



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

# INTERIM REPORTS ON RECENT WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

## CANTERBURY CITY SITES

### 1. *Whitefriars Canterbury (TR 151 576)*

Between Summer 2000 and Spring 2001 the Trust was engaged in the first of a series of major excavations in the centre of Canterbury associated with the Whitefriars redevelopment. Termed the 'Big Dig' for publicity purposes, this site located at the end of St George's Street, adjacent to Fenwick's department store, covers an area of c. 3,000 square metres.

In this first phase some fascinating insights into the nature of occupation within this part of Canterbury has been revealed. The earliest remains so far uncovered are early medieval in date. Two small N-S aligned 'lost' lanes dated to shortly after the Norman Conquest were revealed. One ran opposite the south door of St George's Church and the other running along the east side perhaps the forerunner of St George's Lane. Interestingly, both lanes appear to seal earlier cobbled remains, possibly Anglo-Saxon in date and representing the original pattern of streets. Both cobbled lanes were flanked by buildings. Those to the west were constructed largely upon timber footings, except for one structure set upon deep masonry foundations; those to the east were upon footings of masonry perhaps of slightly later date. A further range of buildings, with floors and occupation deposits, lay against the southern side of St George's Street.

Within this complex of urban development, in c. 1324, a house of Augustinian (or Austin) friars was built. The mendicant friars, so called because they lived solely upon alms, were dedicated to a life of preaching and care of the local laity, and so convenient public access was a requisite. Accordingly a gateway led directly in from St George's Street. Within the excavation area, only the north wall of the eastern end of the friary, comprising the whole length of the

chancel and the east end of the nave has been located so far. This formed the northernmost extent of the friary. The original structure of nave and chancel, buttressed to the north was adapted with north and south aisles, a massive L-shaped structure was abutted at the junction of the chancel and nave; and possibly a central tower was added. Portions of the lay cemetery associated with the friary were investigated where a total of 30 burials were discovered, the remainder of the burial ground lay to the west beyond the confines of the site.

North of the church three ranges of buildings were uncovered broadly contemporary with the friary and so of c. fourteenth- to sixteenth-century date. These ranges, although not part of the monastic complex, may have been owned by the foundation and leased out to provide revenue for the house. In the post-Dissolution period, buildings existed only along the St George's Street frontage. To the south lay back gardens, characterised by loams cut by cess-pits and rubbish pits, etc. Much work still remains to be done on this site, however. Examination of the possible Anglo-Saxon lanes still awaits, whilst Roman remains will certainly be encountered: the south wall of a known third-century apsidal building runs across the north-west corner of the site, and it is highly probable that other contemporary masonry buildings survive within the excavation area, together, perhaps with earlier timber structures.

## 2. *City wall, south of St George's Street, Canterbury (TR 151 575)*

During the year evaluation trenching and a subsequent small excavation was undertaken to the rear of the city wall close to the Bus Station. This work revealed evidence of a succession of rampart deposits behind the town wall and confirmed that this length of Roman town wall had been constructed with a previously unknown internal turret. This was built as an integral part of the main defensive circuit of Canterbury sometime during the third century AD. This was an exceptional discovery, comprising a rectangular structure measuring 4.30 x 4.70m, standing some 1.50m high, formed from bonded flint and ragstone. Only one other Roman wall turret is known from Canterbury, and of this only the north-west face of the north-west wall was revealed, during the construction of the Bus Station in the 1960s. The discovery of a second turret just a short distance away to the north-west inevitably leads to speculation that the wall may have incorporated a number of turrets within its perimeter.

The function of the turret is still open to debate. It is clear that the structure, as discovered, was not visible during the Roman period

since the rampart deposits thrown up against the inner face of the town wall enclosed it. It is also known that the internal area was never occupied, since it was infilled with deposits identical to those forming the ramparts. On present evidence, the turret may have served as an artillery platform.

In addition, extensive Roman rampart deposits were excavated and sampled to attempt to recover conclusive dating evidence for the erection of the town walls. In the event none was found and so the date established by Sheppard Frere of AD 270-90 still pertains (Frere *et al.* 1982, 42). Occupation upon the site continued after the Roman period. Medieval rampart deposits were identified, together with evidence for the successive wall robbing and rebuilding which occurred over the centuries, depending upon the perceived external threat. In addition a medieval cobbled lane was excavated providing evidence of a thoroughfare aligned against the tail of the rampart.

