

**CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK
UNION RAILWAYS (SOUTH) LIMITED**

Project Area 440

**Archaeological Excavation at
Little Stock Farm (ARC LSF99),
near Mersham, Kent**

**DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
ASSESSMENT REPORT
FINAL**

**Contract no. URS/400/ARC/0001
WA Report no. 48108a**

**Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB**

16th October 2001

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SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake a 'Strip, Map and Sample' excavation at Little Stock Farm, located immediately to the north-west of the bridging point for Station Road across the Ashford to Folkestone railway cutting, near the village of Mersham. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), which at Little Stock Farm has also included environmental assessment, geophysical survey, fieldwalking and two trial trench evaluations.

During the course of the fieldwork a considerable number of archaeological features and deposits were recorded, from almost all major chronological periods between the Late Neolithic and post-medieval, and particularly the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval periods. The features predominantly comprising ditches (including subrectangular enclosures, ring-ditches, field systems and drainage gullies), pits, post-holes and hearths, but also including features such as post-pits, grave-pits and a large stone quarry. With the notable exception of the grave-pits, the majority of the features appear to be intrinsically associated with settlement activity. However, some post-holes and/or pits were recorded that apparently contained placed pottery vessels (hereafter referred to as vessel-holes), suggesting activity more closely associated with ritual. As such, the site appears to have been occupied through a number of the time periods defined by the CTRL research strategy (URS 1999a, 65), including;

- *Early Agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)*
- *Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)*
- *Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)*
- *The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)*

The results from Little Stock Farm can be considered a significant discovery for the archaeology of this part of Kent as prehistoric settlement remains are comparatively rare in the county as a whole. The evidence for Neolithic activity, as well as the discovery of a multi-phase Late Bronze Age/ Iron Age settlement, both with complimentary artefact and ecofact assemblages has the potential to make a considerable contribution to the understanding of the prehistoric settlement pattern of Kent.

Furthermore, the evidence for ritual activity, such as the potentially 'placed' deposits of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery vessels in dedicated features, is paralleled elsewhere in Southern England. Likewise, the well-documented later Iron Age practice of re-intering exhumed human remains in storage or refuse pits is also represented at Little Stock Farm, an activity that is generally but not exclusively concentrated beyond Kent. The Little Stock Farm examples therefore will significantly contribute to the relatively scarcity for evidence of such activity in Kent.

Settlement continuity is a noteworthy aspect of the excavation results, with Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains complimenting the prehistoric settlement evidence. The combined results indicate a tendency for settlement focus to drift downslope to the east, towards the present-day Park Wood Cottage. As such the recorded evidence from Little Stock Farm *in toto* appears to represent a preferred locale for settlement from the earliest agriculturalists onwards.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake a 'Strip, Map and Sample' excavation at **Little Stock Farm**, under the URS site code **ARC LSF99** (Project Area 440). The site, near the village of Mersham, was located adjacent to the railway cutting for the Ashford to Folkestone railway, immediately to the north-west of the bridging point for Station Road across the cutting (**Figure 1 - inset**).

1.1.2 This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). The archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (URS 1999a) was prepared by Rail Link Engineering (RLE), agreed in consultation with English Heritage and Kent County Council, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authorities.

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out between April 6th and May 11th 1999.

The Site

1.1.4 The excavation comprised a sub-rectangular slightly 'L'-shaped area aligned approximately east to west, measuring up to c.230m by 62m at its widest point adjacent to Station Road, although the main body of the excavation area was only 42m wide. The excavation area, including the wider section adjacent to Station Road, covered an area of c. 1.05 hectares, centred on URL grid co-ordinate 86650 18530 (OS NGR TR 06646 38531; **Figure 1**). Overall, the generic site zone, incorporating all fieldwork events summarised in **Table 1** below extended over a distance of c. 810m.

Associated Fieldwork Events

1.1.5 An environmental assessment (URL 1994), previous investigations at Little Stock Farm, including a fieldwalking survey (URL 1995), geophysical survey (URL 1996) and archaeological evaluation (URS 1999b), as well as an evaluation at Park Wood Cottage (URS 1999c), are also incorporated into this assessment report (**Table 1**). Hereafter, where appropriate the excavation and associated fieldwork events are collectively referred by the principal site name *Little Stock Farm*.

1.1.6 The locations and extents of the associated fieldwork events is shown on **Figure 1**, whilst brief summaries of the results of these additional events are provided below, and shown on **Figure 2**.

Table 1: Fieldwork Event Details

Event Type	Event Name	Fieldwork Event Code	Contractor
Environmental Assessment	-	-	OAU
Fieldwalking	Littlestock Farm	URL94	OAU
Geophysical Survey	Littlestock Farm	ARC LFM95	GSB
Evaluation	Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF98	WA
Evaluation	Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	WA
Excavation	Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99	WA

1.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrography

- 1.2.1 Topographically, the main excavation area is situated on the brow of a south-east facing spur overlooking the East Stour River floodplain, at a height of *c.* 68m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The western end of the excavation area is located towards a break-of-slope above a south-facing coombe (**Figure 2**); the latter descending to a height of *c.* 60m aOD at the point it is truncated by the adjacent railway cutting.
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology comprises the southernmost fringes of Cretaceous Lower Greensand Hythe Beds, overlying Atherfield Clay of the same geological period. More recent drift deposits in the area include alluvium mapped along the course of the East Stour River to the south (Ordnance Survey 1974).
- 1.2.3 There are no extant watercourses within the site limits, although the coombe passing the western end of the site may have previously supported a winterbourne palaeochannel. To the south of the site the drainage pattern is dominated by the west flowing East Stour River, which converges with the Great Stour River at Ashford.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Environmental Assessment

- 1.3.1 The environmental assessment (URL 1994) identified a number of archaeological and other remains within the area, including the fieldwalking results discussed below (*ibid.* OAU ref. no. 1355), as well as Station Road (*ibid.* OAU ref. no. 577) and Little Stock Farm (*ibid.* OAU ref. no. 576) railway bridges, both of which are original 19th century South-Eastern Railway (SER) constructions (**Figure 2**).

Littlestock Farm Fieldwalking (URL94)

- 1.3.2 The fieldwalking, carried out in 1990 and 1993, examined an area to the north-west of the subsequent excavation area, and identified a diffuse scatter of worked and burnt flint, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead. Other finds recovered included small quantities of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery (URL 1995, 29 and figs. 17a-f; **Figure 2**).

Littlestock Farm Geophysical Survey (ARC LFM95)

- 1.3.3 The geophysical survey noted zones of increased response towards the western end of the area examined, as well as within the coombe noted above. The report concluded that the anomalies could have been due to pedological variations (URL 1996, 5 and fig. 72; **Figure 2**).

Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)

- 1.3.4 The evaluation, consisting of a series of 17 trial trenches, revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising ploughsoil and colluvium (concentrated in the central coombe) overlying *in situ* Hythe Beds, and, where exposed, the underlying Atherfield Clay. Twenty-seven archaeological features were recorded including ditches, pits, post- and stake-holes and other structural remains, predominantly dated as Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age, although a significant medieval component was observed. The features were concentrated within the south-east corner of the evaluation area, and within trench 3627TT in particular, although features were recorded along the southern edge of the evaluation to the west of trench 3627TT (URS 1999b; **Figure 2**).

Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99)

- 1.3.5 The evaluation, consisting of a series of eight trial trenches, revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising ploughsoil and colluvium (thickest towards the lower eastern portion of the site) overlying *in situ* Hythe Beds, and, where exposed, the underlying Atherfield Clay. Seventeen archaeological features were recorded including ditches and pits, predominantly dated as Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval, but including a significant quantity of modern remains (including structural elements), particularly within the south-west corner of the evaluation area (trench 3697TT). Apart from the modern remains in trench 3697TT, there were no apparent concentrations of archaeological remains within the evaluation area. Most significantly perhaps, the concentration of features immediately adjacent on the opposite side of Station Road did not appear to continue into this evaluation area (URS 1999c; **Figure 2**).

2 ORIGINAL PRIORITIES, AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Landscape Zone Priorities

2.1.1 In summary, the primary landscape zone priorities within this part of Kent were to obtain information concerning:

- *A reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment for all time periods present through 'on-site' and 'off-site' studies and the interaction with past economies.*
- *Establishing the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains.*
- *The ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape.*

2.2 Fieldwork Event Aims

2.2.1 The primary fieldwork event aims, as defined by RLE in contract no. URS/400/ARC/0001 (URS 1999a, 37) were as follows:

- *Determine the extent, morphology and function of, and interaction between occupation remains and the landscape setting.*
- *Recover individual artefacts, artefact assemblages and other indicators, such as faunal and charred plant remains, from securely dated sequences to establish the economic basis of agricultural and later communities.*
- *Determine the local environment of the site through the recovery of palaeo-environmental data.*

2.3 Fieldwork Methodology and Summary of Excavation Results

Methodology

- 2.3.1 The limits and locations of the evaluation trenches and excavation areas were established by Wessex Archaeology, based on digital mapping provided by RLE, utilising URL project grid.
- 2.3.2 All bulk earth removal at Little Stock Farm was undertaken using 360° tracked excavators equipped with toothless buckets under constant archaeological supervision. All bulk soil removal continued until archaeology features and/or deposits, *in situ* geological deposits or the formation level for anticipated impact was reached, whichever was encountered first.
- 2.3.3 Any archaeological features/deposits encountered were hand-cleaned and recorded to current best archaeological practice. Appropriate *pro-forma* description sheets were used for the individual features with plans and sections generally drawn at scales of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. All archaeological remains were digitally surveyed utilising URL project grid, and located on appropriate large-scale plans.
- 2.3.4 A photographic record both in monochrome prints and colour transparencies was produced to illustrate both the archaeological features and the general progress of the excavation.

Summary of Results

- 2.3.5 The stratigraphic sequence generally encountered comprised topsoil, overlaying relatively thin colluvial deposits, overlying *in situ* geology. The colluvium was up to 0.5m thick towards the western end of the excavation area, although over the majority of the remainder of the excavation area was generally only 0.1 – 0.2m thick. Stratigraphic evidence recorded indicated that the majority of the thin colluvial deposit overlay the prehistoric remains but was cut by the medieval features, suggesting formation during the Late Iron Age or Romano-British period. Artefact evidence recovered during the Little Stock Farm evaluation from the deeper colluvial sequence (i.e. up to 1.38m thick) recorded at the base of the coombe indicated a potential early prehistoric (i.e. Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic) date for its formation. The main bulk of the coombe sequence examined was likely to have formed during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, although the general absence of secure dating evidence from the colluvium *in toto* reduces its potential to inform on the palaeo-environment.
- 2.3.6 During the course of the fieldwork a considerable number of archaeological features and deposits were recorded (**Figure 3**), predominantly comprising ditches (including subrectangular enclosures, ring-ditches, field systems and drainage gullies), pits, post-holes and hearths, but also including features such as post-pits, grave-pits and a large stone quarry (see **Appendix 7.1**). With the notable exception of the grave-pits, the majority of the features appear to be intrinsically associated with settlement activity. However, some post-holes and/or pits were recorded that apparently contained placed pottery vessels (hereafter referred to as vessel-holes), suggesting activity more closely associated with ritual.
- 2.3.7 Due to the intensive occupation of the area through time, as outlined below, a proportion of the artefactual assemblage was recovered as predominantly residual but also to a lesser extent intrusive material. However, because of the structural complexity of the site, with virtually all inter-relationships investigated and recorded, the majority of features can be placed within a relatively secure stratigraphic matrix, thus allowing confident identification of the phases of activity at the site, regardless of potentially conflicting dating evidence.
- 2.3.8 The provisionally dated features of medieval or earlier date identified from all fieldwork events (excluding those features recorded during the preceding evaluations that were subsequently identified during the excavation) can be summarised by period as follows;
- **Middle Neolithic:** *Post-hole 2507.*
 - **Early/ Middle Bronze Age:** *Pit/ hollow 2214.*
 - **Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age:** *Curvilinear SSE/NNW aligned ditch 5009, E/W aligned ditches 2244, 5016 and 5013, vessel-holes 2104 (contains Obj. No. 4002), 2503 (contains Obj. No. 4003) and 362706 (Obj. No. not allocated) and post-holes 2105, 2316, 2318 and 5033,*
 - **Early Iron Age:** *Pit 2013 and vessel-hole 2304 (contains Obj. No. 4001 and 4005 – the latter subsequently identified as parts of six vessels).*
 - **Early/ Middle Iron Age:** *Ring-ditch 5007 (enclosing curvilinear E/W aligned gully 5002, pits 2529, 2531 and 2536, pit/hearth 2314 and post-holes 2408, 2505 and 5037), N/S aligned ditches 5019, 5021, 5022 and 5023, E/W aligned ditches 5020 and*

355116, ditch 'T'-junction 5017, pits 5029, 354606 and 355118, post-holes 2108, 2216, 2218, 2225, 2510, 5031 and 362708 and grave-pit 2037.

- **Middle/ Late Iron Age (phase I):** Enclosure 5024 (comprising E/W aligned ditch 5011 and N/S aligned ditch 5003; enclosing pit 2118), pit 2330, post-holes 2405 and 2542 and grave-pit 2031.
- **Middle/ Late Iron Age (phase II):** Enclosure 5025 (comprising enclosing ditch 5004 and E/W aligned internal subdivision ditch 5014; enclosing pit 2008 (S) and hearth 362727 (N)), N/S aligned ditch 5012 and 4-post structure 5015.
- **Late Iron Age:** Enclosure 5026 (comprising enclosing ditch 5005 and E/W aligned internal subdivision ditch 5001; enclosing hearth 2006), ESE/WNW aligned ditch 369501 (and possibly parallel undated ditch 369503/369413) and NNE/SSW aligned ditch 369604, post-pit 2124 (replaces part of 4-post structure 5015) and layer 369203.
- **Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British:** E/W aligned ditch 369104, layer 369203 and tree-throw 369508.
- **Saxon:** Pit 2437.
- **Medieval (phase I):** Enclosure 5006 (enclosing quarry 2522), E/W aligned ditch 5027, N/S aligned ditches 369804 and 369606, E/W aligned gully 2430, pits 2036 and 369408, hearth 2421 and post-hole 2110.
- **Medieval (phase II):** E/W aligned ditch 5010, N/S aligned ditches 2439, 5008 and 5028, SSW/NNE aligned ditches 369406 (possibly also represented by feature terminal 369304) and 369412 (possibly also represented by co-aligned undated ditch 369302) and natural feature 355111.

2.4 Assessment Methodology

- 2.4.1 This assessment report was commissioned by URS to the specification for assessment reports produced by RLE (*CTRL Section 1 Archaeology: Post Excavation Assessment Instruction no. 000-RMA-RLEVC-00030-AB*), as discussed with English Heritage and Kent County Council. This specification follows national guidelines prepared by English Heritage, including *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (English Heritage 1991), and provides additional information regarding the format and level of detail required for CTRL assessment reports. The production of this assessment report was project managed by Andrew Crockett, with all other specialist advice provided by Wessex Archaeology in-house expertise.

3 FACTUAL DATA AND QUANTIFICATION

3.1 The Stratigraphic Record

Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeological features recorded during the excavation predominantly survived as cuts into the surface of the natural geology, sealed by an overlying thin colluvial deposit. Although the colluvium was stripped from the site prior to excavation, it was noted during the preceding Little Stock Farm evaluation that medieval features were cut through this thin colluvial deposit.
- 3.1.2 The main concentration of archaeological remains, adjacent to Station Road, is in an area that is relatively flat. It is therefore likely that the impact from more recent agricultural practices has not been exacerbated significantly as a result of accelerated downslope movement of agricultural soils. However, features recorded beyond this relatively flat plateau, such as those towards the east end of the Park Wood Cottage evaluation, are unlikely to have been thus protected.
- 3.1.3 Structural remains were recorded, in the form of post-pits and post-holes, stake-holes, a possible eaves drip ring-ditch and a putative stone foundation trench. Although it is probable that not all elements survived, it is possible to suggest that the apparently random scatter of post-holes within the circumference of the ring-ditch represent the remains of two concentric circles, measuring 4.5m and 8.4m in diameter. A single 4-post structure was also identified, measuring approximately 2.6m by 2.6 m, the north-west post being subsequently replaced.

Truncation and reworking

- 3.1.4 Many inter-relationships were recorded during fieldwork, allowing a stratigraphically secure relative chronological framework to be constructed for most remains and in particular the larger features such as ditches. However, as noted above, this palimpsest of archaeological remains has resulted in considerable truncation and reworking of earlier deposits over time, reducing the potential to combine detailed stratigraphic analysis with associated secure artefactual and environmental evidence.
- 3.1.5 In order to determine stratigraphically secure contexts on which to base any further detailed analysis, a quasi-statistical assessment of the stratigraphic archive was undertaken (**Appendix 7.1**). This focussed on the archive from the main phase of excavation (ARC LSF99), using spatial location in relation to other features, presence/ absence of datable material, and presence/ absence of non-contemporaneous datable material as the criteria for assessment.
- 3.1.6 The assessment has determined that a considerable proportion of dated deposits (i.e. 68.5%) do not appear to contain non-contemporaneous dating evidence (based on their currently allocated phase). Furthermore, only 5.5% of the remainder contain intrusive datable material. When coupled with a consideration of feature intersections, a provisional list of 26 features or segments through features can be drawn up that identify the most stratigraphically secure contexts on which to base further detailed analysis, with an additional 35 in reserve. The majority of this list are currently considered to be Middle Iron Age or earlier in date.

- 3.1.7 The overlying colluvial layer sealing most pre-medieval features will have protected the underlying features from agricultural truncation to a degree, although it must be noted that the formation of colluvium itself is in part due to agricultural impact in the first instance.

