

# **Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy**

## **Appendix 1: Theme 11 Archaeology**

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## **Appendix 1, Theme 11 - Archaeology**

### **1. Summary**

The district is rich in archaeological evidence beginning from the first occupations by early humans in Britain 800,000 years ago through to the twentieth century. The archaeological remains are in many forms such as ruins, standing monuments and buried archaeology and all attest to a distinctive Kentish history as well as its significant geographical position as a gateway to the continent. Through the district's archaeology it is possible to track the evolution of Kent as well as the changing cultures, ideas, trade and movement of different peoples into and out of Britain. The District's role in the defence of the country is also highlighted in its archaeology and forms an important part of the archaeological record for this part of the British southern coastline. The District contains outstanding archaeological remains that bring the past to life for its local residents and visitors alike and continues to be explored today. The story of the district's rich and closely linked to a number of nationally and internationally significant events, such as the earliest conversions to Christianity and the First and Second World Wars. Many of the remains are well preserved and continued research shows that there will likely be more important discoveries in the future adding to the excellent archaeological record for this District.

### **2. Introduction**

The district has an exceptionally rich archaeological resource that continues to grow and further add to the understanding and appreciation of the past. A great amount of material and knowledge have been acquired particularly in more recent years due to the acceleration in new building developments and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project in Kent presenting unique opportunities for extensive archaeological investigation into areas that would have remained largely inaccessible or unexplored. Kent's proximity to the continent has further enhanced the archaeological record making it particularly rich and diverse and reflecting the county's role as a gateway to new and influencing forces from abroad.

The archaeological record of the district is represented in a number of different forms and varies in their states of preservation. These include earthworks, buildings and structures as well as buried remains beneath towns, villages and the natural landscape. The topography of Kent has been a strong influencing factor in human occupation and settlement throughout history, particularly in this county where there are several distinct types of geology and landscape. Archaeological evidence has helped to build a picture of the historical settlement and occupation of this area and has improved our understanding of the many uses of the District's varied landscapes. Arguably, the district is still in need of further archaeological investigation in areas such as Hythe, Elham and the Romney Marsh so that a more detailed understanding can be obtained and further archaeological evidence for earlier occupations explored. Recent archaeological work has been concentrated in areas such as Folkestone and Lydinge as will be detailed below. Archaeology is a theme that will run through other papers within this strategy and so in order to avoid repetition of material, summaries of the main archaeological sites and discoveries will be given here.

## ***Designation and Protection of Archaeological Remains***

Archaeological remains that have been selected as nationally important are afforded statutory protection through a number of designations. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 allows for the designation of Scheduled Monuments (formerly Scheduled Ancient Monuments). These sites are closely managed and whilst some changes may be possible, it is assumed that they will remain in the same state as when they were scheduled. Other forms of historic environment designation include Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Protected Wrecks and Military Sites. However, not all nationally significant sites or archaeological remains are protected in this way and some are only partially scheduled due to land use and management reasons. There are many cases where important archaeological remains have not been sufficiently identified to warrant protection, or they are still buried awaiting discovery. It should be stressed though that government policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) emphasises the conservation and enjoyment of heritage and the historic environment as a positive strategy for creating sustainable and holistic communities. The framework recognises that heritage assets are a finite resource that is irreplaceable if lost and so Local Planning Authorities should seek to conserve them appropriately and carefully consider their significance in planning decisions.

## ***Archaeological Discovery and Investigation in the District***

Due to the richness of the archaeological resource in East Kent, there is a long history of archaeological exploration and discovery in the area. The first recorded excavations to have taken place in Kent were in nearby Barham sometime around 1542 by William Digges who excavated a barrow and Saxon graves there. During the sixteenth century a number of surveys and reports on the countries various antiquities took place, although their usefulness is limited as many of the dates assigned were not very well understood and therefore inaccurate. In particular, pre-Saxon remains were misidentified and knowledge on their dating was severely limited. Henry VIII appointed John Leland as the Kings Antiquary in 1533 and then a survey of the Roman remains across Britain was continued by William Camden followed by a detailed account of the counties' topography by William Lambarde titled *Perambulation* in 1576.

Moving into the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a wave of enthusiasm for antiquarian scholarship took place and saw an increase in the appreciation of archaeological remains as a legitimate field of enquiry. Written documents and standing medieval remains were primarily used as evidence until during the eighteenth century when objects began to be more widely appreciated. A number of important local collections were created by various amateurs during this time and now form substantial parts of local museum collections throughout Kent.

Early work focused on Roman and Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains around Kent, though few of these seem to have been from the district. Edward Hasted's extensive work titled *History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent* (1797-

1801) was a compilation of the knowledge at the time concerning the historical environment and the antiquities in Kent. By the nineteenth century, archaeology was recognised as a professional field of study and the Archaeological Association was formed in 1844 at Canterbury. The pace of archaeological exploration began to quicken as industrial and urban development boomed and although many sites were destroyed, the increase in archaeological excavations helped to improve contemporary understandings of Kent's past. By the mid-nineteenth century a prehistoric chronology had been established and so there was a better appreciation for the length of human history and activity. The promotion of archaeology was also becoming more widespread as well as accessible, for example the Kent Archaeological Society began publishing their journal *Archaeologia Cantiana* in 1858. It was also around this time that museums started to develop as the collection and curation of archaeological artefacts became accepted as a public function.

Relating to the district, in 1850 Charles Roach Smith published his work *The Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver and Lympne, in Kent* that looked at the Roman Forts and reported on excavations made. The Roman Fort of **Portus Lemanis** at **Lympne**, also known as Stutfall Castle, was excavated by Charles Roach Smith in 1850 and then again in 1894 by Sir Victor Horsley. Later excavations by Barry Cunliffe between 1976 and 1978 were undertaken in the hope of finding evidence of an underlying Classis Britannica base, though no evidence was found. The excavations made by Charles Roach Smith in 1850 had uncovered a second century altar that had been reused as a gate platform. The altar had been dedicated by Lucius Aufidius Pantera who was Commander of the British fleet around 135 AD. Tiles stamped as *Classis Britannica*, Roman naval fleet, were also excavated and suggested that a naval base had existed at the site before the construction of the Saxon-Shore fort in the third century AD. As no evidence of this base was found during Barry Cunliffe's excavations later on in 1976-8, it has now been suggested that the base was not originally located beneath the site of the fort, but was close by though erosion of the landscape has probably destroyed any surviving evidence. Reused masonry, an uninscribed altar and further *Classis Britannica* stamped tiles have been found at the site. Geophysical surveying carried out by the University of Kent in 2015 identified the major land slippage that has occurred at the site but the survival of below ground archaeological remains seems to be strong and a good potential for future work.

Through the nineteenth century, interest in the prehistoric was growing slowly though the focus of archaeological exploration remained primarily on Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains. Pitt Rivers excavated at the '**Caesar's Camp**' site in **Folkestone** on Castle Hill in 1878 because of topographical similarities he believed it had to another site at Mount Caburn near Lewes. This turned out largely not to be the case and excavations continued for only two weeks. In 1888, George Payne published his record of finds and sites across Kent that would eventually be adopted as the first Sites and Monuments Record, now known as the Historic Environment Record. Although he primarily worked in north Kent, his work is important as a move towards a comprehensive system of recording archaeological discoveries. By the end of the nineteenth century the archaeological record for the county had developed to a point that was comparable to other counties in the country. The progress made is well illustrated in the *Victoria County Histories* publication that was compiled by a number

of authors travelling around each county. The detail included highlights the increasing understanding and appreciation for archaeological remains in Britain.

Similar to other areas in Kent, archaeological exploration in the district does not seem to pick up until the years between the First and Second World Wars. As well as this, many areas around the District are still in need of detailed archaeological excavation such as Elham and Hythe where little significant archaeological exploration has previously been made. However, the District does boast a rich archaeological record for what has been found and there are significant opportunities for future work to enhance this further.

The Roman Villa site on the Warren at **East Wear Bay** in **Folkestone** has been known to residents of the area for some years before it was formally excavated. The land at the site had been recognised as being notoriously difficult to farm because of 'old stones' that would cause problems for and damage farming equipment. In 1924, the first formal excavations of the site were carried out by Samuel E. Winbolt and two blocks were discovered. One block had been constructed during the second half of the first century AD and then rebuilt at the same time as the second block in approximately 90 AD. Unfortunately this site is very vulnerable to cliff falls and parts of the villa are gradually being lost. The site was open to the public at this time as a heritage attraction but was then closed with the onset of the Second World War. This site formed part of a series of gun placements along coastal defences and during excavations in 2010 tank tracks could be observed across some of the Roman walls. The site was reopened to the public in 1945 but continued to deteriorate due to austerity measures following the war. The decision was taken to backfill the site and in 1957 it was grassed over to be used as a public open space.

The site was not excavated again until 1989 when the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit began excavating part of the villa primarily to investigate the level of erosion since 1924. It was found that Winbolt's excavations had only removed the upper deposits and a considerable amount of the stratigraphy was still in good condition. Later in 2010 and 2011, the villa site was reopened as part of *A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before AD 1500* community archaeology project. The project, which ran for three years, excavated the northern part of the villa as had been done during earlier work but also revealed a rare example of an unenclosed Iron Age urnfield underlying the villa. In 2013 the findings from the project were published and the excavations won *Rescue Dig of the Year* awarded by Current Archaeology Magazine. The project had been organised by Canterbury Christ Church University, the Folkestone People's History Centre and Canterbury Archaeological Trust and had been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Additional support and funding was given by the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, the Folkestone Town Council, Kent Archaeological Society and the District Council.

The *East Wear Bay Archaeological Project* led by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in conjunction with Kent Archaeological Society, Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group as well as Dover Archaeological Group has continued fieldwork at the site. It is a long-term project with the aim of collating the results from previous fieldwork and to continue excavating ahead of clifftop erosion. It is ultimately hoped that one or more important publications will be produced with full details of the site and work done.

Other important archaeological work that has taken place within the district includes a number of excavations of the **monastic landscape** at **Lyminge**. The site is arguably one of the most important monastic sites in the south of England and also shows evidence of being a prominent place within wider Anglo-Saxon society. The monastic site at Lyminge was established during the first half of the seventh century and is one of the earliest in the country following the Conversion to Christianity that began with Augustine's mission in 597 AD. The site was founded by Ethelburga in 633 AD and was evidently a double monastery where monks and nuns lived and were presided over by the royal Abbess Ethelburga. Ethelburga was an early Anglo-Saxon queen consort to Northumbrian King Edwin and was daughter of the first Christian King of Kent Ethelbert. After her death in 647 AD, Ethelburga was venerated and her remains became holy relics that were transferred from Lyminge to St Gregory's in Canterbury in 1085 AD.

The seventh century church and associated monastic buildings are significantly valuable examples of an Anglo-Saxon religious site following soon after the conversion to Christianity. The site is also important as a central place within the earlier Anglo-Saxon settlement of Kent and there is a cemetery in the area of Lyminge that is believed to be of Jutish origins. In December of 1953 workmen were digging the foundations for a new shed in a field off the Canterbury Road in Lyminge. Whilst digging, they discovered human remains that triggered significant archaeological interest. Emergency excavations were done in 1953 followed by two further digs in 1954 and 1955 led by Alan Warhurst. In total, 64 graves were excavated and a number of well-preserved skeletons and associated grave goods were discovered. Grave goods included iron shield bosses, glass items, knives, buckles, beads and broaches. The finds from these digs are now stored at the Maidstone Museum in Kent and represent an important assemblage attesting to the Frankish settlement of Kent.

It is already known from written sources that King Ethelbert had married a Frankish Princess in the latter part of the sixth Century AD for political confirmation of the international relationship, and it has also been noted that the geographical location of Lyminge is significant as it stands at the head of the Elham valley linking the southeast Kent seaboard and the Stour Valleys suggesting that the village may have been a prominent funnel through which Frankish culture entered East Kent. The Lyminge finds evidently illustrate a Frankish influence in Kent though whether this was by trade or the migration of people it has not yet been determined.

During the 1860s, Canon Jenkins was undertaking major restoration works at the church of St Mary and St Ethelburga and uncovered parts of the seventh century church to the south of the current building. More recent archaeological work and interest in the monastic site at Lyminge has been reignited and a number of excavations and studies of the site have taken place seasonally since 2005. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust began work at the site again in 2005 and uncovered evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation south of the current churchyard. Systematic excavations by that Canterbury Archaeological Trust in partnership with the University of Reading have taken place at Lyminge from 2007 to 2015 and developed into the *Lyminge Archaeological Project*.

Significant progress has been made in the understanding of the monastic complex. 2008 saw the first open-area excavations on land belonging to the 'Old Rectory' south of the churchyard and uncovered a Middle Saxon granary with an accompanying threshing floor. Excavations in 2009 explored the domestic parts of the monastic site and identified several boundary ditches and smaller palisades that indicate that this portion of the settlement was rectangular. Small floorplans of timber buildings also suggested single occupancy dwellings that may have housed one monk or nun. Excavations in 2010 made a number of significant discoveries, in particular the evidence of an Anglo-Saxon occupation pre-dating the monastic site.

