed without trace.

**Grave 3:** this grave had been heavily truncated by modern disturbance and only the south-eastern corner of it survived. The badly preserved bones of the skeleton suggested that the body was that of an adult female, with her head at the south-west end of the grave. A couple of small iron fragments found under the left tibia were probably part of a bracket or repair clip, maybe originally fitted to a wooden object that had been placed in the grave.

**Grave 4:** this grave was sub-rectangular, about 1.8m long, 0.35m wide and 0.3m deep, aligned roughly north-east to south-west. It contained the skeleton of a young girl who, judging by her teeth, was about 4 years old when she died. She had been placed at the south-western end of the grave, leaving a gap of about 0.4m between her feet and the north-eastern end. Remarkably, this young girl had been buried with a fine Kentish disc brooch and a pendant, glass and metal

beads and other objects that had probably been strung together on a necklace, along with a small iron knife. The knife had been placed beside her left hip, with the handle pointing towards the feet and the tip of the blade towards the head. The brooch and necklace were found in the area of the neck/chest and on the right side of her head was a large piece of probable antler, but it was too decayed to determine what this originally was. Child burials are relatively rare from the Anglo-Saxon period and those with such fine grave goods rarer still. The objects in the grave suggest she was buried shortly before AD 650. We can only guess at the significance of the jewellery that accompanied her; presumably she was the daughter of some privileged family, but were the brooch and necklace her personal possessions? Or were they tokens of love from her grieving relatives? There was



no evidence for why the child had died, but the mix of different objects that made up the necklace is suggestive. Perhaps a number of family members had each donated a small item that were then strung together as a '*pars pro toto*', a kind of physical shorthand for the family to accompany her as she faced the afterlife.

**Grave 5:** this grave lay very close to Grave 2, and was the longest of the excavated graves, being 3m long, 0.9m wide and about 0.5m deep. There was no trace of any skeleton, and given the relatively good survival of bone in the adjacent Grave 2, it seems likely that it had never been used. We can only speculate why this should be so. Was it an earlier attempt at digging Grave 2, but on the wrong alignment necessitating its recutting? Was it dug for an individual whose body, for whatever reason, could not be recovered for burial?

Just to the south-east of Graves 2 and 5 was a short stretch of curving gully, partially enclosing the two graves. This poorly preserved and shallow feature (about 0.5m broad and 0.15m deep) may represent the ring-ditch of a small barrow-mound overlying the graves, perhaps originally about 6m in diameter.

**Grave 6:** this grave was aligned roughly north-east to south-west and was 2.25m long, 1m wide and about 0.65m deep. It contained the skeleton of a young man between 25–35 years old, with his head at the south-west end of the grave. At his waist was an iron belt buckle and an iron knife had been placed at his left hip, with the handle pointing towards

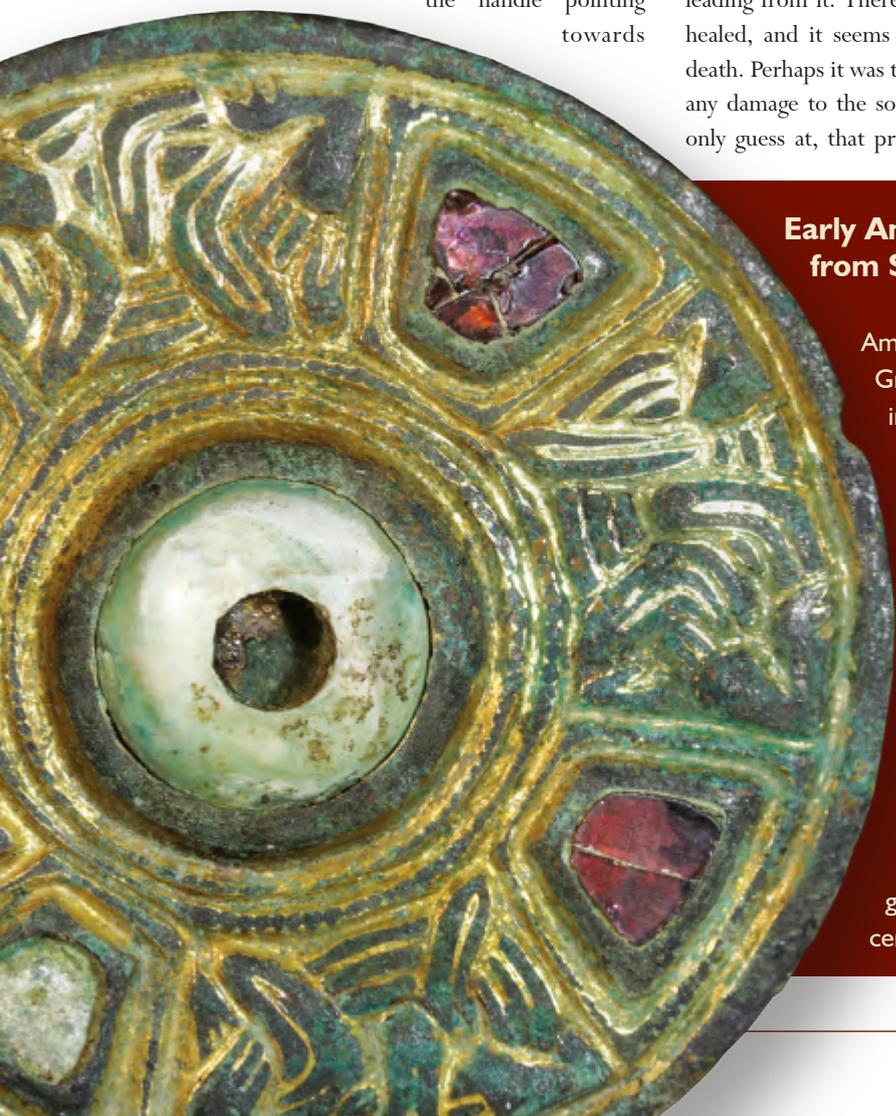


the feet and the tip of the blade towards the head in the same fashion as the knife accompanying the burial of the young girl in Grave 4. On his right side was a spear. The wooden shaft had long since decayed away, but the arrangement of the skeleton suggests that the body was laid out grasping the spear in both hands. The large iron spearhead lay beside the skull. Overlying the head were the remains of a shield, including a boss with strap handle, four disc-headed rivets from the shield board and a number of other fittings, including a copper alloy washer. The centre of the shield (i.e. the shield boss) directly overlay the young man's face.

This warrior seems to have come to an untimely end; in the front of his skull was a 20–30mm wide hole, the result of a blunt force injury with radiating fractures leading from it. There was no sign that the wound had healed, and it seems likely that this was the cause of death. Perhaps it was the sight of this wound, along with any damage to the soft tissues of the face that we can only guess at, that prompted those laying the body to



Grave 4: we shall probably never know the full story of the little girl laid to rest here with her fancy brooch and necklace of assorted finery including this splendid glass bead (21mm in diameter).



### Early Anglo-Saxon garnet-inlaid disc brooch from St Margaret's-at-Cliffe

Amongst the objects buried with the young girl in Grave 4 was this fine little brooch, just over an inch in diameter. This 'Kentish disc brooch' is (unusually) made of copper alloy gilded with gold foil, and has four settings for keystone-shaped garnets, two of which are missing. The garnets are backed by sheets of stamped gold foil and the spaces between them decorated with stylised animals. The central circular setting contains a domed boss of white material, probably shell. A fragment of stamped gold foil in the otherwise empty central setting suggests that this also once contained a garnet. It was probably made some time after c AD 580, but its worn condition and missing garnets suggests it was quite old when it was placed in the grave, perhaps in the second half of the seventh century AD.

rest to place his shield over his head rather than in the normal position over the chest or the lower body (pelvis, knees, feet), saving the mourners from increased distress at the sight of these injuries. Judging by the finds that accompanied the body of this young man, he met his end sometime between AD 550 and AD 610.

These new discoveries add to a growing body of evidence for Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon burials on this chalk ridge overlooking the English Channel. Writing in the eighteenth century, antiquary William Stukeley noted that:

... Now my journey lay entirely upon the edge of the cliffs, whose precipitous height with the noble prospect at sea, and most awful roaring of the waves, filled the mind with a sense of Nature's majesty. About St. Margarets on cliff, near the light-houses, I saw in two places a great number of little tumuli, of unequal bulk, close by one another; and the like I found frequently about Barham downs, and between Hardres and Chilham, and other places. I know not that such have ever been taken notice of: the people say they were burying-places of the Danes; probably digging into them might give us some satisfaction. I believe them Celtic, because I saw many sorts of them, and such as appear on Salisbury plain.

(Stukeley 1776, 127)

Later in that century, James Douglas reported that there were about thirty barrows here, covering nearly 1.5 acres of ground (Douglas 1793). He opened fourteen of them in 1782 but only one produced any grave-goods, in the form of an Anglo-Saxon iron knife.

The Tithe Map for 1840 shows that the ridge was by then under the plough and most of the burial mounds were removed. Towards the end of the nineteenth century and continuing into the earlier twentieth century, however, as the region developed as a high class holiday resort and retreat for well to do citizens, so occasional burials were revealed during building works. It was not until 2004 that any proper excavation could be conducted. Digging in the grounds of 'Eden Roc', former home of the famous actor Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson (1853–1937), work by the Trust revealed part of a substantial ring-ditch enclosing the site of a previously destroyed Bronze Age round barrow (Parfitt and Corke 2006). This had been levelled in 1920 to make way for Forbes-Robertson's new tennis court, exposing half a dozen inhumation burials in the process.

In 2004 six prehistoric contracted inhumations, three cut into the filling of the ring-ditch and three placed immediately outside it were discovered, together with another six graves containing extended inhumations of the Anglo-Saxon period. At least two of these Anglo-Saxon ones had formerly been covered by their own small barrow mounds, just as Stukeley and Douglas



reported. The work here clearly demonstrated that the prehistoric monument had subsequently served as a focus for the later Anglo-Saxon burials.

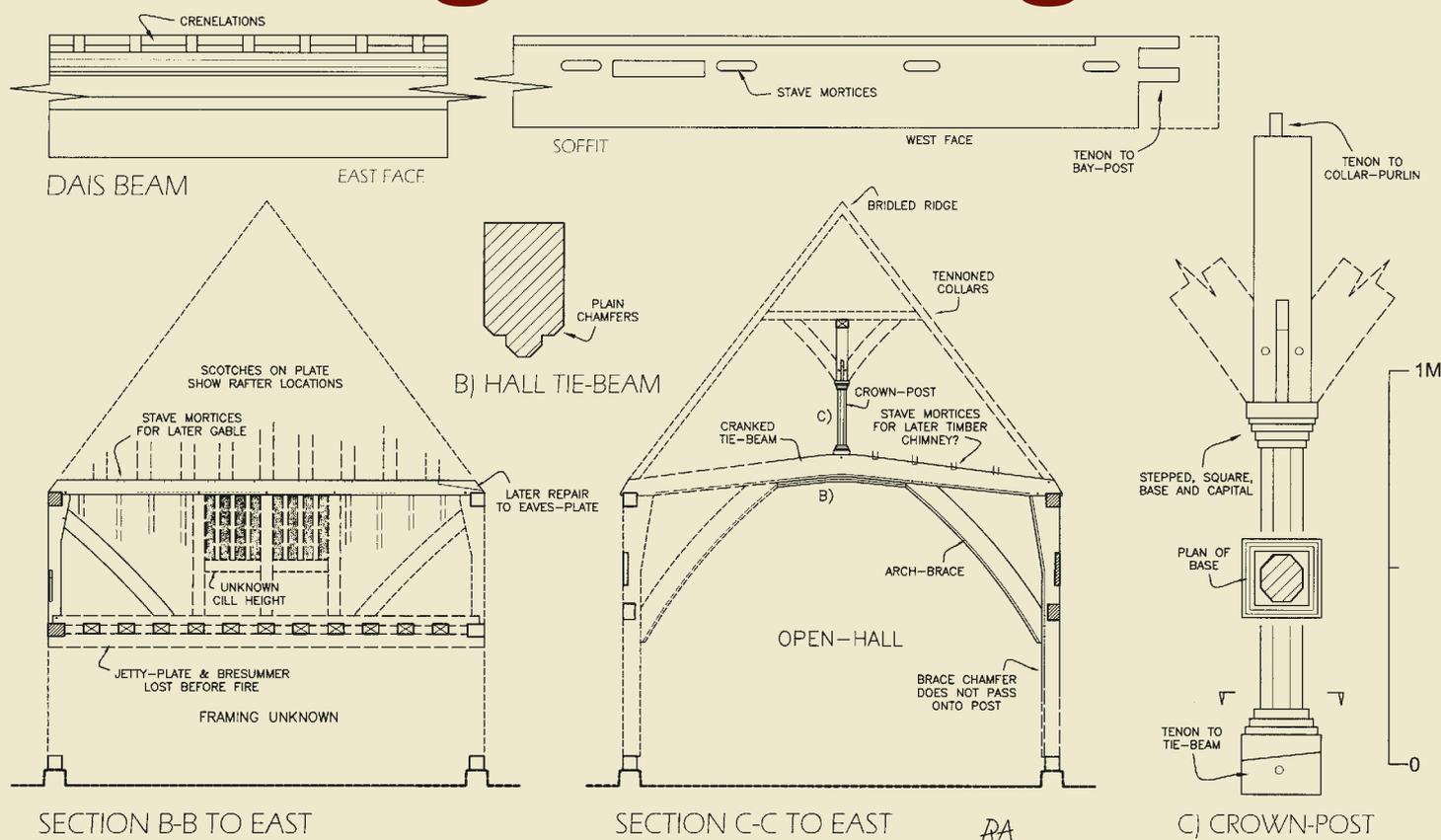
The most recent excavations were conducted 300 metres further along the ridge from 'Eden Roc' and there is a suggestion that here too the Anglo-Saxon burials had been placed next to an earlier barrow. Together, these two investigations have now gone some way towards reconstructing an ancient burial landscape, lost to view since the eighteenth century .