Middle Neolithic (3000 – 3400 BC) Figure 4

Feature: Post-hole **2507**

- 3.1.8 A small post-hole was located within the area enclosed by a later ring-ditch (see **5007** below). This feature produced Peterborough ware pottery and a small fresh unabraded worked flint assemblage including a transverse arrowhead. Additional Middle Neolithic pottery was also recovered as residual material in an adjacent post-hole (**2505**). Although only producing Middle Neolithic artefacts, post-hole **2507** was located on the projected circumference of the inner circle of post-holes provisionally identified as part of an Early/ Middle Iron Age round-house. The possibility therefore has to be considered, despite the fresh unabraded nature of the worked flint for instance, that the dating evidence recovered is either entirely residual or perhaps represents placed curated artefacts, and that post-hole **2507** is part of the Iron Age round-house.

Early/ Middle Bronze Age (2400 – 1100 BC) Figure 4

Feature: Pit/ hollow **2214**

- 3.1.9 A large very shallow ‘kidney’-shaped pit or hollow was identified; also located within the area enclosed by the later ring-ditch (see **5007** below). Although a significant proportion of the pottery recovered comprised Early/ Middle Bronze Age Collared Urn fragments, smaller fragments of more recent prehistoric pottery were also recovered. In this instance, the later material is provisionally considered as intrusive, given the proximity of this feature to a perceived activity centre contemporaneous with the date of this later pottery.

Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age (1100 – 400 BC) Figure 4

Sub-groups: Ditches **2244**, **5009**, **5013** and **5016**

Features: Vessel-holes **2104**, **2503** and **362706**; Post-holes **2105**, **2316**, **2318** and **5033**

- 3.1.10 The linear features associated with this period include ditch **5016**; an approximately east to west aligned feature located towards the western end of the excavation area. This may either represent the beginnings of a field system in this area, or perhaps the formalisation of a route following the brow of the slope overlooking the East Stour River valley to the south. Similarly, ditches **2244** and **5013** appear to comprise the west terminals of an east to west aligned c. 12m wide ditched trackway that extended beyond the excavation limits to the east. A possible terminal feature for **5013** was seen on excavation to be an irregularity due to the fragmentary nature of the local geology.
- 3.1.11 The other ditch (**5009**) was notably different to almost all other linear features recorded at Little Stock Farm in that it followed a broadly south-east to north-west aligned meandering route, neither co-aligned with nor perpendicular to virtually any other of the ditches in the area. The south-eastern extent of this feature could not be positively identified, although it is possible that the ditch curved round to the south. It is not clear whether this represents part of a field system, a feature more closely associated with settlement, or some other function. It remains possible that ditch **5009** and **5013** combine to represent boundary features loosely defining the west and north extents respectively of settlement activity associated with this period.
- 3.1.12 Apart from the juxtapositions of post-hole **2316** with **2318** and post-hole **2105** with vessel-hole **2104**, overall there were no apparent concentrations for the discrete features associated

with this period, although all were located to the east of ditch **5009**. Two of the three features (**2104** and **2503**) containing the remains of apparently placed vessels (as well as a similar feature more closely dated to the Early Iron Age – see **2304** below) were situated along the brow of the slope overlooking the East Stour River valley to the south. As such they may represent some form of marker or boundary, either symbolic or functional. The third example, however (**362706** – excavated during the Little Stock Farm evaluation), was located to the north away from the brow, which may therefore conflict with an interpretation for these features based on their position in the landscape.

- 3.1.13 As with Middle Neolithic post-hole **2507** (see above), it should be noted that post-hole **2316** and **2318** were located on the projected circumference of the outer circle of post-holes provisionally identified as part of an Early/ Middle Iron Age round-house. As such they may be later features containing intrusive and/or curated artefacts.

Early Iron Age (700 – 400 BC) Figure 5

Features: Pit **2013**; Vessel-hole **2304**

- 3.1.14 Only two discrete features were recorded that are confidently dated to this period exclusively, both located along the brow of the slope noted above. Vessel-hole **2304** was a relatively large slightly irregular feature containing c. 160 sherds from a Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age vessel, and a further c. 350 sherds from up to six separate Early Iron Age vessels, including a carinated bowl and shouldered bowls and jars. Pit **2013** was unremarkable, but had been cut by a gully associated with the subsequent round-house (see below). It is probable that these features represent a continuation of activity in this area from the Later Bronze Age, rather than a discrete occupation episode.

Early/ Middle Iron Age (700 BC – 100 BC) Figures 2 and 5

Sub-groups: Ring-ditch **5007**; Gully **5002**; Ditches **5017**, **5019** – **5023** (inc.) and **355116**

Features: Hearth **362727**; Pit/ hearth **2314**; Pits **2529**, **2531**, **2536**, **5029**, **354606** and **355118**; Post-holes **2108**, **2216**, **2218**, **2225**, **2408**, **2505**, **2510**, **5031**, **5037** and **362708**; Grave-pit **2037**

- 3.1.15 The major development associated with this phase is the construction of ring-ditch **5007**, measuring c. 15m in diameter, with a c. 3m wide east-facing entrance and slightly flattened sides to the north and west. The south side of the ring-ditch was truncated by medieval quarry **2522** (see below). Features identified within the ring ditch area comprise post-holes, pits, a short curvilinear gully and a putative hearth. The latter comprised a localised charcoal-rich deposit forming the upper fill of pit/ hearth **2314**, and as such may more likely be associated with later activity towards the end of the Iron Age.
- 3.1.16 Although initially a coherent pattern could not be discerned from the discrete features recorded within the area of the ring-ditch, spatial analysis has provisionally identified the apparent remains of two concentric rings of post-holes and/or pits (**Figure 5** – inset). The inner circle, comprising **2505** and **5037** and two unexcavated post-holes (and possibly **2507** - see above) measures c. 4.5m in diameter and presumably represents the inner ring of posts and lintels that would have supported the sloping roof beams. The outer circle, comprising **2314**, **2536**, three unexcavated post-holes and probably undated post-hole **2540** (as well as possibly **2316** and **2318** - see above) measures c. 8.4m in diameter. It is unclear whether the outer ring represents a bracing ‘sockets’ for the sloping roof beams, or the position of the low fence/wall forming the sides of the round-house; the absence of any sloping features on this outer circumference would suggest the latter.

- 3.1.17 Two relatively large pits (**2529** and **2531**) were located either side of the arc of the outer ring of posts on the east side of the round-house, probably in close proximity to the north side of the original entrance to the round-house. Although the potential for a porch structure in this area has been considered, these pits are not likely to be structural. This interpretation is partly based on their size (particularly when compared with the significantly smaller post-holes that probably supported the main building) but also on the absence of an opposing pair to support such an ancillary structure. If the location of these features relative to the round-house walls dictate their function (i.e. internal pit **2529** for storage, external pit **2531** for refuse), it is not immediately apparent from the artefactual evidence, although it may be of note that animal bone was only recovered from the external pit. They were not considered appropriate for environmental sampling at the time of excavation as both had been truncated by a medieval ditch and one also by a later prehistoric post-hole.
- 3.1.18 Gully **5002** lay within the east side of the ring-ditch area, to the north of the entrance feature. The east end of the gully was poorly defined, and could not be traced past the entrance into the ring-ditch area; it is probable that it has either been lost through truncation, or perhaps more likely originally petered out at this point. From a functional perspective, it is possible that the gully channelled surface run-off away from the entrance to the round-house and out of the ring-ditch area.
- 3.1.19 It is of note that the west end of the gully terminated inside the arc of the outer ring of posts, possibly suggesting that the feature may have also performed some form of internal drainage function. Furthermore, with a round-house in place as suggested, this gully also effectively closes off the north side of the ring-ditch area apart from a narrow gap at the ring-ditch entrance. As such, it may have also assisted in livestock control.
- 3.1.20 The remainder of the other discrete features attributable to this phase was predominantly located in an area to the north-east of the ring-ditch, amongst other unexcavated and undated examples. As yet, spatial analysis has not confidently identified other structures in this area from these remains, although it is possible that the truncated remains of additional definable post-built structures exist.
- 3.1.21 This period also sees the formalisation of a more coherent field system to the west of the occupation centre. The previous short length of ditch (**5016**) is replaced by a 'T'-shaped ditch (**5017**), the east to west aligned element of which is continued as ditch **5020** to the east, co-aligned with **355116** to the south. Other ditches, co-aligned with the north to south aligned element of **5017**, include one main alignment formed by ditches **5019** and **5021**, and parallel shorter ditches **5022** and **5023**, the latter appearing to continue the line of **5017**.
- 3.1.22 The c. 3.2m wide gap between ditches **5019** and **5021** was flanked by two pits or large post-holes (post-pits?) at the end of each ditch. The terminal features were integral to the construction of the ditches, and as such have been considered part of the overall ditch groups. It is possible that they may have supported posts forming some form of entrance gate. However, it is also possible, given their size and stratigraphic relationships with the ditches (i.e. apparently contemporaneous as open features), that they represent sumps to store drainage from the adjacent ditches, perhaps therefore also acting as livestock watering holes. It is of note, perhaps, that three fragments of human skull were recovered from the pit (**2441**) on the south side of the gap between the ditches. Other features in this area include two relatively large shallow pits (**5029** and **355118**) that may have also served as livestock watering holes.

- 3.1.23 Grave-pit **2037**, containing skeleton 2033, was located close to the northern edge of the excavation. The skeleton was of a relatively young female (i.e. c. 20-30 years) and may have been interred in this feature as disarticulated remains, although later disturbance from grave-pit **2031** has removed the possibility of determining the precise burial practice involved. It should be noted that the placed deposition of human remains in non-funerary contexts (i.e. refuse pits, ditches etc.) is a relatively common occurrence during the Iron Age, and as such the features containing human remains are not considered as true ‘graves’.

Middle/ Late Iron Age (Phase I) (400 BC – AD 43) Figure 5

Group: Enclosure **5024** (comprising sub-groups **5003** and **5011**)

Features: Pits **2118** and **2330**; Post-holes **2405** and **2542**; Grave-pit **2031**

- 3.1.24 The main development during Phase I of this period is the construction of subrectangular enclosure **5024**, the north-west corner of which was recorded within the excavation area (comprising ditch **5003** forming the west side and ditch **5011** forming the north side). A single relatively large shallow pit (**2118**) within the enclosure has been attributed to this phase; this may have been a watering hole for livestock coralled in the enclosure. No confirmed evidence for this enclosure (or indeed any of the various enclosures constructed at this location) was recorded within the Park Wood Cottage evaluation area on the opposite side of Station Road to the east. It is therefore likely that the east side of the enclosure(s) was located somewhere within the footprint for Station Road itself.
- 3.1.25 Activity within the area of the round-house appears to continue, with a small post-hole (**2405**) cut into the infilled remains of pit **2529**. The post-hole is not situated on the line of either of the round-house post-hole circles previously identified, and is therefore unlikely to be a repair and/or addition to this structure. It may be related to the entrance into the round-house, which was probably in this vicinity (based on the location of the entrance into ring-ditch **5007** to the east). Two other discrete features, located to the west of enclosure **5024** are also provisionally allocated to this period, comprising post-hole **2542** and pit **2330**, the latter morphologically very similar to pit **2118** inside the enclosure, and possibly therefore performing a similar function.
- 3.1.26 Grave-pit **2031**, containing skeleton 2030, had recut the original grave-pit (**2037**) located towards the northern edge of the excavation. Although also female, the skeleton (predominantly comprising skull fragments) was of a slightly older individual (i.e. 40+ years) and appeared to have been placed (possibly as disarticulated remains) as a localised discrete deposit within the grave-pit.

Middle/ Late Iron Age (Phase II) (400 BC – AD 43) Figure 5

Group: Enclosure **5025** (comprising sub-groups **5004** and **5014**)

Sub-groups: Ditch **5012**; 4-post structure **5015** (including post-pits **2127**, **2338** and **2342**)

Features: Pits **2008**; Hearth **362727**

- 3.1.27 Enclosure **5025** replaces the previous example (**5024**), also comprising the north-west corner of a sub-rectangular enclosure (ditch **5004**), but including an internal east to west aligned division (ditch **5014**) to form a smaller enclosed area approximately 5m wide on the north side of the main enclosure. Internal features included a shallow pit (**2008**) within the larger southern area, and a small hearth (**362727** - only recorded during the Little Stock Farm evaluation) in the smaller northern area.
- 3.1.28 Ditch **5012**, parallel and c. 6.2m to the west of enclosure **5025** may represent the remains of an additional enclosure attached to the latter. However, no evidence was recorded to suggest

that the gap between the north and south ends of ditches **5012** and **5025** were ever connected by additional ditches, post-holes etc. (although at the south end significant later activity may have removed such evidence).

- 3.1.29 Also to the west of enclosure **5025** was 4-post structure **5015**, a sub-square arrangement of four large post-pits, two of which had cut through the previous ring-ditch **5007**. The pits were spaced (centre to centre) approximately 2.6m apart (north to south and east to west), and whilst they stratigraphically post-date the ring-ditch, it is by no means certain that they also post-date the round-house, which may still have been extant at the time. The north-western post-pit (**2127**) is replaced during the next period (see **2124** below).

Late Iron Age (100 BC – AD 43) Figures 2 and 5

Group: Enclosure **5026** (comprising sub-groups **5001** and **5005**)

Sub-group: 4-post structure **5015** (as repair **2124**)

Features: Ditch **369413/ 369503, 369501** and **369604**; Hearth **2006**; Layer **369203**

- 3.1.30 Enclosure **5026**, comprising ditch **5005** and internal east to west aligned division ditch **5001**, represents the last phase of subrectangular enclosure at the site. The internal division has been moved further to the south than the previous example (**5014**), resulting in a larger northern area measuring c. 17.3m north to south. Internal features were restricted to a single hearth (**2006**) within the smaller (?) southern area.
- 3.1.31 As noted above, post-pit **2124** recuts (and therefore presumably replaces) post-pit **2127**, the latter originally part of 4-post structure **5015**. It is therefore considered likely that the 4-post structure continues in use into this period, and likewise the round-house.
- 3.1.32 Within the Park Wood Cottage evaluation area a number of linear features were attributed to this period, predominantly comprising east-south-east to west-north-west aligned parallel ditches **369501** and **369503** (trench 3695TT), the latter also recorded as ditch **369413** (trench 3694TT) to the east. Ditch **369604** (trench 3696TT) was aligned south-south-west to north-north-east (i.e. perpendicular to the parallel pair in trench 3695TT) and may therefore be associated. The spread of material (layer **369203**) containing Late Iron Age pottery was located in trench 3692TT; it was not possible to determine the formation processes responsible for this subsoil.

Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British (100 BC – AD 150) Figure 2

Features: Ditch **369104**; Tree-throw **369508**

- 3.1.33 Two features recorded during the Park Wood Cottage evaluation are dated to this period, comprising generally east to west aligned ditch **369104** (trench 3691TT) and tree-throw **369508** (trench 3695TT). The latter was located between the parallel Late Iron Age ditches **369501** and **369503**. In addition, a thin poorly defined spread of subsoil (layer **369203**) containing a few sherds of Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery was identified within trench 3692TT.

Saxon (AD 410 – 1066) Figure 6

Feature: Pit **2437**

- 3.1.34 A single feature was attributable to this period, subrectangular pit **2437** located at the western extreme of archaeological remains identified during the Little Stock Farm excavation, cut by the subsequent medieval field system. The pit, measuring c. 2.7 by 1.5m in size, was relatively shallow (i.e. up to 0.5m deep) with a flat base. The possibility has

therefore been considered that this may have been the remains of a sunken-floored building (*grübenhaus*), although if so, no other evidence such as associated post-holes was recorded.

Medieval (Phase I) (AD 1066 – 1500) Figure 2 and 6

Sub-groups: Enclosure **5006** (enclosing quarry **2522**); Ditch **5027**

Features: Ditches **369606** and **369804**; Gully **2430**; Pits **2036** and **369408**; Hearth **2421**; Post-hole **2110**

- 3.1.35 The principle feature attributable to this phase of medieval activity comprises a large quarry pit (**2522**) located in the south-east corner of the excavation area, within the north-west corner of an associated subrectangular enclosure (**5006**). The quarry measured at least 32m long and 12.5m wide, and at its deepest point was *c.* 1.5m below the stripped excavation surface. It is probable that the quarry was exploiting the natural lithic geology, though possibly just for small scale 'local' building use.
- 3.1.36 A moderately large slightly irregular shallow hearth (**2421**), was also located within the quarry enclosure, located on the western edge of the enclosure and connected to the enclosing ditch by a short length of gully (**2430**). In addition, east to west aligned ditch **5027** followed the southern edge of the site into the west side of the quarry enclosure, immediately to the north of the hearth **2421**, and ultimately connecting with the west end of the stone quarry. Two other features were recorded during the excavation, comprising an isolated small post-hole (**2110**) and a relatively small pit (**2036**) that had been cut through the prehistoric grave-pits **2031** and **2037**, although this relationship is not considered to be significant. Both were located to the north of the stone quarry enclosure.
- 3.1.37 Although the full extent of the quarry enclosure is not as yet known, a single approximately north to south aligned medieval ditch (**369804**) recorded during the Park Wood Cottage evaluation in trench 3698TT may possibly indicate the full extent of the quarry enclosure to the east. However, this is by no means certain, as this would require the enclosure to straddle the line of Station Road, which is in itself considered to have at least medieval origins, although documentary evidence may hopefully confirm or deny this assumption.
- 3.1.38 Other medieval features recorded during the Park Wood Cottage evaluation that are attributed to this phase include ditch **369606**, a broadly south-south-east to north-north-west aligned ditch in trench 3696TT and a shallow poorly defined pit (**369408**) in trench 3694TT, the latter cut by a later medieval ditch (see **369412** below).

