

Appendix 1:  
Theme 11 – Archaeology



# Theme 11 – Archaeology

## Summary

11.1 Dover District contains a wealth of archaeological sites and monuments from early prehistory to the twentieth century. The archaeological remains reflect the District's gateway position linking Britain and the continent. Remains associated with trade, movement of people, new cultures and ideas as well relating to the District's role as a frontline of defence dominate the area's archaeological record. Exceptionally well preserved archaeological remains are known in the District from both rural and urban contexts. The District's outstanding archaeological remains help to provide people with a direct physical link to the past and bring to life stories and events occurring at an international, national, regional and local level.

## Introduction

11.2 Dover District has an incredibly rich and varied archaeological resource. The richness is in part due to the location of the district so close to the European mainland and its ancient and historic role as a gateway and conduit to new peoples, ideas and trade into Britain and its role as the frontline of the nation's defence.

11.3 The archaeological record of the District comes in many shapes and forms. It includes remains buried beneath the towns, villages, fields and marshlands, it includes buildings and other structures, earthworks, ditches and historic features and it includes the sediments and environmental evidence that help us understand the ancient topography, processes and environments that influenced human habitation and use of the



landscape. Archaeology is a theme which runs through all of the other theme papers in this study and it is not the intention of this paper to repeat those matters. The archaeological remains within the district cover the entire period of human habitation from the traces of the hunter-gatherer peoples of the Palaeolithic landscapes, to the structures of the Cold War sites and the remains of the mining communities of the twentieth century.

## *Designation and Protection of Archaeological Remains*

11.4 There is statutory protection for nationally important archaeological remains through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 where they are designated as Scheduled Monuments (formerly Scheduled Ancient Monuments). That is not to say that all nationally important archaeological remains are Scheduled and protected in this way, they are not. There are cases of known nationally important remains which have not been protected and areas where they have only been partially Scheduled principally for land use and management reasons. There are many more cases where important archaeological remains lie buried and where their full importance has not been sufficiently identified to allow Scheduling and many, many more nationally important remains, or even internationally important remains, will lie



hidden awaiting discovery. Archaeological remains also contribute to and are protected by other forms of historic environment designation such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wrecks and Military Crash Sites. While the greatest emphasis is on the protection and preservation of nationally important remains, there are numerous remains that are significant at a regional and local level which merit protection. The emphasis of government planning policy set out in the NPPF (and previously in PPS5 and PPG16) is for the preferred preservation of archaeological remains. The framework recognises that archaeological remains are an irreplaceable resource and that Local Planning Authorities should seek to conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.

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

11.5 Not surprisingly given the considerable wealth of archaeology there has been a long history of antiquarian interest and archaeological discovery and investigation in Dover District. The first documented excavation in Kent occurred close to the District when William Digges excavated a barrow and Saxon graves at nearby Barham for King Henry VIII some time before 1542.

The same century saw various travels and surveys of the nation's antiquities starting with John Leland appointed by Henry as the Kings Antiquary in 1533 and continuing with a survey of Roman remains across Britain by William Camden and a more detailed account of the counties' topography published by William Lambarde in his *Perambulation* in 1576. The knowledge of these early antiquarians was severely limited and they had difficulty in understanding the dates of many of the features they saw, and in particular the pre-Saxon remains. In the District, monuments such as the fort at Richborough, and the pharos on the Western Heights were identified as Roman but the pharos that still stands today at Dover Castle was thought to be medieval, perhaps an easy mistake given its reuse for a bell tower linked to the Church of St Mary Castro.

11.6 The late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries saw an upsurge in antiquarian scholarship with particular emphasis on collecting and recording the past at a very local level. At first the main source for these antiquarians were written documents and they focused by and large on standing medieval buildings, landed estates and the civil and ecclesiastical authority. By the end of the eighteenth century sites and objects became better appreciated and the focus was broadened and stretched further back in time.

11.7 Of relevance to the archaeology of the District, William Somner published a posthumous account of the Roman forts in 1693, whilst John Battely recorded inscriptions from Richborough and wrote a detailed account of the site in 1711. William Stukeley, the antiquarian best known for his work at Avebury and Stonehenge, visited Kent in the 1720s and recorded a number of sites including Richborough and the Device Forts at Deal. An important work focused on the history of Sandwich was published by

Figure 2 Aerial photograph of cropmarks revealing the remains of Bronze Age burial monuments at Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough. The site, which is not designated includes the nationally important finding of the Ringlemere Cup (cover) and a rare henge monument

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William Boys in 1792 which described sites outside the town including the remains of the temple at Worth. While the Roman archaeology was best understood by these early antiquarians others started to explore the burial mounds of the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in East Kent. In particular Bryan Faussett excavated nearly 800 graves in East Kent between 1759 and 1773 including cemeteries at Gilton and elsewhere in the District. He kept meticulous records and collected artefacts that stand today as a prime resource for Anglo-Saxon studies. By the end of the eighteenth century significant progress had been made in investigating and recording the early archaeology of Kent.

Edward Hasted published an extensive account of the knowledge of that time in his *History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent* (1797-1801).

11.8 The nineteenth century saw an explosion of industrial development, urban expansion and an increase in quarrying for new building materials. Many sites were destroyed by the new development with often the only record being objects purchased for local collections from the workmen who discovered them during their endeavours. In East Kent, William Rolfe, the grandson of William Boys formed a large collection including from his excavations at Richborough. By the mid nineteenth century a better appreciation of the length of human existence and a prehistoric chronology were developed. The early antiquarianism gave way to a more professional discipline of archaeology. National and local organisations were formed, institutions carried out research, journals were published and conferences held. The Archaeological Association was formed at Canterbury in 1844 and the Kent Archaeological Society in 1857. They provided an institutional basis for

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Figure 3 The Pharos on Castle Hill which stands as the tallest Roman structure in Britain. The church of St Mary Castro lies behind

Figure 4 William Stukeley's 1722 Print of Richborough 'Castle of the Romans' showing the Shore Fort, base of the Great Arch and the amphitheatre in the background

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the promotion of archaeology across the County, brought a wide range of interests together and the Kent Archaeological Society published its own journal *Archaeologia Cantiana*. At around the same time museums started to develop as it became accepted that the collection and curation of the past was a public function. Several towns in Kent set up their own museums, the first being Dover Museum opened in 1836.

11.9 The excavations of the late nineteenth century followed the earlier interests in Roman and Saxon archaeology. Charles Roach Smith published a review of the Roman forts in 1850. Interest in prehistory developed more slowly though an important Bronze Age barrow excavation took place at Ringwould in the 1870s. One of the most active archaeologists in Kent in the late 19th century was George Payne. Though he worked mostly outside the Dover District area, an initiative of his to map and list the archaeological find spots and sites of Kent was ahead of its time. His work, published in 1888, can be pointed to as the first county sites and monuments record. By the end of the 19th century, the archaeological record of Kent compared favourably with any where else in the country. The progress made through the century since the time of Hasted is well illustrated in the summaries of the *Victoria County History*.

11.10 Prior to the Second World War there was a general lack of large-scale investigation

in the District until the major campaign of excavation at Richborough in the 1920s by J.P. Bushe Fox, an archaeologist from the Office of Works. These excavations, which took place over a number of years, focused on the ruins of the Roman Shore Fort and involved the excavation of a large part of the internal area of the fort. The remains of features excavated by Bushe Fox are preserved for display at the Richborough site. Another significant step forward in understanding the archaeology of the District came through the collation of the Roman evidence and discoveries for the town of Dover by Mortimer Wheeler in 1929 which paved the way for future research and discovery in the town. The Second World War saw an almost complete cessation of archaeological work though some carried on with the development of military sites for example at Manston Airfield to the north of the District on Thanet. In 1945 works concentrated on investigation of the bombed areas of Dover.

11.11 Following the Second World War there was limited funding available for archaeological work and much still depended on the efforts of enthusiastic amateurs, local groups and societies. Groups such as the Dover Archaeology Group (founded in 1971) and the CIB team led by Brian Philp (with a full-time team set up in 1971) were active in the District. By the 1970s the need for a more concerted approach to rescue the archaeology threatened by increasing development led to the formation of a



Figure 5 Dover Museum opened in 1836, the first in Kent

Figure 6 Excavations at Richborough. © Dover Museum (d80625)



number of units within East Kent with a core of full time professional staff such as the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (developed from the CIB team), the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (1975) and the Trust for Thanet Archaeology (developed from the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Unit which was founded in 1979). The Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit was formed in response to the major redevelopment works, particularly the construction of the York Street By-pass in Dover. There followed a huge amount of work through the 1970s by the unit and many volunteers in Dover which resulted in the discovery and excavation of many key sites and in particular the Roman forts of the *Classis Britannica*, the Saxon Shore Fort, the military bath house and the 'Painted House'. The Painted House was preserved and opened to the public in a purpose built museum by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit.

11.12 A number of major excavations took place in the Dover District during the 1970s and 1980s as local authorities began to

Figure 7 Archaeologists excavating Roman Painted House, Dover. © Dover Museum (d17040)



recognise their responsibility for archaeology. As well as the work by KARU at Dover, notable sites include the excavation of the Saxon cemetery during construction of the Eastry By-Pass in the 1980s and the excavation of an extensive Iron Age settlement and burial site at Mill Hill in Deal by the Dover Archaeological Group (between 1982 and 1989). Other investigations included the excavation of a Roman villa on the Sandwich By-pass (by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Dover Archaeological Group in 1978).

11.13 In 1989 Kent followed the example of other counties and appointed its first County Archaeologist to advise planning authorities in the county and maintain a Sites and Monuments Record. The publication of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 in November 1990 provided a much firmer basis for the conservation and investigation of archaeological sites affected by development. With increasing development pressure and such a richness of archaeology, the District saw a number of key excavations and

Figure 8 Celtic style figurine found in a shaft filled with Romano-British material at Mill Hill Deal. © Dover Museum (d20599)

discoveries. In 1992, work on an underpass on Town Wall Street in Dover led to the discovery of the Dover Bronze Age Boat, part of which was lifted and is the focus of a gallery at the nearby Dover Museum. Townwall Street again saw major excavations in 1996 when the remains of a medieval fishing settlement were excavated in advance of the construction of a petrol station. Archaeological works have also taken place in connection with the Whitfield Easry By-pass, the establishment of a business park and housing at Old Park Barracks, the excavation of a major Saxon cemetery at Buckland (1994) and a number of investigations within the centre of Sandwich.