### 3. *Canterbury Cathedral Education Centre (TR 151 578)*

A watching brief on the establishment of an access road connecting with the residential wing of the new Cathedral Education Centre revealed the presence of a late sixteenth- or, more probably, early seventeenth-century ragstone and red-brick cess tank extending beneath a corner of an outhouse of *15b Burgate Street* and probably re-using a Roman clay floor for its base. Most unusually, not only had the flattened, brick-built vault of the tank survived intact but so did three to four courses of the original brick latrine pedestal set directly onto the vault. The vault had probably been covered by a sprung wooden floor, resting on flint and brick make-up either side of the room and probably a timber plank or joist running along its length just in front of the Sandwich brick kick-plate of the pedestal. Subsequently, probably in the eighteenth century, a new pedestal was let into the eastern end of the tank.

### 4. *Cobden Place, Canterbury (TR 1503 5817)*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Cobden Place and The Borough in November 2000 ahead of a proposed development. Remains of a medieval masonry building were discovered aligned with The Borough street frontage. The structure was built of a variety of stone material: flint, chalk, Caenstone and ragstone bonded in a hard mortar, suggesting that it was built from re-used building material, perhaps from a demolished building situated nearby. Within the building a clay floor and occupation deposit was revealed however no dating material was recovered.

A later structure of broken brick and peg-tiles was found cut into the south-west side of the medieval building which was itself sealed by a layer of demolition debris containing pottery sherds of sixteenth- to eighteenth-century date. Also an early sixteenth-century pit and a series of eighteenth-century intercutting pits were recorded.

#### 5. *Hospital Lane, Canterbury (TR 1457 5761)*

During June and July 2000, a programme of archaeological assessment was undertaken on the former G.K.N. scaffolding yard at Hospital Lane as part of a planning condition for re-development of the site. Over most of the area investigated a dense and complex range of archaeological features in the form of structural remains, demolition deposits, backfilled wall robber trenches, *in situ* clay floors, post-pits and post-holes, stake-holes and hearths, along with two substantial areas of slumping were exposed. The exposed remains suggested that occupation of the site extended from at least the early Roman to the early/mid medieval periods; thereafter the site appears to have been used primarily for cultivation purposes.

The most significant discoveries were evidence of a wide substantial flint wall of a major Roman building running across the site. Above this were thick demolition deposits which were cut into by one certain, and several other possible, sunken-floor structures of Anglo-Saxon date. A series of post-holes and post-pits were observed cut into the late Roman demolition deposits, as was an *in situ* rectilinear fire-reddened clay walled structure, of late or post-Roman date and a series of medieval rubbish pits.

#### 6. *Blue Boy Yard, Stour Street, Canterbury (TR 1475 5774)*

An evaluation excavation was undertaken at Blue Boy Yard, Stour Street during June 2000. The excavations revealed a rich and well-preserved archaeological sequence. The earliest deposits encountered were a series of river silts overlain by a layer of gravel, believed to be the metalled surface belonging to the Roman temple *temenos*, known to exist in this area. On a similar level a mortar and flint feature may have been a robbed foundation on the line of the *temenos* colonnade. Immediately above this were thick bands of 'dark earth' of late or immediately post-Roman and later date, rich in environmental remains. Above these were traces of robbed foundations and a chalk and flint wall with associated clay floors suggesting the presence of medieval structures close to the Stour Street frontage.

Later in the year a trench was excavated in the centre of the site as part of Channel 4's *Time Team* broadcast over the August Bank

Holiday. This event also revealed the Roman metallurgy and dark earth deposits as before; as well as the remains of a rectangular cellared building measuring about 4 x 4.5m. This had a series of post-holes set around the base, as supports for the walls of the building. The subsequent infilling of the structure, was found to contain pottery sherds of late Saxon date. A series of medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits were also recorded, reflecting the position of the excavation to the rear of the buildings discovered along the Stour Street frontage.

7. *41 St George's Street, Canterbury (TR 1515 5765)*

Conversion of the former C&A department store at 41 St George's Street provided an opportunity to excavate three small trenches during January and February 2001. Nothing of any consequence was revealed in two of the trenches; however in the third trench a series of post-medieval walls and deposits were recorded. Removal of the two earliest walls, perhaps of the sixteenth century, and predating a nineteenth-century brick cellar, led to the discovery of about 75 pieces of re-used medieval carved architectural stone-work, including three finely-worked pieces. The worked stones, comprising a head probably from a corbel; a bust, possibly of an abbot and a seated figure possibly from a stone screen, may have originally derived from St Augustine's Abbey. The building foundations may form part of a large house built at the corner of St George's Street and Burgate Lane between 1550 and 1560 by Stephen Thornhurst. At this time Thornhurst purchased more stone from St Augustine's Abbey than any other person mentioned in the accounts (see *Archaeologia Cantiana*, XCIX, 1983, 34. fn23).

