

SUMMARY REPORT

Nashenden Valley, Kent (TQ 73194 65581)

Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake detailed archaeological investigation at the site of Nashenden Valley, Kent. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the CTRL.

A stepped trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.50 m, at the location of an evaluation trench in which a possible Allerød soil was identified (ARC_NSH_97 Trench 1497TT). The section revealed a Holocene colluvial sequence and Pleistocene Coombe rock deposits which were of some geological interest but produced no significant archaeological results. The possible Allerød soil horizon recorded in the evaluation was not identified. Mollusc and pedological samples were taken at 0.10 m intervals from the topsoil to a depth of 1.3 m, which have yet to be assessed.

Only two retouched and utilised flint flakes were recovered during sieving of spoil from a section excavated by hand through the Holocene colluvium.

In spite of the largely negative results, further assessment of the samples recovered from the sequence, in conjunction with scientific dating techniques, may reveal some potential for palaeo-environmental reconstruction.

