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INTERIM REPORT ON WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1992 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST*

I. EXCAVATIONS

1. A20 – Dover Sewers Project

The early stages of the continuing large-scale project at Dover and the fully integrated approach to the archaeology being adopted were described in last year's report.¹ The work has concentrated on the line of the new A20 road and sewer where it cuts through most of the maritime quarters of the old town. Both formal excavations and watching briefs have taken place along a corridor some 2 km. in length and 0.5 km. in width, and so far twenty individual sites/areas have been investigated and recorded.²

A principal research element of the project is a detailed study of the succession of sediments which have accumulated within the Dour valley, a study led by Dr. Martin Bates and a team from the Geo-archaeological Service Facility at University College London. Examination of the deep sections provided in contractors' cuttings has been supplemented by bore-hole sampling across most of the project area.

Several lengths of the seaward-facing medieval town wall have been examined and further sections will probably be revealed as the road works continue. Traces of the Boldware Gate which led through

* The following summary of work carried out in 1992 has been prepared by Dr Frank Panton and Jane Elder from reports submitted by members of staff during the year. Fuller versions of these reports by individual authors will appear in *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991-92 (16th Annual Report).

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, cix (1991), 317-18. For an account of early results of the palaeo-environmental work, see *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1990-91, 29-30. Examination of documentary records has only recently begun.

² These are reported summarily here; for discussion see *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991-92.

the town wall at the end of Bench Street are currently being excavated (July 1992) and elements of the overlying Elizabethan customs house were recorded during a set-piece excavation at the junction of Townwall Street and Bench Street.

The Bench Street and Fishmonger Lane area was still part of the Dour estuary in Roman times,³ but recent evidence suggests that during the medieval period natural silting and deliberate infilling made the area dry land and habitable.

Walls, pits and deposits dating from A.D. 875 to A.D. 1275, together with a medieval undercroft have been found in the area and watching brief operations have noted traces of medieval and post-medieval street metallings together with levelling deposits over estuarine silts. Similarly, in Fishmonger's Lane, a sequence of medieval deposits was found to extend eastwards. Palaeo-environmental samples and twelfth-century pottery from the base of the sewer trench suggest a post-Norman date for reclamation in the area. Observations in the bed of the River Dour of riverside walling and the identification of probable medieval work in the Flying Horse Lane bridge may show that by the later medieval period much of the old estuary had been reclaimed with the river confined roughly to its present course.

To the west, in the area of the 'Pier District' and 'Paradise Basin'⁴ abundant traces of post-medieval dwellings were exposed, but nothing was seen of earlier date. A rubbish pit containing a large quantity of early eighteenth-century clay pipe-making debris was recorded in Limekiln Street.

In the area known as 'the Graves', on the Western Heights overlooking the Pier District, traditionally thought to be the site of Dover's seventeenth-century plague cemetery, only two brick-built burial vaults and a gravestone of the eighteenth/nineteenth century were observed and recorded.

Work associated with the rebuilding of the Archcliffe Fort entrance bridge revealed evidence for material of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries within the nineteenth-century structure. A fragment of stone wall, possibly dating to the seventeenth century and perhaps part of an outer gateway was recorded north of the fort.

³ S.E. Rigold, 'The Roman Haven of Dover', *Arch. Journ.*, cxxxvi (1969), 78-100.

⁴ M. Biddle and J. Summerson, 'Dover Harbour' in (Ed.) H.M. Colvin, *History of the King's Works, Vol. 4 (2) 1485-1660, 729-768* (1982); D. Wilkinson, *Historic Dover: An Archaeological Implications Survey of the Town*, (Oxford Archaeological Unit, 1990), 18; A. Macdonald, 'Plans of Dover Harbour in the Sixteenth century', *Arch. Cant.*, xlix (1937), 108-126, for earlier maps; *Canterbury's Archaeology 1990-91*, for discussion of the area.

Above Archcliffe Fort the late nineteenth-century South Lines Gun Battery was investigated before demolition. Four previously unknown gun positions were recorded and three distinct phases of development were identified.

2. St. George-the-Martyr, Canterbury

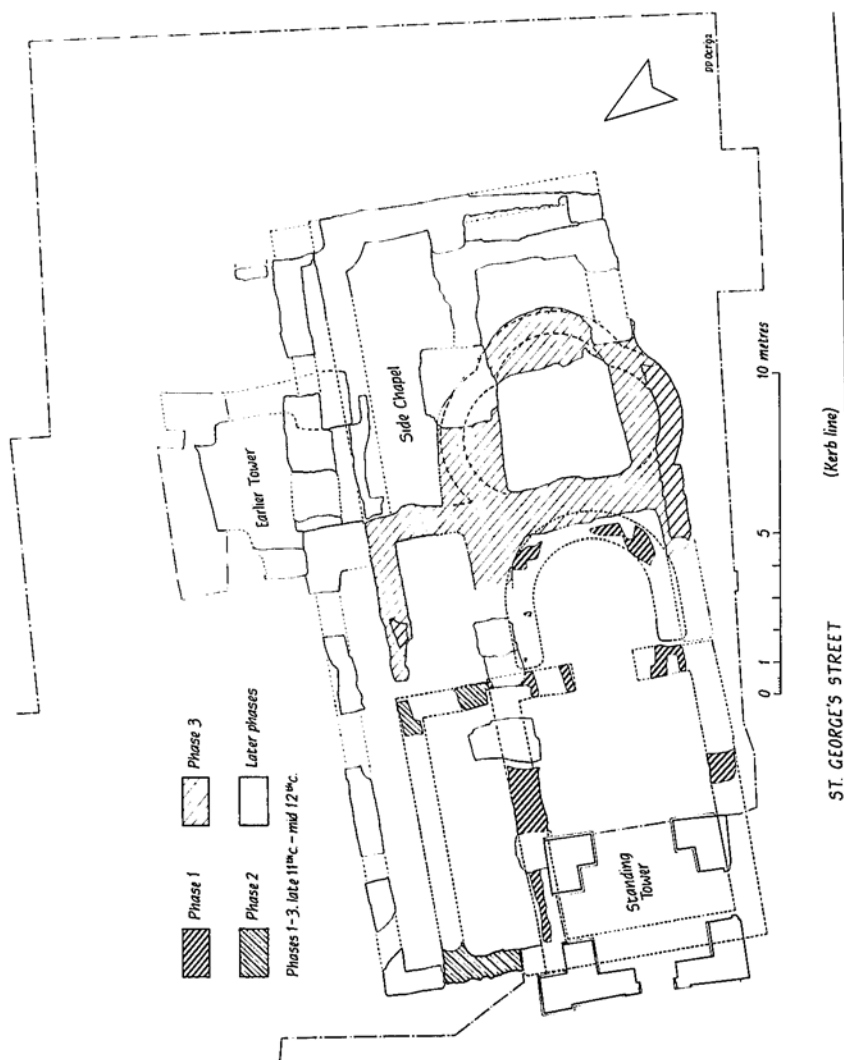
The first stage of the archaeological investigation began while clearance was still under way of post-war shops built on the site of St. George's Church after it had been destroyed by an air raid in 1942. Six trenches were excavated within the former cemetery area of the church and nearly 100 skeletons were recovered; many appeared to be of post-medieval date. Slight evidence of earlier industrial activity was found in the base of one of the trenches.

