



View of site in 2017

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT 19 ST DUNSTAN'S TERRACE, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT2 8AX

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	PAGE 2
2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	PAGE 3
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.....	PAGE 6
4.0 DISCUSSION.....	PAGE 8
5.0 PARAMETERS.....	...PAGE 8

Front cover: 2017 aerial photograph of the site

Figure 1. KCC mapping

Figure 2. Site plan of 27 St Dunstan's Terrace for the 2000 excavation

Figure 3. View of Site

MAP 1. Andrews Dury map of 1769

MAP 2. Ordnance Surveyors Drawing 1797

MAPS 3 & 4. Historic OS mapping 1872 & 1938

Plates 1-2. Aerial Photographs

Plate 3. View of the PDA

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at 19 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AX located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TR 14143 58161 (Fig.1; cover). The proposed development seeks to provide a single storey rear extension, following demolition of the existing conservatory and utility porch.

**1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and shows that archaeological activity has been recorded within 500m of the proposed development area (PDA).**

1.3 The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA together with an analysis and interpretation of the site's origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, East and East Kent 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial photographs and annotated plans and maps.

## **2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location**

St Dunstan's Terrace is located in a residential area to the north west of Canterbury, outside of the city walls. St Dunstan's Street to the north west of St Dunstan's Terrace is one of the main thoroughfares into Canterbury. Leading south westwards from St Dunstan's Street is Orchard Street which leads to the south east end of St Dunstan's Terrace and London Road leads off St Dunstan's Street and the north western end of St Dunstan's Terrace. To the north west on the corner of St Dunstan's Street and London Road, is the 11th century Grade I listed church of St Dunstan's.

The KCC HER map shows a number of monument records and findspots in the area (Figure 1).

## 2.5 Historic Background

2.5.1 The PDA sits within Canterbury's Area of Archaeological Importance located in an area just outside of the city wall on the western banks of the Stour. It also resides in the main Canterbury Conservation Area. Canterbury is a historic English cathedral city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is evidence that the city was occupied from the Palaeolithic period and some 2000 years ago was settled on both sides of the River Stour by the 'Belgae'. In the first century AD a major Iron Age settlement and Hillfort was established at Bigbury to the west of the city by the local Celtic tribe the Cantiaci and became known as 'Durovernon' or "Stronghold by the Alder Grove". Another Iron Age settlement was also established on the top of the slope by the University of Kent. In 43 AD the Romans invaded Britain and founded a settlement close to the River Stour and took over the Celtic settlement, rebuilding it and naming it 'Durovernum Cantiacorum' or "Fortress of Kent". It became one of the 28 cities of Roman Britain, connected to the major Kentish ports of Richborough, Dover and Lymne and therefore of considerable strategic importance. In the 3rd century an earth bank and city walls were constructed with seven gates, Northgate, Westgate, Riding gate, Burgate, Worth Gate, London gate and Queningate, leading outwards to the Roman roads that created a network of communication across Kent. The walls enclosed 130 acres of the settlement including a cemetery to the south east that had always been beyond the city boundary; the industrial area remained beyond the gates to the west of the city. Roman cemeteries are documented to the east, south and northwest of the city walls and burial mounds are to the east and south. The Romans abandoned both Canterbury in 407AD and Britain in 410AD. Canterbury ceased to be a town, inhabited by the residual farming population that probably farmed lands beyond the walls. In the late 4th century, the Jutes arrived, a Germanic people that settled in Britain in the late 4th century and made Canterbury or 'Cantwareburh' meaning "Kentish Stronghold" their centre.

2.5.2 In 597 AD the Pope sent Augustine with a group of monks to convert the Saxon population to Christianity. King Ethelbert the King of Kent, married to a Christian woman, gave little opposition and in 598AD Augustine and his monks built a church outside the city walls and in 602AD rededicated a deserted Roman church. Augustine became Archbishop in 603AD and by 672AD Canterbury was given complete authority over the English Church. The town began to prosper again and craftsmen returned to the town. The River Stour was a great source

of trade from British towns as far as Ipswich and further afield in northern France and by 630AD gold and silver coins were being struck at the Canterbury mint.

