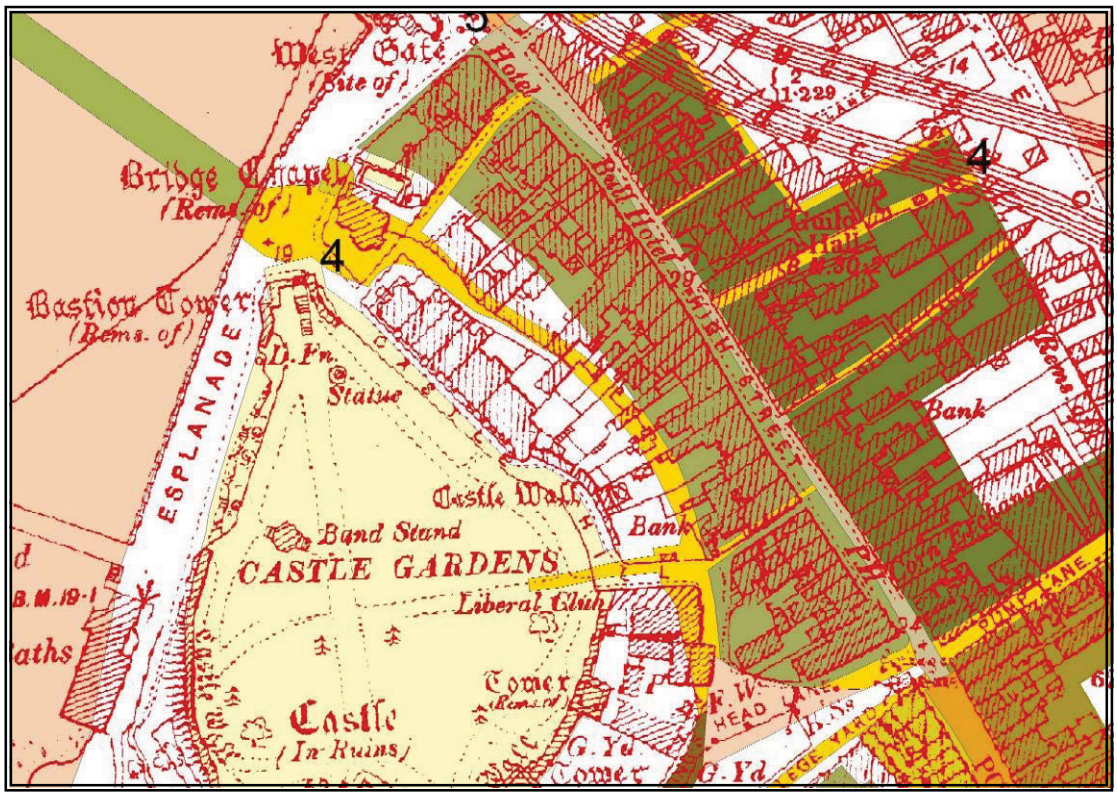

Kent Historic Towns Survey

ROCHESTER

Archaeological Assessment Document

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

Kent County Council

KENT HISTORIC TOWNS' SURVEY

ROCHESTER - KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Rochester is a modern cathedral city, based on a settlement that was originally a small Romano-British town, and later a royal/ecclesiastical centre, fortified centre and large market town. Today it forms part of the Unitary Authority of Medway, Kent. It lies on what was, before the continuation of the M2, the London to Dover trunk road route (A2), on the east bank of the river Medway, *c.*20km inland from its confluence with the river Thames and west of Chatham. It is 11km north of Maidstone, 10 km south-east of Gravesend, and 17.5km west of Sittingbourne.

This study aims to provide an evaluation of the archaeological and historical remains of the settlement as a basis for informing decision-making in the planning process where archaeological deposits may be affected by development proposals. The Kent County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was checked for information relating to the study area (see below). Of the 115 entries, 69 are standing buildings, one is prehistoric, four are late iron age, 23 are Romano-British, five are Saxon, ten are medieval and three are of post-medieval date. The remaining ten are unprovenanced, and have not been included.

There has been only limited archaeological investigation within the settlement due mainly to the constraints of an urban environment and a high number of surviving historic buildings within the conservation area, although the cathedral and castle have been the foci of more intensive investigations. The good documentary sources for the cathedral, castle and city walls provide much information about the town, so the history of the settlement has been drawn largely from these sources. Whilst there is a wide range of surviving historical features dating from the medieval period to the twentieth century, there is also significant evidence of pre-Romano-British occupation within the settlement, as well as archaeological, historical and documentary evidence for the Romano-British, Saxon and medieval occupation of the town. Rochester has also played an important role in the ecclesiastical history of England being the site of the second cathedral founded after St Augustine's arrival in AD 597. In archaeological terms, Rochester is a major resource of national importance.

1.2 Situation

Rochester is situated on the east bank, just south of a major bend in the lower reaches of the river Medway, at NGR TQ 743685. The historic core, centred on the High Street, lies on an area of flat land, just above the flood plain, between 5m and 7m OD, whilst to the south and south-west the chalk hillsides rise steeply to 50m OD (Figure 1). Geologically, the town stands on a bed of upper chalk, surrounded by alluvial deposits to the north and bands of head deposits to the west and east (Figure 2).

1.3 Study area

The area selected for general study lies between NGR TQ 730670 and TQ 750693. More in-depth study, focusing on the evolution of the settlement and its historical components, is centred on the historic core of the settlement between TQ 680740 and TQ 747690.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

There are many archaeological data for the city of Rochester, and a number relating to its environs. Most of the early data are, however, chance finds made between the early nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, and it is only since the 1960s that more modern, albeit small-scale, excavations with more detailed recording methods have been undertaken. The

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the area of study records the following archaeological evidence. The historic buildings are dealt with below (see also Figure 3).

2.1 Prehistoric

TQ 76 NW 61 - A human skeleton, probably of late iron age or earlier date was discovered at the Diocesan Registry in the Precinct, Rochester in 1900, at TQ 74216853, *c.* 3.5m below floor level and *c*. 2.7m below a Romano-British road discovered in the same place (Payne 1902, lx).

2.2 Late iron age

TQ 76 NW 8 and TQ 76 NW 108 - Rescue excavations in 1961-62 at 50-54 High Street, Rochester, at TQ 74276863, revealed a number of post-holes associated with pieces of moulds for late iron age *potin* coins, slag, 21 coins, brooches, etc. Early Romano-British (Claudian) timber-and-daub buildings, a later flint-walled building, an apsidal bath building and remains of Watling Street were discovered above. This roadway developed from a single track to a dual carriageway, the northern lane of which was resurfaced seven times, while the southern lane was only remade twice (Chaplin 1962).

TQ 76 NW 28 - Excavations behind Rochester High Street at TQ 74386837, revealed a late iron age pear-shaped pedestal urn, beneath the rampart of the Romano-British defences (Harrison 1961, lxxiv).

TQ 76 NW 100/102/104/105 - Iron age coins, including one gold, three bronze, and seven *potin* coins were found during rescue excavations on the north side of Corporation Street at TQ 745685 in 1962 (Haselgrove 1978, 38-47, 132).

TQ 76 NW 103 – A late iron age coin of Kentish type; (obverse: quatrefoil pattern. reverse: standing horse facing right), was found in the High Street, Rochester at TQ 743 686 (Mack 1964, 114).

2.3 Romano-British

TQ 76 NW 13 - In 1844 an almost circular pottery vessel, glazed, ornamented and stamped (probably Samian ware), was dug up close to Whitewall Road, Strood, at TQ 749693 in the mid-nineteenth century. Remains of human graves are said to have been found near the surface of the chalk sub-soil, but no more details are recorded (Wright 1858).

TQ 76 NW 24 - Twelve burial pits were discovered south of Gun Lane, Strood at TQ 73596932 in 1899/1900. The pits were both square and round, on average *c.* 1m in diameter and *c.* 3m deep, with many finds in the bottom: pseudo-Samian, Durobrivian and Upchurch pottery; coins; nails, two knives, two keys, a finger ring and a stud with an ornamented head; sherds of glass vessels; part of a quern stone; bone pins; roof tiles; bones of oxen, dogs, pigs and deer; and a human skeleton in one of the pits (Payne 1900, liv-lv). The pits have been interpreted as either public latrines or pits for rituals.

TQ 76 NW 30 - An extensive Romano-British cremation cemetery was uncovered in 1838-1839 in Priory Road, Strood at TQ 733689, between Strood church and the river Medway. The urns were in groups of three or four at a depth of *c.* 0.7-1.5m. A few inhumations were also found. Over 600 coins, all but three of bronze, belonged to issues from the emperors Antonine to Gratian (*c*. AD 138 to AD 383). Much Samian ware and Upchurch ware pottery

was found, and also a Medusa-style jet pendant of *c.* AD 226 - 238 (VCH III, 169). (see also the Saxon section below, Site 31)

TQ 76 NW 56 - Two bronze swords, apparently Romano-British, were found in the river Medway at Limehouse Reach (opposite the chalk works) at TQ 748688 whilst dredging the river in *c.* 1885 (Arnold 1887, 190).

TQ 76 NW 91 and TQ 76 NW 269 - A causeway, paved with polygonal Kentish ragstone slabs and jointed with fine gravel, lying on layers of flints, ragstone and broken Romano-British tiles, rammed chalk, gravel and black soil, supported by wooden piles *c.* 1m long carrying timber sills, was discovered between TQ 739691 and TQ 730693 in the late 1890s. It was *c.* 4.5m wide with wheel ruts worn in the surface, and was probably part of Watling Street crossing what was then marshy ground. The paved surface was also found in Rochester at the junction of High Street and North Street (Payne 1898, 4-7; Margary 1973, 51).

TQ 76 NW 107 - Excavations at 86 High Street, Rochester, revealed a Romano-British building with flint walls and a clay floor, *c.* 7m wide and 10m long, fronting Watling Street at TQ 74356849. About 600 potsherds, including Samian and local wares, much domestic rubbish and a clay oven were also found (JRS 1960, 235).

TQ 76 NW 111 - A cobbled street and second century pottery has been found at TQ 74256867 beneath the cellar floor of 38 High Street, Rochester. The street comprised a strip of flint cobbling running at right angles to the High Street. It may have been part of a road or lane leading south from the main road (Harrison 1972, 241).

TQ 76 NW 114 and TQ 76 NW 133 - Floors with first and second century occupation debris and pits have been identified at TQ 74306865 in a cellar behind the Corn Exchange, Rochester. No structural remains were found (Harrison 1970, 95-96) See medieval section below.

TQ 76 NW 115 - A first century AD wattle-and-daub hut and a second century AD timber-framed building (a replacement?) were identified at TQ 74316866 during a small-scale excavation in the garden of 47 High Street, Rochester (Harrison 1970, 98).

TQ 76 NW 120 - A pendant of jet, showing a mask of Medusa, was discovered in Rochester, locality given only as TQ 7468 (Henig 1984, 185). This may be the pendant reported from Strood in 1838-39, see TQ 76 NW 30 above.

TQ 76 NW 122 - Romano-British building material including the remains of clay walls with painted plaster keyed to them and a medieval pit were found in the area of Corporation Street, Rochester, at *c.* TQ 74506848. No building was located although there must have been one in the vicinity. The medieval pit was *c.* 1m deep and 4m long, lined with planks and with a row of posts inserted at 0.80m intervals. Its purpose could not be determined (Harrison 1976, 252-253).

TQ 76 NW 131 - A fourth century coin of Valens (364-378) and miscellaneous seventeenth and eighteenth century pottery and other finds were discovered during trial excavations in Deanery Gate garden, Rochester, at TQ 74296854, in 1973-74 (Hayes 1974, 205-6).

TQ 76 NW 134 - A stretch of rampart and wall was revealed at TQ 74216847 during excavations in the front garden of the Prior's Gatehouse in 1966-67. A substantial Norman building, and various medieval and post-medieval structures were also discovered. Finds included several Roman, Saxon and medieval coins, medieval tiles and much pottery and small finds from all periods. The Romano-British town wall, surviving to a height of *c.* 2m, was constructed in front of the earlier rampart, which had been cut back, probably during the early third century (Harrison and Williams 1979, 19-25). See also medieval section below.

TQ 76 NW 140 - A watching brief in 1983 on excavations for a drain and man-hole in the garden of the Old Deanery, Rochester, at TQ 74336853, located Romano-British material at a depth of 2.5m, including two fourth century coins, AD 350-360 and AD 365-378. A length of a medieval wall was found to the south of and parallel to the Romano-British town wall in the Priory Garden at TQ 74296857 (Harrison 1985, 265-6).

TQ 76 NW 261 - Floor surfaces previously reported in the cellars of 97, 107 and 109 High Street, Strood at TQ 73706920, were still visible in No. 109 in 1978 (RDAG 1992).

TQ 76 NW 270 - Remains of a lead coffin and many other burials in a probable Romano-British cemetery were disturbed in the 1920s outside 2 Love Lane, Rochester at TQ 74136839 (*Arch. Cant*. XXXIX, 1927, 159; LMARG records).

TQ 76 NW 272 - Bones and potsherds overlying a massive flint foundation of Romano-British date were discovered at the north-west end of Corporation Street, Rochester, at TQ 74266876 in 1895 (Payne 1897, lxi).

TQ 76 NW 273 - Whilst digging to make a cess-pit, a substantial ragstone wall, with tile bonding course, *c.* 0.80m thick and *c*. 4m high, was discovered at 39 High Street, Rochester at TQ 74276867, in *c*. 1900 (Payne 1905b, lxvi).

TQ 76 NW 274 - A 7 ft length of the town wall, including a culvert enclosed in a bank, was discovered at Northgate, TQ 745687, in 1960-61. Potsherds from the bank are consistent with a late second century date. The bank was levelled in medieval times when a substantial wall, probably from the medieval gatehouse, was built into it. A circular building was later constructed adjacent to this; it had been demolished by the sixteenth century (Harrison 1961, lxxv).

TQ 76 NW 276 - Excavations on the Havisham Centre at the junction of Eastgate and High Street, Rochester, at TQ 746682, in 1990, located multiple occupation levels from the Romano-British period and later. They included extensive areas of flooring and walls in the north corner, possible evidence of flooding from the river, and many second to fourth century waste pits containing animal bones, potsherds, etc. (Philp 2003, LMARG records).

TQ 76 NE 3 - During excavations in 1931 at Fort Pitt, at TQ 750006731, parts of a human skeleton, animal remains, pottery and numerous oyster shells were found. The pottery consisted of a bead-rim pot (*c*. AD 50), a one-handled jug (*c*. AD 100), the lower portion of a large vessel (*c*. AD 200), and a fragment of a fourth century dish of black ware (Maidstone Museum Gazetteer).

TQ 76 NW 313 - Excavations in 1990 at 99 High Street, Rochester, TQ 74386849, revealed shallow features associated with first century AD pottery, at a depth of *c*. 4m (Philp 1990a).

TQ 76 NW 348 **-** Excavations in 1990 to the rear of Victoria Street, Rochester, *c*. TQ 74536814, showed that archaeological levels began 1m below present ground surface, and the structural remains discovered suggest that the suburbs of the Romano-British town extended at least as far as this (Philp 1990b).

TQ 76 NW 349 – A watching brief carried out during re-paving work in 1998 observed the foundations of the town wall (Ward 1998).

TQ 76 NW 351 – During improvements to the medieval undercroft at 35 High Street, the remains of a Roman wall were discovered (Ward in prep.)

TQ 76 NW 352 – During groundworks at 178-184 High Street, three burials of probable Roman date were discovered (Ward in prep.)

2.4 Saxon

TQ 76 NW 9 - A number of early Saxon graves were uncovered in 1960 at TQ 74286852, under the south-west corner of Gundulf's Tower, Rochester Cathedral, during the installation of a heating system. Finds included an iron spearhead, pottery and clench nails from coffins. The graves may be associated with the first church at Rochester *c.* AD 604 (Wilson 1961, 309). Workmen constructing a new buttress to St Edmund's chapel in the cathedral in 1876 discovered a penny of Aethelheard, Archbishop of Canterbury AD791-805, at approx. TQ 74286849 (Coates 1876, 196).

TQ 76 NW 15 - At least 20 early Saxon burials with spearheads, arm rings, etc. were found by workmen whilst constructing Orange Terrace at the foot of Star Hill, Rochester, at TQ 74666807, in 1852 (Payne 1898, 3; Meaney 1964, 134).

TQ 76 NW 20/30 - An early Saxon grave containing a skeleton, iron spearhead and knife was found during roadworks in London Road, Strood, at TQ 73016934; another with skeleton, iron spearhead and shield boss was found near Woodstock Road, Strood, at TQ 72956918 (Meaney 1964, 138). An early Saxon grave containing a sword, spearhead, knife, shield, boss, etc., and a bronze cylinder, possibly the lip of a drinking horn with embossed figures of Christian character, and fragments of Romano-British flue tiles and common tiles in the fill of the grave, was uncovered in Priory Road, Strood in 1852 at *c.* TQ 7336891852. In 1848 an early Saxon spearhead and other weapons had been found in the same area at a depth of *c.* 2m. An unequipped inhumation burial was also found (Kirk 1955, 217-219).

TQ 76 NW 37 - [a] Eleven Saxon graves, lying east-west, were found during excavations for a garden wall of Saxonbury House, Watt's Avenue, Rochester, at TQ 74026795 in 1892. All of the graves contained skeletons and/or grave goods (Payne 1897, liv-lix). [b] Nineteen Saxon burials, orientated east-west, were found during construction of Dr Dartnell's new house opposite St Margaret's Churchyard in St Margaret's Street, Rochester, at TQ 74056805 in 1895-1896 (Payne 1897, liv-lix). [c]: A single grave orientated east-west was found in the rear garden of 16 Roebuck Road, Rochester, at TQ 74196801, between 1899 and 1900, and another three, orientated north-south, were found nearby in the rear garden of No. 14 (Payne 1900, liv-lv). A further three burials probably from the same early Saxon cemetery, were

found in June 1979 at 61 St Margaret's Street, Rochester (Williams and Payne 1979, 284-286).

TQ 76 NW 38 - An early Saxon grave containing a human lower jaw, an iron shield boss, two iron spearheads and an iron sword, was found by Short's Engineering Works, The Esplanade, Rochester, at TQ 73606759 in 1939 (Fisher 1939, 205).

TQ 76 NW 350 – Excavations in 1888 inside the present cathedral discovered the remains of a structure interpreted as the church founded by St. Augustine in AD 604 on land given by King Aethelberht (Livett 1889). The structure was further observed by a watching brief outside the cathedral in 1998 carried out during re-paving work (Ward 1998). It is important to note that the remains were very close to the surface – within 20cm. No conclusive evidence relating to the date or function of the building has ever been found but the shape and alignment of the structure suggests a Saxon church.

2.5 Medieval

TQ 76 NW 66 - The thirteenth century plan of part of Newark Hospital (also referred to as St Mary's Hospital) was recovered during excavations on the north side of the High Street, Strood, at TQ 73726927 in 1969. The limited excavation located the walls of the hall and chapel of the hospital; other buildings and a cemetery probably lay beyond the limits of the excavation (see TQ 76 NW 262 below). Romano-British domestic deposits were also discovered during the excavation (Harrison 1969, 139-160).

TQ 76 NW 95 - The site of the Norman motte-and-bailey castle, built in 1066, is thought to lie under the stone castle built by Henry III in 1225-6 on Boley hill at TQ 74106855. Scheduled Monument SAM Kent 24349 (Armitage 1912, 196).

TQ 76 NW 108 – Late sixteenth century pottery was recovered from a chalk-lined well during excavations in 1961-62 at 50-54 High Street, TQ 74276863. Deposits of the same period were found beneath the floor of the cellar of No. 52 (Chaplin 1962, l-li).

TQ 76 NW 133 - Excavation of a cellar to the rear of the Old Corn Exchange, Northgate, Rochester, at TQ 74306865 in 1961, revealed a medieval room and corridor, which descended three steps to a further room outside the area of the excavation. A latrine pit containing domestic rubbish dated *c*. 1300 was also found. The building appears to date from the beginning of the twelfth century and was still in use during the fourteenth century (Harrison 1970, 95-96).

TQ 76 NW 123 - A twelfth century Islamic brass mount from a belt, purse or harness was found at 25 St Margaret's Street, Rochester at TQ 74106820 in 1979 (Craddock 1981, 296-298).

TQ 76 NW 134 - A very substantial Norman building was discovered in the gardens of Prior's Gatehouse, Rochester, at TQ 74216847. It was *c.* 15m long x 6m wide externally, *c.* 4m wide internally. Thought to pre-date 1150, it has been interpreted as either a porch or stairway to a first-floor hall (cf. The *Aula Nova* at Canterbury), or as part of the original Bishop's Palace (Harrison and Williams 1979, 19-25).

TQ 76 NW 135 - A fourteenth century respond for a vault in an undercroft was unearthed in the cellar of 30 High Street, Rochester at TQ 74216868 in 1986. The respond, built in semi-circular form, has carved and very worn annular decoration on the capital. The undercroft wall is built of stone, flint and fragments of Romano-British tile set in mortar; two more responds were also found (Bacchus 1989, 207). In 1976 a medieval cess-pit and a seventh century, Saxon bronze metalworker's die were found in the garden **(**Hawkes 1979, 382-392).

TQ 76 NW 143 – Part of a wall was found during a watching brief and excavation in 1998, at 40 High Street, Rochester, TQ 74206863. It was probably from a gatehouse to Rochester Castle (CAT 1998a).

TQ 76 NW 262. - During the nineteenth century many human skeletons were discovered on the north side of the High Street, Strood at TQ 73786920,. Their proximity to St Mary's Hospital (see TQ 76 NW 66 above), suggests that they are of medieval date and belonged to a cemetery attached to the hospital (OS Record Card).

TQ 76 NW 308 - An archaeological watching brief during the laying of a service corridor in Minor Canon Row, Rochester, at TQ 74226846, in 1998, located eight sections of walling. Six were definitely medieval in date, one possibly post-medieval and one certainly post-medieval. The walls were clustered in two groups of four at the NW and SE corners of Minor Canon Row (CAT 1998b).

TQ 76 NW 342 – A superb medieval undercroft survives almost intact beneath 35 High Street, formerly the George Inn. The structure was recorded in 1900 and again in 1998 (OAU 1998). In 2001 an archaeological evaluation took place to the rear of the inn and located a well-preserved area of floor surfaces dating from the sixteenth century to c.1800. (CAT 2001). During later works at the site a section of Roman wall was discovered in the undercroft (see TQ 76 NW 351).

2.6 Post-medieval

TQ 76 NW 124 - Post-medieval pottery has been found in a well at 50 High Street, Rochester at TQ 74276864 (Tester 1983, 262-265).

TQ 76 NW 132 - Three rubbish pits were revealed during trial excavations in 1982 at Nag's Head Lane, Rochester, TQ 747679. One contained considerable quantities of early eighteenth century Lambeth delftware, whilst the other two pits produced eighteenth and nineteenth century clay-pipes (Bacchus and Ward 1984, 120-121).

TQ 76 NW 263 - Evaluation excavation in 1996 in Northgate Car Park, Rochester, TQ 74406865, revealed a number of rubbish pits and a stone-lined cess tank, the latter containing sherds of an eighteenth century bottle and residual sherds of Romano-British pottery. Two walls were also discovered above the level of the pits, with two chalk floors covered with occupation debris (CAT 1996).

3 HISTORICAL RECORDS

3.1 Early charters

Thirty-three Saxon charters are known for Rochester. Four, dating from AD 604 to AD 868, are of particular significance in understanding the topography of Saxon Rochester

(*Hrofaescaestrae)* as they mention areas of the town, gateways and streets by name. They are quoted below.

1 The foundation charter of the church and priory, AD 604; a land grant from Aethelbert, King of Kent, to the church of St Andrew and St Justus (its first bishop) which gives 'all of the land which is on the southern side from the Mead Way (Pump Lane) as far as the East Gate of the City'.

2 A charter of AD 609 granting the south-west quarter of the city (castle area) 'from the South Gate westward along the walls to the North Lane, to the Street, and so eastward from the Street (High Street) as far as *Doddinghyrnan* (Dodingherne Lane now King's Head Lane) over against the Broad Gate'.

3 A charter of AD 781 by which King Egbert grants the north-east quarter adjoining the East Gate to Deora bishop of Rochester, 'within the walls of the said city in the north part, that is from *Doddinghyrnan to* the Broad Gate (North Gate), east by the wall and so south to the East Gate, and so west by the Street to *Doddinghyrnan'*.

4 A charter of Aethelraed I AD 868, granting the north-west quarter to Cuthwulf bishop of Rochester, 'here are the boundaries as far as the Mead Way from *Doddinghyrnan* west along the Street out to the wall, and so by northern way out to *Liabingescot* (Liaba's house)… to where the wall turns east, and so east within the wall to the Great Gate over against *Doddinghurnan*, then straight south from the gate … to *Doddinghurnan*'. Some of the marshes to the north-east of the city were also included.

The rest record grants of land and grazing or pasture rights to the bishop, church and priory.