8. *Old Dover Road, Canterbury (TR 150 574)*

A small evaluation excavation was carried out on land to the rear of Canterbury Police Station, Old Dover Road during October and November 1999. The work revealed Roman deposits of second- to fourth-century date cut by later pits. Also two Roman pits of late second- to early third-century date and late third- to early fourth-century date respectively, were recorded along the street frontage. Within the same area a series of inter-cutting pits of early medieval date, mostly of eleventh- to twelfth-century date were excavated, some of which contained large quantities of pottery including many misfired sherds.

To the south and central areas more than two dozen pits were revealed. Four were Roman in date ranging from the late second century to the fourth century AD, whilst two were pre-Norman

Conquest (750-1000). The majority however, are of an early medieval eleventh- to twelfth-century date, whilst five are dated from 1225 to 1300. The early and middle medieval pits produced substantial amounts of pottery and again included a number of wasters.

Although the archaeological features observed were not in themselves particularly interesting, comprising only pits, the large quantity of pottery and the existence of many misfired/waster pots indicates the likelihood of a medieval kiln being sited in the near vicinity. Interestingly earlier work here by the Trust in 1995 revealed evidence for substantial clay quarrying which may well have been for potting clay. The site is located outside the city walls and on the edge of one of the main roads out of the town and would be an ideal location for the production and subsequent transportation of pottery.

9. *Starr Place, St Dunstan's, Canterbury (TR 1445 5810)*

During winter 2000-2001 an archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out on derelict land to the rear of Starr Place in advance of residential development. This followed work by the Trust in 1988, when a Roman second-century kiln, a section of Roman metalled street associated with rough yard surfaces and a number of Roman pits were found. The evidence suggested that this early Roman suburb was more or less wholly industrial in character.

The recent work revealed a complex sequence of medieval deposits and shallow chalk rubble foundations and associated beaten clay floors, probably representing outhouses or workshops. More significantly, these overlay an accumulation of burnt daub and carbon moulded up over a beam-slot, associated with a clay floor and pottery sherds dated from the second and third centuries AD. This suggests that the feature may represent an ephemeral Roman building destroyed by fire. This is significant, as no substantial evidence for *domestic* Roman occupation has thus far been recovered from this area of Canterbury.

10. *The Hoystings Close, Old Dover Road, Canterbury (TR 1525 5715)*

During an archaeological evaluation excavation at The Hoystings Close in February 2001 evidence for Middle Bronze Age activity was found on site. This was restricted to residual material recovered from a natural soak hole on the eastern margins of the site and included worked flint flakes and sherds of Deverel-Rimbury pottery dated to c. 1500-1100 BC. This is the first evidence recovered for Mid Bronze Age activity within the limits of Canterbury City. Across a large part

of the site an extensive and deep chalk quarry of sixteenth-century date was recorded. This appeared to have been infilled during the post-medieval period.

11. *Barton Court Grammar School, Longport, Canterbury (TR 157 576)*

A single archaeological evaluation trench was excavated at Barton Court Grammar School during March 2001 on the site of a proposed small car-park. The earliest feature revealed was a late Saxo-Norman pit, which was cut by another small pit containing pottery sherds dated to c. AD 1050-1225. A third small undated pit was revealed very close to the edge of the excavation, whilst a shallow post-hole more centrally placed was of post-late medieval date.

12. *South Canterbury Water Main (TR 1560 5605 to 1713 5781)*

A watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new 6.5km length of water main on the south side of Canterbury between Hackington Lane and Littlebourne Road was undertaken between September and October 2000. Only one archaeological site was located along the entire route. Some 300m west of the *Old Gate Inn*, New Dover Road, spreads of flint 'pot-boilers' and two concentrations of pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date (c. 900-600 BC) were observed indicating a focus of probably short-lived settlement.

13. *New Dover Road, Canterbury (TR 1640 5590)*

A series of evaluation trenches was excavated across the site of former farmland ahead of development for a new 'Park and Ride' car-park facility in November 2000. Two prehistoric features were revealed. One, a small irregularly shaped pit, contained complete and crushed 'pot-boilers', a struck flint flake and a few sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery dated c. 900-600 BC. The second feature, located about 160m to the east, was also a pit containing a large number of 'pot-boilers' and similarly dated pottery sherds as well as quantities of charcoal. This site lays just 50m west of the prehistoric finds made on the water main route (12, above) and collectively they suggest previously unknown prehistoric activity in the area.



