

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**S O U T H**

**1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover,  
Kent**

**Archaeological Recording Action**

**by David Platt and Susan Porter**

**Site Code: CHD13/239**

**(TR 3182 4135)**

**1-7 Cowgate Hill,  
Dover, Kent**

**An Archaeological Recording Action  
For The Municipal Charities of Dover**

by David Platt and Susan Porter  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CHD 13/239

**November 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** 1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent

**Grid reference:** TR 31818 41344

**Site activity:** Recording Action

**Date and duration of project:** 1st–11th September 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** CHD 13/239

**Area of site:** 96 sq m

**Summary of results:** The fieldwork has removed overburden to expose the top of archaeological deposits on the site. These appear to comprise a mixture of Roman, post-medieval and modern features, with the Roman deposits represented by chalk walls likely to be a part of the Roman fort. This fieldwork has provided information to enable a foundation design to be finalized which will preserve these archaeological deposits in-situ.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dover Museum in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 18.11.14
	Steve Preston✓ 19.11.14

# 1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent An Archaeological Recording Action

by David Platt and Susan Porter

Report 13/239

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at 1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent (TR 3182 4134) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ian McMillan of John E McMillan & Associates, 38 Bouverie Square, Folkstone, Kent, CT20 1BA on behalf of The Municipal Charities of Dover, Mogul House, Chapel Place, Dover, Kent, CT17 9AS.

Planning permission (DOV/12/00684) has been gained from Dover District Council to demolish the existing four terraced properties and construct a single building containing flats. This permission is subject to conditions (2 and 12) which require that archaeological fieldwork be carried out prior to and possibly during groundworks. As part of the site falls within the curtilage of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (south-western section of the Roman fort of the *Classis Britannica*, SM 12610) English Heritage have applied conditions (3c–e and j) to their consent requiring all groundworks to be carried out under archaeological supervision.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Ben Found, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, advisers to the district on matters relating to archaeology, with delegated powers from English Heritage for the Scheduled Monument area of the site. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Dan Strachan between 1st–11th September 2014 and the site code is CHD 13/239. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dover Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located south of the centre of Dover to the west of the A526 with the drop redoubt and Grand Shaft to the south-west of the site. The Saxon shore fort of 4th-century Roman date and the Roman 'painted house' are located to the north-east and the marina to the south of the site (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is recorded as Clay with Flints overlying Upper Chalk (BGS 1993) and the site lies at a height of c.15m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desktop study (Sparey-Green 2006) and subsequent evaluation (Parfitt 2009). In summary this stems largely from its location within the boundary of the Roman fort of the *Classis Britannica*, the layout for which is known from excavations that took place between 1970 and 1977 (Kent Archaeology Rescue unit). The Kent HER records various entries of Roman finds and structures within 100m of the site including a wall to the west of the site thought to be related to the fort and a Roman aqueduct and altar to the north. More broadly, to the south-west of the site, Neolithic pottery and flints have been found as well as four inhumation burials which are probably part of a medieval cemetery. The Saxon shore fort is located to the north-east.

The evaluation confirmed the presence of Roman deposits, including floors/yards and masonry beneath varying depths of more recent made ground dictated by the slope of the site. The site lies beyond the core of the medieval town and post-Roman deposits on the site appear to have formed naturally (hillwash) in medieval or later times. The medieval town wall and Cow Gate itself lie just to the east of the site. There was little evidence for post-medieval activity on the site until the 19th century.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The work was to be carried out to comply with the Kent County Council requirements for archaeological fieldwork (KCC 2011). The purpose of the recording action was to:

expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits on the site (early 19th century or earlier)

and determine their absolute levels above Ordnance Datum;

determine, in consultation with the Kent County Archaeological Officer and the client's engineer, if this level is then sufficient to achieve the desired variation in foundation design. If achieved, fieldwork will cease; and

if archaeological deposits are found above the desired level, determine, in consultation with the Kent County Archaeological Officer if these deposits can be archaeologically excavated and recorded down to the formation level of the proposed finished floor level. If this is acceptable, the fieldwork will be resumed to achieve this.