3.2 Domesday Book

The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded Rochester (*Rovecestre*) as a borough with 'tenurial heterogeneity', that is, it was held by no single lord. Many houses in the town were held by lords of rural manors; they were regarded as part of those manors although they were responsible for wall and bridge works in Rochester itself. At the time of King Edward the Confessor, Rochester was valued at 100 shillings, at the time of the Survey it was worth £20, but the tenants rendered £40.

3.3 Origin of place-name

The Romano-British name for Rochester was *Durobrivae*, meaning 'the walled town by the bridge', and it is mentioned in several second to fourth century Romano-British sources (Rivet and Smith 1979, 346-348). Bede, writing in AD 731 of the foundation of Rochester Cathedral in 604, gives two names for the city, '… *Durobrevis* which the English call *Hrofaescaestrae*, after one of their former chiefs whose name was *Hrof* …', that is, 'Hrof's camp'.
The place-name can be traced to its present form thus

*c.*730	OE.*Hrofaescaestrae*	811	*Hrofescester*
1086	*Rovecestre*	1610	*Rochester*

4 HISTORICAL DATA BY PERIOD

4.1 Pre-urban evidence

4.1 1The late iron age

Settlement at Rochester had probably begun by the early first century BC when it may have been set up as a centre of power for the local iron age community, possibly one of the four Kentish kingdoms mentioned by Caesar in the *Gallic Wars*. Excavations in the High Street revealed a metalled track and indications of a mint for late iron age coins, but little more is known about this early settlement.

4.2 Urban evidence

4.2.1 The Romano-British period

The late iron age settlement at Rochester, sited at the crossing of the Medway, must have been of strategic importance following the Roman invasion of AD 43. It could have been used as a supply port by the Roman army and may have had a military presence to protect the river crossing.

4.2.1.1.Road routes and the bridge

Soon after AD 43 a road was built (Margary route 1b) to link the Channel ports with London and beyond. It ran from Richborough and Dover through Canterbury to Rochester where it followed the present High Street to a bridge across the river Medway (probably built by the Roman army). Evidence for a timber bridge *c.* 70m long and resting on nine stone piers was revealed in 1851. West of the bridge the road continued along a stone and timber causeway across the low-lying marshes at Strood to the foot of Strood Hill, whence it continued to London. Another road (Margary route 13) branched off at Rochester through the iron-working districts in the eastern Weald to Hastings, Dover and Lympne.

4.2.1.2.The settlement

Because of its strategic position, Rochester was second only to Canterbury in the *civitas* of the Cantiaci. Its presence undoubtedly encouraged the establishment of farms and villa estates in the Medway valley, and Rochester was the administrative centre for the surrounding area.

The settlement grew up on the east bank of the river at the lowest convenient crossing place. It had good communications with the interior, the Kent coast and further afield, and travellers and traders must have boosted the local economy. Some form of fortification, perhaps on the site of the later castle, may have been erected to protect the bridgehead, but there is as yet no archaeological evidence to support this.

Excavations at the corner of Victoria Street and Eastgate showed that as early as the first century AD occupation had extended almost 1km south-east of the bridge, perhaps indicating ribbon development along the Watling Street. As the site lies close to the junction of Watling Street and the Roman road to Maidstone and the Weald, the settlement may have grown up as an independent entity.

4.2.1.3 The defences

In the late second/early third century AD, an earth bank and ditch were constructed around the settlement. In the later third century it was fronted by a ragstone wall just over 2m wide and with tile bonding courses. This wall has survived in places, standing to *c*. 9m where it is best preserved. A ditch, *c*. 6.5m wide and 2.5m deep, encircled the wall but may have been dug for the earlier earth bank. It was truncated by the medieval defensive ditch which followed the same line.

There is some archaeological evidence for the gates although most information can be inferred from Saxon charters which mention four gateways which probably were survivals from the Romano-British period. The East Gate probably stood on the site of the medieval gateway, for in 1894 part of a possible Romano-British tower was revealed beneath it when the Mathematical School was being rebuilt. In 1998, the South Gate was located in Boley Hill, west of the Norman Keep. The North Gate is thought to have stood where present day Northgate Street cuts the line of the city wall; it may have led to a quay or docks, to which there are also references in Saxon charters. The position of the West Gate is not known but it must have been near the bridge, which is thought to have been in much the same place as the modern crossing.

4.2.1.4 The street pattern

Apart from Watling Street, running west to east from the bridge to the East Gate (along a similar line to the modern High Street), the street pattern within the defences is not known, but some evidence from excavations suggests that it was probably not regular. Roads must have led from the main street to the North and South Gates. The road to the north may have followed the line of modern Northgate Street, but no trace has yet been found of a street in the south although the position of the south gate itself is now known. Archaeological evidence has shown that some at least of the streets were of substantial construction, with the earliest version of Watling Street being 2.7m wide. It was widened to 6.7m soon after its construction, and a stone drain down its centre divided it into two carriageways.

4.2.1.5.Structures

A number of small-scale excavations within the walled area of the Romano-British town have revealed fragmentary remains of some substantial masonry structures, although no complete plans have been recovered and no major public buildings (forum, basilica, theatre, temple precinct) have been located. The walls of the buildings are usually of Kentish ragstone with or without tile bonding-courses. Brick walls are less common, as are clay walls. A building, possibly from a bath-house, lying beneath the cathedral had an *opus signinum* floor covered with a thick layer of ash and another was discovered to the south of the High Street in the 1960s. Other structures identified by painted plaster and moulded stones have been found around Northgate. The discoveries suggest that the buildings within the town were quite densely distributed and that there had been a fairly large population.

4.2.1.6 The economy

Rochester probably acted as a market and redistribution centre for local industries, such as pottery making and salt production. Pottery (Upchurch ware) was produced in the area from about the time of the Conquest, and was widely distributed throughout Kent. Salt, an important item in the Romano-British economy, was extracted from sea water and must have provided Rochester and its hinterland with a highly lucrative business. The economy must also have benefited from Rochester's position on Watling Street, for it may have served as a posting station (*mutatio)* and official rest house (*mansio*) for imperial officials and the non-military inhabitants must have derived some profits from such activities.

The harbour

Rochester must also have served as a civilian port and transit harbour where the road from the Weald met the Medway and Thames. Although they have not been located, there may well have been harbour facilities along the whole river frontage.

4.2.1.7 Extra-mural development

There is evidence for suburban development outside the East Gate, along the line of Watling Street eastwards to the foot of Star Hill. The area of marsh to the north is likely to have have been too wet for anything more than docks and rough land, and no evidence has yet been found for suburban development beyond the South Gate.

4.2.1.8 Cemeteries

There was a large cremation cemetery outside the South Gate, at Boley Hill; fragments of a decorated lead coffin indicate that there must also have been some inhumations there. Borstal, *c.* 1.5km south-west of Rochester had a mainly inhumation cemetery dated by coins to the third and fourth century AD. Two cemeteries dating from the first to third century and possibly later, are known from Strood, but they are more likely to have belonged to settlements on the west bank of the Medway than to Rochester town. No evidence for a cemetery outside the East Gate has yet been found, although its location on the main road from the coast and near one of the principal entrances to the town makes the presence of a cemetery there highly likely.

4.2.2 The Saxon period

There is insufficient evidence to indicate whether Rochester itself was occupied without a break into the Saxon period, although fifth to seventh century cemeteries around the town must represent settlements in its surroundings and possibly within the walled area itself.

4.2.2.1 The settlement

At the end of the Romano-British period Rochester will have resembled many other small towns: it would probably have had fairly ruinous town walls and gateways and the elements of a street pattern and buildings in various degrees of collapse and dilapidation. The bridge across the Medway and possibly a harbour may still have been usable. Thus, Rochester must have had the potential for becoming an administrative centre for the newly-arrived Christian missionaries, and in AD 604 Aethelbert of Kent gave the south-western quarter of the town for the foundation of the church (later the cathedral) and priory of St Andrew. From the time of its foundation, the cathedral had a major impact on the layout of Rochester, and by 868 the whole interior of the walled town was in its hands. As yet we know little about the Saxon settlement within the walls of the town, although excavations around the cathedral in 1888 revealed the apsidal end of a probable Saxon church, probably St Andrew's, and during re-paving work outside the cathedral in 1998 the continuation of the apse was recorded.

In AD 676, Aethelred, King of Mercia, ravaged Kent, destroyed Rochester and exiled the bishop. The kings of Wessex wreaked further damage in AD 686 and 687, but the eighth century saw a period of peace during which Rochester prospered. At this time it acquired many possessions in Kent and in the Weald in particular, through grants from the Crown. By the early ninth century Rochester was under the control of Wessex and was a defended market town (OE *burh*) and trading centre (OE *wic*), with one of the most productive mints in England and presumably a not inconsiderable population within and without the walls. The period of peace and prosperity did not last, however, for in AD 835 the Danish Vikings ravaged the Isle of Sheppey; in AD 842 they sailed up the Medway and plundered Rochester; and in AD 855 their army over-wintered on Sheppey. They besieged Rochester in AD 885, and although they surrounded it with a fortification of their own the town did not fall and the Danes fled when King Alfred and his army arrived. The successful defence of Rochester

suggests that it had a substantial population, determined to hold out within the walls, which they probably refortified, and as King Alfred himself came to its relief, it must have been a place of considerable significance.

The seventh and eight-century charters cited above show that at this time Rochester had elements of a street system, perhaps deriving from the Romano-British layout. *Doddinghyrnan* (now King's Head Lane), *Mead Way* (now Pump Lane) and *Broad Gate* (Broad Street) are all mentioned. By analogy with Winchester and other Saxon burhs, Rochester may have acquired the framework of its present street plan by the tenth century. The main axis (present day High Street) would have led from the bridge across the Medway through West Gate to East Gate. The other main street would have been that leading from the South Gate to the North Gate. Many existing side roads leading off the High Street in the northern part of the town may well date from this period and there must have been other similar streets throughout the Saxon town. Charters suggest that there may have been a market at the crossroads at the end of Northgate, which was widened at this point. In the early tenth century there were also three moneyers in the town's mint, one working for the bishop and two working for King Aethelstan.

In *c.* AD 975 a new bridge was built over the Medway to replace the Romano-British one, with local lords, the king, the bishop of Rochester and the archbishop of Canterbury being responsible for its upkeep. Nine stone piers with ten arches supported a timber superstructure *c.* 130m long, possibly with a wooden defensive tower and a drawbridge at its eastern end.

Although attacked by the Danes between AD 986 and 1016, by the end of the Saxon period Rochester had become a sizeable fortified cathedral city with at least three other churches: St Mary the Virgin, St Margaret and St Clement. St Mary the Virgin lay in the east and is mentioned in AD 850. St Margaret's church in the south dated from the eleventh century or before and may have been connected with cemeteries outside the South Gate. The church of St Clement was probably also of Saxon origin, and served the west of the city. Rochester also had a mint, and was a market centre and port with boat building and fishing as two of its activities.

4.2.3 The medieval Period:

By the time of the Norman Conquest the cathedral and town had both reached a low point in their fortunes. A new phase of prosperity and growth began in 1077 with the appointment of Gundulf as bishop and the foundation of a new Benedictine priory.

4.2.3.1 Markets and fairs

Sometime during the medieval period, the site of the market moved from its postulated early position in Northgate to the roughly triangular area between the entrance to the castle and the west end of the cathedral, where a pillory was also sited. This shape and location is characteristic of market places in towns with a castle and monastic house. Sometime during the later medieval period the market was again moved, this time to the eastern end of the High Street, between the crossroads with Northgate and the East Gate.

Although Rochester had had a traditional ('prescriptive') market since the Saxon period, it was not until 1266 that rights to an official Friday market were granted to the town. Rochester had an annual fair as early as the seventh century, when it was held on 9th and 10th January; the date was later changed to the eve, day and morrow of St Andrew's Day (29th November to

1st December). Henry VI's Charter of Incorporation of 1446 granted another fair, to be held on the eve, day and morrow of the feast of St Dunstan (18th to 20th May), the first day being for the sale of cattle. It seems that they were held on the Common, an area of land immediately outside the city walls to the west of the North Gate, modern Corporation Street.

4.2.3.2 The manor and corporation

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, the manor of Rochester was held by the king, and after the Norman Conquest, William I granted it to his half brother Odo Bishop of Bayeux, Earl of Kent, until his disgrace in 1083, when it returned to the Crown.

Incorporation

In the early twelfth century Henry I rented the city to the townsmen at a yearly rent of £20, and in 1166 Henry II confirmed the grant with all rights and liberties. Later royal charters confirmed them all, and in 1446 Rochester acquired its Charter of Incorporation from Henry VI. At that time Rochester's boundaries extended south towards Nashenden and included Strood to the west. It had authority over the river from Sheerness to Hawkwood and charged bridge tolls. A bailiff and council of citizens acted as overseers. Edward IV confirmed the incorporation in 1461, when the name of the chief officer was changed from bailiff to mayor. Henry VIII finally confirmed all charters and privileges in 1511.

4.2.3.3 The cathedral church of St Andrew

At the time of the Norman Conquest the stone cathedral church, founded and built by King Aethelberht in AD 604 and repaired several times after the Danish raids, was still standing, although in a dilapidated condition. Little is known of its history until *c.*1075, when William of Malmesbury records that the church was 'utterly forsaken and waste'. Once Gundulf was consecrated as bishop in 1077, work began building a new church and monastery. He replaced the five secular canons serving the cathedral by 22 Benedictine monks, and by the time of his death their number in the cathedral monastery had risen to 60. Many substantial grants of land, tithes, properties and rights from the king, the archbishop, and other leading Norman knights and nobles, plus innumerable bequests of town property in Rochester and beyond from the laity, enhanced the prosperity of the new foundation.

Gundulf began to rebuild the cathedral *c.*1082-3. It had an aisled nave of eight bays, transepts, a quire, possibly with tripartite apse, and crypt, most of which was destroyed by a twelfth century rebuilding after a fire in 1137 which ravaged the cathedral monastery and the city itself. From the late twelfth century to the 1240s the east end of the church was greatly enlarged, and alterations continued until *c*. 1343 when the central tower was raised and a belfry and spire were added. In the first half of the fifteenth century the nave clerestory was replaced and a Lady Chapel was added to the south aisle.

4.2.3.4 The bishop's palace

Gundulf erected a residence in the south-west corner of the precinct so that he and succeeding bishops could live as one of the monastic community (*familia*). In the early twelfth century, however, the bishop began to live apart from the monks and the prior became the head of the monastic house. The bishop maintained a separate household. The late eleventh or early twelfth century Bishops' Hall, used for entertaining visiting dignitaries, probably stood west of the priory and south of the cathedral nave, where a new hall was built after a fire in 1185.

The latter now forms the east to west range of the Old Palace. By 1412 the buildings on this site were referred to collectively as the palace.

In 1459 Bishop Lowe built a new palace to replace the earlier structure, and much of the surviving fabric dates from then. It seems to have occupied the whole area to the west of the cloister and almonry hall, with its own courtyard and gardens. A range of more menial buildings, such as kitchens, a washhouse and prisons, stood to the west of the outer court, next to the street. An inventory of the palace drawn up in 1534 by Cardinal Fisher describes a complex building with a hall range and a chapel of its own, but, as it was cold, damp and uncomfortable, it was unpopular, and Fisher was the last to reside there. Orchards and gardens occupied the land south of the cathedral and priory, and outside the precinct walls further south was the area called 'The Vines'.

4.2.3.5 The priory of St Andrew

The priory lay south of the cathedral, probably south of the nave in Gundulf's time, although the only structure from his time is 'Gundulf's Tower' to the north of the cathedral. When the priory was rebuilt by Bishop Ernulf (1114-1124), the cloister was moved further east, to its present position, a new dormitory, chapter house and refectory were added (the ruins of which still survive) and the entire monastic complex was extended southwards, beyond the Romano-British city wall. Ernulf and his successors also built a new infirmary to the east and a reredorter (latrine) at the south end of the dormitory.

The priory was also responsible for St Bartholomew's hospital, at least eleven churches within the diocese, and another seven beyond. In 1291, the temporalities of the monks were valued at £134.12s.6d. per annum (*Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas IV), and in 1535 the gross annual income was £486.11s.5d (*Valor Ecclesiasticus*). The priory was surrendered to Henry VIII in 1540, one of the last religious houses to be dissolved.

4.2.3.6 Other religious organisations

The parishes and churches of St Clement and St Nicholas lay within the city walls, and those of St Mary and St Margaret lay outside them.

The church of St Clement

St Clement's parish, in the west of the city, probably extended from the Court House westwards to the river, and from north to south within the city walls, with the church standing in Clement Lane, now Horsewash Lane. The parish of St Clement was united with the neighbouring parish of St Nicholas in 1549, its churchyard became private property in 1580, and by the late eighteenth century the surviving walls of the church had been incorporated into the houses along Horsewash Lane.

The church of St Nicholas

The parish of St Nicholas appears to have been in existence before the Conquest but it may not have had a parish church, for by the late eleventh century St Nicholas's parochial altar stood in front of the rood screen at the east end of the north aisle of the cathedral. In the thirteenth and fourteenth century the priory monks objected to this arrangement as it brought them into contact with the parishioners, and thus the outside world, but the parochial altar remained in the cathedral until the 1420s when a church with aisled nave and short, wide chancel was built in the north-west corner of the cathedral's lay cemetery. It was consecrated

in 1423. The vicarage of St Nicholas was valued at five marcs in 1291 (*Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas IV).

The church of St Mary the Virgin
St Mary's parish, outside the east gate of the city, existed by *c*. AD 850 when the king of the West Saxons and the king of Kent gave to Duke Ealhere a small piece of land, '*Healve Aker'*, outside the walls in the east, on which stood a church dedicated to St Mary the Virgin. Its later history is unknown and no details of the church have survived.

The church of St Margaret
The parish of St Margaret comprised all the land outside the city walls on the south side of the city, in the neighbourhood of modern St Margaret's Street. There may originally have been a timber church, but in the late eleventh century a stone church with nave, south aisle and chapel, and chancel with a south-east chapel was built, with its main entrance on the north. During the mid-fifteenth century a large tower for five bells was added to the west of the nave. The church was originally an appendage to the parochial altar of St Nicholas in the cathedral, and the advowson of the church and the patronage of the vicarage continued to be part of the possessions of the prior and convent of St Andrew until the Dissolution in 1540. They were then surrendered to the Crown, but in 1543 they were granted to the dean and chapter of the cathedral.

The hospital and chapel of St Bartholomew
In 1078 Bishop Gundulf founded St Bartholomew's hospital as a lazar house, or leper hospital, on the south side of the High Street and on the boundary between Rochester and Chatham. It was run by a master and male and female assistants, and dependent on St Andrew's priory whose prior and chapter were its perpetual patrons. In *c*.1124 its chapel of St Bartholomew was completed, consisting of nave, chancel and apsidal sanctuary, and in the fourteenth century there was a cemetery nearby. The hospital is mentioned as a leper hospital in documents dated 1245, 1249 and 1348. At the Dissolution it passed to the new dean and chapter of the cathedral.

The hospital of St Katherine
The hospital lay in the suburb of Eastgate, by Star Hill at the east end of the High Street, and was established under the will of Simon Potyn, dated Christmas 1316, for men and women of Rochester suffering from leprosy or other diseases. The hospital was entrusted to the vicar of St Nicholas, the heirs of Simon Potyn and John St Denys, and the bishop of Rochester, who were to appoint the hospital's prior.

4.2.3.7 <u>The castle</u>
Rochester Castle dominates the point where Watling Street crosses the river Medway. It must have been in existence before 1086 for Domesday Book records that the bishop of Rochester had been given land in Aylesford 'in exchange for the land on which the castle is situated'. The late eleventh century *Textus Roffensis* states that the land on which the castle stood was 'the best part of the city'.

Nothing has definitely been found of the earliest structure, which was probably a typical Norman motte-and-bailey castle built of timber and earth. The first stone fortification is attributed to Bishop Gundulf who probably began it soon after William I besieged Bishop Odo

at Rochester in 1088 (presumably in the original timber castle). Gundulf's castle has the distinction of being one of the first in England to be fortified in stone.

Shortly after Henry I gave the custody of the castle to the archbishop of Canterbury and his successors in 1127, the construction of a stone keep began. With its walls up to 3.5m thick, it is one of the largest in England: 21m square and 34.5m to the top of the parapet. The western stretch of the curtain wall, which once enclosed the irregular bailey *c*.120m from north to south, still comprises part of the Gundulfian wall, which used the Romano-British town wall for its foundations. A long length of the southern curtain wall was demolished in modern times, but in the east the wall and towers (the work of Henry III) still survive. The castle ditch is now only visible skirting the curtain wall to the east and north.

The keep was entered up a flight of steps protected by a forebuilding leading into the body of the keep, which was divided into two halves by an east-west wall. The great hall occupied the third and fourth floors, with large windows at the top of the room (out of range of enemy archers), a doorway in the north, and a large fireplace in both the north and south wall. Two smaller private rooms (*solars*) stood on the floor above, and above them was a battlemented walkway.

The castle and town defences were repaired between 1166 and 1171, and the castle strengthened during the reign of Richard I (1189-1199). When King John besieged the castle in 1215, the curtain wall and the south-east corner of the keep were undermined, and when rebuilt between 1221 and 1222 the south-east angle-tower of the keep was given a circular plan. During the siege King John located his siege engines on Boley Hill; afterwards the hill was brought within the town defences by surrounding it with a ditch. Mid-thirteenth century and later documents record buildings within the bailey, including a chapel and chamber, a buttery and a dispensary. In 1233 the royal apartments in the bailey were altered, and in 1244 a new chapel was built above the first so that it adjoined the king's apartments. No traces survive above ground, although the remains of a vaulted building thought to date from the reign of Henry III have been found against the inner face of the west curtain wall

In 1264 Simon de Montfort besieged the castle, which was in royal hands. The attackers breached the city wall and the outer defences of the castle, but the great keep held out, although damaged. The damage does not seem to have been made good, for a survey of 1340 reported that there were 'dilapidations over the whole extent of the castle'. Between 1367 and 1370 the curtain wall was restored and a mural tower erected to the north of the main gate. Another new tower was added at the north angle of the curtain wall in the late 1370s. The last refurbishment to the castle, and also to the city walls, took place in the 1460s when Sir Thomas Cobham was constable of the castle and the city. Thereafter, the castle declined in importance and its fabric was allowed to decay.

4.2.3.8 <u>The town defences</u>

The currently visible lengths of the city wall date mainly from the twelfth and thirteenth century although much of them stand on third century foundations. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries stretches of the earlier wall near the South Gate and to the west were demolished when the castle ditch was dug, and its Roman course was changed, but the line of the wall on the north of the town remains much as it was in the third century, although it was frequently repaired.

The course of the wall on the south was changed, however, as the monks increased their landholdings and expanded the monastery. In 1225 the wall was rebuilt further south and a ditch dug outside it. When it was extended again in 1344, the ditch became part of the precinct and was gradually filled in and built over, the monks being empowered to do this on condition that they dug a new ditch outside the new wall.

A little after 1300 a massive new East Gate was built, with two large flanking drum towers and a drawbridge spanning the city ditch; it resembled the West Gate at Canterbury in form and size. The eastern city wall was crenellated during the fourteenth century and furnished with large drum towers at its north and south corners, but it still used the lower part of the third century walls as its foundations.

4.2.3.9 The bridge

The late Saxon timber bridge was still in use at the Norman Conquest, although it may have been restored in the early eleventh century. As there seem to have been neither balustrade nor handrail, crossing the bridge could be hazardous, and there are numerous twelfth and thirteenth century records of people falling into the river and drowning. When the city was besieged in 1215 there was an unsuccessful attempt to burn the bridge and its defensive tower, and in 1343 the west end of the bridge was extended with a barbican and drawbridge.

Repairs were carried out on the ever more fragile bridge at least nineteen times between 1277 and 1381, but it was swept away in February 1381. Between 1383 and 1392 a new stone bridge was erected on a new site closer to the castle, with ferry boats plying the river while it was under construction. The new bridge was carried on twelve piers with eleven openings, all arched except the seventh which had a drawbridge and a winding house above; its carriageway was of ragstone and was *c.* 180m long and *c.*4m wide. In 1393 a bridge chapel was built on the east bank. In 1421, Henry V confirmed the constitution of the Wardens of the Commonalty of Rochester Bridge, who were thenceforward to be responsible for its upkeep. The bridge was subject to continual repairs because of the pressures put upon it by the strong currents of the Medway. It broke in 1445, and after it collapsed *c*. 1489 it was not rebuilt until 1522.

The bridge chapel

The chapel was founded in 1393 by Sir John de Cobham on the east bank of the Medway (now The Esplanade). It was dedicated to the Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints, and was called 'Allesoulen Chapel'. In 1395 a chantry was established with three chaplains to minister to pilgrims and travellers. It was to be funded out of the bridge endowment, but by the reign of Henry VI the revenues from the bridge had declined so much that the king was begged for assistance in maintaining the chaplains.