Excavations proper began in June 1991 and continued until January 1992. Two large trenches were opened. One covered the area of the former church and part of the rectory and ran parallel to St. George's Street. The second ran parallel to Canterbury Lane. A watching brief was maintained during the final clearance of modern concrete foundations between the two trenches and a previously unknown and well-preserved rectangular Roman building was discovered.

The St. George's Street trench (Fig. 1)

The earliest feature uncovered was a length of truncated ditch of Iron Age or early Roman date. Above this a flint-and-tile surface was interpreted as a Roman courtyard, and traces of floors possibly associated with a Roman building were observed, mainly in the sides of later features. These were all sealed by a substantial deposit of dark soil. Between these and the first church levels were earth floors and other deposits dated by pottery to 1050–1200/1225, but little associated structural evidence.

The first church on the site was almost certainly of early Norman date. Five phases of building were identified by surviving foundations, the earliest of Anglo-Saxon tradition (Phases I and II); next, the curious 'trefoil' chancel and substantial foundations suggestive of post-Conquest date (Phase III); then, enlargement in the twelfth or thirteenth century (Phases IV–V); and, finally, in the medieval period the demolition of the northern tower and erection of the tower which stands today. Only two certain medieval burials survived Victorian rebuilding within the church, but a number of post-



ST. GEORGE'S STREET
(Kerb line)

Fig. 1. St. George's Church: Plan.

medieval burial vaults were recorded.⁵ The documented post-medieval and Victorian alterations to the church were described last year.⁶ The Victorian alterations were attested in the archaeological record, most clearly by their heavy truncation of earlier levels. Some features relating to the former Rectory were excavated to the north of the church.

The Canterbury Lane trench

The 1991 excavations produced nothing to contradict the theory indicated by previous excavations⁷ that the area under discussion probably lay beyond the confines of pre-Roman settlement. Evidence for early Roman activity just west of the trench, in the form of a north-east/south-west aligned street,⁸ was strengthened by the discovery of a small subcircular structure close to the western edge of the trench, provisionally dated by pottery to A.D. 50–80. Apart from a large clay extraction pit there was no other evidence for early Roman activity.

Parts of a north-west/south-east aligned Roman street, which ran perpendicular to and east of the earlier street, were uncovered together with a timber building on its south-west side. These features probably date to the mid second century. A substantial number of finds were excavated from occupation deposits within the street metallings, including a Roman mirror fragment and a ceramic horse statuette, only the second of its kind found in Canterbury.⁹

A small rectangular structure, cut into the road metallings at the junction of the two Roman streets, was tentatively dated to the mid fifth century, suggesting that occupation of the area continued after the breakdown of Roman civic discipline.¹⁰ A cobbled surface, similar to that found covering dark earth deposits close by,¹¹ and considered to be of ninth- or tenth-century date, was recorded in the north-east part of the trench. Post-holes and beam-slots relating to early medieval structures cut this cobbled surface. Rubbish and cess pits, from medieval to seventeenth-century date, and some traces of

⁵ For discussion, see Trevor Anderson, *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991–92.

⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, cix (1991), 311–17.

⁷ S.S. Frere and S. Stow, *Excavations in the St George's and Burgate Street Areas* The Archaeology of Canterbury VII (1983); P. Blockley, 'Excavations at No. 41 St George's Street, Canterbury, 1985', *Arch. Cant.*, cv (1988), 59–178.

⁸ Frere and Stow *op. cit.*, note 7, 70.

⁹ F. Jenkins, 'The Horse Deity of Roman Canterbury', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxvii (1962), 142–7.

¹⁰ Frere and Stow *op. cit.*, note 7, 73.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 88–9.

timber-framed structures were excavated over the entire area. Later deposits in the trench were extensively truncated by the concrete floors and foundations of the post-war development.

The Roman building

Remains of a Roman period building were discovered during the machine removal of soils below the former rectory and the north-west corner of the church and hurriedly investigated during the final weeks of the excavation. The building measured 7.82 m. × 9.63 m. Its walls, which survived to a considerable height (up to 1.20 m.), were constructed of flint with double courses of Roman brick. It appeared to have had a raised timber floor. Two small lengths of masonry wall were discovered to the north-west, which may have been a connected small room or corridor. It is possible that the building was associated with the apsidal-ended structure discovered by Professor S.S. Frere in 1949.¹²

3. 89B Broad Street

In September 1991, an excavation was carried out at 89B Broad Street in advance of the erection of a new boarding house for the King's School. A section was cut through the ditches and sewers lying outside the city wall between Wall Towers 13 and 14,¹³ from the base of the wall to the street frontage. The shallow foundations and first four courses of the Roman city wall were uncovered together with remnants of the Roman berm and a very large, deep feature (21–22 m. wide) cutting natural brickearth which was interpreted as the Roman ditch.

A flat-bottomed feature, possibly once revetted with timber, was identified as an early medieval sewer which would have carried waste from Christ Church Priory. Prior Wibert's waterworks plan of c. 1165¹⁴ shows a supply pipe standing on a four-arched bridge just outside the *Murus Civitatis*. The outflow must have run into the ditch beside Wall Tower 14.

A second flat-bottomed ditch, much wider than the first, partly re-used the same base. Scanty ceramic evidence tallies well with that from broadly contemporary metallings close by (see below) and

¹² *Ibid.* 41–9.

¹³ For wall tower numbers see S.S. Frere, S. Stow and P. Bennett, *Excavations on the Defences of Canterbury*, The Archaeology of Canterbury, Vol. II (1982), Fig. 1.

¹⁴ R. Willis, 'The architectural History of the Coventual Buildings of the Monastery of Christ Church in Canterbury', *Arch. Cant.*, vii (1868), 196, Pl. 1, pt. 1.

indicates that it was almost certainly part of the late fourteenth-century refortification of the city. The series of gravel metallings excavated represented various extra-mural roads. Pottery associated with this road sequence was dated to c. 1375–1475.

In the post-medieval period a large drain was cut into the ditch silts some distance (6 m.) from the city wall, and replaced at a later date by a shallower one closer to the wall. In the sixteenth or seventeenth century until the early or mid nineteenth century a sequence of sewers and gullies was cut in the area. Robber trenches representing the walls of an early nineteenth-century building were recorded against the street frontage. One of the robber trenches was cut by the brick-lined Common Sewer laid in 1830.

4. St. John's Hospital Reredorter (Fig. 2)

Previous archaeological activities on the Reredorter have been reported elsewhere and a brief history of it appeared in last year's report.¹⁵ Although earlier excavations produced a singular lack of ceramic or stratigraphic evidence, a large quantity of ceramic material was recovered from sealed archaeological deposits during this further work, enabling a reasonable chronology for the reredorter to be put forward.

