



14
DECEMBER
IN THIS ISSUE

Our new Project Manager – Caroline Russell

News from the Environmental Department

Canterbury Archaeological Trust van purchase

Twenty Centuries at Canterbury

Unlocking Our Past

Trenching in Sandwich

Eastwood House, Ulcombe, Kent

NEWSLETTER

C·A·T

Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd

Welcome to the Trust Newsletter. Issued once a month to keep you updated with the latest news on site and in the office.

Our new Project Manager – Caroline Russell

Having attained an undergraduate degree from Queen's University, Belfast, I started my archaeology career excavating in Ireland during the height of the Celtic Tiger. I was one of the many archaeologists from across Europe who descended onto Drogheda, Co. Louth, to dig on road schemes and housing developments. My memories of this time include the euphoria of bottoming the ditch of a hedge after many weeks of single context recording. It was a slow process but a great introduction to fieldwork techniques.

The following year, I was back at QUB researching domestic architecture in Atlantic Scotland for my PhD. It gave me the opportunity to spend a sunny summer in Shetland excavating an Iron Age broch village at Old Scatness and visiting other well-known archaeology sites including Jarlshof and Mousa.

Having completed my doctorate in 2006, I moved to Brighton & Hove and began work for Archaeology South-East (ASE). My first excavation with this unit was at a school in Broadstairs, where I drew the lucky straw. I was given the sole responsibility for the excavation of a small Bronze Age barrow. Whereas the much larger barrow beside it was found to contain no burials, this one had five. Other fieldwork in Kent followed, including a six month stint at a site on Manston



Road, Ramsgate. Memories flooded back on hearing that C-A-T are in the midst of evaluating a site on this very same road. I reminisced once again when I visited the current C-A-T excavation at Rochester Airport. When I worked for the Kent branch of Wessex Archaeology, their Rochester office overlooked the runway now being built upon and I'd watch small airplanes take off with 'Will you marry me?' banners.

Work with Wessex Archaeology took me to other parts of Kent for fieldwork, although I concentrated more on the heritage consultancy side which I had begun to develop with ASE.

I also carried out further fieldwork in Kent with Chris Butler Archaeological Services (CBAS), who are based near Eastbourne in East Sussex; the last Kent site I evaluated was located in the heart of Rochester, right beside the curtain wall of the castle.

With CBAS, I took on increasingly more project management work and was able to run several community excavation projects, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

After almost seven years with CBAS, I was ready for a new set of challenges. I'm very pleased that C-A-T has opened its doors to me. I've been warmly welcomed and look forward to working with everyone.

News from the Environmental Department

Hilb is currently wading his way through the large number of bulk samples from Cockerling Farm. A wide range of features were excavated, including possible Neolithic pits, a Bronze Age field system and large enclosure ditch with associated post-holes and pits, a pond barrow, a Roman trackway, and a medieval farmstead with boundary ditches and buildings, in addition to an area with residual flint debris from Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity. Relatively low numbers of finds were produced during the excavation, so the main focus of the environmental processing at the moment is to find charred plant remains from Bronze Age deposits associated with the pond barrow and a burnt mound that are suitable for radiocarbon dating. The samples are producing only a limited range of finds including burnt flint and pottery. Charred plant remains and charcoal are the only biological remains that are likely to produce useful environmental data from the site, as well as having the potential of dating particular deposits.

As well as working on material from recent and current sites, there are also a number of assessments and analyses



Hilb processing a sample.