Grave 6 with detail below. Note the corroded iron spearhead on the left side of the photograph.



The demand for historic building surveys and assessments was as high as ever in the period under review with Rupert Austin and Peter Seary investigating some 50 properties during the year. Rupert describes just a few of the most notable.

# Timber, daub, bricks and mortar: building recording



The circumstances through which the Trust came to study the **Black Lion Inn, Southfleet** (NGR 56158 17075) were the least welcome, the inn having been damaged beyond repair by arson in 2009. We have unfortunately been required to record a significant number of historic properties partly or wholly destroyed by fire over the years, and the task of sifting through charred, burnt timbers was not a new or welcome one, particularly in the depths of winter during snow. The exercise did, however, produce worthwhile results.

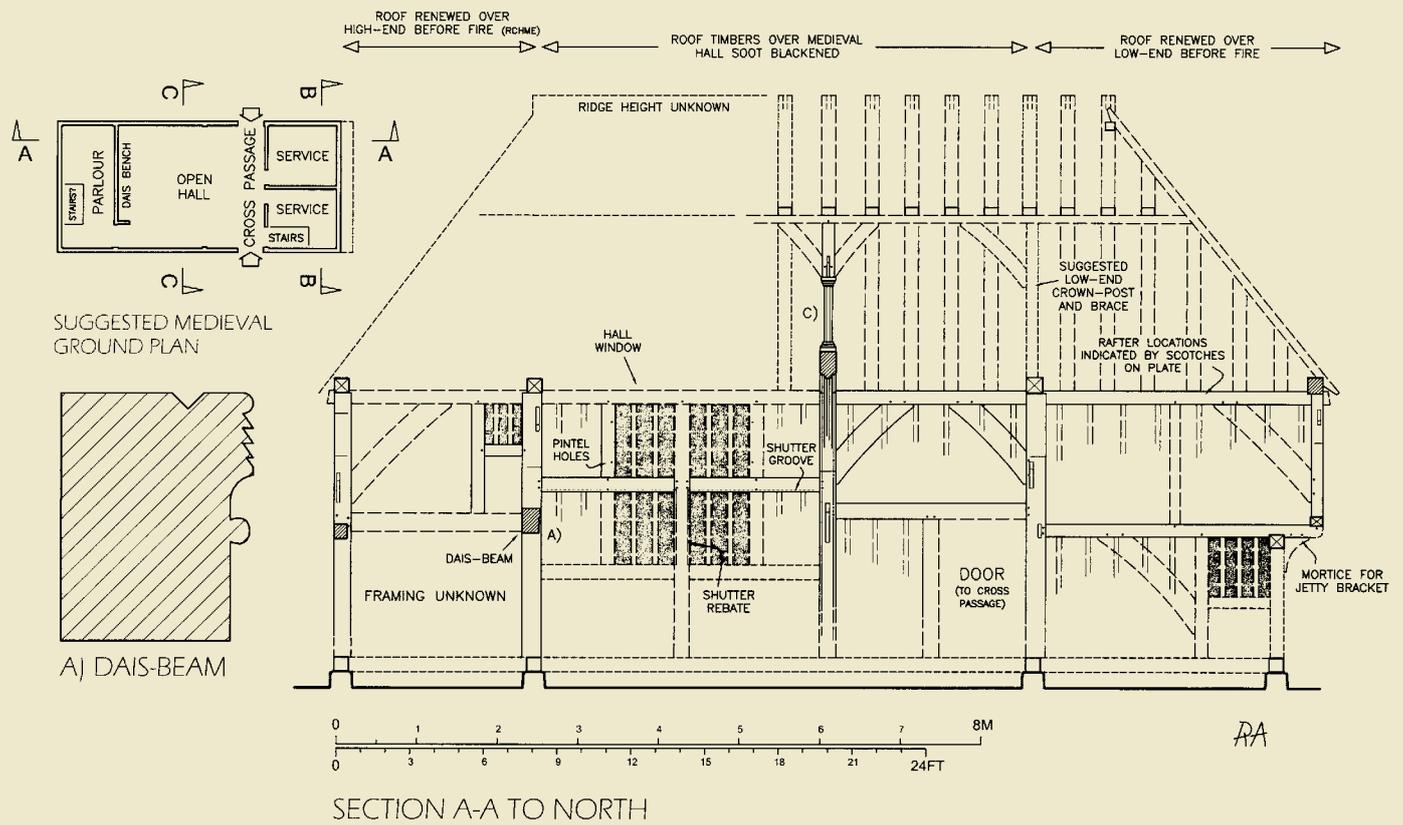
The timber-framed, Grade II listed inn was located within the small village of Southfleet, on the south side of Red Street. Consent for the demolition of the ruined building was granted by Dartford Borough Council in 2012 on the condition that the remains were recorded beforehand. A brief inspection in the 1980s by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England identified the structure as a medieval open-hall house and this was soon confirmed when we began our examination. It was decided, in the circumstances, to

pick through the debris with the help of the demolition contractors, and recover only the more interesting and informative timbers, rather than attempt to recover every last component – the condition of the ruinous building had deteriorated significantly in the years since the fire and most of the remaining, upstanding elements were in a state of collapse, with rot and decay by now well established. Furthermore there was no intention to rebuild the structure.

Dendrochronological analysis of samples taken from salvaged timbers revealed the building to have been constructed between AD 1439 and 1467 and surprisingly elm was the predominant material used in its frame, not oak. The dwelling, presumably originally a modest sized farmhouse, comprised four bays beneath a crown-post roof, and was arranged in the usual manner, its open-

Black Lion Inn: perspective reconstruction of the medieval house, looking south-west.





Black Lion Inn: far left: hall crown post, detail of capital. Left: moulded and castellated dais-beam. Below: the fire-damaged building, looking east.

hall flanked by floored wings, the high-end wing being to the west. The structure was found to be relatively plain, with few decorative features, but a moulded and castellated dais-beam was recovered from the ruins, along with the hall's central, octagonal crown-post, this with a rather primitive base and capital.

The house, like many, had some atypical features. Its low-end, for example was end-jettied whereas the high-end was not. The high-end bay was also surprisingly short, which together with the absence of a jetty suggested that the solar was perhaps located over the service rooms, not the parlour, an unusual, but not unknown arrangement. Enough evidence for the building's original form was recovered to allow its plan, front elevation, and two cross sections to be partially drawn.

Many historic properties have been altered to the point where their origins are no longer apparent externally, and this proved particularly true of **Burnham House, Bredgar** (NGR 58803 16039). This property stands in the middle of the village on the east side of The Street. The church of St John the Baptist abuts



its south boundary, Chantry House, a former religious establishment founded in 1392 by Robert de Bredegare and others, stands opposite. A study of the house was made by the Trust at the request of the owners, who were keen to learn more about their property. An excellent documentary study, tracing the property's occupants

back to the late seventeenth century, had already been undertaken by local historian, Helen Allinson.

The Grade II listed building now presents a pleasing and perfectly balanced Georgian façade to the street, this interestingly of mathematical tiles not brick, but the façade conceals the remains of a late medieval timber-framed hall house. Investigation showed this to be a Wealden house with the front facing jetties and overhanging hall roof which characterise such buildings now entirely cut back. Only parts of the original house survive, albeit interesting parts, and enough to allow its interpretation.

The house was arranged in the usual manner, and constructed as one would expect. Its low-end wing containing the service rooms was located to the north, but surprisingly this had been demolished in post-medieval times and the low end wall of the former open-hall adapted to form a new north elevation. The high-end wing, containing the parlour and solar, was located to the south and has survived, being partly rebuilt, in brick, in the seventeenth century. The imposing, extant, south elevation, with its tall brick chimney was formed at this time. The open-hall lay within the centre of the building, as one would expect, and was unsurprisingly floored over in later years. A short, timber-framed wing was added to the rear in perhaps the mid sixteenth century.

Some of the decorative details within the building are what make it stand out, however, rather than its general form and construction. The exquisite carvings to be found within the spandrels of its door heads, particularly those of the service doors are most notable. Following the loss of the service wing these doors are now located within the north wall of the house and have been converted into windows in modern times.

The quality of the carvings is exceptional and they are, to the writer's knowledge, unique within a vernacular context in Kent, and perhaps further afield. They include a man in Tudor dress chopping meat (or perhaps bread) on a bench, next to a wicker basket; a maid tapping a barrel of beer; a bear in chains eating honey from a pot with a ladle; and a monkey on a three-legged stool turning a spit, with a pig and fowl, over a dripping tray.

The inspiration for these carvings appears to have been the illustrations commonly found in the margins of medieval religious texts and manuscripts. These frequently feature bizarre, zoomorphic scenes, with fantastical creatures combining both human and animal forms engaged in various activities, sometimes of a sexual nature, but also more conservative domestic scenes such as these. The close proximity of the house to the church and chantry, and the appearance of such scenes here cannot be coincidence, and a connection between the two seems likely.

The origins of **Bank Cottage, Little Chart** (NGR 59432 14606), in contrast to those of Burnham House, are still clearly visible. The structure is mostly timber-framed and its close-studded and continuously



Burnham House: the rebuilt seventeenth-century south wall and chimney and the Georgian façade, looking east.



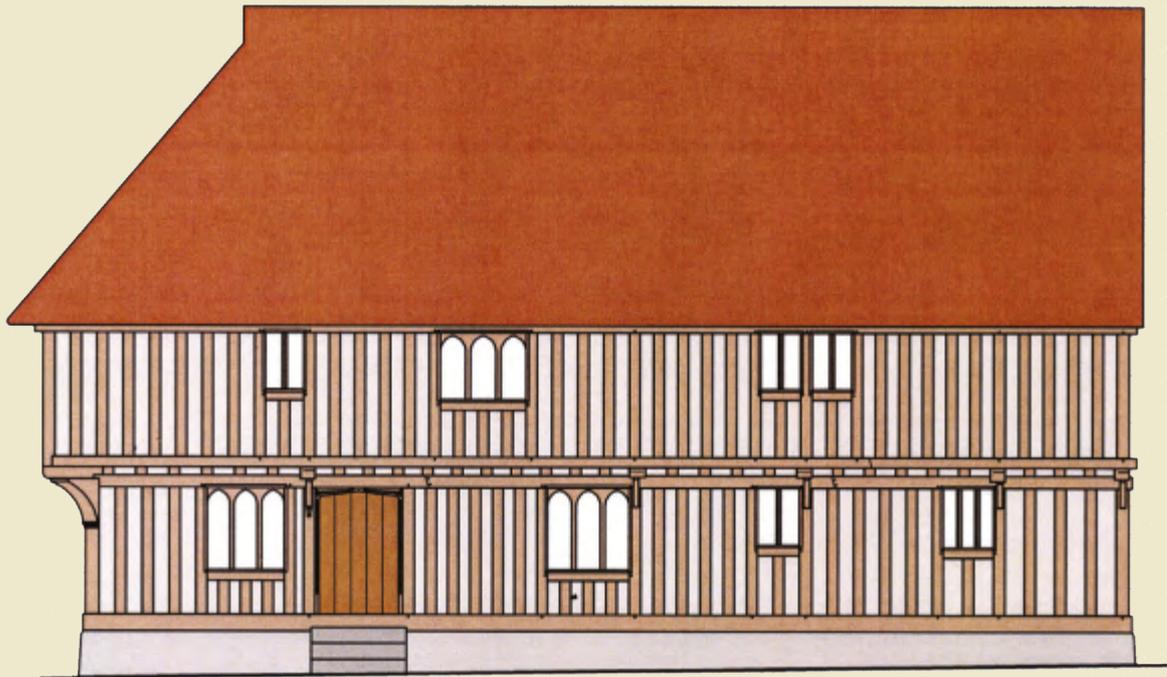
Burnham House: carvings in door spandrels. From top to bottom: a man in Tudor dress chops meat; a maid taps a barrel; a bear in chains eats honey; a monkey turns a spit.



jettied façade retains much of its original appearance and features. Only the windows and doors are notably altered.

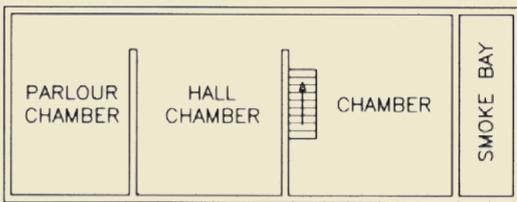
The Grade II listed property stands on a high bank flanking the west side of The Street, the road here deeply sunken through centuries of use. Refurbishment was being considered in 2012 and an assessment of the building was prepared in order to inform the proposed alterations.

