This story of the Trust is from the publication which accompanied the exhibition, *40years: Canterbury Archaeological Trust*. Use this link to see the whole publication, with articles covering other aspects of the Trust's background:
https://cf851a76-4040-4f57-bee5-552912b12338.usrfiles.com/ugd/805c19_e21433dc38a64432bbbe07823314017a.pdf

The bombing raids of the Second World War left large areas of Canterbury flattened.

Beginnings

The story of the Trust can be said to start over 70 years ago during the Second World War, when large areas of the city's historic fabric were laid waste by German bombers. The early years of the war saw relatively little damage by 'hit and run' raids; in September 1940 a number of buildings were damaged by bombs in the cathedral precincts and in October of the same year a medieval timber-framed building in Burgate was badly damaged. Otherwise Canterbury got off relatively lightly compared to other British cities in the opening years of the conflict. This was to change, however. On 30th May 1942 'Operation Millennium' – the first 'thousand bomber raid' – was launched by the RAF against Cologne, completely destroying 85 per cent of the city. The very next night, a comparatively small force of perhaps 50 German bombers attacked Canterbury, part of the so-called 'Baedeker Raids'. Other raids occurred a few days later, on the 2nd and 6th of June. These raids succeeding in devastating about one fifth of the historic city, leaving swathes of flattened buildings and rubble-choked streets. The destruction of so many important historic buildings was recognised as a great loss nationally, but the devastation of so much of the city was also seen as an opportunity to explore the buried archaeology that had hitherto been inaccessible due to the overlying structures. Even before the end of the war, a small team of largely amateur excavators, initially led by Audrey Williams and later by Professor Sheppard Frere began to excavate in the cellars of the destroyed buildings, revealing important new information about the Iron Age origins of the city, the Roman defences

and theatre and post-Roman occupation. However this small group – working largely in the school holidays – were unable to respond appropriately to the threat to the buried archaeology of Canterbury when post-war redevelopment started in earnest.

Immediately after the war there was little building; pre-fabricated housing was set up on the outskirts of the city and temporary shops on the site of the Longmarket. In clearing the bomb damage, some ancient buildings that could have been saved were unnecessarily destroyed, notably the Guildhall in the High Street, which contained elements dating back to the twelfth century, and which was demolished in 1951.

However ambitious plans for a new ring-road encircling the city were put in place in 1945, which would require the demolition of many historic buildings undamaged by the bombing. It was planned in three stages; the first, Reims Way, opened in 1963 after the destruction of Wincheap Green for a new roundabout close by Canterbury Castle. The second stage, running along the southern stretch of the city wall from Wincheap Green to Broad Street, covered over the then still extant city moat and necessitated the demolition of even more historic buildings, such as the Georgian public house at the end of Burgate, pulled down in 1969.

In the mid-1950s the programme of slum clearance recommenced (it had been halted in 1938 because of the threat of war). Many of the sites cleared of such properties were not immediately redeveloped but remained open ground for many years.

In the war-damaged areas of the city, redevelopment also started in earnest in the mid-1950s, with new building programmes at the Longmarket, Lady Wootton's Green, St George's and Whitefriars, with the huge Ricemans store completed in 1962 and the controversial multi-storey car park in 1969.

Thus throughout the late 1950s and 1960s, redevelopment of bomb damage, the construction of the ring-road and slum clearance did great damage to the buried archaeology and standing fabric of the historic city, coupled with seemingly unnecessary demolition of surviving medieval buildings like those at 32–33 High Street in 1969. By the early 1970s it was estimated that around 25 per cent of Canterbury's historic core had been destroyed without record.

The growing realisation that post-war developments were presenting an unprecedented threat to buried history in the urban environment was not restricted to Canterbury, however. In 1972 the Council for British Archaeology's Urban Research Committee published 'The Erosion of History', which dramatically set out the speed of destruction of Britain's historic urban heritage. Full-time archaeological units were set up in a number of English cities in the same year such as the York

Longmarket: 1990

One of the areas devastated in the bombing of 1942 was the Longmarket. The earliest archaeological excavations in wartime Britain took place along Butchery Lane on its western side. Between 1944 and 1948, the Canterbury Excavations Committee exposed part of a Roman town-house with tessellated floors. These were later displayed as the 'Roman Pavement' beneath 1950s shops.

In 1990 the area was cleared for redevelopment and the mosaics protected in preparation for display in a new museum. Excavation discovered late Iron Age occupation and early Roman timber buildings beneath a courtyard and bath-suite associated with the 'Roman Pavement' town-house. Parts of heated rooms linked to a stoke-house were recorded. A second property (perhaps a shop) lay to the north and beyond this a street flanked by drains, aligned parallel with Burgate.

Three early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings and two later Anglo-Saxon cellared structures cut through the Roman levels. Above these was uncovered a fascinating sequence of property boundaries, foundations, wells and hundreds of rubbish pits, dating from the early twelfth century onwards. In the period up to 1200 the greater part of the block was owned by the monks of Christ Church. Their rentals provide evidence of wealthy and influential tenants, including Theoric the Goldsmith, who leased two properties and a stone house. Land between his house and one against Butchery Lane (then Sunwine's Lane) contained evidence of metalworking: ovens, furnace lining and crucible fragments. Through successive centuries excavated remains indicated mixed residential, retail and workshop use and though buildings along the road frontages were regularly rebuilt, property boundaries reflected those recorded in the priory rentals for centuries.

Paul Bennett

Archaeologist Wendy Murphy recording the Roman Pavement.

St George's Church, Canterbury: 1991

The development of a medieval church, known today primarily by its surviving clock tower, was revealed through excavation prior to redevelopment of the site for new shops and offices. Ten phases of the church of St George the Martyr were identified north and east of the clock tower, the earliest probably dating to the second half of the eleventh century and comprising a simple two-cell structure with a nave and apsidal-ended chancel. This modest structure was rapidly enlarged, first with the addition of a north aisle and subsequently, in the twelfth century, by more elaborate works which included the construction of a new chancel, possibly with a triconch apse. The church was progressively enlarged through the centuries and remained in use until it was gutted by fire during an air-raid on 1st June 1942. When it was demolished during post-war clearance, only the late fourteenth-/early fifteenth-century tower, originally positioned at the western end of the nave, was left standing as a landmark in the city.

Not only medieval remains were revealed at the site, however. Beneath these a Roman street was uncovered, together with a metalled courtyard and a rectangular masonry building of mid third-century date measuring *c* 10m by 8m in plan. The exterior of the structure was exceptionally well preserved, standing to a height of up to a metre and formed of flint with double-brick string courses. Unfortunately the function of the building is unknown since its interior had been largely cut away by medieval activity, but the structure may have formed part of a prestigious town-house, perhaps associated with an apsidal-ended Roman building to the south-west which was uncovered by the Canterbury Excavation Committee in the late 1940s.

Alison Hicks

Roman clay figurine.