11.14 A feature of archaeological work in the county over the past decade has been the development of an approach of strip, map and sample investigation where large areas of development have been stripped of their topsoil and archaeological investigation then targeted at sampling key areas. This approach has transformed the understanding of the archaeology of Kent and particularly in areas of North Kent, Thanet, Holmesdale and around Ashford where large scale development has taken place. Dover District, due to the character of its developments over the last ten years has seen less use of this approach. Instead the District has seen more targeted excavation on known remains within smaller scale development sites chiefly within urban and village confines. In the future the development of new areas of housing extending from the present settlements confines, combined with the adoption of strip, map and sample investigation techniques has the potential to transform our knowledge of the archaeology of Dover District.

11.15 An indication of the wealthy of archaeology that remains to be discovered across the rural parts of the District is evident from two particular sources. Aerial



photography has confirmed that there are extensive buried archaeological landscapes across the District that are especially visible on the chalk of the North Downs. Transcription of aerial photographs was undertaken by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments in England (RCHME) in the 1990s as a pilot study. This mapped a substantial number of features within Dover District. Recent re-evaluation of the aerial photographs in the area around Richborough has demonstrated that there is a considerable amount more within existing collections that has not yet been discovered. At Richborough the aerial photography has helped to illustrate the layout of the Roman town and complemented a geophysical survey at the site.

11.16 The other important source of information is the finds being made by metal detecting enthusiasts on the farmland of the District. In recent years the Portable Antiquities Scheme has encouraged the voluntary recording of such finds and this leads to a wider appreciation of the distribution of finds across the landscape as well as identifying particular sites. In excess of 4,000 finds have been recorded by the scheme in the District. The District's most

Figure 9 Bronze Age Gold Cup found at Ringlemere Farm in 1991. © British Museum

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# SANDWICH

The 'completest medieval town in England'

*A study of the town and port  
from its origins to 1600*



by

Helen Clarke, Sarah Pearson, Mavis Mate  
and Keith Parfitt

notable metal-detecting find is the Bronze Age gold cup discovered at Ringlemere Farm in 1991. The site was subsequently excavated and a large Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age monument found as well as a Saxon cemetery. Ringlemere is a good example of a nationally important site whose significance had not been hitherto recognised, despite being visible on earlier aerial photographs and it demonstrates the value of both further transcription programmes and liaison with detectorists. Of the finds from Kent recorded in the Portable Antiquities Scheme database more than a fifth (22%) comes from Dover District.

11.17 Another area of progress over the last two decades has been the development of projects to map or gather information on various heritage themes. Gazetteers of military sites have been compiled through projects such as the Defence of Britain and more locally the Defence of Kent. Since the closure of the coalfields, the Coalfield Heritage Initiative in Kent project has gathered the history and recollections of the

mining communities. Three of the District's towns (Deal, Sandwich and Wingham) were included in the Kent Historic Towns Survey carried out to improve advice on dealing with the urban archaeology of those towns. Dover is a notable exclusion from the survey as it was recognised that a more comprehensive assessment was, and is still, needed. Other surveys, led by local interest groups, include a study of the archaeology, buildings and documentary history of the medieval town of Sandwich and a survey of the historic landscapes of the Lydden Valley. A project examining the environs of Richborough was started with work undertaken on the area immediately around the fort but this has yet to expand through the Wantsum Channel area as was originally intended. Other recent projects include a rapid assessment of the District's coastal zone.

## Description of the Heritage Assets

11.18 For the purposes of this paper, the approach has been not to describe in detail the archaeological assets of the District which are a huge and in many cases unknown resource. Instead the following sections describe those assets which are afforded protection as Scheduled Monuments and then deals with the larger resource of undesignated archaeology through consideration of the different types that may be encountered.

### Scheduled Monuments

#### Size

11.19 There are 48 Scheduled Monuments in Dover District covering an area of approximately 222 hectares. They range in size from the extensive fortifications of the Western Heights (c.70 hectares), the Roman port at Richborough (c. 41 hectares) and medieval Dover Castle (c. 29 hectares) down to the medieval Fisher Gate and the Round

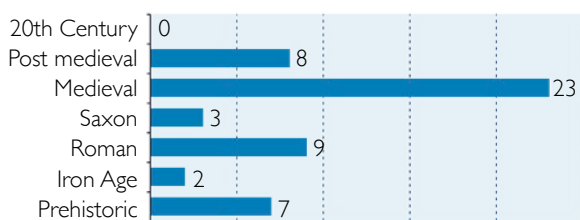
Figure 10 A comprehensive survey has shed new light on the medieval port town of Sandwich



House, Sandwich (21 m.2 and 47 m.2 respectively) and a crane on Wellington Dock (51 m.2).

*Periods covered*

11.20 Accepting that most of the Scheduled Monuments may include archaeological remains of a number of periods, the following table provides a quantification of the main periods covered by the named special interest of the Scheduled Monuments in the District.



11.21 As is clear from the table above medieval monuments with standing structural remains dominate the Schedule for Dover District. Of the 23 monuments the majority fall within either the medieval defences theme: eight monuments are parts of the Sandwich town walls and two are the castles at Coldred and Dover or the Church theme: four churches, three abbeys and the Maison Dieu in Dover. The remaining five include three manor sites, an earthwork in Shingleton Wood and the remains of the medieval port of Stonar.

11.22 The Roman period is represented by nine Scheduled Monuments. The port, fort and other features at Richborough are well covered by the extensive designated area

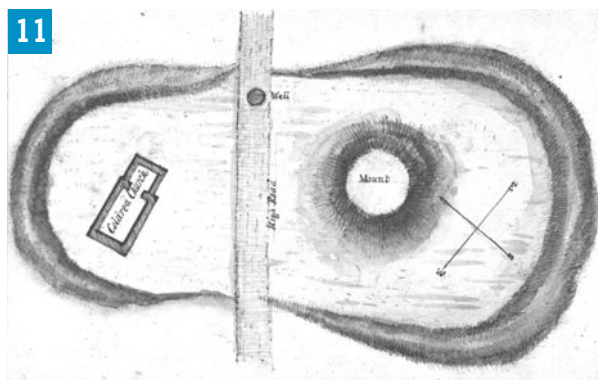


Figure 11 Plan of the remains of Coldred Castle. © Dover Museum (d06486)



though there are further remains extending out from the Scheduled area. The Roman remains at Dover have a number of discrete Scheduled Monuments rather than one large area designation. This is due to the management issues that would result from a broad area-based Monument and a lack of detailed understanding of the location, extent and condition of the principal features of the Roman town and port. The result is that the Roman archaeology in Dover includes separate designations for the Roman 'Painted House', the bath house, part of the fort of the *Classis Britannica* and a small part of the southern wall and a bastion of the Saxon Shore Fort. The *pharos* on the Western Heights is named in the Scheduling of that area though the *pharos* at Dover Castle is not (although it is mentioned in the more detailed description and is also designated separately as a Grade I Listed Building). Remains of the Saxon Shore Fort will also be protected as a result of the Scheduling of the remains of St Martin's le Grand Church. Areas of the *Classis Britannica* and the Saxon Shore Fort are known to survive in Dover but have not been Scheduled. The rural Roman resource is represented by three Scheduled sites: Wingham Villa, the temple at Worth and an enclosure noted as a cropmark considered and to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date. The latter two of these rural Roman sites account for the only named Scheduled Iron Age sites in the District though Iron Age remains are mentioned in a number of

Figure 12 Richborough Castle Fallen East Wall

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descriptions for example at Dover Castle.

11.23 The prehistoric period is covered by seven Scheduled Monuments, the majority being bowl barrows and ring ditches identified from cropmark sites although a Springfield style enclosure dated to the Bronze Age is included north of Langdon and another enclosure at Preston is also

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Figure 13 The Fairburn Crane in the Dover Western Docks is a Scheduled Monument  
 Figure 14 The Western Heights

designated.

11.24 The three Saxon Scheduled Monuments are all cemeteries, those at Sangrados Wood, Ash (Guilton) and Great Mongeham.

11.25 The post medieval Scheduled Monuments are entirely connected with castles and fortifications of the various coastal defences. Three are artillery forts built by Henry VIII at Deal, Walmer and Sandown. The extensive fortifications of the Western Heights, Fort Burgoyne and Archcliffe Fort, the late nineteenth century gun turret on Admiralty Pier and the Fairburn Crane of 1868 account for the remainder. The District contains no Scheduled Monuments solely of twentieth century date, although Scheduled sites with a long history of use (such as Dover Castle or the Western Heights) may incorporate twentieth century elements as part of the wider Scheduled site.

*Scheduled Monuments by Function*

11.26 The 48 Scheduled Monuments in the District have been categorized as far as possible into the following functional types: Funerary, Religious, Fortification & Defence, Residence, Port/harbour, Industrial,