Beaver ulna from medieval ditch 89 at Canterbury Prison. The broken specimen is 64.13mm long from the unfused metaphysis on the right (indicating a young animal) to the fracture at mid-shaft.

that are ongoing. A notable rare find from Canterbury Prison (excavated 2019) is a beaver ulna from a medieval ditch that contained numerous other animal bones. The ulna, identified by Ian Smith, an external bone specialist, appears to have been recently broken (post-ex) in the mid-shaft region but is otherwise well-preserved and shows no signs of having been re-deposited. Beavers became extinct in Britain during the 16th century, and there do not appear to have been any other archaeological finds of beaver from Roman to medieval deposits in Kent. The bone could be from an individual that lived in the River Stour or one of its tributaries or might perhaps represent a traded specimen from further afield. Beavers have long been valued as sources of fur, meat, ingredients for medicines, and material for certain tools. Historical sources indicate that beaver fur was highly valued (and prized by monarchs) in medieval times (Coles 2010, 113-4). Remains of dog, dog/fox and cat in the same ditch also provide hints that refuse dumped in the ditch included waste from a furrier. The dating of the ditch is currently poorly defined, and the bone is now at the radiocarbon lab at Queens University, Belfast, hopefully to shed some light on this.

Enid Allison

Coles, B., 2010 The European beaver, in T O'Connor and N Sykes (eds), *Extinctions and Invasions: a social history of British fauna*, Oxford, 104-115



A European beaver in Norway. Photo: Per Harald Olsen, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust van purchase

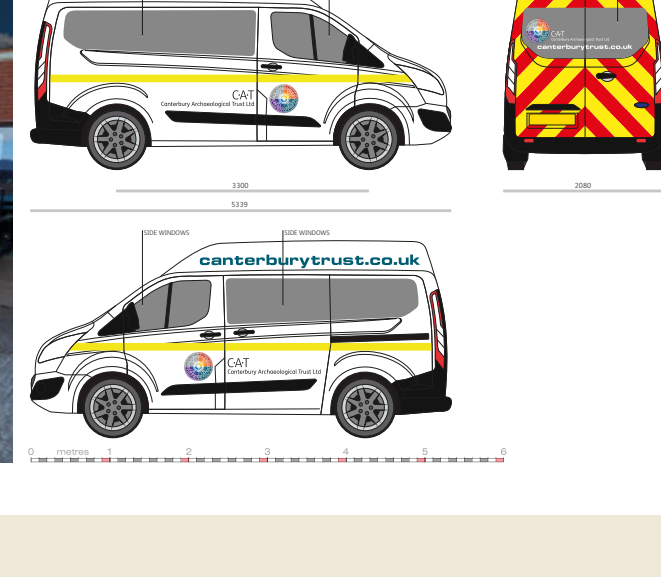
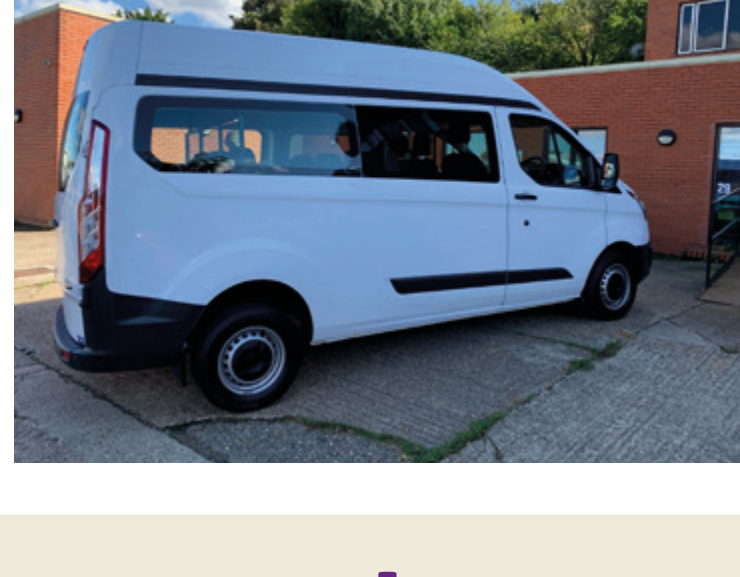
In September 2021 the Trust completed the purchase of a used Ford transit custom nine-seater minibus. After much deliberation and searching a beleaguered used van market we managed to reserve this ex-fire service van via the company Carbase Bristol. The entire transaction was conducted remotely, with complete trust placed with the company to deliver the vehicle in a speedy manner for its instant deployment.