Archaeological Trust and the Lincoln Archaeological Trust, with substantial support from central government. Canterbury was falling behind. 1974 saw a major local government reorganisation and the creation of a conservation department at Canterbury City Council. In 1975, the third stage of the planned ring-road was cancelled, incidentally sparing the Trust's eventual home at 92a Broad Street from demolition.

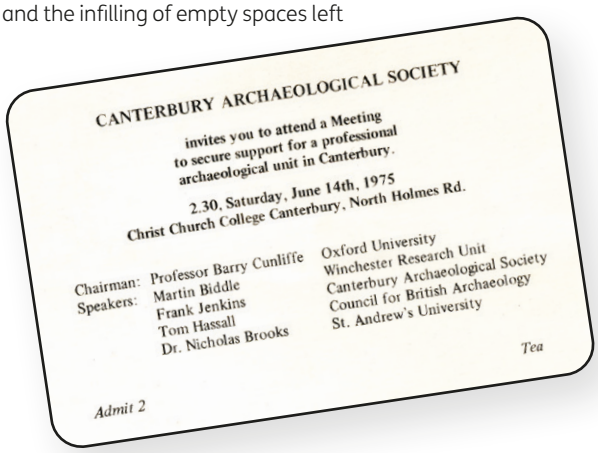
It was in this context, and with another important development planned of a major bombed-out site around the Marlowe Theatre in St Margaret's Street, that Canterbury City Council and the Canterbury Archaeological Society organised a public meeting at Christ Church College in June 1975 to discuss the possibility of forming a professional archaeological unit in Canterbury. Many eminent archaeologists, historians and politicians argued passionately and eloquently about the need for such a unit, and thus an 'Archaeological Committee for Canterbury' was established, supported financially by the Department of Environment, with a brief to appoint the first director of the new organisation, to be called the 'Canterbury Archaeological Trust'.

Thus in October 1975 Tim Tatton-Brown, famous for his excavations at Customs House in London in 1973, took up the challenge as director, though it was not until April 1976 that the Trust formally came into existence.

In the city, the first year of the Trust's existence was relatively quiet; the large scale development of the Marlowe Car Park was not scheduled to take place until 1978. Instead work focussed on the excavation of a late Bronze Age and early Iron Age site at Highstead, a few miles outside of the city.

The late 1970s saw a focus on sites in the heart of the ancient city, first on the site of the Roman temple precinct and theatre in Castle Street and the extensive excavations on the Marlowe Car Park. The early years of the Trust were characterised by huge optimism and the immense passion, enthusiasm and dedication of the staff, who often worked in the evenings or at weekends for no pay, whether that be at the Roman bath-house revealed in St Margaret's Street or monitoring the construction of Canterbury's by-pass.

The pace of the post-war redevelopment of Canterbury was accelerating, with new infrastructure and the infilling of empty spaces left



CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

invites you to attend a Meeting
to secure support for a professional
archaeological unit in Canterbury.

2.30, Saturday, June 14th, 1975
Christ Church College Canterbury, North Holmes Rd.

Chairman: Professor Barry Cunliffe — Oxford University
Speakers: Martin Biddle — Winchester Research Unit
Frank Jenkins — Canterbury Archaeological Society
Tom Hassall — Council for British Archaeology
Dr. Nicholas Brooks — St. Andrew's University

Tea

Admit 2

Excavation of the fourth-century Roman bath suite, at the Marlowe excavations in 1980.

in the fabric of the city by the depredations of war and slum clearance. The Trust was intimately involved in this redevelopment, doing what it could to record the buried history of the city before its destruction.

Education and community involvement were priorities for the Trust from its inception and wherever possible excavation sites were opened to the public – the gift of a small caravan by Tate & Lyle allowed an exhibition of finds to be made available to visitors at the Marlowe excavations and elsewhere.

The work of the Trust was widely appreciated by the general public and was featured on the Radio 4 programme 'Origins' and the BBC television series 'Chronicle'. In 1979 the Prince of Wales visited the Trust's excavations and a major exhibition of the Trust's work was mounted at the Royal Museum; in the same year the Trust was awarded the 'Silver Trowel Award' at the British Archaeological Awards ceremony held at the British Museum. Also in 1979 Parliament passed the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act in which the Trust was identified as the statutory investigating authority for the city.

Thus the early years of the Trust were marked by spectacular new discoveries, both in the city itself and elsewhere in the district as at Highstead, Sandwich and Bekesbourne; widespread recognition by the general public, the media, the professional and academic archaeological world and by both local and central government; diversification of its activities into education and historic building recording; the leasing of offices at 92a Broad Street and accommodation for its excavation teams in Lower Chantry Lane and its very own vehicle (a bright yellow Bedford Dormobile donated by the Canterbury Archaeological Society).

However, notwithstanding these successes, funding remained very tight. Despite an annual grant from Canterbury City Council towards establishment costs, developer grants towards excavation costs were not always forthcoming and in any event were not intended for post-excavation study and publication. In the changing political climate of the late 1970s, central government funding for such work began to dry up. By 1981, many members of the Trust staff had to be made redundant, though excavation continued thanks to funding from the Manpower Services Commission and unpaid volunteer work.

The early 1980s were dominated by financial difficulties, with the Trust making a loss in successive years. Notwithstanding this, important achievements continued to be made: the publication of the first two volumes of the 'Archaeology of Canterbury' monograph series; a major exhibition of the Trust's historic building recording work at the Royal Museum; and another royal visit, this time by the Queen of Denmark.

Marlowe: 1978–1982

Five large open-area excavations investigated prior to the construction of the Marlowe Arcade, uncovered an immense wealth of archaeological remains spanning two millennia. These were published in 1995 together with the post-war excavation in the area by Sheppard Frere and the Canterbury Excavations Committee. The earliest phase of occupation, perhaps belonging to the very first Canterbury, comprised part of an enclosure defined by three ditches with staggered entrances. Within this were at least two circular huts dating from the late first century BC. The site was cleared *c* AD 80 for Roman timber buildings, followed in the early second century by intersecting streets forming part of the town grid, flanked by the massive masonry foundations of the public baths and a number of town-houses and shops. By the mid fourth century, whilst some buildings were abandoned, others were extended and new buildings were added to the grid. Occupation continued elsewhere, culminating with remarkable evidence for early fifth-century retail occupation found within and outside the late *portico* of the baths, by then long in disuse.

After a brief period of abandonment, occupation was resumed from *c* AD 450. Over thirty Anglo-Saxon timber structures were excavated, all sited away from decaying Roman buildings.

Continuous occupation was attested from *c* AD 700, with the development of a new pattern of streets and lanes. In the late Saxon period a timber church was built. Re-built in timber on the same site in the post-conquest period, St Mary Bredin Church moved to a new site against Rose Lane and was rebuilt in masonry in *c* 1200. Whilst a number of medieval road frontage buildings were investigated, the excavations fell mainly in back garden areas where large numbers of rubbish pits defined property boundaries dating back over 900 years.