2.5.3 Peace was broken by the raiding of the Danes; close proximity to the eastern coast made the town a prime target and consequently it was raided in 842 and 851AD suffering great loss of life. Archbishop Dunstan refounded the abbey built by Augustine and recovery began. St Georges Gate or Newingate was constructed and in 923AD a cattle market began beyond the city walls to the southwest. A second wave of attacks began in 991AD until finally in 1011 the Danes laid a siege on Canterbury that lasted 20 days, capturing the town, burning the cathedral and houses and killing the Archbishop.

2.5.4 Following their experience of the Danes, Canterbury surrendered to the Norman invasion of 1066AD without a fight. At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 Canterbury was flourishing, its population numbering some 6000 and new areas of settlement were growing outside of the city walls. The cathedral burned again and was replaced twice by the Normans in 1070 and 1175. The wooden motte and-bailey castle that was constructed with the arrival of William the Conqueror was replaced in stone in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century and perhaps even earlier, St Dunstan's church was built.

2.5.5 In 1170AD, followers of King Henry II murdered the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket, and the city became a major focus of pilgrimage in Britain and Europe. The number of pilgrims visiting the city brought trade and further prosperity. London Road and Westgate being one of the main thoroughfares into the city for pilgrims.

2.5.6 During the Medieval period England's main export was wool and Canterbury thrived on both the wool and leather trade until 1348 when the Black Death arrived. Canterbury had the tenth largest population in England at 10,000 but that number fell dramatically to 3,000 by the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Westgate was rebuilt by Archbishop Simon Sudbury in 1379AD primarily as an entrance for the pilgrims and also in response to anticipated French raids.

2.5.7 At the Dissolution, the Abbey and three Friaries were closed, Thomas Becket's shrine was demolished and all the gold, silver and jewels removed to the Tower of London. The removal of his image, name and feasts put an end to the constant stream of pilgrimages that entered the city.

2.5.8 Westgate remained the most important entrance to the city from Roman times through to the post-medieval period. The area around the PDA was open land agricultural land from the Roman period until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

2.5.9 The area behind St Dunstan's church began to be laid out in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> predominately to provide accommodation for the military population in Canterbury. The first houses in St Dunstan's Terrace for officers were erected on the northern side between 1830 -1840 by a speculative builder. In 1846, nearby Canterbury West Station opened for the Ashford to Thanet branch line of South Eastern Railway.

## 2.6 Historic mapping

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in the Andrews Dury map of 1769 (MAP 1) the area of the PDA was open fields behind the properties that lined St Dunstan's Street and London Road and this was still the same in 1797(MAP 2).

The OS map of 1872 (MAP 3) shows the urbanisation of the area. St Dunstan's Terrace now exists with terraced housing on the northern side. The map also shows Westgate Court Farm and it is likely that the PDA is agricultural land associated with this farm. The 1938 OS historical map (MAP 4) is the first that shows buildings located on the southern side of St Dunstan's Terrace. However, the location of the PDA appears to yet have a property built on it. The 1940s aerial photograph shows that there is now a property at the PDA (Plate 1), with open land still to the rear of the properties along the southern side of St Dunstan's Terrace. The 1960s aerial photograph shows the open land at the rear replaced by new housing (Plate 2). By 2017 (cover), little has changed.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 Since London Road and St Dunstan's Street being one of the main thoroughfares into Canterbury. The KCC HER map shows a large number of listed buildings located along those main streets.

3.2 A Palaeolithic handaxes was received in the area of 27 St Dunstan's Terrace in the 1920s.

3.3 In the area of Ryde street close to St Dunstan's churchyard, Iron Age gravel deposits possibly relating to building pads were found in 2012 (TR 15 NW 1596). Circa 40m north west in 1926, 8-10 Late Iron Age and Roman cremations were found at 27 St Dunstan's Terrace (TR15 NW 223). Later excavation work in 2000 in the same area revealed a further 92 cremations burials and 23 inhumations