Medieval (Phase II) (AD 1066 – 1500) Figure 2 and 6

Sub-groups: Ditches **5008** and **5010**

Features: Ditches **2439**, **5028**, **369302**, **369304**, **369406** and **369412**; Natural feature **355111**

- 3.1.39 The dominant characteristic of this phase is the establishment of a field system, predominantly aligned broadly east to west (i.e. ditch **5010**) and north to south (i.e. ditches **5008**, **2439** and **5028**). Ditch **5028** is undated, and was only recorded during stripping for a haul road through that area. As such, it is dated on the basis of its alignment and proximity to ditch **2439** to the south. It should be noted, however, that the Early/ Middle Iron Age field system in the same area is similarly aligned, and the possibility must therefore be considered that **5028** is prehistoric in origin. Although the quarry enclosure ditch itself has infilled by this stage, whether the quarry itself remains in use is uncertain.
- 3.1.40 To the east, the Park Wood Cottage evaluation results indicate the establishment of a pair of co-aligned linear features, broadly aligned south-south-west to north-north-east, located in trench 3694TT (ditches **369406** and **369412**) and possibly continuing into trench 3693TT to

the north (as feature **369304** and ditch **369302** respectively). Because ditch **369412** had cut through an earlier medieval pit (see **369408** above), these apparently associated features are considered to belong to the second phase of medieval activity. Whether the features collectively represent additional elements of the same field system (or perhaps an associated trackway) as those recorded during the Little Stock Farm excavation is unclear.

- 3.1.41 The final feature originally attributed to this phase of the medieval period is natural feature **355111**. This large 'L'-shaped feature, originally interpreted as a foundation trench with steep sides and a fill of loosely packed local stone (interpreted as post-robbing backfill) containing medieval pottery, was located in the Little Stock Farm evaluation trench 3551TT along the southern edge of the excavation. It could not, however, be relocated during the excavation, despite repeated attempts to clean the area, both by hand and using a toothless machine bucket. Perhaps the only viable explanation is that the feature originally identified during the evaluation was in fact a localised natural geological fault, not an archaeological feature. In this scenario, the loose stone fill is likely to comprise fractured natural lithic geology, with intrusive material working down into the 'feature' as a result of bioturbation.

3.2 The Artefactual Record

Introduction

- 3.2.1 A moderate quantity of artefactual material, in a fairly limited range of material types, was recovered from both stages of work at Little Stock Farm (evaluation and excavation), and from the evaluation at Park Wood Cottage. The overall date range of the finds assemblage is prehistoric to post-medieval; condition ranges from fair to poor, the ceramic assemblage in particular showing signs of moderate to heavy abrasion.
- 3.2.2 The finds are briefly discussed by material type below; the supporting data (and detailed specialist report for pottery) are presented in **Section 7**.

Pottery

- 3.2.3 The pottery assemblage includes material of Middle Neolithic (10 sherds), Early/Middle Bronze Age (5 sherds), Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age (2,352 sherds), Romano-British (50 sherds), possible Saxon (1 sherd), medieval (110 sherds) and post-medieval date (23 sherds). Eight sherds remain undated. Overall condition is fair to poor, with many sherds small and moderately or heavily abraded, but a few feature groups containing one or more reconstructable profiles have been identified.
- 3.2.4 The bulk of the assemblage is derived from stratified feature fills, with small quantities from colluvial deposits, unstratified or topsoil layers, and some recovered as 'artefact samples' from the surfaces of unexcavated features. Two groups, one including at least three partially reconstructable profiles, came from grave-pits; and probably therefore represent deliberately placed grave goods.
- 3.2.5 The presence of the small group of Middle Neolithic (Peterborough ware) pottery, an unusual type in Kent, is noteworthy. The main interest of the ceramic assemblage as a whole, however, lies in the large group of later prehistoric pottery, potentially spanning the Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age, and providing a valuable addition to the pottery sequence for the 1st millennium BC in east Kent.

Worked Flint

- 3.2.6 The worked flint includes little that is chronologically distinctive. The majority of the assemblage consists of flake and core material, unpatinated or lightly patinated, and varying in condition from fresh to slightly edge-damaged. The raw material is likely to derive from a local gravel source. Retouched pieces are limited to eight scrapers, one arrowhead and one miscellaneous retouched piece.
- 3.2.7 The bulk of the assemblage is not chronologically distinctive and a broad Late Neolithic to Bronze Age date may be suggested. The exception is a small group of pieces from pit **2507**, which produced nine flakes/broken flakes, all in very fresh condition (quite distinct from the rest of the assemblage), and a Neolithic transverse arrowhead. This group was associated with sherds of Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware (see above).

Burnt Flint and Stone

- 3.2.8 Burnt unworked flint and stone was recovered in very small quantities from several contexts. Both categories are intrinsically undatable; burnt flint is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity, which is possible here given the low level background scatter of worked flint, and the burnt stone could be of similar date.

Ceramic Building Material

- 3.2.9 The ceramic building material recovered includes fragments of roof tile, brick, field drain and possible floor tile. The bricks, field drains, floor tiles and some of the roof tiles are likely to be of post-medieval date, although some more irregular fragments of roof tile in a softer, coarser fabric could be of medieval date.

Fired Clay

- 3.2.10 A small quantity of fired clay was recovered; this comprises mainly small, featureless and undiagnostic fragments of uncertain date and origin; a few fragments have possible wattle impressions and are likely to be of structural origin. One fragment may possibly derive from a spindle-whorl. On the basis of associated pottery, the date range for these fragments is likely to fall in the later prehistoric period.

Metalwork

- 3.2.11 The metalwork recovered includes one copper alloy decorated strip (Early Iron Age vessel-hole **2304**), six fragments of a silver coin and 30 iron fragments consisting of 29 nail fragments and one possible knife blade (the latter unstratified). Twelve of the nails were found in Early/ Middle Iron Age post-hole **2408**. All metalwork is currently packaged and stored in stable conditions, and do not have any particular conservation needs.
- 3.2.12 The six fragments of silver coin, probably from a single Late Iron Age potin coin, were recovered from pit **2536**. This represents a class II coin; a type issued from the 1st century BC into the early part of the 1st century AD. The date range suggests either that it may be an intrusive find from a feature that is currently attributed to the Early/ Middle Iron Age (i.e. 700 – 100 BC), or supporting the hypothesis that the post-hole (i.e. round-house) continued in use throughout the Iron Age.

3.3 The Environmental Record

Introduction

- 3.3.1 A comprehensive suite of bulk samples was taken from sealed and/or dated contexts to recover charred plant remains and charcoal, the samples taken from the Little Stock Farm evaluation and excavation. The purpose was to provide information and aid the interpretation of the economic and palaeo-environmental aspects of the site.
- 3.3.2 The information presented below aids in determining the preservation, character, rarity and significance of the palaeo-environmental data and provides the basis for constructing a targeted and justified analysis programme to help understand and interpret the excavated remains.
- 3.3.3 The environmental record is briefly discussed by category below, supporting data (and detailed specialist reports for human bone and animal bone) are presented in **Section 7**.

Colluvium

- 3.3.4 Where observed, superficial colluvial deposits over the majority of the site appeared to seal all archaeological remains with the exception of medieval and later features. It is therefore likely that the colluvium represents a post-Roman development. However, the shallow nature of the deposit, combined with the mixed nature of datable material recovered suggests that the deposit has been considerably reworked during its formation, and as such offers little potential to contribute to a consideration of site economy and/or palaeo-environment.
- 3.3.5 The deeper colluvial deposits recorded during the evaluation (ARC LSF98) within the coombe to the west of the excavation appear to represent a formation that is most likely to have begun during prehistory. However, insufficient secure dating evidence was recovered to confirm the periods of activity to which the individual facies relate. As such, there is little potential for further analysis of this deeper colluvial sequence to inform on the palaeo-environment of the site.

Human Bone

- 3.3.6 Disarticulated and fragmentary human remains – representative at minimum of two adult females - were recovered from five Iron Age contexts. The nature of the deposits is likely to be reflective of the diverse mortuary practices and attitudes to human remains for which there is growing evidence within the Iron Age.
- 3.3.7 Bone from grave-pits **2031** (fill 2029; skeleton 2030), **2037** (fill 2032; skeleton 2033) and pit **2441** (fill 2442) were assessed. All the bone is in relatively good condition, with slight root/insect erosion of the cortical long bone from 2033, but heavily fragmented, almost all the breaks apparently sustained in antiquity. The human remains recovered from the grave-pits represent parts of two adult females; bone from grave-pit **2037** representing a very small, gracile individual aged *c.* 20-30 years; bone from grave-pit **2031** representing the remains of an older adult, at least 40 years old.
- 3.3.8 Skeleton 2030 was apparently redeposited within in a confined space in the north-west corner of the cut (**2031**). The remains largely comprised skull, probably already dry through decomposition at the time of deposition. The deposition of disarticulated human remains in Iron Age pits is not uncommon; in this instance, the discrete location of the bone suggests deliberate placement rather than incidental inclusion in the fill. The fragmentary condition of skeleton 2033 suggests it was either disturbed in antiquity or perhaps was originally deposited as disarticulated remains. The human skull fragments recovered from pit **2441**

were only identified as such during post-excavation, and whilst they do not represent part of skeleton 2030, the same possibility cannot be excluded for skeleton 2033.

- 3.3.9 The possibility exists that DNA analysis may resolve many of the questions regarding skeletal provenance of the bone fragments and any potential relationships that this may as a result demonstrate must be considered. However, it is uncertain that the human remains from Little Stock Farm will be appropriate for such analysis.

Animal Bone

- 3.3.10 An assemblage of 421 animal bones was recovered from Little Stock Farm. Although a comparatively small assemblage, it still nevertheless represents one of the largest collections of animal bones recovered from archaeological excavations in the general area. However, the bones are generally in poor condition and incomplete, with only approximately one third of the assemblage identifiable to species. Of these, sheep or goat (40%) comprised the largest group, followed by cattle (30%), pig (10%), dog (8%), horse and bird (5% each), deer (2%) and small mammal (1%). As such, statistically viable detailed metrical analysis will not be possible, although the assemblage may be used to provide a general indication of the faunal population associated with the identified periods of human activity.

Macroscopic plant remains and charcoal

- 3.3.11 A large series of bulk samples were taken from sealed contexts to recover charred plants remains and charcoal to aid in determining the palaeo-economy of the site. The samples processed produced varying quantities of rooty material (between 2 and 90%) and uncharred weed seeds. Although other factors must be considered, it is generally considered that the greater the quantity of rooty material and uncharred weed seeds, the greater the likelihood that material may not be *in situ*.
- 3.3.12 Neolithic cereals and charcoal were recovered, providing information on early cereal cultivation and consumption, as well as the nature of local woodland for Kent. Similarly, evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval cereal cultivation and preparation was also recovered from the site; in particular, a demonstrable increase in arable farming from the Middle Iron Age onwards. In addition, a large complimentary assemblage of charred weed seeds may provide an indication of the soil types cultivated during these periods.

3.4 Dating

- 3.4.1 Many of the samples processed have produced relatively large quantities of charred material, including large pieces of charcoal. There is therefore considerable scope to consider obtaining radiocarbon dates from a range of feature types. Dates obtained from features such as hearths, grave-pits etc. may provide good chronological dates for these events, particularly where artefactual or stratigraphic evidence is ambiguous or absent.

3.5 Archive Storage and Curation

- 3.5.1 Following completion of the Interim Excavation Report (URS 1999d), the archive has been updated to include records from all fieldwork events carried out by Wessex Archaeology as itemised above (**Table 1**).
- 3.5.2 The paper and photographic archive along with the finds are presently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the URS site codes ARC LSF98, ARC PWC99 (evaluations) and ARC LSF99 (excavation). The final destination of the CTRL Section 1 Archaeological

Archive is not known. It is hoped that it will be deposited locally in Kent, and for the purpose of assessment it should be assumed that a Kent museum destination will be achieved.

- 3.5.3 Without a certain destination, decisions on long term storage, curation and discard cannot be finalised. However, it is recommended that the entire artefactual and ecofactual assemblage, with the possible exception of post-medieval and later material, should be retained for long term storage.
- 3.5.4 Although a few small pieces of copper alloy (one), silver (six) and iron (30) were recovered it is not anticipated that long term storage of these items will be an issue that needs to be specifically addressed. Moreover, as suggested above, it would be considered appropriate to discard any considered to be of post-medieval date with the remainder of the artefact assemblage of that date or later.
- 3.5.5 The archives for fieldwork events carried out by Wessex Archaeology currently comprise the following components (**Tables 2a-c**).

Table 2a: Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) Archive Components

Item	Number of Items	Quantity	Condition (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	172	-	P, I
A1 plans and sections	8	-	P, I
A3 plans and sections			
A4 plans and sections	54	-	P, I
Small finds	1	302g	W, M, P, I
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	9S	-	P, I
Films (colour) S=slide; PR=print	9S/4PR	-	P, I (PRs submitted as deliverables)
Pottery	71	497g	W, M, P, I
Fired clay			
CBM	29	1,000g	W, M, P, I
Worked Flint	87	2,970g	W, M, P, I
Burnt flint	3	804g	W, M, P, I
Stone	2	210g	W, M, P, I
Shell	1	12g	W, M, P, I
Metalwork	8	202g	P, I
Glass	2	16g	W, M, P, I
Slag			
Human Bone	-	187.2g	W, P, I
Animal Bone	313	3,248g	W, M, P, I
Soil Samples	26	120 litres	10 P, I; 16 UP
Soil Samples (Kubiena tins etc.)			

Table 2b: Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98) Archive Components

Item	Number of Items	Quantity	Condition (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	96	-	P, I
A1 plans and sections			
A3 plans and sections	2	-	P, I
A4 plans and sections	99	-	P, I
Small finds			
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	12S	-	P, I
Films (colour) S=slide; PR=print	12S/2PR	-	P, I (PRs submitted as deliverables)
Pottery	27	328g	W, M, P, I
Fired clay	78	134g	W, M, P, I
CBM	20	796g	W, M, P, I
Worked Flint	62	849g	W, M, P, I
Burnt flint	8	7g	W, M, P, I
Stone	1	378	W, M, P, I
Shell			
Metalwork	7	15g	P, I
Glass	1	5g	W, M, P, I
Slag			
Human Bone			
Animal Bone	108	958g	W, M, P, I
Soil Samples	11	120 litres	9 P, I; 2 UP, I
Soil Samples (Kubiena tins etc.)	1 spot sample column	14 x c. 1 litre	UP, I

Table 2c: Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99) Archive Components

Item	Number Of Items	Quantity	Condition (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	24	-	P, I
A1 plans and sections			
A3 plans and sections			
A4 plans and sections	18	-	P, I
Small finds			
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	3S	-	P, I
Films (colour) S=slide; PR=print	3S/2PR	-	P, I (PRs submitted as deliverables)
Pottery	1	3g	W, M, P, I
Fired clay			
CBM	11	469g	W, M, P, I
Worked Flint	1	1g	W, M, P, I
Burnt flint			
Stone			
Shell			
Metalwork	1	156g	P, I
Glass			
Slag			
Human Bone			
Animal Bone	5	59g	W, M, P, I
Soil Samples			
Soil Samples (Kubiena tins etc.)			

3.5.6 The total number and capacity of all finds boxes for all fieldwork events carried out by Wessex Archaeology, as listed in **Table 1**, is as follows;

Table 3: Quantification of Finds by volume

Description	Capacity	No.	Total Volume
Large Cardboard	0.02900m ³	2	0.05800m ³
Small Cardboard	0.00700m ³	1	0.00700m ³
Small plastic ('Stewart')	0.00200m ³	2	0.00400m ³
Small plastic ('Stewart')	0.00075m ³	1	0.00075m ³
	TOTAL	6	0.06975m³

4 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The results of the fieldwork events as itemised in **Table 1** have been assessed against the *CTRL Archaeological Research Strategy* (URS 1999a, 63-7), the *Landscape Zone Priorities* (*ibid.* 34-6) and the specific *Primary Fieldwork Event Aims* (*ibid.* 36-7), with the degree of potential for each data category estimated (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Summary of Principal Site Archive Potential

Objectives, Priorities and Aims	Data Category					
	Stratigraphy	Artefacts	Environmental	Dating	Other Assessments	Overall
Research Objective: <i>Hunter-foragers (400000 – 4500 BC)</i>	-	L	-	-	-	L
Research Objective: <i>Early agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)</i>	L	M / H	M	M	-	M
Research Objective: <i>Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)</i>	H	M / H	M / H	L	M	M
Research Objective: <i>Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)</i>	L / M	-	-	-	M	L / M
Research Objective: <i>The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)</i>	L / M	L	L	L	L / M	L / M
Landscape Zone Priority: <i>Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment for all time periods present, through 'on-site' and 'off-site' studies and the interaction with past economies.</i>	-	-	M	L	L	L
Landscape Zone Priority: <i>Establish the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains.</i>	L / M	M	M	L	M	M
Landscape Zone Priority: <i>The ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape.</i>	L / M	M / H	L / M	H	M / H	M
Fieldwork Event Aim: <i>Determine the extent, morphology and function of, and interaction between, occupation remains and the landscape setting.</i>	L / M	L	L	L	L	L
Fieldwork Event Aim: <i>Recover individual artefacts and artefact assemblages and other indicators, such as faunal and charred plant remains from securely dated sequences to establish the economic basis of agricultural and later communities.</i>	L / M	M	M	L	M	L / M
Fieldwork Event Aim: <i>Determine the local environment of the site through the recovery of palaeo-environmental data.</i>	-	-	M	-	-	M

Key:

- L = Low Potential
- M = Medium Potential
- H = High Potential
- = Category not considered applicable

- 4.1.2 In light of this assessment the data categories that are considered of above low potential for further analysis have been identified and discussed below. Within data categories, any research objectives, landscape zone priorities and fieldwork event aims not addressed have been assessed and considered at this stage inappropriate/ inapplicable to the results as presented above.

