

## Funded by UK Government ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SITE

## As part of the Dover Beacon development, archaeological investigations were undertaken led by Canterbury Archaeological Trust

## These included:

- Excavations within the site
- A borehole survey to tell us more about the development and environment of the Dour Estuary and Roman Harbour.
- The discovery of deposits from c 10,000 years ago identified within the boreholes, together with Bronze Age and Iron Age sediments. Some of the sediments relate to those associated with the Dover Bronze Age boat, found in 1992.

By the end of the Roman period the area was being covered by deposits of beach sand.



Beach sands at the base of the archaeological sequence that were cut by 12th century rubbish pits. These were then sealed by later 12th and 13th century levelling layers and chalk floors from timber buildings.

By the beginning of the thirteenth century, timber buildings were being constructed on the western half of the site, largely represented by chalk floors and post-holes.



Recording medieval floor deposits within a twelfth century building.

The pits and later layers contained large amounts of pottery, animal bone and shellfish.



Fishbones showing species recovered from medieval Dover.



Fishbone from medieval Dover.

During the fifteenth century and into the postmedieval period (to c 1550) more substantial, higher status buildings were constructed on the site, sometimes with undercrofted cellars. These had removed much of the earlier archaeology.



A medieval pit being cut by a post-medieval wall.

A set of chalk-built steps was identified during the excavations running down into one of these cellars.



Steps running down into the remains of a vaulted medieval cellar

Finds associated with these buildings were similar to those from the earlier period, with notable discoveries being spindlewhorls (associated with textile production), a crucible (used in metalworking) and the top of a bone parchment pricker.

- In the late sixteenth to early seventeenth century a large chalk cess tank was constructed.
- This appears to have been associated with a public house or a wealthy merchant's estate as it contained hundreds of broken clay pipe

stems and bowls, along with lots of fragmented pottery.

- This included Bellamine ware imported from the Cologne region of what is today western Germany.
- The fragments recovered were from a 'Bartmann' (bearded man) jug and were used for transporting and decanting wine.
- Other interesting finds included fragments from glass drinking vessels and a post-medieval comb that was possibly made from whale bone.



By the nineteenth century, the land boundaries had changed, and redevelopment of the street frontage of Bench Street and Town Wall Street

led to the construction of even more substantially basemented buildings that removed many of the earlier boundaries.







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