The 2010 trench uncovered four sunken-featured buildings and one timber hall that were spread out in an arrangement that is indicative of fifth to seventh century Anglo-Saxon settlements. The early date is further compounded by the finds recovered, many of which are exclusively seen at high-status sites. A luxury glass vessel was found that suggests a function of the timber hall was for feasting, but more significantly a seventh century plough coulter was excavated that so far is the only example in early Anglo-Saxon England. This alone may suggest that the introduction of heavy ploughs into Kent was much earlier than other parts of England. In the same year, a series of evaluation trenches west of the churchyard were opened and revealed a Middle Saxon ironworking site located 150 meters north-west of the monastic centre. This evidence suggests that ironworking may have constituted an important part of the monasteries economy and may also have served to generate financial income.

In 2012, funding was secured from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and a new phase in the project was launched. Earlier test-pitting at **Tayne Field** (2007) in the heart of Lyminge had indicated the possibility of early Anglo-Saxon archaeology. This was confirmed in 2012 with open-air excavation where perhaps the most significant find of the programme was made. More timber halls and a further sunken-featured building were excavated. One of the halls was identified as being of post-in-trench construction and measuring 21 by 8.5 meters in size is one of the most important Anglo-Saxon buildings yet excavated in Kent. It is dated to around 600 AD and belongs to a rare group of high-status halls common to royal complexes and used for holding ceremonial feasts and meetings similar to the types described in the *Beowulf* poem. This seems to be the longest occupied part of the Anglo-Saxon settlement here whilst structures dating to the Saxo-Norman period were also found as well as extensive scatters of Mesolithic flints.

Excavations continued in Tayne Field to the north of the excavation trench of 2012 in 2013 and added further significant finds to the project's successes. Two further sunken-featured buildings and four timber halls were uncovered, the timber halls discovered with overlapping floorplans suggesting a successive phase of rebuilding of the 'feast hall' excavated in the previous year, each becoming more elaborate than the last. The final hall measured 15 by 7 meters and exhibited a substantial entrance mid-way along the long walls as well as mortared flooring typical of seventh century churches. In the western extension of the main trench another timber hall was uncovered but only the north-east corner and length of wall survived. Its dimensions suggest that it may have been even larger than the 'feasting hall' and would have been a substantial building.



In 2014 excavations continued in Tayne Field and two trenches were opened. One reopened and extended the trench over the fourth timber hall from the previous season of work and the second trench was opened north east of the first trench and revealed a Bronze Age ring ditch. Three phases of the timber hall were identified, the first two using plank-in-trench techniques and the third using raking timbers around the outside of the building. The width of this building was identified as being 12m though the full length is still unknown. The Bronze Age Barrow contained five cremation burials and yielded a sixth century post-built hall as well as an artefact-rich midden that contained archaeological finds such as glass, iron objects, animal bone and decorated Saxon pottery. In addition to the Saxon and Bronze Age finds, a crouched inhumation burial dating to the Beaker period was also found as well as medieval ditches, World War Two structures and Mesolithic flints. Excavations were completed in the summer of 2015 and have produced significant finds, some of which are unique in this country. Lyminge continues to be an exceptionally significant site archaeologically and work has continued on processing the finds from these excavations as well as producing a number of important publications.

The **Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL)** is one of the largest engineering projects ever undertaken within the United Kingdom and has resulted in extensive archaeological work that has taken place throughout the construction of the tunnel and High Speed 1 (HS1) rail link. Construction of the tunnel began in 1988 and was officially opened in 1994. The High Speed 1 (HS1) line from the Tunnel at Folkestone to London St Pancras is 68 miles long and was constructed in two parts which were then operational by 2006. The line now allows passengers to reach the continent from London in under 2 hours, the crossing of the tunnel into Calais only taking 35 minutes. The project was managed by Rail Link Engineering (RLE) for the client body Union Railways (South) Limited (URS), a subsidiary of London & Continental Railways. Archaeological desktop analysis, non-intrusive and intrusive survey work has been conducted throughout the project by archaeologists employed from Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS), Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) and Wessex Archaeology (WA). Consultation was also sought with English Heritage (now known as Historic England) and Kent County Council.

The archaeological work done has constituted a detailed investigation that has recorded remains that it was not possible to preserve *in situ*. An archaeological research strategy for the CTRL was designed by Dr P. Drewett of the Institute of Archaeology (University College London) in order to provide sound academic focus for the archaeological investigations of the affected areas and to also enhance the understanding of the archaeology of Kent. Rather than considering the sites excavated along the CTRL as standalone sites, they have been interpreted within the wider context of the linear transect comprising the CTRL through Kent. The sites within the district that have been primarily affected by the construction of the CTRL are Folkestone, Saltwood and Westenhanger.

The archaeological work at the **Folkestone Terminal** has revealed valuable information about the origins of the occupied landscape here and dates back as far as the late Upper Palaeolithic. Evidence suggests that this area has been intensely settled and occupied during the prehistoric period and remains from settlement over a considerable stretch of time were excavated. 26 areas of archaeological and

historical interest were initially identified within the UK Folkestone terminal boundary and a number of linear trenches were subsequently opened. Whilst considerable plough damage was observed throughout the area, significant archaeological remains were found. Primarily, these remains provided evidence for prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation and consisted largely of pottery and flint artefacts.

A number of Bronze Age habitation sites were discovered, the most prominent being that found at Holywell Coombe on the western foot of Sugar Loaf Hill which was destined to become the main portal to the Channel Tunnel. Some of the settlements were evidently long-lived, though most only flourished for less than a century before they were abandoned and buried by colluvium. This may be indicative of early agricultural practices here whereby the occupants exhausted land fertility which caused a cycle of erosion and forced the inhabitants to move on to new areas. Evidence for prehistoric farming at Holywell Coombe is represented by plough marks that were found in the buried land surface. Animal bones were also found in postholes that suggest enclosures or structures were present.

Holywell Coombe was a long-lived settlement based on pottery and flint finds dating to the Neolithic and early Bronze Age period between 4000 to 1500 years ago. Notably, pottery evidence dating from around 2350 to 1500 years ago at the site suggests that the site was occupied by people of the early Bronze Age 'Beaker' tradition which reached Britain from Europe around 2400 years ago. This evidence for a domestic 'Beaker' settlement is very rare and makes this discovery of national importance. To date no other domestic 'Beaker' site has been located within the UK. 3 burial mounds were also excavated at the site and the total amount of archaeological material excavated from the Early Bronze Age suggests medium sized settlements.

Evidence for Iron Age settlement becomes more prolific in the archaeological record here. Early to mid-Iron Age occupation dating to around 800 to 101 years ago was excavated at Dolland's Moor and consisted of a number of pits constituting an 'open' settlement that covered a large area. Plough damage has been extensive and only deep-cut features have survived. The pits appear to have been used for rubbish, grain storage or for ritual functions as a horse's head was deposited in one pit. Field ditches further suggests a system of square fields to the east of the settlement and animal bones highlight the importance of animal husbandry at the site. No further structural remains were excavated but significantly pottery fragments suggest possible links with the Low Countries and France based on similarities in decoration.

The Late Iron Age settlement around Dolland's Moor appears to have changed from an open settlement to an enclosed village. Again, only deep-cut ditches and pits survive due to plough damage but occupation evidently continued here. There is a complex sequence of ditches that reflect continuous modifications that were made to the internal arrangement of the settlement. Moving into the Roman period, the settlement shifted north and the old enclosure was converted into fields. New ditches define plots that the new village was divided into, and each plot had a grave pit. There is evidence for an important house that was fronted with a stone revetment but then the site was later abandoned during the late Roman period probably due to poor soil quality. Three inhumation burials have since been discovered at the site;

two young females and one child, though there were no associated grave goods and they have been dated to the Roman period.

Burials suggesting a 'Jutish' origin were excavated at Cherry Garden Hill, Milky Down Beachborough and Dover Hill around Folkestone. Further significant evidence then suggests an Anglo-Saxon settlement dating to around the end of the sixth century AD, close to the time of the arrival of Augustine in Kent in 597 AD. Evidence for dwellings, glass-tempered pottery, loom weights and animal bones were uncovered from backfill around the huts and associated features. Structures were discovered east of Dolland's Moor, on Cherry Garden Hill and near Danton Farm and suggest a relatively poor existence of subsistence farmers scattered along the foot of the Downs. Intensive agricultural exploitation appears to continue beyond the Norman Conquest though there is little evidence for a medieval occupation.

Three standing buildings within the Folkestone terminal boundary were identified to be of significant antiquity; Danton Farm Barn, Mill House and Stone Farm. Danton Farm Barn, which is around 280 years old, was dismantled and now houses the Elham Valley Railway Museum. Mill House is a Grade II Listed Building and is believed to have originally been a late seventeenth century mill. Finally, Stone Farm is also a Grade II Listed Building and dates back to the mid-sixteenth century. Overall the archaeology from the Folkestone terminal site has provided evidence for human occupation spanning a great length of time and has contributed to the understanding of the growth and development of Kent.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Wessex Archaeology were commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological excavation at the site of the **Saltwood Tunnel**, north of Saltwood. A complex site spanning multiple periods of occupation was discovered and evidence for ceremonial and funerary land use as well as for settlement and agriculture was determined. Prehistoric evidence was largely restricted to unstratified and residual flint artefacts. However, 8 Mesolithic Horsham-type retouched points excavated from a small pit suggest occupation around 7000 years ago, and 2 early Neolithic pits provided evidence for activity dating back to between 4000 and 2351 years ago. Early Bronze Age occupation is evidenced by a barrow cemetery that contained 5 barrows and a flat grave that dated to the late third century BC. Little further evidence suggests that the cemetery only remained in use for a short time.

A late Bronze Age settlement and field system were established at the site and then there is evidence for Iron Age agricultural and funerary activity. Early Romano-British domestic finds were uncovered as well as 2 small cremation cemeteries that strongly suggest a small rural settlement was located nearby. Occupation of the site appears to wane but continued into the later part of the fourth century AD. Significant Anglo-Saxon evidence from the Saltwood Tunnel area is dominated by 3 inhumation cemeteries which are each located within the vicinity of a Bronze Age barrow. A total of 217 graves were excavated; 17 within the eastern cemetery, 59 within the western cemetery and 141 within the central cemetery. Both the eastern and western cemeteries appear to have started during the early sixth century AD with the eastern only lasting a couple of generations as opposed to the western cemetery which continued into the seventh century AD. The central cemetery was established slightly later during the sixth century AD but continued through the seventh century AD.

Ultimately, there were always 2 cemeteries in use at any one time at this site. A number of important finds were made from these cemeteries including pottery, shields, angons (throwing spears) and personal ornamentation items. A number of the burials are classed as weaponry burials and included significant artefacts such as swords, spears and arrowheads.

Evidence for a small rural medieval site probably dating to the tenth or eleventh century AD was excavated towards the eastern end of the site. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from features and topsoil. Remains associated with the construction of the Saltwood Tunnel in during the early 1840s were also evident as well as evidence for a military presence at the site in the earlier twentieth century. Overall the finds from this site attest to a long occupation beginning in the late Bronze Age through to the tenth or eleventh century AD. The Anglo-Saxon finds are of particular significance and it has been suggested by some academics that they are evidence for Saltwood as an important Anglo-Saxon meeting place although this is yet to be confirmed.

The final site that was excavated within the district was **north of Westenhanger Castle** and was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) and then the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). Fieldwalking of the area identified prehistoric worked flint during the CTRL Environmental Assessment. Flint implements that were later excavated suggest a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The subsequent excavations then revealed a series of large ditches forming a rectangular enclosure as well as post holes and pits that are suggested to be in connection to a settlement. Romano-British pottery was also discovered though this is believed to be residual.

Excavations carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in 1998 revealed medieval field boundaries and a possible corn-drying oven though it now seems more likely that this was actually a waste pit despite significant organic remains being found inside. Pottery has provided a date for this feature as being around mid-twelfth century in origin and possibly being associated with an earlier manorial farm that predates the castle. Further features that were uncovered included small ditches and post or stake holes which may indicate the presence of an early paddock. Pottery evidence dates these features to between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries. Ultimately the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has provided unique and significant opportunities for extensive archaeological work which has enhanced our understanding of the archaeology and history of Kent.

There is a growing interest in the archaeological potential of the district and a number of projects are now providing valuable opportunities for extensive archaeological investigation. These include those that have been explored above such as the *Lyminge Archaeological Project* and the *East Wear Bay Archaeological Project* as well as many others such as *Saltwood Archaeology*, *St Leonard's Osteological Research Group* and the *Romney Marsh Research Trust*. Community projects such as the "*Finding Eanswythe*" project in Folkestone and the *Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme* on the Romney Marsh are further providing opportunities for archaeological work and a better understanding of the earlier histories and archaeological potential of various areas within the District. Support and interest is also being received from various Universities such as the

University of Reading and the University of Kent which further gives weight to the resources available for continued archaeological work. Important studies will be published from these projects that will significantly improve our knowledge of these areas and their archaeological finds.

There is also strong communal support for the archaeological investigation of the the district and these groups recognise the need for more archaeological work and a better understanding of the archaeology of their local area. These include the Hythe Local History Group as part of the Hythe Civic Society, the Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group (FRAG) and Saltwood Archaeology. These groups work to research, promote and enhance the archaeological records of their local areas and also take part in archaeological excavations within the district. Significant archaeological remains have been found in areas around the District such as Saltwood and Lyminge that merit promotion and future work. The potential for archaeological finds in other areas such as Hythe and the Romney Marsh have also been identified and again provide valuable opportunities for future work and a better understanding of the archaeological record of the district.