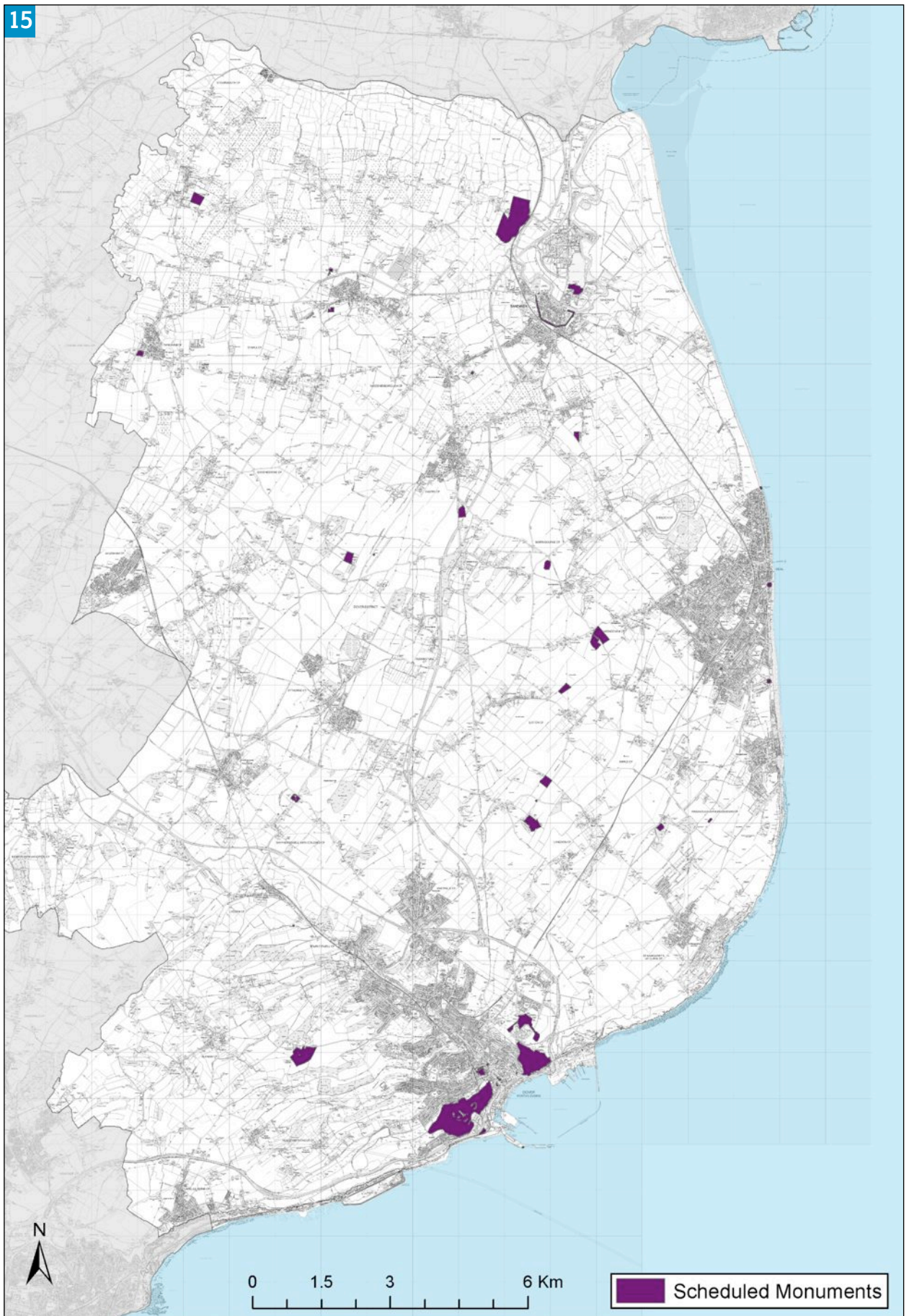
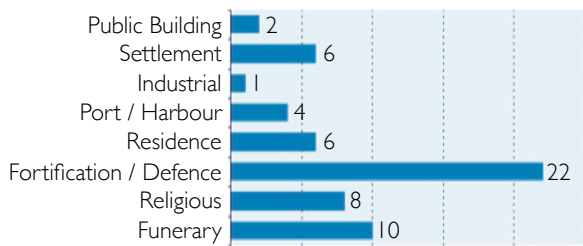


Figure 15 Distribution of Scheduled Monuments in Dover District

Settlement, and Public Building. Several of the monuments fit into a number of categories. The graph below summarises the number of monuments per category.



11.27 It is clear that the sites associated with fortification and defence are most prevalent amongst the District’s Scheduled Monuments. These include the three Roman forts, the medieval castles and the town walls of Sandwich, the Henrician artillery forts, the post medieval defences of Dover and the 1870s gun turret on Admiralty Pier. Funerary sites, mainly the prehistoric barrows and the Saxon cemeteries are next in quantity followed closely by the religious sites which in the main are the medieval churches and

abbeys and the Roman temples. The residences include the medieval manorial sites, the Wingham Villa and Walmer Castle, the historic residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. The settlements include prehistoric enclosures, the Iron Age settlement at Worth, the vicus at Richborough and the lost medieval town of Stonar. The four ports or harbour related sites include the ports of Richborough and Stonar, the pharos on the Western Heights and the Fairburn Crane at Wellington Dock. The public buildings are debatable being the Roman monuments of the ‘Painted House’ and the bath house.

*Distribution*

11.28 The Scheduled Monuments are spread across Dover District with 21 in rural

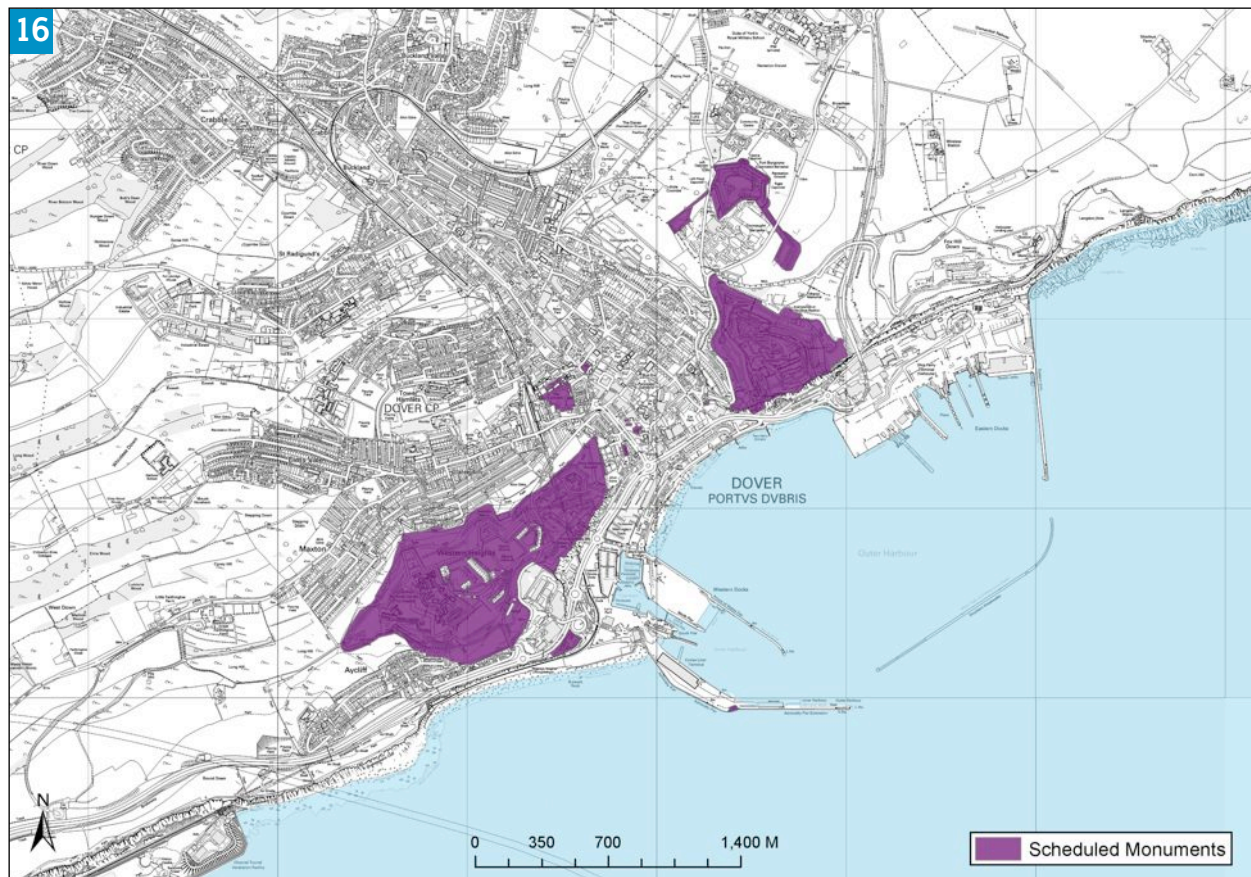
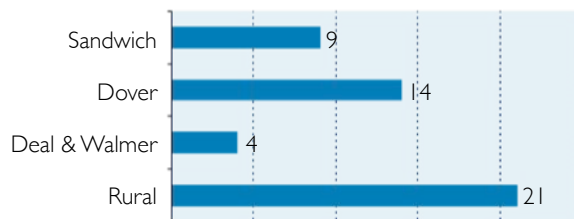
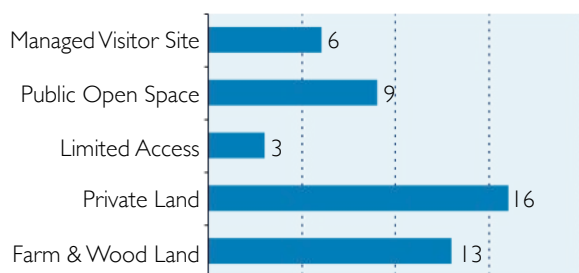


Figure 16 Scheduled Monuments in and around Dover

and village locations and 27 in the major towns of Deal/Walmer, Sandwich and Dover.

### Access

11.29 The Monuments have been quantified in terms of their accessibility and present land use.



11.30 The managed visitor sites are those of Walmer Castle, Deal Castle, Dover Castle, The Painted House, the Maison Dieu and Richborough. Four are managed by English Heritage.

11.31 The Monuments in public open space include parts of Sandwich town walls, Sandown Castle, St James Church and St Martin's le Grand Church in Dover, the buried bath house in Dover and parts of the fortifications of the Western Heights. A number of sites have limited access including the ringwork and bailey castle at Coldred which lies within the grounds of the present parish church and the gun turret on Admiralty Pier.

11.32 Private sites are in a number of uses. Some such as the manorial sites are private

residences. St Martins Priory is used as a school, Archcliffe Fort is in private use (but is accessible) and Fort Burgoyne lies within an area of future development. The medieval port of Stonar lies within an industrial estate, St Radigunds and Langdon Abbey lie within farmsteads and St Nicholas Church within the grounds of Oxney Manor. Other monuments lie buried within various properties in town and rural locations.

11.33 All of the prehistoric and Saxon sites are found within farmland as is a large part of Roman Richborough and the temple at Worth. An enclosure at Shingleton is in woodland.

### Heritage at Risk Register 2011

11.34 English Heritage maintains a register of those designated heritage assets that are most vulnerable and subject to decay. The *Heritage at Risk Register 2011* identified eight sites in Dover District of which seven include Scheduled Monuments.

11.35 The *Heritage at Risk Register* has highlighted a number of vulnerabilities on these seven Scheduled sites which probably apply to a lesser extent at other Scheduled Monuments in similar land use. Ploughing is having a significant effect on four of the sites and with a total of 15 monuments on agricultural land in the District the problem may be more widespread. The remaining vulnerabilities apply to the structural remains at the four sites. At St Radegunds Abbey,



Figure 17 Town Hall and Maison Dieu, Dover



Figure 18 Haxo Casemate at Fort Burgoyne. © Capita

Monument	Condition	Trend	Vulnerability	Occupancy
Western Heights	Poor	-	Lack of maintenance	Part Occupied - Government
Fort Burgoyne	Fair	-	Lack of maintenance – Invasive ivy growth	Vacant – Housing Association
St Radegunds Abbey (Listed Buildings)	Very bad	-	Heavily overgrown and ruinous fabric	Private
The Belvedere, Waldershare Park	Very bad	-	Derelict and in a ruinous state	Private
Great Mongeham Anglo Saxon cemetery	Extensive significant problems	Declining	Arable Ploughing	Private
St Radegunds Abbey (Scheduled Monument)	Extensive significant problems	Declining	Collapse	Private
Ring ditch & enclosure east of Parsonage Farm	Extensive significant problems	Declining	Arable Ploughing	Private
Four ring ditches on Sutton Hill	Extensive significant problems	Declining	Arable Ploughing	Private
Romano-Celtic temple & Iron Age site, Worth	Extensive significant problems	Declining	Arable Ploughing	Private

ruinous historic buildings are heavily overgrown and significant fabric is in danger of collapse. Historic buildings that are in use at the farm are in better condition as would be expected. The extensive fortifications at the Western Heights in Dover are in poor condition, with no established programme for maintenance or even funding for condition surveys to inform conservation management. Fort Burgoyne once part of the Connaught Barracks is now vacant and owned by the Homes and Communities Agency. The future of the site will lie with the redevelopment of the wider barracks site. Structures on the site are at risk from lack of maintenance and invasive vegetation growth.