The excavation trench was adjacent to the south-west wall of the standing building. The original south-west wall of the reredorter stood on a trench-built foundation pierced by five arches. The first structural adaptation identified was made to arch 2, probably early in the thirteenth century in an attempt to improve drainage from the cess tank. Shortly after this (perhaps in the later thirteenth or early fourteenth century) the cess tank was completely relined, a new buttress was constructed between arches 1 and 2 (possibly to counteract subsidence) and a new leat was cut. The next modification to the building was the addition of a further more massive buttress which successfully prevented further subsidence. Ceramic material gave the buttress a late medieval date (1375–1500).

Apparently, no formal arrangement was made for the drainage of effluent from the original building, beyond the construction of the five arches within the south-west wall. Drainage must have been achieved by seepage and by intermittent irrigation through river flooding. However, the constantly rising land surface between the reredorter and the river eventually made this form of drainage

¹⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 300–1; *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 248; *Arch. Cant.*, cviii (1990), 226–31; *Arch. Cant.*, cix (1991), 300–8.

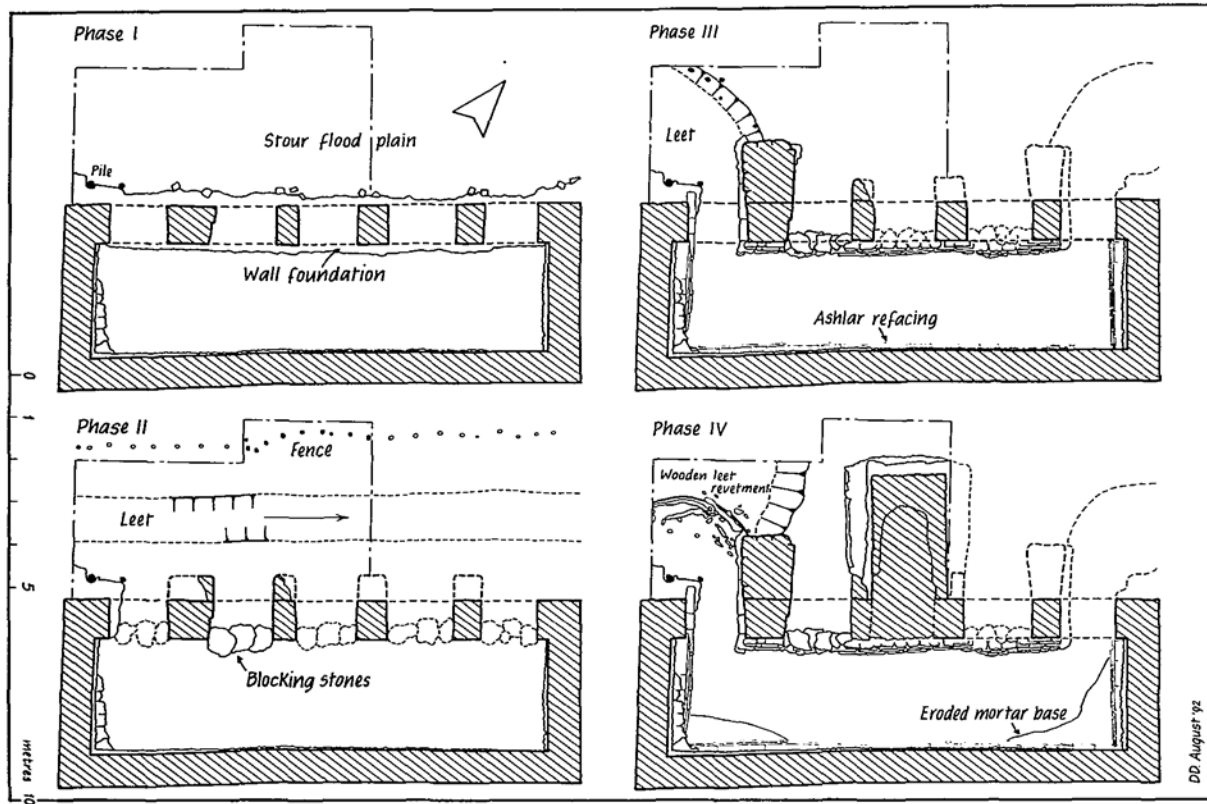


Fig. 2. St. John's Hospital: Plan.

ineffective and the first leat to aid drainage was cut sometime before the first structural modification, in the early thirteenth century. Consequent layers of silts, domestic rubbish and river flood debris suggest that these early attempts at drainage were not entirely successful. A new leat was cut around the same time as the construction of the massive buttress (1375–1500), and this seems to have functioned, with several recuts and revetments, until about 1700. The redundant leats appear to have remained an obvious landscape feature until at least the late nineteenth century. Deposits within the cess tank suggest that the reredorter remained in use after this date. The reredorter was eventually connected to the main sewer in the mid nineteenth century; it continued in use until c. 1948.

5. Spital Street, Dartford

In October 1991 an excavation at nos. 37–41 Spital Street, in advance of development and the construction of a basement car park, revealed that activity on the site commenced in the Roman period. The earliest levels consisted of a road surface¹⁶ and attendant linear ditch dating to the mid first century A.D. After a period of disuse the first of a series of yard surfaces was laid over the road. Evidence of iron-working was recovered from concentrations of slag over the latest yard surface. Later Roman occupation was attested by a group of post-holes forming the south-east corner of a structure or a fence line. Roman activity on the site then ceased.

6. Castle Hill, Folkestone (Fig. 3)

Three Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age ring ditches, first located by air photography¹⁷ and evaluated as part of the field assessment for the Channel Tunnel terminal in July 1987 were area excavated in advance of the construction of the A20 between October 1991 and March 1992.

Two ring ditches (104 and 102) were identified as possibly of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, and almost certainly represented burial mounds.

In ring ditch 104, one definite burial was located slightly off-centre of the enclosure. No associated artefacts were recovered and only a small fraction of the skeleton.

¹⁶ Substantial metallings of the type normally associated with Roman Watling Street were not encountered and the limited extent of the excavation allowed no inference to be made regarding the relationship between this early road and the alignment of Roman Watling Street.

¹⁷ Meridian Airmaps 028/74/084–086 and 111–114.

No burial or other related features were located within ring ditch 102.

The third ditch (Ring ditch 103) formed a horseshoe-shaped sub-square enclosure. Its spatial relationship with Ditch 104 probably indicated a later date, but it is not yet possible to indicate the precise chronological relationship between this ring ditch and the others. No trace of a burial was located.

A complete absence of mound material made it impossible to determine the form of any of the barrows, but the most common type, the bowl barrow, appears likely, with external banks almost certainly present in the case of barrows 104 and 102.

Some time after the complete or partial infilling of the ring ditches an extensive terrace was formed across the site, possibly related to agricultural practice. A number of early to mid Iron Age pits were cut into its base and ceramic finds indicate a date *c.* 600–400/350 B.C., or a little earlier, for its formation.

Two groups of pits excavated on a level part of the terrace at the western end of the site may have had different functions. The first group contained domestic refuse, whilst pits of the second group were all dug adjacent to one another and were remarkably similar suggesting that they were cut for a specific purpose, perhaps storage.