### **3. Description of the Heritage Assets**

For the purposes of this paper, the following section will describe the archaeological sites that have been designated as Scheduled Monuments followed by summaries of the main archaeological assets arranged in chronological order. Due to the large number of individual archaeological artefacts, sites and monuments, descriptions of each will not be given here.

#### ***Scheduled Monuments***

There are **65** Scheduled Monuments within the district. They range in size and date and cover a large period of human activity. A number of the themes covered within this strategy will have associated archaeological remains, and this is particularly true for the military and religious heritage.

A large proportion of the Scheduled Monuments in the district relate to defensive heritage, most notably the collection of post medieval coastal defences that cover the length of the District. The Royal Military Canal that stretches from Seabrook near Folkestone to Cliff End in East Sussex is the third longest defensive monument in the British Isles after Hadrian's Wall and Offa's Dyke. It is 28 miles long and was built as the third line of defence in anticipation of a Napoleonic invasion. The monument is divided into sections and these are listed separately; 9 of these are located across the district. A string of Martello Towers also stretches along the District's coastline and were again built during the nineteenth century as a further defence against a French invasion. Though many have since been lost either through demolition, deterioration or to the sea, 10 that are designated as Scheduled Monuments are still extant in the district and are located at points in Folkestone, Sandgate, Hythe and Dymchurch. The Shorncliffe Redoubt and Camp is also an important Napoleonic defensive structure, the Shorncliffe Redoubt surviving as an earthwork fort.

Other defensive monuments also include nineteenth century redoubt and batteries at Dungeness and twentieth century structures such as the sound mirrors at

Greatstone, Second World War underground operational bases at Snargate and Burmarsh and the remains of the Phoenix Caisson off the coast of Littlestone-on-Sea; a relic of the D Day operations. The district has a number of earlier fortifications that include a motte and bailey castle northwest of Stowting church and other castle buildings including Westenhanger Castle, Saltwood Castle and Sandgate Castle. *Portus Lemanis*, also known as Stutfall Castle, is an example of a Roman Saxon Shore fort that probably defended a historic natural harbour in the area around Lympne that is now part of the Romney Marsh. In 1938 Stutfall Castle was the earliest site to be listed as a Scheduled Monument within the district.

An equally large proportion of the Scheduled Monuments within the district are prehistoric barrows found primarily in the North Downs region of the District in areas such as Lyminge, Newington, Swingfield and Elham. Most of these are Bronze Age bowl barrows though there is also an example of an oval barrow at Elmsted and a Roman barrow in Stowting.

4 churches are listed as Scheduled Monuments as well as Listed Buildings within the District, 2 of these are the remains on the lost churches at Midley and Hope Church of All Saints on the Romney Marsh. The Horton Priory and part of the Cistercian Grange known as Romney Priory are also designated as Scheduled Monuments in addition to 1 chapel at Court-at-Street in Lympne.

The remaining Scheduled Monuments include part of the Rhee wall at Snargate, a moat and associated closes at Marshall's Bridge in Burmarsh, early medieval flood defences at Botolph's Bridge in West Hythe and a moated site with associated fields near Pickney Bush Farm in Newchurch. The final Scheduled Monument is the Roman villa site at East Wear Bay in Folkestone.

### ***Palaeolithic Archaeology***

The Palaeolithic period is the earliest in human history and in Britain covers the period between 800,000 years ago up to the end of the last ice age around 10,000 years ago. The start of the Palaeolithic in Britain is marked by the first colonisations by early hominins, possibly *Homo Antecessor*. Later species that would migrate to and live in Britain would be *Homo Heidelbergensis*, *Neanderthals* and lastly *Homo Sapiens*. The vast majority of evidence for early human occupation of Britain comes from worked flint and the resulting implements. Early human remains have been found in areas around the country as well as some examples of other worked materials such as animal bone and antler, however flint tools are overwhelmingly more common. In addition to flint being a robust material that will inevitably survive well in the archaeological record, this is primarily because these hominins would have lived a transient lifestyle, moving around the landscape to exploit its available resources. It is not until later in the Neolithic period when more permanent settlements and agricultural practices begin to develop that human activity becomes more visible and diverse within the archaeological record.

Notably, Kent has the highest number of Palaeolithic artefacts and recorded find spots than any other county in the country. It is an area with an abundance of local flint and more importantly is the part of Britain closest to the continent. Kent is therefore significant to the study of the British Palaeolithic because of this proximity

to Europe making it the likely entry point for hominins and perhaps the first place to have been colonised. For the duration of the Palaeolithic, Britain was connected to Europe by a land bridge that would have been periodically accessible during climatic changes. It wasn't until approximately 6500 years ago during the Mesolithic period that the land bridge was finally flooded ultimately separating Britain from Europe. Kent was arguably the gateway into Britain via the land bridge for Palaeolithic humans, and with Kent also being relatively unaffected by glaciation during this period, geological deposits and archaeological evidence have been well preserved.

The British Palaeolithic falls within the latter half of the geological period known as the Pleistocene. The Pleistocene is characterised by a number of climatic oscillations known as glacial periods of severe cold and interglacial warmer periods seeing temperatures hotter than we experience today. During the glacial periods, Britain would have resembled arctic tundra making it very difficult and at times impossible for humans to live there. As the sea levels rose and fell with the advancing and retreating glaciers, sediments could be carried long distances and significant changes to the physical landscapes were made. Evidence for Palaeolithic hominins is often found in sediments that have been deposited during the Pleistocene, but are found at varying depths and may have been transported substantial distances from their original deposition. As mentioned already, Kent was relatively unaffected by the destructive effects of the ice sheets because they never reached further south than modern London and south Essex. Palaeolithic sites in Kent are largely concentrated in the north of the county, the most well-known of these being the Swanscombe site where skull fragments of an archaic hominin (*Homo Heidelbergensis*) were excavated between 1935 and 1955. As a result, the Palaeolithic evidence available in Kent is archaeologically significant.

In the district evidence for a Lower Palaeolithic occupation has been found and is comparatively far more common in the archaeological record than evidence from the Middle Palaeolithic. As yet, evidence for the later periods of the Palaeolithic is extremely rare, though recent discoveries of Upper Palaeolithic flint tools at neighbouring District Ashford may give hope to similar future finds being made in the district. A small stone with carvings was discovered on the beach at Folkestone in 2009 that may have suggested a later Palaeolithic date. However, the stone is a form of marble that is not found locally and the exact find spot could not be determined and so it was not possible to assign an accurate date and provenance.

The evidence from the Lower Palaeolithic primarily consists of Acheulian hand axes from the Lympne, Elham, Folkestone and Hawkinge areas. These finds are particularly concentrated within the Elham Valley around Dreal's Farm. This technology in Britain can be attributed to *Homo Heidelbergensis* who are known to have used this type of flint technology extensively. A number of further flint implements have been found dating to the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic, a notable example from the Middle Palaeolithic being a Mousterian hand axe found in the Folkestone area which is a tool technology associated with Neanderthals. Significantly, during the Channel Tunnel Rail Link excavations at the Saltwood Tunnel, a single worked flint identified as a burin was found that can be dated to the Upper Palaeolithic. Palaeolithic finds within the district are largely surface finds from residual clay.

## **Mesolithic and Neolithic Archaeology**

The last recolonisation of Britain towards the end of the last ice age begins around 12,600 years ago and spans the end of the Upper Palaeolithic and the beginning of the Mesolithic period around 8000 years ago. As the climate began to improve in Britain, new fauna and flora such as roe deer, wild boar and alder forests became established and these new landscapes and food sources required different hunting tools which began to include microliths and barbs in the development of harpoons and spears. More complex patterns of seasonal and in some cases more permanent occupation dependent on food and land source management starts to become evident in the archaeological record. Sites further north in the country such as in Northumberland and Yorkshire have provided evidence for permanent and seasonal dwellings dating to between 8700 and 7600 years ago. Tools such as flint scrapers, worked bone and antler have also been discovered.

Evidence for a Mesolithic occupation in the district is fairly sparse and is again concentrated around areas such as Elham, Saltwood, Folkestone and Hawkinge. During excavations as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link construction project near the Saltwood Tunnel, a pit containing 8 early Mesolithic Horsham-type retouched points was found. 2 flint working sites were also identified above Elham and further Mesolithic flints were excavated at Tayne Field during the *Lyminge Archaeological Project*. Further excavation in areas such as the Romney Marsh may produce valuable evidence for a clearer picture of the Mesolithic occupation in Kent; particularly as the marshland wet conditions may provide conditions for better preservation of archaeological materials.

The introduction of farming into Britain coincides with the beginning of the Neolithic period around 4500 years ago. Hunter-gatherer ways of life were still changing as the climate warmed and food and landscape resources continued to respond to these changes. There is an increasing amount of material within the archaeological record as settlements became permanent and farming practices begin to develop. Wider ranges of material culture such as polished stone axes, pottery and leaf-shaped arrowheads are increasingly found as well as early earthwork sites such as long barrows used for communal burials and causewayed enclosures. An intensification in woodland clearance also marks the start of this period, particularly seen in the Low Weald, and human activity begins to have a significant impact on the District's landscape. Exploitation of forests provided important resources such as timber and food, and also cleared spaces for settlement. Evidence for a continuous occupation between the Mesolithic and Neolithic is unfortunately rare but there have been important finds evidencing a Neolithic occupation within the District.

Neolithic finds within the District include flint implements such as handaxes, scrapers and arrowheads. Flint working sites have been excavated near Acrise and Hawkinge and would have provided early humans with tools for various uses such as hunting and wood clearance. Flint implements have also been found in areas around Elham, Folkestone, Sandgate, Lyminge and Swingfield.

During excavations as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project Neolithic pottery and flint implements were found around the Folkestone terminal, Saltwood Tunnel and Westenhanger. Pits containing Neolithic pottery, animal bone and flint were



excavated at the Saltwood Tunnel and also contained organic material that suggested humans here had a mixed diet of wild and cultivated food sources. Dense scatters of pottery and flint implements have also been found at West Wood in Lyminge which suggest longer-term occupation though there is no evidence for permanent dwellings within the District. Ceremonial evidence is also important for the Neolithic period and one of the megalithic long barrows belonging to the Stour group is located at Elmstead. There is also a possible causewayed enclosure close to Summerhouse Hill near Folkestone which is another type of Neolithic monument found elsewhere in Kent.

### ***Late Neolithic to Bronze Age Archaeology***

As we move into the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age the building of monuments becomes far more prolific as cross channel connections bring with it changes in burial practices, new material culture and novel metal technology. The most common monument is the round barrow, and a significant number are known from across the District. As was mentioned previously, barrows constitute one of the largest proportions of Scheduled Monument type within the District second to defensive monuments. Damage to barrows by ploughing and other agricultural activity is common but barrows within the district have survived well with around 40% of the county's designated Bronze Age barrows being found within this District. Important clusters of round barrows have been investigated during excavations ahead of the High Speed Rail Link 1 during the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project at Castle Hill near Folkestone and Saltwood. Three barrows were excavated at Castle Hill and a further five at Saltwood that are believed to represent a linear barrow cemetery.

As with earlier periods, evidence for Neolithic human settlement remains elusive and is again represented by finds such as flint implements and pottery. An analysis of a flint assemblage at Lyminge suggests human activity and perhaps occupation as well as examples of Peterborough Ware pottery at sites near Castle Hill in Folkestone and Cheriton. Perhaps one of the most significant finds relating to prehistoric humans within the District was found at Holywell Coombe to the west of Folkestone again during the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project.

Holywell Coombe on the western foot of Sugar Loaf Hill in Folkestone was destined to become the main portal to the Channel Tunnel. Evidence for a number of Bronze Age habitations were found; some only flourishing for a century before they were abandoned and others appearing more long-lived. This may be indicative of early agricultural practices where fertile land was exhausted and periodically abandoned causing a cycle of erosion that would force inhabitants onto new areas. The site at Holywell Coombe appears to have been a long-lived settlement based on pottery and flint finds that date back to the Neolithic and early Bronze Age period around 4000 to 1500 years ago. Plough marks and animal bones found in postholes provide evidence for prehistoric farming as well as the use of enclosures or structures in animal husbandry.

Most notably, pottery evidence that dates to around 2350 to 1501 years ago suggests that the site was occupied by people of the 'Beaker' culture which reached Britain from Europe around 2400 years ago. This is a significant find as no other domestic 'Beaker' sites have been located in the UK to date. Posthole marks also

mark the location of timber framed huts and fence lines that formed part of the long-term settlement here. During the excavations in Lyminge as part of the *Lyminge Archaeological Project* a Bronze Age 'Beaker' burial was uncovered at Tayne Field in 2014. It was a crouched burial with an associated pottery vessel and perforated bone toggle. A ring ditch had been identified during geophysical survey and further cremations were found at the centre of the barrow. These were accompanied by grave goods that include a copper alloy rapier, flint implements, animal bone and a copper alloy tanged chisel. These finds were amongst many significant discoveries at the Lyminge site.

The later Bronze Age around 1000 years ago sees changing agriculture and settlement patterns offering new opportunities particularly for industry and material culture. There was also a move away from building monuments such as round barrows and there is little evidence for their reuse. The archaeological record becomes dominated by remains of domestic settlements and land divisions and we also start to find evidence of metal artefacts. The district contains examples of late Bronze Age hoards and related metal objects that illustrate the manufacture of items and not just their use. A late Bronze Age founders hoard was found at Saltwood in 1872 close to the highest point of Hayne Hill during the construction of the tunnel for the Hythe to Sandgate railway line. The assemblage is a good example of a metal-workers collection of pieces for re-casting. It includes the remains of socketed axes, spearheads, blades, sword fragments, a small chisel, chape, possible clasp ornament for a sword belt, linch pin for a vehicle and a number of copper ingots.