- 4.1.3 For all areas of potential the possible re-worked nature of many of the contexts examined needs to be borne in mind. For instance, many contexts produced pottery from more than one period of activity and relatively high quantities of both rooty material and unburnt weed seeds were recovered from samples processed. To minimise the diminishing effect of either residuality and or intrusiveness on the site potential, contexts have been examined to identify those with greatest potential for detailed analysis. These are listed by feature in **Appendix 7.1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic Potential

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

- 4.2.1 The excavations at Little Stock Farm have revealed a multi-phase settlement occupied throughout this time period. As such, the results have the potential to significantly contribute to our understanding of the morphology and development of later prehistoric settlement sites, a period for which excavated remains in the area are few and far between.

Research Objective: Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)

- 4.2.2 Although the very latest phases of prehistoric settlement extend into this time period, the main potential for further analysis is the subsequent apparent shift in focus during the Romano-British period towards Park Wood Cottage to the east. Furthermore, although there appears to be a period of relative abandonment in the area during the Saxon period, medieval occupation appears to remain focussed further to the east, with field systems and quasi-industrial areas located in the area of the prehistoric settlement.

Research Objective: The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)

- 4.2.3 Similarly, the recorded remains of relatively modern structural features within the Park Wood Cottage evaluation area may further attest to this drift in settlement focus from west to east.

Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of the rural economy, and

Fieldwork Event Aim: Establish the economic basis of communities

- 4.2.4 Few elements were recorded to identify the nature and layout of any field systems associated with the excavated remains, and it is unlikely therefore that these priorities and aims will be addressed significantly through the stratigraphy of the site. However, the presence of a medieval stone quarry does potentially indicate at least part of the economic basis for the medieval community that occupied the area.

Landscape Zone Priority: Ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape, and

Fieldwork Event Aim: Occupation remains and the landscape setting

- 4.2.5 There are two key stratigraphic elements that address these particular priorities and aims, comprising the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age vessel-holes and the Middle/ Late Iron Age pit (re-)burials.

- 4.2.6 Although few are known from nearby, the vessel-holes are features that have parallels elsewhere, such as Grooms Farm, Hampshire (Wessex Archaeology 2000, 5), Twyford Down, Hampshire (Walker and Farwell 2000, 17) and Fargo North, Wiltshire (Wessex Archaeology 1998a), although the latter example is more closely dated as Middle Bronze Age. The Little Stock examples appear to concentrate along the brow of the slope overlooking the East Stour River to the south; consideration of these features elsewhere has also focussed on their spatial arrangement and the possibility that they collectively represent

boundaries or some other form of defining monument. The Little Stock Farm features therefore offer the opportunity to contribute to better understanding these enigmatic potentially ritualistic features, and their function, interaction and place within the archaeological landscape, through a combination of comparative morphology/ spatial organisation and absolute dating techniques.

- 4.2.7 It is an well-attested pattern in the Middle/ Late Iron Age to re-bury human remains that are either partially or wholly disarticulated in storage or refuse pits (c.f. Whimster 1977). Although focussed in other regions, and particularly in a broad swathe from Wessex across to Norfolk (*ibid.* fig. 1), examples are known from Kent, such as the skeletal remains recovered from pit deposits at Thong Lane, Gravesend (French and Green 1983). As such, the features that have produced human remains at Little Stock Farm, that are almost certainly part of this funerary rite, will potentially contribute to a broader comparative discussion of this practice.

4.3 Artefactual Potential

Research Objective: Early agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)

- 4.3.1 The presence of a small quantity of Neolithic pottery and worked flint is important given the general dearth of such material from the region. This small assemblage can contribute to an understanding of the nature of activity on the site during this period.

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

- 4.3.2 Dating evidence, in the form of the substantial later prehistoric assemblage, can demonstrate how the spatial organisation of the site changed through time, for example, through the establishment and modification of the enclosures.

*Fieldwork Event Aim: Economic Basis of Agricultural Communities, and
Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of the rural economy*

- 4.3.3 Allied with stratigraphic analysis, the later prehistoric pottery may be considered as relatively secure chronological indicators of activity, and as such will form the chronological framework on which to establish the economic basis of the agricultural communities present on the site at this period.
- 4.3.4 The range of later prehistoric pottery fabrics present will enable a characterisation of the assemblage in terms of the exploitation of local and non-local raw materials. This will provide a better understanding of the systems of pottery production and distribution during this period, and enhance the work already achieved in this area (Macpherson-Grant 1991). Such analysis may therefore contribute to a broader study of trade-and-exchange networks, and by implication, movement through the later prehistoric landscape.

Landscape Zone Priority: Ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape

- 4.3.5 The pottery assemblage provides the opportunity to examine differential deposition during the Early/Middle Iron Age, with particular reference to deliberately ‘placed’ deposits that do not appear to represent the disposal of standard domestic debris, some from burials and some from non-funerary deposits. This evidence can be combined with the small quantity of human remains, which appears to include deliberately ‘placed’ disarticulated bone, and which can be used to examine Iron Age mortuary practices. As discussed above, the spatial organisation of the placed-deposits (and therefore potentially also the communities that ‘placed’ them) at Little Stock Farm may be related to topography.

4.4 Environmental Potential

Research Objective: Early agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)

- 4.4.1 Charred grain, weed seeds and charcoal were recovered from a single Neolithic feature. Although in isolation, the environmental data may not only help to define the economic landscape, it may help to inform the nature of the contemporary environment, possibly with regard to woodland clearance. However, it should be borne in mind that Neolithic activity in Kent is often characterised by very small numbers of isolated features, such as Saltwood Tunnel (URS 2000), and as such, the Little Stock Farm feature may present a more holistic view of Neolithic activity than currently assumed.

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

- 4.4.2 A comprehensive suite of environmental samples from all phases of activity identified within this time period have produced evidence for cereal cultivation and processing, as well as other ecofacts such as charred weed seeds, peas/beans, hazelnuts and charcoal. The environmental data may therefore indicate the changes in the environment over time, not just with regard to the economy of the later prehistoric period, but also the surrounding natural landscape and human impact on it.
- 4.4.3 For instance, the cereal and animal bone remains will not only indicate the shifting economic basis for agricultural communities through time, but also may contribute to a consideration of activity zones within the phased settlement remains recorded, such as butchery sites, crop-processing, domestic vs. industrial hearths etc. Identification of non-cultivated plant-macrofossils (including charcoals) may also indicate the nature of the local contemporaneous environment, and human exploitation of such.

Research Objective: Towns and their rural landscapes (100 – AD 1700)

- 4.4.4 The excavated evidence for later prehistoric activity at Little Stock Farm suggests a transition from *Farming Communities* into at least the beginning of the *Towns and their rural landscapes* time period. As such, the environmental data will make a significant contribution towards understanding any potential shift in agrarian practices, or other environmental change that may characterise this transition.
- 4.4.5 Moreover, Saxon and medieval features have also produced environmental data that may inform environmental change resulting from landscape reorganisation. For instance, the stone quarry may indicate a shift from an agricultural basis for the economy towards a quasi-industrial approach, although perhaps too little was recorded of the surrounding field systems to be confident of this.

Landscape Zone Priority: Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment

- 4.4.6 Through a combination of stratigraphic and artefactual evidence the excavation has identified a complex multi-phase site, including periods of sustained continuous occupation throughout the later prehistoric periods. As such the environmental evidence such as charcoal and non-cultivated seeds will be crucial in determining the changing palaeo-environment, from the earliest agricultural impact resulting from Neolithic woodland clearance through to medieval exploitation of the *in situ* geology.
- 4.4.7 For instance, as noted above, identification of charcoal will inform a discussion of the changing nature of surrounding woodland through time, and human management and exploitation of this resource. Furthermore, the absence of fish remains from the animal bone

assemblage may indicate a preference for exploitable resources away from the nearby river valleys.

Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of the rural economy, and

Fieldwork Event Aim: Establish the economic basis of communities

- 4.4.8 Similarly, the environmental evidence for crop-processing, for instance, will be crucial in determining the changing agricultural economy for all periods of occupation identified. Although insufficient identifiable faunal remains were recovered to allow detailed metrical analysis, the quantification may be used to characterise the general nature and emphasis placed on differing livestock, both domesticated and free range, during the various periods identified.

Landscape Zone Priority: Ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape

- 4.4.9 Little more may be identified from detailed analysis of the human remains, although the possibility of DNA analysis to determine firstly exactly how many individuals are represented at Little Stock Farm, and secondly whether such individuals are in any way related to each other must be considered. It is not certain, however, whether the human remains from Little Stock Farm are suitable for such an approach.
- 4.4.10 The vessel-pits have generally produced charcoal-rich fills, again paralleled with similar features elsewhere such as the Grooms Farm examples (Wessex Archaeology 2000, 5). Detailed analysis (including species identification, absolute radiocarbon dating etc.) of the material recovered from the features at Little Stock Farm may determine whether there is any significance to these fills, particularly in their composition (i.e. pyre debris etc.) and sequence.

4.5 Dating Potential

Research Objective: Early agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)

- 4.5.1 Given the relative paucity of excavated remains from this period in the general area, or even Kent as a whole, the opportunity to obtain reliable absolute dating for the features at Little Stock Farm must be considered. The presence of intrusive material within the pit/ hollow considered to be Early/ Mid Bronze Age, however, may exclude this feature from being considered for radiocarbon dating.

Landscape Zone Priority: Ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape

- 4.5.2 Although the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age ‘placed’ vessels and Middle/ Late Iron Age burials are broadly dated through ceramic identification, these features appear to be part of much wider traditions that encompass sites through Southern England. As such, it is considered imperative that secure absolute dates are obtained for the remains at Little Stock Farm, to place them within these broader sequences.

4.6 Comparative CTRL Principal Sites

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC), and

Research Objective: Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)

- 4.6.1 Although few other comparable sites are published in the general vicinity of Little Stock Farm, it is known that a morphological similar arrangement of features to the prehistoric settlement remains has been noted during the CTRL construction watching brief at Westenhangar (URS 1999e and 2001). There is therefore scope to compare and contrast the results of the two excavations, possibly combining to make a significant contribution to the understanding of Late Bronze Age/ Iron Age settlement in the general area.

Research Objective: The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)

- 4.6.2 The modern structural remains located in the south-west corner of the Park Wood Cottage evaluation area offer little potential for further study in their own right. However, in essence they represent part of a broad continuum of settlement at Little Stock Farm from the Neolithic period onwards, culminating in the modern-day Park Wood Cottage farmstead.

- 4.6.3 It would therefore be considered appropriate to carry out limited desk-based assessment of the area to initially identify whether the recorded remains are mapped on early edition Ordnance Survey maps or other historic plans and documents. Such evidence could then combine with the recorded remains to fully characterise the changing pattern of settlement at Little Stock Farm through time.

Landscape Zone Priority: Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment

- 4.6.4 Combining the Little Stock Farm results with those from other nearby investigations, particularly on the CTRL, such as Bower Lane, Smeeth (Glass pers. comm.) and Westenhangar (URS 2001), may allow more general statements concerning the changing palaeo-environment over time for the area as a whole.

Landscape Zone Priority: Ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape

- 4.6.5 As noted above, the prehistoric ritual features recorded at Little Stock Farm (vessels ‘placed’ in post-holes, (re-)burial of human remains in pits) have clear parallels with other sites and practices noted elsewhere throughout Southern England. There is clearly scope, therefore, to compare and contrast the Little Stock Farm results with those from further afield.

4.7 Overall Potential

Introduction

- 4.7.1 In assessing the overall potential of Little Stock Farm, a number of factors have been considered, including not only the contribution to any one particular objective, priority or aim that the data categories outlined above make, but the breadth and depth of all categories *en masse*. Specific research objectives assigned to each CTRL research strategy time period are discussed, followed by a consideration of the landscape zone priorities and fieldwork event aims that have informed those assessments of potential.

Time Periods

4.7.2 The following defined time periods are represented at Little Stock Farm

- *Early Agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)*
- *Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)*
- *Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)*
- *The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)*

4.7.3 The results from Little Stock Farm for each time period have been assessed against the research objectives for those time periods, as defined in the CTRL Archaeological Research Strategy (URS 1999a, 64-7). Those research objectives not considered below have been assessed and considered inapplicable and/or inappropriate at this stage of the post-excavation assessment process. The possibility remains however that subsequent analysis may yield data that results in the reconsideration of currently discounted objectives.

Research Objective: Early agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)

4.7.4 The single Neolithic archaeological feature recorded at Little Stock Farm cannot be confidently used to address *Research Objectives (a) – (d)* as defined. The palaeo-environmental data may provide some indication of the contemporary environment, potentially including woodland clearance, but only at a very localised scale. However, as noted above, features of this period are conspicuous by their relative absence from the archaeological record of Kent, and as such every opportunity should be taken to expand our knowledge of this poorly understood period.

4.7.5 This Research Objective will also contribute to;

- *Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of the rural economy,*
- *Fieldwork Event Aim: Establish the economic basis of communities, and*
- *Fieldwork Event Aim: Determine the local environment.*

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

- (a) Determine spatial organisation of the landscape in terms of settlement location in relation to fields, woodland, enclosed areas and ways of moving between these.
- (b) Consider environmental change resulting from landscape organisation and reorganisation.
- (c) Determine how settlements were arranged and functioned over time.

4.7.6 The investigations at Little Stock Farm have identified a complex multi-phase settlement, including some ritual activity, existing from the Late Bronze Age probably through to the Late Iron Age as a sustained period of continuous occupation. During this period of occupation the layout of the settlement and associated enclosures and field systems was altered and remodelled on several occasions.

4.7.7 The results therefore offer significant potential to address *Research Objectives (a)* and *(c)* partly through detailed stratigraphic analysis, and also by comparing and contrasting the results from Little Stock Farm with other broadly contemporaneous activity. Comparable sites may include those nearby such as at Westenhanger (URS 2001) and Waterbrook Farm, Ashford (Wessex Archaeology 1998b), and others further afield, the latter particularly with

regard to the ritual activity at Little Stock Farm. Allied to this would be environmental analysis, including processing all remaining unprocessed samples, to inform *Research Objective (b)*.

4.7.8 This Research Objective will also contribute to;

- *Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of the rural economy,*
- *Landscape Zone Priority: Ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape,*
- *Fieldwork Event Aim: Establish the economic basis of communities, and*
- *Fieldwork Event Aim: Determine the local environment.*

Research Objective: Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)

(d) How did the organisation of the landscape change through time

4.7.9 The prehistoric settlement at Little Stock Farm probably continued in use into the very earliest Romano-British period. However, although this therefore transcends the chronological boundary between *Towns and their rural landscapes* and the preceding *Farming Communities* time period, this is not considered significant in terms of a lifestyle change. There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the incumbent population at this transition point were relatively unaffected by any such change, with virtually no evidence for ‘Romanisation’ recovered.

4.7.10 It is of note, however, that Romano-British evidence is focussed to the east, within the Park Wood Cottage evaluation area, and there is therefore the potential to explore the possibility that the area remained occupied but that the centre shifted downslope towards the east. Similarly, medieval remains appear to concentrate in the same area to the west, although field systems and a stone quarry are located in the prehistoric settlement area.

4.7.11 This Research Objective will also contribute to;

- *Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of the rural economy, and*
- *Fieldwork Event Aim: Establish the economic basis of communities.*

Research Objective: The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)

4.7.12 Although not specifically addressed by *Research Objectives (a) – (e)*, the continuity of settlement pattern observed from the preceding time period is maintained into this time period, with relatively modern remains recorded as subsurface features at Park Wood Cottage, as well as the present-day farmstead itself. A limited desk-based assessment of the immediate area therefore offers the potential to inform the nature and layout of these most recent phases of occupation at Little Stock Farm, complimenting the recorded evidence for the prehistoric phases of occupation at the site.

Summary

4.7.13 The results from Little Stock Farm can be considered a significant discovery for the archaeology of this part of Kent. As highlighted throughout the text above, prehistoric settlement remains are comparatively rare in the county as a whole (e.g. Clarke 1982; Champion 1982; Cunliffe 1982), although the CTRL is significantly contributing to this shortfall. The presence, therefore, of probable Neolithic evidence, as well as a multi-phase

Late Bronze Age/ Iron Age settlement, both with complimentary artefact and ecofact assemblages has the potential therefore to make a considerable contribution to the understanding of the prehistoric settlement pattern of Kent.

- 4.7.14 Furthermore, elements of the stratigraphic record, such as the potentially ‘placed’ deposits of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery vessels in dedicated features, are paralleled elsewhere in Southern England, and appear to represent a form of ritual activity that is at best poorly understood. The well-documented later Iron Age practice of re-intering exhumed human remains in storage/ refuse pits is also represented at Little Stock Farm. It can be demonstrated that the focus for this activity is generally but not exclusively concentrated beyond Kent in a region extending from Wessex to Norfolk, the Little Stock Farm examples therefore significantly contributing to the relatively scarce evidence for such activity in Kent.
- 4.7.15 Settlement continuity is an aspect of the excavation results worthy of note. Although precise details for Romano-British and later settlement activity at the site were not recorded, nevertheless Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval features were identified. These indicated a tendency for settlement focus to drift downslope to the east, towards the present-day Park Wood Cottage. As such the recorded evidence from Little Stock Farm *in toto* appears to represent a preferred locale for settlement from the earliest agriculturalists onwards.