### ***Non-designated Archaeological Remains***

#### *Kent Historic Environment Record & Archaeological Assets*

11.36 The Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by Kent County

Council is the principal inventory of archaeological assets in the county. The HER was developed from the old County Sites and Monuments Record. It needs to be recognised that the HER is not a complete inventory; it is an evolving record with many new assets recognised and added to it every day both by dedicated Historic Environment Record officers and by volunteers under their guidance. Thematic studies such as the Defence of Kent Survey or the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment or area based projects such as this present study have and will identify large numbers of new sites for inclusion and generally increase the records in detail within particular themes and for particular locations. On occasion the HER will import records from separate databases maintained by other organisations or schemes. For example the HER has seen the recent incorporation of the English Heritage Listed Building record which catalogues around 20,000 buildings in the county. The Portable Antiquities Scheme also maintains a database of thousands of

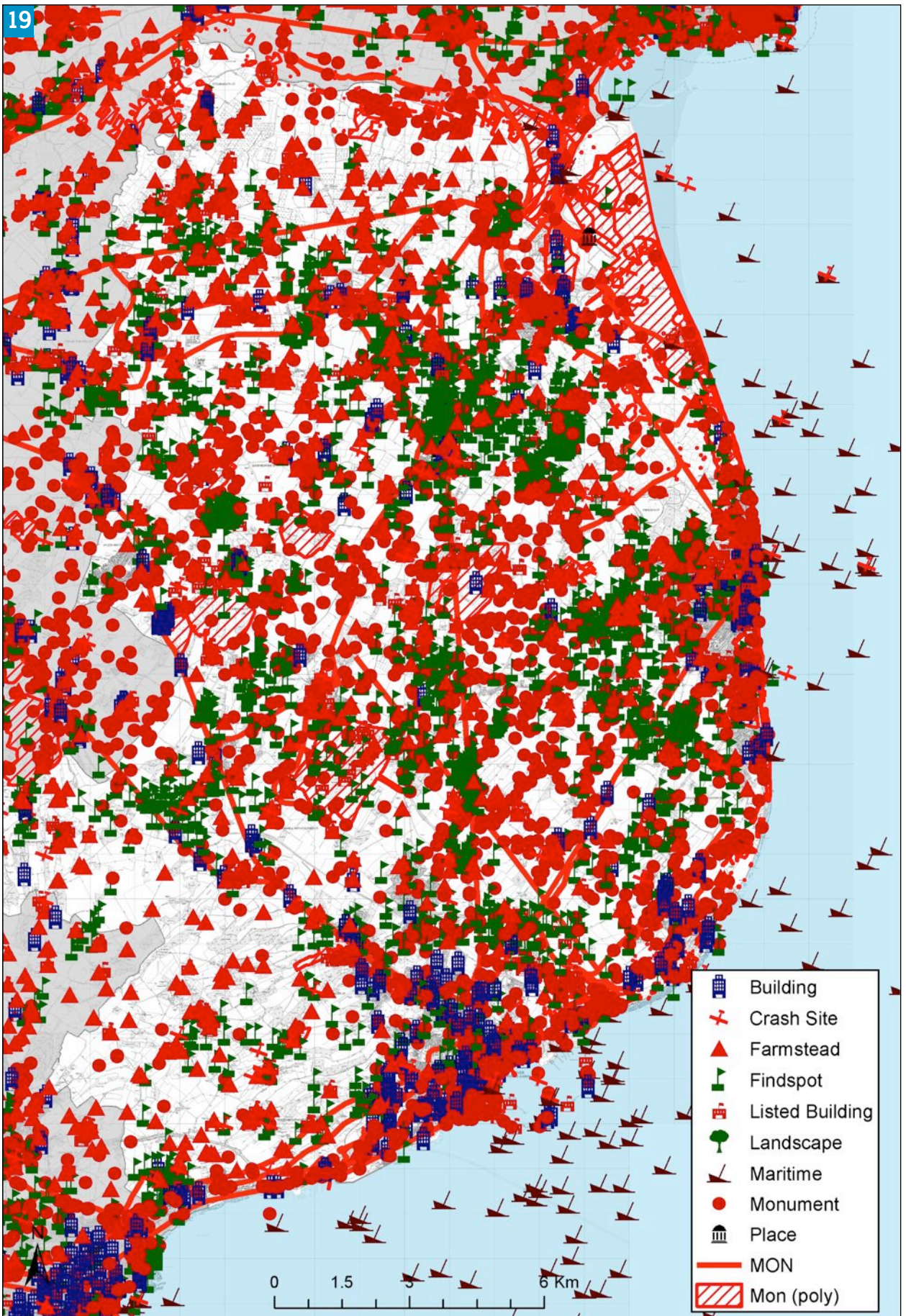


Figure 19 Distribution of archaeological sites, landscapes, places, findspots, maritime records, crash sites and historic buildings in Dover District as recorded In the Kent Historic Environment Record

detectorists finds which is regularly updated into the HER.

11.37 Within Dover District the HER (as at August 2011) included the records of:

- 5904 archaeological sites, monuments and finds
- 138 standing buildings that are not Listed Buildings
- 6 maritime features excluding the thousands of wrecks off the coast of Dover
- 1 crash site excluding those off the coast.

11.38 The Kent HER is linked to a geographical information system (GIS) which allows the mapping of the records against the counties topography, geology, modern and historic maps, aerial photographs and other geographical information. The HER is available in a shortened version online through the Exploring Kent's Past web pages:

[www.kent.gov.uk/exploringkentspast](http://www.kent.gov.uk/exploringkentspast)

#### *Character of the archaeological resource*

11.39 The character of the buried archaeological resource is complex but can be broadly divided between sites in rural locations and those in the towns and urban centres.

11.40 **Rural archaeology** – archaeology in rural areas tends to be found at shallow depth often just beneath or indeed within, the plough line on agricultural land. In some areas, particularly in valley bottoms, the archaeology may be found buried beneath and sometimes within deeper soil deposits that have been washed or eroded off the higher slopes and ridges. These deposits are known as colluvium.

11.41 The remains on rural sites often only



survive as infilled features that have been cut into the natural ground. Therefore a typical rural site could include for example the remains of infilled ditches, pits, posts, burials, foundations of buildings and sunken features such as hollow ways, sunken buildings, hearths, etc. Occasionally, particularly in areas of colluvium, pasture or woodland above ground structures and floors have escaped the erosion of the plough and survive to a better degree. In some cases sites will survive with complex stratigraphy, sometimes from a succession of uses.

11.42 Despite truncation by ploughing often enough survives on a site to provide a coherent understanding of the archaeology of the site and many such sites are designated as nationally important. An advantage that rural archaeology has over the deeply buried archaeology of the town and urban areas is that a fuller, more coherent and wider plan of archaeological sites and the buried archaeological landscape can often be recorded and understood. Modern approaches to archaeological investigation, such as the strip, map and sample methodology, are increasingly enabling this bigger picture to be recorded and sites which have hitherto been too ephemeral and less visible to be detected and investigated in the past are now being found and this is transforming our knowledge of the rural archaeology in Kent.

11.43 Many of the archaeological assets on

Figure 20 The infilled ditch of a Bronze Age Barrow and an Anglo-Saxon grave are revealed below garden soils at Eden Roc, the Droveaway, St Margaret's





agricultural land in the rural areas of the District can be traced as **cropmarks** which are visible on aerial photographs. As noted above, the Royal Commission for the Historic Monuments in England (RCHME) carried out a pilot transcription of cropmarks in Kent in the 1980s and identified many in the District. The plotting of these is available as a GIS layer within the Kent HER.

11.44 The conditions that influence whether archaeology can be seen as a cropmark are complex. As well as the form and size of the archaeological features themselves, the depth of covering soils, the underlying geology, the weather conditions during the growth of the crop and at the time of survey as well as the type of crop grown are all factors which can influence whether or not an archaeological site will be visible. Rarely if ever is all the archaeology of even a well displayed site visible on a single aerial photograph. As conditions change different elements of the archaeology of a site become more visible and aerial photography of a site



Figure 21

Figure 22 & 23

Plot of cropmarks on The Old Downs, Sutton

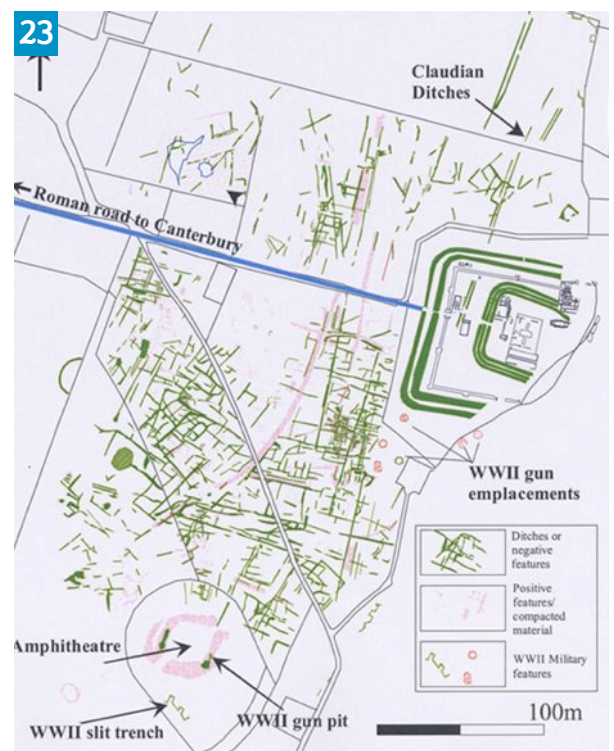
Cropmarks plotted at Richborough before (22) and after (23) English Heritage transcription. Figure 23 © English Heritage

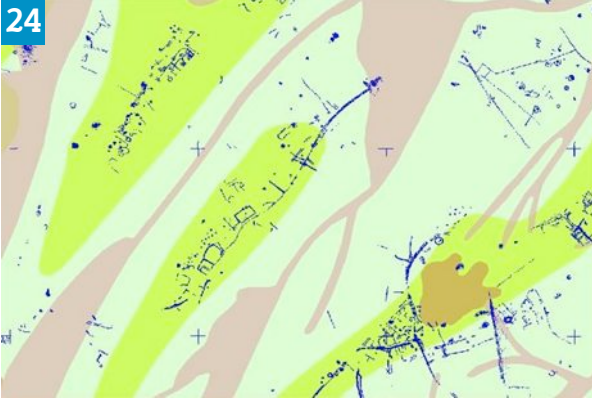
over a number of years can provide a more detailed composite plan of the site than from a single photograph.

