



A Young Keith Parfitt in 1992, with the hole containing the Dover Bronze Age Boat behind him (see page 10).

SUMMER 2023

**Nº 121**

## FCAT Committee


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*chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk*
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*treasurerFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk*
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If you would like to join the committee or help with Friends' activities, please contact [chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk). We would love to hear from you.

The next Newsletter will appear in November 2023. Please send contributions to: [chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk) by the beginning of October.

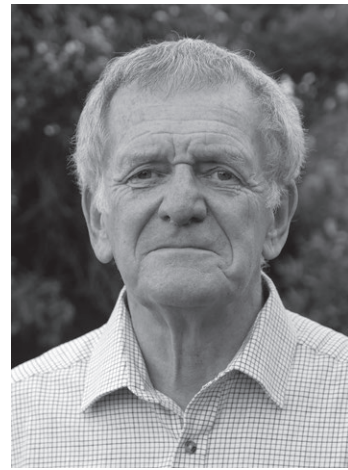
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**Please note**  
 Donation suggested in support of the Trust for all talks:  
 FCAT members £2; non-members £3; registered students and  
 C-A-T staff very welcome without charge.

**Have you moved house or changed your bank?**  
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**are up-to-date.**





## Dear Friends,

Well, summer is with us now and it seems that some semblance of normality is returning to our lives and indeed to the world of heritage tourism and I have been trying to take advantage. At the end of May I spent 10 days in Rome, mainly looking at early churches but certainly not avoiding the magnificent Roman remains that one is never far away from. It is a few years since I was last there and the crowds seem to grow year on year. For the combined Colosseum, Forum and Palatine ticket at 9.00am in the morning there could be a three-hour queue – for admission at 3pm. But get away from that central area, and also the Vatican, and the hectic pace of Roman life was not so overwhelming. Indeed I could have some lesser-known sites and churches virtually to myself – once I had located them, but that is all part of the chase. Returning to Canterbury it has been good to see the High Street once more crowded and hear the multilingual sounds of visitors that we have become accustomed to.

And as I write this I am looking forward to a couple of weeks walking on Hadrian's Wall and in Northumberland. Although I know many of sites reasonably well, it is a long time since I was there and I have never walked lengthy sections of the Wall path. It will be an interesting landscape archaeology experience and I am wondering what the visitor numbers there will be. I hope that you all are now able to enjoy historic sites once more.

In addition to presentations on CAT's work on the Newtown Railway Works at Ashford, Graffiti and a new Thanet Landscapes project, you will find in this newsletter details of the autumn programme of FCAT talks and also notice of the fascinating Festival Walks programme, as well as an appreciation of the archaeological work of Keith Parfitt over the years.

Indeed I cannot conclude my remarks without adding to the tributes paid in this newsletter to the astonishing contribution made by Keith to the archaeology of Kent and indeed to CAT across the years. His fieldwork has been wide-ranging, his investigations have been thorough and he has a most enviable publication record, making the results of his work known to the archaeological community at large and indeed beyond. And he has done all this not just as a paid professional archaeologist but also as a leader in the voluntary sector. I am sure we all wish Keith well in his 'retirement' although I am not sure that he really understands the meaning of the word.

*John Williams, Chair FCAT*



## Dear Friends

Thankfully, summer seems to have finally arrived in Kent, and the awful rain and flooded sites of the winter season are (hopefully) behind us. CAT field teams remain continuously busy, particularly over on the Isle of Thanet, as well as near Ashford and on the Isle of Grain. We are excavating sites which span from the Bronze Age through to a 19th-/20th-century industrial complex.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed a few new faces to the Trust. Mark Williams joined us in February

as the new Senior Operations Manager, bringing a wealth of archaeological experience to the Trust from his previous role as Regional Manager of the London and South East office at Wessex Archaeology. We also continue to take on new fieldwork trainees as part of our CIFA approved 12-week training scheme, whilst trainees we took on earlier in the year have now passed and progressed to Archaeologist grade.

The results of two of our field projects were celebrated at our book launch in April, held in the historic setting of St Paul's Church in Canterbury. Two books were presented: the first, *Farming, Everyday Life and Ritual. 6000 Years of Archaeology at Thanet Earth*, by James Holman, Robert Masefield, Jonathan Rady and Jake Weekes, describes the superb archaeology uncovered prior to construction of the Fresca Group glasshouses in Thanet; whilst the second, *The Lower Lines, Brompton, Kent. Archaeological Investigations 2007–2009*, by James Holman and Peter Kendall, provides a beautifully illustrated study of the defences of Chatham Dockyard, particularly during the 19th century. A slight technical glitch on the night meant a re-location of the author presentations from the church to the meeting room, but this proved an ideal location both for the presentations and for the interesting discussions afterwards. The books are now available to purchase through our CAT website.

We would like to invite Friends to a second evening event at St Paul's Church in Canterbury, when CAT staff will be giving short presentations on their work, interests and research. The event will be in the meeting room attached to the church, and refreshments will once again be available. Hopefully many Friends will attend to see a different aspect to the work of our colleagues. So that we can gauge numbers, we would request booking through Eventbrite – all free and a really easy process – just follow the link given with the details later in this newsletter, or from our website.