Paul Bennett

Site directors Kevin and Marion Blockley lifting the Roman horse harness (1979).

With the completion of the excavations at the Cakebread Robey and Marlowe sites in 1982 the pace of development slowed in Canterbury. New developments were postponed and only small scale work was available. It seemed likely that the Trust would have to close down and the city would be without archaeological coverage, a return to the situation in the 1950s and 1960s when so much was lost without record.

This parlous state of affairs inspired a campaign of action to help support the Trust. Questions were asked in the House of Lords, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, offered to write a letter to *The Times*, supported by members of the city council and the Vice-chancellor of the University. In addition, a new body was created, the 'Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust', which attracted over 300 members in its first month and remains an important part of the Trust to this day.

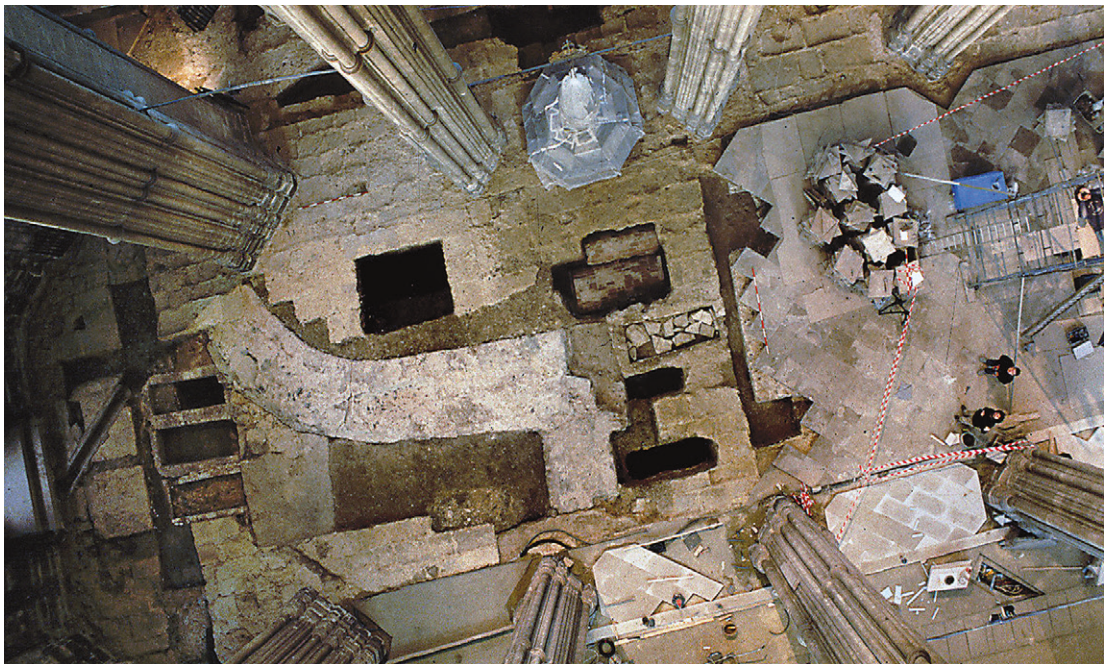
It was in this context that Tim Tatton-Brown, the first Director of the Trust resigned his position in October 1985, frustrated in particular by the lack of support from central government. Paul Bennett agreed to step into the breach and took up the reins of an organisation that still had a very uncertain future...

1986–1996

However, by the late 1980s the tide turned once again, with Canterbury facing an 'unprecedented building boom'. Large scale excavations were once again a feature of the urban cityscape, this time at St Gregory's Priory in Northgate and the Longmarket, where the unloved shops and offices built in 1955 were demolished for redevelopment. It was a sign of a new vibrancy in town planning, moving forward from simply 'filling the gaps' of wartime bomb damage and post-war slum clearance. The Trust was intimately bound up in this new wave of development; there was a changing perception of the city as a 'retirement town' with an emphasis on tourism and retail shopping. As well as redevelopment of areas like Longmarket, new residential units were being built or planned in many parts of the city, with domestic and rental properties all over town being upgraded, renovated, repaired, re-roofed and re-fronted. The city council was a major partner in helping ensure an appropriate response to the concomitant threat to the city's historic environment, pro-actively assisting in incorporating the opportunity (and funding) for archaeological work in the planning process (though it was still thought that the developer's responsibility for funding only extended to the fieldwork itself; money for post-excavation work and publication had to be sought elsewhere). The Trust was not only active in excavating and recording the buried archaeology in advance of destruction and surveying historic buildings before alteration, but continued and expanded its work in education and presentation of the city's long history to the general public. Thousands of people visited the

Detail of the Roman pavement.

The month of March from the 1989 calendar.



Anglo-Saxon foundations at the west end of the cathedral nave.

excavations in Canterbury. At Longmarket, a specially built public viewing platform was set up, along with a small exhibition and on-site shop, whilst guided tours of the excavation were given by volunteer guides from the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. A permanent exhibition of Canterbury's history was established on the 'Morelli bridge' linking the old Whitefriars shopping centre and the multi-storey car park and in 1989 a popular calendar was produced featuring the remarkable series of reconstruction drawings by John Bowen of the city at various points in time.

But it was not just Canterbury that was changing; new infrastructure projects were planned elsewhere in Kent, most notably the works associated with the construction of the Channel Tunnel on the south coast. By the late 1980s the Trust was a nationally respected archaeological organisation with over a decade's experience of both rural and urban archaeology of all periods, and its involvement in the Channel Tunnel development – at the time the largest ever privately funded civil engineering venture in Europe – marked a new chapter in the organisation's fortunes. The organisation and financial basis of archaeology in Britain was about to change fundamentally, and the Trust was well positioned to meet the new challenges that this would bring about.

In 1989 developers in London uncovered the foundations of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre whilst building a new office block at Bankside on the River

Channel Tunnel: 1987–1992

In 1987 the Trust embarked on its first major project outside Canterbury as a series of evaluations, excavations and building recording projects began, all in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel.

The main focus was at the Cheriton terminal site which covered a swathe of land from Dolland's Moor in the west to Holywell Coombe and Sugarloaf Hill in the east. The work, undertaken in the wettest winter in living memory and the aftermath of a hurricane, revealed twenty significant sites. Investigations at Holywell Coombe, published in 1995, revealed evidence for the first plants, insects, snails and animals to recolonise this part of Britain after the last glaciation 13,000-10,000 years ago. From this and other sites came evidence for farming settlements dating back over 5,000 years. A group of three Bronze Age burial mounds and an Iron Age settlement were found nearby on the lower slopes of Sugarloaf Hill.

One of the most extensive and long-lived settlements investigated was at Dolland's Moor. Here, occupation, including a complex field system, continued from the middle Iron Age into the mid Roman period. Other prehistoric and Roman sites were revealed across the terminal. Two rare early Anglo-Saxon buildings were found at Dolland's Moor and a mid Anglo-Saxon structure at Cherry Garden Hill. In addition to numerous medieval and modern field boundaries, a number of historic buildings were recorded and three, Mill House, Stone Farm and Longport House were dismantled for reconstruction elsewhere.