11.45 A good illustration of the value of examining a large number of aerial photographs, taken over several years is from the Roman port of Richborough. The figure below shows a transcription of the area around the Roman fort from the RCHME and the second image a transcription by English Heritage following detailed analysis of aerial photographs in 2001.

11.46 As can be clearly seen in the figures below, the re-examination of the aerial photographs has provided a much more detailed picture of the archaeology lying beneath the agricultural land at Richborough. Combined with the results of geophysical survey at the site, which complemented the aerial photographic transcription and identified additional features, the work has transformed what we know about the layout of the Roman settlement around the fort.

11.47 The cropmarks identified by the RCHME in the District tend to be focused on the chalk areas of the North Downs which





provide better conditions for cropmarks than the geology elsewhere in the District. Even in these areas the influence of soil depth is immediately apparent as the cropmarks tend to be visible on the higher ridges of the downs and less so in the numerous dry valleys that run between where presumably deeper soils gathered through colluviation may mask archaeological sites.

11.48 The last two decades has seen an increase in **metal detecting** on agricultural land in Kent. As metal detectors become more sophisticated and sensitive, important finds are being made which if recorded can add to our understanding of the use of the landscape and help us to identify the location of hitherto unknown sites. To that end, the Portable Antiquities Scheme was developed and over the last decade it has encouraged and assisted metal detectorists to record their finds as part of a national database, which is then fed as appropriate into the Kent Historic Environment Record.

11.49 The majority of metal detectorists



Figure 24 Cropmarks (in blue) overlain onto geological mapping. The cropmarks can be clearly seen on the chalk ridges (green) separated by valleys and dry valleys where brown colluvial deposits are

Figure 25 A Saxon Kentish Disk brooch of late sixth or early seventh century date. © Portable Antiquities Scheme

Figure 26 A sixth century Saxon grave in Eastry. © Portable Antiquities Scheme

carry out their activities responsibly. They detect with the permission of the land owners and users, avoid detecting on protected sites and generally recover finds from disturbed ploughsoil rather than excavating through stratified archaeological deposits. Where significant discoveries are made the detectorists will often work with archaeologists to properly excavate and record their finds. Many detectorists belong to clubs which engage with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and some assist on archaeological excavations. Within the District a remarkable find and site was discovered by detecting at Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough in 2001. There a detectorist recovered a Bronze Age gold cup, a unique find in Kent and rare even at a European scale. The Ringlemere Cup was subsequently purchased by the British Museum where it is now on display. Following its discovery the site was excavated by the Dover Archaeological Group, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and the British Museum. These excavations identified a substantial Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age monument, one of a number seen on aerial photographs within the same field which had not been identified or recorded in the HER before the discovery of the Ringlemere Cup.

11.50 **Urban Archaeology** – archaeology within towns, in particular those with a long history of urban development, can be extremely complex and deep. Often new buildings are built on top of the remains of



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the older ones with buried demolition deposits, walls, floors and surfaces in many cases raising the contemporary ground level with each successive period of occupation. Earlier structures can sometimes be found incorporated into the newer buildings on a site or materials may be salvaged and reused. Up until the nineteenth century when organised rubbish disposal became more commonplace, people in urban areas generally threw rubbish from their windows or buried it within their gardens. As a consequence urban archaeology is characterised by material rich deposits. The foundations of the new buildings, drainage trenches and the pits cut to dispose of rubbish may all cut through earlier deposits leaving only a patchwork of surviving earlier remains. These sequences of the fragmentary remains of layers and structures, the excavations for and later filling of features such as pits and ditches are referred to by archaeologists as stratigraphy.

11.51 Stratigraphy is the principle foundation for a modern day archaeologist's basic understanding of the phasing and development of archaeological sites. Techniques have been developed which enable today's archaeologists to unravel the sequence of events on a site by recording

each event and its relationship to other events in detail. Historically issues of stratigraphy were poorly understood before the twentieth century and hence earlier excavations tended to focus on rural sites rather than those of the towns.

11.52 Urban archaeology has its own constraints. Sites are often split between several modern properties and can not be investigated and interpreted as a single entity. Even where they are able to be investigated in whole, they are often found surviving only as fragments which need a significant amount of post excavation analysis to pull together an understanding of the site. Deposits can often be very deeply buried and covered by later archaeology which has a significance that needs to be recorded before earlier structures or deposits can be reached. Urban sites are often restricted in area which can constrain excavation approaches and matters such as access, safety, management of spoil, location of services and adjoining buildings all have to be factored into the management of an urban archaeological investigation.

11.53 Within Dover District the three towns of Dover, Deal and Sandwich will contain rich stratified urban deposits and to a lesser extent the other settlements and villages could contain stratified deposits at their longest occupied central parts.

11.54 Archaeological excavation in Dover has proved that deep stratified deposits are present over much of the historic core of the town, with archaeological remains in the

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Figure 27 Excavations at Queen Street, Dover. © Dover Museum (d17054)

Figure 28 Townwall Street, Dover in 1996 - excavation of the fishermen's dwellings of the medieval Cinque Port. © Canterbury Archaeological Trust

former estuary area being up to eight metres in depth. On the settled land either side of the former ancient harbour up to three metres of stratified archaeology is known. Dover's urban archaeology is as complex and substantial as any other historic town or city in the country including London. Dover town has been the subject of extensive archaeological excavations, most notably those of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in the 1970s and 1980s where substantial areas of the Roman fortifications, town and harbour and the later Saxon settlement were investigated in advance of major redevelopment of the town. Other significant investigations include the excavation of medieval dwellings of the Cinque Port's fishermen at Townwall Street by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1996 and the discovery of the Dover Bronze Age Boat in the prehistoric silts of the Dour estuary during works to widen the A20 in 1992. As well as these highlights, the town has seen many other investigations, a number of which remain to be fully reported on. These provide the basis for developing a complex model of the archaeology of the town. Other than the reporting of the individual sites, there is much still to be done in drawing together the data into such a model that can then be used to manage the urban archaeological resource. In 1990 Dover District Council commissioned the Oxford Archaeological Unit to publish an archaeological implications report for the town. The report briefly summarised the archaeological resource and identified a number of archaeological zones within the town and outlined the priorities for future investigation and study of those zones. Further work has been done in the last decade to model part of the town centre in advance of the proposed redevelopment known as the Dover Town Investment Zone. While both studies have their specific value, there is an urgent need for the creation of an Urban Archaeological Database for Dover which would model the known and potential

archaeology of the town. Given the wider historic environment significance of Dover with its Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, a model that combines all elements of the historic environment would be of even greater value.

11.55 The archaeology of Sandwich is also known to include complex stratified remains though not on the scale or depth as those in Dover. The town, which developed its historic core from the eleventh century, therefore much later than Dover, is one of the best preserved medieval towns in the country. Many of the buildings in the town survive within their medieval plots meaning that the town has not seen widespread change. The stratification in the town is characterised by shallower sequences of fine grained archaeological layers up to a metre deep and lying virtually immediately under the present ground surface. Commonly archaeology is found less than 15 cm. from the present ground surface in Sandwich. Archaeological



Figure 29 Successive Medieval clay floors found in Market Street, Sandwich. © Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Figure 30 Excavation of the foundations of a new extension in Sandwich. © Canterbury Archaeological Trust

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work in Sandwich is generally carried out in conjunction with small scale development in the confined spaces of the individual medieval property plots. Given the vulnerability and complexity of the remains in the town, even small scale new works, such as extensions to properties, will warrant archaeological investigation of the significant deposits that are affected. A particular opportunity that the archaeology of the town provides is to link the buried remains with the extant historic buildings of the town.

11.56 Sandwich's archaeology benefits from two key publications. The town was one of those studied for the Kent Historic Towns Survey which provided an overview of the urban form and heritage assets of the town and provided Supplementary Planning Guidance to assist in the management of the urban archaeology. Sandwich has also been the subject of a comprehensive survey and analysis of its medieval origins, its archaeology, its historic buildings and documentary sources. This work has resulted in the publication of a detailed account of medieval Sandwich along with a shorter popular account of the history of the town. These studies have done much to further our understanding of the town and its development as well as to promote the archaeology and history of the place. The nature of the archaeological resource and priorities for archaeological work are set out in Chapter 17 of the book. A complete list of

the archaeological investigations that have taken place in the town is also included.

11.57 The historic core of Deal has yet to see significant archaeological investigation on the scale of Dover or even Sandwich. Like Sandwich those investigations that have taken place have tended to be of a small scale. The town was established in the sixteenth century on the shingle bank behind the defences of the Castles of The Downs (see Themes 2.2 and 3.4). The town then saw significant expansion as it served the anchorage of The Downs until the mid early nineteenth century and much of its historic core survives from this time and is afforded Conservation Area protection.

11.58 The later date and relatively unchanged layout of the town's historic core means that the stratification of archaeological deposits is likely to be more limited in Deal than in Sandwich or Dover. In places there may have been more considerable change, particularly in the areas of the former naval yards, and structural deposits are likely to survive on vacant plots in the core of the town. Like Sandwich, Deal has benefitted from its inclusion in the Kent Historic Towns Survey, but the town has seen less systematic study than either Dover or Sandwich and this has limited our detailed understanding of the town's archaeology.

11.59 **Archaeology of Buildings** – archaeology does not just relate to buried

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Figure 31 Remains of a bread oven found during the demolition of a former bakery in Oak Street, Deal  
Figure 32 Complex construction seen in a wall in Sandwich

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deposits and structures but also is concerned with the existing fabric of buildings, their features and fittings which provide important information on how they were built, their date, form and use. Although the District's built heritage is the subject of a separate theme paper within this heritage strategy (see Theme 12), there is a considerable overlap between the two. Much can be gained from the appropriate recording and investigation of the fabric of historic buildings as the study of Sandwich has demonstrated so well.