Updated Research Objectives

- 4.7.16 Notwithstanding the possibility that additional areas of research may be identified on the basis of the results of any further analysis, the results from Little Stock Farm have so far raised the following issues that may contribute to an updated project design;

Generic

- *The nature and arrangement of persistent settlement occupation spanning the transition between two or more Research Objective time periods,*

Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

- *The relationship and interaction between domestic and ritual activity*

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 Fieldwork

- 6.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Rail Link Engineering, who monitored the fieldwork on behalf of Union Railways (South) Limited. The assistance shown by Jay Carver (RLE) in particular is gratefully acknowledged. Monitoring visits were also attended by Kent County Council (KCC) and English Heritage (EH); their constructive comments, advice and experience, particularly provided by Simon Mason (KCC) and Peter Kendall (EH) were gratefully received.
- 6.1.2 Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge Oakes Construction, and in particular Paul Rolfe, for the assistance shown in providing the plant necessary to prepare the excavation areas and ancillary works.
- 6.1.3 The excavation fieldwork was directed by Andrew Crockett, assisted by Mark Dunkley, and carried out by Raquel Gomez, Patrick McNulty, Stewart Morris, Nick Plunkett and Jacky Pierce. In addition, in-house technical advice on environmental issues was provided by Dr M J Allen (Environmental Manager).

6.2 Post-excavation

- 6.2.1 The post-excavation programme was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Crockett, with the assistance of Lorraine Mephram (Finds Manager) and Dr M J Allen (Environmental Manager). This report was compiled by Andrew Crockett and Mark Dunkley, with the illustrations provided by Karen Nichols.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Assessment of Stratigraphy

Andrew Crockett

Introduction

- 7.1.1 Due to the relative stratigraphic complexity of the archaeological remains identified at Little Stock Farm, the archive has been assessed in detail in order to identify stratigraphically secure contexts on which to base further detailed analysis.

Methodology

- 7.1.2 For this assessment, the contexts identified from the main excavation phase at Little Stock Farm (ARC LSF99) have been examined. Supporting data is provided by the ceramic (i.e. pottery and ceramic building material) spot-dating, and the stratigraphic matrix of relationships for individual contexts.

Quantifications

- 7.1.3 A total of 311 contexts were recorded during the Little Stock Farm excavation (ARC LSF99), comprising the following categories (**Table 5**).

Table 5: Quantification of allocated contexts (ARC LSF99)

Category	Total no.	No. Isolated	No. Dated	No. Residual	No. Intrusive	Both residual and intrusive
Artefact samples	57	57	36	5	1	0
Ditches	57	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Feature fills	121	33	98	33	6	1
Graves	2	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gullies	4	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hearths	4	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Layers	18	n/a	12	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pits	13	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Post-holes	32	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Quarries	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Skeletons	2	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	311	131	146	38	7	1

- 7.1.4 A total of 146 (74.5%) deposits (comprising 36 artefact samples, 98 feature fills and 12 layers) out of a possible 196 (i.e. all artefact samples, feature fills and layers) produced datable pottery and/or ceramic building material. Of the 146 dated contexts, seven (4.8%) are considered to contain intrusive material from a later phase, 38 (26.0%) appear to contain residual material from an earlier phase of activity, and one (0.7%) context appears to contain both intrusive and residual material. The remaining 100 (68.5%) contexts appear, at this stage, to only contain datable ceramics from their allocated phase of activity. It should be noted that detailed ceramic and stratigraphic analysis may alter these figures.

Provenance

- 7.1.5 Of the eight contexts that appear to contain intrusive material, only two were from stratigraphically isolated sources, comprising an artefact sample from the upper fill of Early/ Middle Iron Age ditch **5008** and the fill of Early/ Middle Bronze Age pit/ hollow **2214**. The latter is the only feature attributed to that phase of activity, on the basis of 38.5% by count

and 50.0% by weight of datable recovered pottery. The pit/ hollow is located in an area that is intensively occupied throughout the other periods represented within its remaining ceramic assemblage. However, the relative isolation of this feature within the site phasing may demand a re-appraisal of its allocated phase.

- 7.1.6 Of the 38 contexts that appear to contain residual material, 10 were from stratigraphically isolated sources, including five artefact samples. The remaining five comprised fills of Early/ Middle Iron Age post-hole **2505**, Middle/ Late Iron Age post-hole **2542**, and sections through Late Iron Age enclosure ditches **5001** and **5005** (both part of enclosure **5026**) and medieval ditch **5010**.
- 7.1.7 Unless features are particularly shallow, artefact samples are generally recovered from the upper fills, and as such must always be viewed with caution when employed as secure dating evidence. The fact that the majority of the artefact samples (i.e. 54.4% of those excavated and 86.1% of those that produced datable ceramics) appear to confirm site phasing does, however, demonstrate the potential of such an approach to produce rapid reliable dating evidence to compliment that recovered by formal excavation.
- 7.1.8 From this assessment, the following quantification can be provided (**Table 6**).

Table 6: Quantification of stratigraphically secure contexts

Rank ¹	Deposit type	Datable Material	Intersecting Features	Residual/ Intrusive Material present	Total No.
1	Feature fills	Yes	No	Neither	18
2	Feature fills	No ²	No	Neither	7
3 (i)	Feature fills	Yes	No	Residual	5
3 (ii)	Feature fills	Yes	Yes	Neither	40
4 (i)	Feature fills	Yes	Yes	Residual	28
4 (ii)	Feature fills	No ²	Yes	Neither	14
5 (i)	Feature fills	Yes	No	Intrusive	1
5 (i)	Feature fills	Yes	Yes	Intrusive	5
5 (i)	Feature fills	Yes	Yes	Both	1
5 (ii)	Feature fills	No ³	No	Neither	2
5 (iii)	Layers	Yes	Yes ⁴	?	12
5 (iii)	Layers	No	Yes ⁴	?	6
-	Artefact samples	Yes	No	Neither	30
-	Artefact samples	Yes	No	Residual	5
-	Artefact samples	Yes	No	Intrusive	1
-	Artefact samples	No	No	Neither	21
				Totals	196

¹ See ranking criteria below.

² Considered ultimately datable by some means

³ Not currently considered datable by any means

⁴ All recorded layers either seal or are cut by features

Conservation

- 7.1.9 There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

Comparative material

- 7.1.10 Few similar sites, in both periods represented and site morphology/ stratigraphic complexity have been excavated in the immediate vicinity. Perhaps notable exceptions are the CTRL investigations at Westenhanger (URS 1999e and 2001) and Bower Lane, Smeeth (Glass pers. comm.), and it may be therefore possible to produce similar statistics to allow an

assessment of the relative stratigraphic integrity of the site archive compared to these other broadly comparable sites.

Potential for further work

7.1.11 On the basis of this assessment, the following context ranking hierarchy is proposed;

- *1st rank:* *Dated contexts that have not been disturbed by other features, and do not contain residual or intrusive components.*
- *2nd rank:* *Undated contexts that have not been disturbed by other features, but can be confidently phased according to their allocated sub-group, morphology or spatial relationships.*
- *3rd rank:* *(i) Dated contexts that have not been disturbed by other features but with a residual component present. (ii) Dated contexts that have been disturbed by other features but without residual or intrusive components present.*
- *4th rank:* *(i) Dated contexts that have been disturbed by other features with residual components present. (ii) Undated contexts that have been disturbed by other features.*
- *5th rank:* *(i) Any context containing intrusive material. (ii) Contexts that cannot be confidently dated by any means. (iii) Layers.*

7.1.12 The hypothesis underpinning this ranking is that undisturbed contexts are, in general, more likely to be stratigraphically secure than those intersecting with features from another other phase. Therefore, isolated contexts with some residual material are considered of a higher rank than contexts at feature intersections, even if the latter have not produced residual material. In addition, a small number of features have yielded multiple contexts with different rankings. In those instances, the feature has been allocated the lower context ranking.

7.1.13 On the basis of the criteria listed above, the following summary table of features by rank can be derived (**Table 7**). Artefact samples are unranked, as they generally do not have complementary environmental samples (with the exception of recovered animal bone). As perhaps anticipated, the quantification of ranked features by phase indicates a trend from top left to bottom right. This pattern demonstrates two factors, amongst others;

- *The sum total of potentially residual material in the locale increases through time, therefore earlier phases have proportionately less risk of demonstrating residuality, as there are fewer finds (if any) from pre-dating phases.*
- *The longer that a feature is in existence (even as infilled subsurface remains), the greater the likelihood that a later feature will intersect with it.*

Table 7: Feature ranking by phase

(Sub-group nos. in parenthesis where appropriate)

<i>1st rank</i>	<i>2nd rank</i>	<i>3rd rank</i>	<i>4th rank</i>	<i>5th rank</i>
Middle Neolithic				
Post-hole 2507				
Early/ Middle Bronze Age				
				Pit/ hollow 2214
Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age				
Ditch 2122 (=5009)	Vessel-hole 2104	Ditch 2244	Post-hole 2316	Ditch 2209 (=5009)
Vessel-hole 2503	Post-hole 2105	Post-hole 2318	Ditch 2353 (=5016)	
	Ditch 2350 (=5016)	Ditch 2334 (=5009)		
		Ditch 2346 (=5016)		
Early Iron Age				
Vessel-hole 2304		Pit 2013		Ditch 2239 (=5013)
Ditch 2344 (=5013)				
Early/ Middle Iron Age				
Post-hole 2108	Post-hole 2408	Gully 2028 (=5007)	Ditch 2010 (=5002)	Ditch 2120 (=5008)
Post-hole 2216		Grave 2037	Post-hole 2225	Ditch 2237 (=5008)
Post-hole 2218		Ditch 2221 (=5008)	Pit/ hearth 2314	
Gully 2232 (=5007)		Gully 2227 (=5007)	Ditch 2348 (=5017)	
Post-pit 2441 (=5019)		Ditch 2237 (=5008)	Ditch 2352 (=5017)	
Ditch 2443 (=5019)		Ditch 2242 (=5008)		
Post-hole 2510		Gully 2340 (=5007)		
		Post-hole 2505		
		Ditch 2513 (=5008)		
		Pit 2529		
		Pit 2531		
		Pit 2536		
		Ditch 2538 (=5002)		
Mid/ Late Iron Age (Phase I)				
Ditch 2327 (=5003)		Post-hole 2542	Ditch 2223 (=5011)	Ditch 2410 (=5003)
Post-hole 2405		Ditch 2016 (=5003)	Pit 2330	
		Grave 2031		
		Ditch 2116 (=5011)		
		Pit 2118		
		Ditch 2324 (=5011)		
Mid/ Late Iron Age (Phase II)				
	Ditch 2234 (=5012)	Pit 2008	Pit 2338 (=5015)	Ditch 2323 (=5014)
		Ditch 2018 (=5004)	Pit 2342 (=5015)	
		Ditch 2331 (=5012)	Ditch 2416 (=5014)	
		Ditch 2414 (=5004)	Ditch 2519 (=5012)	
		Ditch 2435 (=5004)	Pit 2127 (=5015)	
Late Iron Age				
		Ditch 2002 (=5001)	Hearth 2006	Ditch 2209 (=5005)
		Ditch 2212 (=5005)	Ditch 2020 (=5005)	
		Ditch 2325 (=5005)	Ditch 2024 (=5001)	
			Ditch 2113 (=5005)	
			Pit 2124	
			Ditch 2209 (=5005)	
			Ditch 2415 (=5005)	
			Ditch 2432 (=5005)	
			Ditch 2515 (=5005)	
Saxon				
		Pit 2437		

Contd. overleaf

Table 7: Feature ranking (contd.)

1 st rank	2 nd rank	3 rd rank	4 th rank	5 th rank
Medieval (Phase I)				
	Post-hole 2110	Hearth 2421	Ditch 2026 (=5006)	
	Quarry 2522	Ditch 2526 (=5006)	Pit 2036	
			Ditch 2211 (=5006)	
			Ditch 2336 (=5006)	
			Ditch 2424 (=5018)	
			Ditch 2427 (=5018)	
			Ditch 2430	
			Ditch 2517 (=5006)	
			Ditch 2534 (=5006)	
Medieval (Phase II)				
		Ditch 2401 (=5010)	Ditch 2208 (=5010)	
		Ditch 2439	Ditch 2229 (=5010)	
		Ditch 2524 (=5010)		
Post-medieval				
			Hearth 2201	
Undated and Layers				
				Layer 2014
				Layer 2112
				Layer 2301
				Layer 2312
				Layer 2313
				Layer 2319
				Layer 2403
				Layer 2404
				Layer 2407
				Layer 2411
				Layer 2422
				Layer 2426
				Layer 2429
				Layer 2501
				Layer 2508
				Post-hole 2527
				Post-hole 2540
				Layer 2543
				Layer 2544
				Layer 2545

- 7.1.14 The notable exception to the top left to bottom right pattern is the occurrence of intrusive material, which appears to predominate within the earliest phases represented at the site. However, this effect still conforms to the second criteria listed above, i.e. the earliest features are generally more likely to be disturbed than more recent remains.
- 7.1.15 Clearly, detailed analysis of the ceramic assemblage (inc. degree of abrasion for instance), coupled with any other dating evidence recovered (i.e. non-ceramic artefacts, radiocarbon etc.) will have an effect on the current consideration of what is considered residual and/or intrusive material. Furthermore, greater consideration could be given to elements of the stratigraphic record, such as the introduction of a sub-hierarchy based on fill sequence (i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary/upper fills).
- 7.1.16 The final consideration is to determine which ranks to include for any further detailed analysis. Clearly, 1st, 2nd and almost certainly 3rd rank features should be included, 5th rank certainly not. The critical concern revolves around the 4th rank features, the majority of which belong to the Mid/ Late Iron Age and medieval phases.

- 7.1.17 None of the 4th rank features contain intrusive material; they all intersect with other features, and those that produced datable material all contain some residual element. On balance, given the inevitability that features, particularly those belonging to the later phases, will acquire some of the ever-increasing residual proportion of discarded material, to disregard contexts as therefore stratigraphically insecure is perhaps premature.
- 7.1.18 Prior to further consideration of the 4th rank features, it would perhaps therefore be prudent to examine the stratigraphic record in greater detail, incorporating additional data, such as absolute dating (where available), relative morphology of intersecting features and degree of rootiness and/or uncharred weed seeds from processed samples. This may allow certain elements of the 4th rank features to be confidently retained for detailed analysis, permitting the recovery of a greater volume of reliable data, particularly in relation to the later periods of occupation/ activity at Little Stock Farm.

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7.2 Assessment of Pottery

Lorraine Mephram

Introduction

- 7.2.1 In total, 2361 sherds of pottery were recovered during the fieldwork events itemised in **Table 1**. All pottery was recovered from hand-excavation, either through formal excavation or resulting from rapid assessment as artefact samples.
- 7.2.2 In terms of addressing fieldwork event aims, the recovery and assessment of pottery is primarily to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities by placing such evidence in a secure chronological framework.

Methodology

- 7.2.3 For this assessment, the pottery has been quantified on a context by context basis by broad fabric group (e.g. sandy, flint-tempered), with spot dates and the presence of diagnostic material recorded. The fabric groups identified have been compared and correlated with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) fabric series.

Quantifications

- 7.2.4 Pottery quantification by ware group for those fieldwork events conducted by Wessex Archaeology are provided in **Table 8**. The pottery assemblage (2559 sherds; 19,904g) includes material of early prehistoric, later prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date. Eight sherds (all very small and abraded) remain undated.
- 7.2.5 Ten sherds (26g) are dated to the Middle Neolithic period (two from post-hole **2505**, eight from vessel-hole **2507**). All are in a coarse, flint-tempered fabric, and could conceivably derive from one vessel. Diagnostic sherds (rim and decorated body sherds) are characteristic of Mortlake style Peterborough ware.
- 7.2.6 Five sherds from pit/hollow **2214** (25g) have been identified as Early/Middle Bronze Age on the basis of fabric type (coarse grog-tempered) and decoration (one with possible fingertip impressions, one with incised chevrons), although ceramic tradition is uncertain.
- 7.2.7 The bulk of the assemblage, however (2352 sherds; 18,696g), comprises sherds in flint-tempered, sandy (some sandy/sandstone) and grog-tempered fabrics which have a broad potential date range from Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age. Most of these are coarsewares, although a small but significant proportion can be defined as 'finewares', a few of which show traces of red-finishing.
- 7.2.8 For much of this group, which consists largely of small, abraded body sherds, close dating is not immediately apparent. Some sherds at the coarser end of the flint-tempered spectrum appear characteristic of the post-Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, as illustrated by a partial profile of a shouldered jar with finger-impressed shoulder from vessel-hole **2104** (Obj. No. 4002). A date for these fabrics within the latter part of this range is suggested by their occurrence with sandy and flint-tempered finewares and grog-tempered wares in diagnostic Early Iron Age carinated forms. Of these, the minimum of seven vessels (two decorated, one red-finished) from vessel-hole **2304** (allocated Obj. No. 4001 and 4005 during excavation) are the best examples. The latter group may represent a 'placed' deposit.