Paul Bennett

The Channel Tunnel terminal area viewed from Castle Hill.

The Dover Bronze Age boat: 1992

In 1992, the Trust discovered one of the most important prehistoric finds of post-war Europe; the Dover Bronze Age boat. Dated to 1,550 BC, a 9m length of the oak vessel was recovered, its perfectly preserved timbers testifying to the remarkable technological prowess of our Bronze Age ancestors in woodworking and boatbuilding. The study and publication of the discovery brought about a renaissance of archaeological research into prehistoric maritime connections and a coming together of terrestrial and marine archaeological traditions, along with a hugely more nuanced appreciation of the skills of prehistoric peoples. The Trust was also intimately involved in the conservation and presentation of the boat in its award-winning gallery at Dover Museum, where it can be seen today. The boat – one of the earliest sea-going boats in the world – remains at the heart of continuing research projects at an international level.

Peter Clark

The Dover Bronze Age boat *in situ*.

Thames. There was no legal protection for such discoveries, and no archaeological provision had been made as part of the planning process. The planned construction would destroy these historic remains without record. There was a public outcry, and leading theatrical figures joined street protests outside the site, leading to heated parliamentary debate. It was clear that the threat to Britain's buried historic environment by development was uncontrolled, despite the local successes built on goodwill and co-operation that the Trust had established in Canterbury. Thus in November 1990 the Government published its 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 16' or, as it became known, 'PPG16'. This required local councils to incorporate archaeological considerations into the planning process; if a development was to impact upon the buried historic environment, then important remains should be preserved if at all possible. In other cases, development could proceed after excavation and recording. Importantly, the costs of such work were the responsibility of the developer, including the costs of post-excavation and publication.

When it first appeared, PPG 16 was warmly welcomed by the British archaeological community as a positive outcome after many years of lobbying and discussion. Archaeology could now be factored in as part of a development's cost through the imposition of planning conditions, diminishing the lottery of relying on the goodwill of individual developers for assistance and lessening the dependence of professional archaeologists on central government funding for post-excavation work. In Kent a County Archaeologist was appointed by Kent County Council, whilst in Canterbury the new guidelines were rapidly adopted into a planning procedure that already recognised the value of archaeology.

This, however, occurred as Britain entered a major economic recession and the outlook for the Trust looked bleak; the previous recession at the start of the 1980s had almost led to the disbandment of archaeological provision for the district and there was disquiet that even with the introduction of PPG 16, a professional archaeological unit in Canterbury was only possible within a healthy development environment. Happily, the pessimism felt by many at the beginning of the 1990s proved unfounded, and the Trust entered a period of major excavations and new discoveries of national and international importance.

Further work associated with the Channel Tunnel, this time building a new road from the port of Dover to the new facilities in Folkestone involved a whole series of

Finds from Buckland Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

Monkton – Mount Pleasant: 1994

Plans to widen the A253 road between the Monkton and Mount-Pleasant roundabouts on the Isle of Thanet led to the excavation of a linear strip of land 3km long and roughly 30m broad, the first time archaeological work on such a scale had preceded a Kent road scheme. Archaeological features dating from the prehistoric to early medieval period were recorded along the entire route.

Most conspicuous was the remains of a braided trackway, adjacent to the line of the modern road. The trackway, probably originating in prehistory, appears to have influenced the layout and position of later, particularly Roman, settlements. Other prehistoric features included Neolithic inhumations and pits, an extensive pit alignment, six isolated graves and ten ring-ditches representing burial mounds of later Neolithic/early Bronze Age date.

During the early Roman period an extensive and very unusual settlement was established by the trackway, characterised by a large number of sunken-floored buildings, ancillary structures, pits and a well 40m deep. Immediately adjacent to the trackway on the fringes of the settlement, a small rectangular structure represented a roadside shrine.

A small Anglo-Saxon cemetery of eighteen inhumations was investigated at the eastern end of the scheme, while to the west, parts of a medieval farmstead with at least five timber buildings were revealed, dated to around 1100–1250.

Jon Rady

A ring-ditch is exposed as the road-line is cleared.

excavations and other interventions along the line of the route. A host of new discoveries were made during these operations, uncovering the lost medieval town wall of Dover, part of the Roman harbour works and culminating in the discovery of the Dover Bronze Age boat, a find of truly global importance. This was not the only infrastructure development in Kent however. Amongst many projects undertaken in the early 1990s, the re-routing of the A249 at Maidstone required the excavation of a Roman villa, work at the Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone revealed three Bronze Age barrows and the construction of the Medway Tunnel at Gillingham a late Iron Age round-house. Dualling of the A253 in 1994 between Monkton and Mount Pleasant on the Isle of Thanet uncovered an extensive early prehistoric landscape and (at the time) a unique early Roman settlement of sunken-floored structures. Development also continued apace in Canterbury itself. A major excavation took place on the site of St George-the-Martyr, destroyed in the 1942 bombing raid, whilst the installation of a new heating system at Canterbury Cathedral in 1993 revealed the remains of the Anglo-Saxon cathedral lying just below the nave floor of the present structure. There was also extensive retail and residential development planned throughout the city, with a whole series of open spaces – car parks – being earmarked for new construction projects, continuing the post-war renaissance that was to change the face of Canterbury. Housebuilding was also taking place elsewhere in the county; a major excavation in 1994 in advance of a new housing estate at Buckland in Dover recorded over 240 Anglo-Saxon graves. Around two-thirds of them were accompanied by rich and spectacular grave goods, one of the most important post-Roman cemeteries to be excavated anywhere in southern Britain.

1996–2006

By the time of its twentieth anniversary in 1996, the Trust was well established within the county as well as the city, dealing with the archaeological aspects of all kinds of development projects through the planning process according to the guidelines set out in PPG16. Moreover, the recognition that the post-excavation study and publication of the results of fieldwork should be included in project budgets meant that such work could be put on a firmer footing. A stable team of around 60 experienced staff with wide-ranging skills and expertise had been assembled, many of whom were able to offer their skills to expeditions and research excavations outside the UK. Trust staff participated on projects in Bahrain, Italy, Lebanon and Libya. Education remained a key element of the Trust's activities, with in-service training being offered to teachers from across the south-east and the publication of a children's book about Roman Canterbury in 1994. Historic building recording was being carried out across the county, and for the first time palaeoenvironmental analyses could be carried out in-house.