**11.60 Landscape Archaeology** – landscape archaeology is concerned with understanding the historic development and use of the landscape. The archaeology and built heritage contributes to an understanding of the landscape as does the surviving grain of the landscape, its topography, land use, sediments and environmental deposits. The District includes a number of particularly important historic landscapes. The medieval innings of the former Wantsum Sea Channel and the Lydden Valley are of regional importance (see Theme 1). Several historic parklands and estates are amongst the assets of the District (see Theme 7.1). More recent landscapes, for example those of the East Kent Coalfield, the industrial sites of the Dour valley or the coastal military defences are an important element of the District's heritage.

**11.61** As well as the specific landscapes mentioned above, the District contains

numerous features that contribute to its distinctive rural character and an understanding of how the landscape developed. The field boundaries, enclosures, pattern of settlement and farmsteads, lanes and roads all survive. The extensive crop mark complexes visible on aerial photographs illustrate the presence of widespread buried archaeological landscapes that can be understood from analysis of the photography, historic maps and from archaeological excavation. In some instances, particularly within woodland or areas of pasture the archaeological remains may survive as earthworks. The Scheduled Monument at Shingleton Wood is a nationally important example in Dover District.

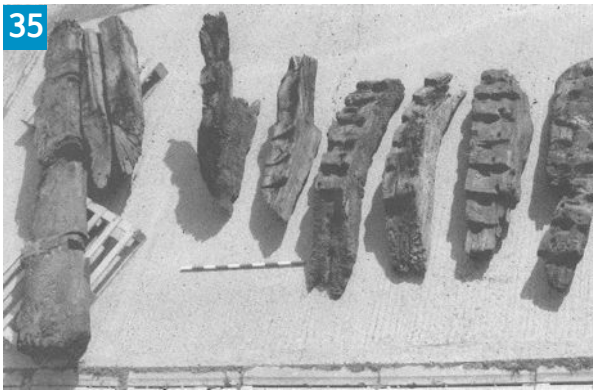
**11.62 Wrecks and Aircraft Crash Sites** – the Strait of Dover was, and is, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The Channel has seen the arrival of invasion and raiding vessels and has been the scene of many naval conflicts. In times of peace it has acted as an important trade route, both for vessels visiting the District's ports, as well as those passing by en-route to other destinations across the world. In the past it included the important naval anchorage of The Downs. The busyness of the Channel along with the presence of the hazardous Goodwin Sands has resulted in an immense number of wrecks off the coast of Dover. The Kent Historic Environment Record details around 1,500 known wrecks within 15 kilometres of the Dover coast. These are

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Figure 33 The Monks Wall

Figure 34 An unidentified wreck on the Goodwin Sands. © Dover Museum (d33277)



covered in more detail in Theme 5.3 of the Strategy. They range from the site of a Bronze Age wreck at Langdon Bay represented solely by 350 bronze objects considered to be part of the vessel's cargo to the many vessels lost in the conflicts of the twentieth century. As well as the recorded wrecks there are likely to be the remains of many more presently unknown examples resulting from the navigation of the strait and the crossing of the Channel from prehistoric times to the present day.

11.63 Wrecks may also be found in-land, in areas that have since been reclaimed from the sea. The Wantsum Channel, for example, was an important navigable sea route until medieval times and is likely to have ancient wrecks amongst its buried archaeological assets. Other areas such as the Lydden Valley and the mouth of the Dour may also have buried wreck sites. Indeed nineteenth century workmen refer to the discovery of an apparent Roman wreck during gravel extraction at Stonar in the mouth of the Stour though this has not been verified.

11.64 The District's archaeological remains will also include many vessels which have been abandoned and left to the elements as 'hulks'. The earliest known vessel of this type and one of the District's most notable heritage assets is the Dover Bronze Age boat, found in the silts of the Dour estuary during construction works in 1996. While half of the boat was excavated and lifted to form the centrepiece of a gallery at Dover Museum, a

substantial part of the boat remains buried beneath Dover. The likelihood of similar boats surviving elsewhere in the Dour, Wantsum and Lydden Valley alluvium is strong. Later hulks are also likely to survive in these alluvial deposits. Accounts of the two landings by Julius Caesar refer to the wrecking, salvage and repair works to his fleet. The anchorages around the Roman port of Richborough and that at Dover, the medieval ports of Sandwich and Stonar are likely to be the focus of abandoned vessels. In Sandwich the rare remains of a late fourteenth century merchant vessel were found during sewer works in 1973. The 'Sandwich Boat', as it has come to be known, appears to have been laid up in a small creek to the east of the town walls and is an important example of a vessel of the period. Perhaps the latest abandoned hulk in the district of any heritage significance can be found in Stonar Cut. Here a German 'Raumboot', a fast mine sweeping vessel dating to the Second World War was abandoned in the 1980s and can be seen mostly submerged in mud at low water

11.65 There are 47 known aircraft crash sites in the coastal waters of the District. Dating to the Second World War, many were lost during the Battle of Britain and include both Allied and German losses. One aircraft, a Dornier 17 shot down by fighters of No. 264 Squadron in August 1940, has recently been discovered in extremely good condition on the Goodwin Sands and is due to be raised for display in the RAF Museum at Cosford in spring 2012

11.66 **Palaeolithic archaeology** – the Palaeolithic is the earliest period of human history and covers an immensely long period. In Britain it generally dates from the first colonisation by early hominids around 800,000 years ago to the end of the last ice age around 10,000 years ago. The peoples of this period were generally transient hunter-gatherers who moved around the

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countryside searching for and taking advantage of the natural resources available. These Palaeolithic peoples generally left little trace of their presence other than the stone tools they made and used.

**11.67** The Palaeolithic in Britain coincides with the later half of the geological period known as the Pleistocene. The Pleistocene was a time of great climatic changes oscillating between severe cold periods known as glacials and warm periods known as interglacials. In Britain, the coldest periods saw much of the land became uninhabitable while the interglacials were at times warmer than what we experience today. The Pleistocene also saw great changes in the landscape. During the coldest times great glaciers would carve out new valleys, pushing sediments in front of them and caused sea levels to drop. As the climate warmed the ice melted, dropping its carried sediments and causing sea levels to rise, sometimes submerging valleys.

**11.68** Evidence for Palaeolithic peoples is therefore most often found in the sediments

that have been deposited in the Pleistocene. While in some places these are found close to the surface, more commonly they are found buried at varying depths within the Pleistocene geological deposits. Given the highly mobile nature of the landscape of the period, the artefacts from the period are often found to have been transported a considerable distance in the sediments.

**11.69** In Dover District Palaeolithic artefacts have been found mainly dating from the Lower Palaeolithic, the period to about 250,000 years ago. No evidence dating to the later periods of the Palaeolithic have yet been identified. Many of the artefacts have been found buried in the Head Brickearth deposits of the northern part of the District, sediments that have been laid down through mainly aeolian processes (windblown). Other artefacts have been found associated with the residual capping deposit known as clay-with-flints and are mostly surface finds, though some shallow incorporation into the geology has been noted at Whitfield. The District seems to lack artefacts from the alluvium of the river valleys, a common characteristic of other areas of Kent. This may be a product of a lack of quarrying and discovery rather than a true reflection and the major submerged tributary valleys of the Wantsum and Lydden may offer particular potential for Palaeolithic remains.

**11.70** **Geoarchaeology & palaeo-environmental remains** – archaeology is not solely concerned with the residues of human activities. It is also important to understand the landscapes and environmental conditions that formed the template and context for that human activity. Studies of the geological and sedimentary sequences (geoarchaeology) can provide important information to help archaeologists understand the way in which the landscape has evolved at different times and how it has influenced and been used by humans.



11.71 Theme 1 of the Heritage Strategy explains the significance of coastal landscapes and processes and their contribution to the District's character. The sediments in the former Wantsum Sea Channel, the Lydden Valley and the Dour Valley were highlighted. As well as the alluvial deposits associated with these river valleys and sea channels important sediments may survive in the inland landscapes of Dover District, for example sequences of colluvium and aeolian deposits which may seal early archaeological remains.

11.72 As well as information about the natural and human processes that have helped to shape the landscape, the sediments of the District have a potential to contain a wealth of information about the environmental history of the area, enabling reconstruction of the vegetation, land use and climate through time. In particular the waterlogged conditions of the former marshlands in the north of the district and the valley of the Dour have a particularly high potential for well preserved environmental remains. The lower reaches of the Dour are considered to have the potential to contain one of the most important sedimentary contexts for understanding landscape development and human activity in the south east region.

#### *Archaeological capacity*

11.73 Government policy, since the publication in 1990 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) concerning archaeology has been to give material consideration to safeguarding archaeological remains in planning decisions. Since 1989 the District Council has received planning advice on archaeology from the County Archaeologist and a database of archaeological sites, monuments and finds is maintained in the County Historic Environment Record, a summary form of which can be accessed online through the

Exploring Kent's Past website:

[www.kent.gov.uk/exploringkentspast](http://www.kent.gov.uk/exploringkentspast)

11.74 While the policy at national, regional and local level has been to seek the preservation of important archaeological remains *in situ*, especially nationally important remains, there are many cases where archaeological remains of lesser significance have been investigated and recorded in advance of development and where previously unrecorded, but nationally important, remains have been discovered during archaeological works.

11.75 The archaeological work that has been undertaken in the District has resulted in a substantial archaeological archive. This archive includes not only the recovered artefacts, but also all the paper, written, photographic and digital records, which need to be organised, stored and managed for the future generations to use, exhibit and study. Much of the archaeological archive from the District is deposited with Dover Museum although important collections of material from early excavations are housed in museums outside the District and English Heritage have an important collection of the assemblages from Richborough housed in their own archive at Dover Castle.

11.76 With the increasing amount of archaeological work that has taken place over the last four decades in the District, the capacity of the present archives to receive and curate new material has reduced considerably. The space for storage and the costs associated with the perpetual maintenance of the archive, some of which requires specialist conditions has become, in common with museums and archives across the county, an increasing pressure on Dover Museum. Recognising the need for improved capacity in the county for the storage of and making access to archaeological archives a long term solution to the appropriate and

accessible storage of archaeological archives is being sought through the creation of an archaeological resource centre.

**11.77** Archaeological work in Dover District is presently carried out by a number of archaeological contractors and in some cases by local groups and individuals. The District has two professional archaeological units based within it: the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit which carried out the majority of the work in Dover town centre in the 1970s is based in and manages the Roman Painted House in Dover; the Canterbury Archaeological Trust also have an office in Dover and have been involved in many of the major excavations in the District in the last twenty years. Other units such as Oxford Archaeology, the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, Archaeology South East and SWAT Archaeology have also carried out a significant level of fieldwork in the District.