The occupation sequence of the site ended in a period of erosion marked by the deposition of large quantities of hill-wash, possibly instigated by over-cultivation or over-grazing and clearance during the Iron Age occupation of the area. Significant quantities of worked flint and ceramics, ranging in date from the Late Neolithic to Early to Mid Iron Age, were recovered from thick hill wash deposits, probably suggesting that multi-period occupation of some sort took place to the north of the present site. The Iron Age material is more likely to derive from occupation lower down the slope, perhaps in the area of the pit group identified in the present excavations.

No evidence was recovered for occupation of the site after the Mid Iron Age. The latest features excavated were two shallow ditches, which were probably medieval or post-medieval boundary ditches.

7. St. Martin-le-Grand, Dover (Fig. 4)

During excavations in 1974¹⁸ in a chapel attached to the south transept of the church of St. Martin-le-Grand in Market Square, Dover, three chalk tombs were uncovered. These, together with substantial remains of the church, were left exposed and are currently

¹⁸ K.A.R.U. 1974.

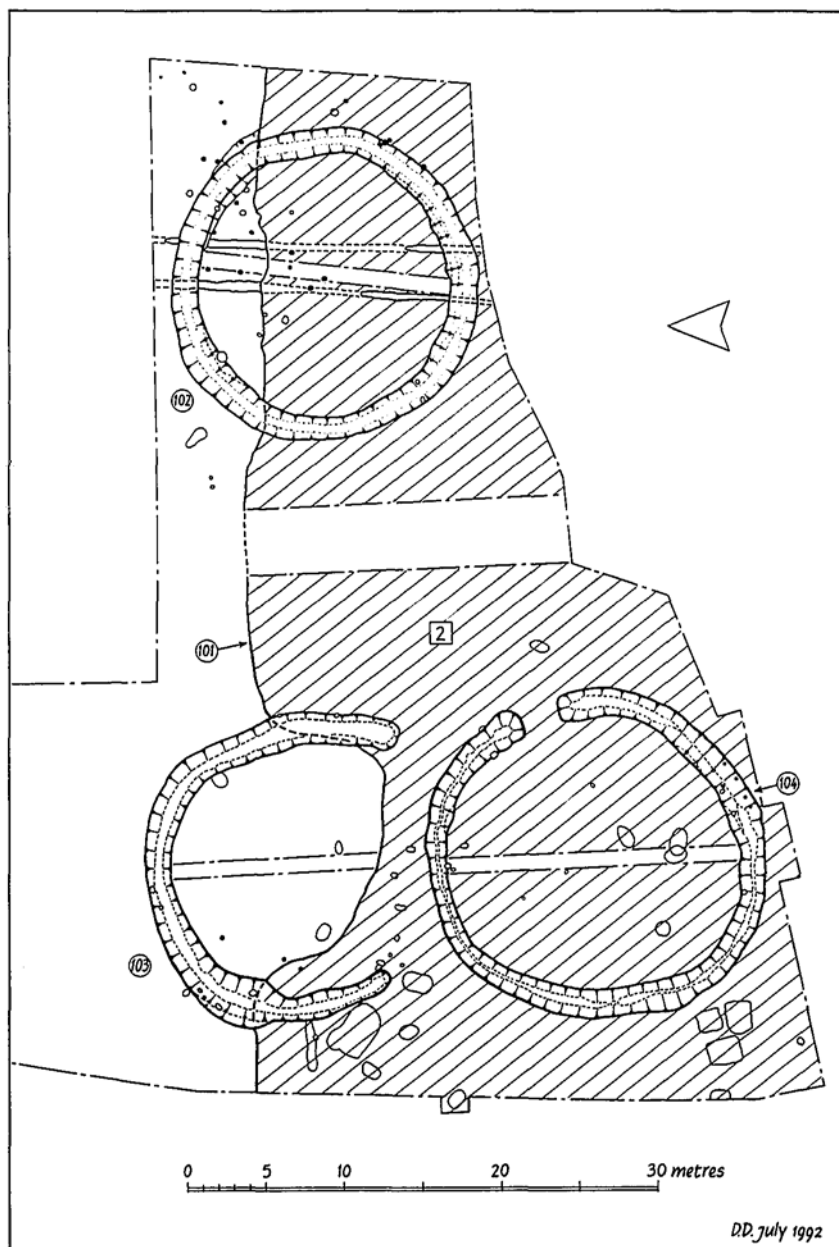


Fig. 3. Folkestone, ring ditches: Plan.

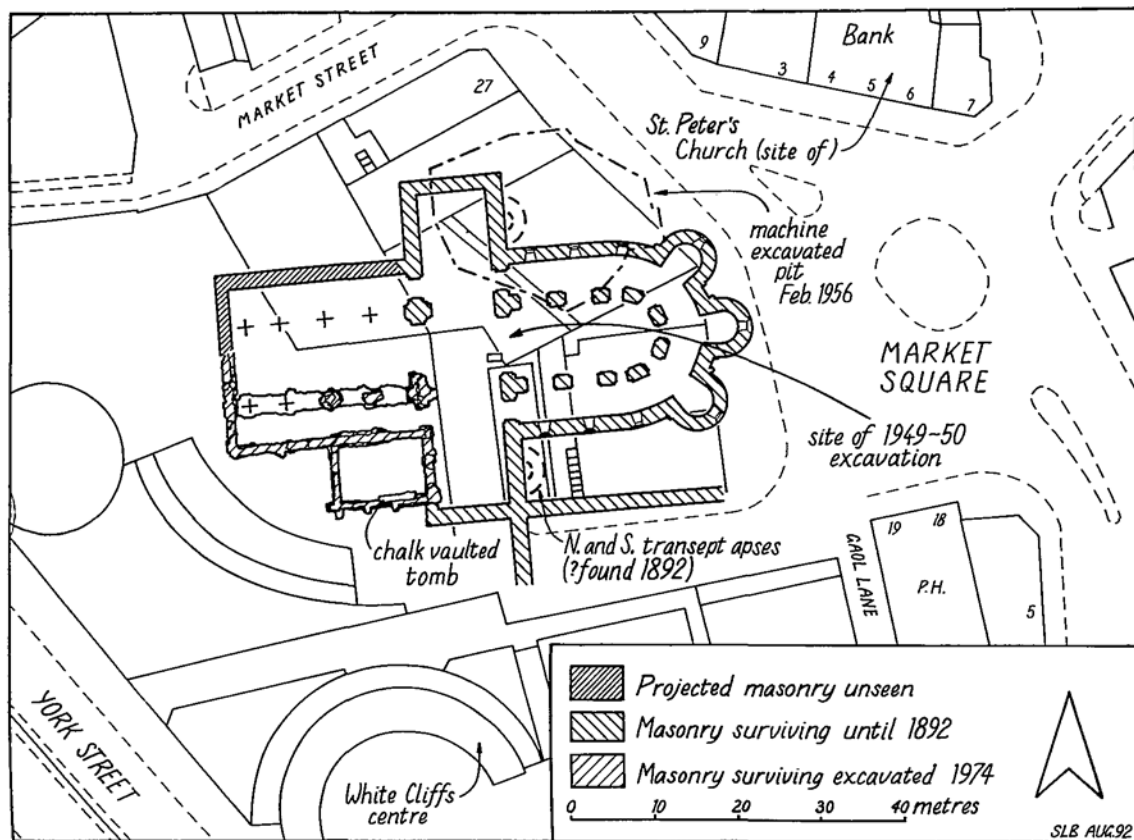


Fig. 4. St. Martin-le-Grand, Dover: Plan.