However, by the mid-1990s some misgivings were being expressed about the impact of PPG 16. On one hand, it was undeniable that the incorporation of

archaeology into the planning process had resulted in an explosion in new data about the historic environment and the financial resources to realise its potential. On the other hand the emphasis on 'preservation by record' and the default response of mitigation rather than excavation meant that a large proportion of new fieldwork consisted of small-scale evaluation trenching of limited interpretive potential. Much of the work the Trust carried out in the closing years of the twentieth century involved such small-scale work, and the delayed effects of the recession in the early 1990s meant that new developments were postponed and evaluation work rarely led to larger scale excavations. Another perceived negative about PPG 16 was the introduction of commercial competition in archaeology. Whilst the archaeological profession had welcomed the provisions of the planning guidance in 1991, few realised that the greatly increased amounts of funding for archaeological work would attract a new breed of business-orientated operators into the sector, for whom profit was of much greater importance than the academic and educational aspects of the work. The skills and experience the Trust had built up over 20 years was of little account when competing with contractors from outside the county on the basis of price alone. Moreover this commercial approach had little place for the involvement of amateur archaeologists and volunteers, making the Trust's commitment to community archaeology and education more difficult to realise.

Nevertheless, the late 1990s saw some spectacular achievements. Whilst development in general remained moribund, some major projects did take place, such as that in advance of development at Canterbury Christ Church University in 1996, which revealed nationally important evidence of Anglo-Saxon metalworking and new evidence of extra-mural settlement was recovered at Market Way on the northern side of the city where new housing was to be built. The Trust was also involved with the renovation of the Dane John Gardens in Canterbury, where survey of the mound itself clearly identified the extent of the original Norman motte and the additions made by Alderman Simmons in the 1790s.

Buckland Anglo-Saxon cemetery: 1994

Extensive excavations on Long Hill, Buckland, just outside Dover, unexpectedly revealed another large portion of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery known from excavations carried out further uphill between 1951 and 1953.

Over 240 graves were discovered. Fifteen contained more than one body. Surviving remains of 233 individuals, comprising men, women and children were examined and many were accompanied by grave offerings. The distribution of graves across the site was uneven and various discrete groupings could be discerned, perhaps representing different households.

Most bodies had been interred fully clothed and many contained objects which, it was believed, the deceased would need in the 'after-life'. Seven male graves contained a sword, which suggests that these were men of high status. Other men were provided with a spear and sometimes a shield. Women's graves included an impressive array of brooches and beads, together with a variety of other fittings and personal equipment. Poorer burials often contained just a small iron knife and a considerable number of people were seemingly interred without anything. All the 1994 graves fall within the period *c* AD 450–650.

Long Hill, Buckland remains one of the most important Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemeteries to be excavated anywhere in southern Britain. The associated settlement probably lay in the valley below the site but no evidence of this has yet been found.

Keith Parfitt

Osteologist Trevor Anderson records one of the burials.

Chalk Hill, Ramsgate: 1997

The Neolithic 'causewayed enclosure' excavated at Chalk Hill, Ramsgate was not a settlement or funerary monument, but a place where early farming communities could come together at certain times for social, economic and religious reasons. The archaeologists found three concentric arcs of complex clusters of intercutting pits, full of flint artefacts and knapping debris, animal bone and pottery, much of it carefully placed in the pits and some hinting at great feasts taking place at the site. It seems that each time people gathered at Chalk Hill they dug pits and deliberately buried this material in the ground. Why they did this remains speculative: a propitiation to the Gods, or some kind of reinforcement of the link between these first farmers and the land they farmed? The site was in use for about a hundred years, between *c* 3,700 cal BC and 3,600 cal BC, the earliest 'causewayed enclosure' yet found in Britain. After the site stopped being used there was no trace of any significant human activity for the next 1,500 years, the hillside seemingly abandoned But it seems that prehistoric peoples remembered the place as a 'special place', for the archaeologists found evidence of an early Bronze Age burial mound just to the south, perhaps dating to 2,000 cal BC. From around 1,000 cal BC the site lost its special significance and the land was given over to agriculture.

Peter Clark

Cattle skull in one of the intercutting pits.

Outside of the city, new rail and road infrastructure projects required archaeological work. Excavation at Chalk Hill, Ramsgate prior to the construction of a new harbour approach road revealed an early Neolithic 'causewayed enclosure', the first to be excavated in Kent and the earliest example of such a ritual monument in the country. Elsewhere, a major excavation on the line of the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link at Saltwood uncovered a richly-furnished Anglo-Saxon cemetery. In Dover, investigations in advance of a new petrol filling station on Townwall Street recovered important new evidence for the early medieval town, whilst in Dover Museum a small team from the Trust re-assembled the Dover Bronze Age boat in time for the launch of the new Bronze Age gallery in 1999. These projects were important in maintaining continuity of work for the team in a relatively quiet period, which nevertheless saw the launch of two new publication series; the Occasional Paper series (the first volume of which, concerning the twelfth-century pottery kiln at Pound Lane, was published in 1997) and the Archaeology of Canterbury New Series, which saw the publication of the Cathedral Nave excavations in the same year.

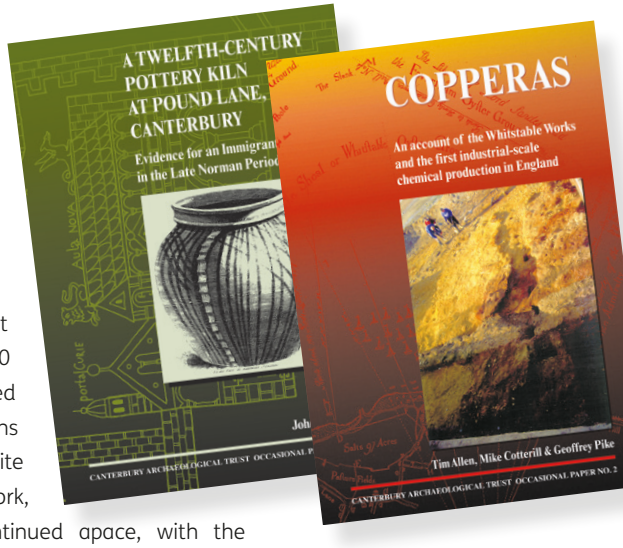
Medieval buildings being excavated at Townwall Street, Dover.

The new millennium saw the beginnings of a marked upturn in development across the county, and with it an increased demand for archaeological work. Of particular importance was the beginnings of work on the site of the Whitefriars development in Canterbury, a huge project that was to transform the face of the city, sweeping aside some of the ugliest of the immediate post-war developments and creating the extensive new shopping centre that stands to this day. It was to involve the Trust in a major campaign of urban excavation for

the next 4 years, representing one of the largest such projects anywhere in the country. The excavations were accompanied by the largest campaign of education and public outreach ever undertaken by the Trust. With financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a huge 'Titan' portakabin housed an exhibition and shop which led to an elevated walkway allowing the public an unprecedented view of the excavations as they unfolded. Dozens of volunteer guides explained the archaeology to the tens of thousands of visitors to the Big Dig, as it was known, as well as organising special events such as ancient craft demonstrations, public lectures and historical re-enactments. The TV archaeology series 'Time Team' produced a documentary about the excavations and the community participation which was broadcast in April 2002. The Whitefriars shopping centre opened in 2004 but once again the Trust's close involvement in researching and explaining the city's past was to find concrete expression in the physical fabric of the changing cityscape; etched into the paving slabs of the main pedestrian concourse of the new development are the archaeologist's plans of the ancient features that once existed there.