The four-year-old van meets Euro 6 emissions requirements, is warm, safe and fuel efficient. This new addition boosts our vehicle fleet adding valuable crew seats. It also adds to our

mission to reduce fuel emissions and reduce running costs as it consumes less fuel per mile.

The van arrived on 27 September at the height of the fuel crisis across Britain, thankfully it came with a three quarters full tank and so instantly replaced our existing minibus that was running on fumes. A serendipitous moment that solved a major problem. It has since been deployed constantly, running field staff to sites, and has not yet had the chance to be covered with the Trust's decals. Designed by Alf the Trust logo will be supplemented by Chapter 8 hazard decals to the rear and side allowing the van to meet the most stringent of site safety rules.

Ross Lane



C·A·T Outreach

Twenty Centuries at Canterbury the Historic Towns Map successfully launched!

It was a great night at the Waterstones Canterbury on Tuesday 30th of November, with the official launch of our new *Historical Map of Canterbury from Roman Times to 1907*. All proceeds from map sales after printing costs (now paid off through sales of over 500 maps so far) will fund production of a historical atlas of the city, with online facilities. At the launch, I talked about the production of, and new understandings aided by, the map, our new online portal for the archaeology of the City, *Twenty Centuries at Canterbury*, ongoing work on producing a Historic

Towns Trust Historical Atlas of Canterbury, our *new web-page* (where you can also read an account of the history of the City), and lots more, including a display of Canterbury pottery from the Iron Age to the 16th century! And yes, we mentioned more than once that *historical maps make excellent Christmas presents!* Many thanks to Waterstones Canterbury for hosting this event! See our new *Patreon page* where you can support production of the *Canterbury Historic Towns Atlas!*

Jake Weekes



Unlocking Our Past opening access to C·A·T's fascinating finds collection and exploring links between Kent and sometimes surprisingly faraway places . . .



In response to the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in the temporary closure of museums and restrictions for voluntary archaeology groups and other similar societies, Historic England set up a fund to enable heritage organisations to help manage the impact of coronavirus.

The Trust was selected by Historic England and was given a grant to produce a website that could showcase Kent's diverse heritage by utilising the wealth of archaeological data gathered since the formal inception of C-A-T in 1976. Work on the website was initially started by Andrew Richardson and Annie Partridge, and then carried on by myself, Alf and Adelina.

The Unlocking Our Past website covers two themes: the Finds Showcase presents a collection of some of the exceptional and eclectic finds recovered by C-A-T archaeologists, whilst Kent's Diverse Past explores the links between Kent and the wider world through artefacts, people and ideologies.

Prior to producing content for the new website, Andrew previously sought the opinion of C-A-T staff members regarding the selection of suitable objects for the Finds Showcase. Our aim now is to repeat that process so that new content can be added to the website on a regular basis.

I'm sure everyone at C-A-T can think of at least one find that, upon discovery, amazed, delighted or intrigued them. There is a plethora of choice, so please give us your suggestions! There is no particular theme for content, but we want to try and aim for a broad range of archaeological and historical periods.

The website is due to be formally launched on 20th December with the production of a *teaser video* currently being finalised by Adelina and Alf. Staff feedback, including suggestions, is greatly appreciated and encouraged. Please follow the link on the website to give us your feedback and thoughts. Thank you.

Laura O'Shea-Walker



Here is the link for the website: <https://unlockingourpast.co.uk>



C·A·T Commercial

Trenching in Sandwich

Several days were spent in November following the progress of a new electricity cable trench being dug in the middle of Sandwich. At 30 metres long, just 40cm wide and 70cm deep, it was hardly a massive piece of work, but Sandwich is a difficult place to do archaeology, as we have come to learn over the years.