The agreed foundation design of the new development (piled slab) is intended to be minimally invasive so as to achieve preservation *in-situ* by design of the vast majority of underlying archaeological deposits. The

finished floor levels of the new buildings have been determined so as to be 525mm above the Roman levels on the site, and stepped to accommodate the slope of the ground. The new foundation slab will be 0.35m thick, supported on piles with no groundbeams, pile caps, edge thickening or lift pits incorporated in the design. Existing deep drain and service runs are to be reused for the new services.

A small variation to the agreed foundation design was desired, in which the finished floor level for the whole central portion of the proposal is at one level, the underside of which was to be no deeper than 14.61m aOD. The recording action scheme here was proposed to identify the level at which any archaeological deposits are exposed and allow a decision to be made as to the level from which the development can be constructed.

Overburden was to be removed by a 360° excavator fitted with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. The work was to take place under constant archaeological supervision.

Any archaeological deposits revealed were to be excavated down to the formation level of the new development and would then be covered and protected by geotextile and coloured sand. Any fragile deposits incapable of surviving reburial (e.g. cremation burials) were to be fully excavated.

## **Results**

The site was stripped using a small Kubota type machine equipped with a ditching bucket to expose the uppermost level at which archaeological remains could be observed. This work was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision and involved the removal of between 0.23 and 0.66m of overlying concrete slab and post medieval made ground in the area previously occupied by numbers 5 and 7.

Two pits and four walls were observed within the stripped area. The area between the walls was filled with a pale brownish grey silty clay formation layer, the depth of which could not be established due to the fact that the tops of the walls were deemed to be the archaeological level to which the excavation could be reduced to.

Pit 1 was unexcavated, however fragments of brick and tile of probable Roman date were recovered from the surface. The pit was circular in plan 0.80m and contained a single visible fill comprising soft dark grey brown clayey silt. The pit was partially truncated by the cut for wall (53) to the west, (Fig. 3). Pit 2, also unexcavated, was slightly oval in plan 0.45m long and 0.25m wide and contained a single mid brown grey fill containing c.170 fragments which of undated copper alloy which had been exposed by the stripping.

Four walls were observed (Fig 3) on the site but were not excavated to any extent. All were of chalk construction with walls 52 and 53 (Pl.1) forming a corner to a structure. Wall (54) was observed as a curving half circle c.2m in diameter, truncated by more modern (possibly Georgian) development, and may have been a

well. Walls 56 (Pl.2) and 57 may represent floor surfaces rather than walls. The blocks from which the walls were constructed were of roughly squared finish. Wall 52 was the highest of those observed at 14.94m AOD, it demonstrated squared coursing on the external sides of the wall whilst the core was of a more rubbly consistency. A clayey mortar mix was observed as a bonding agent in all walls. As the features were unexcavated it is impossible to state with any certainty to what depth the walls survive. A wall cut was observed along the eastern side of wall 52 at the southern end of the site cutting layer 59 and structure 56, this however was not visible towards the north. This cut was not excavated and as such its full dimensions and profile are unknown but it contained a mix of pale grey brown silty clay and chalk rubble along with the wall itself.

All the walls observed within the recording action appear to be of Roman date, similar in form and consistency to those of Roman date observed during the evaluation, although the continuation of the east-west oriented wall in trench 3 was not observed and must have been truncated away. No evidence of the 19th century walls seen in the evaluation was observed and it seems likely that they formed a cellar which did not extend beyond the footprint of the previous building.

A spread layer (59) was also observed comprising mottled orange, brown, grey clayey silt with chalky inclusions. The spread was located in close proximity to wall 56 and is considered to be a floor surface. It is possible that this is the same as layer (312) encountered in evaluation trench three as a trodden surface with chalk and stone inclusions.