**11.78** The District is fortunate in the presence of the Dover Archaeological Group (DAG), a well established, active and highly respected volunteer archaeological group. DAG have in the past carried out investigations on many important archaeological sites in the District such as those at Mill Hill, Deal, and the villas at Sholden and Sandwich. The group has also provided assistance to professional archaeologists on many sites including at Ringlemere where the Bronze Age gold cup was found. The group are often involved in monitoring small scale development works across the District and in particular those sites where household extensions might affect archaeological sites.

**11.79** The capacity for public involvement in archaeology within the District remains high. The 1970's saw an enormous communal effort and public interest in the archaeological rescue excavations in the centre of Dover. As well as the work of Dover Archaeological Group, involvement of volunteers and

societies with professional archaeologist on survey projects such as the Sandwich Project and the Lydden Valley project illustrate the value of such an approach.

## Statement of Significance

**11.80** The archaeological assets in Dover District, which include 48 Scheduled Monuments cover the entire period of human habitation from traces of the hunter gatherers of the Palaeolithic through to the remains of the twentieth century. The proximity of the European mainland has seen the District as the gateway between Britain and the continent since ancient times. The archaeological record reflects this gateway role providing evidence of the movement of peoples, new cultures and ideas and trade; it demonstrates the frontline role the District played in first invasion and later defence of the nation; it illustrates the key role that the District and the Dover Strait played in the maritime history of the nation; and it shows how the distinctive landscape and character of the District has developed through time.

**11.81** The archaeological assets of Dover District are of **outstanding significance**.

## Evidential Value

**11.82** The evidential value of the Districts archaeological record is outstanding. The understanding of many of the themes covered by the Heritage Strategy can be considerably enhanced through study of the archaeological resources of the District. Studies of the soils and earthworks of the Wantsum, Lydden



Figure 37 The Dover Bronze Age Boat under excavation. © Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust (d02660)



Valley and Dour can help us to understand how the coastal landscapes have formed and influenced the District's settlement patterns and maritime activities. Important information on the development and character of the nationally important ports of Richborough, Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Stonar can be derived from a study of the buried archaeology, historical documentation and where present their historic built fabric. The story of the District's key role in the early invasion of the nation and later its fortification and defence can be informed through the archaeological record, study of historic documents and the analysis of the associated monuments and structures.

11.83 The archaeology of Dover District can provide considerable evidence for the District's gateway role and the arrival of new peoples and ideas from and as a point of embarkation to the continent. Important evidence of Britain's maritime links, trade and history and the use of the Dover Strait are contained in the numerous wrecks lying off the coast, in its ports and coastal features and within the archaeological resources of the inland areas of the District.

11.84 The cropmark evidence of the District illustrates the enormous potential to understand the ancient landscapes of the rural areas of Dover District, the development of the settlement patterns, communication networks and the rural landscape and farming. The industrial

archaeology of the District can provide important evidence on the struggle to develop a viable coal field in East Kent, the industrial development of the Dour and the exploitation of the natural resources of the District. The District has considerable potential to provide important evidence for the arrival of Christianity, the establishment of the church in England and its influence on the Saxon and medieval peoples and the rural and coastal landscape.

11.85 With the key role that the District has played in many nationally significant historical events, there is considerable potential for the archaeological record to both verify and contribute to a more detailed understanding of those events. In particular the arrival and departure of the Romans would benefit from more detailed analysis and investigation of the District's archaeology.

### *Historical Illustrative Value*

11.86 The early archaeology of the District illustrates the formation of Britain as an island as sea levels rose to submerge the ancient landscape and create the Dover Strait. The subsequent development of England as a maritime nation, the role of the district as a point of arrival and embarkation from and to mainland Europe, and as a frontier to invasion can all be illustrated through the archaeology of Dover District.

11.87 The District's association with Roman Britain is outstanding, having played a key role in the arrival of the Romans, the development of a gateway to the new Roman province through the two great ports of entry at Richborough and Dover and in the eventual abandonment and collapse of Roman administration. The archaeological remains at both Richborough and Dover have considerable potential to illustrate the story of Roman Britain.

11.88 Likewise the District has played a key

role in the arrival of Christianity and the development of the church in England after the arrival and settlement of the Anglo-Saxons. The archaeology of the district can be used to illustrate these historically important transformations of the country. The archaeological assets of the district can play an important role in illustrating the development of coastal fortifications and defences, from the Roman forts of the *Classis Britannica* and the Saxon Shore, through the post medieval defences in Deal and Dover to those of the First and Second World Wars.

### **Historical Associative Value**

11.89 The archaeology of the District can be associated with a number of the most significant events in British history. The separation of Britain from the continent around 8,000 years ago can be seen in the coastal landscapes of the District. The District is associated with a number of the key events and figures in the story of Roman Britain: the landing of Julius Caesar with his armies at Deal in 55 and 54 BC; the arrival of Claudius' invasion forces at Richborough in AD 43 led by Aulus Plautius and the future emperor Vespasian; the construction of the great arch at Richborough by Domitian to celebrate the final conquest of Britain and the role of Richborough and East Kent in general at the abandonment of the province by the Roman administration and military in AD 407. The Anglo Saxon period saw the arrival of new settlers and in AD 597 the arrival of St Augustine and his mission through Ebbsfleet and Richborough as Pope Gregory I sought to re-establish the church in England.

11.90 The medieval, post medieval and twentieth century defences in the District have strong historical associations with many of the conflicts and threats that have afflicted the nation over the last millennium. Duke William and his Norman army occupied Dover in 1066. Between 1216 and 1217 Dover Castle was the scene of one of the

greatest medieval sieges in Britain during the civil war between King John and his barons. Both Sandwich and Dover saw a number of raids through the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and played an important role in disembarkation of forces to France for the Hundred Years War. The Henrician fortifications at Deal reflect the emerging threat to Tudor England by the Catholic European powers and the construction of the eighteenth and nineteenth century fortifications at Dover's Western Heights again reflect the threat of invasion by France including under Napoleon I. The District played an important role in the Great War including the supply of the Western Front and again in the Second World War as a front line of defence for the country and a role in many of the engagements in the Channel and the recovery of the British and French forces from Dunkirk.

### **Aesthetic Value**

11.91 While much of the buried archaeology of the District has limited aesthetic value there are remains of considerable aesthetic merit. The Painted House at Dover with its Bacchic murals is one of the finest examples of Roman art in the country. Many of the artefacts recovered during excavations have reflected the artisan values and craftsmanship of their makers, for example the Bronze Age gold cup discovered at Ringlemere Farm and the many Anglo



Figure 39 The Roman Painted House in Dover. © Dover Museum (d08396)

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Saxon brooches recovered from the cemeteries found throughout the District.

11.92 The archaeology of the District contributes much to the aesthetic value of the themes described elsewhere in this Strategy. For example the earthwork remains of the sea walls of the Lydden Valley and the former Wantsum Channel contribute to the aesthetic value of these important historic landscapes. The fabric of the District's built heritage contributes much to its aesthetic value for example the imposing flint walls of the Shore Fort at Richborough or the

medieval streets of nearby Sandwich. The partially visible wrecks of the Goodwin Sands, ruined churches such as Oxney and the remains of the East Kent collieries are a few of the evocative reminders of the District's rich history.

### *Communal Value*

11.93 The association of the District's archaeology with some of the most significant events and peoples of British history provides a tremendous potential to tell stories that connect with the public at large and add significantly to visitor interest. Many of the major archaeological discoveries in the District have inspired considerable interest both at local and national scale and have helped to promote the District's rich history. In particular the Dover Bronze Age Boat and the Roman 'Painted House' have both become visitor attractions in their own right.

11.94 The archaeology in the District has considerable potential to engage the community with their past and increase their appreciation of their heritage and sense of

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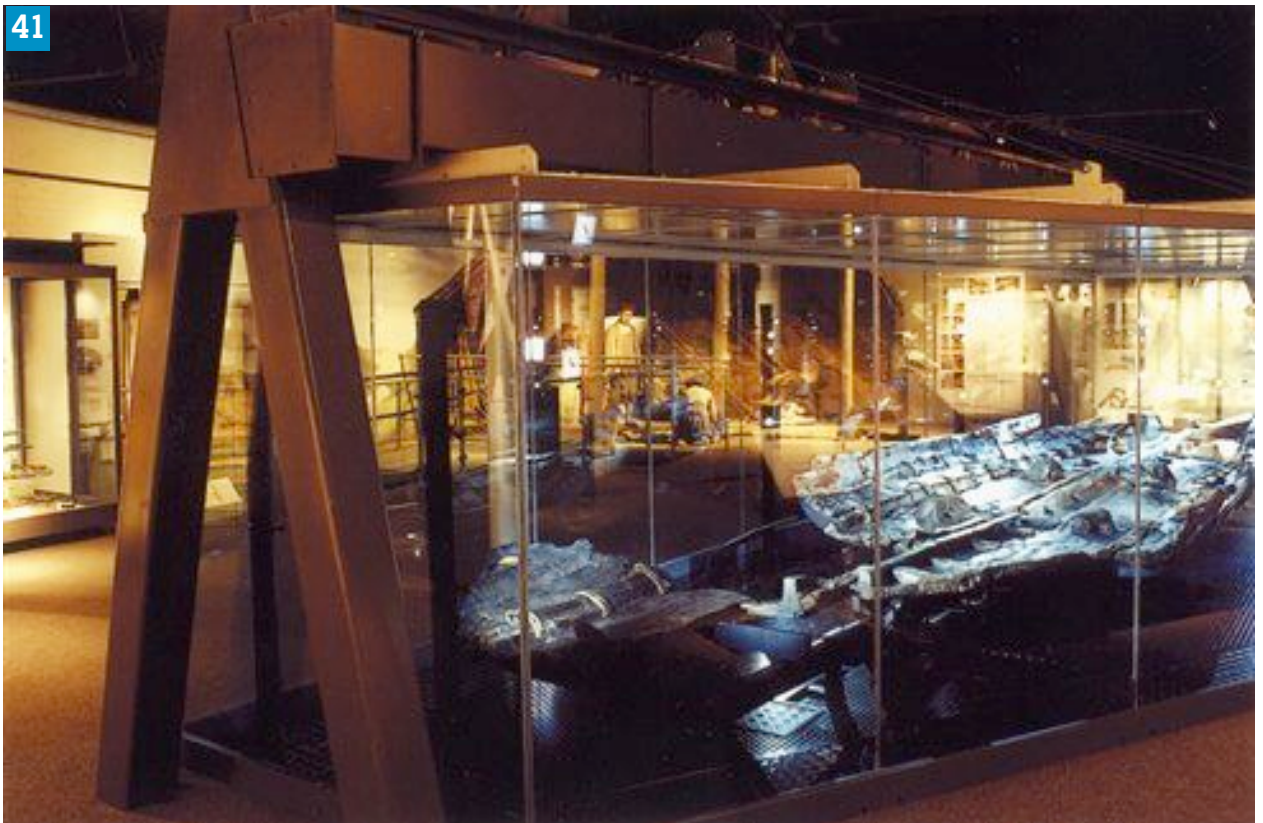


Figure 40 Ornate architectural styles in the fabric of the buildings in Sandwich  
Figure 41 The Bronze Age Boat Gallery in Dover Museum. © Dover Museum

place. Survey projects such as those at Lydden and Sandwich have shown the value of community involvement in discovering their past and the archaeology of the District has plenty more to offer. There are considerable opportunities for the archaeology of Dover District to connect more with education and learning with many aspects directly relevant to the national curriculum.