A small hoard of 5 Bronze Age flanged axes were found in a gravel quarry north of Lydd in 1985. Their original context is uncertain due to their means of extraction, but it has been suggested that they were part of a hoard due to their typology. A substantial late Bronze Age or early Iron Age hoard has also been excavated at Lyminge which included a winged axe, copper alloy ingots and approximately 300 copper alloy plates. The hoard is unusual for its large number of copper alloy plates and so is an important discovery for the District. Other examples of metal working within the district are evident at Old Romney where pieces of Bronze Age slag were found. An unusual late Bronze Age sword was also dredged from the sea at Folkestone in 1951 off the shore from East Wear Bay. It has however since been lost.

### ***Iron Age Archaeology***

The Iron Age in Britain begins around 800 years ago when iron working techniques reached the country from Europe. Objects such as jewellery continued to be made from bronze, but iron was now used in the construction of tools. In England, the Iron Age continues until the arrival of the Romans in 43 AD though for other parts of the country such as Scotland and Ireland Iron Age ways of living continued after this. Iron Age Britain was largely rural with most people living in small villages and farmsteads that comprised communities run by either an individual or small group. Iron tools had also made farming easier and agricultural production was increasing.

Evidence of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age settlements within the district are known from a number of sites across the District. Late Bronze Age occupation sites are known from Folkestone, Saltwood and Lydd. Evidence for Iron Age settlement is

known from areas such as Folkestone, Cheriton, Hythe, and Hawkinge. A number of Iron Age features have been discovered around Hawkinge that suggest early occupation and activity. A watching brief on groundworks that were associated with a residential development to the rear of Canterbury Road in Hawkinge identified early Iron Age quarry pits and probable ovens and furnaces together with traces of a settlement which suggests industrial activity. Excavation of a site near the Hawkinge Aerodrome in 1993 also found features that suggest an early Iron Age settlement in the area. Ditches, pits and postholes were found across the site and contained evidence of Iron Age and Roman pottery. The pottery remains suggest that the early Iron Age and Romano-British sites overlapped considerably. An extensive early Iron Age open settlement is also known at Dolland's Moor alongside a system of open fields.

The archaeological record for the middle Iron Age in the district is unfortunately sparse and little is understood about this period. It appears that many late Bronze Age and early Iron Age settlements were abandoned and not reoccupied until later in the late Iron Age. It is not fully understood why this is but it may have been due to a change in settlement patterns, population decline or a bias in the archaeological record. Future archaeological work within the District may yet uncover evidence for this period and improve our understanding of human activity and settlement leading up to the late Iron Age. Some evidence of middle Iron Age activity is known from Cheriton where pits, postholes and a ditch were found.

The hill fort becomes the predominant form of community space during the Iron Age. Hill forts first appear in the late Bronze Age around 1000 years ago and become much larger and elaborate during the Iron Age. Many are still visible in today's landscape and are believed to have been used for defensive, social or trading purposes. Some human remains have also been found on top of hill forts as funerary practices during this period on the whole did not include grave burials until later on in the late Iron Age. Human burials have only been observed in a few parts of the country such as East Yorkshire and Cornwall and other examples of human remains within settlements may suggest that these individuals were of a special status. There are no confirmed hill forts within the District but evidence at Castle Hill in Folkestone and Acrise may suggest the presence of Iron Age structures, possibly hill forts though this is not confirmed.

Evidence for settlements dating to the late Iron Age are again present in the archaeological record despite an absence during the middle Iron Age. Hawkinge and Dolland's Moor are important examples of the expansion of settlements later on in the Iron Age at sites that were occupied during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The site at Dolland's Moor appears to change to a more enclosed settlement where it had earlier been an extensive open settlement, with features enclosed by ditches and paddocks. During the Roman period this settlement would shift north and the old enclosure was converted to fields.

The site to the rear of Canterbury Road in Hawkinge shows evidence for a late Iron Age settlement with cremation and pyre deposits. Late Iron Age features have also been excavated at the Hawkinge Aerodrome including pits, postholes, pottery and metalwork. In 2005, excavations at the 'Terlingham III' site in Hawkinge identified human activity from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period. Iron Age activity

consisted mainly of pits that were largely of a later Iron Age date. It is significant that a number of the sites occupied during the Iron Age were continuously occupied into the Roman period.

Another important Iron Age site within the District is located at East Wear Bay in Folkestone. This site is primarily known for its Roman villa, but there is also important evidence for a late Iron Age occupation. Recent excavations at the site suggest that the site was a major coastal trading post as well as a rotary quern production site from around the second century BC. During the first century BC it is believed that the manufacture of quern stones from the local Greensand stone was taking place on an industrial scale, and examples of these quern stones have been found across Kent, the Lower Thames Valley and in East Anglia. The site is believed to be the only Iron Age quern stone production site to have currently been excavated in north-western Europe and so is of great importance to the archaeological record for this period.

During the late Iron Age the expansion of the Roman Empire across continental Europe brings with it new technologies, material culture and ideas that become evident in the archaeological record before the arrival of the Romans in Britain later on in 43 AD. Coinage was initially imported in the second century BC but later a local coinage developed and examples of this have been found across the District. Burial practices also begin to change with an increasing number of inhumations and cremations becoming evident in the later Iron Age. Human remains dating to earlier in the Iron Age were rare as funerary practices did not include human grave burials. In the south east of England the dead were largely cremated in the later Iron Age.

### ***Roman Archaeology***

Migration and trade between Britain and continental Europe was already well established by the time that Julius Caesar made two expeditions to Britain in 55 and 54 BC. In 43 AD a Roman invasion force had landed and quickly taken control of the southeast of Britain before moving north and west. It is believed that the invasion probably landed at Richborough and a military campaign followed that resulted in administrative control of Kent passing to pro-Roman tribal leaders. The *Civitas Cantiacorum* refers broadly to modern day Kent with Canterbury (*Durovernum Cantiacorum*) as its administrative centre. Roman authority over Britain was established across a number of decades, and Britain would remain as a province of the Roman Empire until the early fifth century AD.

In the early years following the Roman conquest, a number of late Iron Age settlements continue to be occupied into the Romano-British period. Sites such as those at Hawkinge and Dolland's Moor described above show a continuation of occupation from the Iron Age through to the Roman period. At Dolland's Moor the settlement shifts north during the Roman period and the old enclosure from the late Iron Age settlement is converted into fields. The new village area was divided into plots that were defined by ditches. 3 burials were also excavated at the site and are believed to date to the later Roman period. All 3 burials were inhumations enclosed by an early Roman boundary ditch, none of which had associated grave goods and all the graves were shallow and small.

At Hawkinge, there is substantial evidence that shows the continued occupation of the site into the Romano-British period. Excavations at the Canterbury Road site have uncovered a number of Romano-British features and finds, mostly unstratified, including pottery, pits and ditches. At the site of the Hawkinge Aerodrome there is further evidence for continued occupation into the Roman period. Archaeological work in the late 1990s found substantial evidence for an extensive Romano-British settlement that covered a large area. Finds consisted of pits, ditches, occupation layers, pottery and a cremation burial. The cremation burial and a coin that were found suggest a date of the second to the third century AD.

Archaeological monitoring along the southern section of the Hawkinge-Denton Bypass and Haven Drive found a number of Romano-British features. These included a group of four bowl-furnaces, a cremation burial and a probable building. Finds also included iron nails, tegula (roof tiles), slag and pottery. Later in 2006 Archaeology South East carried out a strip, map and sample excavation along the Middle Relief Road at Hawkinge. A concentration of Roman features was discovered towards the southern end and suggested two phases of occupation between 50 to 120 AD and 120 to 250 AD.

To date, 2 cremation burials with pottery dating to the late Iron Age/Roman period have been excavated at the Hawkinge Aerodrome site (1 further cremation was found in an area of modern disturbance). 5, possibly 6, further cremations dating to later in the Roman period have also been found that suggest continued occupation at the site. As part of the 'Terlingham III' development, archaeological work in 2004 has identified pits, postholes, gullies and ditches that date from the late Bronze Age through to the Roman period. Further excavation in 2005 found additional evidence for a Roman settlement. Evidence of structures and a field system within a long enclosure that also contained a round house or posthole structure within a sub-square ditch highlight a Roman occupation. Their isolated location has been suggested as indicating a ritualistic use.

Further evidence for Roman occupation has been excavated in other areas of the District including Lyminge, Saltwood, Brenzett and Lydd. Evidence of salt production at Lydd and Brenzett suggest sites with a more specialist function. Perhaps the most iconic feature of Roman archaeology is the Roman villa which starts to appear later on in Roman period. The Roman villa site at East Wear Bay in Folkestone is perhaps the most well-known example of Roman archaeology within the District. The villa was systematically excavated during the *A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500* community archaeology project and continues to be investigated as part of the *East Wear Bay Archaeological Project*. Unfortunately, the site is being gradually lost to cliff-top erosion but much information about the site has been determined through the active community projects at the site. The Roman villa is designated as a Scheduled Monument.

The large Roman villa was constructed in approximately 100 AD on the site of an Iron Age coastal trading post and rotary quern stone production settlement. This first villa was demolished in the late second century AD possibly due to the foundations being too shallow. A second and more substantial villa building was then constructed with deeper foundations and included mosaic floors, a large bath house and a second block that may have been linked by the courtyard or may have been a

separate residence. Recent evidence suggests that the second villa was abandoned sometime during the late third century AD and was then reoccupied in the late fourth century AD. The villa was finally abandoned by the early fifth century AD. It appears that the villa may have had a range of uses as well as periodical occupations, but its prominent position on the District's coastline suggests it was an important site throughout the first to third centuries AD.

A number of significant finds dating to the Roman period have been excavated at the East Wear Bay villa. These include Samian ware (pottery), brooches, coins, games pieces and a mother goddess figurine. Tiles stamped as *Classis Britannica* (referring to the Roman fleet in British waters) have also been excavated at the site which suggests a naval connection and may also attest to an official status of the villa. It has also been suggested that the villa may have acted as a signalling station. Kent's position as a gateway to Europe has had a substantial impact on the county in a number of ways such as new cultures, people, international trade and material culture entering from the continent. The Roman villa site at East Wear Bay is evidence that the southern coast of England remained of military importance even after the initial Roman invasions. There was a need for continued management and a military presence along the coast that is also evident through other potential Roman villa sites in other broadly coastal areas of the District.

A second possible villa site is recorded in the Warren Road area also in Folkestone, though it has now been built over so no archaeological remains are visible. Excavations during the nineteenth and twentieth century's uncovered evidence for a Roman villa at the site that included a pillared hypocaust, a small two-roomed building and an underground crypt. A further possible Roman villa near Pedlinge has also been observed within the District.

*Classis Britannica* tiles are also known from the Roman Fort site at Lympne; *Portus Lemanis* which is also known as Stutfall Castle. The fort was one of a series of Roman forts that were constructed along the Saxon Shore during the third century AD. Evidently, the coastline during the Roman period would have meant that the Roman fort at Lympne would have protected the entrance to a substantial natural harbour in an area that is now part of the Romney Marsh. Other Roman forts in this collection of Saxon Shore forts include those at Richborough, Reculver and Dover. Archaeological investigation of the fort has been limited, though geophysical surveys by the University of Kent in 2015 suggest that there are well preserved underground remains that could provide valuable future archaeological discoveries that would further improve our understanding of the site and its function. Accurate interpretations of the fort are made difficult by the unstable soils that the site lies on which have caused significant ground slippage and parts of the fort have now shifted down the hillside and distorted the original layout.

Earlier excavations at the site by Charles Roach Smith in the 1850s uncovered a second century AD altar that has been reused as a gate platform in the later fort. The altar had been inscribed and dedicated to Lucius Aufidius Pantera who was Commander of the British fleet around 135 AD. Interestingly the altar was also covered in saltwater barnacles which further suggest that the site was involved in naval activity. The excavation of *Classis Britannica* tiles further attests to a naval function associated with the Roman naval fleet and also suggests the presence of a

naval base existing at the site before the construction of the Saxon Shore fort on the third century AD. Subsequent excavations have found no evidence of this base and it is now believed that the base was not located beneath the site of the Roman fort but would have been close by though erosion of the landscape has probably destroyed any evidence.

Archaeological excavation at *Portus Lemanis* suggests that the fort was built in the mid to late 270s AD, the other Saxon Shore forts being constructed piecemeal over approximately a 50 year period around this time. The fort reused masonry perhaps from an earlier settlement near the site and a further uninscribed altar has also been found that was again reused as part of the later fort building. The sites military connections fit well with a mention of *Portus Lemanis* that appears in the *Antonine Itinerary* which is of early third century AD date. Coin evidence suggests that the fort was abandoned by the later fourth century AD which also fits with the removal of military resources from Britain ahead of the eventual total Roman withdrawal in the early fifth century AD.