Also accessible from our website is a new series of podcasts – two so far, prepared and hosted by Mark Williams of the Trust and Sarah Howard of the Environment Agency. Mark has a particular interest in issues associated with climate change and creating a

sustainable approach to heritage, and the podcasts are on the themes of Archaeology, Heritage and Sustainability. The first is an interview discussing the dissemination of archaeological results with Gregg Griffin (Atkins Heritage), looking at how we can reach out to wider audiences by augmenting and at times moving away from the more traditional methods of publication. The second podcast presents a discussion with Hana Morel about her role as Sustainability and Advocacy Lead for Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), and looks at how archaeology is not just about the past but can be relevant to the future. The podcasts are available at <https://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/podcast>.

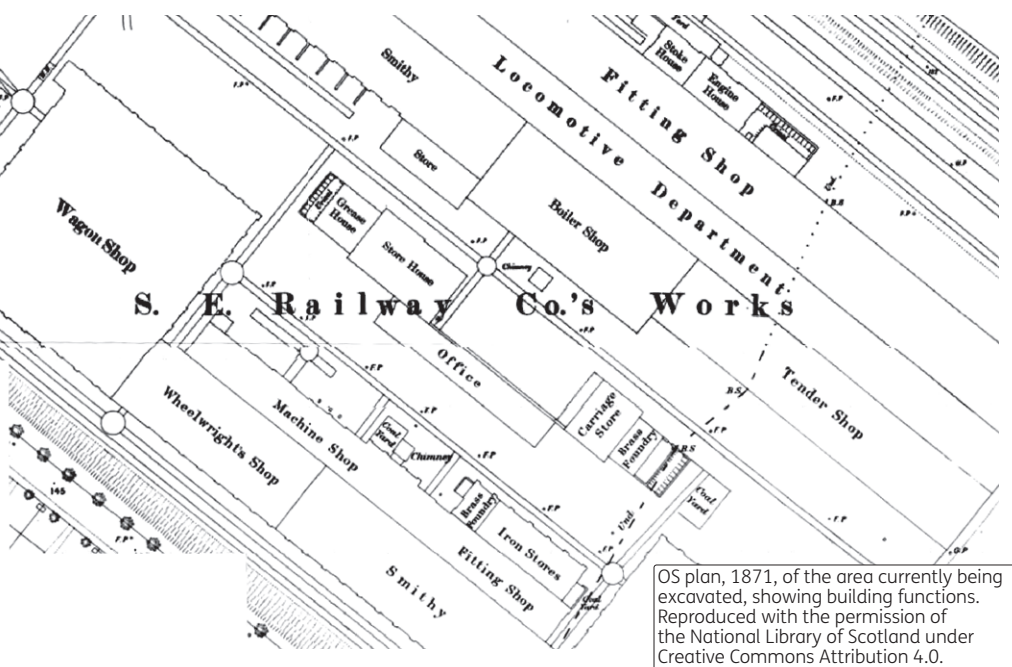
After much work, the application for a NHLF grant to fund an extensive five-year programme of work at East Wear Bay has now been submitted. As you know, this immensely important site, which includes the remains of a Roman villa, is slowly eroding off the cliff edge, and a programme of work is required to investigate, record and understand the remains before too much more is lost. The application will be decided in July and work is projected to begin again at the site in August. We hope, of course, that FCAT members will become involved in this project – another reason to keep looking at the Trust website, for details.

Finally, on behalf of the Trust, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Keith Parfitt, who retired at the end of March. Paul Bennett, former Director of the Trust, has written an extended piece on Keith's archaeological works over the years, which appears later in this newsletter. As you probably know, Keith has been involved in archaeological fieldwork for more than 50 years, focussing particularly on Dover and the surrounding towns and landscape. His knowledge and skills will be sorely missed at the Trust but we all wish him the very best for a very happy retirement.

Alison Hicks  
June 2023

## Newtown Railway Works, Ashford, Kent

CAT is currently excavating on the site of the former Newtown Railway Works in Ashford. The investigation, following on from an evaluation undertaken in 2022, was commissioned by Ashford International Development Company Ltd as part of preparations for the construction of film/TV studios and production offices, a hotel, apartments, commercial space and a multistorey carpark. The site, approximately 1km to the south-east of the present-day Ashford town-centre, is extensive, with the area to be excavated about 2.6 hectares in extent.



## History

The site was first developed in the mid-19th century. In 1846 the South Eastern Railway Company (SER) began constructing a new works (replacing an earlier locomotive repair facility at New Cross), where steam locomotives and other rolling stock could be fabricated and repaired. To accommodate the workers, many of whom migrated from the London works, the SER built 130 new homes, along with a school, shops, and public baths, on land to the south of the proposed works. This became known as Ashford Newtown and was linked to the existing town by New Town Road. In 1851 the works employed 600 people, by 1861 that had increased to 950 and by 1882 to over 1,300. Due to the works, Ashford became the largest industrial town in east Kent.

The layout of the works is shown on the 1871 first edition OS map. Depicted is a large building 193m (633ft) long and 40m (131ft) wide annotated as the Locomotive Department, with Wagon, Coach and Paint Shops forming separate units to the south. These were interlinked with railed roads that extended within each building with direction changes facilitated by circular turntables. The plan also shows the location of three chimneys that probably served nearby boiler houses and smithing furnaces. Various other small buildings are depicted, but with no indication of function.

With the merger in 1898 of the South Eastern Railway with the London, Chatham and Dover Railway to form the South Eastern and Chatham Railway (SECR) the Newtown site became the principal works. This led to expansion at the site. An additional shed

was constructed to the south-east of the Paint Shop and the Locomotive Department was extended. Further expansion occurred following the grouping of the SECR with the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway and the London and South Western Railway to form the Southern Railway in 1923, when most new locomotive and carriage design and construction, was transferred to the Ashford or Eastleigh Works.