(TR 15 NW 2065) of various states of depth and preservation. It is thought that the internments were bounded by a ditch parallel to London Road, which follows a Roman Road alignment (TR 15 NW 500) and formed the southern boundary possibly suggesting that the cemetery does not extend further to the south east along St Dunstan's Terrace. However, stakeholes were found south of this that may relate to cremation activities. A further Roman cremation was also discovered in 1953 to the south west of this site, south of Cranmer House (TR 15 NW 2118) and more to the north of the PDA in the area of 5-7 New Street during the construction of a service trench (TR 15 NW 2081) and more inhumation at 7-8 New Street (TR 15 NW 2087; TR 15 NW 241), 5 New Street (TR 15 NW 306) suggesting the extent of the cemetery continues alongside the roadside at London Road. More cremations have been recorded north of St Dunstan's Terrace at the west end of New Street, with the junction of Church Street and Cross Street (TR 15 NW 2077; TR 15 NW 2126). Some of these burial groups were recorded just some 0.25m below ground surface in some places. By the church Roman industrial activity has also been recognised (TR 15 NW 1597). Given the area wide activity it is unclear as to the full extent of such activity and it is possible that other remains and features continue in the area of the PDA.

3.4 The area of St Dunstan's has Anglo-Saxon origins with the church as the focal point and this continued into the Medieval period where it was likely to be the final stop for pilgrims entering Canterbury from London via the Westgate. Stray Anglo-Saxon or Early Medieval finds located to the general area have been found such as an Anglo-Saxon Chatelaine (TR 15 NW 182). In addition, Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials may exist in the area of Cranmer House, near to Princes Way that includes two glass palm cups, a sceatta and a gold and garnet medallion. The KCC HER map shows a large number of listed buildings located along those main streets from the Medieval and Post Medieval period.

3.5 Not yet included in the KCC HER are the results of an evaluation in 2016 located at 30 St Dunstan's Terrace ahead of the demolition of conservatories ahead of new rear and side extensions. No 30 is located immediately opposite the PDA on the northern side of St Dunstan's Terrace. A single 3.75m by 1m trench revealed in sequence stratigraphy showing a layer of gravel that was thought to represent a metaled surface of possible Roman date although it was also deemed possible to be part of underlying natural river gravels although the small size of the trench prevented a clear interpretation being made.



## 4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 A review of the available data shows that a number of archaeological sites are known in the vicinity of the PDA especially relating to the Roman period. It is advised that an archaeological evaluation takes place prior to development or an archaeological watching brief during development.

## 5.0 PARAMETERS

5.1 The archaeological survey was conducted using on-line data from Historic England and other agencies.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA. Dated 4<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