Though the Whitefriars excavations dominated the Trust's affairs throughout the early 2000s, there was still plenty else going on. Many of the developments planned elsewhere in the city and county that had been postponed after the recession of the early 1990s finally came on stream, requiring a whole series of excavations. New housing developments were preceded by excavations at Cobden Place, St Dunstan's Terrace, Market Way and Wincheap in Canterbury, and outside the city at Eddington, Bredgar, Hersden, Shelford Quarry, and Minster-in-Thanet. Not all the work came about through the planning process. The Trust was involved in the research excavation in partnership with the British Museum between 2002 and 2006 at Ringlemere, the findspot of the famous Bronze Age gold cup unearthed in 2001, whilst a number of small-scale excavations were carried out at various locations around the city (Tyler Hill, Greyfriars Gardens and Stour Street) as part of the 'Time Team Live Weekend' in August 2000.

The Trust was bigger than it had ever been, with up to 60 archaeologists being employed on the Whitefriars excavations alone. Nevertheless, despite such a busy period of fieldwork, post-excavation studies continued apace, with the publication of St Gregory's Priory in 2001 and reports on the copperas industry at Whitstable and the technical monograph on the Dover Bronze Age boat in 2004.



The first two publications in the Occasional Paper series.

Education and outreach activities were not restricted to the Big Dig at Whitefriars. In 2001 a companion volume to the popular children's book *Roman Canterbury* was published, this time looking at the history and archaeology of the city in the Middle Ages, *A journey to medieval Canterbury*. Three years later, with financial help from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Trust launched its CAT KITs, an innovative teaching resource that brought real archaeological objects into the classroom. They proved an immediate hit with teachers in schools from all over Kent and which are still in use today. The Trust's education officer also starred in a TV documentary about Roman Canterbury made by the BBC for use in primary schools.

The Trust was also busy in many other areas. A major international conference on Bronze Age cross-channel connections was organised in 2002 with the Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust in Dover to mark the tenth anniversary of the boat's discovery, the proceedings of which appeared in print in 2004. In Canterbury itself,

Nave of the friary church, Whitefriars, under excavation.

The Roman wall tower, Whitefriars excavations.

the Trust again made its mark on the modern city in 2002, working with Canterbury City Council to establish a 'City Wall Trail', a colourful information booklet that led the visitor on a walk around the city walls, explaining their importance at different times in history and complementing a series of seventeen information boards sited at strategic points around the circuit. This work was part of the 'Historic Fortifications Network', a collaboration between seventeen historic towns in Kent, Nord-Pas-de-Calais and western Flanders, and the first time the Trust had been involved in Interreg funding from the European Union.

Two years later the Trust was again involved in contributing to the changing face of Canterbury. The Whitefriars excavations had revealed a remarkably preserved Roman tower set against the inner face of the city wall, close by the new bus station. Together with the developers, English Heritage, the city council and others, the tower was preserved *in situ* in a specialised building accompanied by an interpretive display that today forms a permanent heritage attraction for local people and visitors alike.

2006–2016

In terms of fieldwork, the years after the end of the Whitefriars excavations continued to be busy. New landmarks were to appear in the city with the remodelling of the Marlowe Theatre in The Friars; the construction of the new library complex for Canterbury Christ Church University at Augustine House; the refurbishment of the Beaney Institute and the redevelopment of St Lawrence Cricket Ground. All were preceded by important archaeological excavations. Outside the city important new discoveries were made at Ellington, Hersden, Holborough Quarry, Minster-in-Thanet and Sittingbourne. However, the competitive environment brought about by PPG 16 coupled with a new economic recession in 2008 – the third in the Trust's history – meant that in some instances it was increasingly difficult to secure adequate funding for the

A bird's eye view of the Augustine House excavation.

The Beaney, Canterbury: 2009–2010

The archaeological investigations conducted to the rear of The Beaney took place in an area of high archaeological potential due to the proximity of one of the main thoroughfares of the Roman town and the Roman forum and basilica. In the event, the excavation revealed a complex stratigraphic sequence measuring in excess of 2.5m deep, representing activity in the area from before the Roman conquest up to the present day.

Of all the fascinating discoveries made at this site, it is perhaps the evidence from the Roman period that provides the most tangible vision of life in this area. Here, early Roman timber structures were replaced around the end of the first century by a substantial masonry building. At present, it is uncertain whether this property was a private dwelling or a municipal building.

Around the end of the second century, this building was demolished and a range of timber structures was constructed. Evocative finds, such as a gemstone intaglio found in association with metalworking waste, conjure up images of a workshop where jewellery was perhaps being broken up and recycled. Nearby, the remains of an oven were discovered suggesting a kitchen or bake-house.

Activities within what must have been a bustling industrious area at the heart of the Roman town came to an abrupt end when a fire broke out and these buildings were razed to the ground. Found in the ashes, perhaps lost as people fled the scene, was a fine gold bracelet.

Tania Wilson

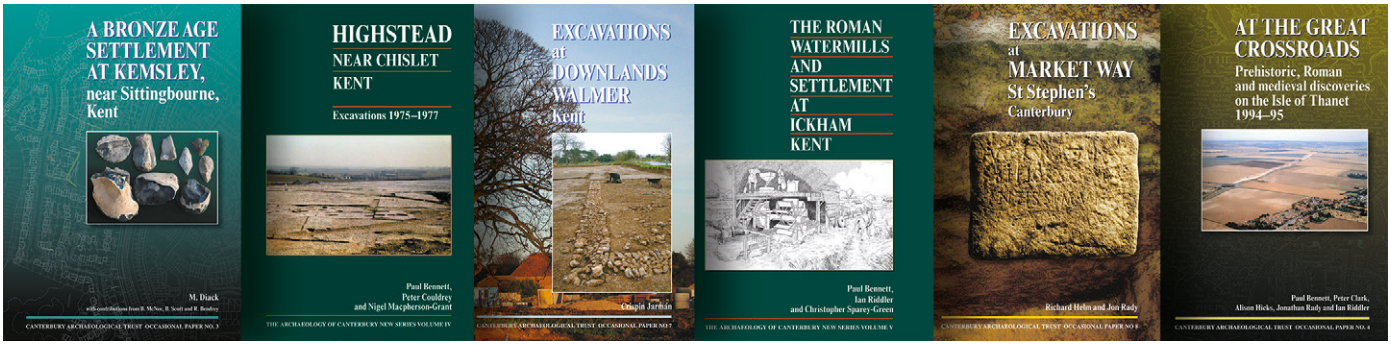
A spread of animal bones surrounding one of the ovens.

necessary archaeological work. This was particularly true for post-excavation studies and publication; in some instances developers simply refused to pay for any work once the archaeologists were off-site, making a nonsense of the planning conditions imposed on the development. The Trust worked with variable success with curators at district and county level to help the respective planning departments enforce planning conditions and disseminate new understanding of the county's historic past that had been destroyed by development. In some cases the Trust sought alternative and innovative approaches to secure resources to help realise the research potential of their discoveries and to share that knowledge with the community at large. One such innovation was 'CSI: Sittingbourne' which was launched in 2009.