During World War II the site was used to produce various war materials such as armour plating and tank fittings. It was therefore the subject of German bombing raids. A plan of the works by Southern Railway to mark the centenary of the Workshop in 1947 detailed the arrangement of the facility and significantly shows the function of the buildings and how the Coach and Paint Shops were divided into several smaller units including storerooms, welding and maintenance. Between 1847 and 1947 the Railway Works had produced a total of 728 steam locomotives.

After the now British Rail in 1948 the Ashford works continued to build and service diesel-electric locomotives and wagons, but from 1968 various parcels were sold off and the works went into decline. Several sheds were demolished and replaced by rail sidings. The buildings were progressively disused from 1981 onwards after British Rail sold the works, with the loss of 950 jobs. Although much has been demolished the surviving structures are all listed and include the locomotive shed which forms the north-eastern boundary of the investigation area as well as a paint store and electroplating shop, the former acetylene store and the original gate house to the site.

## The excavations

The area being excavated lies to the south of the long building range, originally the Locomotive Department, that is listed and is being retained.

Work started in April 2023 with monitoring and recording during excavations to install drainage and attenuation tanks adjacent to the Locomotive Department building. Since then, the area being machine-stripped has expanded and CAT has been excavating and hand-cleaning exposed structural remains. Due to the large amounts of spoil generated during the machine work, not all of the site can be stripped in one operation. The current area is in the centre of the site, spanning part of the Wagon Shop to the north-west and extending almost as far as the Coach Shop to the south-east. These large structures were separated by two ranges of buildings which are the main elements being investigated presently. The structural remains in this area are often better preserved than elsewhere on the site.

The north range comprised offices and various other buildings, with stores to the north, while workshops occupied the more substantial south range. The office building was enlarged to the north-west later in the 19th century, presumably to cope with the expansion of the site and its workforce. The original structure was built of red bricks, like the other mid-19th century buildings; the extension is of yellow stock bricks. The



The office building and its extension, looking north-west.

offices had a central entrance hall (probably with a staircase to a second floor), and a connecting passage that extends the full length of the buildings north, rear side. The remainder is divided up into individual rooms, many with fireplaces (sometimes back-to-back) on their end wall. The rooms are further partitioned by brick walls, but the position of the fireplaces indicates that these must have been supporting a sprung wooden floor.

South-west of the office range was open space, traversed by a railway track that connected the Wagon Shop (later the Wagon Undercarriage Shop) and Coach Shop. Movement of wagons within these shops and outside to other tracks was facilitated by turntables, at most 4.5m in diameter (thus probably only able to handle one wagon at a time). Two of these interesting turntable-pit structures are now being excavated, with a further two relating to the south range. These are of course missing the actual moving turntable bridge that supported the wagons or possibly small shunting locos in this plant, and they certainly were not large enough for full-scale carriages.

In the open area was also one of the chimneys and a coal yard, which both served the south range workshops: the Machine Shop, Fitting Shop, Wheelwright's Shop, and the Smithy; these all dealt with the construction and repair of wagons and carriages. Both the chimney foundation and the coal yard have been exposed during the excavations as well as many elements of the various workshops.

Understanding industrial complexes from archaeological remains can be challenging for many reasons. Most operations took place above ground, but related plant and machinery has long been swept away, leaving just wall foundations (or a few above ground courses), underground infrastructure such as flues or pipework and deeper features such as tanks. In addition, industrial complexes are known for having undergone almost continuous development, due in part to technological advances. All these problems are evident at the railway works, not least the number of later pipe and sewer trenches that cut through everything.

One of the most complex areas is the remains of the Smithy, where a multitude of underground flues, all built with firebricks and heavily fired, weave in between one another, or are cut off and replaced. These led eventually to the chimney where fumes and smoke were vented. There are also many tank-like features and other structures, some with iron fittings, including an unusual and heavily fired brick structure that may have been a furnace. Another pit contains an array of heavy timbers, burnt at one end – did these support a free-standing boiler? The structures here are so complex that it is intended to do a detailed survey using laser scanning, a method first employed ten years ago by the Trust, at the site of Sittingbourne Paper Mill, where flued structures relating to 19th-century boiler houses were uncovered.



One of the turntable pits during excavation.



The smithy, looking north-west, showing flues, tanks and possible furnace (lower right). The timber array to the rear may have supported a boiler or some other machinery.

Work exposing the structures continues and interpretations of the function of some of the more unusual of them will need to be considered. Hopefully, once this area has been completed, other parts of the site will be examined in a similar way.

*Jon Rady*

## Keith Parfitt

So, the rumours are true, Keith Parfitt BA, FSA, MCIFA, has stepped down from the role of Senior Project Manager, Dover Office after 33 years of distinguished service to the Trust.

Those of us who know Keith well will be aware that this is not retirement; merely a change of pace, leading in the same direction, but with a lightness of step, the weight of administration and bureaucracy having been lifted from his shoulders.

Keith is a bright star among the Canterbury All-Stars. A man dedicated to his profession from an early age. Hard working, engaged, astute, a brilliant fieldworker, always leading from the front, a chap to follow and admire, a professional who believes the

job is not complete until the 'grey-literature' report is issued, and the important results are published, and all to the best of his ability. More often than not this has meant completing the fieldwork or the report in his own time. For Keith archaeology is a vocation, not a job.