The cottage proved to be a modestly proportioned transitional house, probably of early sixteenth-century date. Transitional buildings are not overly common, and

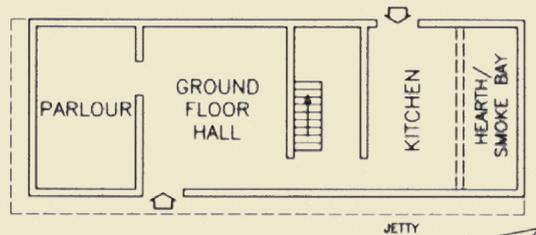


EAST FRONTAGE

RA



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



good examples such as this are always of interest. Such structures bridge the gap between open-hall houses – the prevailing form of house during the medieval period – and the early modern house. Medieval houses were dominated by their large open-halls, whereas transitional houses were storied throughout their length, lacking the open-hall, with chambers above each of their ground floor rooms. Typically, however, they retained the high-and-low end arrangement of a medieval building, whereby the more important rooms were generally placed at one end of the house and the less important at the other.

Bank Cottage has largely retained its original form and arrangement, although single-storey lean-tos were added later. Without an open-hall, other means had to be devised to remove smoke from the hearths of transitional buildings and here a short smoke bay at the north end of the house performed this function. Interestingly this feature was quickly superseded, in perhaps the late sixteenth century, by a timber-framed chimney. Such chimneys are extremely rare, there being few intact examples in Kent and the fragments remaining here are an important survival. The timber-framed chimney was replaced, perhaps in the seventeenth century, by a conventional brick chimney formed within the old smoke bay.

Not all the features of Bank Cottage proved typical. Many transitional houses still retain the medieval cross passage arrangement between opposing front and rear doors, but no such passage was present here. The front door led into the hall, as one would expect, but the rear door lay behind the north kitchen bay. The best first-floor chamber seems also to have been located over the low end of the building.

Bank Cottage: front (east) elevation showing continuous jetty and close-studding.





**Tudor House, Margate** (NGR 63555 17106) proved to be another timber-framed, transitional house, but a rather grander and more ostentatious example, its Grade II\* listing reflecting its special interest. The building is owned by Thanet District Council who commissioned a desk-assessment and analysis of the site and building as part of plans to re-open the property to visitors. Parts of the so-called 'barn' behind the house were found to be of historic interest, comprising a hitherto unrecognised seventeenth-century brick and flint malthouse.

Tudor House dates perhaps to around the second quarter of the sixteenth century. The structure was heavily restored in the 1950s by Harold Doughty of Doughty & Son, Margate, largely back to its sixteenth-century form, and fortunately to a high standard. Most of its original timber framing still survives. The house is certainly one of the more attractive structures the

Trust has studied in recent years. Like most transitional buildings, the house is continuously jettied along its frontage, being storied throughout its length, the jetties turning at the corners, where there are handsome dragon posts. Remarkably its crown-post roof is also jettied and the building can perhaps be considered the transitional equivalent of a Wealden. This and other features reveal it to have been a high status building.

The property's better rooms, including the parlour, were located to the east, the services and a generous chalk and flint cellar to the west with the hall and hall-chamber in-between. A cross-passage passed against the low-end wing, to the west of the central chimney. Probably two small outshots projected from the rear originally, one at each end, these containing stairs to the first-floor chambers. These putative outshots were superseded by the present and more generously proportioned east stair tower in perhaps the seventeenth



Tudor House: far left: ground floor hall looking west; left: the first floor parlour chamber, looking west.



Tudor House: far left: moulded beams in the ground-floor hall; left: seventeenth-century plaster ceiling over the parlour.

century. The house had glazed windows throughout from the outset, many being projecting oriels. This was a conspicuous luxury at the time. The dwelling was also heated by not one but two brick chimneys, another rare comfort. A notable later feature within the house is the parlour's decorated, seventeenth-century plaster ceiling, embellished with Tudor roses, pomegranates, jugs of flowers, grapevines and other common motifs. At the time of its construction, the house probably lay on the outskirts of late medieval Margate and was, perhaps at least in part, a farmhouse, although its high status suggests some other source of income for what was evidently a wealthy household.

The construction of a malthouse behind the house in the seventeenth century, might represent specialisation on the farm at a time when malting was one of Margate's chief industries. The building was large (90ft long and 24ft 6ins wide) and of two storeys. Only its north and south walls survive, formed of roughly coursed knapped flints with red brick for quoins, doors and other 'architectural' elements. The blocked brick ventilations slits in these walls are certainly the most notable features, and indicative of their malthouse origins, the empty beam sockets for the now missing first floor also of note. A malt kiln originally adjoined the west end of the building, but this was demolished in modern times.

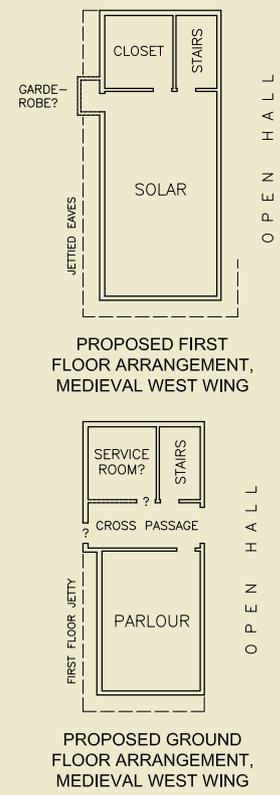
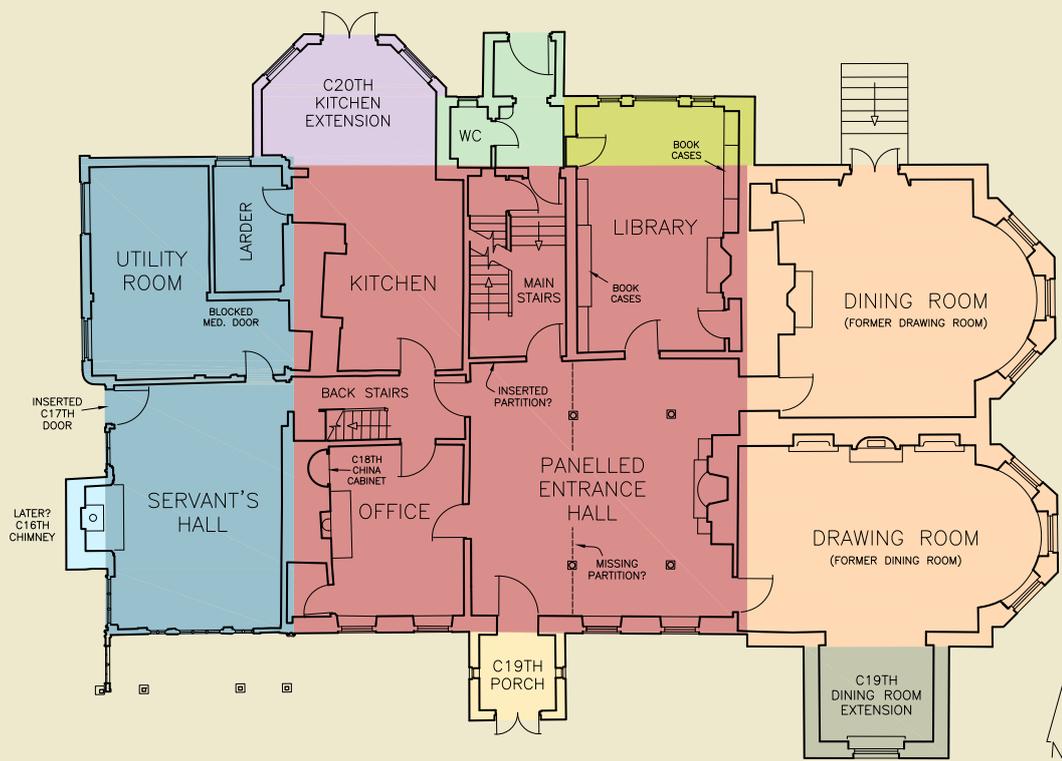
We welcomed an invitation to study **Rectory Park, Horsmonden** (NGR 57033 13881), a large and impressive Grade II\* country house. The new owners commissioned the assessment partly to satisfy planning regulations, but also to learn more about their property. A desk assessment of the estate was undertaken in tandem with the building survey, this combination of disciplines providing a thorough and fascinating account of the property.

The house is situated about two miles from Horsmonden, in a commanding hilltop position, with magnificent views over rolling countryside and parkland. The property combines an attractive mix of architectural styles, features and materials, of many different periods, but it is understandably the large, elaborate, timber-framed medieval west wing that draws the most attention, this dated, tentatively, to the end of the fifteenth century. The framing is of the highest quality with many fine features, its spectacular arched-braced roof being the most notable. The eaves of this roof, like those of Tudor House (see above), were jettied to the sides and front, a feature of only the best houses. The wing is thought to have lain at the high-end of the house, the associated open-hall and any east wing now rebuilt. Its elevations were enhanced with clusters of engaged columns, with moulded bases and capitals, and pierced by large windows

Rectory Park: south front. Below: top, moulded capitals at south-west corner of the medieval west wing; bottom, detail of William Hassell's early eighteenth-century staircase.



- (A) LATE MEDIEVAL WEST WING
- (B) LATE C16TH? WEST CHIMNEY
- (C) WILLIAM HASSELL REBUILDING OF c.1725
- (D) JAMES MARRIOTT EARLY C19TH EAST WING
- (E) MARRIOTT SMITH-MARRIOTT C19TH LIBRARY EXTENSION
- (F) MARRIOTT SMITH-MARRIOTT C19TH DINING ROOM EXTENSION
- (G) MARRIOTT SMITH-MARRIOTT MINOR C19TH NORTH ADDITIONS
- (H) HUGH FORBES SMITH-MARRIOTT SOUTH PORCH c.1865
- (I) C20TH KITCHEN EXTENSION



with gothic heads. One can only imagine how impressive the lost hall must have been.

Unfortunately the hall was demolished in 1725 by William Hassell, rector from 1724 to 1785. His replacement was wholly more modern in its construction and arrangement, not least because it was raised in brick not timber. His was a large and roughly square structure of typical early Georgian appearance, under a double-pile roof, the front elevation of which survives little changed up to first-floor level. The interior has seen many alterations since Hassell's time, yet many original and attractive features do remain. The construction of the principal open-well staircase is advanced for its date, being of open-string form, the turned balusters standing in threes upon the treads. It is particularly handsome, and was no doubt intended to impress visitors upon their arrival.

The house was enlarged further in the early nineteenth century by James Marriott, rector from 1785 to 1809. He added a two-storey east range containing four new

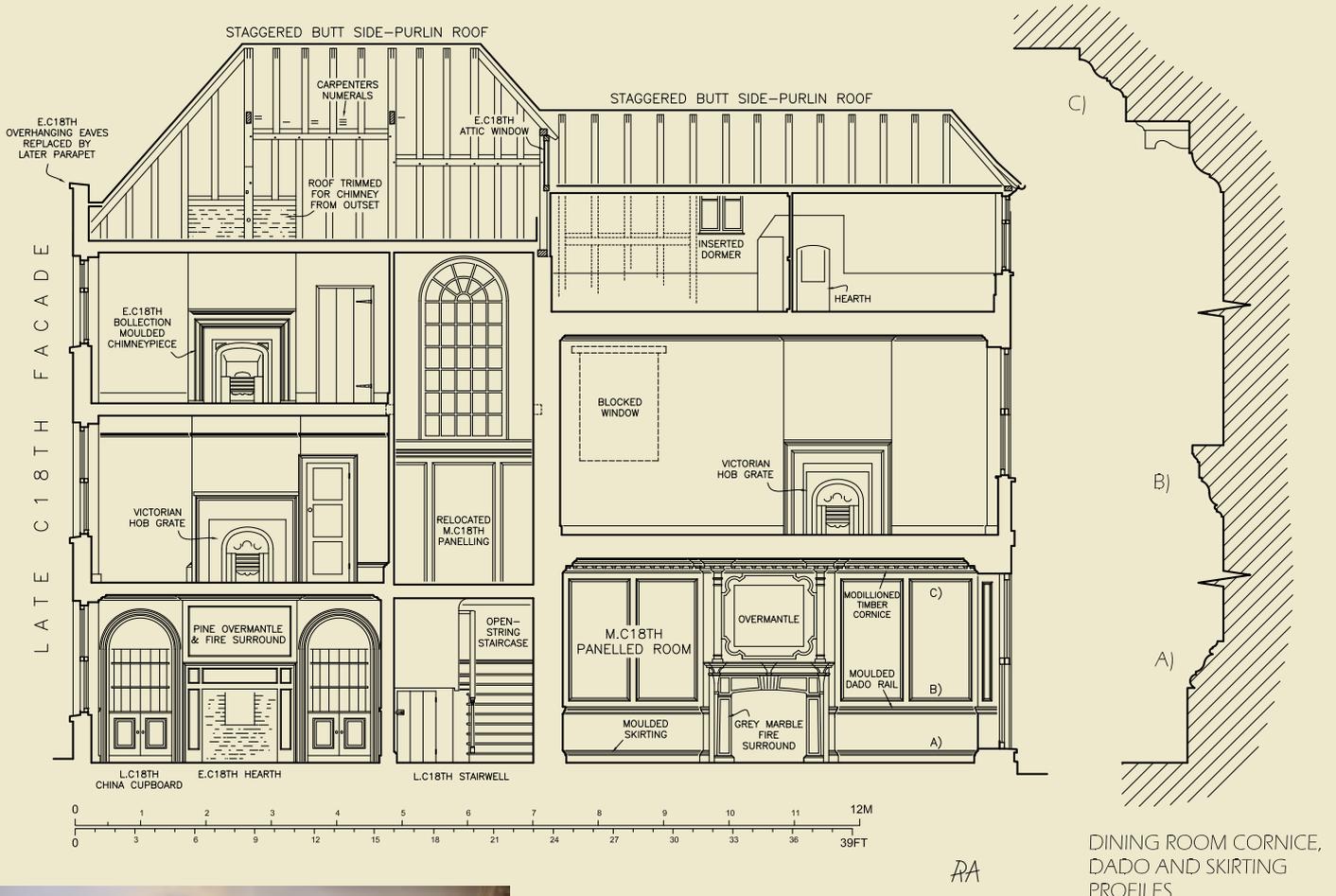
rooms (a drawing room, dining room and two spacious bedrooms), these lofty and elegant, with handsome fireplaces and attractive moulded plaster cornices in the classical style. Tall windows with sash frames and rubbed brick heads illuminated the new rooms.