4.2.3.10 Industry and trade

Fishing

During the early twelfth century oyster-fishing rights on the Isle of Grain were granted to the priory, and by the thirteenth century organised oyster fisheries had become established in the lower Medway, from Rochester bridge to the Thames at Queenborough. 'Floating fish' (for example, salmon, trout, pike, perch, sole, plaice etc.) were also caught in the Medway, and in 1460 Edward IV granted fishing rights to the mayor and citizens of Rochester.

The port
During the medieval period the port of Rochester continued to expand. The Town Quay was situated north of the bridge by Horsewash Lane (formerly Clement Lane), and there were other quays on the north side of the town where inlets penetrated the marsh as far as the town ditch by Blue Boar Lane and adjacent to North Gate. Trade with London was important to the economy, with agricultural produce, mostly cereals, ragstone and iron being brought downriver from Maidstone by barge, and then shipped from Rochester to London.

Inns
There were at least two inns in medieval Rochester. The Crown Inn is first mentioned in 1316 and demolished and rebuilt in 1863; The White Hart was established in 1396.

4.2.3.11 Suburban development
Towards the end of the Middle Ages Rochester comprised not only the city but also a considerable rural hinterland. The southern boundary lay two miles beyond the city walls, and the town also had jurisdiction over the river Medway below the high water mark as far as at Sheerness.

The churches of St Margaret and St Mary probably served the suburbs that grew up in the south and east. Development in the south must have been constrained by the southerly expansion of the cathedral precinct in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and the suburb probably developed along St Margaret's Street, between the South Gate and St Margaret's church. The only early building to have survived is Bishopscourt, a fifteenth century house that was so named when it was given to the bishops of Rochester in the seventeenth century.

4.2.4 The post-medieval period
4.2.4.1 Markets and fairs
John Speed's map of 1610 shows Rochester market place in the High Street, between Northgate and the East Gate, with buildings, possibly a Market Hall and shambles, running down the centre of the road (Figure 6). In 1657 both the market and the fairs were still being held on the same days as in the Middle Ages, but by 1798 the market was being superseded by that in Chatham.

In 1687 a new town hall and courthouse was erected on the north side of the High Street. It was built of brick and raised on double stone columns in Doric style, giving an open area beneath, and with a yard in front. At the same time, selling goods in the open street was prohibited and the market was transferred to the town hall and a butchers' market House' was built east of it in 1698. From 1787 to the 1950s a cattle market was held on The Common on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

4.2.4.2 The corporation
Succeeding monarchs confirmed the earlier charters until 1629 when a Common Council (of an annually elected mayor, eleven aldermen and twelve assistants) was established. Although the Corporation enjoyed a considerable income from property, market tolls etc., little was spent on providing street lighting, drains, paving or refuse collection, with most of the Common Council's activities being devoted to upholding municipal laws. It was not until 1769 that paving, cleaning, lighting and watching the streets and lanes of Rochester and Strood became statutory, and at the same time a new road was constructed across the high ground to Chatham Hill. After the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, there were great

improvements in sanitation, health, education, housing, roads and transport, but in 1974 Rochester lost its independence, becoming amalgamated with Chatham and Strood as Rochester-upon-Medway City Council. In 1998 it became part of the Unitary Authority of Medway.

4.2.4.3 The cathedral church

At the Dissolution, Rochester cathedral and priory became a cathedral church with dean and chapter. Much of the chancel of the cathedral church was destroyed by fire in 1591 and repaired, and there were further repairs to the fabric in the early 1630s. Surveys in the 1660s and 1670s resulted in extensive repairs and restoration to the tower, spire, quire, aisle and nave walls, east end roofs and arches, and floor. The bells were recast and rehung, a choir organ installed, and the chapter house rebuilt in the 1690s, but the building continued to deteriorate and major repairs were needed throughout the eighteenth century; a new spire was erected in 1748 when the north-west tower and part of the north aisle were demolished and rebuilt. The 1820s, 1860s and the 1880s saw major restoration programmes, and extensive alterations were made in the early twentieth century.

The dean and chapter

When the dean and chapter were installed in 1542, Prior Walter Phillips remained as the first dean of the reformed cathedral. The new community comprised a dean, six prebendary canon's (priests), with minor canons, choristers, clerks, servants and a steward. A grammar school (King's School) with two masters and twenty scholars was established. Some of the existing buildings of the former priory were reused, the rest being allowed to fall into decay. Eleven manors formerly belonging to the priory, ten previously owned by Leeds Priory, Strood Hospital, seventeen rectories and other properties in Rochester, Maidstone, Canterbury and London became the endowment of the dean and chapter, and by 1660 the annual income from rents was £904, and twenty-five parishes, mostly in Kent were in the dean and chapter's patronage.

4.2.4.4 The bishop's palace

After the Reformation the Rochester palace was let and the bishop's palace at Bromley became the bishops' sole residence.

4.2.4.5 Other religious organisations

The church of St Nicholas

By 1620 St Nicholas church was in a very poor condition; it was substantially rebuilt with an aisled nave *c.* 50m long and *c.*20m wide and a belfry with two bells, and was reconsecrated in 1624. The church was restored in 1860-62 when pews to accommodate a congregation of 240 were installed.

The church of St Margaret

In 1649 the church of St Margaret possessed a parsonage house, two barns, one stable and other housings, tithes and profits and 17 acres of glebe land attached to the parsonage, together worth £120 per annum; and the vicarage was valued at £30 yearly. The church was still standing in its medieval form until it was largely rebuilt and extended during the nineteenth century. The nave was rebuilt 1823-24, the chancel rebuilt 1839-40, and the old east window was blocked and replaced with a new one in 1872.

The hospital and chapel of St Bartholomew

After the Dissolution, the hospital and brethren lost their main source of income from the priory, and had to rely on *c.* £13 per annum from its own small estate. The dean and chapter were patrons of the hospital, but sold or let most of its land and tenements and, despite attempts to restore it, by 1690 the hospital and chapel had become dilapidated. The chapel was repaired and furnished in 1718 but the hospital was demolished and houses erected on the site by the end of the eighteenth century. The present St Bartholomew's Hospital was built in 1862, at the top of the hill above the site of the former medieval hospital.

The hospital of St Katherine

The hospital escaped closure at the Dissolution and continued to be used, but by 1704 it had been allowed to fall into a ruinous condition and its revenue had declined. The dean and chapter, the mayor and the vicar were then appointed patrons of the hospital; they shortened leases and increased the rents. The hospital was rebuilt with twelve apartments in 1717, and continued in use until 1805 when a new hospital was erected at the top of Star Hill. The old buildings were converted into cottages and shops, but were demolished in 1926.

4.2.4 6 <u>The castle</u>

During the early post-medieval period the castle fell out of use because it was outdated as a fortification, and in 1610 James I granted it as a 'habitable dwelling' to Sir Anthony Weldon who leased out its land.. Although attempts were made to demolish the ruinous castle in the early eighteenth century, they were foiled because of the strength of its building materials ('cement') and it remained in private hands until 1878. The City Council then purchased the castle and its grounds for £6,572 and maintained them for public access. They are now a Scheduled Monument in the Guardianship of English Heritage.

4.2.4.7 <u>The bridge</u>

Throughout much of the post-medieval period the bridge (still the medieval one) was subjected to continual and costly repairs with sections having to be rebuilt. Nevertheless, *c.*1720 it was considered to be 'the largest, highest, and strongest built of all the bridges in England, except London Bridge' (Defoe 1724). By the 1820s the Bridge Wardens' increasing outlays were called into question, and a new bridge was decided upon, to be built *c.*40m downstream from the medieval bridge. Construction of the new bridge, designed by William Cubitt, began in 1850 and was completed by 1856. The old bridge was demolished in 1857. The new bridge was built of cast iron on stone piers and abutments; it was over 180m long and *c.*13m wide, with three main arches and a smaller fourth arch for a swing bridge. In 1858 a railway bridge was constructed adjacent to the new road bridge, and in 1891 a second railway bridge was built alongside. The road bridge was largely rebuilt in 1914. In 1967 the first railway bridge, then disused, was rebuilt to provide a second road bridge which opened in 1970. Meanwhile a new high level bridge for the M2 motorway to the south of Rochester had been built and opened in 1963

The bridge chapel

The Crown seized the chapel and contents in 1548, and a month later sold them to John Burwell, paymaster and receiver of Rochester Bridge. The chapel was then converted into a storeroom for the master carpenter of the bridge. In the eighteenth century the Bridge Chamber was built around the small chapel, thus hiding it, and it was not rediscovered until 1876 when a new Bridge Chamber was being constructed. In 1937 it was restored for use as a boardroom.

4.2.4.8 Industry and trade

Fishing and trade were the main commercial activities until the middle of the nineteenth century.

The oyster fishery

The oyster fishery was very prosperous during the eighteenth century, with some 400 dredgermen being employed in 80 or 90 boats. In 1728 the Rochester Fishery Act was passed to protect the industry from poaching. Oysters were shipped in large quantities to London and Holland, as well as local markets. By 1865, the oyster fishery was in a bad financial state, with debts of £20,000, and The Rochester Oyster Fishery Act was passed to attempt to raise additional capital. Despite this, the fishery closed in 1936, having suffered deterioration of the oyster grounds because of the extensions to Chatham Dockyard and a radical decline in demand.

The port

A survey of settlements along the Kent coast in 1566 recorded that Rochester had 144 houses and four quays: 'the towne keye, the wateringe place, the town ditch and Strowde keye'. Six ships and boats belonging to the town were employed in fishing and trading.

Rochester was a busy port throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. By 1650 oysters, hops, garden produce and fruit were regularly shipped to London; oysters were sent to Holland; and cloth exported to Europe. Deal boards, masts and spars were imported from the Baltic and Norway. In 1700 there was still a small overseas trade (22 merchant ships with a total tonnage of 1,146 were based at Rochester in 1701), but the main activities were the import of salt and coal from Sunderland and Newcastle, dairy products from East Anglia, and the export of fuller's earth to the textile centres in eastern England. Trade with London also continued to grow: cereals, pulses, fruit and hops; paper, pasteboard and parch-board; and tanned leather were all shipped there. Large quantities of groceries, hardware, manufactured goods, and luxuries were brought back.

A number of structures must have been associated with the port at this time. One such may have been the 'King's Long Warehouse' which was first recorded in the Rental documents of the sixteenth century and which appears on the Duke of Northumberland's Map of Rochester of 1633. The warehouse is also recorded in seventeenth century documents but disappears in the documentary evidence in the eighteenth century when the customs house was built in the same area. It has been suggested, therefore, that the warehouse may have had a function related to customs.

Inns

There were 257 guest beds and stabling for 393 horses in Rochester and Chatham in 1686, most of them no doubt in the inns named in rentals of 1683. They included The Maidstone Arms, later called the City Arms and demolished in 1863; The Swan with Two Necks, Bridge Lane, demolished in the 1850s; The Talbot; The Saracen's Head; The Angel; The Black Spread Eagle; The White Horse; The Royal Oake; The Three Kings; The King's Arms; The Dolphin; The George; The Windmill; The King's Head; and The Star, in Eastgate Street. The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel, an old coaching inn formerly 'The Bull on the Hoope Inn', was established in the late eighteenth century.

Stage coaches and carrier services
Rochester was situated on the main coach and postal route between London and Dover, and by 1836 sixteen long-distance royal mail and other coaches passed in each direction daily. Many more coaches ran to local towns, regular and reliable service being essential because of the importance of Chatham dockyard at that time. Wagons and vans were used for freight, but all these forms of transport declined and ceased to operate when the railway arrived in the Medway towns.

4.2.4.9 The railway
The railway came to the area when the Rochester Railway and Canal Company opened a single track line from Gravesend to Strood In 1844. The South Eastern Railway Company, which linked the line to London via Dartford in 1849, took this over in 1846, and in 1855 the East Kent Railway Company began the construction of another line to link Chatham with Faversham and on to Dover. In 1858 the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company built a bridge across the Medway, with a new line to London via Swanley. Its Rochester station stood on The Common and there was another, Chatham Central, close to the boundary between the two towns. When a second rail bridge was built across the Medway in 1891, the rival South Eastern opened a branch line from Strood to Chatham via Rochester. In 1899 the South Eastern and the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company Railway amalgamated, and in 1927 the first railway bridge fell out of use and the track and stations were rationalised.

4.2.5 The modern town
The city centre of Rochester has changed comparatively little in modern times. Recent road improvements have removed traffic other than service vehicles from most of the historic centre, and during the 1960s the construction of the M2 motorway bypassing the Medway Towns saw the diversion of much of the through traffic.

The biggest area of expansion in Rochester has been to the south and south-east of the old city, with housing estates at St Margaret's, Troy Town, Delce, Warren Wood and Borstal forming a virtually continuous belt as far as the M2 motorway and Rochester airport. The same area has also been used for industrial estates, engineering works and superstores. Rochester's urban growth can be seen by comparing early maps with the modern O.S. map.

In 1998 Rochester, Chatham and Strood became the Unitary Authority of Medway, covering an area of nearly 16,000 hectares (39,500 acres), with *c* 144,000 inhabitants in some 55,354 households. The Unitary Authority with Gillingham forms the most extensive conurbation in the south east of England outside London. Whilst there is little industry in Rochester itself, the Medway Towns are the most important manufacturing region in Kent. These industries provide much local employment, and the area has the highest proportion in Kent of residents working in manufacturing - 19%, with some 48% of the workforce being skilled manual or non-manual; but it has the lowest percentage in the county in managerial and professional occupations - 28%. About 50% of the workforce commutes to local employment centres and London.

4.2.6 Population
The population of Rochester was *c*. 500 in 1086, and by 1663 the city and its parishes housed *c.* 3,000 people. Steady growth increased the population to 5,500 by the first census of 1801; more rapid growth led to 8,213 by 1831 and 10,872 by 1851, with a high proportion of the

inhabitants living in the suburbs to the south and south-east. By 1891 there were 15,304 inhabitants and 17,720 by 1921, although the population within the walls, that is, the cathedral precincts and St Nicholas parish, fell from 4,152 in 1851 to 2,080 in 1921. In the 1991 census the population of Rochester and Strood together was 50,649.

5 URBAN CHARACTERISTICS

The following summary of the principal urban features in Rochester has been divided into four main periods: Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval (i.e. AD 43 - 450; AD 451 - 1065; AD 1066 - 1540; and post-dating 1540). The list is not comprehensive; as little is known about the Romano-British and Saxon settlements much presented below must be conjectural. The principal medieval and post-medieval features are shown more definitively, but nineteenth century maps may give details of additional post-medieval features.

5.1 Romano-British plan components (Figure 17)

The small Romano-British town at Rochester (*Durobrivae*) appears to have developed on the site of a late iron age settlement at or soon after the Claudian conquest of AD 43. The site was adjacent to the east bank of the river Medway, on a narrow spur of chalk protected by the river and marshland to the north, west and east, with the higher land of the North Downs to the south. It is possible that there was an initial military presence but this has yet to be located. Almost certainly there would have been harbour fortifications. With the establishment of Watling Street (PC1) or a little later a bridge was extended across the Medway (PC2). The settlement was enclosed by a late second or early third century defensive earthen rampart and ditch, which was later strengthened with masonry walls (PC4). There were four main gateways, the West Gate (PC5), the North Gate (PC6), the East Gate (PC7) and the South Gate (PC8), and zones of intramural occupation (PC9). Suburbs then grew up to the south (PC10) and east (PC11). A road to the south coast diverged from Watling Street south-east of the settlement (PC12), and a minor road running south-west from the South Gate gave access to the Medway valley (PC13). A cemetery (PC14) developed beside this road, and there may have been a harbour to the north of the North Gate (PC15).

The plan form of Romano-British Rochester seems relatively simple, comprising the principal elements of roads, bridge, defensive walls, settlement plots, suburban spread, cemetery and harbour. Evidence for these is limited as yet, so much is conjectural and the chronological framework for its development is far from clear.

PC1. Line of the Roman road from the channel ports via Canterbury to London (Watling Street), built in the first century AD.

PC2. Position of the Romano-British bridge over the river Medway, built in the first century AD.

PC3. Line of a minor Romano-British road to the Medway valley.

PC4. Line of Romano-British town defences, initially an earth rampart and ditch, with masonry walls added in the later third century AD.

PC5. Probable site of the West Gate.

PC6. Probable site of the North Gate.

PC7. Site of the East Gate, its position marked on the ground.

PC8. Site of the South Gate, its position marked on the ground.

PC9. Minimum zones of probable occupation within the town walls, with known Romano-British buildings and structures marked.

PC10. Possible extent of suburban settlement outside the South Gate.

PC11. Possible extent of suburban settlement outside the East Gate.

PC12. Line of the Romano-British road to the Weald and south coast.

PC13. Line of minor Roman road to Borstal and Medway valley

PC14. Romano-British roadside cemetery along the road from the South Gate, probably of first and second century AD date, extent unknown.

PC15. Probable site of the Romano-British harbour to the north of the North Gate, served by several navigable inlets.

5.2 Saxon plan components (Figure 18)

The Saxon town developed within the remains of the earlier town. It is not known whether there was any direct continuity from the Romano-British period, but the site's significant position at a bridgehead on Watling Street (PC1) and the fortifications make it very likely. The presence of several early Saxon cemeteries (PC18,19) just outside the city walls supports this view.

The Romano-British bridge was later replaced by a wooden bridge (PC2). The Romano-British town walls were probably reused for the defence of the Saxon settlement (PC4**),** with the four gateways (PC5-PC8) remaining in use. St Andrew's church (PC9) was founded in AD 604 and subsequently influenced the areas of secular occupation (PC10) containing dwellings, houses, workshops, and lanes, including one named *Doddinghyrnan* (PC12), which grew up beside it. A market place (PC11) was established. The Common on which fairs may have been held (PC13) was established outside the north wall of the town, and the Romano-British harbour (PC14) probably survived in some form. At least three churches, St Clement (PC15), St Mary the Virgin (PC16) and St Margaret (PC17), were founded within and outside the town. At least two roads continued in use; one was the present day St Margaret's Street (PC20), beside which there was an early Saxon cemetery (PC18) and the other was the road to the south coast (PC21) which also acquired an early Saxon cemetery. A suburb (PC3) developed outside the town walls.

The plan form of the ecclesiastical and fortified centre of Saxon Rochester seems relatively simple, comprising the principal elements of roads, bridge, fort, defensive walls, cathedral and priory, settlement plots, market, churches, cemeteries, harbour and possible urban spread. By the late Saxon period, Rochester had become an important trading port, and by the late

tenth/early eleventh century it had achieved city status. Whilst there is reasonable documentary evidence for the growing Saxon settlement, the foundation of the cathedral and priory, establishment of a mint, the harbour, a trading centre, the settlement, rebuilding of the bridge, etc., there is, as yet, little in the way of archaeological evidence to support it. Thus much of the layout of the plan components is conjectural, based on documentary details and topography, and the chronological framework is far from clear.

PC1. Line of Watling Street - London to Dover Road.

PC2. Position of the Saxon bridge built in AD 975 on the foundations of the Romano-British bridge.

PC3. Possible areas of suburban occupation, *c.* tenth century and later.

PC4. Line of the Saxon defensive town wall, bank and ditch reused from the Romano-British period.

PC5. Probable site of the West Gate.

PC6. Probable site of the North Gate - known as Cheldergate.

PC7. Site of the East Gate, its position now marked on the ground..

PC8. Site of the South Gate. its position now marked on the ground..

PC9. Site of the Saxon church, including the monastic foundation of St Andrew (founded AD 604) and the possible extent of ecclesiastical land.

PC10. Areas of probable occupation and lanes within the town walls.

PC11. Possible site of the Saxon market in Cheldergate.

PC12. Line of *Doddinghyrnan* Lane.

PC13. Site of The Common, an area of common land to the north of the city (former marshland).

PC14. Possible site of the Saxon harbour (former Romano-British harbour).

PC15. Site of the parish church of St Clement, serving the north part of the town.

PC16. Possible site of St Mary the Virgin church, serving the parish outside the East Gate.

PC17. Site of St Margaret's church, serving the parish outside the South Gate.

PC18. Pagan Saxon roadside cemetery along St Margaret's Street, south of the town.

PC19. Pagan Saxon roadside cemetery at Star Hill to the east of the town.

PC20. Line of St Margaret's Street, leading to Borstal and the Medway valley.

PC21. The road to Maidstone.

5.3 Medieval plan components and urban features (Figures 19 and 20)

By the time of the Norman Conquest, Rochester was a city, a fortified and ecclesiastical centre, and a trading town.. During the medieval period it was still concentrated on the main London to Dover Road (PC1) and the bridge over the river, which by 1392 was replaced by a stone bridge in a new position (PC2). The cathedral church of St Andrew and its associated Benedictine priory (PC3) was built in the early twelfth century; its landholdings were extended southwards in 1255 (PC4) and again in 1344 (PC5), the city wall being extended to accommodate it. A motte-and-bailey castle was built *c*. 1066. A royal castle in stone (PC6) replaced it in the early thirteenth century, at which time the whole of Boley Hill was enclosed by a large ditch as part of the extended defences (PC7). The city walls (PC8) were largely retained although the south-west corner was removed for the new castle defences, and further alterations were made in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. A new West Gate (PC9) was built by the resited bridge abutment, the North Gate (PC10) was retained, the East Gate (PC11) was rebuilt and the South Gate (PC12) was relocated. The High Street (PC13) developed along the line of Watling Street, an early Market Place (PC14) grew up in Epaule Lane between the castle's main entrance and the cathedral; this was moved to a new site in the High Street (PC15). At least four main areas of tenement plots (PC16-19) developed within the walls, whilst several groups of tenement plots were laid out in the suburbs to the east (PC20 and 21). The church of St Clement (PC22) survived until the Dissolution, the church of St Nicholas (PC23) was built in 1423, the church of St Margaret (PC25) was rebuilt and a Bridge Chapel (PC24) was founded in 1387. The Common (PC26) was expanded and retained, a Town Quay (PC27) was established by the site of the old bridge (by then demolished), and the old north harbour (PC28) remained in use. St Margaret's Street (PC29) became a more important access road to the south, and the old Romano-British road to Maidstone (PC30) continued in use, whilst a new road to Chatham (PC31) was laid along the former marshland to the east. The cathedral and priory landholdings extended southwards beyond the city walls to an area called The Vines (PC32), and areas of suburban tenement plots (PC33) began to grow up along St Margaret's Street.

The plan form for medieval Rochester seems relatively simple comprising the elements of castle, cathedral and priory complex, parish churches, market, defensive walls, tenement plots, suburbs, bridge, road routes, quays and the common. The chronological framework for its development is, however, less clear.

PC1. Watling Street, the London-Dover Road.

PC2. Medieval stone bridge built 1392 replacing the Saxon bridge in a new position.

PC3. The new cathedral church and priory of St Andrew the Apostle.

a) (MUF1) The Cathedral. Remains from the eleventh century onwards (Oakley 1975, 48).

b) (MUF2) The Deanery Gate and Gatehouse. The Deanery Gate was originally known as Sextry Gate, and separated the lay cemetery from that of the monks.

The Gatehouse is largely eighteenth and nineteenth century, but contains some medieval work. The Gate itself dates from the mid-fourteenth century, when the precinct wall was built (DoE 1991, 104-105).

c) (MUF3) The Cloister. To the south of the cathedral. The ruins visible today were built by Bishop Ernulf between 1114 and 1124 and consist of a dormitory, chapter house and refectory. Scheduled Monument - SAM Kent 294.

d) (MUF4) The Deanery. Late medieval priory and early sixteenth century work incorporated into a building dating mainly from 1640 and 1770 (DoE 1991,106).

e) (MUF5) The Prior's Gate. A fifteenth century, two-storey stone structure, the southern entrance to the cathedral precinct (DoE 1991, 117).

f) (MUF6) The Bishop's Palace. Two buildings from the hall range survive (DoE 1991,114).

g) (MUF7) The lay cemetery. Situated to the west of the precinct in the area now occupied by St Nicholas's Church. Probably in use from the mid-eighth century. (Tatton-Brown 1984b, 14).

h) (MUF8) The Monks' Cemetery. Situated to the east of the Lay Cemetery, separated by the sacrist's house and a wall in which stood the Sextry Gate (now known as Deanery Gate). In use from the re-foundation of the Priory in 1077, until the Dissolution in 1540 (Tatton-Brown 1984a, 188)

i) (MUF9) Gundulf's Tower. In the angle between the north transept of the cathedral and the northern choir aisle, it was originally free-standing, is almost square with heavy clasping buttresses. The top third of the tower was taken down c.1779, and until then the tower had stood as high as the transept. Probably built in the twelfth century as a bell tower (Newman 1980, 473; Renn 1973, 303).

j) (MUF10) The College Gate. Originally known as Cemetery Gate and leading directly into the Lay Cemetery it was the main public access to the Cathedral, probably after 1077. The present structure dates from the fifteenth century (St John Hope 1900, 24; Tatton-Brown 1984b, 14).

PC4. Land held by the Cathedral and Priory after 1255 and the new south city wall.

PC5. Land held by the Cathedral and Priory from 1344 and the new south city wall.

PC6. The Castle.

a) (MUF11) The Keep. Built of Kentish ragstone with Caen stone dressings. Four angle turrets, one rebuilt with circular plan after the siege of 1215. The rectangular forebuilding stands to two-thirds the height of the keep

b) (MUF12) The bailey and curtain wall (Colvin 1963, 813).