Many of you may be unaware that in addition to working for the Trust, Keith has for over 52 years worked with, and for the past 45 years directed, the affairs of the Dover Archaeological Group (DAG), at weekends and during holiday periods. There never was a man more dedicated to archaeology than Keith, ably assisted by his wonderful wife Tina, the much-loved and sorely missed Geoff Halliwell, the nationally recognised numismatist, David Holman, and a marvellous band of skilled and experienced volunteers. A significant number of DAG volunteers mentored by Keith have won a national reputation like David; another is the Palaeolithic specialist Dr Beccy Scott, now at the British Museum. Those new to the Trust and to professional archaeology could do no better than model themselves on Keith Parfitt. But you will have to go some to get close to all that he has done.

Keith joined the Trust in November 1990, after many years of dedicated service with KARU, having been a stalwart volunteer working on Dover excavations whilst at school and immediately after his return from Cardiff University in 1978, where of course he read archaeology. So, Keith came to the Trust with a huge amount of experience all those years ago, and with fellow Dovorians, Barry Corke, John Willson and Jon Rady, helped to build the organization that exists today. Throughout his time with the Trust Keith's heart has always been beating in Dover, and most but by no means all of his time with CAT has been served there, in charge of the Trust's Dover Office and Dover projects. Indeed, the office was set up for him first in an old caravan donated by Tate & Lyle and in 1996 in basement offices owned by Dover Harbour Board at No. 3, Waterloo Crescent. The offices were perfectly located for major campaigns of work at Dover, shared first with Barry Corke, then with Paul Armour and most recently with George Carstairs. Over the years, and through Keith, the Trust has enjoyed a close working relationship with Dover Museum located against the Market Square a short walk from the office. I have no doubt that they have plans to harness his skill-sets in the future and I know he is looking forward to working with them for the betterment of Dover's Heritage.



Keith hard at work at Ringlemere.

Keith and Tina coming up for air.



This is not the place to set out Keith's bibliography, as it would run for many pages. Few have provided so many articles for *Archaeologia Cantiana* and few of the Canterbury All-Stars have published so many monographs. But let me set out but a few of his significant achievements in Dover and elsewhere:

#### In Dover:

- The Dover A20 Project
- The Discovery of the Dover Bronze Age Boat
- Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery
- The Townwall Filling Station, Dover
- The St James Development Dover

#### And just a few of the significant non-Dover projects:

- Iron Age Burials from Mill Hill Deal (with DAG)
- Sites on the Eostry-Whitfield Bypass
- The Ringlemere Gold Cup Excavations (with DAG, the British Museum and CAT)
- East Wear Bay (with CAT, DAG, and a host of other volunteers)
- The on-going Lees Court Excavations (for the KAS) and
- On-going Excavations at St Alban's House, Nonington (entirely with DAG)

Keith has done so much for DAG, for the KAS and for Kentish Archaeology whilst working for CAT. His legacy of achievement is overwhelming and easily demonstrated, and all this has reflected well on the Trust. Keith, a founder member of the CIFA, is the man other specialists turn to for help, advice, or for a written contribution and he is the first archaeologist societies and the general public turn to for lectures, general outreach and for placing archaeology at the heart of community. His services to Kentish prehistory were recently recognised by the Prehistoric Society when he was awarded the Peter Clark Memorial Prize.

Keith Parfitt, an affable, likeable, down-to-earth, kind-hearted, and approachable gentleman, is the consummate archaeologist. Having stepped down at the end of

March, he will be sorely missed by all at the Trust, but we know this is not retirement. Keith will be actively immersed in the archaeology of Dover and East Kent until the last trumpet sounds. I for one, give three cheers and look forward to joining him in the (archaeological) trenches with other volunteers until I am called to account.

Paul Bennett

## The Bigger Picture – for greater archaeological understanding and for development control

In the last FCAT Newsletter (120) Jon Rady guided us through the principles of Strip, Map and Sample excavations, where the aim is to see how archaeological landscapes evolved over time. With large-scale stripping of overburden not only will major features such as ditches and walls be picked up but also isolated pits, graves or cremation burials and the like. It is possible to be rather more certain than with evaluation trenching, covering perhaps only 2 to 5 percent of an area being developed, whether the spaces between identified settlement or activity nodes are indeed devoid of archaeological remains or whether archaeological features are being missed because they lie in unstripped areas – and indeed remain undetected and uninvestigated when further excavation only considers concentrations of archaeological features revealed in the trial trenching. In the same issue we had news of the publication launch of CAT's *Farming, everyday life and ritual. 6000 years of archaeology at Thanet Earth* by James Holman, Robert Masefield, Jonathan Rady and Jake Weekes. This was such an important project and it is fascinating to see how the landscape at Thanet Earth evolved over thousands of years, with new settlement and other activity sometimes respecting what has gone before and sometimes totally disregarding it. For example I find it particularly interesting to see how the organization of the medieval landscape is rather different on either side of the parish boundary which ran across the site and continues to separate the parishes of St Nicholas-at-Wade and Monkton. In the former parish there was very much a rectilinear arrangement of trackways and ditches whereas in the latter there just seemed to be a clustering of relatively small enclosures adjacent to the trackway that was the forerunner of Seamark Road, with the area beyond to the west seemingly being relatively open and perhaps utilized as pasture.