The pottery and ceramic building materials retrieved from walls 53 and 56 were lying on the surface rather than incorporated into the fabric and therefore more likely to date their destruction than their formation.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Malcolm Lyne

The 19 sherds (373g.) of pottery from this site are all from cooking-pots and a flanged bowl in a BB2 fabric variant and suggest a late 2nd century date for the two walls: these may, on this ceramic evidence, belong to the Phase 2 Classis Britannica fort.

The fabric coding is that used for this BB2 variant by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

#### Pottery Catalogue

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
53	R14.1	3J1 jar 5C dish	c.150-200 c.150/70-250	16	364	Fresh Fresh.
56	R14.1	Ac latticed jar	c.120-200	3	9	Fresh.

### *Glass by Susan Porter*

A single sherd of glass was recovered from pit 2. It is 47mm in length, 25mm wide and 2mm thick, with a weight of 3.5g, opaque in colour and is considered to be late post medieval/ modern in date.

### *Glass bead by Susan Porter*

A tiny bead was recovered from spread layer 59. It is 5mm in diameter with a bore hole of 2mm. Deposition within the ground has caused a shiny blue corrosion on the surface of the bead making its true fabric difficult to determine. However, it is considered to be glass. The bead was widest at the mid point and narrowed to the edges.

### *Shell by Susan Porter*

A single oyster shell was recovered from pit 1, weighing 2g.

### *Metalwork by Susan Porter*

170 fragments of copper alloy weighing 284.5g were recovered from pit 2. These fragments varied in length from 0.15mm to 40mm and generally comprised narrow bands of copper alloy (likely brass) widening out to fan shaped ends, some with a central fold. It is unclear exactly what type of function these fragments had although they seem likely to be either clothing attachments, box attachments or fragments of metal book binding. The pieces cannot be dated but are suspected to be of post- medieval to modern date.

Also recovered from pit 2, were six fragments of round headed nails, all of diameter 15mm.

### *Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank*

A total of 3.908kg of ceramic building material (14 fragments) was recovered. Of these, the majority were identified as tile, with the remainder possible brick fragments or small pieces which could not be identified. The brick and tile fabric was examined under x10 magnification.

Context 53 contained two fragments of a hard, fine fabric with groggy inclusions, with a pale orange colour and a slightly laminated texture. The piece is 20mm thick, with a ridge (5mm high and 10mm wide) along one side, and may represent the corner of a *tegula* (flanged roof tile) where the flange is cut away (Brodrick 1987). A second piece from this context is of the same form and fabric, with a slightly darker orange core.



Pit 1 (55) contained two pieces of a hard, evenly-fired groggy clay fabric, which is 35mm thick and slightly uneven in form. One of the pieces has striations on its upper side, and the other has two sets of incised lines 10-15mm apart to produce a grid pattern, possibly to provide keying for mortar. The pieces are of a pale orange colour. A paler piece of the same form, and of a similar fabric, was also recovered. These are thicker than typical roof tiles and may represent variations of wall or floor tile, or alternatively a thin form of brick such as a *bessalis*. Two further fragments of roof tile, of a hard, evenly-fired light orange clay fabric with groggy inclusions, 12mm thick, were also recovered and are likely to represent thinner, plain roof tile.

A piece of a fine, sandy fabric 30mm thick was also recovered from this context. This piece has a pinkish red colour and a grey core, indicating reducing conditions during firing, and is likely to represent Roman brick.

Context 56 contained a piece of a hard, evenly-fired fabric with groggy inclusions and a pale orange colour. It is 20mm thick and gently curved, and is a small piece from the narrow end of an *imbrex* (curved roof tile).

Two further pieces of a similar fabric are *tegulae*. One has a single finger groove at the base of the flange, though the flange has been broken off. The second of these has an intact flange 18mm wide and 42mm high, with a single finger groove. The profile of the flange is straight on one side, with the other side curved down toward the face of the tile. This is one of the simple and very popular forms throughout the Roman period, but is not closely datable.