PC7. Boley Hill.

a) (MUF13) Old Hall and Old Vicarage, Boley Hill. House with late thirteenth century undercroft; early sixteenth century hall range, modernised and refloored in the later sixteenth century. Early seventeenth century and mid-eighteenth century extensions (DoE 1991, 5).

b) (MUF14) Milton Cottage, Boley Hill. Timber-framed house, formerly part of the Old Hall (see above). Sixteenth and early seventeenth century, with later additions and alterations (DoE 1991, 4).

PC8. City walls. Original circuit. Scheduled Monument - SAM Kent 154.

PC8A. City walls. Stretch of south wall added in the mid-thirteenth century.

PC8B. City walls. Stretch of south wall added in the mid-fourteenth century.

PC9. Site of the West Gate.

PC10. Site of the North Gate.

PC11. Site of the East Gate. its position now marked on the ground.

PC12. Site of the South Gate, its position now marked on the ground.

PC13. The High Street.

PC14. Possible site of the first medieval Market, in Epaule Lane.

PC15. Site of later medieval Market.

PC16. Possible group of tenement plots fronting the north side of the High Street.

a) (MUF15) 97 High Street, Poor Travellers House. Charity hostel for poor wayfarers founded in 1586 by Richard Watts. The building was much renewed in 1604 and refronted in Portland stone in 1771, following the original plan. Now a museum with accommodation above (DoE 1991, 72).

b) (MUF16) 89 High Street. Mid-to late sixteenth century timber-framed house, much altered and refronted with late Victorian shop front (DoE 1991, 69).

c) (MUF17) 75 High Street. Timber-framed house with shop, probably sixteenth century with mid-eighteenth century front (DoE 1991, 66).

d) (MUF18) 73 High Street. Probable sixteenth century house, with seventeenth century and later remodelling (DoE 1991, 66).

PC17. Possible group of tenement plots fronting the north side of the High Street.

a) (MUF19) 35 High Street, The George Inn. An eighteenth and early nineteenth century public house built over an early fourteenth century vaulted undercroft (DoE 1991, 59).

PC18. Possible group of tenement plots fronting the south side of the High Street.

a) (MUF20) 10 High Street. A timber-framed building, originally a house with shop, now offices. Dating from the sixteenth century, largely rebuilt in the seventeenth century, with later alterations and a twentieth century shop front (DoE 1991, 24).

b) (MUF21) 12-14 High Street. Formally a pair of houses, probably with shops, now a shop with offices. The buildings date from *c.* 1500 with later additions. The original plan seems to be that of a two-cell, two-storeyed block with shops fronting onto the street (DoE 1991, 25).

c) (MUF22) 30 High Street. An early sixteenth century timber-framed building, originally a pair of houses with shops, with seventeenth century and later alterations (DoE 1991, 29).

d) (MUF23) 34-36 High Street. A mid-eighteenth century remodelling of an earlier structure. Remains of an early fourteenth century vaulted undercroft (DoE 1991, 30).

e) (MUF24) 44 High Street. Late sixteenth century timber-framed house and shop, remodelled in the late seventeenth century, with eighteenth and nineteenth century alterations and a late nineteenth century curved shop window (DoE 1991, 32).

f) (MUF25) 46 High Street. Late fifteenth century timber-framed house and shop, substantially remodelled in the late seventeenth century, and a late twentieth century shop front (DoE 1991, 33).

PC19. Possible group of tenement plots fronting the south side of the High street.

a) (MUF26) 60 High Street, abutting Cemetery Gate. Fifteenth-, sixteenth and seventeenth century timber-framed building with later alterations. Ragstone rubble to the basement (DoE 1991, 35).

b) (MUF27) 82-84 High Street. Two houses comprising late eighteenth century front range added on to and partly incorporating early sixteenth century houses, with some seventeenth century remodelling. One has a *c*. 1900 shop window and the other a modern shop window (DoE 1991, 37-38).

PC20. Possible group of tenement plots fronting the north side of Eastgate.

a) (MUF28) Eastgate House. Formerly a large town house, now a museum. Much of the structure was built in 1590-1591, extended and refurbished in the seventeenth century. It may contain some earlier work (DoE 1991, 78-79).

PC21. Possible group of suburban tenement plots fronting the south side of Eastgate.

PC22. The site of St Clement's parish church before 1540, in Clement Lane (later Horsewash Lane).

PC23. St Nicholas church, College Yard.

a) (MUF29) The church of St Nicholas. Former parish church, now diocesan offices. Built 1421-1423, rebuilt 1624, restored 1860-1862 (DoE 1991, 11).

PC24. Bridge chapel, Esplanade.

a) (MUF30) The Bridge chapel. At east end of medieval Rochester Bridge. Dedicated to All Souls, built and endowed as a chantry in 1386-87, restored and partially rebuilt in 1937. Scheduled Monument - SAM Kent 32 (DoE 1991, 21).

PC25. St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Street.

a) (MUF31) The parish church of St Margaret of Antioch. The earliest surviving part is the west tower, built *c*. 1458-1465. The nave, chancel, north and south aisles renovated 1823-1824, the sanctuary inserted 1839-1840 (DoE 1991, 139).

PC26. The Common. An area of common land to the north of the city (former marshland).

PC27. Site of the medieval Town Quay.

PC28. Possible site of the North Quay/Harbour.

PC29. Line of St Margaret's Street.

PC30. Line of the old road to Maidstone (former Roman road).

PC31. Line of the medieval road to Chatham.

PC32. The Vines, land beyond the town walls used as gardens by the cathedral.

PC33. Possible area of suburban tenement plots to the south of the walls.

Not located in a plan component

(MUF32) Restoration House, Crow Lane. A large town house, possibly late medieval in origin. The present structure apparently *c*. 1588-1600, facade and interior remodelled in the mid-seventeenth century (DoE 1991, 15-16).

(MUF33) Bishopscourt.House, 24 St Margaret's Street. Now the Bishop's Palace. Traces of building from fifteenth century, *c*. 1600, *c*. 1678, early and later eighteenth century, 1845, the 1920s and 1961. The house was left to the Bishops of Rochester in the early seventeenth century (DoE 1991, 124-125).

5.4 Post-medieval plan components and urban features (Figures 21 and 22)

From the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries the plan of Rochester gradually changed from that of the medieval period, as indicated on Figure 21. The castle fell into ruin and much of its moat was filled in, with much of the city wall suffering the same fate. The cathedral retained its landholdings but was reformed as the dean and chapter, and a number of new ecclesiastical buildings were erected. Both St Clement's and St Mary's churches disappeared. The High Street developed into a main shopping centre and the market place moved to the town hall. New tenement plots were laid down inside and outside the city, with many new buildings replacing earlier structures and filling gaps, whilst the suburbs expanded. Town Quay continued to be used, but the old north quay appears to have fallen out of use. In the mid-nineteenth century the medieval stone bridge was demolished and replaced by a new road bridge further north, close to the site of the former Saxon and Romano-British bridges. Two more bridges were later built for the railway. The former marshland to the north was drained and used for industrial development. The twentieth century saw the demolition of a few historic buildings within the ancient core and further suburban expansion into the countryside as far as the M2 motorway, which was built in the 1960s. More recently, conservation work in the centre of Rochester has restored much of its ancient character, and the city has become a major tourist centre.

The post-medieval plan components are shown on Figure 21: Watling Street (PC1), site of the medieval bridge (PC2), the mid-nineteenth century bridges (PC3), the cathedral church and the precincts (PC4), the castle (PC5), remains of the former defensive walls of the city (PC6), The High Street (PC7), the new Market Place (PC8), the new Cattle Market (PC9), Bridge Chapel (PC10), St Nicholas Church (PC11), the King's Long Warehouse (PC12), groups of tenement plots (PC13-24), St Margaret's Church (PC25), Town Quay (PC26), The Common (PC27) and St Margaret's Street (PC28).

PC1. Watling Street - the London to Dover road.

PC2. Site of medieval bridge (demolished 1856).

PC3. Line of three nineteenth century road and rail bridges.

PC4. Cathedral church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the precincts and gardens (post 1540)

a) (PMUF1) The Cathedral.

b) (PMUF2) King's School, formerly the Deanery, an L-shaped building east of the cathedral (DoE 1991, 106).

c) (PMUF3) Diocesan Registry, The Precinct. Former offices of the Chapter Clerk, now Diocesan Registry and offices. Mid-eighteenth century with various nineteenth century additions (DoE 1991, 113).

d) (PMUF4) Prior's Gatehouse, The Precinct. Former house, now three dwellings built in the eighteenth century with early nineteenth century wings, built on the site of the Bishop's Palace (DoE 1991, 116).

e) (PMUF5) 1-7 Minor Canon Row, The Precinct. Row of seven houses built of brick in 1736 for the minor canons of the cathedral (DoE 1991, 117).

f) (PMUF6) The Archdeaconry, The Precinct. House, an eighteenth century remodelling of an earlier building, mainly of brick with some timber-framing. Two cross-wings were added in the mid-eighteenth century, one used as a coach house (DoE 1991, 118).

g) (PMUF7) Oriel House, The Precinct. A mid-eighteenth century late English Baroque house in plum coloured brick (DoE 1991, 112).

PC5. Castle and grounds, now in the Guardianship of English Heritage and open to the public. Scheduled Monument - SAM Kent 24349.

PC6. Remains of the defensive walls of the city.

PC7. The High Street.

PC8. Site of the post-medieval market (Guildhall).

PC9. Site of the post-medieval cattle market.

PC10. Bridge Chapel.

PC11. St Nicholas Church.

PC12. Site of the King's Long Warehouse, established by Henry VIII.

PC13. Group of tenement plots fronting the north side of the High Street, east of Northgate.

a) (PMUF8) 115 High Street. Early eighteenth century brick house (DoE 1991, 77).

b) (PMUF9) 111-113 High Street. Formerly two houses, now a shop and public house with flats above, built in brick in the mid-eighteenth century (DoE 1991, 76).

c) (PMUF10) La Providence, High Street. Almshouses, founded in 1718 for poor French Protestants and their descendants. The present buildings are mid-nineteenth century and grouped as three terraces forming three sides of a square (DoE 1991, 74).

d) (PMUF11) 91 High Street, The Gordon Hotel. Originally a large town house, built in the late seventeenth century with mid-eighteenth century front and nineteenth century alterations. There is a seventeenth century dining room on the ground floor (DoE 1991, 69-70).

e) (PMUF12) 85-87 High Street. Two houses with shops built *c*. 1700, front largely rebuilt in late twentieth century. Timber-framed and weatherboarded with a mixture of Victorian and later shop fronts (DoE 1991, 127).

f) (PMUF13) 83 High Street. A former house, now offices, built in brick in the seventeenth century. Twentieth century extension and fire escape to the rear (DoE 1991, 68).

g) (PMUF14) 77-81 High Street. Three houses with shops built in the early to mid-eighteenth century, 79 largely rebuilt in the late twentieth century (DoE 1991, 67-68).

h) (PMUF15) 69-71 High Street. A substantial town house, now in use as a bank. Built in the seventeenth century with a mid-eighteenth century front. The structure underwent alterations when it was converted into a bank in the twentieth century. A rear room contains early seventeenth century panelling (not *in situ*) (DoE 1991, 65).

i) (PMUF16) 65-67 High Street. Two houses with shops built in the eighteenth century with late eighteenth century facade, 67 has late Victorian shop windows (DoE 1991, 64-65).

PC14. Group of tenement plots fronting the north side of the High Street, west of Northgate.

a) (PMUF17) 51 High Street. House and restaurant dating mainly from the mid-seventeenth century with an early eighteenth century facade (DoE 1991, 63).

b) (PMUF18) The Corn Exchange, High Street (also known as The Clock House). Built originally in the late seventeenth century as a butcher's shambles. The facade was added in 1706 when it later became the corn exchange. A polygonal cupola containing a single bell on the roof, a carved bracket and beam supporting a large clock on the front. In 1870 a replacement corn exchange was erected to the rear (DoE 1991, 62).

c) (PMUF19) 41-43 High Street. A pair of houses with shops built in the late eighteenth century with later alterations (DoE 1991, 61).

d) (PMUF20) 19-23 High Street. A group of houses with shops below, built in brick in the second half of the eighteenth century (DoE 1991, 58-59).

e) (PMUF21) The Guildhall, High Street. Formerly the Guildhall and Court House, now the County Museum. Built 1695-1697, originally free standing, with an open colonnaded paved market place with Court Chamber and Council

Chamber above, reached by a rear stair turret, removed in 1911. The right-hand wing, a late eighteenth century building, was acquired in 1838. A larger Council Chamber was added to the rear of the first floor court in 1866; the left-hand wing was added in seventeenth century style between 1891 and 1893. Increased office space was added to the rear of the building in 1907-1908. Further alterations were made in 1911 and 1979-1980 (DoE 1991, 57-58).

PC15. Group of tenement plots fronting the south side of the High Street, east of College Yard.

a) (PMUF22) 100-102 High Street. Formerly a pair of houses, now two shops. Possibly built in the late seventeenth century, with substantial alterations and extensions. They are both timber-framed with brick infill and Kent tile roofs. (DoE 1991, 40).

b) (PMUF23) 98 High Street. An early seventeenth century timber-framed house built end-on to street, now a shop. It may incorporate earlier work (DoE 1991, 40).

c) (PMUF24) 90-92 High Street, Grafton House. Former large town house built in brick in the early eighteenth century, now offices (DoE 1991, 39).

d) (PMUF25) 86-88 High Street. Two early seventeenth century houses, converted into shops and restaurants. Both have eighteenth century alterations and are timber-framed with Kent tile roofs (DoE 1991, 38-39).

e) (PMUF26) 78-80 High Street. Two houses, now with shops. Built in the late eighteenth century, shop windows *c*. 1900 (DoE 1991, 36).

f) (PMUF27) 64-66 High Street. Shops with storage above, formerly a large town house built in brick in the early eighteenth century (DoE 1991,36).

PC16. Group of tenement plots fronting the south side of the High Street, west of King's Head Lane.

a) (PMUF28) 58 High Street, The King's Head Hotel. A seventeenth century rear wing and an eighteenth century front range, altered and refaced in the later nineteenth century. The building is partly timber-framed, but mostly faced in brick with a Kent tile and slate roof. There may have been a sixteenth century room to the rear of the building (DoE 1991, 34).

b) (PMUF29) 42 High Street, Cloudesley House. Formerly a bank built in brick in 1778, now a house (DoE 1991, 31).

c) (PMUF30) 32 High Street. Originally a house, now a shop with accommodation above. An eighteenth century remodelling of an earlier building (DoE 1991, 29).

d) (PMUF31) 24-28 High Street. A group of three houses now with shops, built in brick in the early eighteenth century (DoE 1991, 28).

e) (PMUF32) The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel, High Street. Built as a coaching inn in the late eighteenth century, the front was extended to the north-west in the early nineteenth century. Substantial nineteenth and twentieth century alterations and additions, especially to the rear. A wide central carriage entrance allowed visitors to alight within a covered area on the left which gave access to a vestibule, main stairs and principal rooms, some of which were contained in a rear wing to this side. Fragments of another, smaller entrance survive on the right hand side, possibly leading into eating rooms. The internal arrangements are now much altered (DoE 1991, 26).

f) (PMUF33) The Royal Crown Hotel, High Street. A public house, built 1859-1861, at the end of Rochester Bridge (DoE 1991, 24).

PC17. Group of tenement plots fronting the north side of the High Street (Eastgate).

a) (PMUF34) 143-145 High Street. Two houses, now converted into stores and workshops. The frontage dates *c*. 1880, but the rear portions were built in the seventeenth century with additions in the late eighteenth century (DoE 1991, 81).

b) (PMUF35) 147-149 High Street. A pair of early to mid-eighteenth century houses, brick with stucco finish and modern shop frontages, now a bank, (DoE 1991, 82).

c) (PMUF36) 151 High Street. Early eighteenth century house, now a restaurant, of brick with stucco finish and nineteenth century shop front (DoE 1991, 83).

d) (PMUF37) 153-157 High Street. Three mid-nineteenth century timber-framed houses, now shops with nineteenth and twentieth century fronts (DoE 1991, 84).

PC18. Group of tenement plots fronting the south side of the High Street (Eastgate).

a) (PMUF38) 170 High Street. House, now a shop, built in the mid-seventeenth century with a late eighteenth century front. Partly timber-framed at the rear with red bricks in Flemish bond in the front (DoE 1991, 48).

b) (PMUF39) 168 High Street. House, now a shop. An early nineteenth century facade to a mid-eighteenth century rebuilding; mid-seventeenth century rear refaced *c*. 1700 (DoE 1991, 47).

c) (PMUF40) 164-166 High Street. Two houses, now shops, built *c*. 1700 in brick, with many later alterations and modern shop fronts (DoE 1991, 46).

d) (PMUF41) 156 High Street. Town house, now converted into offices. The structure dates form the seventeenth century, with eighteenth century facade and internal remodelling (DoE 1991, 45).

e) (PMUF42) 150-154 High Street. Large town house, now converted into three shops with flats above. Built in seventeenth century, restored in 1864 (DoE 1991, 44).

f) (PMUF43) 146-148 High Street. Pair of red brick, mid-eighteenth century houses, now shops, (DoE 1991, 44).

g) (PMUF44) 142-144 High Street. Pair of early eighteenth century red brick town houses, now shops with modern shop fronts (DoE 1991, 43).

h) (PMUF45) 23 Crow Lane, Vines Croft. A timber-framed house, probably seventeenth century, much renewed in the nineteenth century. Extensions to the rear at various times (DoE 1991, 17).

PC19. Group of tenement plots fronting the south-west side of Star Hill.

a) (PMUF46) 10-32 Star Hill. Range of late eighteenth century houses of various sizes with some alterations (DoE 1991, 141-145).

PC20. Group of tenement plots fronting the east side of Maidstone Road.

PC21. Group of tenement plots fronting the west side of Crow Lane and the south side of the High Street (Eastgate).

a) (PMUF47) 126 High Street. Shop, possibly late seventeenth century, although considerably altered. Timber-framed with a Kent tile roof (DoE 1991, 42).

b) (PMUF48) 124 High Street, The Eagle Tavern. Early nineteenth century refronting to an earlier (possibly seventeenth century) house. Timber-framed with brick cladding and Kent tile hipped roof. The ground floor frontage is Edwardian, or in the Edwardian style, while to the rear are late twentieth century extensions (DoE 1991, 42).

PC22. Group of tenement plots on Boley Hill.

a) (PMUF49) Satis House, Boley Hill. Former private house, now administrative and library block to the King's School. Mid-eighteenth century to early nineteenth century, with nineteenth century additions (D0E 1991, 7).

PC23. Group of tenement plots fronting the west side of St Margaret's Street.

a) (PMUF50) The Cooper's Arms. Timber-framed public house, seventeenth century or earlier, with eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century alterations (DoE 1991, 123).

b) (PMUF51) King's School. Former almshouses, now schoolrooms. Dated 1724 and built in Flemish bond with a Kent tile hipped roof. A tablet over the door reads: 'This house for the reception education and employment of the poor of this parish was erected in AD 1724. Toward which the Honourable Sir John Jennings and Sir Thomas Colby representatives of this city voluntarily contributed £200. It was finished and supported out of a perpetual charity formerly given by Mr Richard Watts for the purpose. Mr J Parnell and Mr Mordaunt, Churchwardens' (DoE 1991, 126).

c) (PMUF52) 30 St Margaret's Street. House, built in the eighteenth century, with later extensions and incorporating part of a seventeenth century building to the rear. Extended at the rear in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, forming a double-depth plan (DoE 1991, 127).

d) (PMUF53) 52 St Margaret's Street, The Limes. Former house, now converted to offices. Timber-framed and brick clad, seventeenth century with mid-nineteenth century ranges to the rear (DoE 1991, 133).

PC24. Group of tenement plots fronting the east side of St Margaret's Street.

a) (PMUF54) 1 St Margaret's House. Former private house, now part of King's School. Late eighteenth century building in brick with extensions (DoE 1991, 121).

PC25. St Margaret's church.

PC26. Site of the Town Quay.

PC27. Site of The Common.

PC28. St Margaret's Street.

6 THE POTENTIAL OF ROCHESTER

6.1 Archaeological resource overview

There have been some archaeological investigations within the city and on its outskirts over the past hundred and fifty years. Fourteen small-scale excavations were carried out in the 1960s and 1970s, and six in the 1990s. There were about 20 chance discoveries from 1850 to 1939, and a few casual finds *c*. 1885 to 1900. There have been no large-scale archaeological excavations, and many of the small excavations have concentrated on the early defences of the town.

Apart from some stretches of town wall, nothing of the Romano-British or earlier settlement survives above ground, but much evidence of Romano-British occupation remains below ground as archaeological deposits. The same is true of Saxon Rochester, where settlement elements have been preserved in the ground plan of the town and in archaeological deposits, e.g. the Saxon church partially excavated in 1888 and 1998. The overall survival of sub-surface deposits is not clear; a number of properties are known to have cellars or basements, and a full cellar survey is needed before any firm conclusions can be drawn. It appears that, on average, archaeological deposits will survive even beneath a cellar, and can extend to

anything between 1.5m and 4m in depth below present ground surface. The survival value of the town is thus high.

6.1.1 Sub-surface survival of archaeological deposits

The Romano-British remains lie at least 2.5m below the present ground level. Medieval remains survive as deposits over 1m thick *c.*1.5m below the present ground level, although they lie at as little as 0.20m below present ground level in the cathedral precincts. The entire area within the city walls has a high survival value for late iron age and Romano-British remains, with emphasis on the area along Watling Street; a zone where survival is probably lower lies along Eastgate Street and St Margaret's Street, the sites of probable Romano-British suburbs.

The extent of Saxon settlement within Rochester needs clarification. There is good potential for survival of Saxon settlement remains within the walled city, especially the area around the cathedral, although medieval and post-medieval cellars, may have cut through Saxon levels. The areas around the castle and cathedral represent zones of high survival, while the area along the High Street is likely to have a lower value, due to the impact of cellars on sub-surface remains, but there has been little modern development so destruction may be slight. In addition, some Roman remains have been discovered beneath medieval cellars as at 35 High Street.

The following table gives known survival levels of sub-surface archaeological deposits in different parts of Rochester.

Table 1. Sub-surface archaeological deposits, cellar floors and undisturbed natural soil surfaces in Rochester town centre (all values below present ground surface).

Site	cellar (floor)	medieval (Top)	Romano-British (Top)	Late iron age (Bottom)	Natural (Top)
(a) 38 High Street	--	--	2.59m	--	--
(b) 35 High Street	3.5m	--	--	--	--
(c) 39 High Street	--	--	1.83m	3.51m	--
(d) 50 High Street	2.74m	--	3.08m	--	3.41m
(e) Corn Exchange	1.98m	--	--	--	3.98m
(f) Old Deanery	--	1.40m	2.50m	--	--
(g) 99 High Street	--	--	--	--	3.2m - 4.0m
(h) !37 High Street	--	--	--	--	1.55m
(i) 163 High Street	--	--	--	--	1.20m
(j) 12 Victoria Street	--	1.00m	--	--	--
(k) College Yard	--	0.30m	--	--	--
(l) Boley Hill	--	--	0.35m	3.50	--
(m) Minor Canon	--	0.18 - 0.38m	--	--	--

Sources of information for levels shown in Table 1

(a) 38 High Street, TQ74256867. Romano-British metalled road discovered *c.* 1972 - see SMR record TQ 76 NW 111 above.

(b) 35 High Street, The George Public House, TQ74266868. An examination of the medieval undercroft known as 'The George Vaults' undertaken by Alan Ward in 1994 (Ward 1994).

(c) 39 High Street, TQ74276867. Romano-British wall discovered in 1905 - see SMR record TQ 76 NW 273 above.

(d) 50-54 High Street, TQ74276863. Late iron age structure, coin moulds, etc., and Romano-British structures and road discovered in 1961-62 - see SMR records TQ 76 NW 8 and TQ 76 NW 108 above.

(e) The Corn Exchange, between 49 and 51 High Street, TQ74306865. A series of Romano-British floors and occupation deposits of first and second century date, discovered *c*. 1970 - see SMR records TQ 76 NW 114 and 133.

(f) The Old Deanery, south-east of the High Street, TQ74336853. Romano-British material and coins and a medieval wall discovered in 1983 - see SMR record TQ 76 NW 140 above.

(g) 99 High Street, TQ74386849. Shallow first century Romano-British features and pottery discovered in 1990 - see SMR record TQ 76 NW 313.

(h) 137 High Street (Eastgate), TQ74506830. Modern deposits down to natural sandy brickearth located *c*. 1.55m below modern floor level.

(i) 163 High Street (Eastgate), TQ74566822. Two test pits were excavated by South Eastern Archaeological Services in 1994. Only modern structures were encountered and no archaeologically significant artefacts were recovered. Test pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and Test pit 2 to a depth of 0.90m. Made ground was encountered at a depth of 1.20m (Greatorex 1994).