Thanet Earth was not the first project in that part of Kent to employ total stripping of a site. In 1994-5, in advance of the dualling of the A253 Thanet Way between the Monkton and Mount Pleasant roundabouts, the total length of the road, an area of about 3km by 30m was completely stripped and excavated by CAT. More recently in 2009-10 virtually the whole of the 6.5km length of the East Kent Access Road (Phase II), some

topsoil stripping for the bigger picture on Thanet Way 7A – the plan of a ring ditch can be seen emerging.



48 hectares of landscape extending from the Ebbsfleet peninsular at the mouth of the former Wantsum Channel northwards towards Manston airport was stripped and excavated by the Oxford Wessex joint venture. There have been many more 'landscape archaeology' investigations in recent years across Thanet as well as much smaller surveys and excavations, many undertaken by CAT (may the good work continue); there has also been new aerial-photographic and also LiDAR\* coverage. Together this work has very much enhanced our vision of Thanet's complex evolving archaeological landscape which stretches back across thousands of years. Indeed Kent contains one of, if not the highest density of archaeological sites in south-east England and Thanet has

a higher density of Historic Environment Record (HER) 'monuments' than any other district in the county (6.2% of all Kent's monuments in 2.8% of its area).

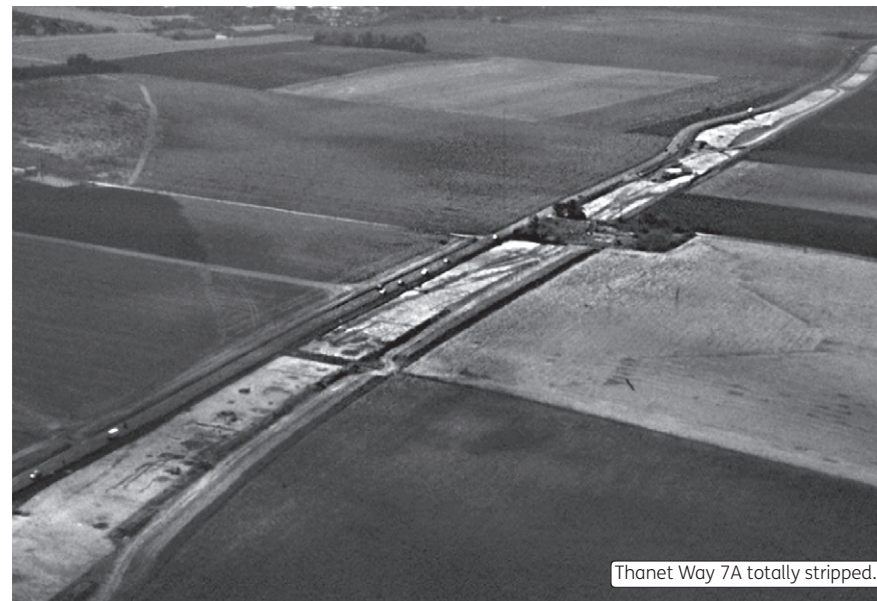
The Thanet Archaeological Landscapes Mapping Project, which is just commencing, takes as its starting point an awareness of the exceptional character, significance and visibility of archaeological remains across Thanet, as well as ongoing threats from large-scale development. The archaeological remains have a distinct character and, on account of the district's role as a gateway region, they are central to our understanding of the interface between England and continental Europe. There has been too little recent synthesis and yet intensive development threatens the remaining open areas of the district in which so many well-preserved archaeological sites lie. The project is being run by Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation team, with substantial funding from Historic England. Local partners include Thanet District Council and the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. The project, which is due for completion early in 2027 has three strategic parts

- A data gathering phase will be undertaken which will integrate a backlog of archaeological reports within the HER; the Historic England Aerial Investigation and Mapping (AIM) team at Historic England will upgrade the mapping of aerial photographs and LiDAR data and historic maps will be examined to identify the district's Post-Medieval heritage.
- An Archaeological Characterisation will be developed that tells the story of the development of Thanet, allows an understanding of the part played in that story by the different areas and communities across the district, and identifies the outstanding

research questions. In FCAT Newsletter 114 Paul Cuming showed how the development of an Urban Archaeological Database at Dover provided the basis for such a detailed archaeological characterisation of the town.

- An Archaeological Strategy will be developed that will underpin the management of the archaeological resource in the future and which will be adopted as policy by Thanet District Council. There is a temptation to think that archaeological investigation ahead of development just happens. Rather it has to be justified through the planning process as a developer may be required to pay substantial sums for excavation and other work. The more informed the planning authority and its archaeological advisers are of the archaeological potential of a given area the more will it be possible at an early stage to formulate an appropriate specification for the subsequent archaeological investigations. In the early days of development-led archaeology it was 'preservation by record'. Today we are much more moving to 'preservation through understanding'. It is not sufficient just to record what is (or will soon not be) there, but rather to ask questions about what it all means.

While recognising the immense value of the project in the world of managing the archaeological resource in the development process what I am particularly looking forward to is seeing maps of Thanet, precisely plotted using GIS, that bring together archaeological landscapes recorded from archaeological investigations, particularly the large-scale ones involving 'archaeological landscapes', aerial photographs, LiDAR surveys and also historic maps. There are many research questions. For example, what is the reason for the concentration of Neolithic causewayed enclosures in the Pegwell Bay area, and indeed the density of Neolithic remains more widely in Thanet? Again accurate mapping of the ring-ditches on Thanet may well be key to understanding the



Thanet Way 7A totally stripped.