### ***Anglo-Saxon Archaeology***

There are a number of significant Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains within the District, particularly relating to its religious heritage. The Anglo-Saxon period begins in the fifth century AD when the Romans had withdrawn from Britain and left its people vulnerable to repeated Saxon invasions that continued through the second half of the fifth century AD. The Anglo-Saxon people originated mainly from northern Germany and southern Scandinavia and began migrating to eastern England during the latter half of the fifth century. The settlers began to gain political, social and economic dominance over the indigenous populations and also brought with them a Germanic polytheism which subsequently became the dominant religion until the arrival of Augustine in 597 AD and the gradual conversion of the majority of the country's population to Christianity.

The origins of Kent can be interpreted from written and archaeological sources, although there is still insufficient evidence to determine in detail the scale and progression of the early settlers in Kent. Archaeological evidence, primarily from cemeteries across the county, suggests that the settlers in early Anglo-Saxon Kent were Jutes from southern Scandinavia though this remains a prevailing theory and more evidence is needed to definitely confirm this. Sources that reference early Anglo-Saxon Kent refer to the Saxon warrior leaders Hengest and Horsa as defeating the native Kentish population although again it is not known whether these figures were real or not. What is clear is that once the Saxons had settled in Kent, the infrastructure of Roman Kent fell and the political, social, cultural and religious landscape of the county began going through radical changes.

The Anglo-Saxon period lasted for around 600 years from 410 AD through until the Norman Conquest in 1066 AD. The early Saxon settlers established their own patterns of estate and political organisation that began with small tribal groups and then became kingdoms and sub-kingdoms. Early texts refer to a series of Kings in Kent by the seventh century AD that had become politically powerful and were able to influence other southern and eastern kingdoms. Kent was probably originally divided into two kingdoms, east and west, and was ruled over by a pair of Kings, the

senior of which ruled the east. 'Kent' was created in this period and by the end of the sixth century AD it included most of the area of the modern county. The kingdom consisted of estates that each had a centre, in early Anglo-Saxon England Lyminge was the only royal estate from modern day. By the ninth century AD Kent became part of the large West Saxon Kingdom and for a while was heir to the throne of Wessex.

The majority of archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period comes from cemeteries and burials. There is comparatively little settlement evidence within the county. East Kent has some of the largest Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the country which include Saltwood, Buckland and Sarre. Early Anglo-Saxon burial practices involved burying the dead fully clothed and often with associated grave goods such as dress ornaments, weapons, pottery and glass. Evolving styles in these artefacts has allowed archaeologists to trace immigration patterns and influences in Kent from the Continent for the early part of the Anglo-Saxon period. The grave goods found in east Kent show a distinctive 'Kentish type' that seems to be a fusion of Jutish and Frankish styles. In the later sixth century AD these styles spread to west Kent when this area came under the control of east Kent. Although there are no equivalents within Kent to royal burials elsewhere in the country such as Sutton Hoo or Prittlewell, there are significant Anglo-Saxon cemeteries within the district that have revealed outstanding archaeological remains.

In the district, there are significant Anglo-Saxon cemeteries known at Saltwood, Folkestone and Lyminge. Excavations were carried out at the Saltwood Tunnel and Stone Farm Bridleway by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Wessex Archaeology as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) work between 1998 and 2001. 3 early Saxon cemeteries were found that were spatially distinct phases each around a separate early Bronze Age barrow. There is a degree of chronological overlap between the 3 cemeteries and as a whole phase they cover a period between the late fifth century AD and late seventh century AD. In total, 217 inhumations, 1 cremations and 1 horse burial was excavated. The cemeteries can be divided into an eastern, western and central cemetery and all exhibited relatively poor preservation of human remains.

The eastern cemetery is of late fifth to late sixth century AD date with 16 burials focused on the south west side of the early Bronze Age barrow and a further 2 located on the north east side. Funerary assemblages included glass and amber beads, brooches and weaponry with 2 of the burials having evidence of wooden coffins and being richly furnished with weaponry, glass vessels and a chatelaine. The western cemetery overlaps slightly being in use between the mid sixth and seventh century AD. In total, 58 inhumations and 1 cremation were uncovered largely to the south east of a large barrow. Funerary assemblages again included glass vessels, weaponry, brooches and other jewellery pieces with a further 4 exhibiting evidence for wooden coffins. It is however believed that the full extent of this cemetery is yet to be excavated and so more burials may still be present.

The central cemetery appears to be in use during the seventh century AD and is focused to the south of the central barrow. As with the western cemetery, the full extent of this cemetery may not have been explored and further burials may still be present. 4 particularly well-furnished graves have been established as founder



graves and included weaponry, Coptic bowls and jewellery. The horse burial was probably associated with a burial on the barrow and the further presence of numerous elaborate funerary goods suggests the presence of high status individuals in this cemetery. Continental influences can also be observed in the funerary practices at this cemetery and may suggest a trading or migration route through the area although this hasn't been confirmed.

An early Saxon cemetery has also been discovered at Dover Hill in Folkestone during excavations due to road widening. 36 inhumation burials were uncovered as well as a number of associated grave goods including weaponry, brooches and vessels. The cemetery is thought to be of a sixth century AD date and the finds from which can now be found at Dover Museum, Folkestone Museum and the Natural History Museum (London).

A substantial Jutish cemetery has been excavated at Lyminge and revealed a large number of inhumation and cremation burials. Initial excavations were carried out by A. Warhurst in 1953 and 1954 where 44 inhumation burials were discovered dating to the mid/late sixth century AD. The majority of the burials were either extended or flexed inhumations with 1 infant crouched burial. Overall, 6 graves were identified as being infants, 18 of adult males and 17 as adult females. Funerary finds included weaponry, brooches, jewellery, pottery and glass vessels that are currently exhibited at the Maidstone Museum. A further season of work was completed in 1955 which uncovered a further 12 inhumation burials. Later work in 2002 has found a further 42 burials 13 of which were inhumations and 2 were cremations with a possible horse burial that was not complete and had been disturbed. The burials at the cemetery are associated with various barrows and the preservation of human remains is varied. A date of between the late fifth and sixth century AD seems likely based on the dating of grave goods. As with the cemeteries at Saltwood and Dover Hill, this constitutes important archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Kent.

The Anglo-Saxon churches in Kent also constitute significant archaeological evidence as some of the earliest in Britain. The religious heritage in the district has strong links to the Kentish royal house as well as to the earliest religious houses following the arrival of Augustine in 597 AD and the subsequent conversion of Kent to Christianity. The Archbishop of Canterbury was established in 598 AD followed by the bishopric of Rochester in 604 AD. By the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, around 400 mainly timber churches had been built across the county and have often been replaced by stone medieval churches. Fragments of stone Anglo-Saxon churches survive in the district at Cheriton and Lyminge and are rare evidence of some of the earliest Anglo-Saxon churches in the country.

St Martin's church in Cheriton has a rare example of a west wall that survives from the original Anglo-Saxon church building. Anglo-Saxon masonry is preserved at the west end of the nave with a round-headed west doorway and double-splayed window above. It has further been suggested that the lower masonry of the western tower is also of Anglo-Saxon origin but this has not been confirmed. No other remains of the original church survive above ground at St Martin's but future archaeological investigation may be able to reveal further evidence of the earlier structure.

The monastic site at Lyminge is nationally important and may be the most important of its kind in the south of the country. It is one of the earliest religious buildings following the conversion to Christianity in 597 AD and also shows evidence of being a significant Anglo-Saxon place even before this. The original seventh century AD church lies beneath and in the surrounding ground of the present day church that is dedicated to St Ethelburga who was the royal Abbess who presided over the Lyminge Abbey that was established here in 633 AD. Significantly, Ethelburga was daughter of the first Kentish Christian King, Ethelbert, and presided over the double monastery of nuns and monks at Lyminge until her death in 647 AD.

Earlier excavations of the site were carried out by Canon Jenkins during the 1860s when major restoration work on the church was being done. The work uncovered parts of the seventh century AD church building to the south of the current church building. More recent archaeological work on the site has been extensive and has uncovered a substantial amount of archaeological material from the Anglo-Saxon church and associated monastic site. The evidence suggests that the religious site at Lyminge was an important site in Anglo-Saxon Britain and it is now considered as one of the most important Anglo-Saxon monastic sites in the south of England. The *Lyminge Archaeological Project* continues to interpret finds from the site and will build on our understanding of the outstanding archaeological remains here.

Evidence of Anglo-Saxon material culture has been found throughout the District and includes pottery, brooches and other personal ornamentation pieces. As was mentioned previously, there is little evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement within Kent though future archaeological work may yet reveal new remains. Excavations done as part of the *Lyminge Archaeological Project* have however revealed significant evidence for Anglo-Saxon buildings dating to the seventh century AD including a 'feasting hall' which is of outstanding national importance. Further evidence for a number of halls and buildings at the Tayne Field site have been discovered during the seasons between 2010 and 2015 with a number of rare associated finds such as a luxury glass vessel and seventh century AD plough coulter which is currently the only example in this country. The finds from the excavation work at Tayne Field are still being analysed and publications detailing the findings are expected in the near future. This is however rare and nationally important archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlements and material culture in Kent.

As we move into the latter half of the Anglo-Saxon period, historical sources describe a number of Viking raids on Kent between the ninth and eleventh centuries though there is little archaeological evidence to illustrate this. Places such as Sheppey, Thanet, Canterbury and monasteries were particularly badly hit. A Viking raiding party are alleged to have entered Kent at one point through the Romney Marsh and sources also suggest that consistent Viking raids led to the closure of the monasteries at Folkestone and Lyminge. The Anglo-Saxon period comes to an end in Britain with the Norman Conquest of 1066.

### ***Medieval Archaeology***

In 1066 Duke William of Normandy invaded England and defeated and killed King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. He was subsequently crowned King of England and

the Norman Conquest that followed had dramatic consequences for the English people. The country had already gone through massive political, social and cultural upheaval during the settlement of the Anglo-Saxons centuries earlier and it was to happen again with the arrival of the Normans. The English elite were largely replaced by Norman-French nobility who spoke a different language and over the next few centuries English and Norman traditions, culture and politics would gradually merge to create a new country. Through the medieval period, the English monarchy established itself and England would become a major power in the medieval world.

The Norman nobility were initially greatly outnumbered by the native English population and so they began building castles in prominent and strategic locations. Some examples in Kent include Dover Castle and Rochester Castle. These were imposing structures that demonstrated the power and status of its owner and allowed the Norman nobility to enact control and dominance over the local populations. Later on in the medieval period fortified manor houses and estates replaced castles as grand structures of the wealthy landowner and again acted in highlighting the division of power within society and also the organisation of land and settlement.

Within the district there are 4 castles or fortified manor houses that vary in date across the early Norman and medieval period, 3 of which are Scheduled Monuments as well as Grade I Listed Buildings. Lympne Castle is not a Scheduled Monument but is designated as a Grade I Listed Building.

Saltwood Castle dates to the eleventh century when the manor of Saltwood was granted to the See of Canterbury in 1026 and the Archbishop Lanfranc took possession of Saltwood in 1086. Saltwood would remain the property of archbishops throughout much of the medieval period. A ringwork castle was possibly constructed on the site of a manorial establishment at the time of Domesday and subsequent parts of the castle building were added afterwards. Around 1160 square towers of the inner ward were constructed and then later in the fourteenth century round towers of the outer ward or barbican were then added. The gatehouse was also built during the fourteenth century and was distinguished by the arms of Archbishop Courtney who made the castle his primary residence in 1382. The castle is most notoriously known as the meeting place for the knights that murdered Thomas Becket before and after his martyrdom during the twelfth century.

By 1540 the castle was conveyed to the Crown and then declined into a farm. Restoration work has been done to the castle during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which added to the gatehouse to make it a dwelling, reworked the hall and restored the battlements. The castle is now privately owned and is only open to the public on specific open days and also for private and educational visits.

Westenhanger Castle, which is partly ruinous, dates back to the fourteenth century when it was first constructed as a quadrangular castle with round and square towers based on the 'seven towers and gatehouse' plan in 1343 by John de Kiriell. There are remains of fourteenth century outbuildings and adjoining barns as well as a once deep moat that is fed by a leat that is now partially dry. Seventeenth century plans also show the presence of a courtyard with ranges around all four sides although nothing now remains of this. In 1540 the castle was the seat of Sir Thomas Poynings

when it was then given to the Crown. Sources suggest that there were plans to use the castle as a royal residence and some work was done on extending the grounds and some parts of the building. The castle however had a number of owners until it was again recovered by the Crown in 1566. Elizabeth I transferred Westenhanger Castle to Thomas Smith who was a farmer in 1585.

Features of the castle and estate such as the gardens, orchards and ponds are documented in surveys dating to 1559. The medieval church stood to the north of the garden but went out of use in 1542 though may have remained standing until as late as the eighteenth century. Remains of the church and associated cemetery are now buried beneath twentieth century timber stabling. In 1701 the property was sold and most of the buildings were taken down. The present house, Westenhanger manor, was constructed during the eighteenth century from the remains of a sixteenth century cross-wing of the main hall and is now a Grade I Listed Building that is in residential use. Westenhanger Manor, all modern buildings, fences and surfaces are not included in the scheduling of Westenhanger Castle although the ground beneath them is included.

The monument includes Westenhanger Castle which is situated on the southern edge of the floodplain of the River East Stour, the inner court and its adjacent outer court to the west which are built on the site of two earlier manors, Westenhanger and Ostenhanger. A sixteenth century barn and stable of the outer court are also included and are particularly rare. There are a number of buried remains of various structures that have been overlain rather than cut into and so potentially survive well and could be valuable evidence in future archaeological work. There are buried remains from the castle, the sixteenth century church and cemetery, medieval hall and walled garden.