## SITES OUTSIDE CANTERBURY CITY

14. *Shelford Farm Estate, Broadoak, Canterbury (TR 1655 6015)*

An evaluation excavation during December 2000 on former farmland at Broadoak, near Canterbury, revealed evidence for a Roman-period settlement, perhaps that of a prosperous farmstead or villa estate, with its origins in the late Iron Age. The earliest occupation of the site began during the pre-Roman 'Belgic' period c. 50 BC to AD 50. Although evidence so far recovered of this period relates only to a few drainage or boundary ditches containing quantities of 'native style pottery', other features may also be associated and it seems likely that a small farmstead had become established here prior to the Roman Conquest of AD 43.

By the second half of the first century AD, the small native farmstead had become clearly Romanised and by the beginning of the second century it had expanded into a larger agricultural operation. A series of ditches, gullies, pits, as well as evidence for masonry and timber structures were revealed associated with large quantities of Roman pottery, including coarse wares, Samian and amphorae, of mid first to late second-century date as were substantial quantities of Roman roof and floor tile. Later material such as colour-coated Oxfordshire wares and imports from the Rhineland suggest that occupation of the site extended into the third and fourth centuries.

15. *Willow Farm, Hooper's Lane, Broomfield (TR 1940 6705)*

Area excavations were undertaken on a large tract of former agricultural land, situated against the south side of the Thanet Way at Broomfield between August and October 2000 in advance of housing development. The earliest evidence recovered was a series of features representing a settlement nucleus of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date (c. 900-600 BC). The features included a metalled surface associated with structural post-holes, gullies and overlying occupation surfaces, delimited to the west by a boundary ditch and internal fence line. A number of quarry pits and potential cremation burials were also found. Close by, part of an associated field system was evident, with a round-house structure, indicated by a series of segmented gully sections and post-holes.

Abandoned around c. 600 BC the site was re-occupied again during the Late Iron Age 'Belgic' and Early Romano-British period (c. 50 BC-AD 100) when a rectangular enclosure, two parallel field ditches and pit complexes were formed.

The main period of Romano-British activity (c. AD 100-400) saw an

expansion of the site into a small farmstead, represented by a large rectilinear enclosure which respected the earlier enclosure and field system. Up to five phases of activity were associated with this enclosure which had a northern gated entrance and external fence line. A later phase saw the enclosure ditches being re-cut; the original entrance blocked and a new one constructed to the south; two clay-lined tanks perhaps built for an industrial purpose with an outlet into the northern enclosure ditch were also recorded. Within the south-western part of the enclosure, a complex of post-holes, pits and occupation surfaces was evident, though no clear structures could be defined.

Later, during the Roman period, a new ditch was cut through the centre, thus delimiting the enclosed area; a sunken metal floor structure associated with a rectangular, open-fronted timber structure and two circular pits, perhaps a workshop, was revealed cut into the infilled northern enclosure ditch, whilst the southern ditch was recut several times. Nearby a series of post-holes, representing a wooden-built structure, was recorded.

After a long period of abandonment, the site was reoccupied again during the Early Medieval period (c. 1075-1250), when a series of clay quarry pits and a field system was established; however, the actual settlement lay just beyond the excavation limits. Agricultural activity continued until c. 1400, thereafter the area was left as open pasture.

#### 16. *Bogshole Lane, Broomfield (TR 1981 6694)*

Following an evaluation assessment excavation of land east of Bogshole Lane in 1999 a programme of open area excavation was carried out between the autumn 2000 and summer 2001. The earliest evidence on the site dated to the Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period (c. 1500-600 BC) when the area formed part of an early ditched field system traversed by a metal track way, probably associated with a neighbouring Bronze Age settlement identified at Willow Farm (see above). At some stage this land-use changed; the field system and track went out of use, and several new boundary ditches were cut. The ditches respected a complex of inter-cutting pits focused within an area demarcated by a series of free-standing posts, which may have had a ritual function. During the 1999 excavation a pit containing a Late Bronze Age founders hoard dated to c. 850-700 BC was discovered, and during the present excavations this pit was seen to have been cut into the upper filling of a secondary boundary ditch, thus providing a reliable *terminus anti quem* for the abandonment of the boundary network.