William Marriott Smith-Marriot, rector from 1825 to 1864, undertook further sporadic changes during his incumbency, but perhaps predominantly during the 1850s, adding a small library extension to the rear and small dining room extension to the front, but his Gothic revival influenced remodelling of the south front was perhaps his most notable contribution. By his time the south front surely comprised three disparate phases of work spanning some 300 years. William sought to

Rectory Park: phased ground plan and proposed arrangement of the medieval wing. Left: the medieval west wing.

Rectory Park: west wing roof, showing the upper part of the arch-brace truss. Note the inserted attic floor.





harmonise the elevation, rendering it as near as possible symmetrical. To achieve this he inserted false windows, blocked some others and, most significantly, added a new gable atop Marriott's east wing, to mirror that of the medieval wing opposite. Extravagant barge boards and brick battlements completed his transformation.

Subsequent rectors made further changes, most of which were relatively minor, but the south porch introduced by Hugh Forbes Smith-Marriott, rector from 1866–1922 is of note, for it bears the Smith-Marriot arms impaled with those of the Cavendish family, in recognition of Hugh's then recent marriage to Frances Catherine Mary Cavendish.

A similar combination of a desk assessment and inspection of standing fabric was adopted to equally good effect when the Trust was asked to study **Errol House** in Stour Street, Canterbury (NGR 61468 15798). This Grade II listed property, one

of Canterbury's largest and finest town houses, had been neglected in recent years and much of its fabric was in poor condition. It had been acquired by new owners who, through careful restoration and refurbishment, intended to return it to a handsome family home. The study was undertaken in response to the owners' interest in their home and through the recommendation of Anthony Swaine architects.

The property's elegant, late eighteenth-century façade was found to conceal an extraordinarily complex structure comprising many phases of work stretching back over centuries. The earliest proved to be the remnants of a medieval timber-framed building, probably a house, but no more than a handful of its timbers remained, and little could be said with certainty. Dwellings were known to have been interspersed with varied industrial premises in this part of Stour Street by the early thirteenth century, so the discovery was not unexpected.



Errol House: section through the main house, looking north. Left: the ground floor dining room, rear mid eighteenth-century wing.

Errol House: left: the modillioned dining room cornice. Below: a shaped jetty-bracket at the rear of the seventeenth-century structure.





By the middle of the seventeenth century the house and estate belonged to the then mayor of Canterbury, Alderman William Stanley. He established a brewery close by and for much of the rest of its life the house evolved alongside the workings of this brewery, with its domestic activities overlooked by a jumble of surrounding brewery buildings. The remnants of several seventeenth-century, timber-framed structures, perhaps from Stanley's time, were identified behind the main house, including a jettied range with a brick cellar and possible workshop or stowage building, with a staggered butt side-purlin roof. This had been badly damaged by fire in modern times.

Around 1700 bankruptcy saw the house conveyed from the Stanley family to Thomas Blunden, and it was perhaps then that the main body of the house fronting the street was rebuilt. The new, three-storey, rectangular building was raised in brick, not timber, and was served by two chimneys, with hearths on every floor. A double-pile roof, with hips to the street, covered the new structure. It has since been re-fronted, and thoroughly altered internally, and although most of the structural 'shell' and roof remain, only a few original fixtures and fittings from this period have survived.

The premises passed to the Fenner family later that century, and the substantial, brick, two-storey, mid eighteenth-century rear wing can perhaps be attributed to them. This provided the dwelling with a lofty new dining room, chamber and attic. The lavishly appointed dining room was certainly now the finest room in the house with its grand fireplace flanked by panelled walls rising to an elaborate, modillioned timber cornice.

Around 1783 Thomas Fenner made the last significant alterations to the house. He pulled down the frontage and replaced it with the extant, fine, late Georgian, buff brick façade. This was conspicuously up-to-date with London fashion, and far ahead of most Canterbury

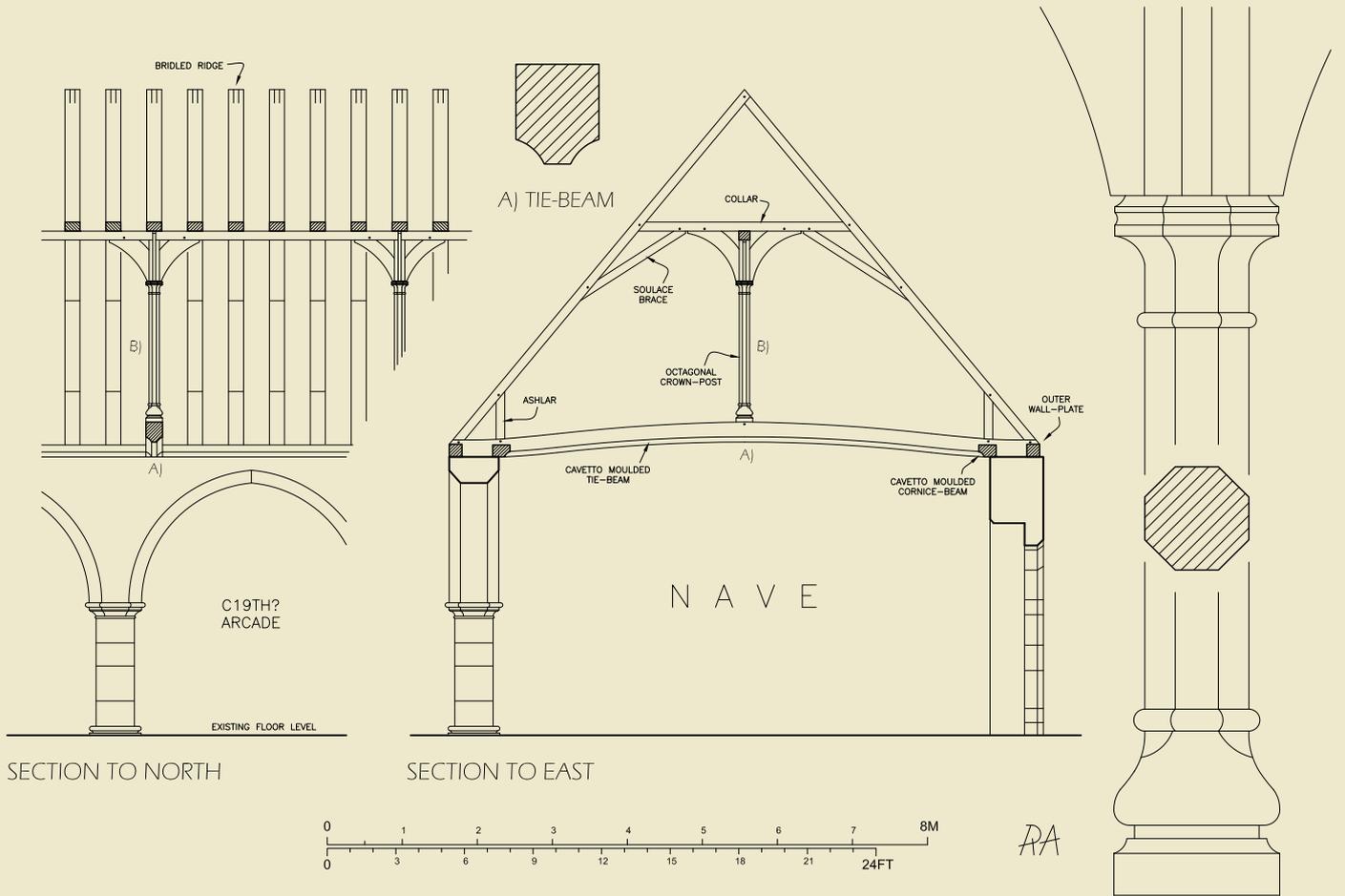
architecture of the time. The recessed sash windows with remarkably fine glazing bars and the delicately detailed Adam doorcase are notable features. Fenner also radically altered the interior, introducing for example the elegant, winding, open-well staircase with ramped, mahogany handrail and tall, slender turned balusters.

Seldom does a year pass without some church work, and this period proved no exception. The roof of **St Cosmus and St Damian, Blean** (NGR 61290 16067) has suffered from movement and structural problems for some time, and a campaign of remedial works afforded the opportunity to record the fabric. Several visits were made whilst works were underway, with the fabric opened up and accessible by scaffolding. Representative long and cross sections were drawn through the nave and chancel's medieval crown-post roofs, and a photographic record prepared.

Errol House: left to right: the late Georgian façade on Stour Street; the Adam door-case; part of the late Georgian winding open-well staircase.

St Cosmus and St Damian: south elevation with the nave (left) and chancel (right).





LONG AND CROSS SECTION THROUGH NAVE ROOF

B) CROWN-POST DETAIL

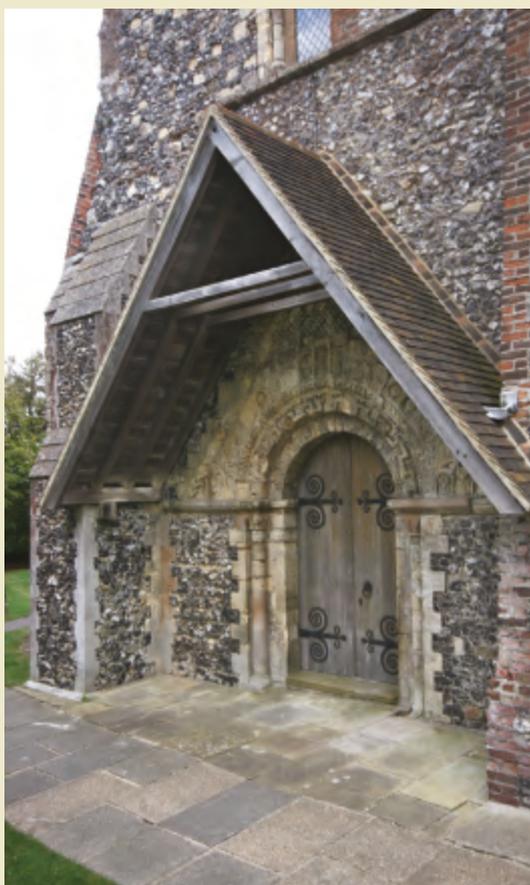


St Cosmus and St Damian: the nave roof looking east during the works.

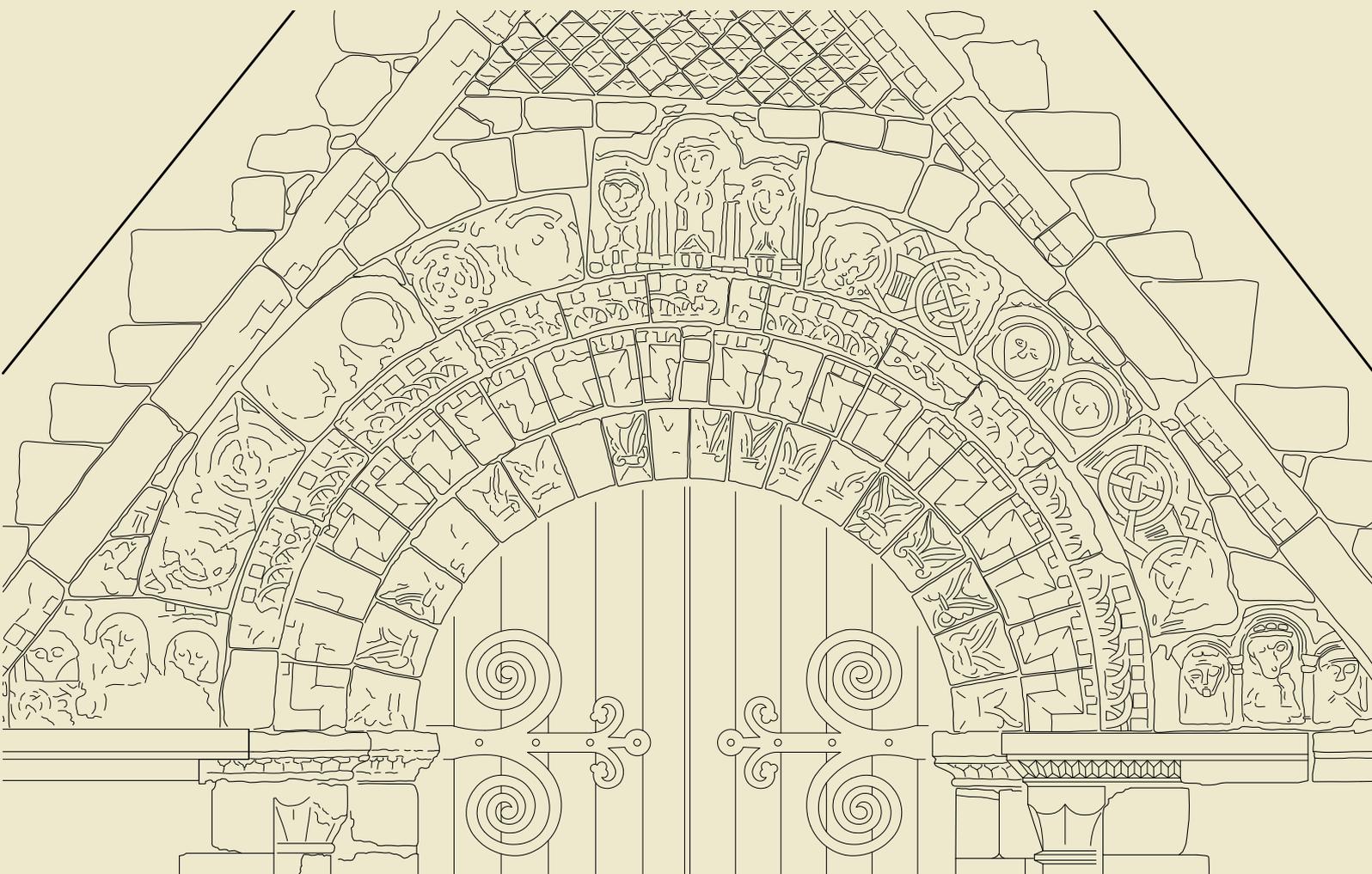
Dendrochronological analysis unfortunately failed to produce results on this occasion, but an early fifteenth-century date was suggested on stylistic grounds.