Sandgate Castle was erected by Henry VIII in 1539 to 1540 as one of a number of coastal forts, though it was the only one that was not used to defend a harbour or an anchorage and instead commanded the beach and coast road to Dover. By 1553 the castle had been dis-established and was later returned to the Crown's possession in 1557. The floors and roof were initially renewed but were again derelict by the end of the 1560s. By 1616 a large gun platform for ten cannons had replaced the bastion and the keep was restored and seaward battery rebuilt in 1715 to 1716. In 1805 the castle with its gun-towers was used to defend the coast against the threat of a potential Napoleonic invasion.

The castle then underwent further changes where the keep roof, bastions and gatehouse were swept away and the bastions and entire inner curtain were reduced to first-floor level with the rubble being used to fill the outer ward to form an esplanade. By 1808 the central tower had also been transformed into a structure close to a Martello tower with eight guns mounted seaward and a further gun mounted on the roof. The castle continued to be equipped for military use; in 1859 new guns were installed and a large magazine was installed under the esplanade to the south of the gatehouse. The sea breached the castle walls during the 1870s as it had done in 1725 and caused further erosion of the building. The building has continued to erode and it is estimated that about a third of the original castle has now been lost. It is now privately owned.

The final castle or fortified manor house is Lympne Castle that largely dates to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. From the eleventh century Lympne was granted to the archdeacons of Canterbury who treated it as a semi-fortified position. The oldest part of the building is a thirteenth century square tower element at the east end that was originally free-standing. By the fourteenth century this had a stair turret and service rooms to the south. Also, by this time there was a hall to the west of the tower which incorporated a solar block and northwest porch. There is also a fourteenth century west tower that formerly extended further south with a fifteenth century stair turret on the west side. In the fifteenth century a taller bow-ended tower was added to the west end with a terrace running below the house to the edge of the escarpment that had a defensive purpose.

Despite more modern alterations, the nucleus of the house can still be distinguished and is a Grade I Listed Building. The site was occupied by the military during the Second World War which resulted in damage to the internal fabric of the building. Today the castle is primarily used as a wedding venue or for corporate events. It is not open to the general public but has become a popular hospitality venue.

The medieval castles, fortified manor houses and estates are important archaeological evidence for the changes in social and land organisation that occurred during the medieval period. Medieval feudal society was defined by the manorial system that is illustrated through the estates and associated manor buildings within the District. The organisation of land and society had changed and become based on relationships derived from the ownership of land in exchange for services rendered. Although the medieval estates have since been divided or lost, there are still important parks and gardens within the district that were once part of these large manorial estates and provide important evidence of medieval social structures and settlement patterns. These include Brockhill Country Park, Beachborough Park and Acrise Place, all of which were once parts of prominent early Norman and medieval manorial estates.

There is also important archaeological evidence of medieval farming across the district which further illustrates landscape organisation as well as agricultural activity during this period. A medieval farmstead and field system in Brenzett has been designated as a Scheduled Monument and includes an abandoned medieval farmstead with an area of associated fields nearby. A number of earthwork ditches divide the fields into rectangular plots forming an irregular grid-pattern that is typical of medieval field systems. Seventeenth century maps show the farm house and barn as being in the south-east corner of the site and the house is also believed to have dated to the medieval period. Fragments of tile, daub and pottery have been recovered that date to the fourteenth century.

The farmstead survives as an area of raised ground that contains the buried building foundations and other associated remains. Local maps suggest that the farmstead was abandoned and then demolished by the mid-eighteenth century and was recorded as Old House Field in the tithe award of 1840.

There are also a number of farmsteads designated as Listed Buildings throughout the District but unfortunately has seen higher than national average rates of change to historical farmsteads and associated features. There are 133 farmsteads within

the district but only 20% of these have a seventeenth century or earlier listed farmhouse, and only 2% have one or more associated seventeenth century or earlier working buildings. More investigation into the farming heritage of the District is needed to identify any further traditional farmsteads that are currently undesignated and that may contribute further to the archaeological evidence for medieval farming practices.

The church was an extremely important part of medieval life and religion was a dominant force within society. The medieval church was involved in all aspects of life beyond solely providing spiritual leadership. It was a major landowner that owned large amounts of monastic and manorial estate throughout the county and as a result also played a vital role in the local economy, agriculture and industrial resources. The church also provided means to support the poor and sick as well as travellers on pilgrimages at hospitals and alms houses.

The parochial structure in Kent was almost completely established by 1100 AD resulting in around 500 parishes across the county. Kent was divided into two dioceses, Canterbury and Rochester. The district lies entirely within the Canterbury diocese and witnessed a rapid growth in the number of religious houses within the monastic landscape throughout the medieval period. There are a number of important examples of medieval churches across the that survive as standing as well as buried remains.

The details of the religious heritage assets within the district have already been explored in a previous theme paper within this strategy and so will not be repeated here. There is however significant archaeological evidence from the religious buildings within the district that builds a detailed picture of medieval religious practice and belief. A full list of the churches and religious buildings of the district is given in the theme paper relating to the religious heritage but some examples are given here to demonstrate the outstanding archaeological evidence from these buildings and buried remains.

There are a number of Norman and medieval churches across the District that provide significant archaeological evidence for this type of heritage during this period. Some examples include St Martin's church (Acrise), Church of St James (Elmsted), Church of St Michael (Hawkinge) and the Church of St Nicholas (Newington); all of which are Norman or early medieval churches dating to the eleventh and twelfth centuries and are designated as Grade I Listed Buildings (except the Church of St Nicholas (Newington) which is a Grade II\* Listed Building). There are also 14 medieval churches on the Romney Marsh that are outstanding examples of churches from this period, in particular the St Thomas à Becket church at Fairfield which is arguably the most iconic. In addition to these, there are a further 8 'lost churches' on the Marsh that now only survive as ruins, buried remains or have been completely lost. 2 of these are Scheduled Monuments; Midley and Hope Church of All Saints. The Midley church now only survives as a single arched wall that can be accessed via footpaths. It is believed that the original church was built during the fifteenth century and was later abandoned by the latter half of the sixteenth century. Remains of the Hope church of All Saints consists of partial sections of standing wall. The church was built around 1150 AD in the former parish

of Hope and fell into decay by the seventeenth century. The remains are now owned by the IMOS Foundation and restoration works are planned for the near future.

Other valuable archaeological remains of religious houses within the district include remains of medieval chapels such as the chapel at Court-at-Street in Lympe that is a Scheduled Monument. The chapel and hall of the thirteenth century St John's Commandery or Swingfield Preceptory also survives and is designated as a Grade II\* Listed Building. There are surviving medieval hospitals and monasteries such as the Horton Priory (Monks Horton) and part of the Cistercian Grange known as Romney Priory (New Romney) that are both Scheduled Monuments; Horton Priory is also a Grade I Listed Building and Romney Priory is a Grade II\* Listed Building. Remains of St John's Hospital in Hythe are an important example of a medieval hospital and are now a Grade II Listed Building. Another example is Centuries House (Hythe) that acted as an alms house and is designated as a Grade II\* Listed Building.

### ***Post Medieval Archaeology***

The post medieval archaeological record for the district is dominated by defence monuments primarily dating from the nineteenth through to the twentieth century. The district has played an important role during wartime being a southern coastal District that is geographically closest to the continent. Whilst this proximity to Europe has played a very positive role throughout the county's history in ways such as flourishing international trade and the introduction of new cultures, ideas and people into Britain, it also places the District on the frontline during times of conflict and invasion. There are a number of important defensive monuments along the entire length of the coast that attest to the District's important role during these major historical events; namely the Napoleonic, First and Second World Wars. As with the religious heritage, these defensive heritage assets have also been described in detail in a previous theme paper and so will be summarised here to avoid repetition.

Archaeological monuments dating to the nineteenth century were constructed in response to the perceived threat of a French invasion during the Napoleonic Wars (1803 to 1815). The Royal Military Canal was constructed between 1804 and 1810 and was intended as the third line of defence along the southern coast against an expected French invasion. It is the third longest linear defensive monument in the British Isles after Hadrian's Wall and Offa's Dyke. The canal is 28 miles long and stretches from Seabrook near Folkestone to Cliff End in East Sussex. It is a Scheduled Monument and is designated in sections, 9 of these being in the district.

As well as the Royal Military Canal, a string of Martello Towers also cover the southern coast and were built as further defences against the French invasion. 74 were originally built along the Kent and Sussex coastlines between 1805 and 1808; a further 29 were built to protect Essex and Suffolk. A number have now been lost either to the sea or dereliction. 10 in the district between Folkestone and Dymchurch are designated as Scheduled Monuments whilst others are now used as private residences. Sandgate Castle, although originally built during the reign of Henry VIII as a coastal defence, the castle was later converted into a quasi Martello Tower and now survives as a ruin and is designated as a Scheduled Monument and Grade I

Listed Building. Other Napoleonic defensive structures within the district include the redoubts and batteries at Shorncliffe, Dymchurch and Dungeness.

The district again played an important role in coastal defence during the First World War. There are examples of practice trenches believed to date to this period near Saltwood and at the Shorncliffe Garrison site. These are undesignated assets and may need further investigation in order to fully assess their significance.

The archaeological record for the Second World War includes the remains of a number of pill boxes, underground bases and other associated features. Underground operational bases at Snargate and Burmarsh are Scheduled Monuments. At Greatstone and Hythe there are examples of Sound Mirrors, also known as Listening Ears, that are large concrete structures built during the 1920s and 1930s that acted as early warning systems for the British in detecting enemy aircraft during the Second World War. There are also remains of a number of anti-aircraft batteries, airfields and air raid shelters such as those at Folkestone, Hawkinge Lympne.

There are important assets relating to the D Day operations within the district that include the remains of the Phoenix Caisson off the coast of Littlestone-on-Sea. There are also remains from Operation PLUTO (Pipe-Line Under The Ocean or Pipe-Line Underwater Transport of Oil) which was a Second World War operation to construct pipelines under the English Channel between England and France that could support Operation Overlord (the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944) by supplying oil to the Allied forces. Sections of the PLUTO lines can still be traced in places on the Marsh such as at Five Watering Sewer west of Snargate. A number of the supporting pumping stations and bungalows still survive at Dungeness although they have since been altered and many converted for residential uses.

#### **4. Statement of Significance**

The archaeological assets within the district cover the entire period of human occupation and range from flint implements belonging to Palaeolithic hominins through to standing military remains from the twentieth century. These assets include **5663** archaeological sites, monuments and finds throughout the entire District, **65** of these being Scheduled Monuments. The archaeological record reflects the District's proximity to the continent which has meant that it has acted as a gateway for new people, cultures, ideas and trade across the centuries. A number of the archaeological artefacts reflect the important relationships that Kent has had with areas of Europe as well as the development of the District as a prominent cross channel port providing links to France and beyond. There are also a number of artefacts that are nationally important and are currently unique examples in the British archaeological record. The district's archaeology illustrates the growth of the District and how its distinctive local character has developed over time. As such, the archaeological assets of the district are of **outstanding significance**.

##### ***Evidential Value***

The evidential value that the District's archaeology provides for many of the themes covered in this study is outstanding and the continued study of the archaeological



resources within the district can further enhance this record. Studies of the soils and earthworks, particularly in the Romney Marsh, Hythe and Folkestone, can improve understandings of the coastal landscapes and how they have formed over time to influence settlement patterns as well as agricultural and maritime activities. Studies of the church buildings and other associated buried remains from monastic sites and earlier churches can further build on the history of Christianity within the district as well as in Kent. The District contains some nationally significant sites relating to this theme, in particular the monastic site and Lyminge, which has seen recent archaeological work that is revealing a detailed and rich religious heritage as well as Lyminge as an important place within Anglo-Saxon and even earlier societies. The remains of the 'lost churches' at Romney Marsh are additional distinctive remains from the growth of Christianity in the district and can also go further to reveal the dynamic histories of local economy, society and settlement that has shaped the landscape of today. The story of the district's important role during wartime and also as a cross channel port are better understood and illustrated through the detailed study of the associated archaeological remains within the District.

The archaeology of the District also provides significantly valuable evidence of the District's role as a gateway to the continent through which new peoples, cultures, ideas and trade passed into Britain. There is important evidence for the arrival of European people such as the Beaker culture as evidenced at Holywell Coombe in Folkestone during the Channel Tunnel Rail Link excavation work programme. Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains such as the *Classis Britannica* tiles discovered at the *Portus Lemanis* site in Lympe and the Jutish cemeteries at Lyminge provide further significant evidence for Kent as a gateway to the continent that goes back centuries. Important archaeology also attests to Folkestone's prominent role as a cross channel port that has provided links into France and beyond. The District's history as a port for trading and fishing dates back many centuries and again the archaeological remains illustrate this past, for example remains from smuggling activities, fishing ports and the prominent Folkestone Harbour.

Archaeology relating to the rural areas of the district provides considerable evidence for the formation of the ancient landscape and the subsequent development of settlement, infrastructure and farming. There are a number of especially distinct and sensitive landscapes within the district that contain important natural and built heritage that again tell the story of the distinct experiences within the District relating to settlement and farming.