The excavation of a rich Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Sittingbourne the year before had uncovered some 227 inhumation burials dating from the mid-sixth century AD to the late seventh century AD which produced over 2,500 finds, many of great importance but in dire need of cleaning, conservation and stabilisation after their long burial. The costs of undertaking such work on this nationally important, and unexpected, discovery were clearly beyond the resources available through the arrangements put in place through the planning process. To tackle this problem, the Trust joined with specialist conservator Dana Goodburn-Brown and a number of local organisations to set up 'CSI: Sittingbourne' in an empty shop at the Forum Shopping Centre in Sittingbourne itself. There, specialist conservation experts supervised and trained a team of volunteers drawn from the local community in cleaning and stabilising these precious objects, greatly reducing the funding need to do the work. An apparently intractable problem was thus transformed into a triumph of community involvement in the preservation and appreciation of their own history. This was recognised in 2012 when the project was joint winner of the International Institute for Conservation Keck Award along with the Acropolis Museum in Athens.

Other post-excavation projects were not neglected. A whole series of major excavation reports saw the light

CSI: Sittingbourne.



Publications 2006–2010.

of day, including Kemsley Fields, Highstead (the Trust's first excavation back in 1975), Downlands in Walmer, Ickham, Market Way, Monkton-Mount Pleasant, Townwall Street in Dover, Wainscott and Ringlemere. The Trust organised a second international conference in Dover about Bronze Age Transmanche connections which was published in 2009.

It was during this period that the Trust embarked on another huge excavation project, this time on the Isle of Thanet between 2007 and 2008. The construction of one of the country's largest glasshouses was to involve the development of 90 hectares of Thanet farmland (about 120 Wembley football pitches); the Trust fielded a team of around 40 archaeologists, working closely with the developers on site to record the archaeology before destruction. Complementing the results of the nearby site at Monkton excavated in 1994, the team uncovered a huge swathe of the historic landscape of the Isle of Thanet, revealing nationally important discoveries dating from the fourth millennium BC through to the fourteenth century AD and beyond.

By 2010, however, the effects of the 2008 economic recession began to make themselves felt. Construction projects and new developments across the county were cancelled or indefinitely postponed. This, of course, meant that the archaeological work associated with such development was not required, and the next few years were to prove a very difficult time for the Trust. As in the early 1980s, many Trust staff had to be made redundant or moved to a short working week. The effects of the recession affected the archaeological profession across the country, so what little work that existed was fiercely competed for, creating a downward spiral of cost-cutting and increased pressure on the Trust to abandon its traditions of high archaeological standards.

Thanet Earth: 2007–2008

The development of the country's biggest glasshouse complex between Birchington and Monkton on the Isle of Thanet was carried out in tandem with one of the largest open area excavations ever conducted in Kent. The excavations provided highly significant information on both the development of a particular landscape through time and the wider habitation of Kent and the south-east.

The earliest evidence consisted of scattered clusters of pits dating from about 6,000 years ago (early Neolithic: *c* 4,000 to 3,700 BC). These rare features provided important evidence for the earliest agriculturalists, including an unusual type of continental wheat never before recognised in Britain. Subsequent prehistoric activity was also transient, represented initially by six later Neolithic/early Bronze Age ring-ditches representing burial mounds, ceremonial enclosures and at least seven isolated graves. It is only later in the prehistoric period, by the middle Bronze Age (1,500 BC) that settlement appears more continuous. The entire area was organised into an agricultural system of ditch-and-hedge defined fields and trackways, perhaps the largest such landscape revealed in Kent to date. This agricultural use of the area has been virtually continuous until the present day, with many landscape features influenced by the position of the burial mounds and surviving over two millennia into the medieval period.

Various small settlements were found in this landscape, including an important, rare Iron Age 'village' with associated burial grounds, but it was not until the medieval period that more intense occupation and farming occurred, with a wide scatter of farmsteads and small agricultural buildings or bakeries. About 80 structures were found, most of an unusual sunken-floored design not seen before in such numbers.

Jon Rady

Two of the six later Neolithic/Bronze Age ring-ditches under excavation.

Turing College: 2013

Excavations in advance of the construction of Turing College at the University of Kent revealed an extensive settlement dated to the early Iron Age. Located along the south facing ridge of St Thomas's Hill, the site covered over 4 hectares and comprised hundreds of post-holes and pits subdivided by ditches that related to habitation and industrial activity, the nature and extent of which has not previously been seen within Kent or nationally.

Analysis is ongoing but early results indicate that the settlement may have begun in the late Bronze Age (1,000 BC) and continued through to the middle Iron Age (600 BC).

The topography of the land chosen for this settlement appears challenging. The site lay on a 3° slope and due to the underlying geology of clay with flint, was dominated by a perched water table and natural springs. But these conditions may have been an attraction. Close proximity to water and clay was desirable for the manufacture of pottery, while the natural slope of the land acted as a funnel to feed charcoal clamps, pottery kilns and potential early forms of metalworking furnaces with fast flowing air. Although the ground would have been boggy during winter and no good for the cultivation of crops, it lent itself to rich grass pasture for livestock. Within the settlement fenced enclosures would have corralled and managed animals, while springs and the numerous two-posted structures would have been utilised for the manufacture of textiles.

Ross Lane

The excavation, looking south across the Stour valley.

Despite this gloomy state of affairs, the Trust did manage to secure a number of small to medium scale projects both in the city and elsewhere in Kent that produced significant results. Of particular importance was the large scale excavations in advance of the construction of Turing College at the University of Kent in 2013 where a relatively large team of archaeologists revealed extensive and critically important new discoveries relating to the Iron Age origins of the city.

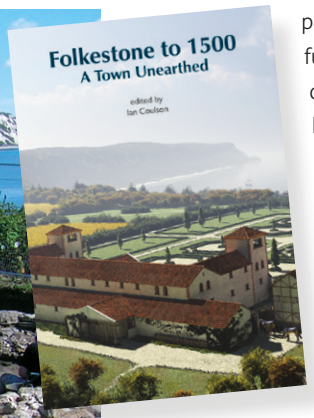
Whilst work on post-excavation projects complemented this fieldwork, and the demand for historic building surveys remained strong, the archaeologists at the Trust responded to this challenge by expanding and diversifying their involvement in projects outside of the planning process.

In the first instance, and as a natural expansion of the Trust's extensive work in outreach and education throughout the county over the preceding 35 years, new community archaeology projects were devised and implemented, drawing on alternative sources of funding not associated with the construction industry.