- 7.2.9 How late these fabrics can be dated here is debatable, but an extension at least into the Middle Iron Age is possible, although the isolation of specific Middle Iron Age traits is problematic here as elsewhere in Kent (Macpherson-Grant 1991). Characteristics of Early/Middle Iron Age ceramic traditions seen here include rusticated surface treatment and thickened/flattened rims on shouldered or biconical forms (*ibid.*, 42). By this stage the flint-tempered fabrics are finer and sandier; some are noticeably glauconitic.
- 7.2.10 The group from grave-pit **2037**, which includes at least two carinated vessels in grog-tempered fabrics (one rusticated) and one rounded bowl in a fine sandy fabric, decorated and red-finished (Obj No 4011), is a good example. The smaller group from grave-pit **2031**, although more fragmentary and therefore less suggestive of deliberately placed grave goods, is likely to be broadly contemporaneous.
- 7.2.11 While the Middle Iron Age may lack ceramic traits that can be definitively recognised here, the Late Iron Age is more readily identifiable by the presence of finer, better made grog-tempered vessels, with beaded rims and frequently with scored decoration. This period is also represented by the first appearance of ‘Belgic’ type grog-tempered wares, finer still, in high-shouldered, necked and cordoned forms, accompanied by a small quantity of sandy wares.
- 7.2.12 The introduction of ‘Belgic’ wares into Kent is considered to be at about 75 BC; whether the slightly coarser grog-tempered wares represent an earlier Late Iron Age horizon here is uncertain since both types more frequently occur together. Moreover, there are insufficient stratified groups in which to observe a possible sequence – the feature group of any size derived from ditch **5005** (133 sherds).
- 7.2.13 What is more certain is that there is little or no overlap here into the post-conquest period. A small number of sherds (50 sherds; 173g) have been identified as Romano-British with varying degrees of confidence; apart from one tiny flake of samian, all are coarse sandy wares and there are no diagnostic sherds.
- 7.2.14 One sherd from pit **2437** has been identified as Saxon; this is in a coarse sandy fabric with tooled decoration. It is possible that other body sherds, lacking such diagnostic decoration, may subsequently be identified amongst the sandy wares currently dated as Iron Age.
- 7.2.15 A total of 110 sherds (826g) are of medieval date; these include both coarsewares (shelly, sandy/shelly and sandy/flint-tempered fabrics) and finewares (finer sandy fabrics, some glazed), with a potential date range of late 12th to early 14th century. One potential source for these sherds is the 13th century production centre at Potters Corner, Ashford. Medieval sherds occurred in small quantities in various features across the site.
- 7.2.16 In addition, there are 23 post-medieval sherds, all from topsoil contexts.

Provenance

- 7.2.17 The bulk of the assemblage (2124 sherds; 17,039g) is derived from stratified feature fills, with 35 sherds (196g) from colluvial deposits, 76 sherds (415g) from unstratified or topsoil layers, and 126 sherds (857g) recovered as ‘artefact samples’ from rapid investigation of unexcavated segments of features. Two groups, one including at least three partially reconstructable profiles, came from grave-pits; and presumably represent deliberately placed grave goods although some sherds from these features are likely to be residual.

- 7.2.18 Overall condition is fair to poor, with many sherds small and moderately or heavily abraded, but a few feature groups containing one or more reconstructable profiles have been identified, including the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age placed-deposits and the Early/ Middle Iron Age burials.

Conservation

- 7.2.19 There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

Comparative material

- 7.2.20 Middle Neolithic pottery of any type is rare in Kent, and there are few notable groups beyond the well known collection of Ebbsfleet ware from Northfleet (Burchell and Piggott 1939). Within the CTRL project, another small group of Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware has been recovered from Sandway Road (ARC SWR98/99).

- 7.2.21 The later prehistoric assemblage (Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age) falls within the sequence reviewed by Macpherson-Grant (1991), and a number of assemblages within this date range are known from east Kent. This assemblage extends westwards the known geographical range of Early/Middle Iron Age rusticated wares.

- 7.2.22 Other pottery types of various dates (Romano-British; medieval) are not particularly distinctive, but almost certainly represent locally produced wares which fall within the known range for Kent (eg. Pollard 1988; McCarthy and Brooks 1988).

Potential for further work

- 7.2.23 The prehistoric assemblage forms a significant addition to the ceramic sequence for east Kent, and detailed analysis and publication is recommended, involving full fabric and form analysis, following nationally recommended guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1997). Fabric types will be correlated with the CAT regional fabric types series. A representative selection of vessels will be illustrated, in order to demonstrate the chronological sequence, and to illustrate particular feature groups, including the 'placed' deposits.

- 7.2.24 The assemblage is of reasonable size, and the bulk of it is well stratified, although there is little in the way of vertical stratigraphy. While the close dating of much of the assemblage is hampered by the lack of diagnostic sherds and by relatively poor condition, there are sufficient diagnostic forms to enable the characterisation of several ceramic phases, albeit with inevitable overlaps. Detailed analysis may refine the spot-dating of individual contexts undertaken as part of this assessment, but there are unlikely to be significant chronological changes within the overall sequence.

- 7.2.25 The presence of Middle Neolithic and Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery, albeit in very small quantities, is nevertheless important given the general dearth of such material from the region.

- 7.2.26 Perhaps most important, however, is the later prehistoric assemblage, with a potential date range from Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age. The pottery of this period from the Canterbury area has already been reviewed (Macpherson-Grant 1991), and the Little Stock Farm assemblage has the potential not just to enhance this information but to provide valuable comparisons and/or contrasts with the area to the south-west of Canterbury.

- 7.2.27 Whether there was a continuity of activity on the site within this date range cannot be definitively demonstrated, given the difficulties of identifying Middle Iron Age ceramic traits. There is, however, sufficient evidence to show a significant 'Early/Middle Iron Age' presence, represented by some good stratified groups, and 'Late Iron Age' activity at a lower level. Preliminary examination of the fabrics has shown that there is variation within the broad fabric groups, some probably chronological and some (for example, the presence or absence of glauconitic sand) probably a reflection of different sources of supply. Detailed fabric analysis has the potential to examine this variation in order to track changes in the production and distribution of later prehistoric pottery in east Kent.
- 7.2.28 In terms of context, this assemblage provides the opportunity to examine differential deposition. It is apparent that much of the later prehistoric assemblage represents the disposal of domestic rubbish, probably through the dispersal of midden deposits into surrounding features (ditches, pits and post-holes, etc). There are, however, several exceptions in the form of what appear to be deliberately 'placed' deposits, comprising in each case the partially reconstructable profiles of one or more vessels. One, possibly two, were found in grave-pits (**2031** and **2037**), and a substantial group of at least seven vessels came from vessel-hole **2304**; it may be no coincidence that two of these potential 'placed' deposits (grave-pit **2037** and vessel-hole **2304**) contained the only examples of decorated and red-finished fineware vessels. Other possibly similar deposits, comprising single coarseware vessels, came from vessel-holes **2104** and **2503**. Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age placed-deposits are noted elsewhere throughout southern England, and therefore absolute radiocarbon dating for these features should be given priority, in order to place them into this broader framework.
- 7.2.29 Romano-British and medieval pottery is useful as an indicator of activity in these periods, but is otherwise of limited significance, and there is little potential for further analysis. To fulfill the requirements of a minimum archive, this part of the assemblage will be quantified by CAT fabric type, with notes made of any diagnostic sherds.
- 7.2.30 No further work is recommended for the post-medieval pottery.

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Table 8: Pottery quantification

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)								
	2001	Ditch 2002	5001	1	1	Sandy	EIA/MIA	Impressed dots
	2001	Ditch 2002	5001	9	47	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 burnt
	2001	Ditch 2002	5001	2	15	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2001	Ditch 2002	5001	31	209	Grog-tempered	LIA	2 rims; 1 impressed cordon
	2003	Hearth 2006		5	43	Grog-tempered	LIA	Scored; 1 cordon
	2004	Hearth 2006		16	232	Grog-tempered	LIA	Scored; 2 rims
	2007	Pit 2008		10	238	Grog-tempered	LIA	Scored; neck cordon
	2009	Gully 2010	5002	13	110	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	1 rim (carinated vessel); 1 rusticated
	2009	Gully 2010	5002	5	47	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	1 rim (inturned, expanded/flattened)
	2009	Gully 2010	5002	6	29	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2009	Gully 2010	5002	32	220	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2009	Gully 2010	5002	8	82	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	1 rusticated
	2011	Pit 2013		3	43	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2011	Pit 2013		1	14	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	Rim (convex/shouldered bowl)
	2011	Pit 2013		3	11	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2012	Pit 2013		1	24	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rim (inturned, expanded/flattened)
	2012	Pit 2013		3	5	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2012	Pit 2013		2	11	Sandy	EIA/MIA	1 angular shoulder; 1 rim (angular, expanded/flattened)
	2012	Pit 2013		3	8	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2012	Pit 2013		3	10	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2014	Layer		7	78	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rim (inturned, expanded/flattened)
	2014	Layer		2	8	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2015	Ditch 2016	5003	1	2	Calcareous	?EIA/MIA	
	2015	Ditch 2016	5003	3	22	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2015	Ditch 2016	5003	1	4	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2015	Ditch 2016	5003	4	23	Sandy	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2015	Ditch 2016	5003	4	16	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2017	Ditch 2018	5004	1	31	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rim (inturned, plain)
	2017	Ditch 2018	5004	2	8	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2017	Ditch 2018	5004	5	59	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 carinated sherd
	2019	Ditch 2020	5005	11	52	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2019	Ditch 2020	5005	4	15	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2019	Ditch 2020	5005	5	21	Grog-tempered	LIA	
	2021	Ditch 2024	5001	1	5	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2021	Ditch 2024	5001	2	15	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2023	Ditch 2024	5001	1	2	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2023	Ditch 2024	5001	9	42	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2023	Ditch 2024	5001	4	88	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	1 rusticated; 2 ?Belgic
	2025	Ditch 2026	5006	9	134	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Carinated, rusticated vessel (includes rim)
	2025	Ditch 2026	5006	1	5	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2025	Ditch 2026	5006	17	127	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	Includes fineware
	2025	Ditch 2026	5006	1	4	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2027	Gully 2028	5007	5	16	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2027	Gully 2028	5007	2	8	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2029	Grave-pit 2031		3	9	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2029	Grave-pit 2031		15	258	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rusticated; 1 rim (inturned, expanded/flattened)
	2029	Grave-pit 2031		3	23	Sandy	EIA/MIA	Fineware
	2029	Grave-pit 2031		5	22	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2032	Grave-pit 2037		11	74	Flint-tempered	EIA	
	2032	Grave-pit 2037		23	226	Sandy	EIA	Fineware vessel, incised dec + red finished (ON 4011)
	2032	Grave-pit 2037		195	1827	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	At least 2 carinated vessels (profiles); 1 rusticated, 1 finer
	2032	Grave-pit 2037		3	16	Sandy	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2033	Grave-pit 2037		32	65	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Same vessel 2032 (finer carinated vessel)
	2034	Pit 2036		15	75	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rusticated; 1 rim (inturned, expanded/flattened)
	2034	Pit 2036		1	1	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2035	Pit 2036		2	25	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2102	Vessel-hole 2104		164	2820	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	Coarseware vessel, large jar, finger imp shoulder (ON 4002)
	2109	Post-hole 2108		4	28	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2112	Layer		6	31	Sandy	MD	
	2112	Layer		1	6	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2112	Layer		1	3	Shelly	MD	
	2114	Ditch 2113	5005	1	3	Sandy	?LIA	Glauconitic; 1 very thick-walled
	2114	Ditch 2113	5005	1	23	Sandy	?LIA	
	2114	Ditch 2113	5005	4	47	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2114	Ditch 2113	5005	15	87	Grog-tempered	LIA	1 rim
	2115	Ditch 2113	5005	2	63	Sandy	?LIA	1 thick-walled (as 2114)
	2115	Ditch 2113	5005	1	29	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2115	Ditch 2113	5005	1	38	Grog-tempered	LIA	
	2117	Ditch 2116	5011	1	1	Flint-tempered	?EIA/MIA	Tiny rim sherd
	2119	Pit 2118		1	3	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rim
	2119	Pit 2118		1	9	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2121	Ditch 2120	5008	1	2	Flint-tempered	?EIA/MIA	
	2121	Ditch 2120	5008	1	4	Sandy	LIA	Rim (shouldered, bead rim bowl); glauconitic
	2123	Ditch 2122	5009	2	1	Grog-tempered	IA	Tiny sherds
	2125	Pit 2124		6	20	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2125	Pit 2124		6	16	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2202	Hearth 2201		1	10	Flint-tempered	EIA	
	2202	Hearth 2201		1	7	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2202	Hearth 2201		1	1	Grog-tempered	IA	Tiny sherd
	2203	Ditch 2209	5005	4	31	Grog-tempered	LIA	
	2204	Ditch 2209	5005	1	7	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2204	Ditch 2209	5005	5	30	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 rim (plain, inturned)
	2204	Ditch 2209	5005	2	17	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2204	Ditch 2209	5005	11	99	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	1 rusticated; some ?Belgic; 1 rim (bowl)
	2205	Ditch 2208	5010	4	49	Flint-tempered	?LBA/EIA	
	2205	Ditch 2208	5010	1	3	Sandy	?RO	Oxidised, rim
	2205	Ditch 2208	5010	4	15	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2205	Ditch 2208	5010	5	48	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 rusticated
	2205	Ditch 2208	5010	5	32	Grog-tempered	EIA/LIA	2 x ?Belgic
	2205	Ditch 2208	5010	1	1	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2206	Ditch 2212	5005	5	28	Grog-tempered	?MIA/LIA	1 rim
	2206	Ditch 2212	5005	3	9	Sandy	?MIA/LIA	
	2207	Ditch 2209	5005	2	24	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2207	Ditch 2209	5005	1	16	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2207	Ditch 2209	5005	3	18	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	
	2207	Ditch 2209	5005	1	42	Iron oxides	MIA/LIA	Rusticated
	2210	Ditch 2211	5006	2	8	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2213	Pit/hollow 2214		5	13	Sandy	?LBA/EIA	
	2213	Pit/hollow 2214		5	25	Grog-tempered	EBA/MBA	?Collared Urn: 1 impressed, 1 incised decoration
	2213	Pit/hollow 2214		3	12	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2215	Post-hole 2216		1	6	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2215	Post-hole 2216		1	3	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2217	Post-hole 2218		1	1	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2219	Ditch 2221	5008	3	18	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2219	Ditch 2221	5008	1	10	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2220	Ditch 2221	5008	1	12	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2222	Ditch 2223	5011	2	8	Sandy	LBA/EIA	
	2222	Ditch 2223	5011	9	72	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	1 rim (4 are coarser)
	2226	Gully 2227	5007	2	11	Flint-tempered	?LBA/EIA	Could be fired clay?
	2226	Gully 2227	5007	2	14	Sandy	?LBA/EIA	
	2226	Gully 2227	5007	2	6	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2230	Gully 2232	5007	1	6	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2231	Gully 2232	5007	1	11	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2231	Gully 2232	5007	1	3	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2235	Ditch 2237	5008	5	31	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	Glauconitic (1 finer flint)
	2235	Ditch 2237	5008	1	3	Sandy	MD	
	2236	Ditch 2237	5008	1	2	Sandy	?LBA/EIA	
	2236	Ditch 2237	5008	10	38	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	Some glauconitic
	2238	Ditch 2239	5013	1	1	Sandy	?RO	Tiny sherd
	2240	Ditch 2242	5008	2	5	Sandy	IA	
	2240	Ditch 2242	5008	8	97	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	1 rim/impressed shoulder; 1 finer flint
	2241	Ditch 2242	5008	1	2	Sandy	?LBA/EIA	
	2241	Ditch 2242	5008	8	68	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	
	2243	Ditch 2244		1	4	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2301	Layer		2	7	Sandy	?LIA/RO	
	2301	Layer		12	29	Sandy/flint	LBA-MIA	Miscellaneous
	2302	Vessel-hole 2304		162	558	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	1 vessel - lower part (Obj No 4005)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		10	178	Flint-tempered	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 3 (fineware carinated jar, dec neck zone, RF)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		11	97	Flint-tempered	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 3 (non-joining sherds)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		42	277	Flint-tempered	EIA	ON 4001: probably Vessel 3