visible north-east of the White Cliffs Experience centre. At the request of English Heritage the Trust was commissioned to make a detailed photographic and drawn record of the surviving remains in preparation for emergency repairs to the fabric of the tombs. The work began in November 1991 and continued intermittently (as access was available) until the spring of 1992. At the beginning of May the poorly preserved remains of a single skeleton were recorded and excavated from one of the tombs. The remains were removed to allow conservation of the tomb to take place and the opportunity was taken to examine the skeleton.¹⁹ The skeleton will be replaced in the tomb once restoration of the tomb is complete.

8. The Wool Store, Pound Lane

A small excavation carried out in early December 1991 within the Wool Store uncovered part of the medieval city wall along the river frontage of the building as well as elements of a brick-built nineteenth-century loading bay. The work was a continuation of a programme initiated by Canterbury City Council at the beginning of the year²⁰ in order to help in an assessment of the building prior to its restoration.

9. St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks

In February 1992 a third trench was opened at St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, as a continuance of archaeological work begun last year in advance of the creation of an undercroft.²¹ The work took place against the south aisle external wall in the churchyard and highly disturbed cemetery soils were found to fill the trench. A quantity of disarticulated bones was recovered and a sequence of articulated burials recorded. Two features cutting the cemetery soils were interpreted as grave cuts, though the bones within them were redeposited. A record was made of the exposed external aisle wall. The buttress at the west end of the trench was found to be of later construction than the wall, and not bonded to it either above or below foundation level.

¹⁹ The results of this study are published in *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991-92.

²⁰ See *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1990-91, 11.

²¹ The first part of this work was reported last year, *Arch. Cant.*, cix (1991), 277-83.

II. EVALUATIONS

1. Barfreston Church (Fig. 5)

As part of drainage improvement works at Barfreston Church in May 1991, the opportunity was taken to examine and record the early footings of the church. Two small trenches were excavated, one on each side of the church at the junction of nave and chancel. In the southern trench evidence for nineteenth-century restoration work²² was also revealed and a sequence of cemetery deposits was observed, but not excavated. A plan was made of the church and churchyard.

2. A20 Extension, Phase 2: Court Wood to Aycliff

During July 1991 the second stage²³ of the Department of Transport's new A20 road from Folkestone to Dover was begun and archaeological evaluation work recommenced. Work was severely hindered by lack of time and only a cursory recovery of finds and a plotting of their position was possible. One area of ancient activity was located (at N.G.R. TR 278390). Pottery sherds spanning periods from the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (c. 2,500–1,900 B.C.) to the Late Iron Age/'Belgic' or Early Roman (c. A.D. 25–125) were recovered as well as some Mesolithic to Neolithic flint tools. Most of the early material was worn and abraded, but its presence with the later material is almost certainly indicative of a multi-period occupation site spanning over 2,500 years.

3. Dover Western Heights: Grand Shaft Barracks

In August 1991, a series of 18 deep trial pits was examined in advance of the proposed development of part of the Heights by Eurotunnel Developments Limited. Substantial remains of brick structures, all attributable to post-Napoleonic barrack buildings, were observed, as well as a deep ditch which contained such modern material as barbed wire, a Brylcreem bottle and two mortar bombs.

4. Queenborough Castle, Sheppey

In September 1991, the Trust supervised the cutting of two pairs of

²² In 1839, the church was rescued from advancing decay by a thorough and sensitive restoration which was meticulously recorded by R.C. Hussey, *Arch. Cant.*, xvi (1886), 142–51.

²³ *Arch. Cant.*, cix (1991), 284–5, for first phase works.

BARFRESTON CHURCH

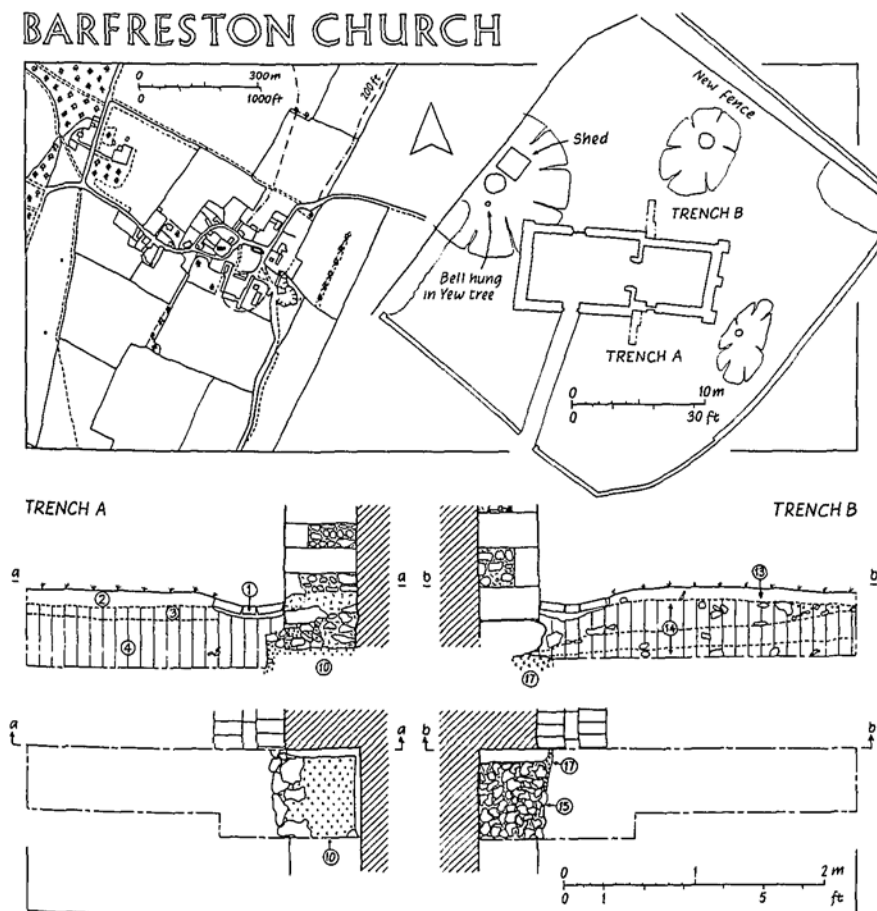


Fig. 5. Barfreston Church: Plan and Sections.

shallow slots across the car park at Queenborough Castle in advance of resurfacing to the west of the Castle Green. The four trenches yielded meagre results. An indication of the edge of a large, unidentified, feature was seen in the two eastern trenches, but all other features and deposits belonged either to the nineteenth- or twentieth-century schools on the site,²⁴ or to a structure immediately pre-dating them. During February 1992, Mr Albert Daniels of the

²⁴ For a short history of Queenborough Castle see *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991-92.