A drawn, rectified and photographic record of the celebrated Norman west door of the Grade I church of **St Margaret's of Antioch** (NGR 63587 14477) at St Margaret's at Cliffe was undertaken in advance of its conservation. The door, which may date to around the second quarter of the twelfth century, is situated at the foot of the tall western tower, beneath a modern timber porch. Unfortunately its condition had continued to deteriorate in recent years, despite the protection of the porch and the fabric had become badly eroded and decayed. Despite its condition, much original Romanesque detail survives.

The entrance is surmounted by a triangular pediment or gable embellished with chip carved opus reticulatum decoration, and a simple trefoil finial. The door's semi-circular arch comprises four orders decorated with stylised foliage, embattled (fret) ornament, and geometric strap work designs based on interlaced circles and semi-circles, with beaded decoration. The outermost order includes several intriguing human figures, set within arcading, but the stones upon which they are carved seem adapted to fit the extant doorway, suggesting the re-use of earlier material.



St Margaret's of Antioch:  
west door, detail of door  
head before conservation.





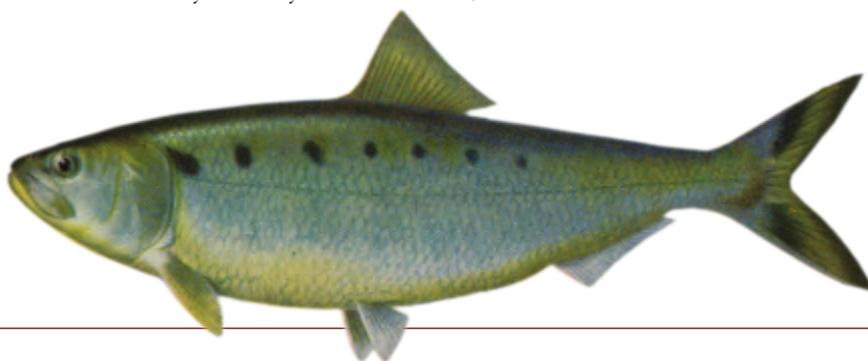
The last year has seen the analysis of a variety of animal and plant remains from sites dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods, adding more detail and giving colour to our understanding of the people who lived on those sites in the past. Findings from some of those sites are described by Enid Allison in collaboration with Rebecca Nicholson for Canterbury Christ Church University and Wendy Carruthers for Margate. Joanne Cooper is thanked for examining and commenting on the eagle bone from New Romney. Volunteers Ann Chadwick, Catherine Davis, Keli Jenner and Bob Robson between them carried out the sorting of dry sample residues to extract remains for specialist examination.

## Fishing, fowling and feasts: the evidence from Canterbury Christ Church University

Substantial numbers of fish, bird and mammal bones were among finds collected from twenty-five separate archaeological investigations at Canterbury Christ Church University between 1983 and 2007. Much of the bone came from pits used for the disposal of domestic and industrial waste during the sixth to ninth centuries on land to the north of St Augustine's Abbey (founded c 597) in an area thought to probably have been part of a 'wic'-type settlement (Sparks and Tatton-Brown 1987, 201–2). Later features were on land occupied by the expanded medieval abbey, or related to the use of some abbey buildings following the Dissolution. Environmental sampling focused mainly on Anglo-Saxon pits excavated in 1996: a colossal 29 tonnes of sediment was sieved, resulting in the recovery of a wide range of birds and fish.

Fish bones were unusually abundant for a mid Anglo-Saxon site, even though Canterbury is close to the sea. They were particularly common in three groups of pits suggesting that the waste in them was from the nearby abbey, since the monastic diet was heavily reliant on fish as a source of protein. A greater range of species than we commonly see today was available. Eel, codfish

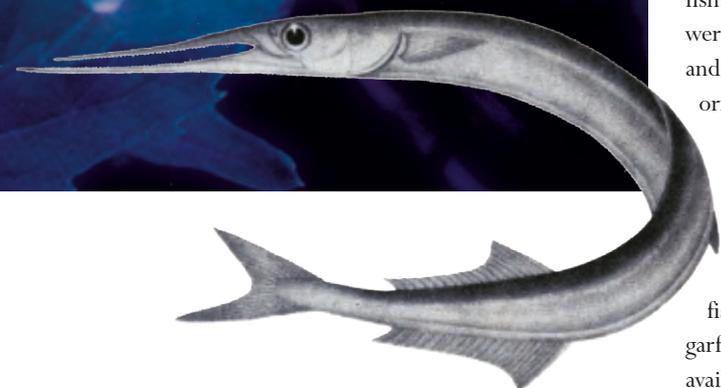
Twaite shad (*Observers Book of Sea Fishes*, T B Bagenal).  
Not to scale, actual size  
30–40cm.





Other sea fish included thornback ray, conger eel, haddock, ling, scad, bass, sea bream, dragonet, grey mullet, gurnard, goby, garfish, mackerel, sole, and possibly anchovy. The ubiquitous eel migrates between rivers and the sea and could have been caught in traps or weirs, or perhaps by spearing, in both estuaries and rivers. There were relatively few exclusively freshwater fish: trout was represented in several pits, and there were finds of gudgeon, perch and a small cyprinid. Eel and clupeid (herring family) vertebrae in two pits had originated in faeces.

Common dragonet and, below, a garfish (*Observers Book of Sea Fishes*, T B Bagenal). Not to scale, actual sizes: dragonet 20–30cm; garfish 60–75cm.



The majority of the sea fish would have been caught locally, the assemblage largely reflecting inshore fishing for small and relatively cheap fish, particularly whiting, plaice/flounder and herring, supplemented with eels and smaller numbers of fish caught in local rivers. Mackerel, scad, grey mullet, garfish and sea bream would have been seasonally available in coastal waters and were probably caught between late spring and autumn. Grey mullet, bass and shad are likely to have been caught in local estuaries. Ancient fish traps on the North Kent coast near Whitstable probably date to the Anglo-Saxon period and there have been suggestions that such traps were under monastic control (eg Murphy 2009).

(especially whiting and cod) and right-eyed flatfish such as plaice and flounder were dominant, with herring well-represented and shad relatively common. Shad bones that could be identified closely were all of twaite shad, a fish that migrates from the sea to estuaries to spawn in the late spring/early summer. Prior to industrial pollution it was a common and commercially important fish in south-east England, and was seasonally fished in the lower reaches of rivers, particularly the Thames. It is now a comparative rarity (Wheeler 1979, 142–3).

The cod were of particular interest since all were over 0.6m long, and there were significant numbers of bones from large and very large individuals (0.85 to >1m) which are typically found in offshore waters. Ling is

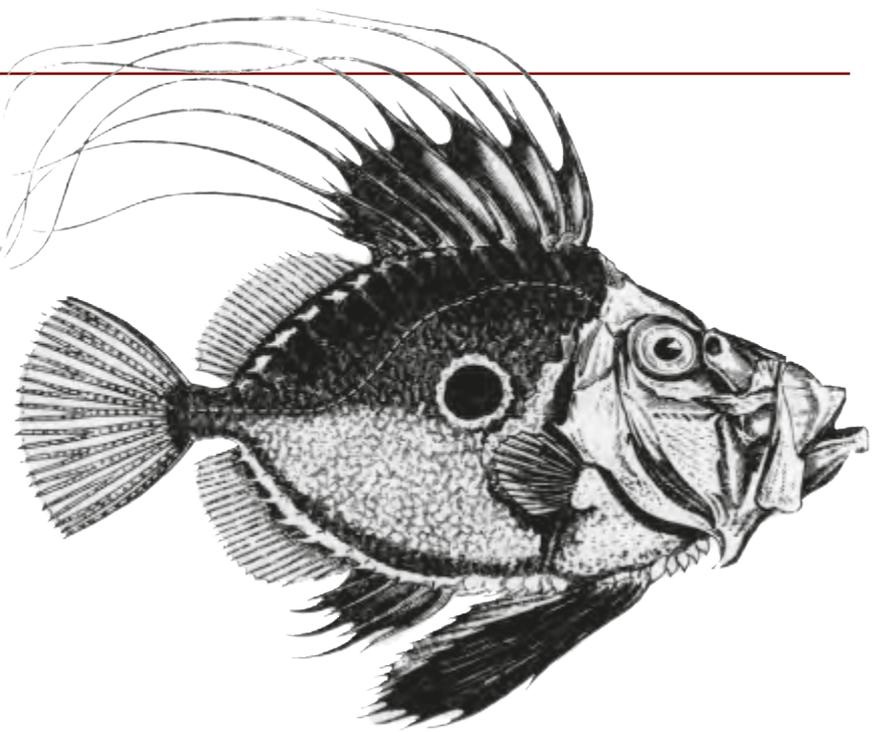
Eel traps, Luttrell Psalter  
© British Library Board  
(Add 42130, f.181).



also an offshore fish and rarely caught in the southern North Sea and English Channel, raising the possibility that these larger fish were procured as preserved fish. However, the types of bones represented suggest that fresh large cod were brought onto the site. On English sites generally, large cod are typically more common in deposits post-dating the Norman Conquest, and are usually thought to represent an offshore fishery. It has been argued that large relative increases in the capture of cod and herring occurred within a few decades of AD 1000 (Barrett *et al* 2004). The commonness of large mature cod in Anglo-Saxon deposits at St Augustine's, and also from rural middle Saxon deposits on the Isle of Thanet (Nicholson, forthcoming), indicates either that such fish could be caught fairly easily inshore around the Kent coastline, or that offshore fishing for cod was already well-established in this part of England. Whichever is the case, it is certainly clear that by the mid Anglo-Saxon period fishing was a thriving activity in this part of England.

**... when 'fresh and warm' it was said to dissolve tumours if held against them ...**

Domestic fowl and goose dominated the bird assemblage for the same period, but probable domestic pigeons and at least eighteen species of wild birds were also represented, including a diver, wild goose, teal, mallard, a large raptor, partridge, lapwing, golden plover, curlew, woodcock, smaller waders, wood pigeon, woodpecker, blackbird, other unidentified passerines, jackdaw and rook or crow. The wild bird remains were mainly concentrated in one group of pits and an adjacent ditch. Some of the bones bore obvious knife marks from food preparation and there is little doubt that most of these birds were food items. The evidence is more equivocal for small passerines, rook/crow and



John Dory. Engraving from W Yarrell's *A History of British Fishes*, 1859. Actual length, up to 50cm.

jackdaw since they are likely to have been common around habitation. The presence of small passerines in pits with other obvious food refuse was suggestive of their occasional consumption however. Corvids may have been killed as vermin or even kept as tame birds, but young rooks were traditionally eaten in some areas, and there are occasional records of the consumption of some smaller corvids. Jackdaw flesh also appears to have had a medicinal use: when 'fresh and warm' it was said to dissolve tumours if held against them and was also thought to be beneficial against scrofula (Buczacki 2002, 362).

The abundance of wild birds in late Anglo-Saxon and medieval food refuse is often indicative of waste from people of a higher than ordinary social standing (eg Dobney and Jaques 2002; Sykes 2004). This is presumed to be due partly to the pursuit of hawking which tended to be restricted to people of a certain social status, because rarer food items had a prestige value, and because wealthier people could afford to buy more expensive local produce. Woodcock, curlew, partridge



A modern curlew skull.



and domestic pigeons all have distinct associations with a high status diet. Woodcock remains were present in several pits, one containing bones of at least four individuals. The bird has been highly prized for the table for many centuries, and is usually served roasted with their entrails which are thought to be essential to full enjoyment of the bird's fine flavour (Davidson 2006, 854). The wide range of wild birds at St Augustine's certainly suggests that some of the domestic waste came from relatively well-off households, and is rather more varied than would be expected on either ecclesiastical or 'wic' sites (Dobney and Jaques 2002). It is possible however that a variety of wild birds were served at the abbey on feast days, or equally that there was other high status occupation nearby.