The site then appears to have been abandoned until the Late Iron Age 'Belgic' period (c. 100 BC-AD 50), when renewed activity, represented by a single field ditch and a scatter of 'Belgic' type pottery was discovered. Only limited activity was revealed for the Roman period (c. AD 50-350), being confined to a single isolated post-built rectangular building measuring 14 x 7m which may have formed part of the rather more extensive Roman site discovered at nearby Willow Farm (see 15, above).

Early medieval activity (c. 1175-1250) was represented by three pits located against the western margins of the site. Activity during the medieval period (c. 1250-1350) was concentrated along the western margins where a series of rubbish pits, field ditches and a drainage gully were all associated with an outlying field system close to the main focus of medieval settlement tentatively located to the west. By the second half of this period at least two rectangular timber structures surrounded by a metalled courtyard were constructed along the frontage of the present Bogshole Lane. By c. 1550 however, these structures were abandoned and the site returned back to agricultural land.

#### 17. *The Grange, St Augustine's Road, Ramsgate (TR 376 634)*

A small excavation was carried out at *The Grange* to establish the location and nature of a 'lost gatehouse', shown to exist on an engraving of 1849, as part of an extensive survey associated with a conservation plan for the complex. This Grade I listed building was built by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin from 1843 onwards as his home and workplace. Pugin was a highly influential architect and designer, a leading light of the Victorian Gothic revival and famous for his detailing of the Houses of Parliament as well as for building numerous churches, convents, monasteries and schools.

The plan of the gatehouse, which was demolished by Pugin's son Edward around 1870-72 during much alteration work to the house complex after his father's death, was recovered. It proved to be rectangular in shape, measuring some 6.90 x 3.50m and was constructed of brick laid in irregular header and stretcher style, some 9in. wide on three sides and butted onto the face of an existing courtyard brick wall. In the north-east corner a small fireplace and chimney stack was revealed. Immediately west of this was a parallel wall of similar construction, also butted onto the courtyard wall; and this formed the western side of a York stone paved entranceway 1.15m wide, which once had a gate at its southern end. After its demolition the gatehouse was partially replaced by a new glazed hallway; however the gateway to the west was retained.

18. *Hardacre Farm, Preston-by-Wingham (TR 2540 6095)*

During the autumn of 2000 an evaluation excavation was undertaken at Hardacre Farm ahead of a tree planting programme where a multi-phase archaeological complex was revealed. Just over half of the fifty individual features recorded, mostly on the southern and western sides of the site, consisted of ditches and gullies. There were also ten pits of varying sizes, seven post-holes and two large composite features.

From the variety of alignments, depths and profiles of the ditches located, it seems clear that several separate phases must be represented, although the limited exposed sections did not allow clear overall patterns to be ascertained. The pottery dating evidence indicates Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age and Roman dates for their fillings. A series of straight ditches and gullies probably represent enclosures and droveways, others probably delimited fields and garden plots. Several features provided large amounts of Roman domestic debris indicating that they were perhaps close to contemporary occupation areas.

19. *High Street, Eastry (TR 3091 5476)*

Archaeological excavations were carried out to the rear of Nos. 7-9 High Street, Eastry close to the heart of the historic village in July and August 2000, ahead of a new housing development. Twenty archaeological features were recorded ranging in date from the early Anglo-Saxon to later post-medieval periods, whilst a few struck flints and a flint-tempered pottery sherd indicate some prehistoric activity in the area.

A single gully contained pottery of Anglo-Saxon date, whilst three other lengths of shallow gully appeared to delimit part of a later rectangular enclosure with an entrance at the north-west corner and perhaps another, narrow one, on the north side. The pottery contained within the gullies suggests that they were in-filled during the late twelfth or thirteenth century. Further west, two arms of another more substantial V-shaped ditch appeared to form the north-eastern corner of another, but larger, rectangular enclosure which ran beyond the limits of the excavation. A terminal at the southern end of the eastern arm may relate to an entrance, perhaps centrally placed. The filling of the ditches contained a quantity of pottery sherds, the latest of which dates to c. AD 1500-1550, whilst residual medieval sherds were also present. A skeleton of a sheep was recovered from the base of the eastern arm and that of a dog from the north arm. The features may well represent boundaries to a succession of fields, enclosures and/or garden plots on the western edge of the historic settlement from the early-mid Anglo-Saxon period onwards.