Kent Archaeological Society kindly maintained a watching brief during the resurfacing works, but no further archaeological discoveries were made.

5. Thanet Way

In early October 1991, a number of sites along the route of the proposed new section of the Thanet Way between the Church Lane/Thanet Way intersection and the Eddington roundabout, were evaluated. Nine sites were identified along the 9.5 km. route during fieldwalking late in 1990;²⁵ five were evaluated by linear trenching in October 1991. It is hoped that the remaining sites will be evaluated later in 1992.

Of the sites examined, three produced evidence for archaeological remains of some significance. At N.G.R. TR 163661 there was evidence for two phases of occupation, the first beginning as early as the first century A.D. and lasting until the second century A.D., and then re-occupation in the mid to late Saxon period (eighth/ninth century) lasting into the Early Medieval period. At N.G.R. TR 172662 a similar pattern of occupation was indicated but the remains were scattered and the site may have been badly disturbed by ploughing. The third significant discovery was at N.G.R. TR 177664. Here Mid or Late Anglo-Saxon (ninth century) settlement traces were uncovered. Topsoils in the vicinity of the same site yielded Late Bronze or Early Iron Age ceramic material.

6. Teston Roman Villa, Maidstone (Fig. 6)

In early October 1991, topsoil stripping during the emergency renewal of a sewer, approximately 0.5 km. south-east of Teston, uncovered considerable quantities of Roman building materials and pottery. An evaluation of the site by the Trust took place between 6th–8th November, 1991.

A Roman building in the vicinity of the chance finds has been known since 1872 when excavations revealed parts of a hypocausted structure interpreted as a bath-suite for a Roman farm-house.²⁶ Subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey locate the villa c. 100 m. to the west of the present site, where excavations in 1972–73 by the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group failed to locate any trace of a Roman building or any other ancient remains.

²⁵ These sites are listed in detail in *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991–92.

²⁶ A.P. Detsicas, *The Cantiaci* (1983, 1987), 142.

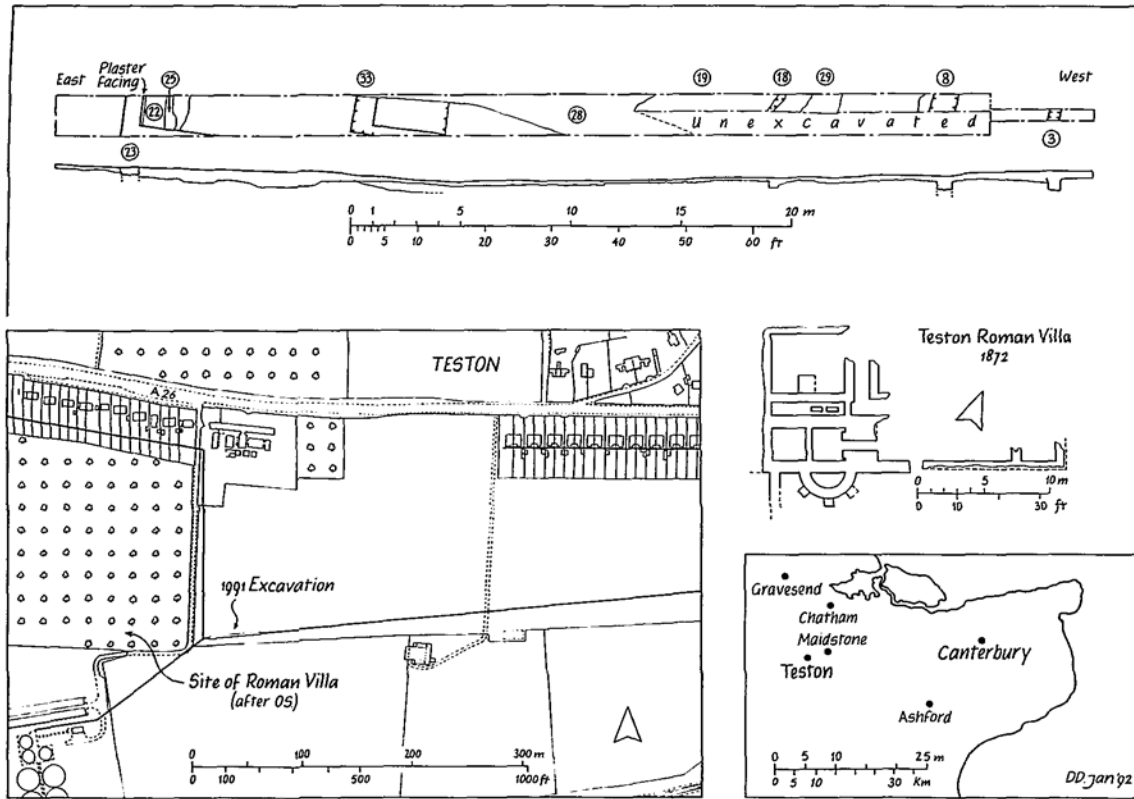


Fig. 6. Teston Roman villa: Plan.

Archaeological deposits and features existed over a 40 m. length of proposed pipe run, representing parts of a substantial Roman masonry building. The recovered foundations included parts of a possible corridor or portico with mortar floor, a courtyard and at least one *opus signinum* floor sealed by an undisturbed roof collapse. Although the remains can be interpreted as a single structure, it is more likely that, together with the remains discovered in 1872, they form part of a complex of interlinked ranges for a villa.²⁷ The entire corpus of ceramics recovered during the 1991 investigation spanned the period from the second to the fourth centuries A.D.

To protect and preserve the discovery, Southern Water and their contractor re-routed the new service.

7. Swan Lane, Little Chart

On 1st November, 1991, four trenches were excavated on the site of an old quarry c. 0.5 km. south-west of Little Chart (known as Stammers Field) in order to evaluate an area of proposed land fill development.

In 1942, the remains of a Roman domestic building were uncovered to the east of the present site. These were excavated in 1947 by the Ministry of Works.²⁸ The present exercise was intended to establish the extent of previous quarrying and to determine the location, extent, character and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. No traces of archaeological features were discerned in any of the trenches indicating that the entire land fill development area probably overlies old backfilled quarries.

8. St. Mildred's Tannery, Canterbury

In November 1991, an evaluation trench was cut in abandoned allotments on land adjoining St. Mildred's Tannery, to assess the integrity and depth below modern ground surface of significant archaeological levels in advance of a proposal to redevelop both the tannery and allotments.

A well-defined and relatively undisturbed Roman horizon was uncovered only 1.10–1.20 m. beneath present ground surface. Recorded levels consisted of a gravel-paved street running north towards Watling Street flanked by a building with a portico against the street. To the rear of the building was a courtyard and beyond that Roman garden soils.

²⁷ E. Greenfield, *J.R.S.*, li (1961), Fig. 22.

²⁸ 'A Roman Bath-house at Little Chart, Kent', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxi (1957), 130–46.