Perhaps most notable amongst these was 'A Town Unearthed' in which the Trust joined with the local people of Folkestone, Canterbury Christ Church University and other organisations in Kent to explore Folkestone's early history and archaeology – focussed on the excavation of the Roman villa eroding into the sea at East Wear Bay – and to engage the local community in an enhanced appreciation of the past and its relevance to the present. In the event, the project ran for 3 years between 2010 and 2013, actively involving over 600 people and touching many thousands more through its outreach and educational programme, not least through the publication of a highly popular book 'Folkestone to 1500: A Town Unearthed' at the end of the project.

The great success of this project encouraged Trust archaeologists to pursue similar projects and today community archaeology, always a key element of the Trust's activities, has become an important complement to development-led fieldwork and research. In addition to these community partnerships – most recently exemplified by the 'Up on the Downs' initiative and the community work at Westgate Parks in Canterbury – in 2013 the Trust launched a series of training courses covering a wide range of archaeological topics aimed at the general public which proved so popular

Back to work at Thanet Earth.



Volunteers excavating the north-east wing of the villa at East Wear Bay, Folkestone in 2010.

they have become an annual fixture. In recent years the Trust has also sought funding for pure research projects, again in partnership with other institutions, such as the 'Stour Basin Palaeolithic Project' and the 'Assessment of Terrestrial Minerals and the Archaeological Record' amongst others, thereby both pursuing the Trust's charitable aims of furthering knowledge of the county's archaeology and disseminating that knowledge as well as diversifying its potential revenue streams.

Between 2011 and 2014 the Trust instigated and was a leading partner in the European project 'Boat 1550 BC', part funded by the European Union's Interreg programme. This involved working closely with six other institutions from three different countries (Belgium, France and the UK) in creating a major exhibition presenting the latest Bronze Age discoveries from both sides of the Channel, an exciting and innovative international programme of education and outreach, and the construction of a half scale replica of one of the Trust's most famous discoveries, the Dover Bronze Age Boat. The international contacts and friendships engendered by the project continue to this day, adding an important academic cross-border dimension to the Trust's interpretation and dissemination of knowledge of the past. Although the project finished in 2014, the boat replica is still in use, forming a popular and evocative attraction at nautical events both in the UK and on the Continent each year, an ideal centrepoint for promoting the Trust and its activities.

The Meads, Sittingbourne: 2008–2013

Three phases of archaeological excavation were conducted at The Meads, the last in 2013. Aerial photography, showing cropmarks of two probable ring-ditches within the development area and two others to the south, had highlighted the potential for prehistoric archaeology on the site.

The excavation confirmed that these cropmarks were indeed prehistoric in date and that they formed part of a significant late Neolithic/early Bronze Age monumental landscape. This was a discovery of particular importance for the Swale region, where human activity at this time remains relatively poorly understood.

In fact, discoveries of flint artefacts at the site suggest evidence for low-level activity at The Meads during the Mesolithic period, but it was during the Neolithic period that human interest in the site developed. To the north-east, the largest of the cropmarks was found to comprise the post-settings for two concentric timber circles which were encompassed by a large circular enclosure ditch. Analysis is ongoing, but initial findings suggest that it was constructed during the later Neolithic period. Artefactual evidence recovered during the excavation, including important plant remains, suggests a ceremonial use for the monument.

During the early Bronze Age two burials were interred within the monument and, to the south-west four Beaker period burials were discovered. The second cropmark was revealed to be a ring-ditch (almost certainly the remains of a round barrow) dating to the Bronze Age. By the middle to late Bronze Age, evidence suggests that cultural changes brought about a shift from ceremonial use of the area, to one of settlement and agriculture.

Tania Wilson

A bird's eye view of the excavation showing the henge.

St James's, Dover: 2015–2016

Redevelopment of the St James's area below Castle Hill in Dover has provided a rare opportunity to investigate an extensive part of the old town. This region has always been a suburb, located beyond the main settlement, but is significantly placed just inland of the seashore, between the historic town centre and the medieval castle.

During Roman times the whole area was under water and in the estuary of the River Dour. As the estuary gradually silted-up, habitation became possible. This seems to have begun during Norman times and continued until by the nineteenth century the entire region was densely packed with streets, houses, shops pubs and the grand Burlington Hotel. However, this part of Dover was extensively damaged by enemy action during the Second World War and in post-war rebuilding virtually all the historic streets and buildings were swept away, to be replaced by a new town layout little influenced by its predecessors.

The Trust's extensive investigations mean that for the first time since the 1950s it is possible to visualize something of the former density of buildings across this part of old Dover. The lines of now lost St James's Street, Russell Place, Arthur's Place and Golden Cross Passage, together with their associated buildings have been relocated. Traces of much older roads and buildings, dating from as early as the thirteenth century, have been discovered below.

Keith Parfitt

Excavating the complex medieval and post-medieval sequences in the heart of historic Dover.

Thus in its 40th year the Canterbury Archaeological Trust can look back on four decades of remarkable achievement, with over 1,100 published reports, nearly 3,000 unpublished technical reports and countless historic building surveys, educational events, television and radio documentaries, exhibitions, public lectures, guided tours, national and international conferences, and innumerable public information leaflets and flyers. The Trust is embedded in the community it serves, with a close working relationship with schools, universities, colleges, museums, local government, fellow archaeological organisations and local societies, local and national media and above all the general public who have over the years flocked in their thousands to the many open days, lectures, courses, exhibitions and other events to engage with and learn more about our shared historic heritage. The quality of the Trust's work is professionally respected both nationally and internationally, whilst its commitment to high ethical and professional standards in the bitter competitive world of commercial business has won it friends in all walks of life. Its passionate and dedicated team of professional archaeologists offer a wellspring of expertise about the county's archaeology that is second to none, and their loyalty and willingness to go 'the extra mile' when need be has contributed enormously to enhancing our understanding of the historic environment for the good of all. The Trust remains part of the fabric of both city and county, not just as a long-serving player in the social and educational life of the local community, but also in the material fabric of the city itself, balancing the new and changing cityscape with an appreciation of the city's long history, expressed in new exhibitions, museums and installations that add depth and awareness of that history to both modern-day residents and visitors. The story of the Trust is not over yet; its core values of good professional archaeology, pro-active engagement in educational activities and community involvement remain as important as ever as the changing face of Kent and Canterbury continues to place our heritage under threat at the same time as offering new opportunities to learn more about our shared history. What new stories will we be able to tell 40 years from now?

Peter Clark

The replica Dover Bronze Age boat on one of its sea voyages.

This story of the Trust is from the publication which accompanied the exhibition, *40years: Canterbury Archaeological Trust*. Use this link to see the whole publication, with articles covering other aspects of the Trust's background:
https://cf851a76-4040-4f57-bee5-552912b12338.usrfiles.com/ugd/805c19_e21433dc38a64432bbbe07823314017a.pdf