Wherever the refuse came from, the types of wild birds show that wildfowling took place in a variety of habitats that would have existed around Canterbury, the Wantsum Channel, and the Swale and Stour estuaries: cultivated ground and pastureland for lapwing, golden plover, partridge and small wild geese, wetlands for ducks, estuarine mudflats for curlew, and moist wooded areas for woodcock. At least some of the fowling would have taken place during the autumn and winter months when some of the species conveniently form large flocks. The wildfowler in *Aelfric's Colloquy* written in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century, described catching birds 'in many ways, sometimes with nets, sometimes with snares, sometimes with lime, by whistling, with a hawk or with a trap' (Swanton 1996, 169).

The medieval bone assemblages largely came from features on land in possession of the abbey although some areas were not formally enclosed until the early fourteenth century. Prior to enclosure the area was described by William Thorne, a monk at St Augustine's Abbey in the fourteenth century, as 'a nest of robbers, a house of filthiness and fornication, and to it there was a common road through the Kenile, in the hiding places whereof adulteries and other such things were easily committed' (Davis 1934, 435). None of this could be discerned from the archaeology however!

From about AD 1050 onwards herring appear to have become more important relative to other fish – a similar pattern to that observed for the Whitefriars site in Canterbury (Nicholson 2007), but otherwise the range of fish was broadly similar to those seen in Anglo-Saxon deposits. In the twelfth century William of Malmesbury described Canterbury as a city famous for, among other things 'its convenience of water and wood, and its abundance of fish, by reason of its nearness to the sea' (*Prolog. ad Lib. Im. de Gest Pontificat, Angliæ*, cited by Hasted 1800). There were occasional records of prestigious fish such as a large john dory which is still highly esteemed at the present day, and also pike, salmon or sea trout, and turbot. Records from



The Christmas edition of *The Century* (December 1894).



'The feast of the peacock' from *The Book of the Conquests and Deeds of Alexander*, fifteenth century. Image from whydyoueatthat.wordpress.com.

the cathedral priory in 1300 detail a monk's *ferculum* or dish of 1 plaice or 2 soles or 4 herrings or 8 mackerel (Littler 1979, 15). Monastic rolls at Winchester Priory indicate that between 50 and 70 per cent of meals were fish-based in the late fifteenth century (Kitchin 1892, cited in Bond 1988), and it is likely that consumption at St Augustine's was at a similar level.

Domestic fowl and goose remained the dominant birds throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods but there was a more restricted range of wild birds in comparison to the Anglo-Saxon period. Remains of a sparrowhawk in the fill of a land boundary ditch provided a suggestion that hawking was practiced within the abbey - according to the *Boke of St Albans* sparrowhawks were used by priests. Bones of partridge, a typical prey of sparrowhawks, were present in other fills of the same ditch. A heron bone with knife marks was present in a metal surface to the north of the cellarers range, and teal, mallard, woodcock and golden plover were recorded from various deposits. In the late medieval period both partridge and heron are most often associated with elite and religious sites (Sykes 2004). In medieval monasteries birds and fish (and other foods) that wouldn't be part of the usual diet, were sometimes served as pittances, including some of the species mentioned here. Pittances were foods provided from special funds, often of superior quality to the general meals and often provided by benefactors.

After the Dissolution in 1538 the abbot's lodgings were converted for the use of Henry VIII and other buildings were dismantled or gradually fell into ruin, but there is strong evidence that occupation continued in at least two buildings. Bird remains among refuse from sixteenth century activity included young swan, young heron, and peacock, all indicative of a wealthy household. Swan was a luxury item throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods and it would usually have been roasted. The worldly monk in *The Canterbury Tales* loved a fat swan '*best of any roast*', and the French naturalist Belon (1555) described it as an '*exquisite bird...eaten at public feasts and in the houses of lords*'. Peacock flesh on the other hand was liable to be tough: as Andrew Boorde (1562) puts it, '*yonge peechyken of half a yere be praysed, olde peacocks be hard of dygestyon*'. The main reason for its popularity at prestigious banquets was because it made a spectacular centrepiece when served in its own skin with its fine plumage intact. Both swan and peacock were supplanted as a food item by the turkey after its introduction from the New World in the mid sixteenth century. In Europe generally, peacocks rarely appeared on the menu after the late seventeenth century. Reflecting this sea change Gervase Markham (1614) wrote...'*peacocks, howsoever our olde writers are pleased to deceive themselves in their praises, are birds more to delight the eye by looking at them, than for any other particular profit, the best commodie rising from them, being the cleansing and the keeping of the yarde free from venomous things, as Toads, Newtes, and such like*'. 

Ancient charred emmer wheat from Thanet and a modern emmer ear.



# Food and fodder in Iron Age Margate

Excavations at Capital House, Northdown Road, Margate in 2012 revealed a large multi-phase ditch and probably contemporaneous pits and ditches, possibly associated with an Iron Age (c 400–50 BC) enclosed hilltop oppidum that existed close to the site (Gollop 2013). During excavation, samples were taken from ditch and pit fills despite seeming, at face value, to be unlikely to be productive of much charred plant material. Of the samples taken however, five contained significant assemblages of charred plant remains showing that there were clear differences between the types of plant material deposited in the ditches and the pits, and emphasising the need to sample a wide range of features whether charred material is visible or not during excavation.

The upper ditch fills had mainly received burnt emmer wheat processing waste, with little or no evidence for the deposition of food remains. The pit samples on the other hand were dominated by burnt spelt wheat chaff and mixed domestic, kitchen-type waste containing greater amounts of accidentally or deliberately burnt peas and

grain, and traces of hazelnut shell. Bread-type wheat grains were more common than would usually be expected in deposits of this date: free-threshing wheat remains fairly infrequent into the late Iron Age and Roman periods in the British Isles, raising the possibility that some intrusive material was present, although this was not proven.

Unfortunately the Iron Age pottery recovered was not closely datable, and the pits were stratigraphically isolated from the ditches, presenting problems with interpretation of the observed differences in the assemblages. However, while it is possible that the differences between the feature types may relate to temporal differences with the emmer-rich samples being earlier than the spelt-dominated pits, it is thought more likely that the deposits in both types of features are roughly contemporary since the two types of waste represented are so distinctly different.

The fact that emmer was dominant in the upper fills of the defensive ditches suggests a date not very much later than the middle Iron Age, since emmer generally becomes less abundant after that date. Assuming that the ditches and pits were of fairly similar date, the dominance of emmer in the ditches and of spelt in the pits suggests two things; firstly that emmer and spelt were being grown as separate crops rather than maslins (mixed crops) as has sometimes been suggested for the Iron Age, and secondly that emmer was probably being used for a different purpose than spelt, such as for animal fodder, since it was so infrequent amongst the domestic waste in the pits. Ditches are at their most useful when they are kept clear of waste, so the deposition of burnt crop cleaning waste or fodder is likely to have occurred late in the life of the ditch, either around the time of abandonment, or when its defensive function had become less important.

The frequency of spelt in the features that were rich in kitchen waste, and of charred peas and barley, demonstrates that all three crops were used for human consumption. Mixing barley with wheat when making bread improves the taste and texture, and barley is often a favoured crop in coastal locations, since it can cope with salt-spray. It also grows well on lighter, lime-rich soils whilst spelt is better suited to heavier clays. Emmer is less demanding of nutrients than spelt but is generally less robust. It is often suggested that spelt was preferable to emmer because it could be autumn sown, but in fact emmer is robust enough to be sown in autumn, too. The combined qualities of these cereals may provide the evidence as to why emmer and barley continued



Chickweed.  
© flowerspictures.org.



Poppy.  
© flowerspictures.org.



Buttercups.  
© Enid Allison.



to be grown in reasonable quantities in areas such as south-east England: in drier years at least, cereals such as the barley would have thrived, and in colder winters spelt may have shown resistance to frost damage. The generally high frequency of pulses as a crop in this area may also have been a coping mechanism for maintaining the fertility of the light local soils.

Seeds from weeds of disturbed soils, such as docks, knotgrass and poppy, and small-seeded leguminous

plants from nutrient-poor soils, such as vetches, medick and clovers, were predominantly found in the pits. Some of these probably came from small-scale crop cleaning, or may have been present in hay used as tinder in domestic hearths. In one pit, seeds of plants that grow on nutrient-enriched soils on disturbed, open ground, including common chickweed and red goosefoot, were suggestive of the type of vegetation that would grow on domestic middens [\[24\]](#)

# Oysters and insects from Thanet Earth

A multi-period settlement landscape was revealed by excavations on the site of the Thanet Earth greenhouse complex on the Isle of Thanet between 2007 and 2008, and remains recovered are currently in the final stages of analysis.

The earliest shellfish were from two pits associated with small-scale Neolithic activity, perhaps of a ritual nature. Shell assemblages of this date are relatively uncommon in southern Britain but there have been recent discoveries of shell-rich deposits from two causewayed enclosures at Ramsgate (Allison 2011; Moody 2007).

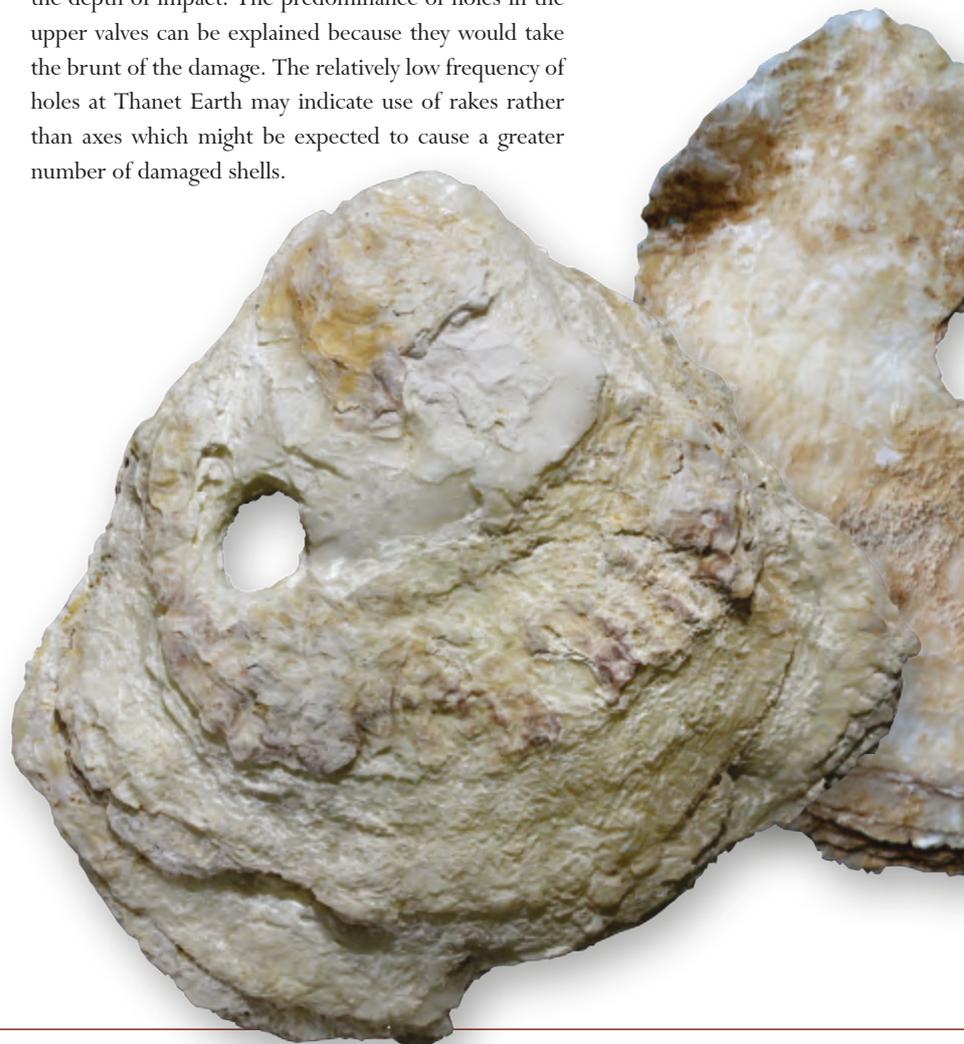
One of the Neolithic pits at Thanet Earth contained a dismantled hearth and dumps of midden-type material, with abundant pottery, burnt flint, ashy material, charred cereal remains, and traces of calcined bone. Apparently placed pot and quernstone fragments hinted at ritual deposition. One of the middle fills consisted almost entirely of marine mollusc shell fragments, predominantly of mussel and oyster, with small amounts of cockles, a single edible periwinkle and a fragment of a queen scallop shell. Some of the more complete oyster valves had notches in the ventral edges where they had been opened. Mussel was the most abundant species in the second pit, although cockles and edible periwinkles were common, and oyster, peppery furrow, and baltic tellin represented by small quantities of shell.

Shell was generally more common on the site from the Roman period onwards, particularly in the backfills of Anglo-Saxon sunken buildings, and associated with early medieval settlement. Oyster, mussel and whelk were all common. Large holes were noted in some of the medieval oyster shells, usually in the right (upper) valve. These are far too large to have been caused by marine organisms and appear to be man-made. They are distinctly different to the notches and marks caused while opening oysters, and to the holes caused by trowels and other tools used in excavation, but consistent with

damage caused by tools used to collect oysters (Dupont 2010). There is some variety in the shape and size of the holes, but characteristic hole-types can be recognized.

Several types of tools can be used to harvest oysters: double (pincer-type) or single long-handled rakes and mortise axes in shallow water and the inter-tidal zone, and dredges in deeper water (Clerc 1828). The size and shape of the holes would reflect the tools used and the depth of impact. The predominance of holes in the upper valves can be explained because they would take the brunt of the damage. The relatively low frequency of holes at Thanet Earth may indicate use of rakes rather than axes which might be expected to cause a greater number of damaged shells.