Overlying the Roman horizon were thin deposits, capped by a mixed layer of peaty loam, yielding a few sherds of late twelfth-century pottery. It would seem that the area was largely unoccupied from the post-Roman period, perhaps as a consequence of a high and rising water-table. Agricultural activity from the late twelfth century onwards is suggested by the uppermost deposits of loam. A number of 'lost lanes' and Christ Church Priory owned plots against these lanes in the vicinity of the evaluation are indicated by documentary evidence.²⁹

9. Swanscombe Manor House, Swanscombe

An evaluation excavation was undertaken in December 1991 on the site of Swanscombe Manor House and 1960s council office buildings, in advance of a housing development. Previous excavations in the area by Dartford District Archaeological Group³⁰ located elements of the late eighteenth-century manor house and the flint and chalk foundations of an earlier building. The earliest documentary records for a manor house on the site date to 1089.³¹ Other finds from the immediate area include samian ware³² and Roman tile.

Seven trenches were cut, three in the area of the former manor house and council buildings and four in an open area to the east of these. A small sample of chalk and flint manor foundations was recorded from which it would appear that the brick manor house was built directly on the line of pre-existing foundations, at least in the western part of the structure. The trenches cut in the open ground revealed only one feature which could be directly related to the original manor house; a flint-and-chalk wall footing.

10. Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, Ashford

During January and February 1992 a number of evaluation trenches were machine-excavated at Waterbrook Farm, Sevington, prior to development of the site by Eurotunnel Developments Ltd. Thirty-four sections were cut across the area and a total of 146 trenches excavated and analysed.

Two well-defined areas of prehistoric habitation were recorded.

²⁹ These are discussed more fully in *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991-92.

³⁰ C.R. Baker, *Swanscombe Manor Report*, Dartford District Archaeological Group, 1988.

³¹ The estate is mentioned in Domesday Book when it was owned by the Monchen-
sie family: 'Swanscombe Manor' a report by Dartford District Archaeological Group.

³² With the potter's stamp 'MARCIO'; Kent S.M.R., N.G.R. TQ 6045 7393.

The first (of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date) was represented by fairly intense signs of occupation, including pits, post-holes, ditches and possibly the remains of an eaves-drip gully associated with a circular building. The presence of many post-holes in this area strengthens the possibility of good structural evidence surviving on the site.

The features revealed in the second area of prehistoric activity possibly represented two phases of occupation. The first seems to have been of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date and the second ran from the 'Belgic' period (c. A.D. 25–75) until perhaps the early second century.

In addition to these sites traces of two medieval structures were located. The first, on the north-east bank of the East Stour River, may have been remnants of a watermill. Ceramic evidence suggests an early fifteenth-century date. The second structure, possibly a timber-framed farm building with an open end facing into the field, was discovered alongside the Sevington-Bilsington road. No dating evidence was recovered. Three lengths of ditch, possibly representing field boundaries, were also recorded. These yielded pottery dating from c. 1175–1225.

11. 137A High Street, Rochester

During February 1992 a small evaluation trench was excavated at 137A High Street, Rochester, prior to alterations to the property. A post-medieval chalk floor and a possible post-medieval wall foundation were recorded.

12. Friars Car Park, Canterbury

During February and March 1992 an evaluation was undertaken in the car park situated west of the junction of the Friars and Best Lane. The area, lying close by the former boundary wall of the Blackfriars precinct, is known from documentary sources to have been a Christ Church Priory land-holding from the twelfth century onwards.³³ Maps dating from 1595³⁴ to 1907³⁵ show the area occupied by buildings. A tannery is known to have occupied the western part of the site from at least the mid eighteenth century.

Two trenches were opened, Trench A at the western end of the car

³³ W. Urry, *Canterbury Under the Angevin Kings* (London, 1967).

³⁴ Bird's eye view map of Blackfriars by T. Langdon (1595) now lost, but engraved in c. 1790 by J. Robson of Bond Street, London.

³⁵ Second edition, Ordnance Survey 1:500 map.

park close to the river, and Trench B adjacent to Best Lane. In Trench A, floors and a series of wooden tanks associated with the tannery, probably dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, respectively, were uncovered approximately 0.50 m. below the car park. In Trench B, the earliest levels exposed consisted of a number of late and post-medieval wall footings relating to buildings fronting both Best Lane and the Friars. Brick walls relating to nineteenth-century cottages on the site, a well, and a series of courtyards were also uncovered. In this trench archaeological deposits rested only a few centimetres below the present car park.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND WATCHING BRIEFS

The Canterbury Archaeological Trust has mounted watching briefs on a number of sites in the last year. These include:

No. 36 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury: traces of Roman timber buildings and a large pit or well with interlaced planks, probably first century A.D. The buildings probably fronted on a south-west/north-east aligned Roman street between the Theatre *insula* and the Temple Precinct.

No. 7 The Friars, Canterbury: within the cemetery area of the Blackfriar's precinct. No trace of a medieval cemetery found.

Christ Church College, Canterbury: complex pattern of Anglo-Saxon and medieval pits, but no datable material.

M20 Maidstone, Junctions 5-8: very little evidence for ancient occupation found.

Thanington Hotel, no. 140 Wincheap, Canterbury: within the area of an extra-mural Roman cemetery. No Roman remains found.

No. 88 Broad Street, Canterbury: close to city wall. Roman ditch fills and metallings for a post-medieval extra-mural road.

Site of demolished Faversham Gasworks: close to historic centre of the town. No significant archaeological remains found. Domestic rubbish and other debris probably dumped there from twelfth to the late seventeenth century.

Long Reach, Swalecliff: two 'wicker-lined' pits discovered in intertidal beach deposits by Mr Gerry Wilby, and investigated by the Trust. The features are visible at normal low tides as sub-oval dished concentrations of wood and organic material, with linear spreads of similar material nearby together with bones, burnt flint, flint-tempered sherds and other scraps of prehistoric pottery. Relatively dense concentrations of burnt flint and pottery and one sherd of rusticated Iron Age coarse ware were found (c. 600-350 B.C.). It is hoped to investigate these finds more fully in the near future.

Field walking

The following areas were subject to field survey by the Trust in the last year: A2/M2 Wainscott by-pass; Hawkinge and Denton by-pass and Whitfield to Eastry improvement road, A256.

Full details of watching briefs, observations and fieldwalking will be found in *Canterbury's Archaeology*, 1991–92.

IV. BUILDING RECORDING

No. 38 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury

During November and December a full archaeological survey was undertaken of the surviving medieval roof fabric of this property in advance of restoration and conversion.

The earliest element of the roof recorded was a six-bay clasped side-purlin roof running away from the street frontage. This survived largely intact and in reasonable condition.

A short cross range extends northwards from the main range. In both ranges the attic floors survive, but apart from the one small window there was no provision for light, suggesting that the area was used for storage. It seems likely that both ranges date from the late sixteenth century with the cross range probably constructed at a slightly later date. A third range extends to the rear of the main roof and probably dates from the late seventeenth century. The last major expansion of the roofscape was the addition of a second cross wing extending from the primary range and in front of the earlier wing alongside the street frontage.