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		21	110	Flint-tempered	EIA	Miscellaneous sherds
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		28	295	Grog-tempered	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 4 (fineware carinated bowl, cordoned neck)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		9	37	Grog-tempered	EIA	ON 4001: probably Vessel 4
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		28	83	Grog-tempered	EIA	Miscellaneous sherds
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		25	375	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 1 (fineware carinated bowl)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		3	10	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 1 (non-joining sherds)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		26	344	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 2 (fineware carinated jar, dec neck zone)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		17	82	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 2 (non-joining sherds)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		13	121	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 5 (shouldered bowl)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		5	13	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: probably Vessel 5
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		6	185	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: Vessel 6 (shouldered jar)
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		52	488	Sandy/flint	EIA	ON 4001: probably Vessel 6
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		42	136	Sandy/flint	EIA	Miscellaneous sherds
	2303	Vessel-hole 2304		13	121	Sandy/flint	EIA	Fineware: miscellaneous sherds
	2317	Post-hole 2318		1	5	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2319	Layer		1	14	Sandy	?LIA	
	2319	Layer		7	36	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 rim (inturned, expanded/flattened)
	2319	Layer		10	90	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic (2 bead rim jars, 1 scored)
	2320	Ditch 2323	5014	6	32	Flint-tempered	LIA	Fine flint, 1 pedestal base
	2320	Ditch 2323	5014	30	196	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Mostly Belgic (1 earlier rim - expanded/flattened)
	2320	Ditch 2323	5014	1	21	Sandy	MIA/LIA	Rim (inturned, flattened, burnished)
	2320	Ditch 2323	5014	2	6	Sandy	RO	
	2320	Ditch 2323	5014	1	1	Sandy	UN	
	2321	Ditch 2324	5011	3	34	Flint-tempered	IA	
	2321	Ditch 2324	5011	7	68	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic: cordoned and scored
	2326	Ditch 2325	5005	2	8	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2326	Ditch 2325	5005	3	8	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2326	Ditch 2325	5005	3	24	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2326	Ditch 2325	5005	3	29	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	1 angular shoulder
	2328	Ditch 2327	5003	2	12	Sandy/flint	IA	
	2328	Ditch 2327	5003	16	223	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic: ?1 vessel (base)
	2332	Ditch 2331	5012	1	3	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2332	Ditch 2331	5012	5	36	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2332	Ditch 2331	5012	1	3	Sandy	IA	Glauconitic
	2335	Ditch 2334	5009	1	7	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2335	Ditch 2334	5009	10	49	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2337	Ditch 2336	5006	1	5	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rim
	2337	Ditch 2336	5006	4	17	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2337	Ditch 2336	5006	2	10	Sandy	MD	
	2339	Post-pit 2338	5015	2	5	Flint-tempered	?LBA/EIA	
	2339	Post-pit 2338	5015	3	7	Sandy	?LBA/EIA	
	2341	Gully 2340	5007	5	12	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	
	2343	Post-pit 2342	5015	3	21	Sandy	?LBA/EIA	
	2343	Post-pit 2342	5015	3	33	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2345	Ditch 2344	5013	2	8	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2347	Ditch 2346	5016	2	4	Flint-tempered	?LBA/EIA	
	2402	Ditch 2401	5010	6	15	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2402	Ditch 2401	5010	7	24	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	
	2402	Ditch 2401	5010	1	1	Sandy	UN	
	2404	Layer		5	26	?grog-tempered	?MIA/LIA	Leached
	2404	Layer		7	28	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2404	Layer		1	2	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2404	Layer		4	14	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2406	Post-hole 2405		1	12	Sandy	EIA/MIA	Rim (upright, flattened)
	2406	Post-hole 2405		3	14	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 rim
	2406	Post-hole 2405		3	36	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	1 rim (proto-bead)
	2407	Layer		1	2	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2407	Layer		3	9	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2411	Layer		7	26	Sandy	?MIA/LIA	1 rim
	2411	Layer		5	19	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	1 rusticated
	2411	Layer		6	41	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2412	Ditch 2410	5003	3	10	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2412	Ditch 2410	5003	4	16	Sandy	IA	
	2412	Ditch 2410	5003	2	7	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2412	Ditch 2410	5003	1	1	Sandy	MD	
	2412	Ditch 2410	5003	3	14	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	
	2413	Ditch 2410	5003	3	53	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2413	Ditch 2410	5003	1	5	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2413	Ditch 2410	5003	1	18	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2417	Ditch 2414	5004	3	7	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2417	Ditch 2414	5004	1	22	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	Rusticated
	2417	Ditch 2414	5004	9	55	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2417	Ditch 2414	5004	2	10	Sandy	LIA	Cordoned
	2418	Ditch 2415	5005	15	81	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2418	Ditch 2415	5005	4	10	Sandy	IA	
	2418	Ditch 2415	5005	6	42	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2418	Ditch 2415	5005	40	370	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Mostly Belgic (cordoned, necked jars, BRJs, scored); some [MIA] rusticated
	2419	Ditch 2416	5014	5	17	Sandy	?MIA/LIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2419	Ditch 2416	5014	1	5	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2422	Layer		2	2	Sandy	MD	
	2422	Layer		1	2	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2423	Hearth 2421		1	27	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2423	Hearth 2421		2	13	Shelly/flint	MD	Rim with impressed dec + small rod handle
	2426	Natural		4	4	Shelly	MD	
	2428	Ditch 2427	5018	1	1	Sandy/flint	IA	Tiny sherd
	2433	Ditch 2432	5005	1	4	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2433	Ditch 2432	5005	1	5	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2433	Ditch 2432	5005	4	9	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2434	Ditch 2432	5005	1	2	Sandy/flint	IA	
	2434	Ditch 2432	5005	2	12	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic, cordoned
	2436	Ditch 2435	5004	1	17	Sandy	?LIA	Thickwalled
	2436	Ditch 2435	5004	1	7	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic
	2438	Pit 2437		1	50	Sandy	?EM	Vertical furrows and impressed dots
	2440	Ditch 2439		2	2	Sandy	?MD	Could be residual IA
	2440	Ditch 2439		6	30	Sandy/shelly	MD	1 finger-impressed rim
	2440	Ditch 2439		1	9	Shelly/flint	MD	Rim
	2442	Ditch 2441	5019	2	19	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2442	Ditch 2441	5019	1	6	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2442	Ditch 2441	5019	17	75	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2444	Ditch 2443	5019	1	7	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2444	Ditch 2443	5019	2	4	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2444	Ditch 2443	5019	3	4	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2501	Layer		9	15	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2502	Vessel-hole 2503		4	5	Sandy	IA	ON 4003

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2502	Vessel-hole 2503		7	69	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	ON 4003
	2504	Post-hole 2505		2	6	Sandy	?EIA/MIA	
	2504	Post-hole 2505		6	42	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2504	Post-hole 2505		9	28	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2504	Post-hole 2505		2	4	Flint-tempered	MNE	Probably as 2506 (Peterborough Ware)
	2506	Post-hole 2507		8	22	Flint-tempered	MNE	Peterborough Ware (Mortlake); 2 decorated rims
	2508	Layer		1	8	Sandy	MD	Glazed (late medieval)
	2508	Layer		1	7	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2508	Layer		2	18	Shelly	MD	
	2508	Layer		5	22	Shelly/flint	MD	
	2508	Layer		3	17	Sandy	RO	
	2509	Post-hole 2510		1	4	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2509	Post-hole 2510		1	7	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2509	Post-hole 2510		5	11	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2509	Post-hole 2510		2	13	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2511	Ditch 2513	5008	2	11	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	1 rusticated; 1 odd rim (internally expanded)
	2511	Ditch 2513	5008	1	10	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2511	Ditch 2513	5008	5	32	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2511	Ditch 2513	5008	2	13	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2512	Ditch 2513	5008	2	10	Flint-tempered	?LBA/EIA	Fine flint
	2514	Ditch 2515	5005	2	7	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2514	Ditch 2515	5005	28	237	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Belgic: scored, BRJ; some [MIA] rusticated
	2514	Ditch 2515	5005	7	112	Sandy	MIA/LIA	1 thick-walled; some rusticated
	2514	Ditch 2515	5005	1	4	Sandy	UN	
	2516	Ditch 2517	5006	1	3	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2516	Ditch 2517	5006	7	31	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 rusticated

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2518	Ditch 2519	5012	2	3	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2518	Ditch 2519	5012	2	10	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2518	Ditch 2519	5012	4	11	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2518	Ditch 2519	5012	2	10	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2520	Quarry 2522		5	136	Sandy	MD	Glazed jug (C13/C14)
	2523	Ditch 2524	5010	1	2	Sandy/flint	MD	
	2523	Ditch 2524	5010	1	20	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2525	Ditch 2526	5006	1	1	Sandy	UN	
	2530	Pit 2529		1	19	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rusticated
	2532	Pit 2531		4	82	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	1 rusticated; 1 rim (expanded, flattened)
	2533	Ditch 2534	5006	1	3	Flint-tempered	?LBA/EIA	
	2533	Ditch 2534	5006	3	10	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2533	Ditch 2534	5006	2	27	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2533	Ditch 2534	5006	1	1	Shelly	MD	
	2533	Ditch 2534	5006	6	45	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Rim (proto-bead)
	2535	Pit 2536		3	12	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2535	Pit 2536		2	14	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2535	Pit 2536		1	1	Flint-tempered	IA	Fine flint
	2535	Pit 2536		22	105	Sandy	MIA/LIA	Rim (proto-bead)
	2537	Gully 2538	5002	2	4	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2537	Gully 2538	5002	3	26	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2541	Post-hole 2542		6	22	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2541	Post-hole 2542		3	21	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2541	Post-hole 2542		15	65	Sandy	MIA/LIA	2 rims (1 internally expanded)
	2544	Layer (subsoil)		1	11	Sandy	LIA	
	2544	Layer (subsoil)		1	7	Sandy	MD	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2544	Layer (subsoil)		12	33	Shelly	MD	
	2601	Artefact sample	5008	1	5	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2601	Artefact sample	5008	5	41	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2602	Artefact sample	5008	1	1	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2602	Artefact sample	5008	1	1	Sandy	UN	
	2603	Artefact sample	5008	2	42	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	Rusticated
	2603	Artefact sample	5008	1	2	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2607	Artefact sample	5013	1	5	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2607	Artefact sample	5013	1	13	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2608	Artefact sample	5008	4	56	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic
	2609	Artefact sample	5004	2	38	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic
	2610	Artefact sample	5008	1	7	Sandy	?IA	Glauconitic
	2610	Artefact sample	5008	3	43	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2611	Artefact sample	5003	2	16	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	1 rim (plain, inturned)
	2611	Artefact sample	5003	2	14	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
	2611	Artefact sample	5003	3	86	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2612	Artefact sample	5008	1	4	Sandy	?MIA/LIA	
	2612	Artefact sample	5008	1	4	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	
	2612	Artefact sample	5008	2	12	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	
	2613	Artefact sample	5012	3	16	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2613	Artefact sample	5012	2	12	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2613	Artefact sample	5012	2	16	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2614	Artefact sample	5012	1	4	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2614	Artefact sample	5012	1	9	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Rim (plain)
	2615	Artefact sample	5012	2	6	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	Glauconitic
	2616	Artefact sample	5031	1	2	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2617	Artefact sample	5012	2	8	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2617	Artefact sample	5012	2	4	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2619	Artefact sample	5033	5	28	Sandy/flint	LBA/EIA	Impressed shoulder
	2621	Artefact sample	5034	2	1	Sandy	UN	Tiny sherds
	2627	Artefact sample	5037	2	3	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2651	Artefact sample	5008	1	8	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	Fine flint
	2651	Artefact sample	5008	5	26	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2651	Artefact sample	5008	1	2	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2655	Artefact sample	5007	1	3	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2656	Artefact sample	5007	2	9	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2656	Artefact sample	5007	1	9	Sandy	MIA/LIA	Rim
	2657	Artefact sample	5009	1	15	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	Shoulder
	2659	Artefact sample	5007	5	30	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2660	Artefact sample	5010	1	4	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2661	Artefact sample	5010	1	4	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2663	Artefact sample	5010	1	4	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2663	Artefact sample	5010	2	6	Sandy/shelly	MD	
	2664	Artefact sample	5027	1	4	Grog-tempered	IA	Burnt?
	2666	Artefact sample	5010	1	6	Sandy	?IA	Glauconitic
	2666	Artefact sample	5010	1	2	Shelly	MD	
	2667	Artefact sample	5029	3	41	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2668	Artefact sample	5027	1	2	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2668	Artefact sample	5027	1	1	Sandy	MD	
	2669	Artefact sample	5010	2	3	Sandy	MD	
	2669	Artefact sample	5010	1	3	Sandy/flint	MD	
	2669	Artefact sample	5010	2	2	Sandy/shelly	MD	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.								
	2672	Artefact sample	5022	4	8	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2674	Artefact sample	5022	1	4	Grog-tempered	?EIA/MIA	
	2674	Artefact sample	5022	3	12	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2676	Artefact sample	5021	2	6	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2676	Artefact sample	5021	1	2	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
	2676	Artefact sample	5021	2	7	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
	2676	Artefact sample	5021	2	4	Sandy	IA	
	2676	Artefact sample	5021	1	1	Sandy	UN	
	2677	Artefact sample	5021	2	2	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
	2677	Artefact sample	5021	6	52	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2678	Artefact sample	5019	1	4	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
	2679	Artefact sample	5019	7	72	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)								
3545TT	354501	Topsoil		1		Industrial ware	PM	
3546TT	354602	Pit 354606		10	37	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
3546TT	354602	Pit 354606		1	7	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3546TT	354602	Pit 354606		2	42	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3546TT	354603	Pit 354606		1	3	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
3546TT	354603	Pit 354606		5	21	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3547TT	354701	Topsoil		1	3	Industrial ware	PM	
3547TT	354701	Topsoil		2		Redware	PM	
3551TT	355101	Topsoil		1	5	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3551TT	355104	Ditch 355105	5010	1	5	Sandy/shelly	MD	
3551TT	355106	Nat. feature 355111		1	1	Sandy	MD	Glazed
3551TT	355106	Nat. feature 355111		1	2	Sandy/shelly	MD	
3551TT	355112	Ditch 355116		1	13	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98) contd.								
3551TT	355112	Ditch 355116		1	1	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3552TT	355117	Pit 355118		1	2	Grog-tempered	EIA/MIA	
3552TT	355117	Pit 355118		1	8	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3552TT	355117	Pit 355118		1	2	Sandy	MD	
3552TT	355204	Ditch 355203	5010	1	8	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3552TT	355204	Ditch 355203	5010	4	15	Sandy	MD	
3552TT	355204	Ditch 355203	5010	1	2	Sandy/shelly	MD	
3622TT	362201	Topsoil		1		Stoneware	PM	
3622TT	362202	Colluvium		1	8	Sandy	MD	
3622TT	362203	Colluvium		1	5	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3622TT	362205	Colluvium		1	3	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3622TT	362205	Colluvium		1	3	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic
3627TT	362705	Ditch 362704	5003	1	8	Grog-tempered	?LIA	Burnt
3627TT	362705	Ditch 362704	5003	8	26	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362705	Ditch 362704	5003	12	62	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362707	Vessel-hole 362706		2	3	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362707	Vessel-hole 362706		19	176	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3627TT	362709	Post-hole 362708		3	8	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362709	Post-hole 362708		3	25	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362711	Ditch 362712	5006	1	2	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362711	Ditch 362712	5006	1	1	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362713	Ditch 362714	5010	3	1	Flint-tempered	IA	Tiny sherds
3627TT	362716	Ditch 362715	5005	1	13	Iron oxides	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362716	Ditch 362715	5005	9	31	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362716	Ditch 362715	5005	12	131	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362716	Ditch 362715	5005	9	43	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Belgic

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98) contd.								
3627TT	362717	Quarry 362718	2522	6	10	Flint-tempered	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362717	Quarry 362718	2522	1	1	Sandy	RO or MD?	Tiny sherd
3627TT	362720	Ditch 362719	5014	4	41	Sandy	EIA/MIA	Glauconitic
3627TT	362720	Ditch 362719	5014	3	29	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3627TT	362720	Ditch 362719	5014	2	21	Grog-tempered	LIA	Belgic
3627TT	362722	Ditch 362721	5011	2	40	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362722	Ditch 362721	5011	1	4	Sandy	LIA	Dish/platter rim
3627TT	362722	Ditch 362721	5011	10	128	Grog-tempered	MIA/LIA	Mostly Belgic (1 BRJ, 1 scored); 1 rusticated
3627TT	362724	Ditch 362723	5008	8	30	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362724	Ditch 362723	5008	6	62	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362726	Ditch 362725	5005	2	21	Sandy	EIA/MIA	
3627TT	362726	Ditch 362725	5005	7	28	Sandy/flint	EIA/MIA	
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99)								
3691TT	369102	Colluvium		10	148	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3691TT	369105	Ditch 369104		1	3	Flint-tempered	EIA	
3691TT	369105	Ditch 369104		53	256	Grog-tempered	LIA/RO	BRJ, ERJ
3691TT	369105	Ditch 369104		39	140	Sandy	RO	Rouletted jar/beaker
3691TT	369106	Ditch 369104		1	7	Sandy	LBA/EIA	
3691TT	369106	Ditch 369104		1	12	Sandy	LIA	Pedestal base
3691TT	369106	Ditch 369104		14	263	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3692TT	369200	Topsoil		3	43	Sandy	EIA	
3692TT	369200	Topsoil		5	44	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3692TT	369201	Colluvium		1	4	Sandy	EIA	
3692TT	369201	Colluvium		6	56	Grog-tempered	LIA	2 rims
3692TT	369201	Colluvium		2	4	Sandy	LIA	
3692TT	369203	Layer		3	13	Grog-tempered	LIA	1 rim

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99) contd.								
3694TT	369407	Ditch 369406		1	9	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3694TT	369407	Ditch 369406		3	15	Sandy	MD	1 ?jug rim with glaze spots
3694TT	369409	Pit 369408		1	4	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3694TT	369409	Pit 369408		5	18	Sandy	MD	
3695TT	369502	Ditch 369501		2	4	Flint-tempered	LBA/EIA	
3695TT	369502	Ditch 369501		1	20	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3695TT	369506	Colluvium		1	5	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3695TT	369506	Colluvium		1	60	Sandy/shelly	MD	Jar rim
3695TT	369509	Tree-throw 369508		1	4	Grog-tempered	LIA/RO	
3695TT	369509	Tree throw 369508		1	1	Samian	RO	
3696TT	369603	Ditch 369604		5	23	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3696TT	369605	Ditch 369606		2	4	Grog-tempered	LIA/RO	
3696TT	369605	Ditch 369606		2	4	Sandy	LIA/RO	
3696TT	369605	Ditch 369606		7	54	Sandy	MD	1 ?jug rim
3696TT	369608	Colluvium		1	15	Grog-tempered	LIA	
3696TT	369608	Colluvium		2	8	Sandy	MD	
3697TT	369710	Ditch 369709		1	2	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369712	Post-hole 369711		2	6	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369714	Ditch 369713		1	22	Sandy	MD	Strap handle
3697TT	369714	Ditch 369713		1	8	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369714	Ditch 369713		1	6	Redware	PM	
3697TT	369716	Pit 369715		6	51	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369719	Post-hole 369718		1	6	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369731	Post-hole 369730		2	1	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369737	Post-hole 369736		2	7	Industrial ware	PM	
3697TT	369741	Post-hole 369740		2	8	Industrial ware	PM	

Contd.