(j) 12-16 Victoria Street, TQ74536814. Medieval and Romano-British structural remains discovered in 1990 - see SMR record TQ 76 NW 348 above.

(k) College Yard-Great gate, TQ74226854. Solid masonry probably relating to the medieval Great Gate or Almoner's Gate was revealed at a depth of 0.30m in 1998 (Ward 1998).

(l) Diocesan Registry, The Precinct, TQ74216853. A late iron age human skeleton was discovered well below a Romano-British road, which was also revealed, in 1900 - see SMR Site 1 (TQ 76 NW61) above.

(m) 1-7 Minor Canon Row, TQ74226846 to TQ74266843. Late medieval/early post-medieval walls relating to the medieval and later priory were revealed during trenching work by 'Telewest' at 0.18m to 0.38m below present ground level and the remains of the south gate were observed at 35cm below ground level. (Ward 1998).

The excavations in Rochester have so far revealed only limited information, mainly of the Romano-British occupation; the late iron age, Saxon and medieval settlements are less well represented. Thus, little is known of the Saxon town or the development of the medieval market town.

Whilst the limited excavations have indicated the density of occupation throughout the different periods, they have provided little information about the nature, layout, extent, or development of the settlement. On the basis of the present evidence, it is impossible to pinpoint concentrations of activities, functions or status within late iron age, Romano-British and Saxon settlements at Rochester. The High Street exhibits clustering of medieval and post-medieval tenements of similar class and function (domestic and commercial), which continues along Eastgate, and also occurs, on a smaller scale, along St Margaret's Street. Although undergoing many rebuildings and alterations, the cathedral has occupied the same site since AD 604, and the castle has been in its position since the Norman Conquest; the Romans and the Saxons may also have used the site as a fortified centre.

Modern Rochester has a high potential for increasing knowledge about its late iron age, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval antecedents, but until more information is available it

will not be possible to identify accurately the areas where that potential is greatest. If surviving areas of intact medieval, Saxon, Romano-British and earlier stratigraphy can be located, they could help to establish the evolution and development of the late iron age settlement, the Romano-British town, the Saxon royal, ecclesiastical and fortified centre, and the medieval market town.

6.2 Research questions

The purpose of this document is to develop policy for Rochester's urban archaeological deposits, particularly the historic urban core. Very little of the late iron age, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval components of the town have been archaeologically investigated, with only limited excavations having been carried out on its defences, and there is virtually no evidence for its economic base until the post-medieval period.

Archaeological deposits have been subject to some disturbance by medieval undercrofts, more recent cellars and various aspects of modern development. Rochester's archaeological potential may, however, be limited to small-scale excavations because the many surviving historic buildings and the extensive ecclesiastical and scheduled monuments will probably preclude large areas becoming available for investigation. Nonetheless, if strategies and a detailed research framework were to be devised and applied, even small-scale excavations could answer specific questions about Rochester's origins, chronological development and its situation within Kent's urban network.

6.3 Key areas for research

6.3.1 The origins of Rochester

The following need to be investigated

- The nature, date and extent of the earliest settlement remains at Rochester
- The earliest remains which can be classed as urban or proto-urban
- Evidence for the extent, character, function and status of late iron age settlement at Rochester
- The economic base of the late iron age settlement

6.3.2 Rochester in the Roman period

The following need to be investigated

- The nature and date of the earliest Roman period settlement at Rochester, and in particular whether there is any evidence for an early military presence
- Evidence for the bridging of the Medway
- The position, form and chronology of the town walls and gates
- The development of the street plan within the town
- Evidence for structures within the town, including any public buildings
- Evidence for extent, character and chronology of extramural areas including cemeteries
- The location, extent, character and chronology of harbours and quays
- The economic base of the town, including evidence for trade and industry
- Evidence for the later history of the town, including any evidence for continuity into the sub-Roman period

6.3.3 Rochester in the Saxon period

The following need to be investigated

- The location, extent, character and date of early Saxon settlement and associated cemeteries
- Evidence for continuity or otherwise with the Roman town
- Evidence for the minster church and associated settlement in the early seventh century and later
- Evidence for the burning of the town by the Danes
- The development of the street plan and associated tenement pattern
- Evidence for the origins and development of churches and parishes
- Evidence for the defence of Rochester either through the reuse of the Roman walls or the erection of new structures
- Evidence for the bridging of the Medway
- The location, extent, character and chronology of harbours and quays
- Evidence for markets and fairs
- The economy of the Saxon settlement, including evidence for trade and industry

6.3.4 Rochester in the medieval period

The following need to be investigated

- The origins and development of the castle including any evidence for a Norman motte and bailey
- The development of the town defences and gates
- The development of the priory and cathedral
- The development of the street plan and associated tenement pattern
- Medieval structures and building forms
- The development of churches and parishes
- Evidence for the bridging of the Medway
- The location, extent, character and chronology of harbours and quays
- Evidence for markets and fairs
- Evidence for extramural areas
- The economic base of the medieval town including evidence for trade and industry

6.3.5 Rochester in the post-medieval period

The following need to be investigated

- The development of the castle
- The development of the cathedral
- The development of the street plan and associated tenement pattern
- Post-medieval structures and building forms
- The development of churches and parishes
- The history of the bridge
- The location, extent, character and chronology of harbours and quays
- Evidence for markets and fairs
- Evidence for extramural areas
- The economic base of the post-medieval town including evidence for trade and industry

6.3.6 General questions

The following need to be investigated

- The evidence of artefactual remains in interpreting Rochester's pre-urban and urban role
- The palaeo-environmental history of the town

The evidence of artefactual remains in interpreting the towns urban history, differential wealth on different site, areas of greater/lesser economic significance, zoning of trades or commercial premises, and tracing social hierarchies through archaeological evidence

The discovery and study of both structures and artefacts would illuminate these topics. Small-scale archaeological sampling in individual properties in Rochester could provide answers to specific questions. Consideration should be given, however, to large-scale excavation over a number of adjacent properties, which would provide a wider picture, if desktop assessment and field evaluation demonstrate the case. The position and importance of Rochester in the hierarchy of Kent towns can be solved only through excavation, field survey and consultation of historical documentation.

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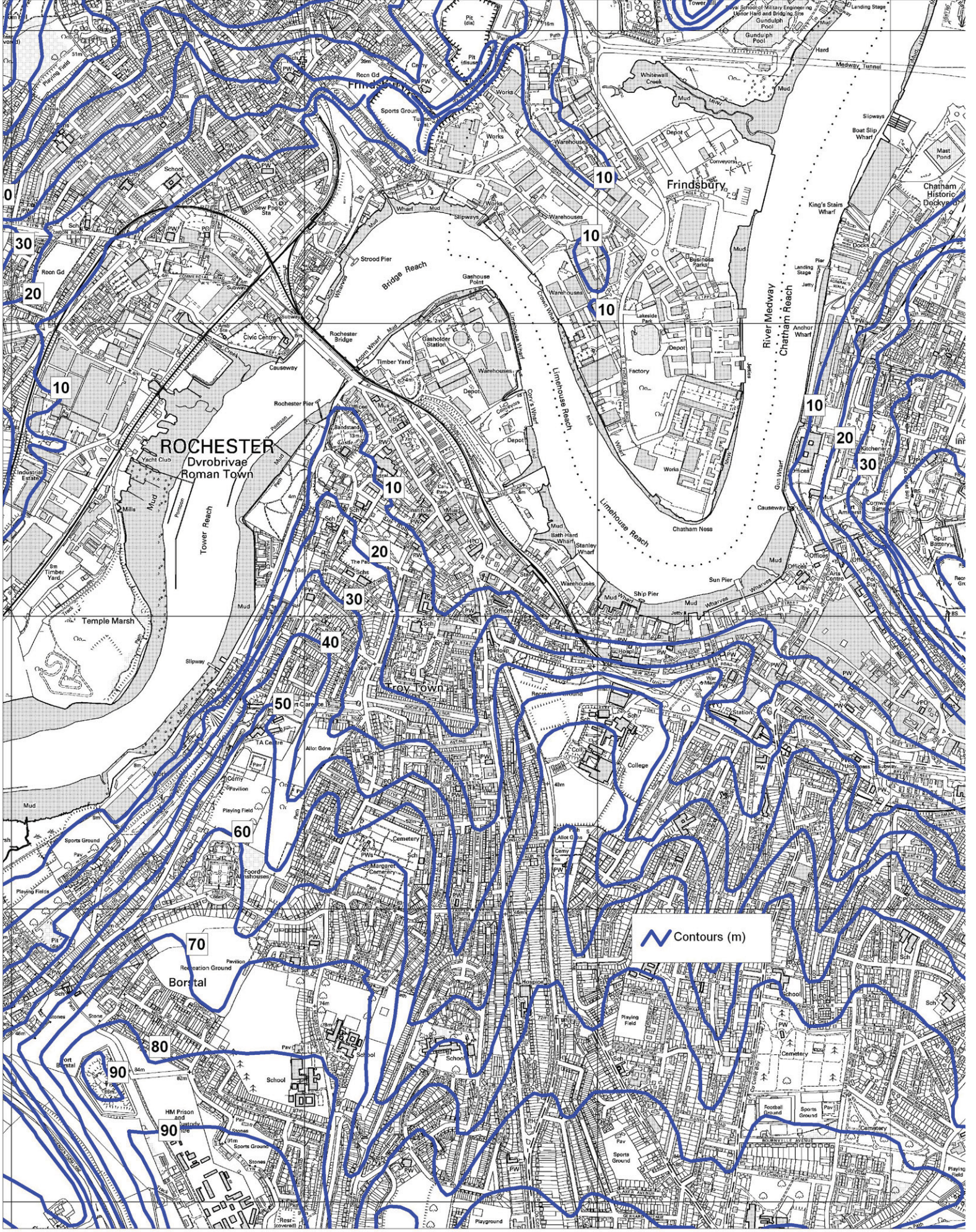

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Figure 1. Map of Rochester showing contours

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Scale 1:15000 Figure 2 Map of Rochester showing geology

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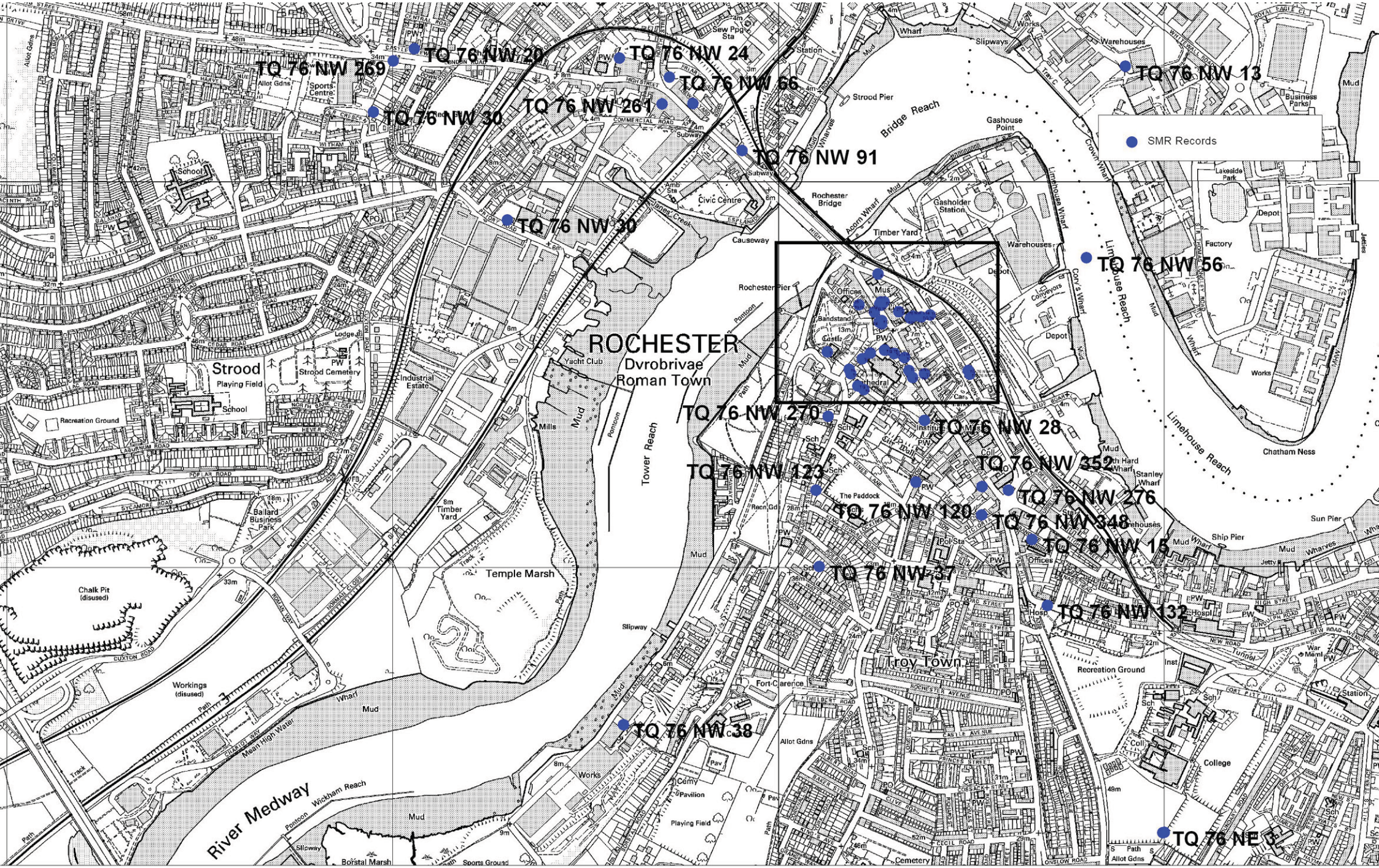
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SMR Records
ROCHESTER
Dvrobrivae
Roman Town
TQ 76 NW 270
TQ 76 NW 28
TQ 76 NW 123
TQ 76 NW 352
TQ 76 NW 276
TQ 76 NW 120
TQ 76 NW 348
TQ 76 NW 15
TQ 76 NW 37
TQ 76 NW 132
TQ 76 NW 38
TQ 76 NE 5
Strood
Playing Field
Strood Cemetery
Industrial Estate
Ballard Business Park
Temple Marsh
Chalk Pit (disused)
Workings (disused)
River Medway
Borstal Marsh
Troy Town
Fort Clarence
Tower Reach
Bridge Reach
Limehouse Reach
Chatham Ness
Rochester Bridge
Rochester Pier
Civic Centre
Gasholder Station
Strood Pier
Gashouse Point
Timber Yard
Stanley Wharf
Sun Pier
Ship Pier
Lakeside Park
Business Parks
Recreation Ground
Sports Ground
Cemetery
College
Castle
Cathedral
Offices
Depot
Warehouses
Factory
Works
Wharf
Mud
Slipway
Pontoon
Mean High Water
Wickham Reach
Yacht Club
Sports Centre
Allot Gdns
Playing Field
Pavilion
Cemy
Lodge
School
Hospl
Inst
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PO
PW
Mills
Path
Track
Subway
Amb Sta
Sew Pmp Sta
Stn
Jetties
Depot
Conveyors
Corv's Wharf
Crown Wharf
Limehouse Wharf
Acorn Wharf
Mud Wharves
Mud Wharf
Mud Slipways
Mud Works
Mud Warehouses
Mud Business Parks
Mud Depot
Mud Factory
Mud Jetties
Mud Lakeside Park
Mud Chatham Ness
Mud Sun Pier
Mud Ship Pier
Mud Jetty
Mud Wharves
Mud Stanley Wharf
Mud Hard
Mud Warehouses
Mud Offices
Mud Recreation Ground
Mud Station
Mud College
Mud Cemetery
Mud Allot Gdns
Mud Playing Field
Mud Pavilion
Mud Cemy
Mud Works
Mud Slipway
Mud Pontoon
Mud Path
Mud Track
Mud Borstal Marsh
Mud Sports Ground
Mud Mills
Mud Yacht Club
Mud Industrial Estate
Mud Timber Yard
Mud Temple Marsh
Mud Chalk Pit (disused)
Mud Workings (disused)
Mud River Medway
Mud Wickham Reach
Mud Mean High Water
Mud Pontoon
Mud Slipway
Mud Wharf
Mud Path
Mud Track
Mud Fort Clarence
Mud Troy Town
Mud Recreation Ground

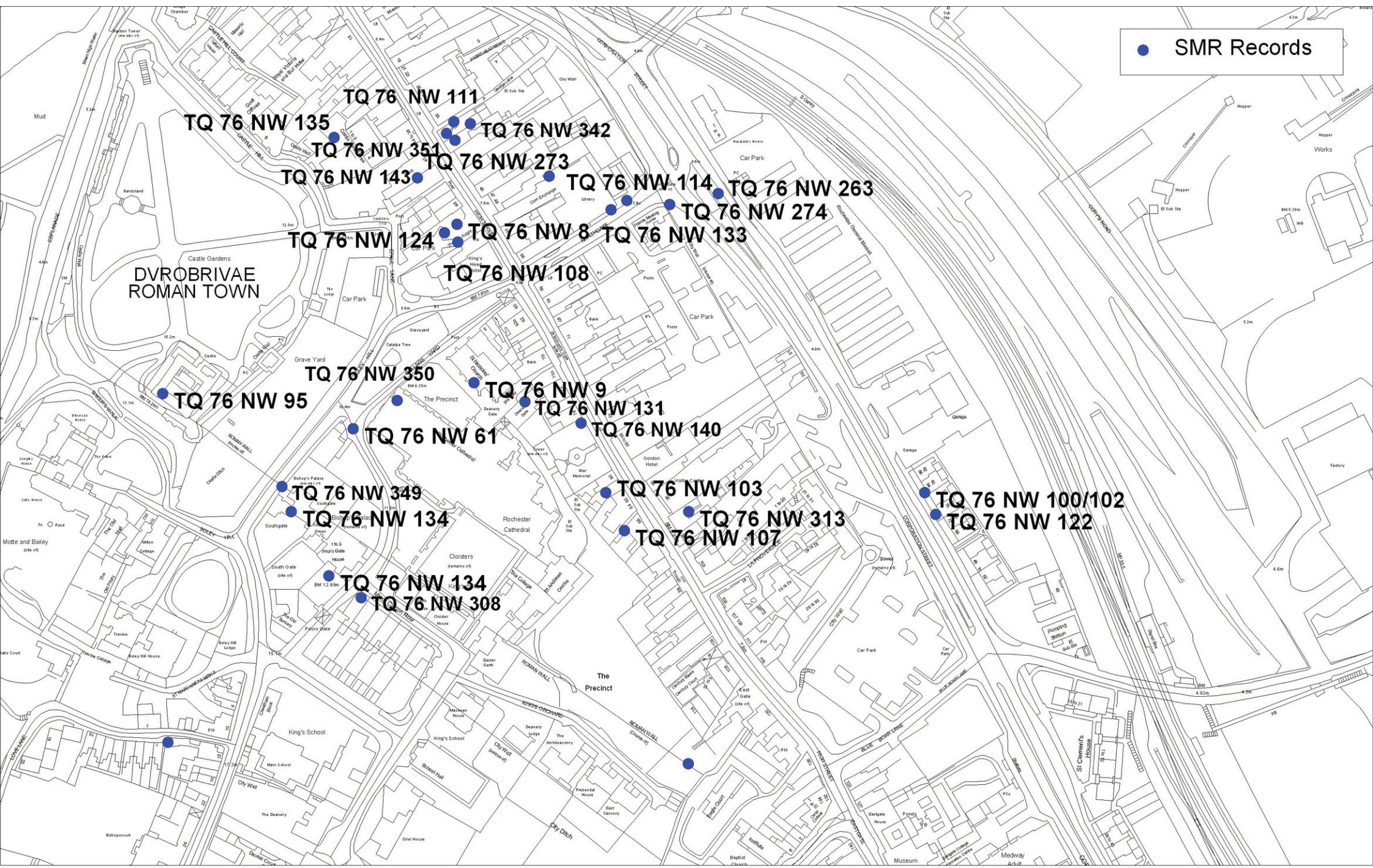

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Figure 3b Map of Rochester showing archaeological remains

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Figure 3c. Map of Rochester showing Scheduled Monuments

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View1

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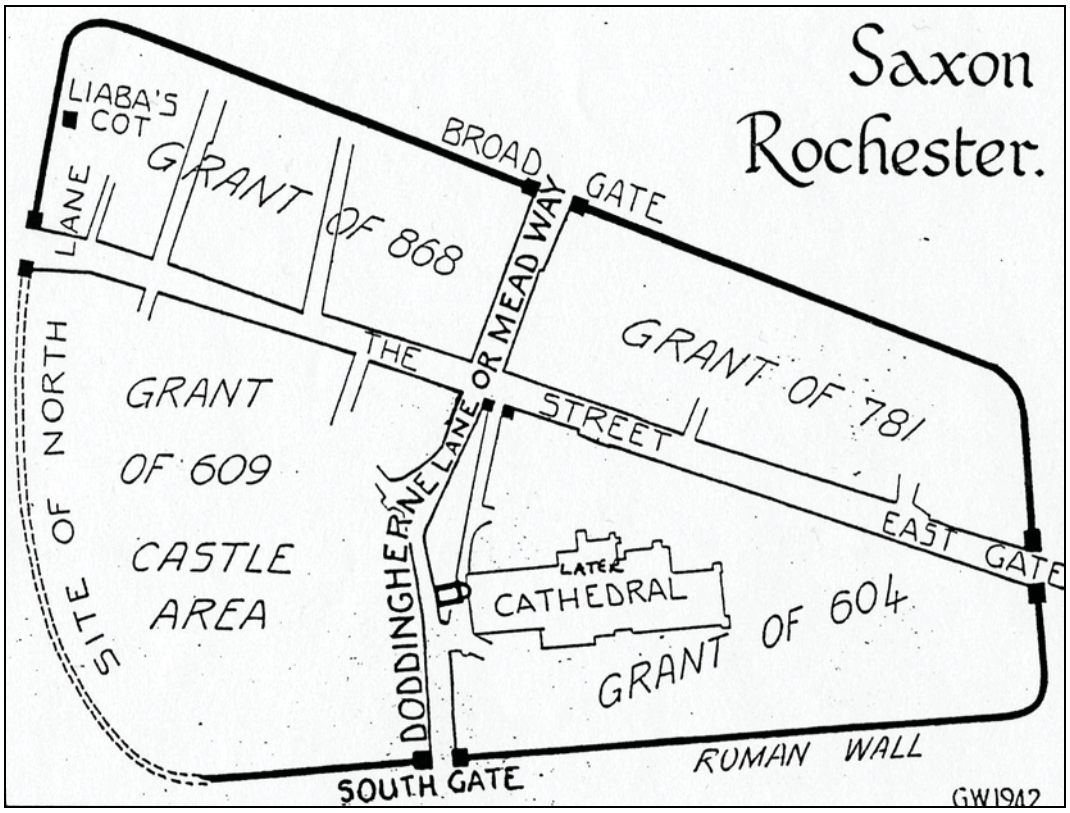

Figure 4. Sketch map of Rochester showing land grants and dates during the Saxon period