Longport House, Newington

Work began early in February on the stripping out and recording of this building prior to its dismantling and re-erection on a new site. The exercise affords a rare opportunity for almost complete analysis of the developmental history and architectural components of the building. The survey, presently nearing completion, will be reported on next year.

Nos. 4–5 Best Lane, Canterbury (Fig. 7)

An extensive renovation campaign initiated in the spring of 1992 was accompanied by a full archaeological survey of this building.

³⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, cvi (1988), 175–7; *Arch. Cant.*, cvii (1989), 363–6, esp. Fig. 28.

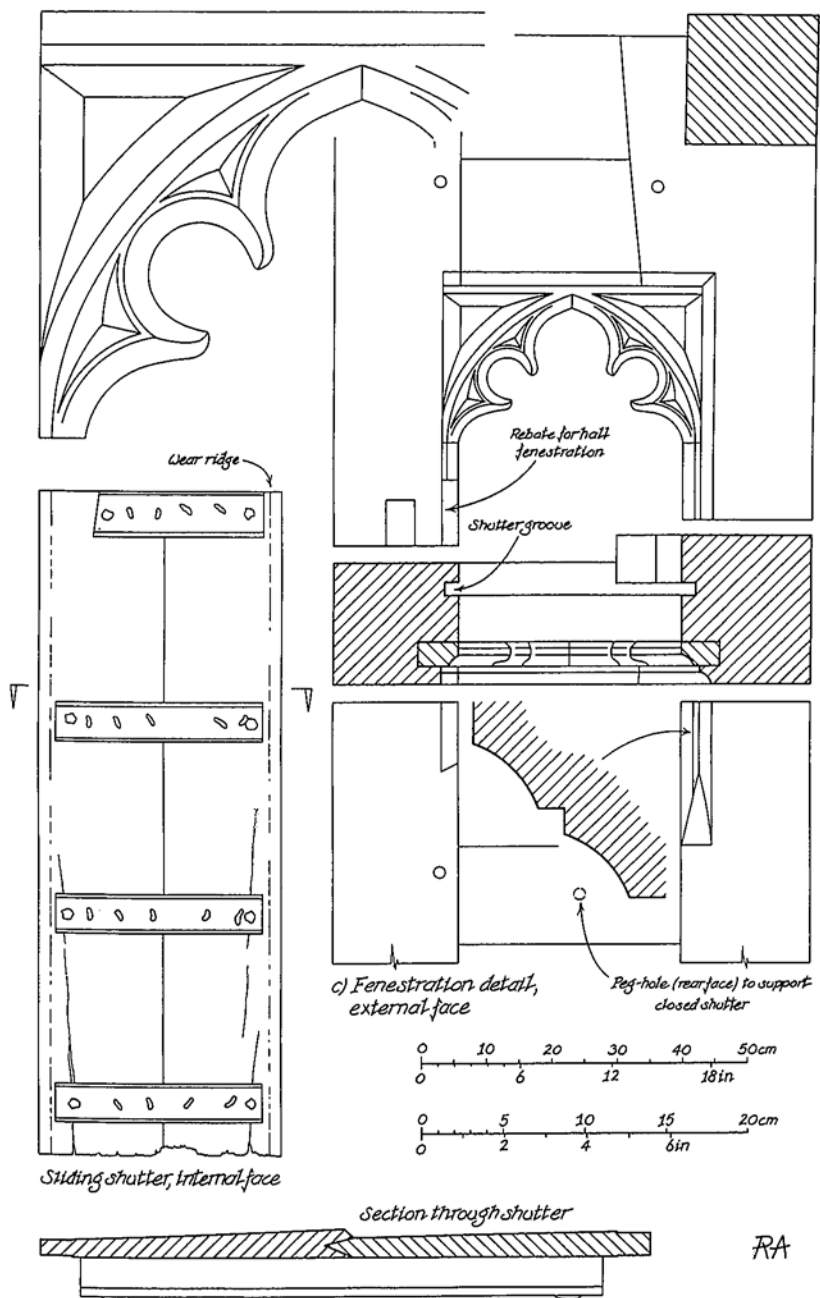


Fig. 7. Nos. 4 and 5 Best Lane, Canterbury: Fenestration and shutter detail.

Although previously thought to have been of two or possibly three phases, the structure appeared to be of one build surviving as a 'half Wealden'.

Very little survives of the hall, though several interesting features remain. A two-storey bay adjoining the hall is relatively well preserved. The stairs were not situated within this jettied bay (as would be expected), but a stair well seems to have been incorporated into the rear of the hall. A framed wall, incorporating a moulded beam and doorway, creates a partition for these stairs approximately 4 ft. wide. This arrangement was later replaced by an inserted stack at the rear of the hall.

The most rewarding detail discovered during the course of the survey was uncovered in the front first-floor chamber. This was a small window with an original sliding vertical shutter still intact and in working order. Traces of a two-light window with similar unusual vertical shutters were also uncovered. Another unusual feature recorded in this building was a terminal smoke-bay in the jettied three-bay range extending from the rear of the hall.

Marked similarities between this building and the 'Cheker of the Hope' in Mercery Lane³⁶ suggest a late fourteenth-century date for the property, but an early fifteenth-century date is probably more likely.

Old Vale Farmhouse, Barnetts Lane, Broad Oak, near Canterbury

A preliminary assessment of the structural development of Vale farmhouse prior to restoration and refurbishment of the building, began in March 1992.

The exterior appearance of the building suggests that it is of seventeenth-century brick construction, but surviving timbers fossilised within the brickwork, clearly indicate considerably earlier origins. The original building consisted of four bays of which the three south-west bays still partially survive.

All the external timber-framed elevations have been underpinned in later brickwork. However, the original eaves-plate survives over most of the central two bays. Mortices for lightweight studs, visible on the underside of the eaves-plate suggest that the façade was light studded with perhaps two larger posts flanking the original fenestration.

A construction date in the early to mid sixteenth century seems likely for the primary construction at Vale Farm. The first major addition to the structure appears to have been a brick gable end (in English bond) which is itself dated 1635.

The second major alteration to the farmhouse took place ten years

later when the far north-east bay was completely rebuilt in brick (Flemish bond) and a gable-end added (dated 1645).

A further development, seen increasingly in other buildings of the period, is the introduction of a contemporary (1645) attic floor frame providing garret accommodation. The extant central chimney-stack certainly pre-dates the insertion of the attic floors; it could be contemporary with or earlier than the 1635 work.

Since the seventeenth century Vale Farmhouse has undergone numerous alterations and additions beyond the scope of this summary. In its present exposed condition the building reveals a surprisingly intact and complex history of development. The dated gables add considerably to the interest of the building, providing a precise chronology for several construction details. The introduction of a staggered butt side-purlin roof, garret accommodation and a change to Flemish bonding are of notable interest as is a consistent sequence of chamfer stops and the extant seventeenth-century ovolo fenestration. These and other visible developments are representative of the changes occurring in other buildings in the area from the mid seventeenth-century.