A further *tegula* piece is of a hard fabric with fine groggy and occasional sandy inclusions. It is a dark red colour with red lensing, and the form is fairly neat, 20mm thick at the face, with a square-profile flange, 25mm wide and 45mm high.

In summary, the assemblage recovered during the recording action is fairly modest, with the pieces typically fairly fragmented but not abraded. The presence of Roman *tegulae* is suggestive of a Roman tiled-roof building on the site or nearby, however due to the durable nature of the material, tile is often reused (for example in walls or wall foundations). Two different forms of *tegula* were identified, comprising those with a square flange profile and those with one side of the flange curved toward the face. Each complete *tegula* would have a flange on each side, however no complete examples were recovered. Although Chauffin suggests that these basic forms tend to be of the earlier (1st to 3rd century) Roman period, they are not overall considered to be closely datable, as simple forms are easier and cheaper to mass-produce (Brodribb 1987).

## Conclusion

The results of recording action have identified structural remains in the form of chalk walls of probable Roman date. As the lies within the boundary of the Classis Britannica Roman fort, it seems reasonable to suggest that the chalk structures observed are associated with the fort, likely as internal buildings, possibly barrack block foundations or similar with the curved structure likely to function as a well. The fieldwork has provided information for the whole plot as to the height at which archaeological deposits are present c.14.94m AOD at highest point and which enables the foundation design to be finalized. Clauses within the method statement for the new development are in place to ensure that the archaeology observed here will be preserved *in-situ* below the floor surface of the new building.

## References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 305/6, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Brodribb, G, 1987, *Roman Brick and Tile*, Gloucester
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Parfitt, K, 2009, 'Report on evaluation trenching off Cowgate Hill, Dover', Canterbury Archaeological Trust project APD-EV-08, Canterbury
- Sparey-Green, C, 2006, 'Archaeological desk study of Albany Place, Dover', Canterbury Archaeological Trust project APD-DA-06, Canterbury

APPENDIX 1: List of features recorded

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>
	50	topsoil
	51	subsoil
	52	wall
	53	wall
	54	wall
1	55	pit
	56	wall
	57	wall/collapse
2	58	pit
	59	spread

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL MANUAL OF SPECIFICATIONS PART B	
SECTION C - COMPLETION OF FIELDWORK	
<b>Date Fieldwork Completed:</b> 11/09/2014	<b>Was fieldwork monitored by KCC/EH/Other? Y</b>
<b>Further Fieldwork Anticipated:</b> Y	<b>Who? KCC</b>
<b>Map attached showing site location and extent of intervention? Y</b>	
<p><b>Summary of results (Continue on separate sheet if necessary):</b>                      The fieldwork removed overburden to expose the top of archaeological deposits on the site. These appear to comprise a mixture of Roman, post-medieval and modern features, with the Roman deposits represented by chalk walls likely to be a part of the Roman fort. This fieldwork has provided information to enable a foundation design to be finalized which will preserve these archaeological deposits in-situ.</p>	
<b>Agreed Reporting Stages and Program:</b>	
<b>Name: David Platt</b>	
<b>On behalf of:</b> The Municipal Charities of Dover	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL MANUAL OF SPECIFICATIONS PART B

**SECTION D - COMPLETION OF POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & REPORTING**

Reports Submitted (Titles)	Copies to: (Number)						
	KCC	LPA	Arch Soc	Client	EH	Othe r	Digital Copies
1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent: An Archaeological Recording Action	1	1				1	Y