20. *Former Royal Marine Barracks, Deal (c. TR 375 515)*

Between April and August 2000 a series of archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated and subsequent watching briefs were carried out across several different areas of the former South Barracks and North Barracks sites of the complex, continuing the Trust's ongoing work here. The investigations have allowed superficial examination of some 18ha of the ancient coastal landscape at Deal. Here evidence of early features (one a Bronze Age cremation burial in a 'Deverel-Rimbury' pottery urn) was found cutting brickearth deposits. Shallow ponds that were subsequently partially sealed by wind-blown sand were also recorded, as were a series of later sub-soils and features. Clear evidence for prehistoric activity across this area has been recovered but nowhere has this been sufficiently intense to suggest permanent occupation over a long period. However, a significant scatter of struck flints together with smaller amounts of prehistoric pottery from sub-soil layers the cremation burial and some other features, probably of Late Neolithic-Bronze Age date, indicates at least intermittent activity.

21. *North of Saltwood Tunnel (TR 1560 3695)*

A series of large scale archaeological excavations were carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link to the north of the Saltwood railway tunnel. This prolonged work [January 1999-August 2000] discovered a multi-phased settlement area to the north-west and an adjacent multi-phased cemetery area to the east and south.

*The Settlement*

The earliest evidence of activity was a scatter of struck and burnt flints and tools of Neolithic date, sherds of Bronze Age pottery and a buried prehistoric soil horizon. During the Early to Mid Iron Age a trackway approaching from the south-west was established, connecting the Greensand scarp to the coast and the rich pasture and salt works of Romney Marsh. This became a substantial hollow way by the Late Iron Age; when a second trackway approaching from the south-east also became established forming crossroads at the north end of the site. These trackways became more substantial metalled routeways, with side ditches during the Early Roman period. (Fig. 1)

By the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, a series of ditched enclosures, which passed through stages of enlargement and re-definition over time, became established to the east and west of the crossroads. A series of post-holes and pits suggested timber structures of more