Neolithic of south-east England. Somewhat later Thanet's geographical location gave it great significance once Britain began to be drawn into the orbit of the Roman Empire. East Kent was then one of the most 'Romanised' areas in southern England and was located immediately adjacent to the presumed invasion point near Richborough. The relative wealth of Anglo-Saxon settlement data in Thanet, aligned to extremely rich burial evidence, will help to address the question of the relationship between Roman and early Anglo-Saxon settlement. In all this research the availability of spatial data precisely mapped using GIS will be of paramount importance, allowing comparison between sites and indeed enabling researchers to see whether the distribution, layout and alignment of planned (and indeed unplanned) landscapes are local or extend across the wider Thanet area. And, of course, how does any patterning of the landscape evolve through time. How does it all fit together and what does it all mean?

I am most grateful to Paul Cuming and Simon Mason of KCC Heritage Conservation for providing me with information about the Thanet Archaeological Landscapes Mapping Project.

\*LiDAR uses laser light, usually bounced off the earth's surface from a plane, to create a 3D micro-topographic representation of the earth's surface in astonishing detail. Archaeological features can be identified which are not immediately visible on the ground or using traditional aerial or satellite imagery.

John Williams

## Making marks: graffiti as placemaking

When we think about graffiti and churches, our first thoughts are usually those of vandalism and negative engagements with historic buildings. Recent years, however, have seen a rising interest and awareness of marks, scratchings and drawings on the walls of buildings, particularly churches, that date from the medieval period.

There are lots of theories about what the various incarnations of medieval graffiti signify: some were certainly apotropaic, so-called witches marks, or circular forms that were believed to entrap evil spirits and demons. Naturally, the most common inscribed graffiti we see in churches are crosses. Historically, these were thought to be pilgrim or crusader crosses: markings of a pilgrimage, or a departure or return from the crusades. Although this could be true, this simplistic explanation has begun to be questioned. Matthew Champion, in his book *Medieval Graffiti: The Lost Voices of England's Churches*, wonders whether they are possibly physical representations of promises, contracts or agreements made in the sight of God. It is likely that some of these marks would have had deeper spiritual or social meanings which are now lost to us. However, it is a fairly



safe bet that graffiti in the Middle Ages had very different tolerances and connotations to what they do now.

Over the last couple of decades more detailed forms of graffiti (street art) have also become popular, and valuable. Banksy has been involved with two pieces in Kent in the last few months highlighting social issues for the region in Margate and Herne Bay (which build on *Art Buff* and *Brexit*). The line between street art and graffiti is vague, often only being considered art when a well-known name (and therefore value) is attached. It could be argued, however, that graffiti or tagging (a specific form

of graffiti) shows a similar engagement with place that could be paralleled with the early medieval marks.

The recording of this graffiti has become an important element of historic building recording, and county-wide surveys have been exciting volunteer projects for a number of years (Cohen's work in Kent is particularly exciting). On 15th February 2023, St Nicholas' Church in Sturry, Canterbury, held a graffiti day, mixing the themes of medieval and contemporary graffiti. Activities included a tour of known marks, hunting for undiscovered graffiti and spray-painting contemporary versions with stencils (outside!). Many of the regular parishioners who attended had not previously noticed many of the graffiti etched into the fabric of their church. However, it became clear that there was a huge amount of interest in the subject.

The church has an interesting collection of medieval graffiti (Figure 1), including one particularly interesting example (Figure 2). During the graffiti day lots of opinions about what this example represented were expressed: Canterbury Cathedral, a church on a hill, a windmill, the supposed site of Jesus's execution at Golgotha, even a Bishop's hat! The reality is, we will probably never know.

It is perhaps important to remember that churches would have looked unrecognisable pre-Reformation; practically every inch of wall space would have been highly and brightly decorated, depicting stories and characters from the bible, as well as more



abstract patterns and motifs. The act of worship would have also been different – everyone would have been expected to attend, people would have stood and services would have been conducted in Latin, following the Catholic doctrine. Furthermore, the vast majority of the congregation would have been illiterate; probably only the priest and the lord and his family would have been able to read and write. Churches would, most likely, have been locked except during these services. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that graffiti were not only tolerated but potentially, seen as an integral part of worship, sanctioned and possibly encouraged by the church itself. After all, these are not quick scribbles done with a pen or a can of spray-paint and a stencil – these are etched into stone, many of them complex in their design, taking time, and presumably cutting through existing artwork.

While this seems at odds with the idea of a quick, illicitly stencilled symbol (tag) in reality both could be seen as ‘making and leaving one’s mark’. These might have different meanings or rationales, but both are engagements with place.

We don’t encourage people to leave physical marks today, but

more events like the Sturry Graffiti Day could encourage more people to engage in their historic environment and advocate for the material, cultural and personal identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.

*George Morris, Final Year Archaeology Student, CCCU  
Dr Catriona Cooper, Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities, CCCU*

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## CANTERBURY FESTIVAL WALKS – A PREVIEW! 21 October – 4 November 2023

For several decades FCAT has offered walks as part of the Canterbury Festival. Last year our Festival walks raised £2,500 for the Trust, and we hope to equal or maybe even surpass that in 2023. This year’s programme contains some old favourites, for which you may have been unable to get tickets in the past, along with some brand-new walks. Full details and how to book can be found in the Festival programme, which will be published in July. No walk-ups are allowed so you need to get tickets in advance. Many of our walks sell out so it’s advisable to buy your tickets as soon as booking opens. (If you find you can’t use them, you can return them to the Festival box-office which will refund you if they are resold.) To whet your appetites, here is the list below.