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**HER Data:**

**Digital Mapping Data?**

**Notes:**

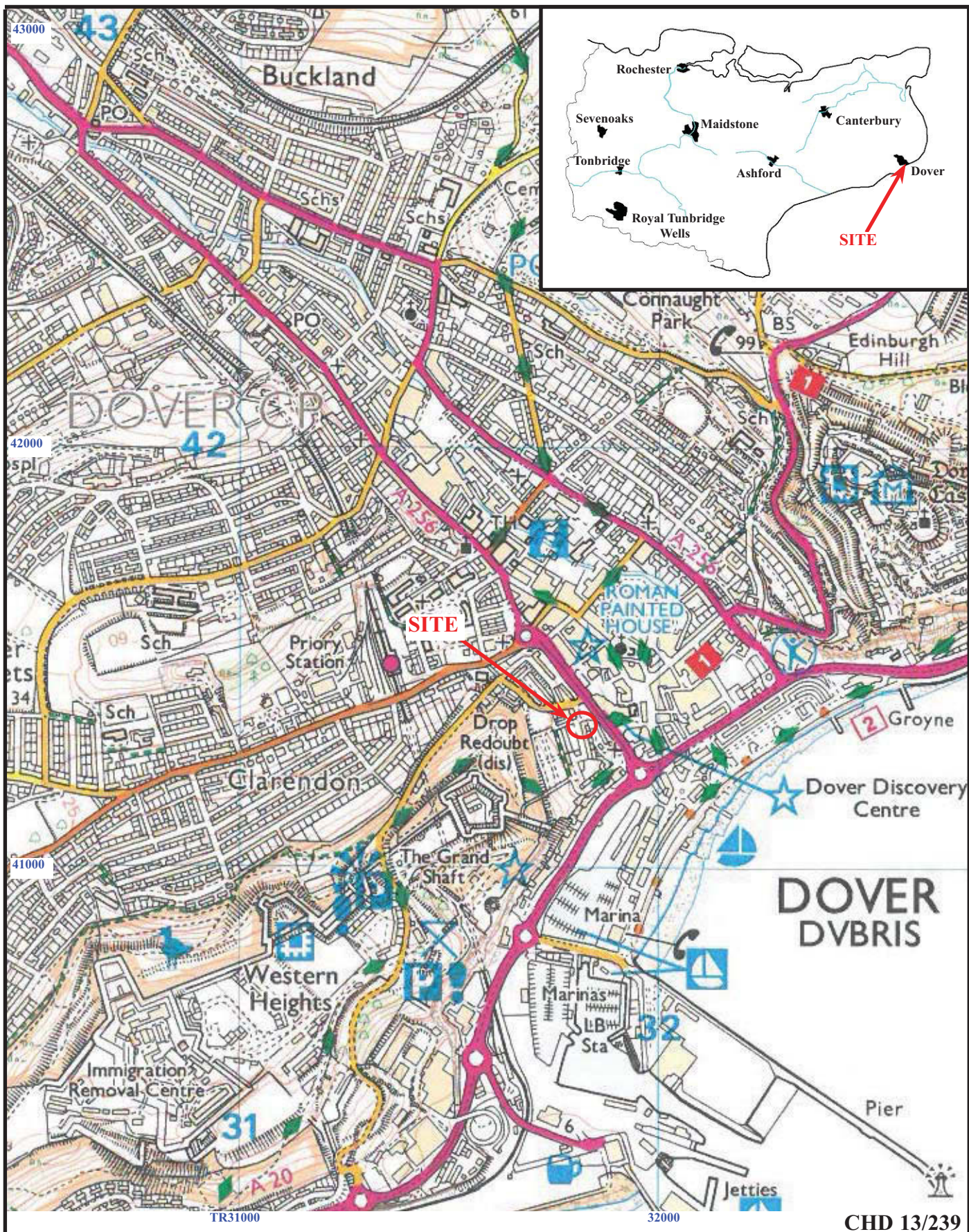
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**Location and Destination of Archive:**

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dover Museum in due course.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>David Platt</b>
<b>On behalf of:</b>	The Municipal Charities of Dover
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>