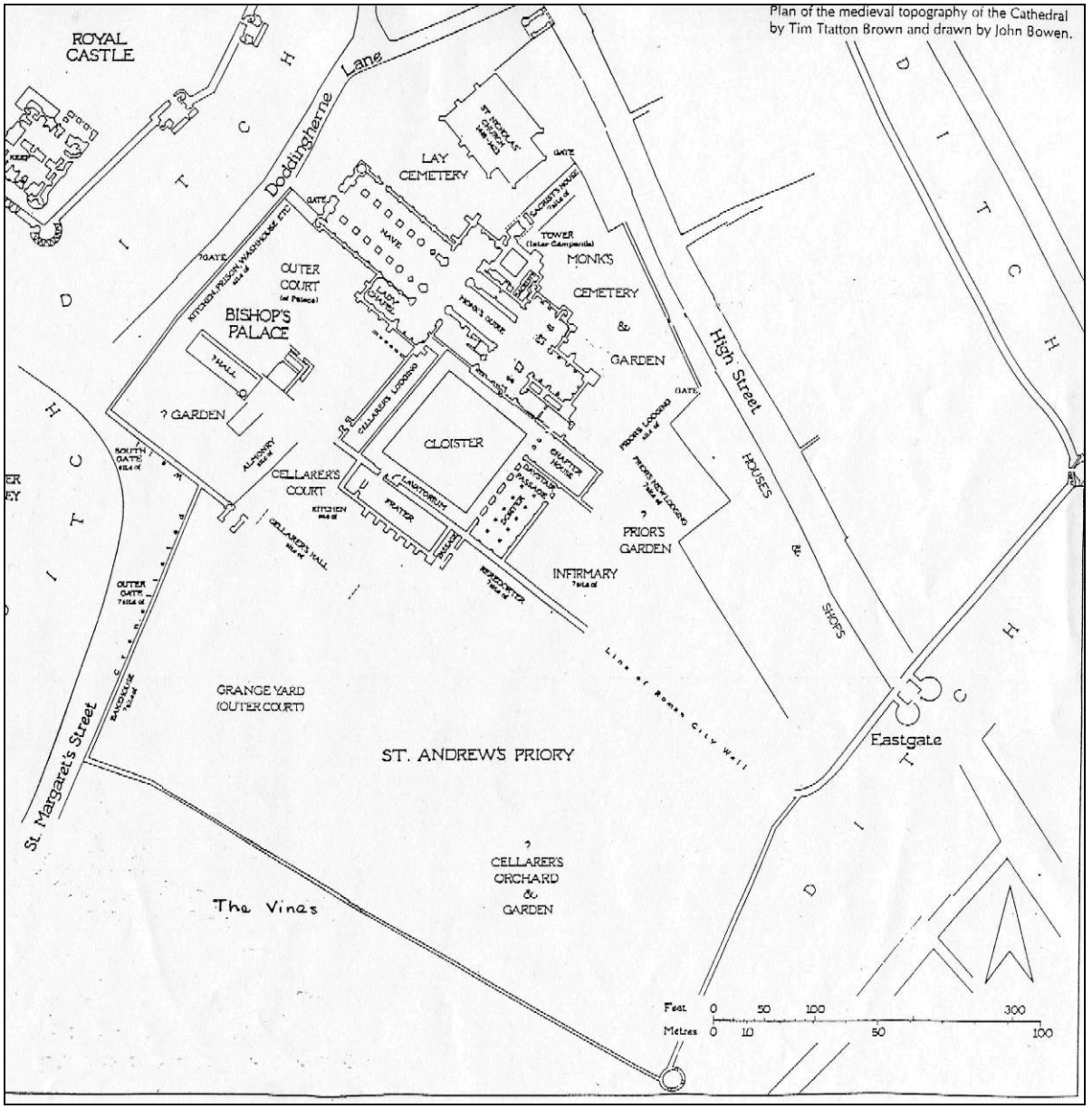

Figure 5. Map showing extent of the Medieval Cathedral and Priory at Rochester

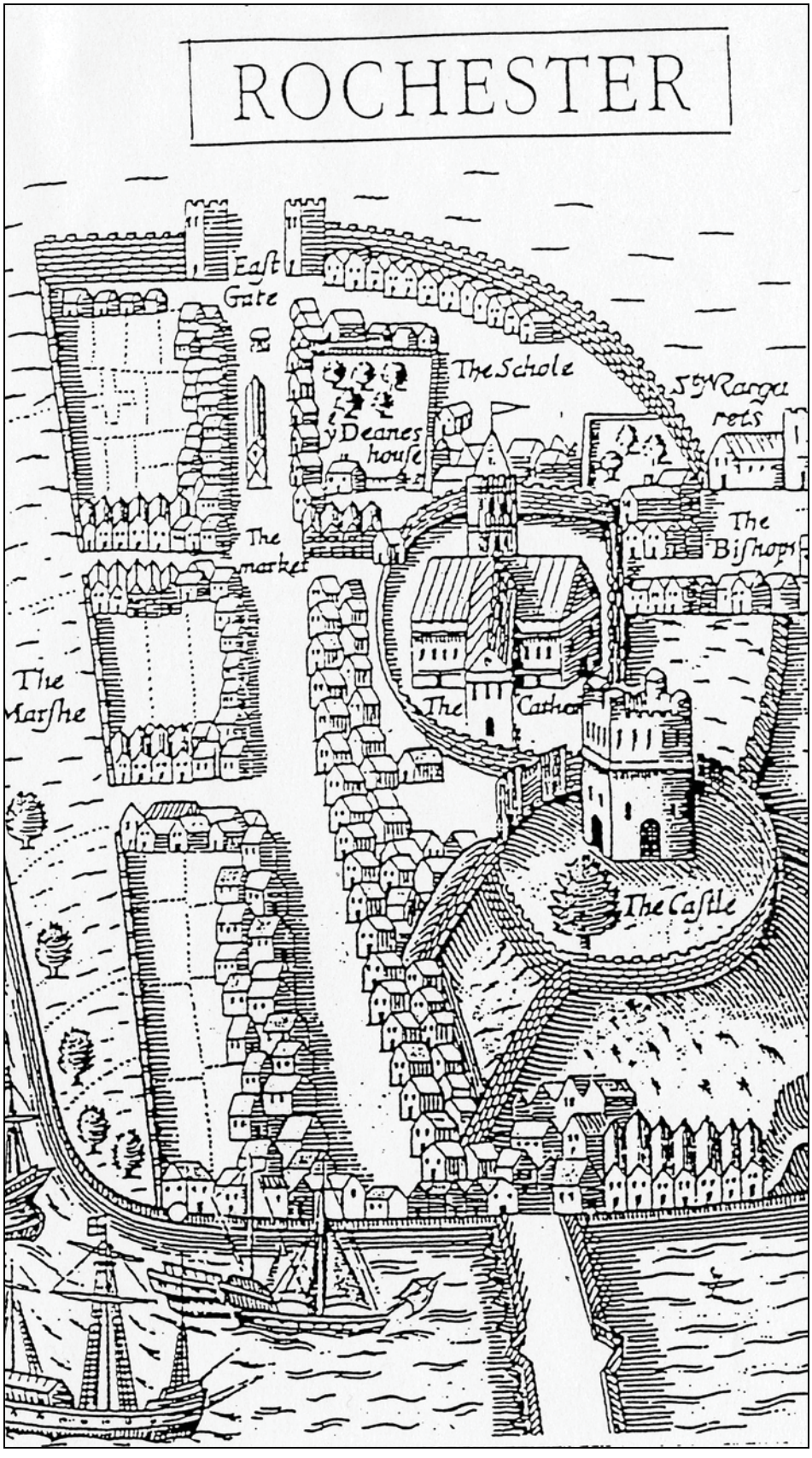

Figure 6. John Speed's map of Rochester, 1610

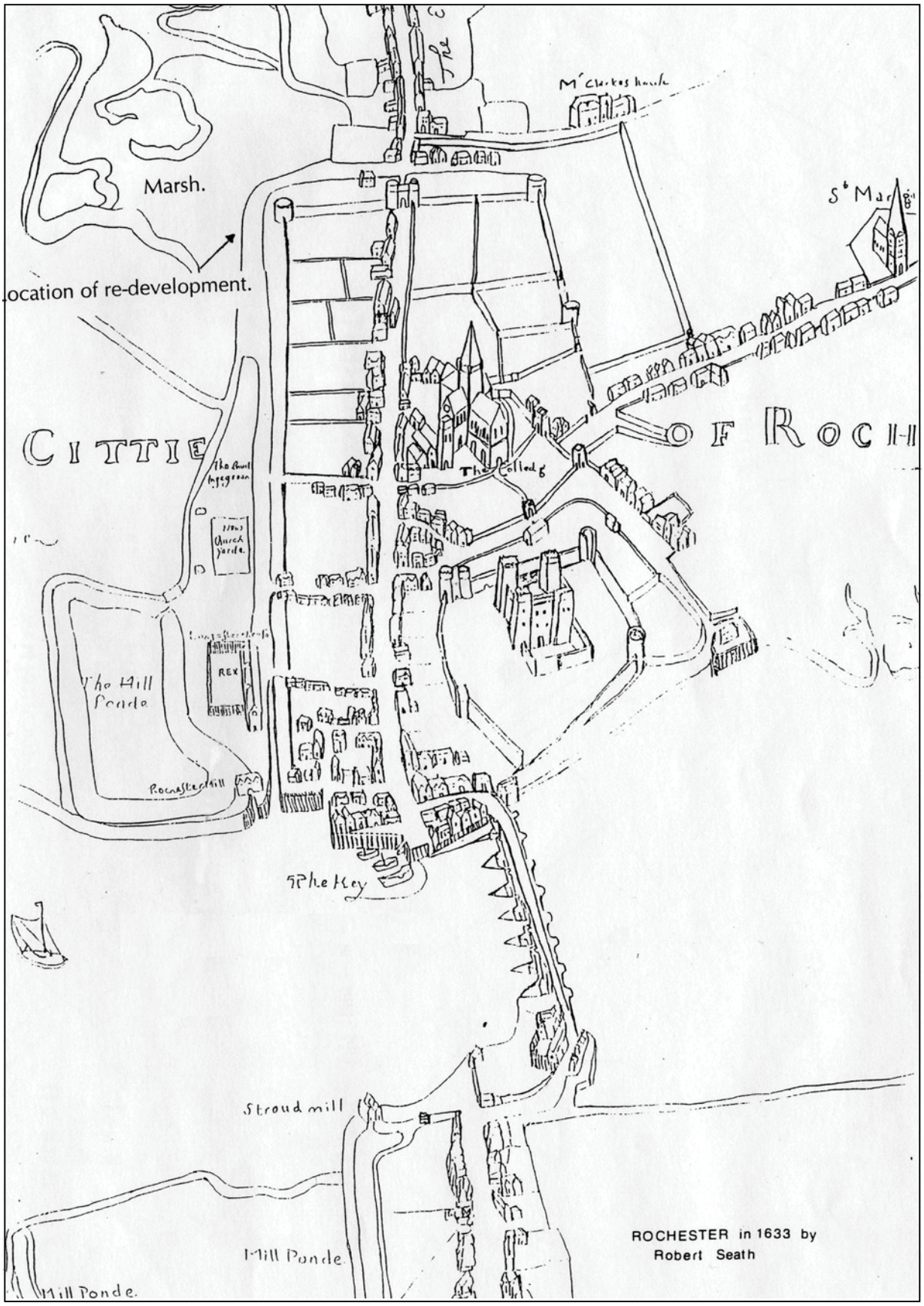

Figure 7. The Duke of Northumberland's map of Rochester, 1633

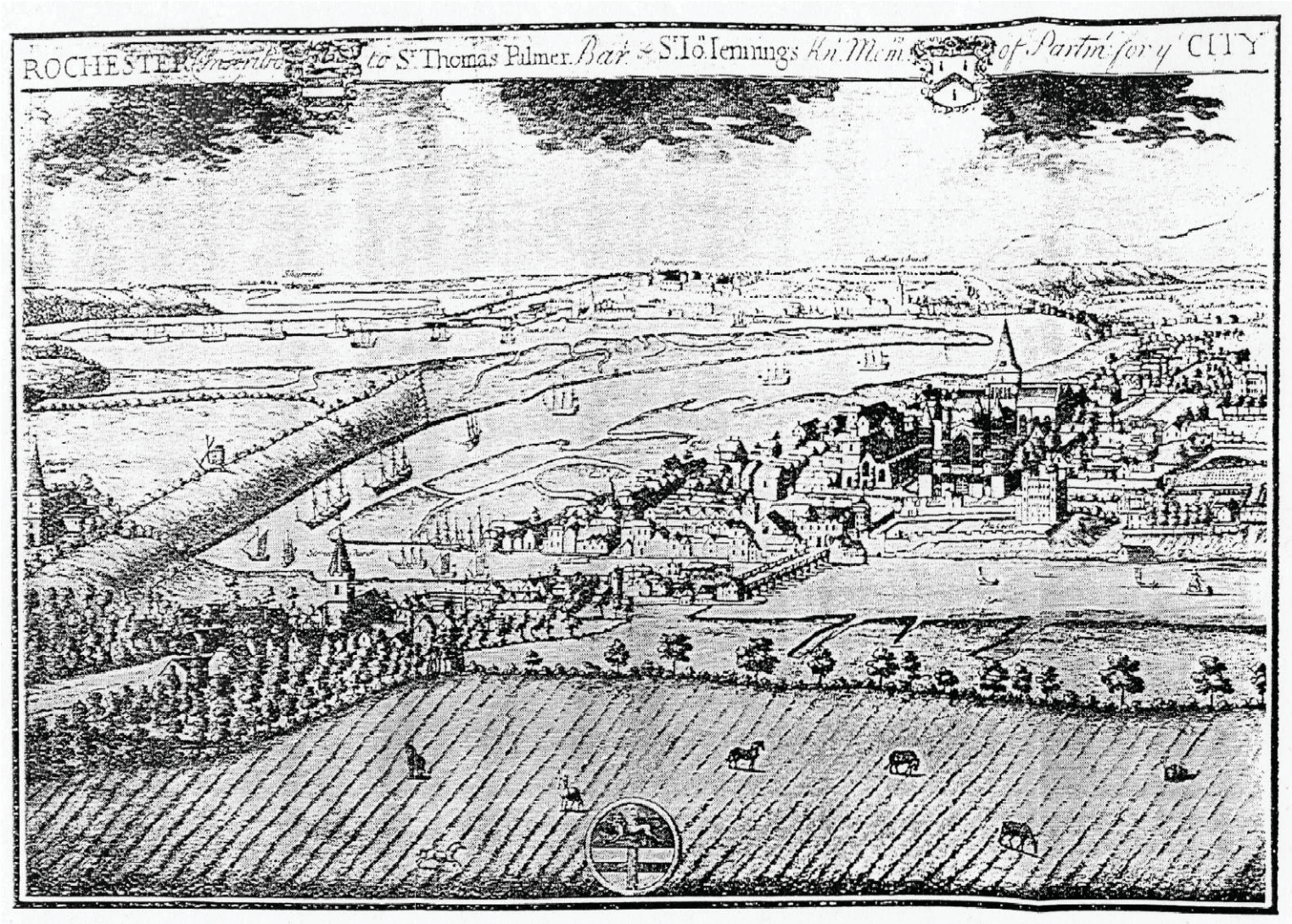

Figure 8. 'Birds – eye view' of Rochester, 1714

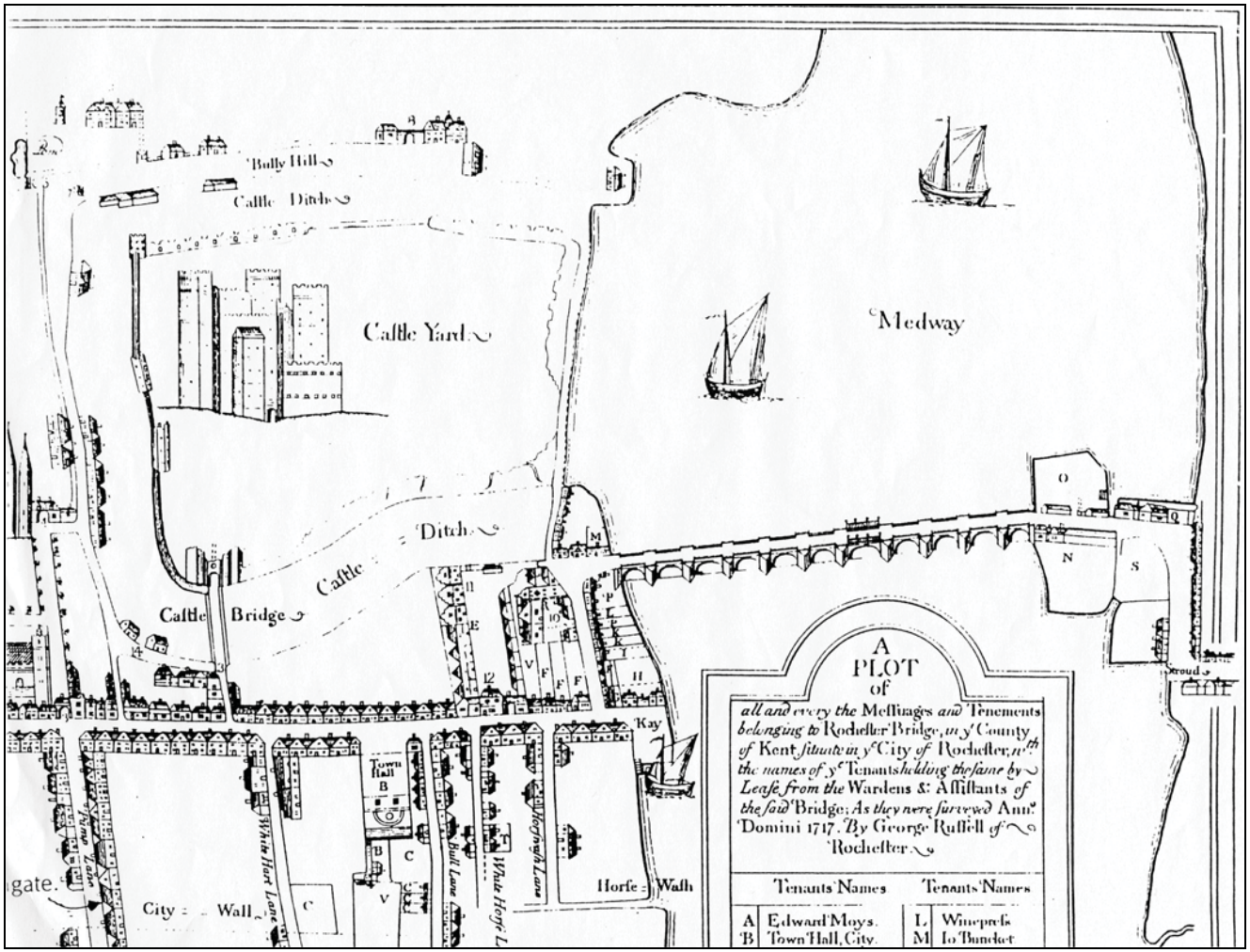

Figure 9. Bridge Warden's map of Rochester by G. Russell, 1717

Figure 10. Andrews, Dury and Herbert's map of Rochester, 1769

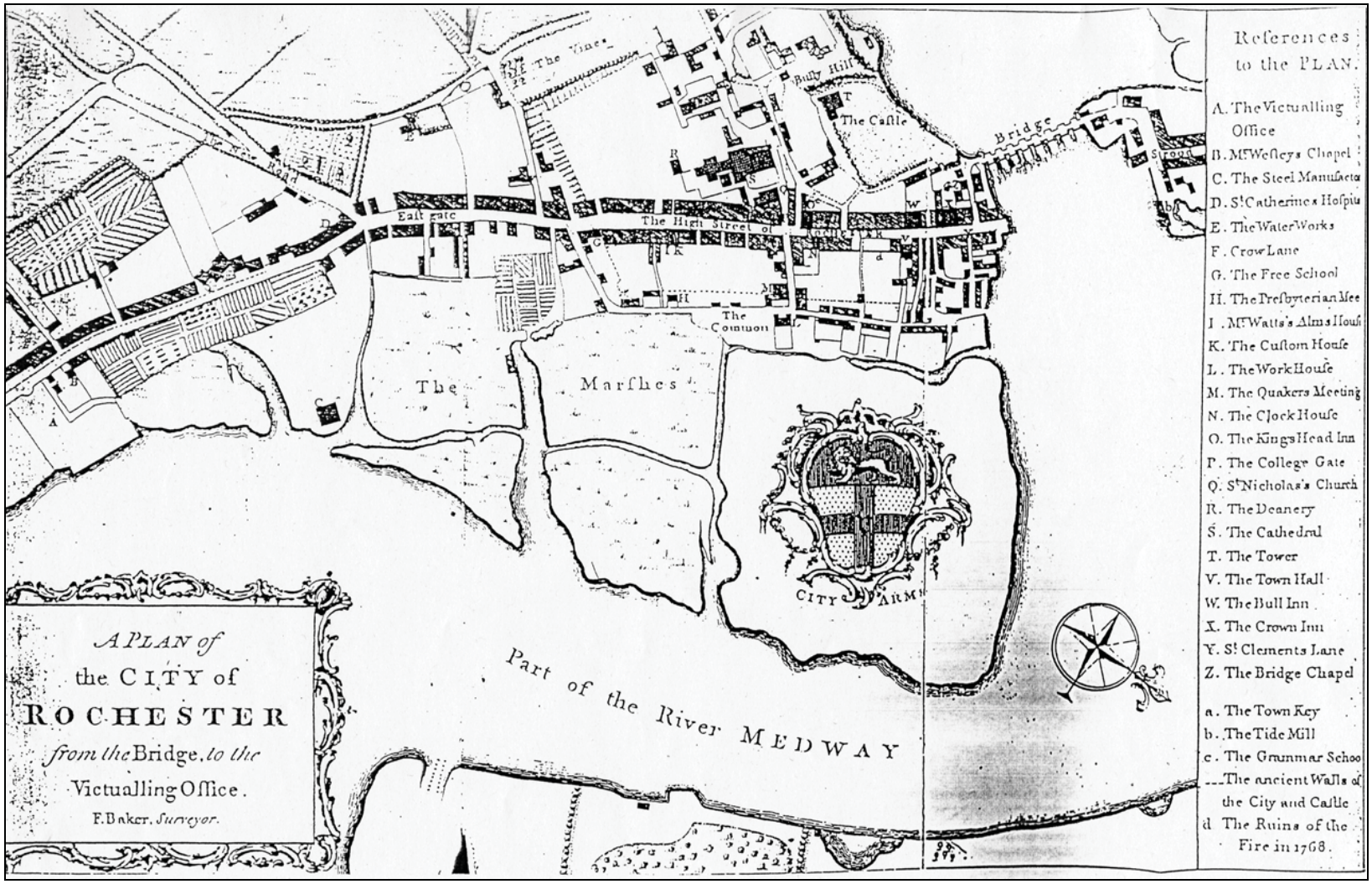

Figure 11. F. Baker's map of Rochester, 1772

Figure 12. Hasted's map of Rochester, 1798

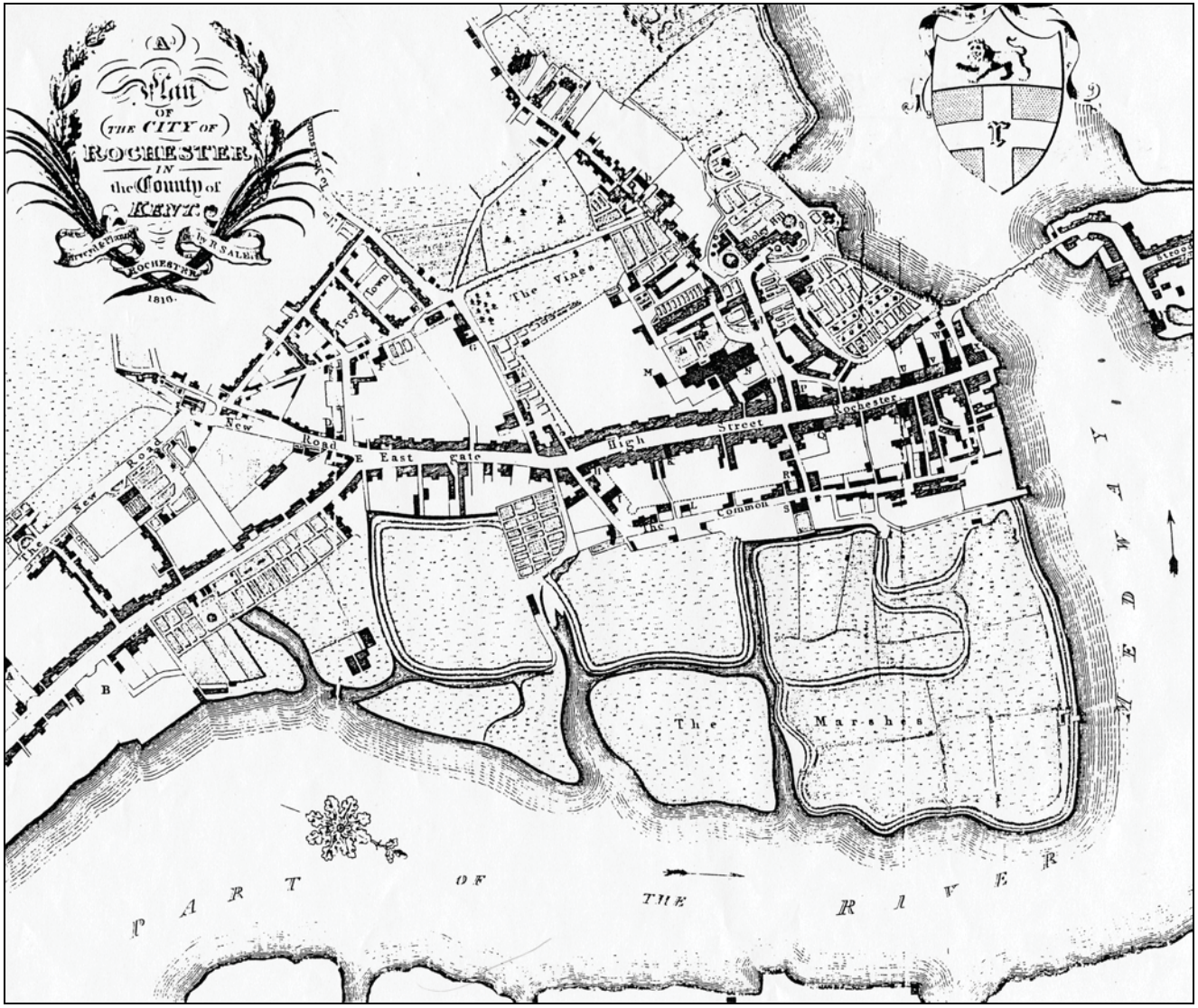

Figure 13. R. Sale's map of Rochester, 1816

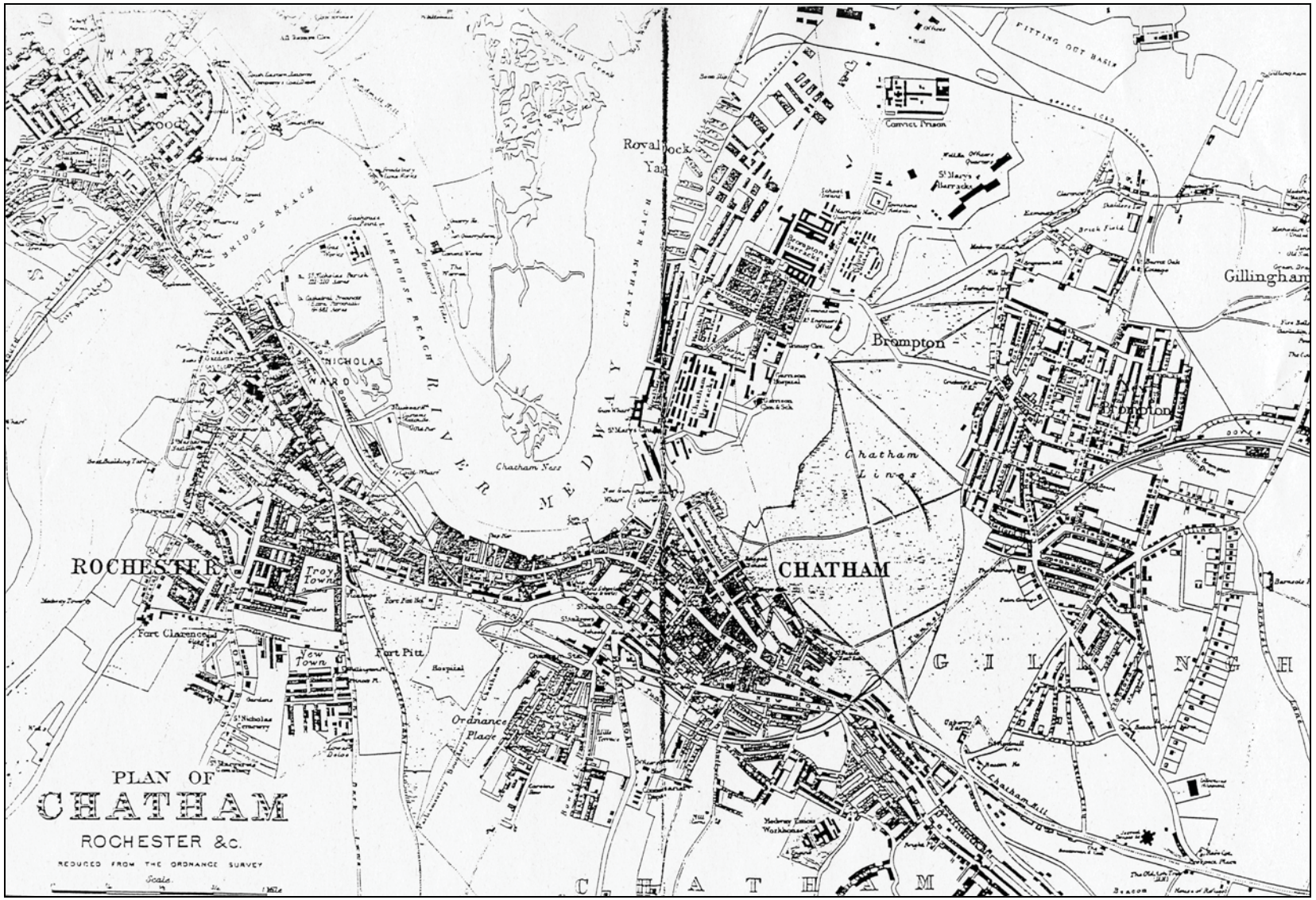

Figure 14. Map based on the 1st Edition OS of Rochester and Chatham, 1869

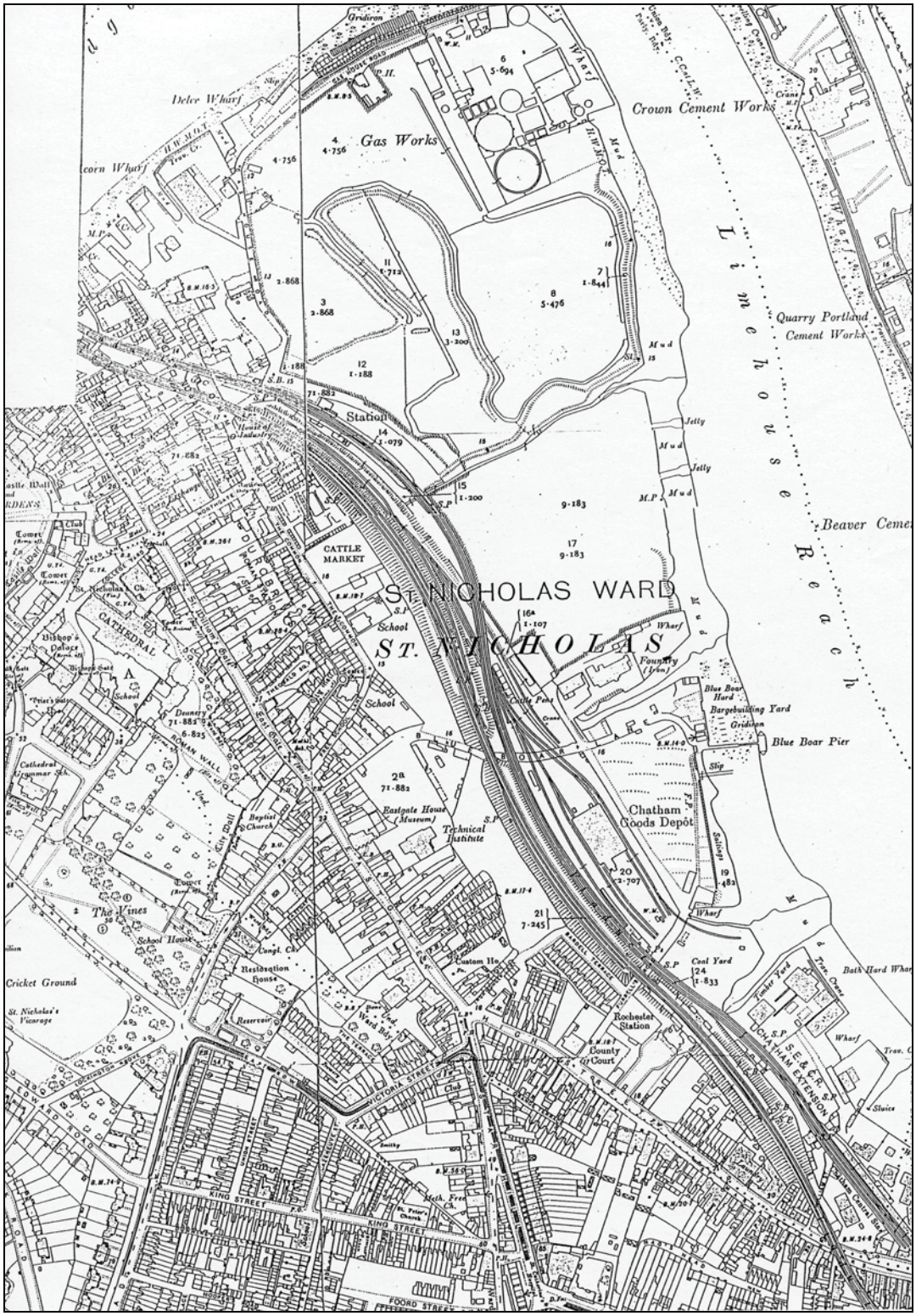