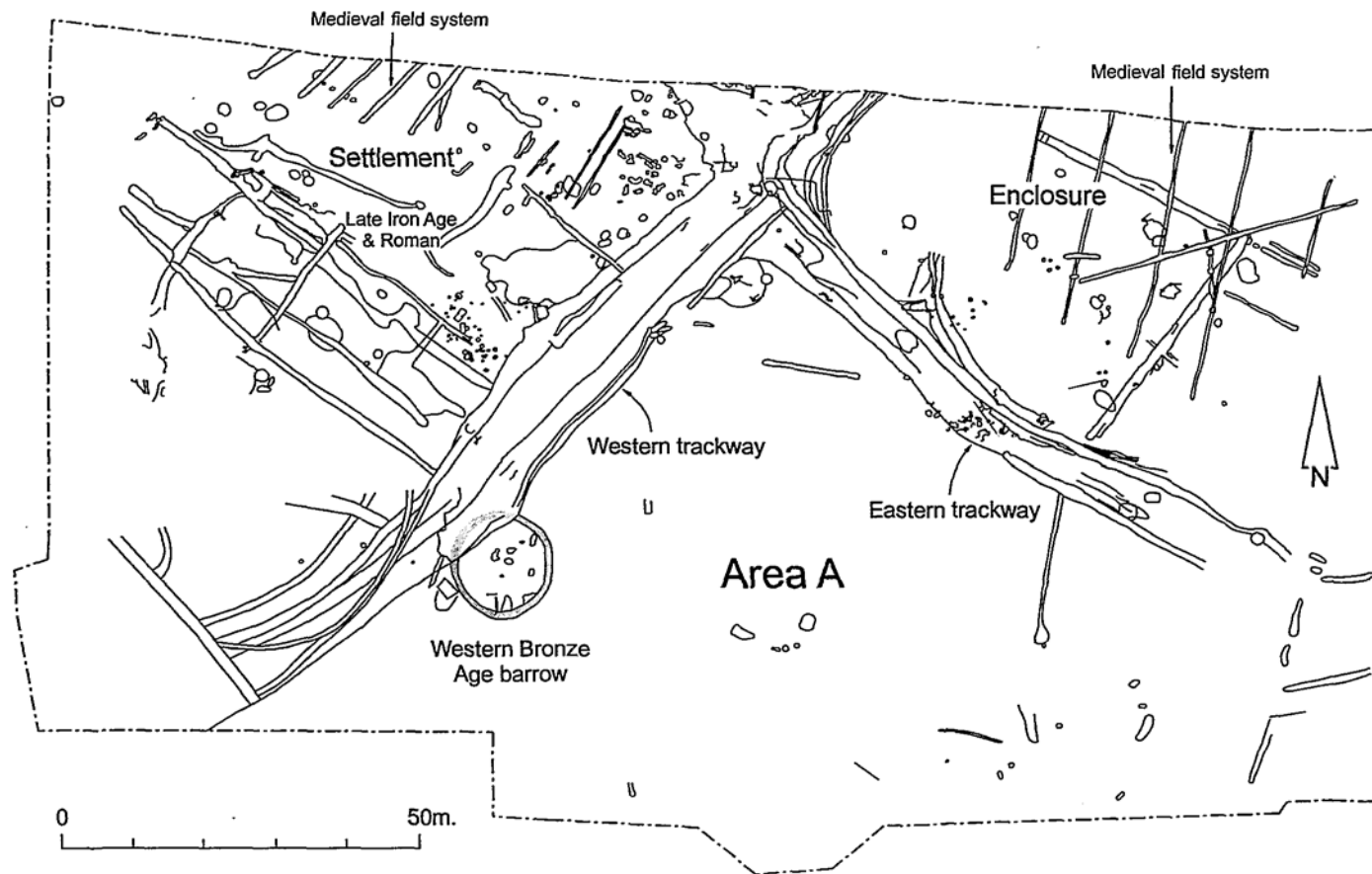


Fig. 1 Saltwood: plan of Area A showing the location of the western Bronze Age barrow, Late Iron Age/Roman settlement-related trackways and later medieval field systems.

than one phase, including a long rectangular structure. West of this lay a complex of Early Roman ditched enclosures, to the east was another large ditched enclosure, within which was a small cremation cemetery and a later inhumation burial cut into a pit complex containing metal working debris.

By the later Roman period the eastern trackway was abandoned, however the western remained in use albeit having become somewhat narrower. To the south-west an extensive layer of dark soil had built up containing quantities of late fourth-century coins and third- to fifth-century pottery.

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation consisted of a long boundary ditch, a grain drying oven, a large pit and a small sunken-floored hut containing pottery dated *c.* AD 450-650. (Another sunken-floored structure and an Anglo-Saxon loom-weight were discovered nearby in 1979.) About *c.* 1050-1250 a small settlement, containing timber structures and pits delimited by a shallow ditch was established west of, and overlying, the by then silted up hollow way junction. To the south-west were a series of rectangular enclosures set end to end, and a series of strip fields. There was little evidence for later medieval or post-medieval activity other than general agricultural usage.

### *The Cemeteries*

The earliest cemeteries consisted of at least three Bronze Age barrows, all enclosed by single ring ditches. One containing a crouched inhumation burial with a pottery food vessel dated to *c.* 2000 to 1700 BC and another was an isolated stone-packed grave containing a crouched inhumation, two more barrows are known further to the east. During the early to mid Iron Age, two small cremation cemeteries were used. One in the centre of the site contained seven cremation burials contained in pottery vessels the other to the west contained another five cremations. Roman burials appeared to be confined within the enclosed areas to the north (see above).

The most spectacular discoveries, however, were dated to the Anglo-Saxon period when two important and rich cemeteries were established to the west and east of the site, both centred upon two of the Bronze Age barrows. Combined, the cemeteries contained a minimum of 159 inhumation burials, a single cremation burial and a horse burial, both cemeteries however continued beyond the limits of the excavation. Within the western cemetery, dated to the sixth and seventh centuries, many of the inhumations burials were accompanied by grave goods, some of which were of exceptional quality, suggesting high social status. Several high-class male graves contained amongst other things, swords, accompanied by shields and spears. A

rich female grave contained a garnet inset brooch, a radiate-headed brooch, a spherical silver mounted rock crystal and a weaving baton. Other graves contained glass bell-beakers, a palm-cup, various brooches, a Frankish ceramic bottle, beads and numerous iron objects.

The eastern cemetery, which was exclusively of seventh-century date, contained a minimum of 110 inhumation burials. Three high-class male 'founder-graves' were in a line, one within the centre of the eastern Bronze Age barrow, contained 70 separate objects including amongst other things a bronze 'Coptic' bowl, a sword, an angon [light spear], items of horse harness and a leather shoe. Possibly associated with this grave was a nearby unaccompanied horse burial. The two other male 'founder-graves' were accompanied by exceptional grave goods including two bronze 'Coptic' bowls, two iron-bound wooden buckets, a horse harness, swords, shields, spears, angons and many other items. A rich female grave, found within a wooden coffin, had a gold garnet and glass inset brooch, a gold pendant with semi-precious stone setting, a gold coin pendant and an iron-bound wooden bucket. Many of the graves were set within penannular ditches, although most were in simpler rectangular graves. Within this cemetery finds included 6 swords, 21 spearheads, 2 angons, a block of 12 arrowheads, 9 shields, several knives, two sets of horse harnesses, 3 bronze 'Coptic' bowls, 3 iron-bound wooden buckets, various brooches, many beads, keys and latch-lifters and numerous other iron objects.