Two of the ground beetles found in the wells. Right: *Anchomenus dorsalis*. Far right: Bombardier beetle (*Brachinus crepitans*). Photograph by Udo Schmidt [flickr.com/photos/coleoptera-us/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/coleoptera-us/).







Boreholing of the wells to recover insect samples. The bases of the wells were 21–26 metres below existing ground level.

The Thanet Earth site lies over the Chalk and consequently the soils and sediments are very well-drained. This limits the range of organic material that is preserved in archaeological deposits. Waterlogged sediments containing large numbers of well-preserved insect remains were located at the bases of three very deep medieval wells by boreholing, however. The insect assemblages are particularly important because they provide the main evidence to place the medieval archaeology at the site in its environmental setting.

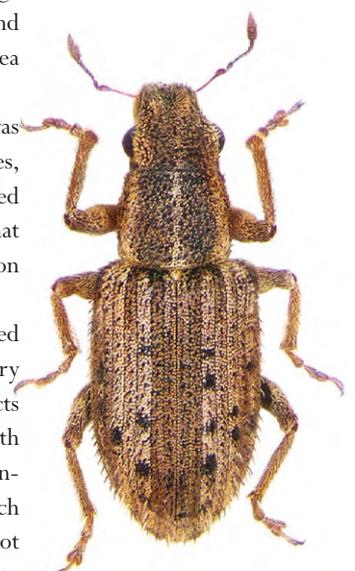
Study of insect remains from a modern well in Kent showed that they provided a good representation of habitats in the immediate surroundings (Hall *et al* 1980, 132). The interpretation of biological material from ancient wells can be problematic: it is often unknown how long the wells remained open, after abandonment they provided a convenient place to dump unwanted refuse, or they may have simply have been infilled with soil to level the ground. At Thanet Earth, it was thought that these problems were minimised because only the basal, clearly waterlain, sediments were sampled and a radiocarbon date of AD 894–1117 obtained from beetle remains from one well ties in with the known date of occupation.

The insect assemblages from all three wells produced a consistent picture of the local environment. Some insects would have arrived in flight, but the wells had also functioned as pitfall traps for a cross-section of the local ground-dwelling fauna. Ground beetles (Carabidae) were especially common among the latter group. Usefully, they often have very specific habitat

requirements and together they were indicative of an open, sunny, rather dry landscape of agricultural land and unimproved grassland. Plant-feeding beetles provided indications of local vegetation. Close to the wells there would have been stands of nettles and common mallows, and probably mayweed (a daisy-type plant) on rather sparsely-vegetated ground. There were plentiful indications for disturbed and/or cultivated ground from beetles associated with wild and cultivated members of the brassica family, their general abundance and variety perhaps indicating that brassica crops (such as cabbage and turnips) were grown. Clover weevils (*Sitona*), found not only on clovers but also on other members of the pea family, were also abundant.

A background presence of domestic animals was indicated by a group of scarabaeid dung beetles, corroborating evidence for the existence of unimproved grazing land. Some of the dung beetles were types that would not have been able to maintain a population unless dung availability and grazing were continuous.

As a whole, the insect assemblages point to a mixed farming economy in an open landscape on rather dry ground. Additionally, there were groups of insects closely associated with human habitation, some with buildings and structural timber, and others with man-made accumulations of decaying organic matter such as manure heaps and middens. These groups were not present in the numbers that would suggest the deliberate dumping of large amounts of habitation waste into the wells, but rather its presence nearby. 📷



*Sitona macularis*, a clover weevil common at Thanet Earth. Photo: Udo Schmidt.

# A white-tailed eagle from late medieval New Romney

A variety of birds were represented among domestic refuse in fifteenth- to early sixteenth-century pits excavated at St Martin's Field, New Romney in 2005. Domestic fowl and goose were common, with smaller numbers of bones of pigeon, possible wild goose, small ducks, woodcock, fledgling rooks or crows, and a

sparrowhawk, but the most interesting find was a bone from a white-tailed eagle.

Both place-name and archaeological evidence indicate that the white-tailed eagle was widespread in lowland Britain in the past and its decline is presumed to be related to persecution by man. It is often referred to as

[mikebrownphotography.com](http://mikebrownphotography.com).



a sea-eagle but where it still regularly occurs in Europe, it is found not only on sea coasts but also in broad river valleys, near lakes, on islands, and in wetlands where fish and other aquatic prey are plentiful (Cramp and Simmons 1980).

The bone was a distal fragment of a radius which, with the ulna, forms the middle section of the wing. It is of interest for three reasons: firstly it provides the only archaeological record of white-tailed eagle from Kent; secondly it is a relatively late record - archaeological finds of white-tailed eagle become less frequent after the Roman period and are mainly from northern sites (Yalden 2007); and finally, a longitudinal sliver of bone had been removed from the fresh bone by a sharp blade.

On other sites throughout north-western Europe, the wing bones of white-tailed eagles are generally much better represented than other parts of the skeleton, implying a greater interest in the wings over other parts of the body. The most likely reason for this is that the flight feathers were sought-after items. Knife marks, when present, are usually in positions interpreted as implying removal of the lower wing which bears the pinions and secondary flight feathers. There are numerous examples of the use of eagle pinions and tail feathers for fletching arrows from the sixteenth century onwards, and also references in more ancient sources (Clark 1948). Eagle feathers would have been no more suited to the task than goose feathers, but were probably desirable for iconic reasons. There are records of trade in eagle feathers and this may have contributed to archaeological records of wing bones.

The cut on the bone from New Romney is in an unusual position. The fragment was examined by Joanne Cooper from the British Museum (Natural History) who noted that the cut had been made on the leading edge of the wing, under the secondary/marginal wing coverts (mostly small feathers that can easily be plucked out rather than cut away). The direction of the cut was from proximal to distal, removing a slight lateral ridge. The large secondary feathers are attached to the lower trailing edge of the ulna and a knife might be required to remove these, but this is unlikely to involve damage to the radius. Joanne's considered opinion was that the damage is unlikely to have been caused during simple



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removal of the lower wing or the flight feathers, or in detaching the ulna from the radius (large bird ulnae were sometimes made into flutes and other artefacts). She considered that the observed damage was only likely to have occurred during defleshing, or possibly during rough skinning.

Why the wing would have been defleshed is uncertain, but there are a number of possibilities. Firstly, the eagle could have been eaten, during which meat was stripped off the bone with a sharp knife, although it would be a very unusual foodstuff. Alternatively defleshing may have been carried out to remove as much flesh as possible before preserving the wing by drying, or the bird may have been skinned with the small feathers intact, perhaps to decorate clothing. It may be of significance that the occurrence of sparrowhawk in the same group of deposits as the eagle bone suggests that some within the local community had a connection with hawking.

Despite the likely trade in eagle feathers over much of Europe (perhaps with lower wing bones), it seems likely that the eagle from New Romney was a bird found locally. The extensive wetlands of Romney Marsh would surely have provided good hunting grounds. Later nineteenth-century bird records show that white-tailed eagle was an occasional vagrant to the area, and there have been recent sightings over the Marsh on the Kent/Sussex border (see ploddingbirder website) [\[1\]](#)



The eagle radius fragment showing where a sliver of bone has been removed along the length of the shaft.

Andrew Richardson describes two special objects that passed through the finds department this year, both of which were consequently registered via the Portable Antiquities Scheme (helmet: PAS record KENT-FA8E56; *balsamarium*: PAS record KENT-7D72A7). The querns from East Wear Bay were recovered during work by the Dover Archaeological Group and Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group working with Andrew and Keith Parfitt of the Trust.

# A late Iron Age helmet from Bridge

This remarkably intact helmet was found by Trevor Rogers in September 2012 whilst metal detecting on farmland near Bridge. A brooch and a piece of burnt bone were found at the same spot. He reported his discoveries to the Trust and it was confirmed that he had found one of only a handful of Iron Age helmets known from Britain and the only example from Kent. Excavation of the find spot was carried out by a small team drawn from the Trust and Dover Archaeological Group. This revealed that the helmet had been buried up-turned in a shallow pit; a further quantity of cremated human bone and some fragments of the helmet were recovered from the fill of the pit during this dig.

Both the helmet and brooch can be dated to the mid first century BC. A find of two or more prehistoric base metal objects qualifies as Treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act (1996), so the finds were sent to the British Museum where they were examined by Julia Farley. She confirmed the helmet is an example of a ‘Coolus A’ or ‘Coolus-Mannheim’ type. It is of a simple, almost hemispherical design and appears to have been beaten from a single sheet of copper alloy. The area of damage at the peak of the bowl may have been caused by accumulation of water in the fragile base of the up-turned helmet. The damage to the edge of the helmet bowl was probably caused when the helmet was struck by a plough. Julia identified the associated brooch as a La Tène D2 type.

The most probable interpretation of this highly unusual burial group is that following the cremation of the body some (but not all) of the burnt bones were recovered from amongst the debris of the pyre and gathered up in some sort of perishable container such as a sheet or bag. This was then secured using the brooch, all placed in the upturned helmet, which was then buried in a small chalk-cut pit, presumably as the final funerary act. There is nothing very unusual about such a burial in late Iron Age Kent, apart from the use of the helmet itself. The brooch could be a local product, but the helmet is of a type usually found in Gaul and had almost certainly been manufactured there.

Specialist opinion is divided as to whether such helmets are best seen as Gallic or Roman military equipment, but it is probable that it was during the period of Caesar’s Gallic Wars that the helmet arrived in Kent. The exact means by which it came will probably remain unknowable; did it belong to one of Caesar’s soldiers or Gallic auxiliaries, or to one of his enemies? Was it captured as a trophy, given as a gift, or traded? And who was the person whose remains were buried in what would have been (at least to an inhabitant of Kent) an unusual and therefore valuable object? The initial osteological opinion from the British Museum is that the person buried in it was a woman. This and the nature of the burial rite suggest that we can exclude the possibility of a Roman military burial in the field. Further analysis and ideally further fieldwork will be needed if we are to learn more about this intriguing discovery. A joint article on the find is in preparation for the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 





# A Roman *balsamarium* from Petham

This very unusual object was found by Sebastien Girardot on farmland near Petham in late 2012. Unsure of what he had discovered, Sebastien left the object at the Trust before returning to France.

Opinion was then divided amongst those who first examined the object. Although obviously depicting classical imagery, some felt the design was too crisp to be genuinely Roman and more likely to be a Neo-Classical piece. The giveaway, however, was the solid bronze casting and the beautiful green patina; experience suggested that this particular shade was typical of late Iron Age or Roman objects. As a result, the find was photographed and the images sent to Martin Henig, a leading specialist on Roman iconography. He confirmed that the object is a Roman copper alloy *balsamarium* (a small container of balsam, unguent or perfume), decorated with scenes depicting Bacchic imagery, including a satyr and three human figures and that it is of probable third-century date. The object had been damaged recently, probably as a result of being hit by a plough, but is otherwise in very good condition, although its base and lid are missing.

Sally Worrell, National Finds Adviser on Roman artefacts for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, describes the *balsamarium* in detail in the 2013 edition of *Britannia*. The scenes on the object depict a Bacchic *thiasos* comprising a satyr and three human figures, with the figures separated alternately by a thyrsus and a tree. The figures divide into two pairs, with one in each pair (including the satyr) acting as wine bearers, who each



Detail of the satyr. He carries an amphora and is looking over his shoulder towards a following musician.

look back towards a following musician. Both Henig and Worrell suggest that this object is likely to be of Gallo-Roman origin.

Very few *balsamaria* have been found in Britain, and no specific parallel for this example is known. Most that have been found seem to have come from burials and it is likely that the Petham find comes from a grave; Roman burials are reported to have been found in the vicinity in the nineteenth century, though the precise find-spot is unknown. When the location was visited no obvious spot was identifiable and in any case it seems likely the object had been struck by a plough and hence possibly moved some way from its original position. As a result it may prove difficult to confirm the context of this find without considerable fieldwork and also a little luck. The good news is that the landowners have kindly placed the object on loan to Canterbury's recently-refurbished Roman Museum, where it is now on display .



# Late Iron Age rotary querns from Folkestone



Further evidence that quernstones were manufactured on the cliffs above Folkestone during the Iron Age was discovered in the back garden of a house in Wear Bay Road during a small excavation that took place on the site of a new summerhouse.

The excavation revealed an important sequence of stratified deposits containing material ranging in date from c 50 BC to AD 100. The earliest features located were a gully and a probable pit or ditch. The pit/ditch and a rubble dump over it yielded a large number of locally produced greensand quern fragments and manufacturing debris. Some sixteen pieces of quern were recovered from the excavation, ranging from fairly small fragments to complete and half-complete stones. More stones were left *in situ*, being too deeply embedded in the surrounding deposits to be dug out of the trench sides and base.

Rapid assessment of the stones by Chris Green confirmed the significance of this assemblage, which represents an important addition to the material already recovered from the area and the find is an important addition to the on-going study of the ancient Folkestone quern industry. The association of the stones with manufacturing debris is of particular interest and suggests a production area close by.

The existence of a late Iron Age–early Roman quern production site at East Wear Bay is now well established. Preliminary fieldwork during the 1980s assumed that these quernstones were being produced on the beach, immediately adjacent the exposures of Lower Greensand rock (Folkestone Beds) which outcrop in the cliff at Copt Point. Subsequent research has established that the actual quern production areas were not on the beach but lay at the top of the cliff – *in situ* working debris was identified in excavations close to the Roman villa during the ‘A Town Unearthed’ project in 2010.