## Vulnerabilities

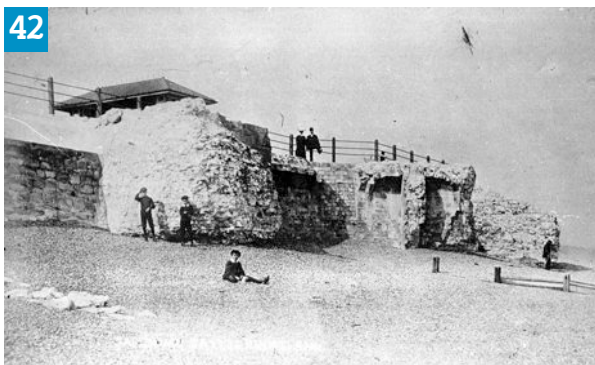
**11.95** The archaeology of Dover District is a fragile, finite and non-renewable resource that is highly vulnerable to change.

**11.96** Natural processes such as coastal erosion, sea level change and flooding may have a significant impact on archaeological assets within the coastal areas. The retreating chalk cliffs of the southern area of the District may see important archaeological sites, and in particular the remains of twentieth century cliff top defences vulnerable to collapse into the sea. The castles at Deal and Sandown and the archaeology of the Lydden Valley and Wantsum Channel are particularly vulnerable to rising sea level change. Alteration in the hydrology of sites whether through natural changes in the water table or through human agency may have a significant effect on the preservation of important buried organic remains.

**11.97** Aerial photography has demonstrated the presence of extensive archaeological remains buried throughout the

rural landscape of the District and in particular on chalk downland. These remains, many of which will be found buried at shallow depth, are particularly vulnerable to ploughing. Changes in farming regimes, intensification of agriculture and the introduction of new methods of cultivation and machinery could also impact archaeology. Plantations of new woodland and landscaping of sites may have an impact on shallow buried archaeology through tree root disturbance.

**11.98** The District's archaeology, particularly that in the towns and villages is generally vulnerable to development. Analysis of the proposed sites for allocation illustrate that the vast majority have some level of archaeological sensitivity. The archaeological remains in Dover are only partially protected through designation, but the vast majority of the town's archaeological remains are offered no protection. The archaeology of the town is complex, in places deeply buried and variable in its level of preservation. Management of this important resource is inhibited by the lack of a coherent model of the town's archaeology. The development of an Urban



**Figure 42** Photograph showing Sandown Castle, now largely lost to the sea. © Dover Museum (d20880)



**Figure 43** Evaluation trenching in Dover town centre

Archaeological Database, as in other historic towns with such complexity, would assist decision makers and developers in understanding the potential impacts of development proposals.

11.99 Even small scale development such as house extensions can have an impact on buried archaeology. Historic towns such as Sandwich are particularly vulnerable to small scale development which may have a relatively significant impact on the preserved deposits within the town's small garden's, yards and open areas. The extension of the District's settlements into adjacent farmland is likely to have a significant impact on archaeology. Settlements which are proposed for significant growth such as Whitfield, Deal and Aylesham are all surrounded by farmland rich in archaeology.

11.100 The District's archaeology is vulnerable to the development of new infrastructure such as road construction, water and gas pipelines, electricity generation and cabling and the erection of flood defences. While the more significant impact of these will be from development of infrastructure in rural areas where archaeology is likely to be shallowly buried and vulnerable to plant operations as well as trenching, excavations in the streets of the historic towns and villages could also have a significant effect. Although in recent years a number of the utilities providers have developed good systems of consultation on their proposed works, others have still to develop a robust system.

11.101 Although mineral extraction is not a major activity at present in the District compared to other areas of Kent, where it does occur in the future there is likely to be a significant effect on archaeology. A number of the District's significant archaeological discoveries have been made during quarrying in the past.

11.102 The alteration of historic buildings and structures and changes in use can affect the archaeology of a building as the evidential value of fixtures, fittings, use of space and fabric is removed or concealed. The archaeological recording of historic buildings and structures before alteration is sporadic and much information about the history, development and use of the building can be potentially lost.

11.103 Planning policy and guidance emphasises the need for consideration of the effects of development on archaeology at an early stage so that appropriate measures can be taken in the design of proposals to safeguard or realise benefit from the assets. In practice there is a need for improved systems to ensure that archaeological potential is recognised and understood by developers and planners by the time an application is made. The validation of planning applications can require that a Heritage Statement be included with the planning application. In many cases, where the potential for archaeology on a site is not apparent to a developer, statements are not being produced. Where Heritage Statements are being produced they vary greatly in quality, often producing information that is not relevant to the case and overlooking that which is. There is a clear need for better identification of areas of archaeological potential and making this readily accessible to developers and others. Guidance on the content and quality of Heritage Statements



Figure 44 Regeneration proposals in Dover town centre will need to take account of the town's rich archaeological resource

and clearer direction to where developers can obtain advice, support and information is needed.

**11.104** With decreasing space for and increasing costs of storage of archaeological archives the capacity to secure a long term future for the curation of District's archaeological finds and records is limited and is an urgent issue which needs to be tackled.

**11.105** Archaeological remains are vulnerable to criminal activity such as illicit metal detecting and removal of remains from wrecks. The archaeology of the District is particularly sensitive to these activities given its wealth in Anglo Saxon burial grounds with rich grave goods and the large number of wreck sites off the coast of Deal. Earthwork remains are also vulnerable to erosion from activities such as dirt biking.

**11.106** Archaeological investigation in Dover District, particularly that undertaken in connection with development, is being undertaken by a widening range of archaeological bodies and individuals, some of whom have limited familiarity with the archaeology of the District. There is a risk that with an increasingly fragmented record an overall picture of the archaeology will become more difficult to maintain inhibiting understanding, interpretation and robust decision making. The need to maintain sufficient levels of local knowledge, to encourage local engagement, to prompt reporting, publication and dissemination of the results of archaeological work and to promote common practices and standards of archaeological work will become increasingly important.

**11.107** The contribution that local archaeological societies and groups such as the Dover Archaeological Group have made to the District's archaeology is considerable. It is important that these groups continue to

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be properly engaged with by archaeologists working in the District and that they are encouraged and supported to ensure that they grow and remain active.

## Opportunities

**11.108** The archaeology of the District has considerable potential to bring to life many nationally important stories that connect with the public and bring attention to and promote the rich heritage value of the District. Many major archaeological discoveries in the District have been generated national and even international interest, for example the discoveries of the Ringlemere Cup and the Dover Bronze Age Boat. In some cases archaeological discovery can contribute to visitor numbers in their own right. The Roman 'Painted House' is today preserved as an important attraction in the town of Dover that is visited by both tourists and schools. The Bronze Age Dover Boat provides a central exhibit in its own gallery at Dover Museum and a focus for promotion of the museum. Where important discoveries are made in the District opportunities should be taken to publicise these and where possible provide the public opportunity to see archaeological investigations that take place in their communities. The redevelopment of Dover Town Centre, where important archaeological remains are likely to be discovered, is a particular opportunity where archaeology can be presented to the public

Figure 45 The Painted House Museum in Dover





during investigation works.

11.109 Many of the District's communities have tremendous pride in their past. Archaeology has the potential to offer these communities an opportunity to engage with that past and increase their understanding of their area's history. Existing survey projects in the District, such as those of the Lydden Valley and of Sandwich, have demonstrated the value of community involvement in discovering their past. Increased engagement with the past can provide communities with better appreciation and understanding and improve their sense of place and local pride. There are many areas of the District where such surveys can be carried out, on individual land holdings, at parish and town level or in landscapes such as the Wantsum or coalfields.

11.110 There is considerable opportunity to put in place programmes of mapping and survey that would enhance our understanding of the district's archaeological assets and improve their management. A particular priority is a programme of mapping the cropmarks visible on aerial photography which would help to identify, illustrate and better understand the archaeology that is buried beneath the district's rural landscape. In the past such mapping has been mainly

only possible with specialist expertise. Today with access to digital aerial photography and GIS software there is considerable potential for the community to deliver at least in part such mapping.

11.111 The development of an Urban Archaeological Database to model the archaeology of the port and town of Dover would help greatly in the management of the rich archaeological resource in the town. Enhancing that model with the inclusion of the wider historic environment assets and characterisation of areas of the town would be an even greater resource which could be used to help shape the regeneration of the town.

11.112 There are considerable opportunities for the archaeology of the District to connect more with education and learning with many aspects directly relevant to the national curriculum. Archaeology often provides information about the past that is not visible in other sources. It deals with everybody, from Kings and Queens to everyday people and their lives. It is not just limited in its focus to nationally important events and figures and can be used to question written accounts that may be biased in their origins. Handling archaeological material helps to provide people with a direct physical link to the past. Archaeological excavations and their finds can be used to inspire and stimulate learning. It is easier to understand how past people lived and how past technologies worked when real life objects can be touched and handled. As such archaeological remains and collections provide a vital and tangible link to the past. Opportunities that allow people to access and experience archaeological excavations and finds should be sought. This might, for example be achieved through an Archaeological Resource Centre, visits to archaeological excavations or through handling kits or visits to archaeological

Figure 46 Finglesham Parish use a locally found Saxon brooch for their village sign

collections in the District's museums.

11.113 The Sandwich survey has illustrated the considerable value of an integrated approach between archaeology, historic buildings analysis and documentary research to better understand the development of the town and the history and use of individual properties. Where the District's historic buildings come forward for conversion or alteration consideration should be given to whether an integrated approach will add value.

11.114 A long term solution to the appropriate and accessible storage of archaeological archives is being sought through the creation of an archaeological resource centre. This would not only help secure the curation of the District's archaeological archives, it would also provide considerable opportunities for local engagement, learning and display of the archaeology of the District.

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