This historic Cinque Port is regarded as one of the best preserved medieval towns in England. The almost complete circuit of the medieval town wall encloses some 80 acres and contains more than 400 listed buildings and structures, including three Grade I Norman churches. Herein lies a major problem for archaeological field research. Opportunities for large-scale excavation very seldom occur and small interventions, such as the present cable trench, often represent the best access to below-ground deposits that we are likely to get in many parts of old Sandwich.

The trench was cut across the courtyard of the Sneller House Day Centre, off the Cattle Market, situated within the south-western quarter of the walled town, adjacent to the sixteenth century Guildhall. This is not far from the site of the Carmelite Friary of Whitefriars, founded in c1268, but more particular interest attaches to this vicinity because of the close proximity of the site of St Thomas's Hospital, founded in 1392.



The medieval buildings of St Thomas's were situated on the south-eastern side of the original medieval Corn market (now Cattle Market). The complex was set back from the main street frontage, access being gained via two lanes leading from Cattle Market and New Street. Curiously, the lane from New Street actually passed through the middle of the main hospital building, serving to divide it into two separate portions. William Boys, Sandwich's great eighteenth century historian, provides the following interesting account:

'The building in which the fraternity resides is in a retired situation between New Street and the Corn market. A passage through the middle of the house divides it into two parts. On the south side is the hall, open to the roof; beyond which are the women's apartments, two above stairs and two below. The men's rooms are on the north side, four above and four below.'

The hospital complex included a great hall and private accommodation, surrounded by outbuildings and a garden, although there was no chapel here. In 1857-8 the medieval buildings were demolished. Subsequently, and somewhat unusually for Sandwich, there was a quite significant amount of later nineteenth- and twentieth century infilling and rebuilding in this area, so that the earlier layout of this part of the old town is no longer readily apparent.

Study of town maps by Boys and early Ordnance Survey maps, eventually established that the central courtyard at present-day Sneller House still preserves the general line of the old lane that once connected the medieval hospital with the Corn Market. The discovery in the cable trench of substantial surfaces composed of large flint cobbles and chalk, buried at a depth of about 30cm, thus make perfect sense as metalling of the original lane leading to the hospital. Nothing of the main hospital building itself was revealed by the trench but the present observations supplement information previously recorded by the Trust on an adjacent site in 2009. Thus, little by little, we are coming to understand the archaeology of historic Sandwich.