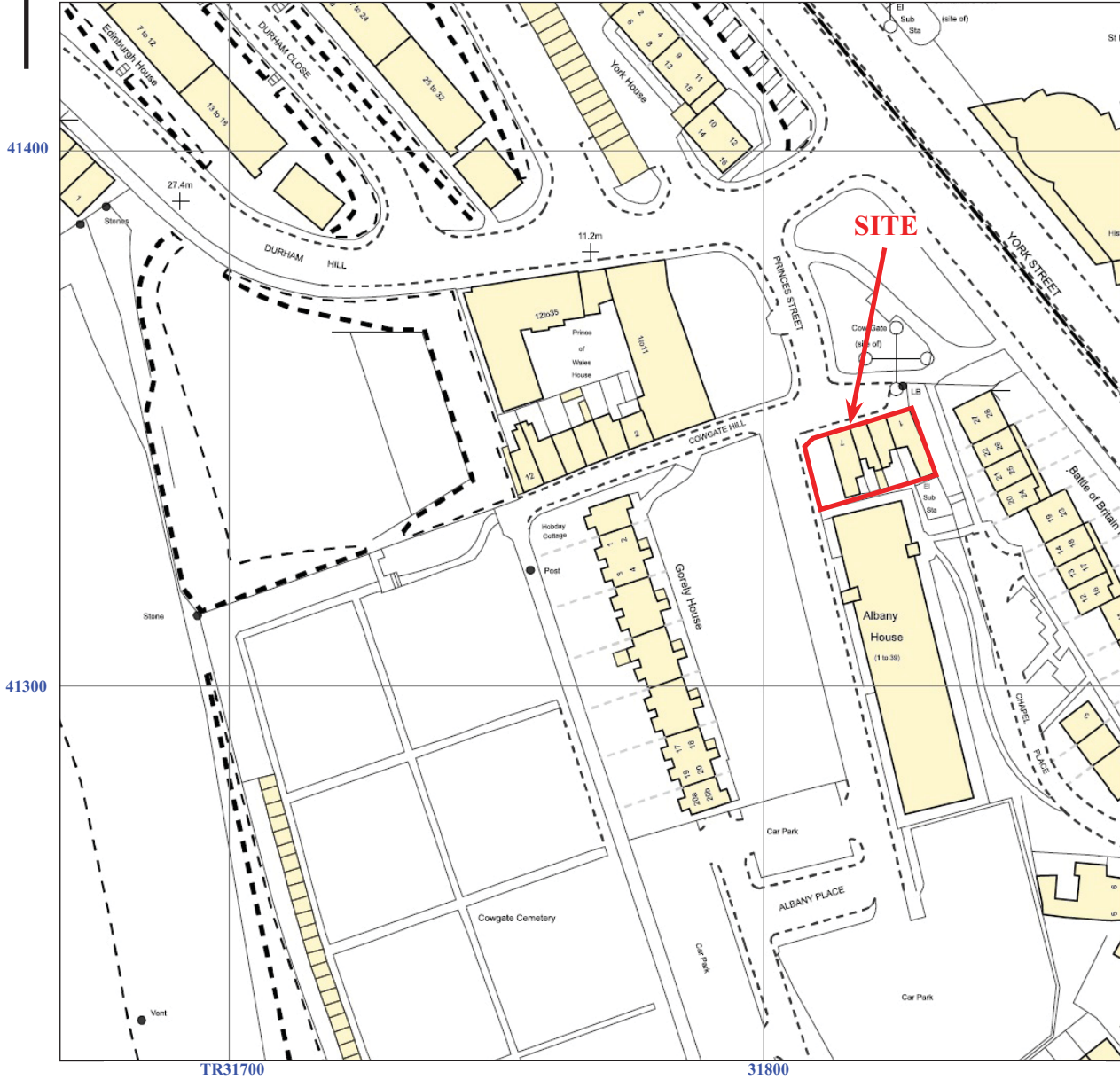


**1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent, 2014  
Archaeological recording action**

Figure 1. Location of site within Dover and Kent.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Cowgate Hill.