The district has played a key role in a number of nationally and internationally important events and the archaeological record here has considerable potential to verify and contribute to the detailed understanding of these events. The arrival and conversion to Christianity is represented in significant archaeological remains of some of the earliest monastic sites in the country following the arrival of Augustine in 597 AD. The District's military archaeology also attests to the district's role on the frontline during wartime and many examples of defences relating to the Napoleonic and World Wars form integral parts of the landscape as well as the local character. A more detailed analysis of the District's archaeology in areas such as Elham, New Romney and Hythe have the potential to reveal further significant archaeological and historical evidence that could enhance understandings of the district's distinct history.

### ***Historical Illustrative Value***

The early archaeology of the district provides evidence for the earliest occupations by Palaeolithic hunter gatherers and the subsequent development of Britain as an island. The development of England as a gateway to the continent is then evident whereby new people, ideas, cultures and trade travelled into and out of the country. The association with the Roman Empire can be seen in the two Roman villa sites at Lympne and Folkestone that demonstrate the function of these areas as important ports that linked to the Empire on the continent. The potential for undiscovered buried archaeological remains at *Portus Lemanis* in Lympne is strong and has been confirmed by geophysical survey by the University of Kent in 2015. This buried archaeology could further add to the understanding of the role of the district during the Roman occupation as well as to the significance of the *Portus Lemanis* site. The Roman villa at East Wear Bay in Folkestone is also significant archaeological evidence for the importance of the port towns in the district during the Roman occupation. The discovery of *Classis Britannica* stamped tiles at both sites adds weight to their significance and links to the Roman Navy.

The District has also played an important role in the arrival and conversion to Christianity following the arrival of Augustine in Kent in 597 AD. There are considerably important archaeological remains for some of the earliest monastic sites in England following the Conversion as well as early examples of the development of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman churches. Some of these archaeological remains also have strong links to the Kentish royal house and illustrate the pivotal role that religion played in earlier society. Examples of medieval churches throughout the District further add to the archaeological record for the development of religion, and they now form an integral part of the local landscape and character in addition to providing significant historical value.

The archaeology of the district is important in illustrating the history and evolution of Kent as well as broader interpretations relating to the country. Its archaeological record spans centuries of human occupation and activity dating from the Palaeolithic through to the present day. The development as a coastal District is also evident in its coastal defences attesting to its position on the frontline as well as the Folkestone Harbour which has acted as a prominent cross channel port. Ultimately, the archaeology contributes considerably to the illustrative history of the District and continues to play a central role in the local character and landscape.

### ***Historical Associative Value***

The archaeology within the district can be linked to a number of major historical events, and their survival can contribute to a better understanding of these important histories. The arrival of Augustine in Kent in 597 AD marked the start of the conversion of Britain to Christianity. The religious archaeological remains within the district have strong links to the first Christian Kings in Kent as well as to early female saints. The first nunnery was established at Folkestone in 630 AD (known as Folkestone Priory), and remains of the later phases that survive are significant evidence for these early Christian establishments in England. Buried remains of the Lyminge Abbey that was established not long after the Folkestone Priory in 633 AD

is also considerable evidence of these early Anglo-Saxon monastic sites and also illustrates strong links to the Kentish royal house. Saltwood Castle is alleged to have been the meeting place of the four knights that would then commit the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170.

The defence archaeology throughout the District that dates from the medieval through to the twentieth century has strong historical associations to major conflicts and threats that have afflicted the country throughout the years. Features such as the Royal Military Canal and the Shorncliffe Camp are valuable remains relating to the perceived threat of invasion during the Napoleonic Wars. Archaeology linked to the First and Second World War such as the Martello Towers and Batteries are further evidence from the district's role at the frontline. The Folkestone Harbour was also an important port of embarkation for troops travelling across the Channel to France. Overall, much of the archaeology with the district can be linked to major historical events and they continue to contribute to these histories as well as to the local character.

### ***Aesthetic Value***

The aesthetic value for those remains that are buried is very limited, but there are standing remains that contribute a considerable amount to the local distinctiveness, character and landscape that merit significant aesthetic value. Artefacts relating to the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and settlements in Saltwood and Lyminge are of national importance and demonstrate the intricate craftsmanship of their makers. For example, the Saltwood disc brooch discovered during the excavations ahead of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link construction is of particular aesthetic as well as historical value as well as a luxury glass vessel and plough coulter excavated during the 2010 season at the Lyminge monastic site. Other examples of Anglo-Saxon finery and weaponry found within the District merit aesthetic significance.

There are also a number of standing remains that are of considerable aesthetic value and are essential to the local landscape and character. Examples of these include the many Anglo-Saxon, Norman and early medieval churches throughout the District. Many retain original features that are aesthetically as well as historically significant. The medieval churches on the Romney Marsh are an especially distinctive example of the aesthetic contribution that standing archaeology makes to the District. These also include the 'lost churches' which are perhaps even more aesthetically distinctive and are iconic features of the Romney Marsh landscape.

The archaeology of the District also contributes much to the aesthetic value of the themes explored within this study. Earthwork remains throughout the District are distinct to the landscape and also illustrate historical depth. Various examples of built heritage originating from a range of periods further add value to the aesthetic significance of the district's archaeology. Distinctive architecture and original features enhance the local character and connect people to the rich past of the District.

### ***Communal Value***

The significance of much of the archaeology within the district and its strong links to important events and histories gives it considerable communal value in connecting

people to these histories as well as in attracting visitors. A substantial amount of local pride can be felt for the heritage and archaeology within the district as it illustrates the distinctive experiences through history of people and the landscape in the local area. Archaeological discoveries in the district have inspired local support and have also been of national and international importance. Local groups have formed in order to become involved in and promote the rich heritage, and local interest in archaeology continues to grow in this area. Interest in the archaeology in the district has also extended to academic bodies beyond the county which helps to raise the profile of the archaeological potential here and will enhance public understanding and opportunities for involvement. Many of the projects offer opportunities to volunteer in archaeological work, and these have received excellent attendance from local people as well as from visitors.

There are a number of valuable assemblages excavated from sites throughout the District that highlight the important histories present here, and there is strong local support for the future curation and ownership of these collections. The new museum due to open in Folkestone this year will provide a space to promote the local archaeology as well as improving understanding of these remains through the provision of public events, lectures and exhibitions. There continues to be considerable opportunities for future archaeological work and local groups promoting the provision of archaeological research and community projects. This will allow people to connect with their past through archaeology and promote its potential in the district.

## **5. Vulnerabilities**

The archaeology of the district constitutes a rich and growing record, but it is also highly vulnerable to change and remains a finite and sensitive resource. Whilst there is great potential for future archaeological discovery within the District, there are a number of factors that can have negative impacts on the archaeology such as development work and farming practices, particularly ploughing.

Natural processes can have a dramatic impact on archaeological assets. As a coastal District, archaeological assets along the coastline, such as the military and Roman remains, can be particularly vulnerable to coastal erosion, sea level change and flooding. There is already evidence that some important archaeological material is being lost to cliff-top erosion, the most notable example being the Iron Age and Roman Villa site at East Wear Bay in Folkestone. Much of the site has already been lost as the cliffs edge gradually erodes and collapses, and work is now being done to record as much of the site as possible before it is completely lost. A number of military standing remains are also located along the coastline and are increasing vulnerable to sea level changes and coastal erosion. Some sites are also especially exposed to accelerated damage from weathering due to their exposed location and are deteriorating at a faster rate than would normally be seen in standing remains. The Denge Sound Mirrors near Dungeness for example are deteriorating due to the marine environment in which they are located which is rusting the reinforced metal within the concrete. Repair work has been carried out on the Sound Mirrors but a large amount of restoration work will still need to be done in the near future as a result of this decay caused by natural processes.

Alterations to the climate, natural environment and hydrology of sites can further cause damage or risk to both standing and buried remains. There are a number of particularly sensitive environments within the District, most notably the Dungeness Estate and the Romney Marsh, which contain important archaeological material. The maintenance of these environments and so the preservation of the archaeological remains here is a delicate balance and is especially vulnerable to change. Local groups and projects including the *Romney Marsh Countryside Project* and the *Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme* are working to raise awareness of these special environments and ways of preserving and maintaining them. Focus is also given to the conservation of the natural, built and cultural heritage in these areas that are particularly vulnerable to changes in these sensitive environments.

Archaeological remains are also vulnerable to agricultural and farming practices, particularly ploughing. It has been highlighted in this paper where ploughing has badly damaged archaeological remains and only deep cut features have been untouched. Farming practices are continually changing with the intensification of agricultural regimes as well as the introduction of new machinery and methods of cultivation. Farming continues to contribute an important amount to the local and rural economy in Kent and so many shallow archaeological remains are either at risk or have already been destroyed. This was especially evident when archaeological work was undertaken prior to and during the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) construction in Folkestone, Saltwood and Westenhanger. Many shallow archaeological remain had been severely damaged or destroyed by ploughing and only deep cut features have survived. Whilst the district has been characterised by mixed husbandry, archaeological remains are evidently very vulnerable to the intensification of farming practices such as ploughing. This is of particular concern in areas that are in need of more detailed archaeological work such as Elham and New Romney where damage may have already affected the buried archaeological evidence still surviving.

The archaeology, both rural and urban, is now increasingly under threat from development work. The district is currently seeing large development projects emerging for various areas that will put the archaeology at risk of being damaged or lost. The archaeology is only partially protected by designation but most of it is either undesignated or still awaiting discovery. The potential for further archaeological discoveries in areas such as Hythe and New Romney are significant but as these assets are yet to be uncovered, they are not protected by any type of designation. These remains will exhibit varying degrees of preservation as well as importance, but unless future investigation is planned they may be lost entirely or badly damaged by development work. A number of community archaeology and history groups have formed in response to the need for future archaeological work and discovery. It is therefore clear that there is strong communal support for further archaeological investigation as well as academic and professional support from a number of bodies that have led community archaeology projects throughout the district. A better understanding of the archaeological potential and remains throughout the District is needed in order to inform the decisions made by developers in appreciating the potential impact development proposals will have on the local archaeology.

Developments on a large scale are now a considerable threat to the archaeology, but small-scale developments can also cause damage. Developments such as

house extensions or urban expansions can again have a dramatic impact on buried archaeology. Urban expansion into adjacent farmlands for example is likely to have a negative impact on buried archaeology as well as limiting future opportunities for archaeological work. A number of the towns in the district are surrounded by large rural landscapes and so future expansion would put particularly shallow archaeological remains at particular risk.

Development of new infrastructure such as new roads and the erection of coastal defences further makes the archaeology vulnerable. Again, this is especially relevant for the rural areas of the District where the construction of new infrastructure would damage shallow buried archaeological remains. The CTRL is the most prominent example of this vulnerability within the as archaeological material was lost during its construction. Whilst the extensive investigation of as many sites of archaeological and historical interest as was possible was conducted, and finds were recorded in detail during the CTRL project so that those that would not remain *in situ* could be accurately interpreted later, the loss of archaeological material occurred, and new construction projects can have the same impacts in the future. Quarrying has also put some sites at risk and continued activity may continue to do so in the future.

A number of historic buildings are being altered from their original use which can not only affect the archaeology of the building but also detract from its original character and evidential value. If fixtures, fittings and other original fabric is removed, the archaeological and historical interpretation and recording of the site becomes difficult to achieve with accuracy. Some buildings may not have good records that attest to their original function, and so this information can be lost in such alterations. As an example, the district has a higher than national average rate of the reuse of traditional farmsteads and farm buildings for other non-agricultural uses. There is a real danger for the loss of original archaeological materials relating not only to building itself but in the surrounding land and setting. The distinctive character of a building may also be lost which detracts from its historical as well as archaeological value for future generations.

The need for the contemplation of affects that a development will have on archaeological remains is a material consideration for planning policy and guidance such as the National Planning Policy Framework. There is a need to ensure that these considerations are undertaken at an appropriately early stage so that the necessary measures can be taken in design proposals to safeguard and also benefit from assets. It is therefore essential that practices are improved so that archaeological potential is recognised and understood by developers and other involved bodies. There is a clear need for the better identification of archaeological sites so that high quality heritage statements can be included into planning applications. A transparent and robust process is needed to better inform both the developers and local communities so that appropriate advice, support and information can be obtained. Where there is a need for future archaeological work, this is of particular important so that archaeological potential can be identified early on and the loss of archaeological material minimised.

Criminal activity is a problem which can have very negative impacts on archaeological remains. Activities such as the unauthorised removal of artefacts or vandalism to sites can damage the available archaeological record. A number of

earthwork remains have been vulnerable to erosion from activities such as dirt biking, most notably the practice trenches at the Shorncliffe Camp site. There are also a number of important Anglo-Saxon cemeteries containing grave goods that have more recently been excavated that may be vulnerable to criminal activity. Some standing remains are also being damaged by vandalism, and where these remains are already in various states of ruin this criminal activity may hasten further decay and dereliction as well as detracting from their distinctive character within the local landscape.

As has been touched on throughout this paper, there is also a lack of understanding of the archaeology of the district as large-scale archaeological investigation has not been carried out for much of the District. Activity has been concentrated in areas such as Folkestone but there is a need to move into different areas that have so far not been studied in detail. Up-to-date and detailed assessments of the archaeological potential of other areas within the district can lead to important opportunities for future archaeological discoveries and a better understanding of the District's past. Areas such as Elham, New Romney and Hythe have had little archaeological exploration but have the potential to provide valuable finds and remains. This also has the support of local groups who could provide voluntary work and support of future excavation programmes.