*Doreen Rosman*

<b>Saturday 21 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Canterbury in the Reign of the First King Charles</b>
Doreen Rosman		
Royal visitors, divided communities, smashing up the Cathedral, rioting on Christmas Day: find out about life in Canterbury before and during the civil war.		
Repeated Tuesday 31 October, 2 p.m.		
<b>Saturday 21 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>The Village of Bridge</b>
Pauline Pritchard		
Roman soldiers, Canterbury pilgrims, race-course visitors, stage-coach travellers – the ancient Watling Street brought them all through Bridge.		
Repeated Friday 27 October, 2 p.m.		
<b>Sunday 22 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Everyday Life in Late Medieval Canterbury</b>
Sheila Sweetinburgh		
Late medieval Canterbury was a vibrant city. This walk explores what is known about its inhabitants by looking at streets and marketplaces, houses and churches		
Repeated Saturday 4 November, 10 a.m.		
<b>Sunday 22 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>A Literary Tour of the King’s School</b>
Peter Henderson		
An opportunity to see the Maugham Library and Hugh Walpole’s outstanding manuscript collection: Brontës, Wilkie Collins, Yeats, WW1 poets, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf – and more!		
Repeated at 4 p.m.		
<b>Monday 23 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Folkestone: Then and Now</b>
Liz Minter		
A walk covering points of historical interest juxtaposed against the regeneration of this ancient town.		
<b>Monday 23 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Canterbury Facades and Chimney Pots</b>
Hubert Pragnell		
What’s above eye level – or down back alleys? Look at things we often miss, especially Canterbury’s magnificent skyline of towers, gables, and crooked chimney stacks.		
Repeated Tuesday 24 October, 10 a.m.		
<b>Tuesday 24 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Lost Churches and Chapels</b>
Geoff Downer		
Stroll through south Canterbury and find out about the many medieval churches and dissenting chapels which have been and gone through the centuries.		
<b>Wednesday 25 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>A Walk in and about St Augustine’s College</b>
Peter Henderson		
A tour of the buildings of the former St Augustine’s College, now part of the King’s School.		
<b>Wednesday 25 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Romano-British Canterbury</b>
Jake Weekes		
What do we know about Canterbury’s early history? What survives from that time? An opportunity to find out in the company of an experienced archaeologist.		
Repeated Monday 30 October, 2 p.m.		

<b>Thursday 26 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>'Strangers' in Canterbury</b>
Doreen Rosman		
Walloons, Flemings, and Huguenots sought sanctuary in Tudor and Stuart Canterbury. Find out about them, their descendants, and their new home.		
<b>Thursday 26 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>An Archaeological Tour of Historic Dover</b>
Keith Parfitt		
A stroll round historic Dover on fairly level ground, viewing standing historic buildings and the sites of some key archaeological discoveries.		
Repeated Friday 3 November, 2 p.m.		
<b>Friday 27 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Explore Worthgate Ward!</b>
Paul Bennett		
Find out about the City Walls, two castles, St Mildred's church, Wincheap and Timbercheap markets – and more! – from the former director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust.		
<b>Saturday 28 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Fragments of the Past</b>
Nathalie Cohen		
Explore the Precincts with a former Cathedral archaeologist who can throw light on monastic remains, the Priory waterworks, the pilgrim trade – and even graffiti.		
Repeated at 2 p.m.		
<b>Sunday 29 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Exploring King's School</b>
Peter Henderson		
Find out about the history and buildings of the King's School on a walk around the Green Court and Cathedral precincts.		
<b>Sunday 29 October</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Victorian City: Splendour and Squalor</b>
Doreen Rosman		
Pigs in backyards, sewage in the Stour, elegant shops, and grandiose banks: find out about life in Victorian Canterbury.		
<b>Monday 30 October</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Religious Houses of Medieval Canterbury</b>
Alison Hicks		
The Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust leads a walk around Canterbury, focusing on some of the city's medieval religious establishments.		
Repeated Tuesday 31 October, 10 a.m.		
<b>Wednesday 1 November</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>The Building Stones of Canterbury Cathedral</b>
Geoff Downer		
This walk will provide an introduction to the stones used in the building fabric, including their identification and provenance.		
<b>Wednesday 1 November</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Nineteen Noughties Canterbury and Some Naughty Goings On</b>
Ian Osterloh		
Controversial buildings, political scandal, election shenanigans – sound familiar? 1900s Canterbury had it all. Relive events and follow the trail of the city's most controversial politician.		

<b>Thursday 2 November</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>A Walk around Jewish Canterbury</b>
Kerstin Müller		
Explore the lives of Canterbury's medieval Jews. See where their 18th and 19th century successors worked, worshipped, and were buried.		
Repeated at 2 p.m.		
<b>Friday 3 November</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Elizabethan Canterbury</b>
Cressida Williams		
In 1573, 450 years ago, Queen Elizabeth spent a fortnight in Canterbury, including her 40th birthday. This walk will explore places associated with Elizabeth's reign.		

- Remember you need to book early if you want tickets – online at Canterbury Festival - Kent's International Arts Festival, by phone on 01227 457568, or in person at the Festival Box Office, 8, Orange Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JA. Booking opens late July/early August.