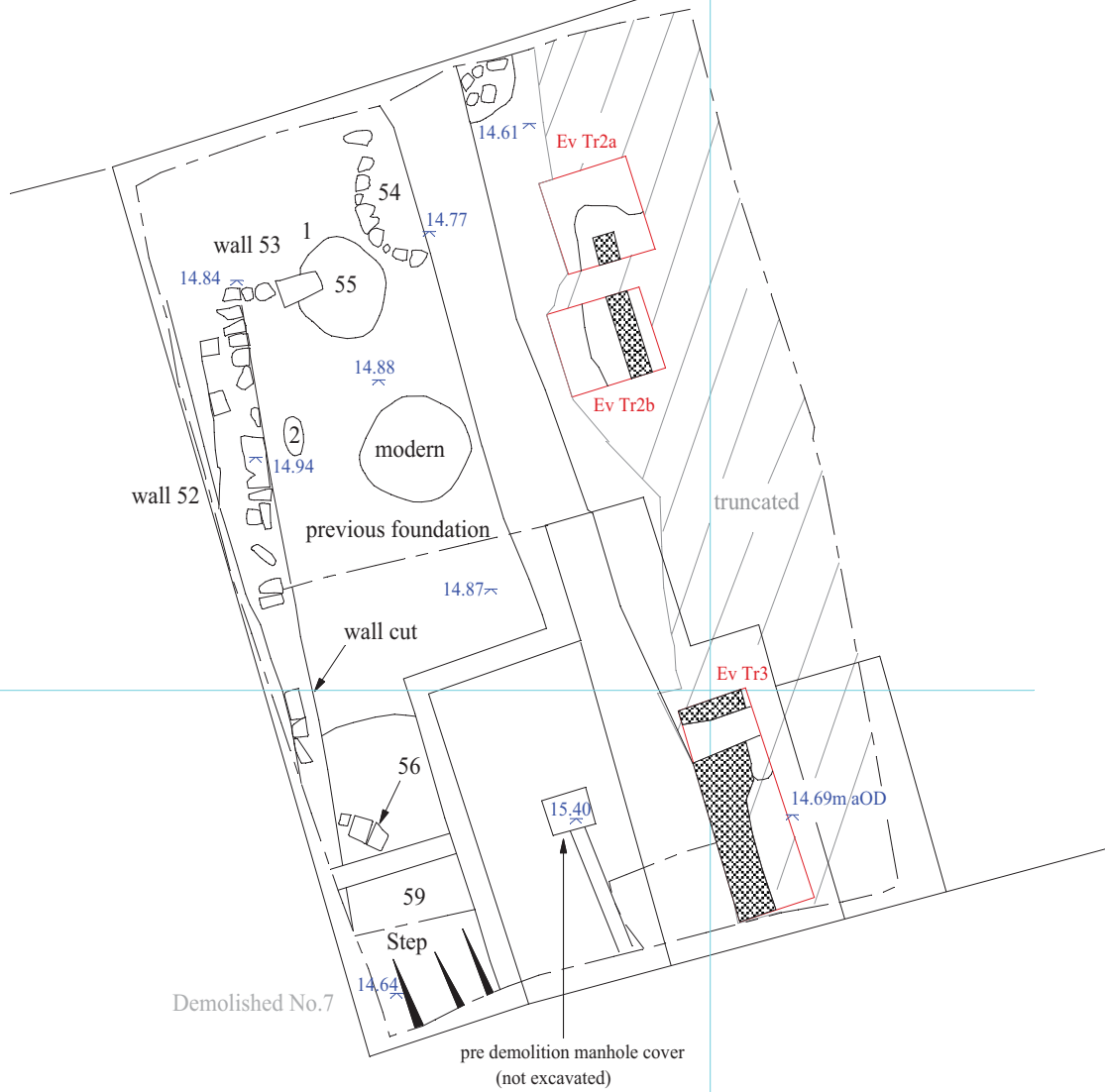
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41350

41340

TR31810

31820



CHD 13/239



# 1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent, 2014 Archaeological Recording Action

Figure 3. Detailed plan of site.