The long-term storage and curation of archaeological artefacts and archives within the district is a major issue that needs addressing. The district has produced nationally important collections such as the artefacts excavated from the Lyminge monastic site and the Anglo-Saxon grave goods from Saltwood. However, the district lacks the capacity to curate these finds and make them accessible to the public. The construction of the new museum in Folkestone should move towards alleviating this problem, but there is a substantial amount of material belonging to the archaeological record of the district that will still not be able to be kept here. In order to raise awareness and understanding of the archaeological potential of the area, the increased curation and storage of more of the archaeological material excavated from the district should be sought. This is also of particular importance with the recent surge in local archaeological groups that have a great interest in future archaeological work as well as highlighting current local archaeological collections.

The contribution that local groups such as the Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group (FRAG) and Hythe Local History Group are making to the District's archaeology is significant and their impact is continuing to grow. It is therefore very important that these groups are able to continue this work and are properly engaged by professional archaeologists as well as other relevant colleagues. The encouragement of these groups is essential to support their continued growth and activity in order to enhance the archaeological record and general understanding of the district's rich archaeology.

## **6. Opportunities**

There are a number of significant opportunities relating to the archaeological assets of the district. These arise from not only the outstanding archaeological resource that exists within the district, but also from the several active community groups and projects that are currently underway.

As has been identified throughout this paper, there is a need for more archaeological investigation across the district in the future in order to build a better understanding of the archaeological and historical story of the district. Certain areas, including Folkestone and Lympne, have been subject to extensive and continued archaeological investigation yet local research has shown that other areas of the district such as Hythe and the Romney Marsh are in need of significant investigation and also have the potential to reveal important archaeological information. There are currently gaps in the archaeological record for the district as well as for East Kent, such as for the later Palaeolithic and middle Iron Age, which could be filled should further archaeological investigation be planned in areas of the district that have previously had little archaeological exploration as well as continued archaeological work in those areas of current interest.

Recent projects have further identified areas where the potential for valuable future archaeological discoveries is high. For example, the University of Kent carried out geophysical surveys at the *Portus Lemanis* site at Lympne in 2015 which has identified the good preservation of underground remains that present valuable opportunities for future research. Other sites such as the Romney Marsh churches and Folkestone area relating to the Anglo-Saxon princess Eanswythe are now the subject of heritage projects that will endeavour to improve the archaeological as well as historical understandings of these elements as well as the overall archaeology of the local area. These are important opportunities in building on our understanding of the local archaeology as well as enhancing the archaeological record for the district.

A number of these projects and the local community groups mentioned in the next section are creating valuable archives and databases of archaeological information that collates past work with current projects and publications. These resources are available to the general public as well as to archaeological professionals which presents a valuable opportunity to greatly improve access to information for wide audiences. In improving access to archaeological research and information this also promotes opportunities for the better awareness and understanding of the archaeology. This in turn may also contribute to the long-term conservation of the archaeological assets within the district as well as encouraging continued archaeological investigation.

There are a number of initiatives and projects relating to archaeology that are providing significant opportunities for extensive community involvement. Projects such as the *'Finding Eanswythe: The life and afterlife of an Anglo-Saxon Saint'*, projects within the *Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme* and the *Lympne Archaeological Project* offer a number of ways in which the local community and beyond can become involved in the project work. This may be as part of archaeological excavation and fieldwork, research or volunteering at events relating to the overall project. Opportunities for communal involvement are important in encouraging local communities to become involved and invested in their local archaeological heritage. This will not only help to support the projects work and aims but will also encourage a pride of place and investment in the conservation of important archaeological assets for future generations. There are also considerable health benefits for those that become involved in community projects in ways such as reducing social exclusion, building confidence and creating social networks.



Several of these projects are utilising innovative research methods which will present opportunities for the in-depth study and understanding of the archaeology involved. As an example, the '*Finding Eanswythe: The life and afterlife of an Anglo-Saxon Saint*' project aims to use a number of innovative research methods in order to facilitate detailed research into Eanswythe and the Anglo-Saxon past of Folkestone. Not only does this have valuable benefits for the archaeology, but it will also act to educate people in better research methods for use throughout this project and in future work.

As part of many of these projects, there are opportunities for training and employment. For example, as part of the *Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme* training and employment will be offered using heritage as a conduit. This is important in building skills and employability in individuals who may be unemployed or working towards a specific field of work. It may also help young people in the local communities to move from education into employment. In training new people in skills that relate to the conservation and enhancement of the local archaeological heritage, this is also an important opportunity to ensure the future conservation and maintenance of the archaeological resource for the district as well as the longevity of the work started by these projects.

A number of these projects and local groups are further driven by large numbers of volunteers. The opportunity for voluntary work relating to the archaeological heritage of the district again encourages communal involvement and the ownership of the local heritage by its local people. Voluntary opportunities allow people to become directly involved with the archaeology in ways such as archaeological excavation work and this not only allows for a direct experience of the archaeology, but it also gives people the opportunity to be involved in the uncovering and interpretation of the local archaeology. Volunteers are also an important resource that allows for the continuation of project work where paid workforces could possibly be expensive. Ultimately voluntary opportunities are important in encouraging communal involvement, ensuring the longevity of a project as well as having positive impacts on the communal and social health of the local community.

There are a number of academic research opportunities available relating to a number of the archaeological resources within the district. For example, the osteological collection of human remains at St Leonard's church in Hythe has been utilised for university research by students from universities such as the Bournemouth University. Other professionals such as archaeologists and forensic scientists have also used the collection for research which consequently helps the collection in building a better understanding of the remains involved. Other sites may be used as the subjects of future research projects by academics and various other professionals or local interest groups who can again build on the overall understanding of the material involved. This opportunity is therefore beneficial to both the archaeology and individual or group conducting the research.

## **7. Current Activities**

There are a number of local groups concerned with the archaeology of the district that are working to preserve and enhance the archaeological record as well as to

encourage future archaeological investigation. There is evidently a need for further archaeological investigation into a number of areas across the District in order to improve our understanding of archaeological and historical aspects of the district. Over the last couple of decades in particular, there has been a growing interest in the archaeological potential of the district and a number of projects are now providing valuable opportunities for detailed archaeological investigation.

The *Lyminge Archaeological Project* has formed as a result of systematic excavations by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in partnership with the University of Reading at Lyminge around the monastic site and Tayne Field. Seasons of work between 2007 and 2015 have uncovered outstanding archaeological remains relating to the Anglo-Saxon monastic site as well as artefacts of earlier and later dates. Full details of the projects excavations were given earlier in this paper and so will not be repeated here, but the work that the project continues to do has not only uncovered a number of nationally and internationally important archaeological remains, but it has also greatly improved our understanding of the site which itself is perhaps one of the most significant Anglo-Saxon monastic sites in the south of the country. Analysis and written work is still ongoing following the excavations at Lyminge and will continue to add to our knowledge not only of this site but of monastic Anglo-Saxon sites as a whole as well.

The fieldwork teams on the Lyminge excavations were made up of archaeologists from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and University of Reading as well as a large number of local volunteers. The work enjoyed substantial local support and has had a lasting impact on the local community. A group of volunteers who worked on the excavations have made a Lyminge Tapestry to commemorate the excavations and the outstanding discoveries that were made. The tapestry depicts a number of the significant archaeological finds such as the sunken-featured buildings, tools and recreation of parts of the settlement.

The *A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500* community archaeology project that worked on the East Wear Bay site in Folkestone also enjoyed substantial local support. The *East Wear Bay Archaeological Project* is a long-term research project that is led by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in conjunction with the Kent Archaeological Society, Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group and Dover Archaeological Group. It aims to collate the results from the previous fieldwork at the East Wear Bay site and continue working to excavate the site that is gradually being lost to clifftop erosion. Again, further details of the excavations at this site have already been given, but the work that is continuing is very important to gain a better understanding of the Roman Villa and Iron Age production site that lie here. The site is of considerable importance to the maritime and archaeological heritage of Folkestone and also holds great communal value. The *East Wear Bay Archaeological Project* continues to offer voluntary positions on the excavation and research of the site which has been very well attended. Open days at the site have attracted large numbers of visitors as this site is historically, archaeologically significant.

A forthcoming project also in the Folkestone area is the '*Finding Eanswythe: The life and afterlife of an Anglo-Saxon Saint*' community heritage project. The project will be led by the Canterbury Christ Church University and supported by the Folkestone

People's History Centre, the Diocese of Canterbury and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Other interested professionals, schools, colleges, local and regional authorities, individuals and groups will also be involved. The aim of the project will be to use innovative research methods to investigate and better understand the individual Eanswythe as well as the history of Kentish Christianity and Anglo-Saxon England. This project offers valuable opportunities to better understand the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon and Christian Kent as well as the human remains that are believed to be those of Eanswythe. Archaeological work will also be an important part of this project which will give the local community and beyond important opportunities to become involved in this work. Like other projects in the District, archaeological work within the district receives strong support and continued future archaeological investigation is evidently important to local and regional groups.

The Romney Marsh Research Trust was formed in 1987 to study the history, archaeology and geomorphology of Romney Marsh following the establishment of the Romney Marsh Research Group in 1985. The group has actively undertaken research as well as public events, talks and fieldwork demonstrations up until 2012 when activities of the Trust were wound down. The Trust now maintains an online archive of research and information relating to the Romney Marsh which provides a valuable resource that builds on our understanding of the Marsh as well as the archaeological potential for future work in the area. Similarly, the Saltwood Compendium, Odds, Queries & Curiosities online site also provides a valuable resource of information regarding past archaeological discoveries in Saltwood as well as the future archaeological potential of the area. Significant finds were discovered during the excavations ahead of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and High Speed 1 Line and the site continues to be important archaeologically. Local resources such as this site are important in not only collating previous work and building a detailed understanding of the archaeology of an area, but also in receiving and focusing local support for future archaeological work.

The *Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme* is a programme that aims to facilitate the restoration and enhancement of the Romney Marsh's built, natural and cultural heritage. It will raise awareness of the unique heritage on the Marsh locally and beyond whilst also providing opportunities for training and employment using heritage as a conduit. Various projects as part of this scheme will build on our archaeological understanding of Romney Marsh and its heritage that is relevant to a number of the themes explored in this strategy such as religious and farming heritage. The *Hunt for Romney Port* project will draw together the local community and archaeological professionals to find archaeological evidence for the early medieval port at Romney. Currently no archaeological evidence for the port exists and so this would greatly improve our understanding of the historic environment and development of the community in Romney.

As part of the *Sentinels on the Marsh 1 – Churches Historical Surveys Project* archaeological excavation will be done in New Romney on the alleged site for St Martin's Church. St Martin's was originally the oldest of three churches that once stood in New Romney and is believed to have been constructed during the Saxon period. By the sixteenth century the church had fallen into a state of disrepair and was soon after demolished. The project will aim to define the limits and surrounding

structures of the church as no remains survive above ground. If achieved, this will be valuable archaeological and historical information about one of the earliest churches in the area. The district has outstanding religious heritage assets having been closely linked to the earliest conversions to Christianity following Augustine's arrival in 597 AD. This work will add to significant archaeological remains of highly valuable religious assets within the District as well as enhancing the understanding of the history and archaeology of New Romney.

Other current archaeological activities within the district include the ongoing research of the human remains held at St Leonard's church in Hythe by the St Leonard's Osteological Research Group (StLORG) as well as other universities such as the Bournemouth University. StLORG is an independent group of forensic scientists that work on the collection for two weeks each year. The collection of human remains at St Leonard's church is one of the largest and best preserved in the country and so is archaeologically important. Estimations at the number of individuals represented within the collection have ranged between 2000 and 4000 and the earliest references to the collections go as far back as 1678. Theories about the origins of the people at St Leonard's have included Danish pirates slain in battle, men who fell at the Battle of Hastings and victims of the Black Death. None of these theories have been confirmed, and more recent work revealed a high proportion of females and juveniles which may suggest that these individuals were Hythe residents that have died over a long period of time and had been buried in the churchyard. Research of the human remains is ongoing and will continue to reveal important information about the origins of the collection and the people represented.

The Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group (FRAG) is a group of volunteers who are interested in the archaeology and heritage of Folkestone and the surrounding areas. The group was formed following work on the East Wear Bay Roman villa site at Folkestone during the *A Town Unearthed* project. It was felt that there was a need to create a group that would focus on the archaeology and heritage of the local area at Folkestone and they now undertake local archaeological and research work as part of various local projects. Most recently, the group are going to be undertaking field walking at the 'Former Animal Pound' in Hythe which is a Grade II Listed Building and has recently been secured as a community asset by local people in Hythe. Known as *The Triangle*, this historic piece of land is now going to be transformed into a community garden with its historical features preserved. FRAG becomes involved in a number of local archaeological projects which is important in supporting and promoting local archaeology. However, the group is also important as it provides a means for local people to better understand and become involved in their local archaeological heritage as well as encouraging local support.

There are a number of local groups that are also interested in and promote their local archaeology. These include the Hythe Local History Group as part of the Hythe Civic Society, the Elham Historical Society and Lyminge Historical Society. These groups are building archives of local information, some of which is archaeological, which is a valuable asset when assessing the potential for future archaeological work. They are also promoting their local archaeological heritage which further raises awareness of the local heritage and may help in its conservation for the future.

Overall there is strong communal support for the archaeological assets of the district. A number of groups and initiatives are currently active and work to research, promote and enhance the archaeological record for the District. They have also recognised and highlight the need for more archaeological investigation in the future which would greatly improve our understanding of the District's past, particularly the prehistoric past.

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