The present discoveries, with the manufacturing dust, chippings and unfinished stones, now seem to indicate that the stoneworking areas extended well inland of the Roman villa complex, up onto the rising ground west of present-day Wear Bay Road. This, in turn, implies that the production workshops covered a considerable area, much larger than previously envisaged. Earlier clues that this was indeed the case are provided by the discovery during the early 1970s of several querns on allotment gardens a little to the north of the present site and it now seems quite likely that waste heaps and spreads of quernmaking debris once littered an extensive area above East Wear Bay. 

Marion Green heads our Archaeology in Education Service. Her report on the year's activities highlights international connections and an increasing demand for teaching resources. Marion would like to thank volunteer Yvonne Hutchcraft for her support during the year and Graham Birrell (Faculty of Education, Canterbury Christ Church University) for collaboration on 'Boat 1550BC'. The Archaeology in Education Service is supported by a grant from Kent Archaeological Society.



## INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### Liaison with France and Belgium

The 'Boat 1550 BC' project has involved a lot of contact with our European partners this year. Liaison between three countries was sometimes challenging, even with twenty-first century technologies, and a mix of languages can result in

some interesting communication! We are working with archaeologists and educationalists in England (Canterbury Christ Church University), France (Université Lille 3, INRAP, the town of Boulogne-sur-Mer and the conseil général du Pas-de-Calais) and Belgium (Universiteit Gent and provinciaal Archeologisch Museum in Velzeke) who are involved in building the handling kits for school children and teachers to use in the participating countries.

A key element of the kit is the 'Teacher Guide' which the Trust and Canterbury Christ Church University initiated and which partners have developed. Comprehensive and colourful, the guide aims to inform teachers about the varied work of archaeologists; to highlight Bronze Age discoveries in France, England and Belgium illustrating common threads between our countries

England, France and Belgium worked together on the Boat 1550 BC resource kits.



Trialling Bronze Age resources with undergraduate teachers at Canterbury Christ Church University.



in prehistory (including of course, the Dover Boat); and to offer teachers a range of associated teaching ideas including a scheme of work for those who would like to focus on the Bronze Age with their class. School curricula vary between England, France and Belgium as do teaching styles and we all have tried to include something for everyone.

Along with the Guide, we expect each kit to include a set of replica Bronze Age items to illustrate the culture and technologies of the time, a collection of digital images and videos, child-friendly activity items from the travelling 'Boat 1550 BC' exhibition and resources for the teaching ideas including some fragments of original archaeological finds so that young people can get their hands on the real thing.

Sets of kits will be introduced into schools in each country during the project. In due course a set will be added to the CAT loans collection and long after the project has ended, they will become a tangible part of the 'Boat 1550 BC' legacy.

## Tere Eesti Welcome to Estonia!

Through a connection with the Council for British Archaeology, we received a summer visit from Liia Vijand, a secondary school History teacher from Estonia undertaking PhD research. Her interest is in the value of increasing engagement in Archaeology at primary and secondary level education. She was visiting a number of organizations in England and was very enthused by our CAT KITS, particularly the potential for using them to motivate mixed ability groups. It was lovely to talk with someone who was herself so well motivated.

*'I am very happy that I met all those wonderful people and saw amazing nature, heritage sites, one of the best trips I've done. And I got ideas and feeling that I am not alone! Thank you for that!'* Liia Vijand.

## こんにちは、日本から Hello from Japan!

Back in 2006 when we first launched our CAT KITS, I gave a presentation at the Council for British Archaeology 'Archaeology and Education' conference in York. In the audience were Katsuyuki Okamura (Archaeologist with Osaka City Cultural Properties Association) and Yoshio Negita (Chief Archaeologist with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Tokyo) who during the summer visited the Trust to discuss, amongst other things, what we do to promote Archaeology in formal and public education. Like Liia Vijand, Katsuyuki was very interested in the CAT KITS and in utilizing archaeological finds in this way. Many photos were taken and discussions were held on community archaeology projects and the value of reconstructions and web resources.

It was a great opportunity to again spread the word about our work and educational activities and receive a follow up email to 'Marion-san'.

*'Thank you very much for showing us the wonderful jobs of CAT and very useful web site. We have learned a lot about how we should manage archaeology and present it to the public... It encourages me to learn more about 'Archaeology and Education', Katsuyuki Okamura*

## Teaching resources

### A Town Unearthed

In the final year of the 'A Town Unearthed' project, my input was focused on production of a set of Archaeological Resource Kits (ARKs), initially for use in Folkestone schools. Based on the original CAT KIT, the ARKs have late Iron Age and Roman finds from East Cliff and other Folkestone sites, a CD of East Cliff discoveries from the 1920s, 1980s and 2010-11 and an enhanced Teacher Guide. The ARK Guide can be downloaded at [www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/resources/ark\\_teacher\\_pack/](http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/resources/ark_teacher_pack/)

The kits were trialled at St Mary's CE Primary School which, being very close to the East Cliff excavation site was considered worthy of a few test pits as part of the ATU project. The school jumped at the chance to have an archaeologist around and, better still, to have the opportunity for children to do some digging. The digging and follow up activities, which culminated in a small exhibition at Folkestone's Heritage Resource



Liia, a secondary school teacher from Estonia, was eager to discuss engaging young people with Archaeology.



Japanese archaeologists Katsuyuki and Yoshio absorbed in our CAT KITS.

The ARK highlights Folkestone's early history.



## CAT resources around the county

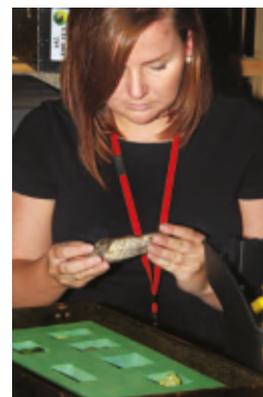
Through the 'Learning about the past' pages of our website and word-of-mouth, this year CAT BOX and CAT KIT loans have been requested by schools in:

Aldington, Biddenden, Bobbing, Bredgar, Canterbury, Capel-le-Ferne, Chatham, Deal, Dover, Egerton, Faversham, Folkestone, Hawkinge, Maidstone, Meopham, Minster-on-Sea, Ramsgate, Strood, Tankerton, Tunbridge Wells, Walmer and West Malling.

*'This is a fantastic resource. It would have been even better if I'd got the children dressed up as archaeologists and maybe used a sand tray to bury the finds in!'*

Canterbury Christ Church University undergraduate teacher on placement.

At the time of writing, teachers preparing for the new curriculum are looking for prehistory resources so those Bronze Age kits should be flying off the shelves next year.



CAT loans were popular across Kent.



Centre, were very ably led by Annie Partridge, then a CBA community archaeology placement with the Trust.

ARKs were formally launched to local teachers at the HRC with a very useful presentation from James Blomfield, class teacher at Capel-le-Ferne Primary School, who showed fellow teachers how a kit could support classroom teaching in History, Literacy and Science.

*'It was using the CAT kits that made all the difference... it also tied in with our literacy. Ofsted said the lesson was outstanding – so I was very pleased!'*

James Blomfield, class teacher, Capel-le-Ferne Primary School.

2012 was the final year of 'A Town Unearthed'. What will be the legacy of ATU? Long term benefits are likely to be the dissemination of significant new knowledge resulting from the excavations at East Cliff, particularly about the late Iron Age in the south-east, and a publication telling the story of Folkestone from earliest times. We would also like to think that the volunteers' experiences in particular have ignited an appreciation of archaeology which they can go on to develop 



Annie Partridge, Community Archaeology placement. Far left: at St Mary's CEP School, Folkestone. Left: with Yvonne Hutchcraft, A Town Unearthed volunteer, doing a sterling job at Pent Valley Technology College, Folkestone.

James Blomfield, Capel-le-Ferne class teacher, at the ARK launch.



# The Friends

## of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Membership of the Friends continues to hover around the figure of 370, still tantalisingly short of our long-standing target of 400 subscribers. Income from members' subscriptions remains the largest element of our revenue for support of the Trust's activities. The next largest element is the Friends' share of income from the Canterbury Festival Walks programme, which this year amounted to around £1,700. The walks have been very ably coordinated by Meriel Connor who this year arranged a small thank-you reception for all the guides and other volunteers who help with the walks.

Events organised for members of the Friends during the year included a talk on 'Policing the Past: Seven Years of Tackling Heritage Crime in Kent and beyond' by Andrew Richardson; a visit to the Dover Bronze Age Boat reconstruction site; a follow-up talk by Keith Parfitt on the final season of work at the Folkestone Roman villa; and a guided visit to Rochester town and cathedral. Friends also attended a private view of the exhibition *Canterbury 1600-2000* and visited the newly re-opened Beane Institute. Other talks included 'Popular protest in Elizabethan and early Stuart Kent' and of course the annual Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture by the Trust's Director Dr Paul Bennett. The year's programme ended with a symposium on Canterbury and East Kent in the early medieval period and a talk on the Trust's educational services by the Education Officer Marion Green.

The Friends continue to produce a newsletter three times a year and to distribute the Trust's Annual Report. Our Treasurer submits the Friends' accounts each year for auditing with the Trust's accounts. An overview of the Friends' finances was prepared by the Treasurer for the July 2012 Newsletter.

The Committee has approved a number of grants to the Trust and its staff during the year. These included Office Pro software for the terminal server; a digital camera and related equipment for the buildings recording team; fees and expenses for a training course on 'Archaeological surveying using airborne LIDAR'. The Committee approved grants for the education department and for travel expenses for a member of staff to make a research visit. The Friends also contributed to the costs of the launch of the Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery book at Dover Museum and makes an annual contribution towards the purchase of books and serials for the Trust's library.

There have been a number of changes in membership of the Friends Committee. The major one was the appointment of Mr Steve Rogers as Chairman to replace David Shaw who had become Chairman of the Trust's Management Committee. (Note: Mr Rogers subsequently stood down as Chairman and the role is currently unfilled.)

*David Shaw, acting Chairman*

Friends enjoyed a guided tour of the reopened Beane House of Art and Knowledge, in Canterbury, at the beginning of 2013.



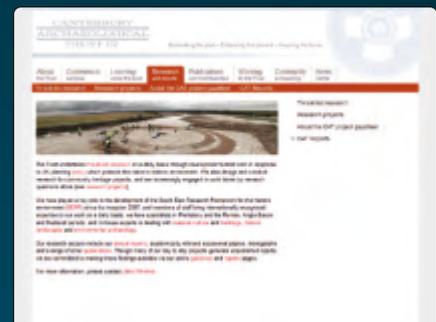
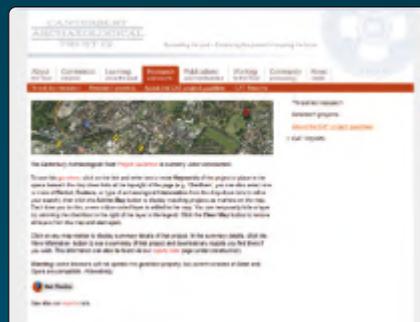
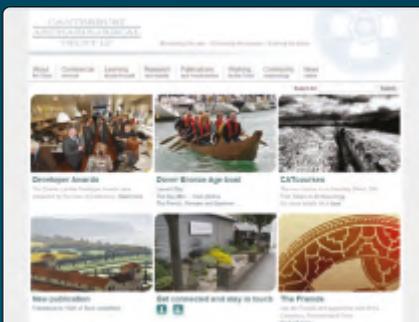
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# PREHISTORIC AND ANGLO-SAXON DISCOVERIES

## ON THE EAST KENT CHALKLANDS

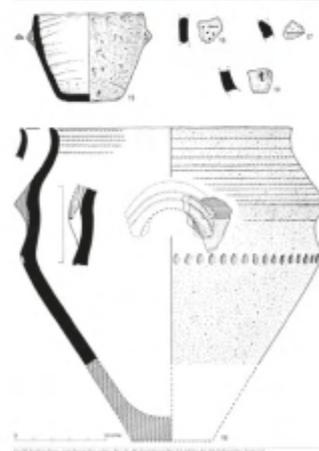
Investigations along the Whitfield–Eastry by-pass 1991–1996



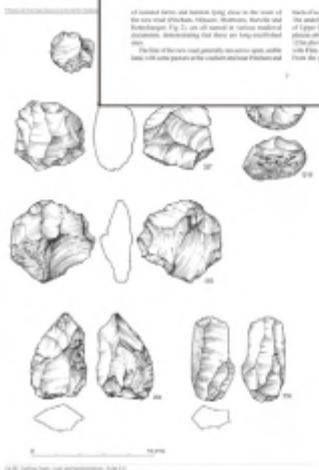
Paul Bennett, Keith Parfitt and Jon Rady

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This latest volume in our Occasional Paper series describes discoveries along the route of the Whitfield–Eastry by-pass. Two sites were examined in detail. At Eastling Wood a prehistoric barrow proved to be the focus of burial and ritual from the late Neolithic until the late Iron Age. At Church Whitfield two successive Iron Age farmsteads and an Anglo-Saxon hamlet were situated at the crossing point of two downland trackways – a crossroads that survived until the new road was pushed through in 1995.



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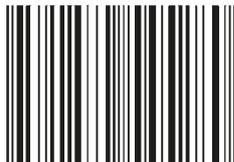


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