THAMES VALLEY  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
 SERVICES  
 SOUTH



15.40m aOD

Concrete

Made Ground

14.88m

Archaeological relevant level

CHD 13/239

**1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent, 2014,  
Archaeological Recording Action**

Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Wall 53 (2) and stripped area, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Masonry 56, looking south west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent, 2014  
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Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH





Plate 3. Curving wall 54, (possible well) looking east, Scales: 1m and 1m.



Plate 4. Walls 52 and 53 (1) and stripped area, looking south, Scales: 1m and 2m.

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1-7 Cowgate Hill, Dover, Kent, 2014  
Archaeological Recording Action

Plates 3 - 4.

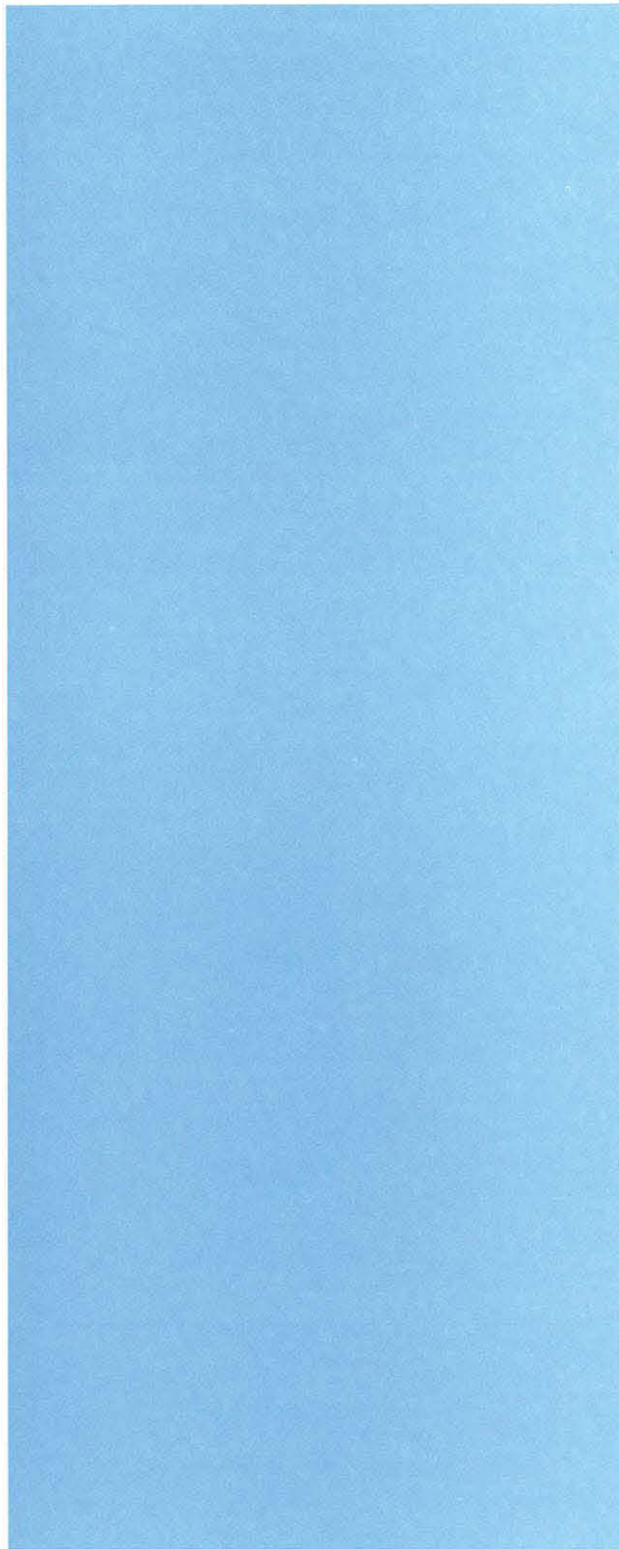
THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH

## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC







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