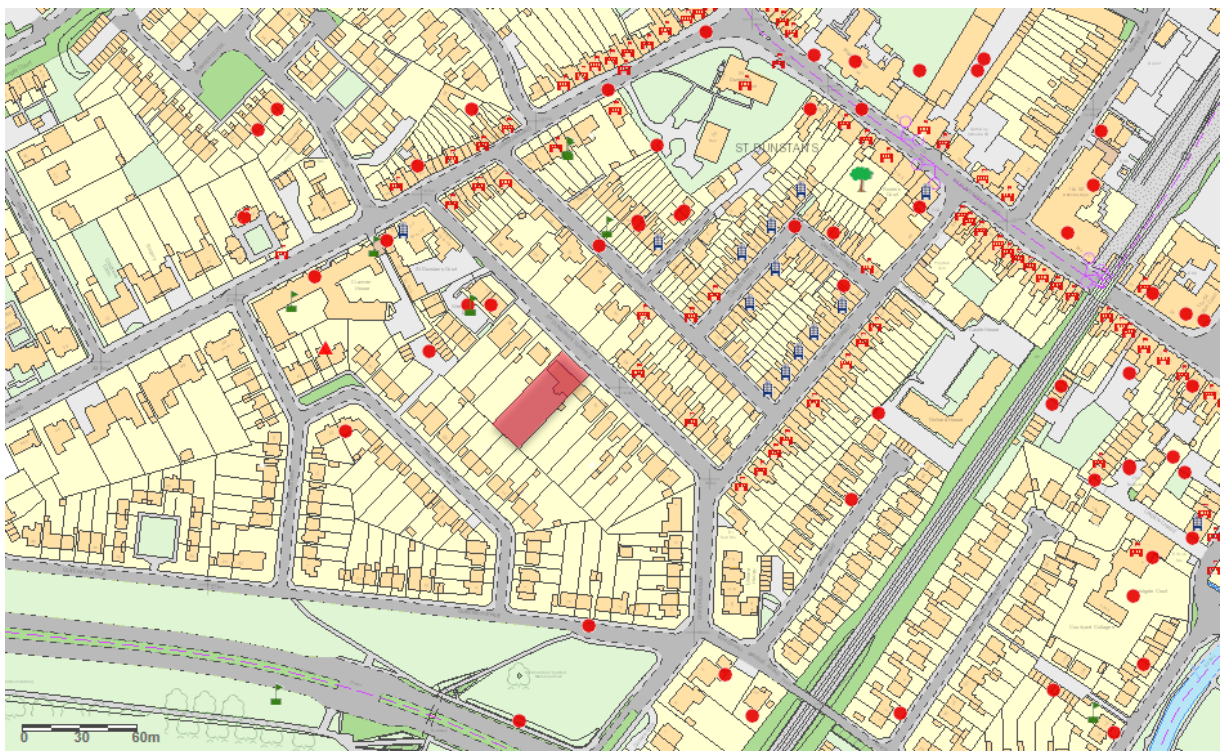


Figure 1. HER mapping (site outlined in red)





Plate 1. Aerial c.1940 showing extent of site

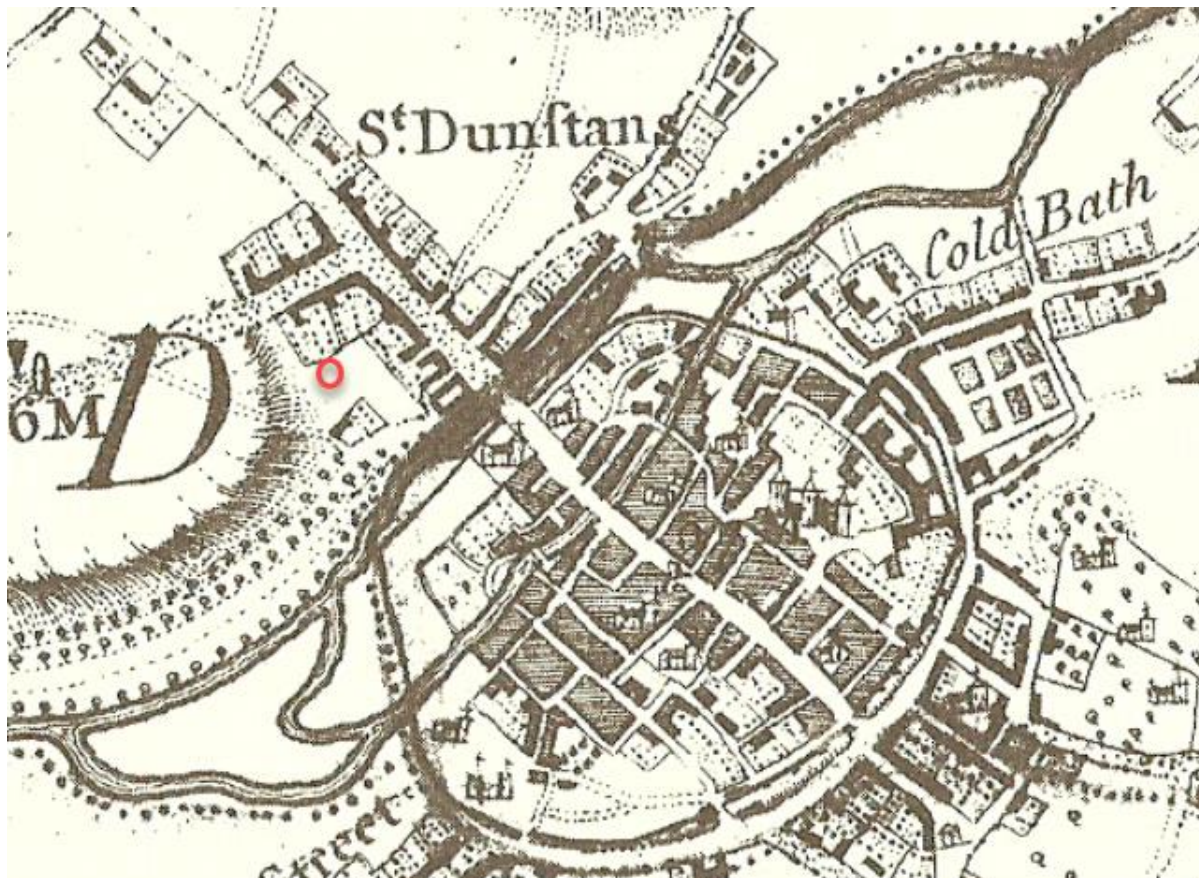


Plate 2. Aerial c. 1960s showing site





Plate 3. View across the PDA (looking north east)