## EVENTS

### FCAT lectures with the Centre for Kent History and Heritage

#### October 5th, 7pm

CCCU lecture theatre to be agreed (an email will be sent out nearer the date of the event and details will also be placed on the FCAT website, fcata.uk

#### COMMIOS: Iron Age Britons and their Continental Neighbours

Recent breakthroughs in isotope and ancient DNA analysis have opened new vistas for understanding the diversity, mobility, structure and social dynamics of past communities. If we are fully to grasp the dynamism, subtlety and complexity of the human past the emerging potential of these techniques must be integrated with cultural archaeological analyses, drawing on approaches from the humanities. COMMIOS, a five-year ERC-funded collaboration between the University of York, the Reich Lab at Harvard University, the British Geological Survey and the AMS radiocarbon dating lab SUERC (University of Glasgow), provides a ground-breaking interdisciplinary framework within which these methods will be integrated on an unprecedented scale to provide a radically new vision of past societies. This talk will present the results of some of our latest research (from large scale migrations to kinship structures), with a focus on the cosmopolitan communities of later prehistoric Kent.

Dr Lindsey Büster is a Senior Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology at CCCU. She is a cultural archaeologist specialising in the later prehistoric archaeology of Britain and Europe, studying at University College London (2003-2006; BSc), the University of York (2006-2007; MA) and the University of Bradford (2009-2012), where she completed her PhD on Iron Age roundhouses in Scotland. With nearly ten years of post-doctoral experience on interdisciplinary projects ranging from cave archaeology to ancient DNA

and palliative care, her research uses archaeology to explore deep-time perspectives on enduring social questions surrounding mortality and identity. In addition to her role as Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology at CCCU, she is the funerary archaeology lead on the ERC-funded COMMIOS Project (2020–2025), which uses socio-cultural and scientific approaches (osteology, stable isotopes and ancient DNA) to understand Iron Age population dynamics, connectivity and mobility across Britain and the Near Continent.

### November 2nd, 7pm

CCCU lecture theatre to be agreed (an email will be sent out nearer the date of the event and details will also be placed on the FCAT website, [fcat.uk](http://fcat.uk))

### Beyond the visual: digital sensory pasts.

Digital approaches have opened up routes into exploring sensory pasts in new and exciting ways. This talk will discuss two approaches to opening up our understanding of sensorial experience of the past: auralisation and 3D printing, using case studies from Kent and further afield.

**Dr Cat Cooper** is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities at Canterbury Christchurch University. Her research interests lie in digital approaches to studying the past, multisensory experiences and heritage studies. She delivers teaching across the Humanities disciplines including GIS for Archaeologists, Digital Literacy, Heritage Studies and incorporating digital methodologies into the Humanities.

### December 7th, 7pm

CCCU lecture theatre to be agreed (an email will be sent out nearer the date of the event and details will also be placed on the FCAT website, [fcat.uk](http://fcat.uk))

### Archaeology for the future: How can archaeology contribute to the key issues in sustainability?

Using examples from the problem of biodiversity loss, the presentation will examine how archaeology can help understand and contribute to the mitigation of some of the biggest issues facing current and future generations. It will look at how the methods used, and information retrieved can show how the discipline is not just about the past but is very relevant to today's challenges.

**Mark Williams** worked as a professional archaeologist in the UK for 25 years before taking up the role of Senior Operations Manager at Canterbury Archaeological Trust in February 2023. He is also undertaking an MSc in Sustainable Development at the

University of Sussex and has spoken to numerous audiences about how archaeology and heritage can contribute to sustainability issues today.

## Other Events

### Tuesday 8th August, 6-8pm

St Paul's Church, Church Street St Paul's, Canterbury

### Canterbury Archaeological Trust: Archaeology and Archaeologists

The evening will comprise a series of short presentations by staff at CAT showcasing some of the work, interests and research that goes on in the background at the Trust. Much of this doesn't get presented, so come along to an opportunity to hear from staff about what interests them in their work. This is a free event but please book for it using <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/canterbury-archaeological-trust-archaeology-and-archaeologists-tickets-660953970117>

### Tuesday 26th September 2023, 7pm (wine reception 6.30pm)

CCCU Michael Berry Lecture Theatre, Old Sessions House

### Michael Nightingale Memorial Eleventh Memorial Lecture Medieval Landscapes in the Victoria County History – from text, to pictures, to text again

The VCH project is England's - and possibly the world's - longest established place-based history, having produced histories based on the parish since the beginning of the 20th century. Its 'Big Red Books' and more recent series of place-based paperbacks provide an essential introduction to and overview of the recorded history of England's places. It is active in 18 counties, and two ridings of Yorkshire, but not - unfortunately - in Kent. The histories the VCH produces are unique in scope, covering the earliest recorded details to the ever-moving present and at the heart of it is the place of communities in the living, ever changing landscape. The sources, techniques, and processes used by the VCH will be explored with a selection of case studies and some examples from the Kentish landscape.

**Dr Adam Chapman** is the General Editor of the Victoria History of the Counties of England based at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

All are welcome and entry is free (voluntary retiring collection)

## DONATIONS TO THE FRIENDS

Donations to the Friends of C·A·T are always welcome, whether in appreciation of on-line Zoom talks or more generally through a wish to support CAT. This can be done by bank transfer using the following details:

**Account name:** The Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust

**Account number:** 95413383 **Sort code:** 60-04-27

(Please use the reference "FCAT Donation" on the transaction)

## OR

by sending a cheque made out to The Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Please send to:

FCAT Treasurer

c/o Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad Street, Canterbury

CT1 2LU

Thank you for any support you can give



Ashford turntable (see page 5).

Contact the Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust at:

**FCAT**, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd

92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU

t: 01227 462062 | e: friends@canterburytrust.co.uk

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