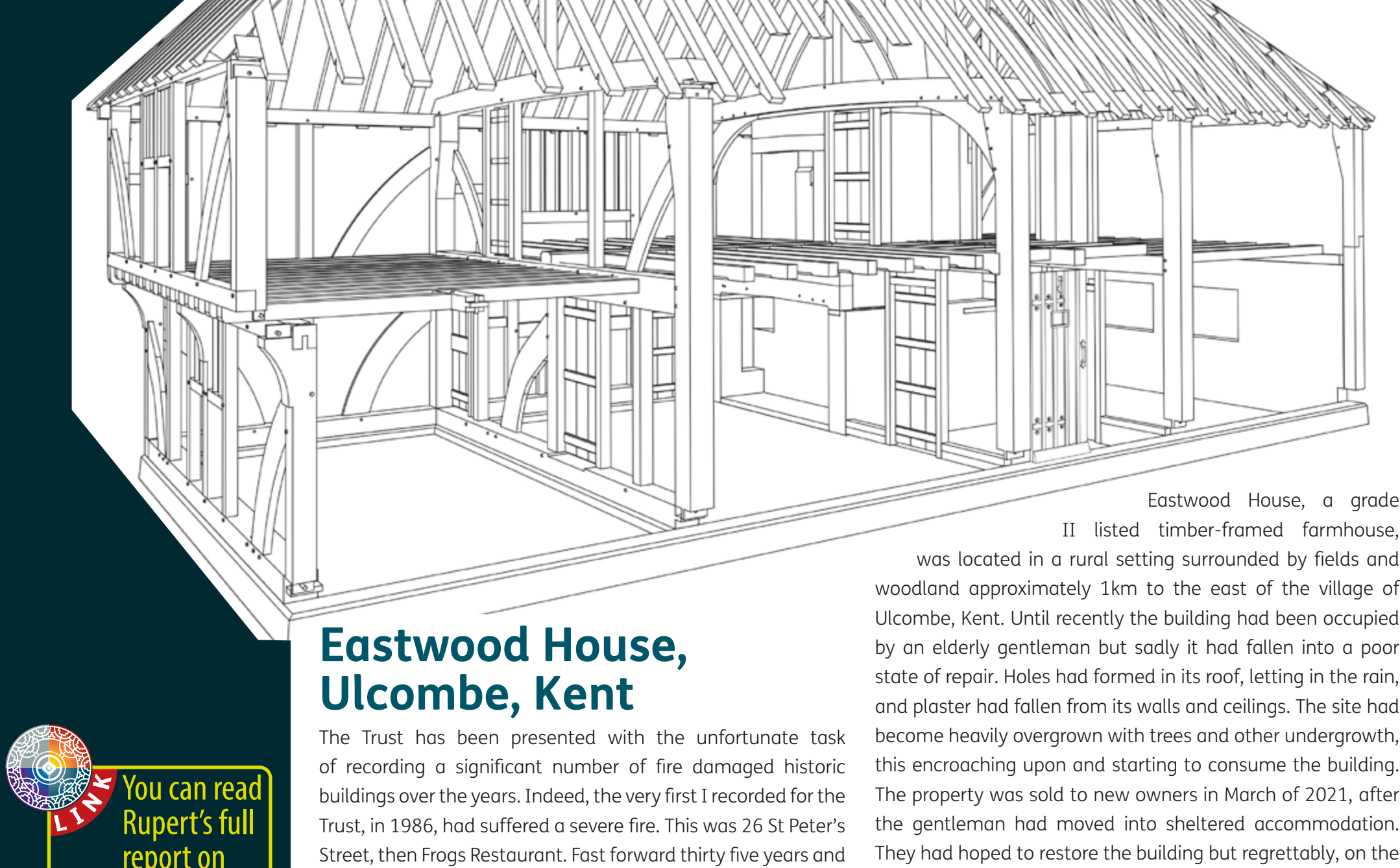
Keith Parfitt

St Thomas Hospital, drawing 1852.

Cutting the trench.



Eastwood House cutaway, showing timber-frame, looking south-west.

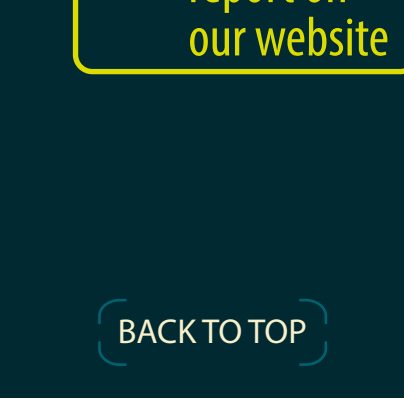


Eastwood House, Ulcombe, Kent

The Trust has been presented with the unfortunate task of recording a significant number of fire damaged historic buildings over the years. Indeed, the very first I recorded for the Trust, in 1986, had suffered a severe fire. This was 26 St Peter's Street, then Frogs Restaurant. Fast forward thirty five years and the task of inspecting charred burnt timbers presented itself again.

Eastwood House, a grade II listed timber-framed farmhouse, was located in a rural setting surrounded by fields and woodland approximately 1km to the east of the village of Ulcombe, Kent. Until recently the building had been occupied by an elderly gentleman but sadly it had fallen into a poor state of repair. Holes had formed in its roof, letting in the rain, and plaster had fallen from its walls and ceilings. The site had become heavily overgrown with trees and other undergrowth, this encroaching upon and starting to consume the building. The property was sold to new owners in March of 2021, after the gentleman had moved into sheltered accommodation. They had hoped to restore the building but regrettably, on the 2nd April of this year, a fire broke out.

Rupert Austin



You can read Rupert's full report on our website