MAP 1. Andrews Dury map of 1769





MAP 2. Ordnance Surveyors Drawing 1797





MAP 3. OS map of 1872 showing site not developed



MAP 4. OS map of 1938 showing site still not developed

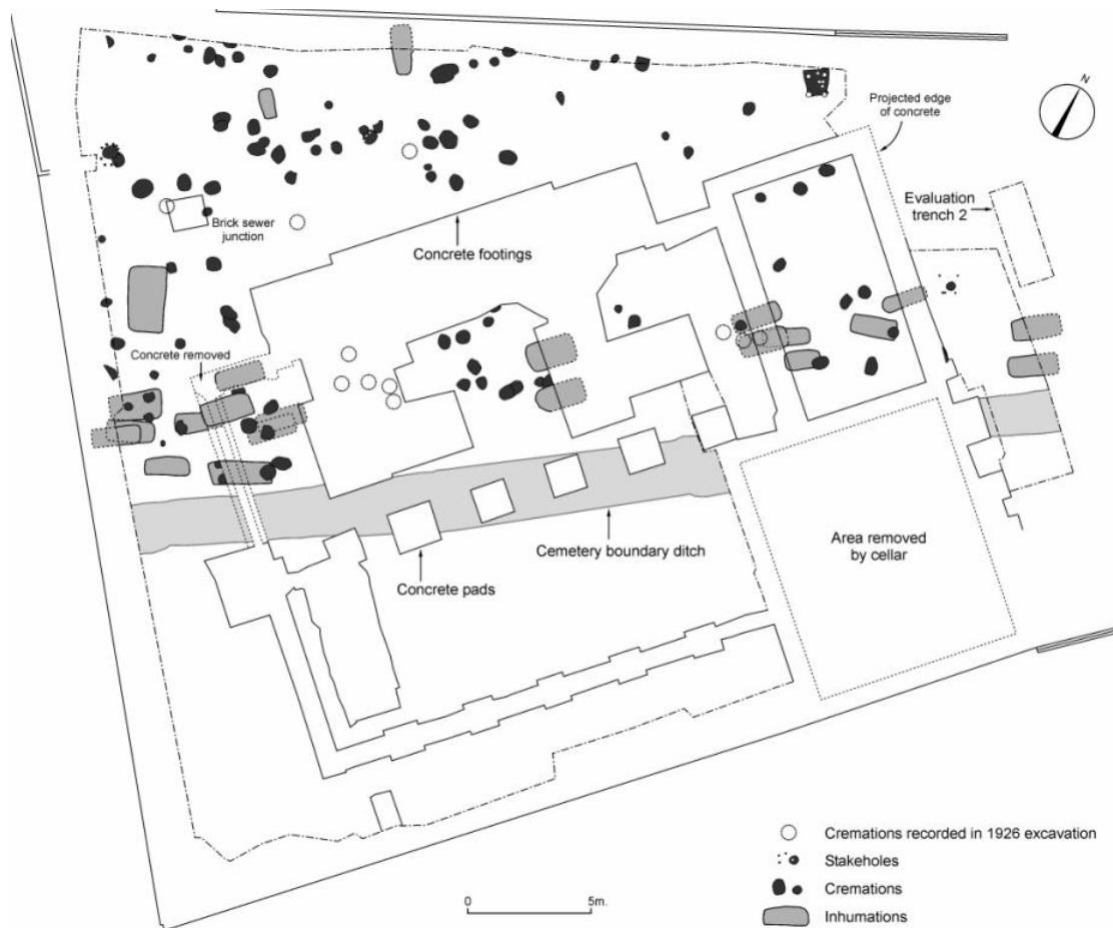


Figure 2. Site plan of 27 St Dunstan's Terrace for the 2000 excavation (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 2001-2002)