Figure 15. Ordnance Survey Map of Rochester, 3rd edition - c.1909

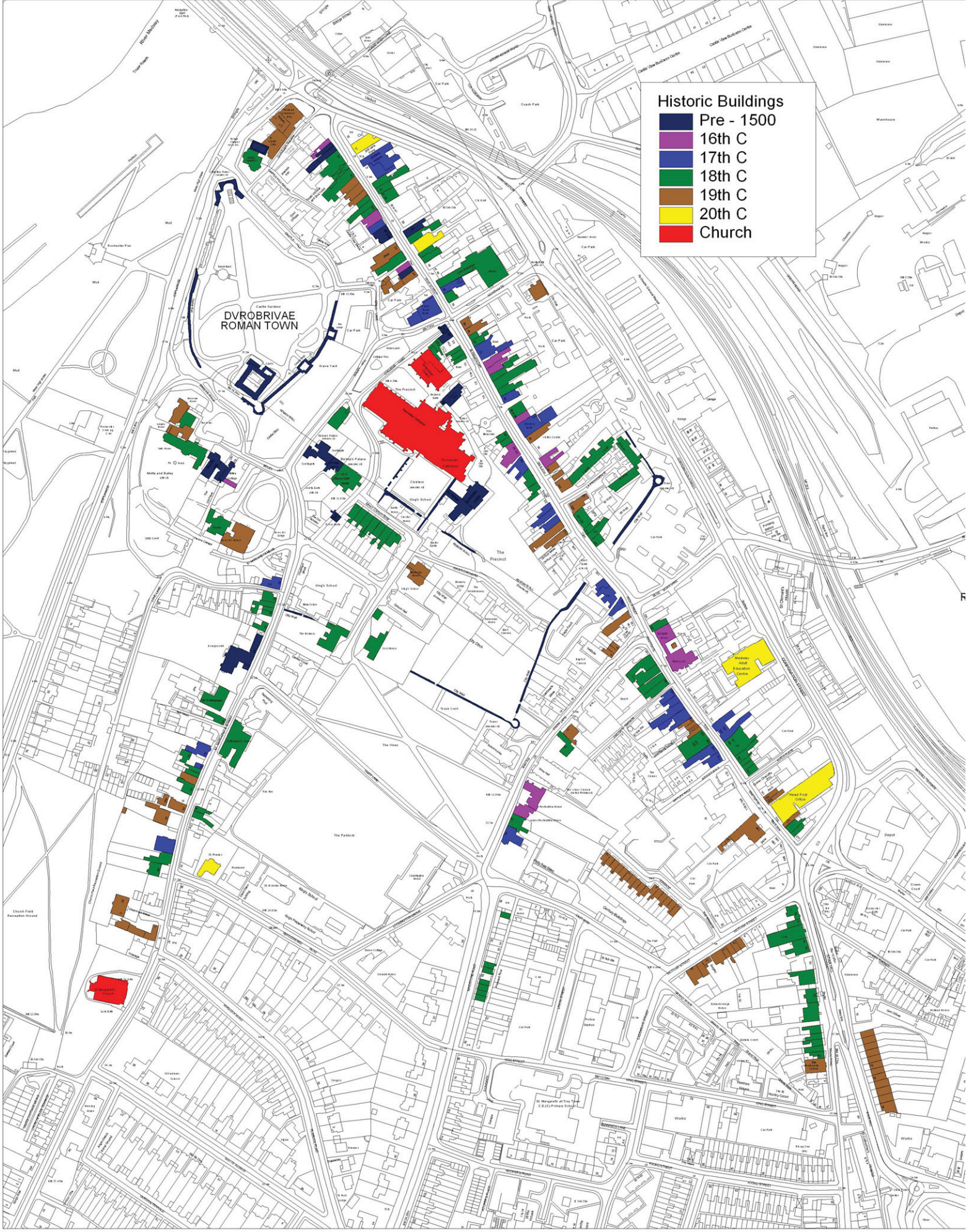

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Figure 16. Map of Rochester showing historic buildings

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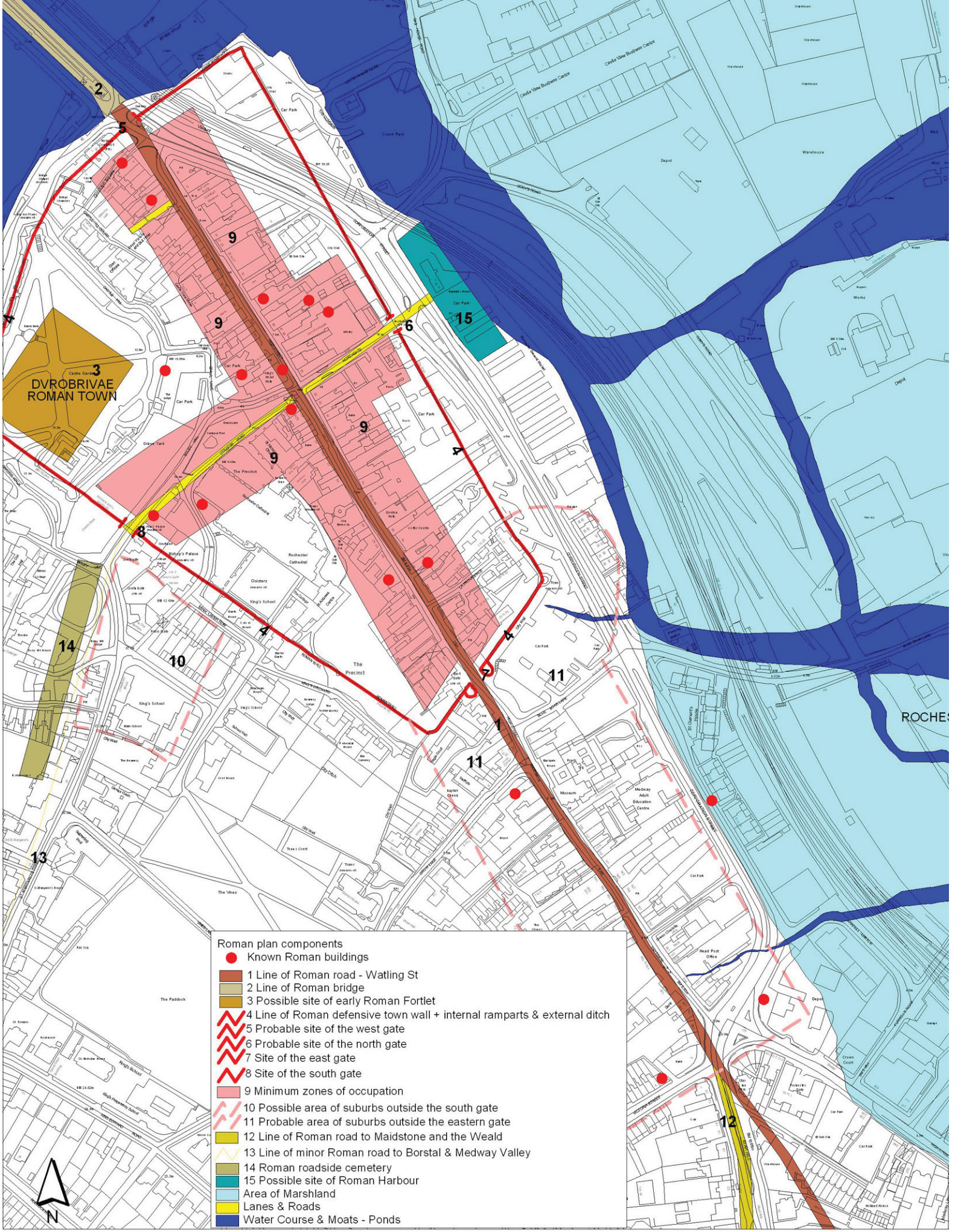

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Figure 17. Map of Rochester showing the Romano-British plan components

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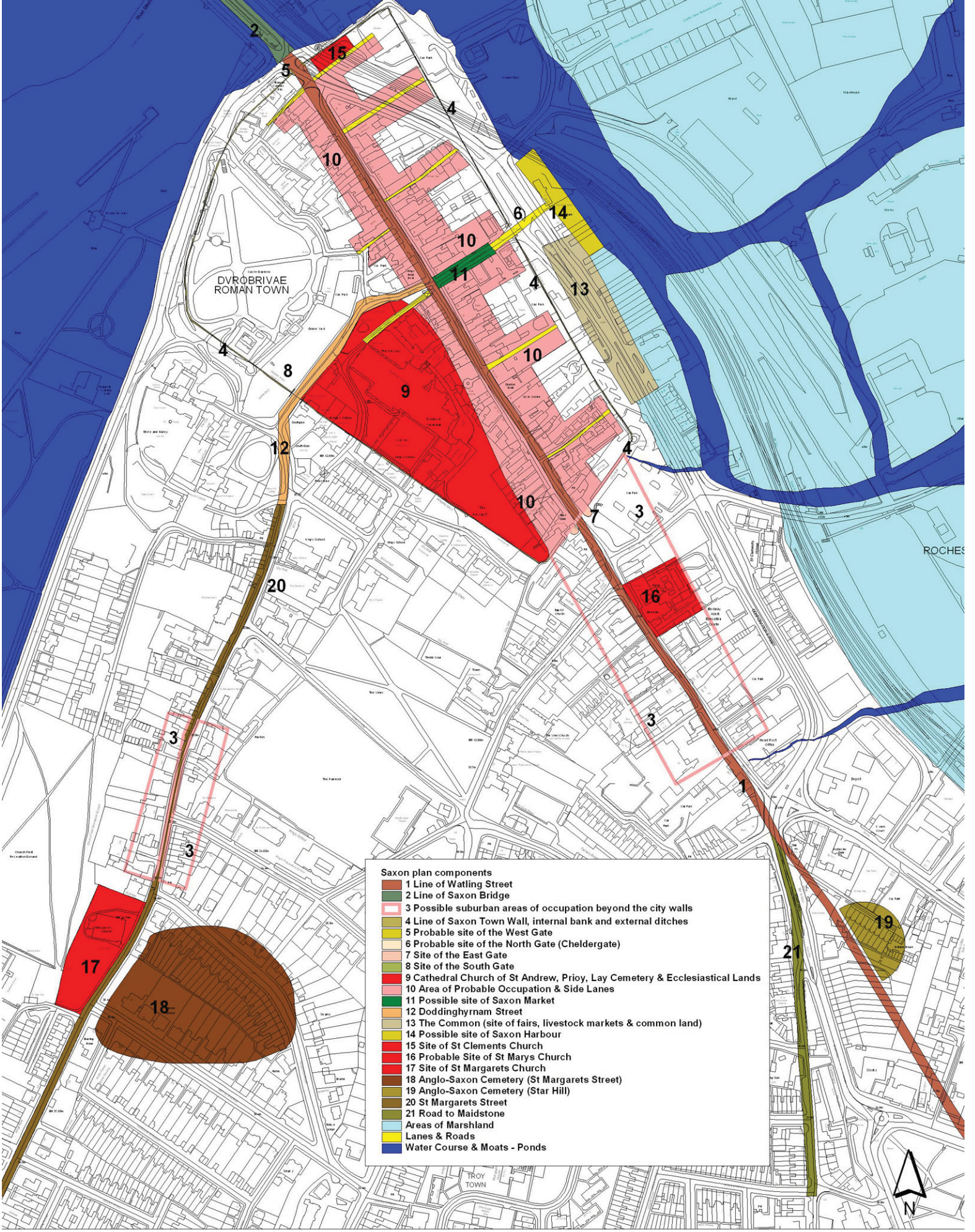

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Figure 18. Map of Rochester showing Saxon plan components

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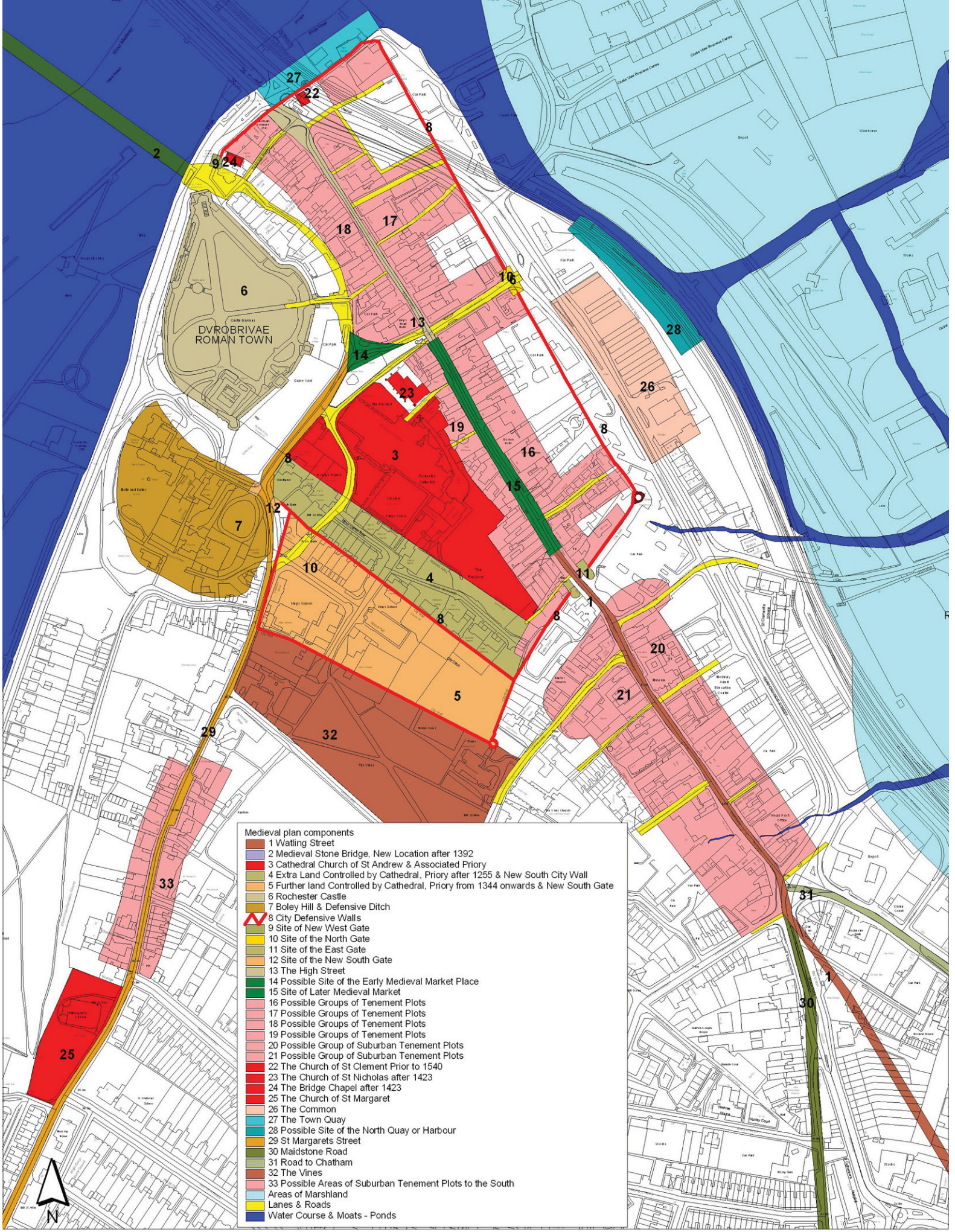

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Figure 19. Map of Rochester showing the medieval plan components

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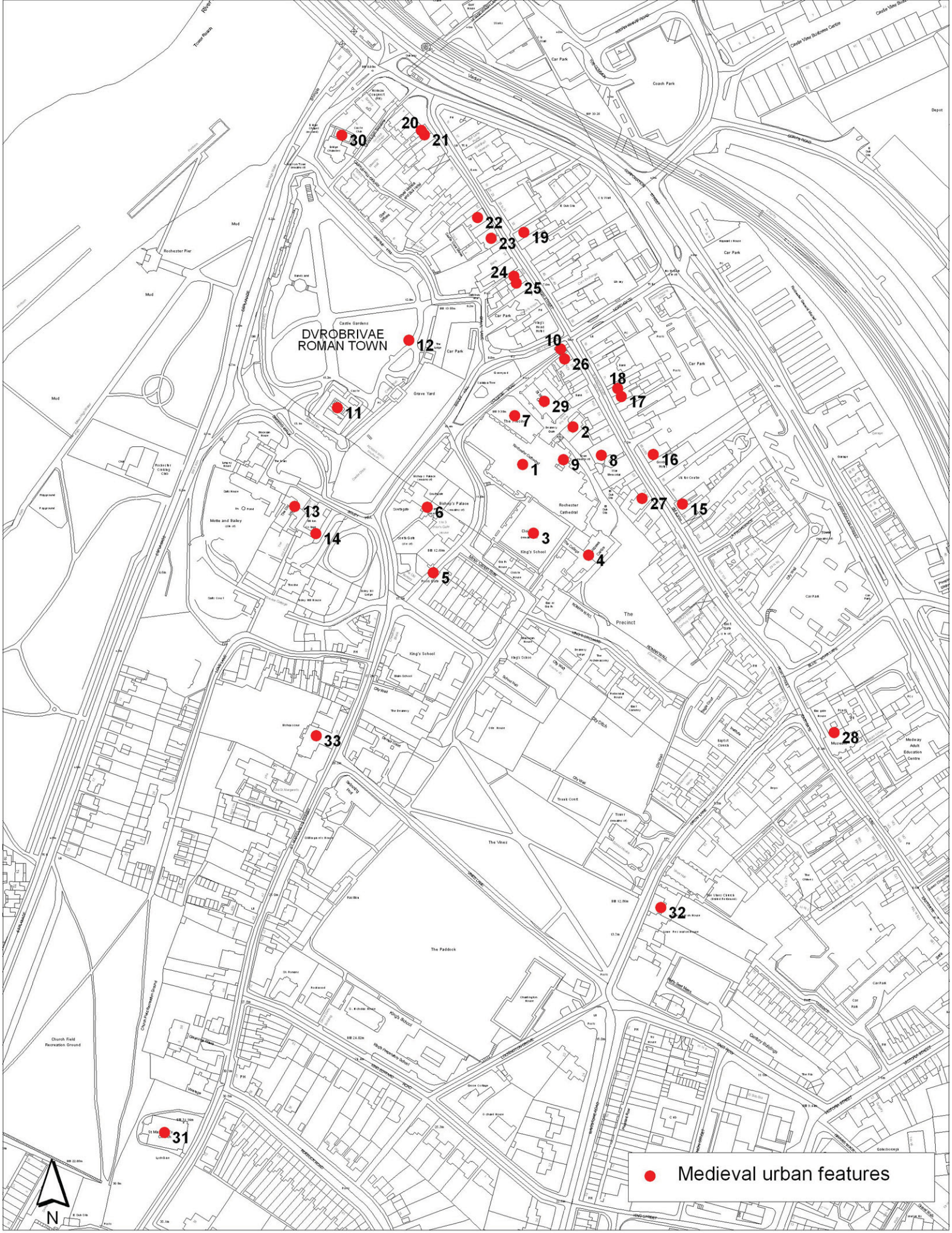