The full results of this regionally important site await full publication, but undoubtedly will enhance our understanding of Anglo-Saxon Kent. Amongst the priorities of future research will be locating the settlement associated with these cemeteries.

## 22. *Fairfield Road, New Romney (TR 0662 2503)*

An archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief of a single house development discovered a series of intact medieval features and deposits across the site, overlying natural beach deposits. To the south-east were the remains of a timber-framed structure, represented by a series of clay floors, a hearth and occupation deposits. These contained pottery sherds, two stone spindle whorls, a limestone-polishing tool, a curved and polished stone hone and a glass cloth-smoother dated c. 1250-1300. This suggests the likelihood of cloth manufacturing or finishing was being carried out on-site. A series of probably related cess-pits of the same date were found nearby.

To the north another timber-structure is inferred also represented by a series of clay floors and a large hearth or oven, of similar but perhaps slightly later date than the previous structure. Further to the



west two short lengths of ditch at right angles to each other, a cess-pit and another area of clay flooring sealing the ditches were revealed, again of a broad thirteenth-century date. Following a build-up of sand across the site, another structure, this time with evidence of masonry foundations, robber trenches and an abundance of chalk, mortar fragments and Kent peg roof tiles was revealed, probably of fourteenth-century date; however no evidence of floors or occupation survived. The ceramic evidence for the robbing dates to c. 1500-1525. It is likely that the properties originally fronted a long since lost lane between, and parallel to, Fairfield Road and the High Street. However, it is not clear if the early features pre-date the great storm of 1287, or represent post storm occupation.

### 23. *Coursehorn, Cranbrook (TQ 7925 3585)*

A watching brief, maintained during the cutting of foundation trenches for a new school building revealed a 7.50m wide and 2.00m deep waterlogged feature filled with modern rubbish, on the south side of the site. It appears to represent the north arm of a large moat, of early post-medieval or even late medieval date, that is known to have existed somewhere on the site. This had been infilled in c. 1935 in order to make a garden without a proper record being made. In 1996 a further section had been seen further west whilst another school building was being constructed. To the south several late medieval/early post-medieval (c. 1540-1750) and early modern (1750-1875) farm buildings survive. *The Coursehorn* itself is an eighteenth-century building erected around a sixteenth-century one which has surviving Tudor ceilings and other features. It was the manor house of the substantial gentry Hendley family who made their fortune as clothiers and had lived in Cranbrook since the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). The earlier building was surrounded by a moat of unknown date and uncertain size, most of which has been infilled. However, ponds to the south-west appear to represent the south-west corner and part of the south arm of the moat. This together with the now located north arm suggests that the moat was square-shaped with sides of 100-120m and enclosing an area at least 80m square. It is not known if the moat relates to an earlier structure pre-dating the Tudor manor house.

### 24. *Bridge Road, Sheerness (TQ 9175 7504)*

A watching brief was undertaken [January 2001] of groundworks relating to a new extension to Sheppey College being built across part

of the nineteenth-century defences of Sheerness Royal Naval Dockyard. Here was revealed a section of the ditch, berm and internal earthen rampart of one side of the Ravelin, a roughly triangular outwork guarding the landward entrance into the Dockyard. The ditch was in excess of 12m wide (probably 13.5m in actuality) and about 3m deep with a wide flat base, the inner sides of the ditch were set at an angle of 35 degrees to the horizontal and were lined with Ragstone rubble blocks and covered with a thin mortar screed. To the north-west the rampart survived only as a 1m high mound of made ground, parallel to the ditch and some 8m wide, separated from the ditch by a 1.50m wide level berm. These defences replaced earlier works at a time when the dockyard underwent a complete programme of rebuilding, extension and modernisation between 1815 and 1827 to plans designed by John Rennie the Elder. The new defences, included bastions and ravelins, with those revealed on this site being in place by c. 1820. Expansion of the town beyond into Mile Town and then Marine Town made these defences ineffective and in response the Queenborough Lines were constructed nearly 2km further to the east in 1862. Sadly, since World War II, much of the bastion and ravelin defences have been subsequently demolished and built over.

S.S. Frere, S. Stow & P. Bennett, 1982, *Excavations on the Roman and Medieval Defences of Canterbury*, The Archaeology of Canterbury, vol. II.