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Figure 20. Map of Rochester showing medieval urban features

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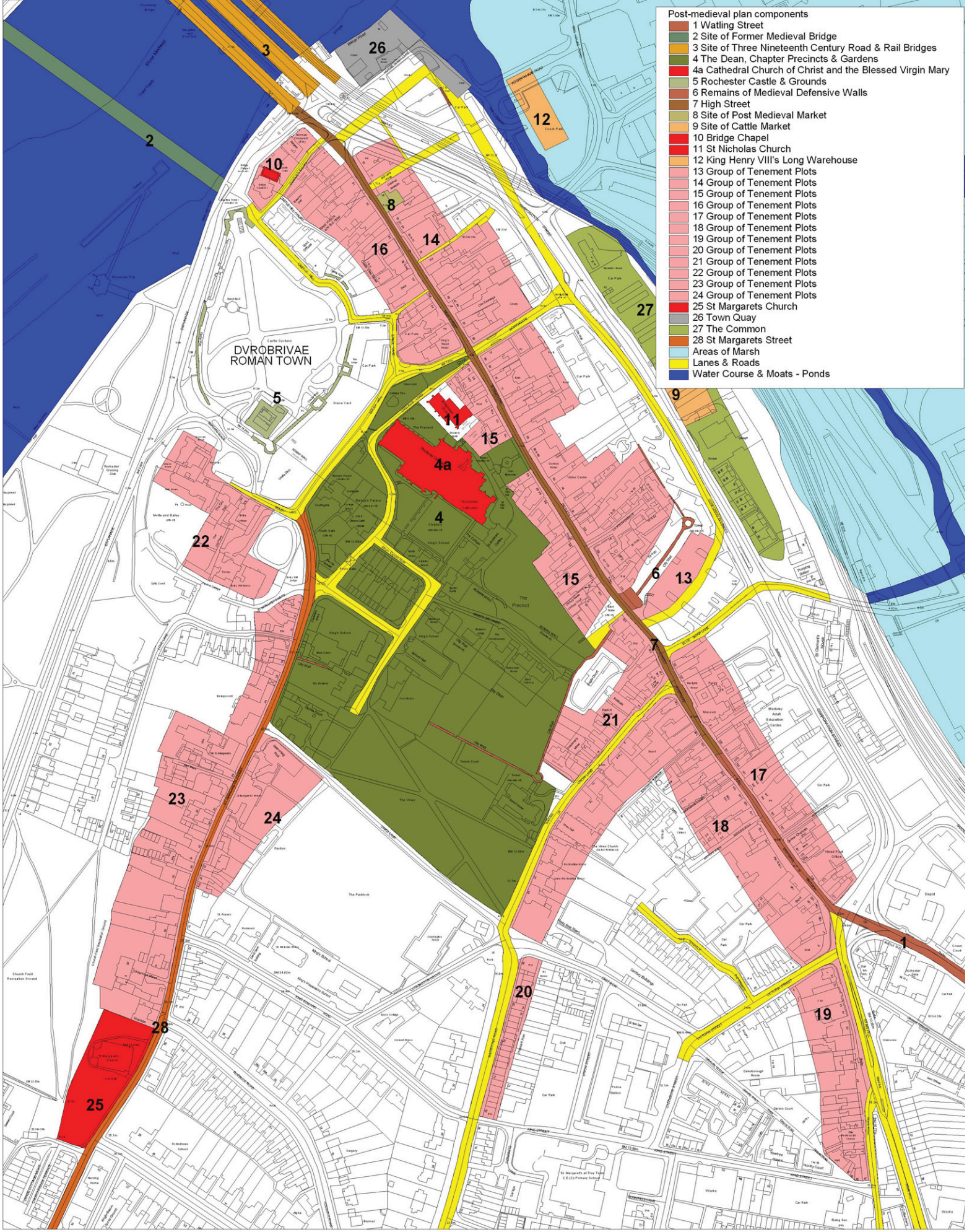

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Figure 21. Map of Rochester showing post-medieval plan components

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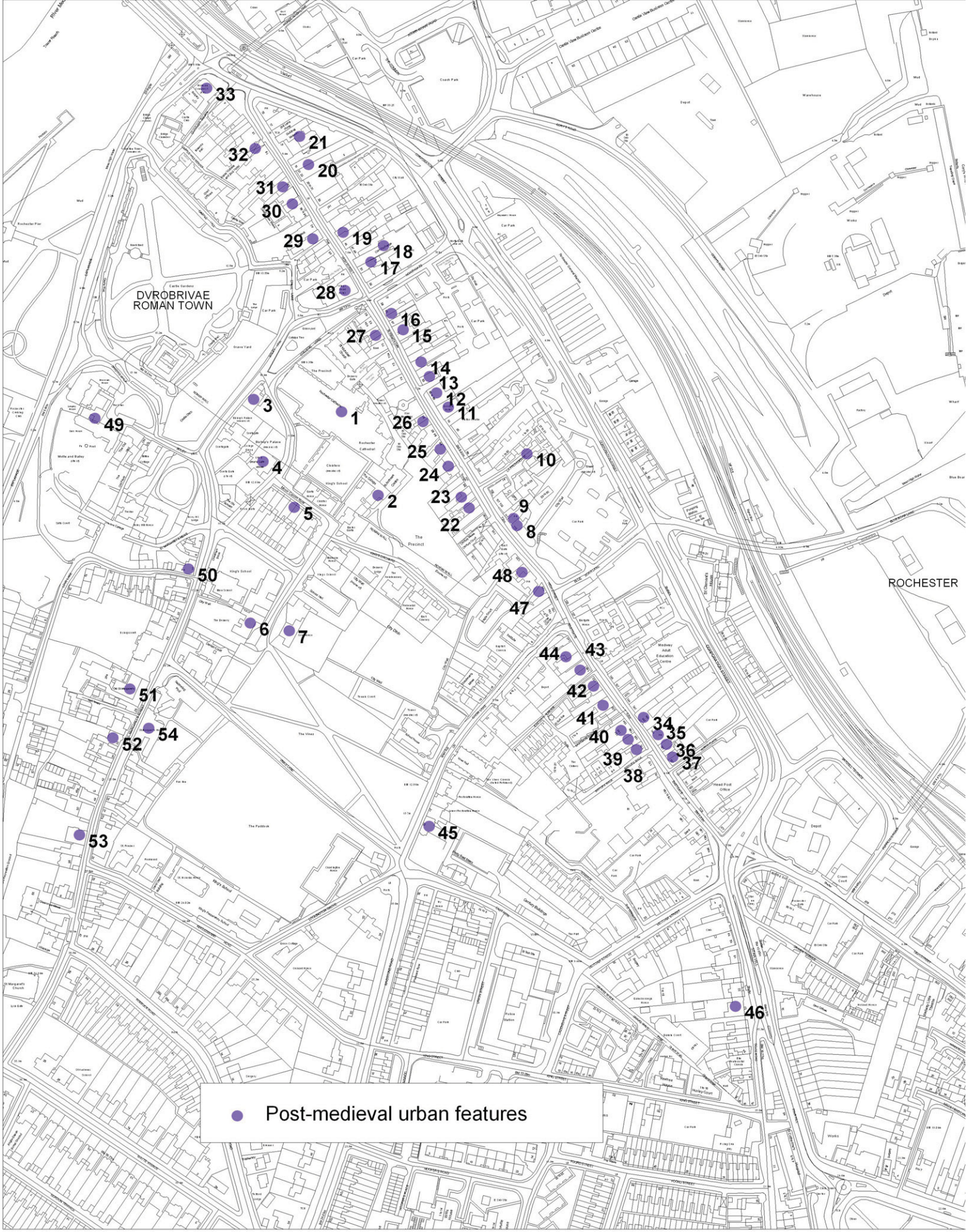

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Figure 22. Map of Rochester showing post-medieval urban features

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APPENDIX I: KENT AND MEDWAY STRUCTURE PLAN – MAPPING OUT THE FUTURE: *DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG 3) ON ARCHAEOLOGY IN HISTORIC TOWNS*

1. Introduction

1.1 The Extensive Urban Archaeological Survey, undertaken by Kent County Council, assesses the archaeological potential of the historic towns in Kent and Medway, particularly in relation to potential impacts from development. It constitutes draft supplementary planning guidance (as revised following consultation). Following adoption of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (KMSP) (anticipated in late 2005) this draft guidance will be taken forward as Supplementary Planning Guidance to KMSP Policy QL8 [Archaeological Sites] which sets out the requirements for the conservation and management of archaeological sites and finds. The draft KMSP and the draft supplementary guidance on archaeology (SPG3) were subject to full public consultation in late 2003. The draft supplementary planning guidance has been revised in the light of the responses received to that consultation. Policy QL8 is also the subject of a Proposed Change put forward in 2004 prior to the Structure Plan Examination in Public.

Policy QL8: Archaeological Sites

The archaeological and historic integrity of scheduled ancient monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Development which would adversely affect them will not normally be permitted.

Where important or potentially important archaeological remains may exist, developers will be required to arrange for archaeological assessment and/or field evaluation to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications.

Where the case for development affecting an archaeological site is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ. Where preservation in situ is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record will be required.

Source : Kent and Medway Structure Plan:Deposit Plan September 2003 as amended by Propsed Pre – Examination in Public Changes: June 2004

1.2 Precisely defining what is a town is not straightforward; for the purposes of this study, places that can be seen historically to have fulfilled roles as central places socially and economically, and perhaps with a market, have been included. Inevitably the distinction between village and town is not always clear. The Extensive Urban Archaeological Survey includes some medieval towns that are no longer of urban character and extends to towns which developed in the eighteenth century. Roman towns that now only survive as buried remains in a rural context are not included. The Guidance is concerned with the impact of development on archaeological remains within towns rather than sites in the surrounding countryside. In particular it seeks to raise awareness of areas of archaeological importance

within a town, provide more accurate information on the extent of these areas and establish a consistent approach towards dealing with the impact of development proposals across Kent and Medway[1]. Canterbury and Dover have not been included in the Extensive Urban Archaeological Survey, as a more detailed Urban Archaeological Database is being developed for Canterbury and one is proposed for Dover.

1.3 The Guidance is aimed at local planning authorities, developers and their advisers. It may also be of interest to landowners, householders and local historical groups. Pending adoption of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan, this Guidance amplifies Policy ENV18 of the adopted Kent Structure Plan 1996. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to take the guidance into account in the preparation of their Local Plans/ Development Plan Documents and site specific Supplementary Planning Documents. The Guidance does not apply outside the identified urban areas and should be read alongside existing Local Plan policies on archaeology. The Guidance has been issued both as a Kent and Medway edition containing maps for all the settlements to which it applies and a district edition containing maps only for those settlements falling in the respective district area. There is no difference in the wording or application of the Guidance in either edition.

2. SPG Background

2.1 Kent's historic towns, some of which have been occupied since Roman times or even earlier, contain a wealth of evidence of past ways of life. This may take the form of buried archaeological deposits, standing buildings or structures, such as castles or town walls, or the present street patterns which may reflect past urban forms. At the same time, our towns need to develop as thriving communities. The Guidance aims to reduce conflict between the need for development and the need to preserve important archaeological remains, through the preparation of an ongoing and integrated strategy for conserving the urban archaeological resource.

2.2 The Government's policy on archaeological remains is set out in PPG16: Archaeology and Planning. It states (para. 6) that:

'Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. They can contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They are part of our sense of national identity and are valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism.'

2.3 Archaeological remains are not always buried below ground and in many cases historic buildings within a town will contain important archaeological information, irrespective of whether they are Listed Buildings or not. Indeed, as noted in PPG15 (para. 2.15):

'Some historic buildings are scheduled ancient monuments, and many which are not scheduled are of intrinsic archaeological interest or stand on ground which contains` archaeological remains.'

[1] Please note that Kent County Council provides an archaeological service for the Medway area on behalf of Medway Council.

2.4 The means by which provision for archaeological preservation or recording is secured is also discussed in PPG16. In the event that archaeological work may be required prior to a planning decision being taken (para 21):

`it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken.'

If the planning authority is willing to grant planning permission but requires that preservation in-situ or archaeological recording take place (para 30):

`it is open to them to do so by the use of a negative condition i.e. a condition prohibiting the carrying out of development until such time as works or other action, e.g. an excavation, have been carried out by a third party. '

3. Urban Archaeological Zones and Guidance

3.1 The Guidance relates to 46 towns in Kent and Medway as listed in Section 9. A plan has been produced for each town (for Rochester here Figure 23) providing archaeological response zones based on the known importance of archaeological deposits in that town, which again derives from the Extensive Urban Archaeological Survey. The boundaries of these zones are related to the possible extent of archaeological deposits rather than modern boundaries. Key documents in assessing the archaeological potential of Kent's towns are the Ordnance Surveyors' Field Drawings of c. 1800 (held by the British Library). These provide consistent, fairly detailed cartography of the various towns before the population explosion of the 19th century. While they do not map the extent and layout of the towns in the medieval period, they nonetheless provide a useful baseline for assessing the extent and layout of the towns in the Middle Ages. In the case of applications for Listed Building Consent or where the building is historic in character, and where the proposal impacts on the historic fabric, then the Local Planning Authority will need to consider whether or not to consult the County Archaeologist in respect of considerations of archaeology or industrial archaeology. Similarly, developers considering proposals in these areas are encouraged to consult the County Archaeologist at an early stage in the design process. Four types of Urban Archaeological Zone have been identified although they will not necessarily be present in all the towns. The zones indicate:

Zone 1 – Areas of known national importance;

Zone 2 – Areas of known archaeological potential where clarification of the nature of this potential is required;

Zone 3 – Areas where archaeological potential is thought to be lower; and

Zone 4 – Areas in which archaeological remains have been completely removed.

Further information detailing the state of knowledge of the archaeology of each of these towns including analysis of their topography and historical development is available in the form of an Assessment Report. These reports can be purchased from the County Archaeologist (see section 7 for contact details).

3.2 **Zone 1** identifies, as suggested in PPG16 (para 16), archaeological remains of known national importance, and comprises both Scheduled Monuments and unscheduled remains. PPG16 (para 8) states that:

'Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.'

3.3 Scheduled Monuments (formerly known as Scheduled Ancient Monuments) are protected under Part 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and prior consent from the Secretary of State is required for all works affecting such monuments, whether or not those works require planning permission. Local planning authorities should secure, through the development control process, the protection of nationally important remains that are not scheduled.

3.4 Development proposals within Zone 1 that are likely to affect nationally important archaeological remains whether scheduled or not, should include a detailed archaeological assessment of the remains and a mitigation strategy setting out how the remains will be protected. Buildings and foundations may need to be designed and/or located to allow preservation of archaeological remains. Such considerations should be addressed at an early stage in the design process, if possible before a planning application is actually submitted, in order to avoid unnecessary costs.

3.5 The archaeological and historic integrity of sites within Zone 1, together with their settings, should be protected and where possible enhanced. Where development would adversely affect them permission will normally be refused.

3.6 Where permission is granted, conditions will normally be applied, or agreements entered into, to ensure that any necessary mitigation strategy is implemented. Applications for planning permission and other consents that affect the fabric of historic buildings, or other historic structures or earthworks, and/or that disturb the ground, should be accompanied by the following:

i.) a detailed report on the character and extent of any archaeological remains likely to be affected; and

ii.) a mitigation strategy detailing how any possible archaeological impacts would be avoided.

3.7 **Zone 2** contains archaeological remains, some of which may be of national importance but whose precise extent, quality or level of importance is currently not clear, and where clarification of potential is required. Early consultation with the local planning authority, preferably prior to the submission of a planning application, will enable the implications of the proposals to be assessed, the appropriate course of action identified, and expensive redesign costs avoided.

3.8 The archaeological and historic integrity of sites within Zone 2, together with their settings, should be protected and where possible enhanced. Further information will be needed in this respect before informed decisions can be made. Therefore development proposals

within Zone 2 that affect the historic fabric of buildings, or other historic structures or earthworks, and/or that disturb the ground, should be accompanied by a detailed report on the character and extent of any archaeological remains likely to be affected. Field evaluation may need to be carried out and the results made available prior to the determination of a planning application.

3.9 If significant archaeological remains are found to be affected by the proposals, preservation *in situ* of the remains will normally be sought. In some cases the need to preserve important archaeological remains may result in planning permission having to be refused. If permission is granted, a mitigation strategy detailing how preservation *in situ* is to be achieved should be submitted to and agreed with the local planning authority. Where preservation *in situ* is not justified appropriate provision for archaeological investigation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving will be required, in accordance with a written specification and timetable to be agreed with the local planning authority. Conditions will normally be applied to permissions or agreements sought to implement the mitigation strategy or programme of archaeological work.

3.10 **Zone 3** contains archaeological remains which on current evidence are of lesser importance. Development proposals within Zone 3 that affect the historic fabric of buildings, or other historic structures or earthworks, and/or that will disturb the ground should include provision for archaeological investigation, generally in the form of monitoring and/or borehole investigation, and the recording of finds and information of archaeological interest. If extensive or particularly important archaeological remains are unexpectedly encountered during the development process, there may be a need to arrange for their physical preservation and/or a more detailed programme of archaeological investigation and recording. Where permission is granted, conditions will normally be applied or agreements sought to implement the archaeological work.

3.11 **Zone 4** comprises areas where archaeological remains are known already to have been entirely removed by previous development, or other activity, including archaeological excavation. This Zone is only defined on the plan where it lies within the study area.

4. Outside the Urban Archaeological Zoned Area

4.1 Archaeological remains may be known or thought likely to exist outside the areas covered by the Extensive Urban Archaeological Survey and the Urban Archaeological Zones. Developers considering proposals in these areas are encouraged to consult the County Archaeologist at an early stage in the design process.

5. Updating of the Urban Archaeological Zones

5.1 As new archaeological and historical information concerning the historic towns becomes available, it may be necessary for the County Archaeologist in conjunction with the Local Planning Authority to revise the boundaries of the Urban Archaeological Zones.

6. Glossary of Terms

Scheduled Monument

Under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 the Secretary of State has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of monuments, such monuments having statutory protection. Monuments on the schedule are by definition of national importance and the

appropriateness of addition to the list is assessed against a set of criteria as set out in PPG16 Annex 4.

PPG15
Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (Department of the Environment and the Department of National Heritage 1994)

PPG16
Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990)

NB PPG15 and PPG16 are currently being revised and consolidated into a new Planning Policy Statement for the Historic Environment – PPS15

Assessment
This is normally a desk based activity bringing together all known evidence relating to the importance or potential of a given site or area.

Evaluation
This is normally supplementary work undertaken in the field (either non-intrusive such as fieldwalking or geophysical survey, or intrusive such as boreholing or trial trenching) to obtain further information on the character, extent, date and potential of a given site or area.

Mitigation
Archaeological mitigation aims to minimise the effects of proposed development and normally consists of either preservation *in situ* of the archaeological remains, and/or archaeological investigation, recording, publication and archiving, where preservation is not justified or possible.

7. Useful Addresses and Contacts

County Archaeologist
Heritage Conservation Group
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX
Tel: 01622-221541

English Heritage
Eastgate Court
195-205 High Street
Guildford
GU1 3EH
Tel: 01483 252038

8. List of Settlements to which draft SPG3 Applies

Appledore
Ashford
Charing
Chatham
Chilham
Cranbrook
Dartford
Deal
Edenbridge
Elham
Faversham
Folkestone
Fordwich
Gillingham
Goudhurst
Gravesend
Headcorn
Hythe
Ightham
Lenham
Lydd
Maidstone
Marden
Margate
Milton Regis
Minster in Thanet
New Romney
Northfleet
Queenborough
Ramsgate
Rochester
Sandwich
Sevenoaks
Sheerness
Sittingbourne
Smarden
Tenterden
Tonbridge
Tunbridge Wells
West Malling
Westerham
Whitstable
Wingham
Wrotham
Wye
Yalding

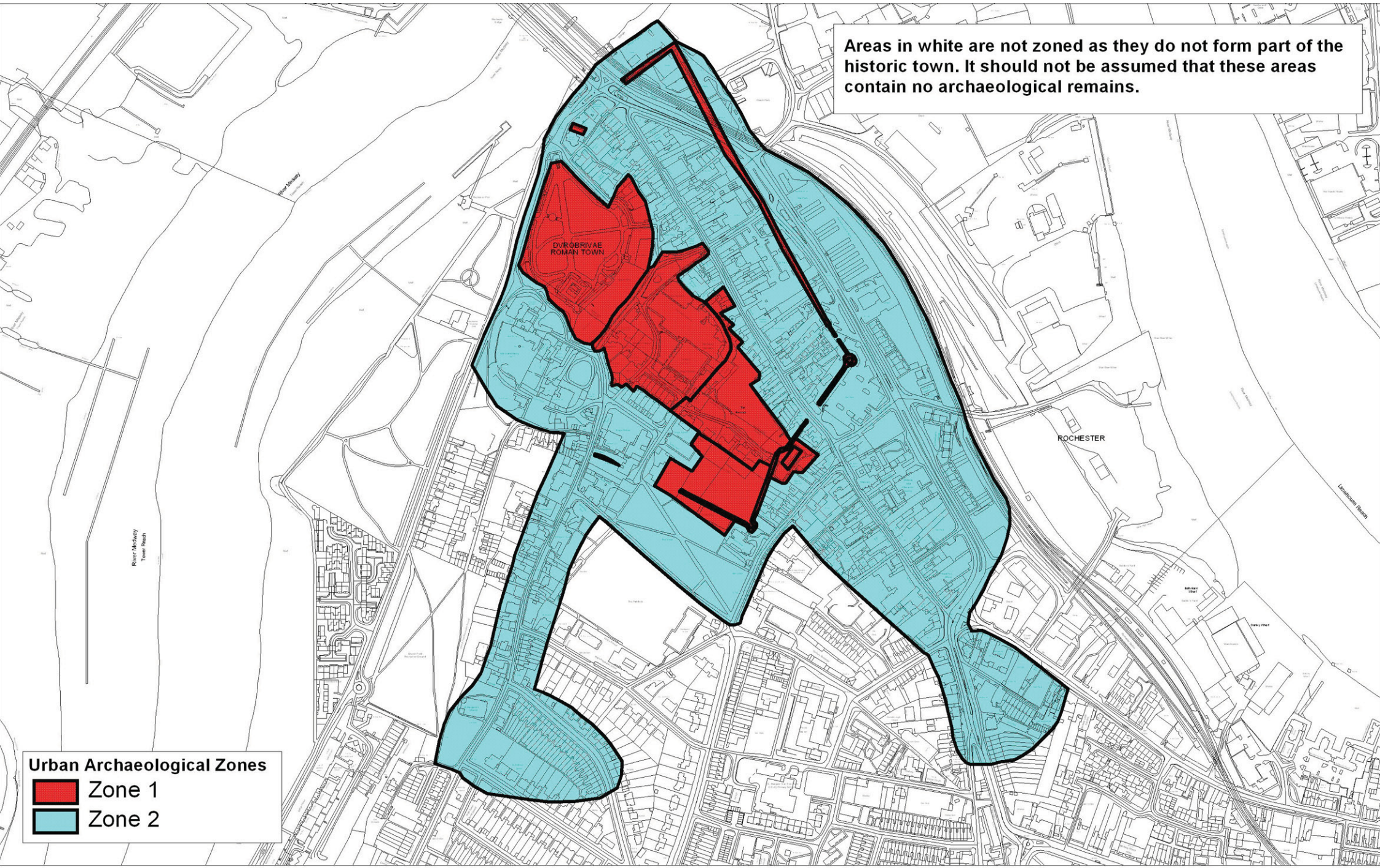

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Figure 23. Map of Rochester showing Urban Archaeological Zones

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