Trench	Context	Feature	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Ware group	Period	Comments
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99) contd.								
3698TT	369803	Ditch 369804		1	3	Sandy/shelly	MD	
3698TT	369805	Disturbance 369806		3	36	Sandy	MD	
	Unstrat	Unstratified		2	128	Sandy	MD	Jug handles
	TOTAL			2559	19904			

7.3 Assessment of Ceramic Building Material

Table 9: CBM quantification

Trench	Feature type	Context	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Type	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)								
	Layer	2112		1	10	Roof tile	MD/PM	
	Ditch 2209	2203	5005	1	34	?floor/brick	PM	
	Layer	2508		2	68	Roof tile	MD/PM	
	Quarry 2522	2520		2	36	Roof tile	MD/PM	
	Ditch 2526	2525	5006	1	7	Roof tile	MD	
	Artefact sample	2664	5027	1	16	Roof tile	MD/PM	
	Artefact sample	2668	5027	4	35	Roof tile	MD/PM	
	Artefact sample	2669	5010	2	22	Roof tile	MD/PM	
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)								
3545TT	Topsoil	354501		2	63	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3547TT	Topsoil	354701		1	60	?floor tile	PM	Unglazed
3548TT	Colluvium	354802		6	2277	Brick	PM	Unfrogged
3548TT	Colluvium	354802		2	169	Roof tile	PM	
3548TT	Colluvium	354802		1	27	Field drain	PM	
3551TT	Topsoil	355101		1	37	Roof tile	MD	
3551TT	Ditch 355105	355104	5010	4	28	Roof tile	MD	
3551TT	Nat. feature 355111	355107		2	3	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3551TT	Nat. feature 355111	355109		1	6	Roof tile	MD	
3551TT	Ditch 355116	355112		7	13	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3552TT	Ditch 355205	355206	5027	4	56	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3631TT	Topsoil	362101		4	49	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3622TT	Topsoil	362201		2	47	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3625TT	Pit 362504	362503		1	62	Roof tile	MD/PM	
3627TT	Quarry 362718	362717		1	189	Brick	PM	Unfrogged
3627TT	Quarry 362718	362717		1	11	Roof tile	MD/PM	
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99)								
3691TT	Colluvium	369102		2	29	Brick	PM	
3691TT	Colluvium	369102		3	67	Roof tile	PM	
3692TT	Colluvium	369201		1	16	Roof tile	MO	
3694TT	Pit 369408	369409		1	26	Brick	PM	
3696TT	Ditch 369606	369605		1	6	Undiag	UN	
3697TT	Post-hole 369711	369712		1	24	Field drain	MO	
3697TT	Post-hole 369718	369719		1	32	Roof tile	PM	
3697TT	Post-hole 369724	369725		1	257	Floor tile	MO	Highly fired
3697TT	Post-hole 369736	369737		1	6	Brick	PM	
3698TT	Ditch 369804	369803		1	18	Roof tile	PM	
3698TT	Disturbance 369806	369805		1	6	Brick	PM	
		TOTAL		68	3812			

7.4 Assessment of Fired Clay

Table 10: Fired Clay quantification

Trench	Feature type	Context	Sub-group	Count	Weight	Type	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)								
	Pit 2013	2011		2	4	Undiag	UN	
	Layer	2014		1	4	Undiag	UN	Abraded CBM?
	Ditch 2020	2019	5005	1	2	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2024	2023	5001	1	6	Undiag	UN	
	Gully 2028	2027	5007	2	4	Undiag	UN	
	Grave-pit 2037	2032		5	23	Undiag	UN	?impression
	Ditch 2209	2204	5005	1	3	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2208	2205	5010	3	28	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2212	2206	5005	1	3	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2242	2241	5008	1	2	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2324	2321	5011	1	1	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2327	2328	5003	1	5	Undiag	UN	
	Post-pit 2338	2339	5015	1	40	?spindlewhorl	UN	
	Gully 2340	2341	5007	1	2	Undiag	UN	
	Post-pit 2342	2343	5015	1	2	Undiag	UN	
	Layer	2411		2	6	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2415	2418	5005	7	34	Undiag	UN	
	Layer	2422		1	14	Undiag	UN	?impression
	Pit 2437	2438		5	32	Undiag	UN	
	Ditch 2515	2514	5005	1	4	Undiag	UN	
	Artefact sample	2601	5008	3	4	Undiag	UN	
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)								
3546TT	Pit 354606	354602		5	52	Undiag	UN	
3546TT	Pit 354606	354603		2	9	Undiag	UN	
3627TT	Ditch 362704	362705	5003	17	114	Undiag	UN	
3627TT	Ditch 362725	362726	5005	4	10	Undiag	UN	
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99)								
3694TT	Pit 369408	369409		15	134	Undiag	UN	
		TOTAL		85	542			

7.5 Assessment of Worked Flint

Table 11: Worked Flint quantification

Trench	Feature type	Context	Sub-group	Count	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)						
	Ditch 2002	2001	5001	2	NE/BA	1 flake; 1 scraper
	Ditch 2016	2015	5003	2	NE/BA	1 broken flake; 1 scraper (thumbnail)
	Ditch 2018	2017	5004	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2020	2019	5005	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2026	2025	5006	2	NE/BA	1 flake; 1 broken flake (both patinated)
	Gully 2028	2027	5007	3	NE/BA	Flakes (1 chert, 1 patinated)
	Layer	2112		3	NE/BA	Flakes
	Ditch 2116	2117	5011	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Pit 2124	2125		1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2212	2206	5005	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2211	2210	5006	1	NE/BA	Broken flake (Bullhead flint)
	Pit/hollow 2214	2213		2	NE/BA	1 flake; 1 scraper
	Gully 2227	2226	5007	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Gully 2232	2230	5007	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Layer	2301		2	NE/BA	Flakes
	Vessel-hole 2304	2303		3	NE/BA	2 flakes; 1 blade (patinated)
	Ditch 2323	2320	5014	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Ditch 2334	2335	5009	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2336	2337	5006	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2346	2347	5016	2	NE/BA	1 broken flake; 1 core frag
	Layer	2404		1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Layer	2407		1	NE/BA	Flake
	Layer	2411		1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2414	2417	5004	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2415	2418	5005	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2432	2434	5005	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Pit 2437	2438		1	NE/BA	Chip
	Ditch 2439	2440		1	NE/BA	Retouched (patinated)
	Post-pit 2441	2442	5019	2	NE/BA	Flakes (1 patinated)
	Ditch 2443	2444	5019	3	NE/BA	1 flake; 1 broken flake; 1 ?core rejuvenation
	Post-hole 2505	2504		2	NE/BA	Flakes
	Post-hole 2507	2506		9	NE/BA	8 flakes (v fresh); 1 broken flake
	Post-hole 2507	2506		1	NE	Transverse arrowhead (ON 4007)
	Layer	2508		7	NE/BA	2 flakes; 4 broken flakes; 1 scraper (thumbnail)
	Ditch 2513	2511	5008	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Ditch 2515	2514	5005	3	NE/BA	Flakes
	Ditch 2517	2516	5006	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Ditch 2524	2523	5010	2	NE/BA	Broken flakes
	Pit 2529	2530		2	NE/BA	1 flake; 1 broken flake (ON4009)
	Ditch 2534	2533	5006	2	NE/BA	Broken flakes
	Post-hole 2542	2541		1	NE/BA	Flake
	Artefact sample	2607	5013	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Artefact sample	2613	5012	2	NE/BA	1 core; 1 core frag
	Artefact sample	2614	5012	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Artefact sample	2617	5012	1	NE/BA	Broken blade
	Artefact sample	2625	5007	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Artefact sample	2651	5008	3	NE/BA	1 flake; 2 broken flakes
	Artefact sample	2658	5039	1	NE/BA	Chip

Contd.

Trench	Feature type	Context	Sub-group	Count	Period	Comments
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.						
	Artefact sample	2663	5010	1	NE/BA	Chip
	Artefact sample	2666	5010	2	NE/BA	Broken flakes
	Artefact sample	2667	5029	2	NE/BA	1 broken flake (Bullhead); 1 scraper
	Artefact sample	2668	5027	1	NE/BA	Flake
	Artefact sample	2673	5023	1	NE/BA	Broken flake
	Artefact sample	2677	5021	1	NE/BA	Flake
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)						
3545TT	Topsoil	354501		2	NE/BA	Broken flakes (1 patinated)
3546TT	Pit 354606	354603		1	NE/BA	Flake
3547TT	Topsoil	354701		1	NE/BA	?broken flake
3547TT	Palaeochannel 354706	354705		1	NE/BA	Flake
3548TT	Topsoil	354801		6	NE/BA	3 flakes; 1 broken flake; 2 core frags
3549TT	Topsoil	354901		1	NE/BA	Flake
3551TT	Topsoil	355101		1	NE/BA	Flake
3551TT	Ditch 355105	355104	5010	1	NE/BA	Flake
3551TT	Nat. feature 355111	355107		1	NE/BA	Flake
3551TT	Pit 355118	355117		1	NE/BA	Flake
3552TT	Ditch 355203	355204	5010	1	NE/BA	Core frag
3619TT	Topsoil	361901		1	NE/BA	Flake
3620TT	Topsoil	362001		1	NE/BA	Core frag
3621TT	Topsoil	362101		4	NE/BA	3 core frags (1 patinated); 1 flake (patinated)
3622TT	Topsoil	362201		4	NE/BA	Flakes
3622TT	Colluvium	362205		1	NE/BA	Flake
3622TT	Colluvium	362206		2	NE/BA	Flakes
3627TT	Topsoil	362701		1	NE/BA	Flake (patinated)
3627TT	Ditch 362704	362705	5003	1	NE/BA	Core frag
3627TT	Vessel-hole 362706	362707		1	NE/BA	?broken flake
3627TT	Ditch 362715	362716	5005	1	NE/BA	Broken blade (patinated)
3627TT	Ditch 362723	362724	5008	2	NE/BA	1 flake; 1 core frag
3627TT	Ditch 362725	362726	5005	1	NE/BA	Broken blade (Bullhead flint)
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99)						
3691TT	Ditch 369104	369105		1	NE/BA	Broken flake
3692TT	Colluvium	369201		1	NE/BA	Scraper
3694TT	Ditch 369406	369407		1	NE/BA	Flake
3694TT	Pit 369408	369409		2	NE/BA	1 flake, 1 broken flake
3695TT	Colluvium	369506		1	NE/BA	Core
	Unstratified	unstrat		22	NE/BA	12 flakes (1 Bullhead); 4 broken flakes; 2 scrapers (1=ON4006); 1 retouch
		TOTAL		159		

Table 12: Worked Flint by category

Type	Number	Group %	Total %	Period	Comments
Scrapers	8	72.7%	5.0%	NE/BA	
Piercers					
Burins					
Projectiles	1	9.1%	0.6%	NE	Transverse arrowhead
Denticulates					
Fabricators					
Microliths					
Core tools					
Other tools					
Misc. retouch	2	18.2%	1.3%	NE/BA	
Tools subtotal	11		6.9%		
Flake cores/core frags	13	92.9%	8.2%	NE/BA	
Blade(let) cores/core frags					
Rejuvenation tablets	1	7.1%	0.6%	NE/BA	
Crested pieces					
Microburins					
Chips					
Production sub-total	14		8.8%		
Blades/bladelets	4	3.1%	2.5%	?NE	
Flakes	127	96.9%	79.9%	NE/BA	
Blades & flakes sub-total	131		82.4%		
Debitage	3	100.0%	1.9%	NE/BA	
Fragments sub-total	3		1.9%		
TOTAL	159				

7.6 Assessment of Burnt Flint

Table 13: Burnt Flint quantification

Event Name	Event Code	Trench	Feature type	Context	Sub-group	Count	Weight
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Gully 2010	2009	5002	1	4
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Ditch 2113	2114	5005	1	8
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Pit 2124	2125		1	30
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Ditch 2209	2203	5005	1	10
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Layer	2301		2	8
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Layer	2319		1	44
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Ditch 2346	2347	5016	1	4
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Ditch 2401	2402	5010	1	4
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Post-hole 2505	2504		2	10
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Artefact sample	2622	5035	1	2
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF99		Artefact sample	2625	5007	2	8
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF98	3622TT	Topsoil	362201		1	6
Little Stock Farm	ARC LSF98	3627TT	Ditch 362712	362711	5006	1	3
Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	3694TT	Pit 369408	369409		6	338
			TOTAL			22	479

7.7 Assessment of Glass

Table 14: Glass quantification

Event Name	Event Code	Trench	Feature type	Context	Count	Weight	Type	Period
Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	3697TT	Ditch 369709	369710	1	4	Vessel	MO
Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	3697TT	Post-hole 369711	369712	4	21	Vessel	MO
Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	3697TT	Post-hole 369718	369719	4	24	Vessel	MO
Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	3697TT	Post-hole 369730	369731	1	1	Vessel	MO
Park Wood Cottage	ARC PWC99	3697TT	Post-hole 369736	369737	2	1	Vessel	MO
				TOTAL	12	51		

7.8 Assessment of Metalwork

Table 15: Metalwork quantification

Trench	Feature type	Context	Sub-group	Obj No	Material	Count	Period	ID
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)								
	Ditch 2002	2001	5001		Iron	1	UN	Nail
	Pit 2118	2119			Iron	1	UN	Nail
	Vessel-hole 2304	2303		4004	Cu alloy	1	?EIA	Decorated strip
	Layer	2407			Iron	3	PM	Nails
	Post-hole 2408	2409			Iron	12	UN	Nails
	Ditch 2439	2440			Iron	1	UN	Nail
	Ditch 2513	2511	5008		Iron	1	UN	Nail
	Pit 2536	2535		4010; 4013	Silver	1	LIA	Coin (in 6 frags)
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)								
3548TT	Colluvium	354802			Iron	1	PM	Horseshoe
3551TT	Ditch 355116	355112			Iron	1	PM	?nail
Park Wood Cottage Evaluation (ARC PWC99)								
3691TT	Ditch 369104	369105			Iron	5	UN	Nail frags
3696TT	Ditch 369606	369605			Iron	2	UN	Nail frags
	Unstrat	Unstrat			Iron	1	UN	Nail
	Unstrat	Unstrat			Iron	1	PM	?blade
					TOTAL	32		

7.9 Assessment of Human Bone

J I McKinley

Introduction

- 7.9.1 Disarticulated bones and fragments of unburnt human bone were recovered by hand from five Iron Age contexts.

Methodology

- 7.9.2 All the bone was scanned to assess demographic data, potential for indices recovery and presence of pathological lesions. Assessments were based on standard methodologies (Brothwell 1972, Bass 1986, Buikstra & Uberlaker 1994).

Quantification

- 7.9.3 Each of the contexts contained elements of both human and animal bone. The identifiable animal remains comprise cattle and deer; the human remains represent parts of two adult females, the recovered skeletal elements of which are summarised in **Table 16** below.

Table 16: Human Bone quantification

Context	Feature	Sub-group	Period	Preservation	Age	Comments
2442	Pit 2441	5019	E/MIA	Medium	Adult (female?)	Three fragments of parietal? skull vault - age uncertain (20-40+?), though not from 2030
SK2033	Grave 2037		E/MIA	Medium	Adult female	Skull (inc. mandible, occipital vault and malar); axial skeleton (fragments from all areas of spine, sternum, ribs and innominate); upper limbs (fragments of both clavicles, scapulae and forearms, one humerus, hand bones); lower limbs (fragments from right side including foot bones) - same individual as 2032?, age 20-30
2032	Grave 2037		E/MIA	Medium	Adult female	Few fragments from all areas (same individual as 2033?) - age 20-30
SK2030	Grave 2031		M/LIA	Medium	Adult female	Mostly skull, two fragments sacrum and one foot phalanx - age c. 40+
2029	Grave 2031		M/LIA	Medium	Adult female	Fragments of skull and lower limb bones - age uncertain (20-40+?)

SK = Skeleton

- 7.9.4 Skeleton 2033 represents a very small, gracile individual aged c. 20-30 years, fragments from the same individual probably being represented by the bone recovered from context 2032. Matching between diaphyseal and epiphyseal fragments from skeleton 2033 suggests that at least some of the remains were articulated at the time of deposition.
- 7.9.5 Skeleton 2030 represents the remains of an older adult, aged c. 40 years. Some fragments of upper limb from 2030 may be from the younger adult female 2033; bone fragments from context 2029 may originate from either individual. Two of the parietal vault fragments from skeleton 2030 appear to show an unhealed wound from a 'pick-like' implement.

- 7.9.6 The fragments of skull recovered from Early/ Middle Iron Age pit **2441** are not part of skeleton 2030, but cannot be excluded from possibly being part of skeleton 2033 due to so little skull being recovered from the latter. If so, given the relative dates assigned to these features, this would imply that skeleton 2033 were previously buried within or near, pit **2441** before being moved to grave-pit **2037**.

Provenance

- 7.9.7 All the bone is in relatively good condition, with slight root/insect erosion of the cortical long bone from skeleton 2033, but heavily fragmented; almost all the breaks, including the 'pick-like' wound to skeleton 2030 apparently sustained in antiquity.
- 7.9.8 The fragmentary condition of the earliest burial (skeleton 2033) suggests it was either disturbed in antiquity or originally deposited as disarticulated remains. In view of the position of the secondary grave-pit **2031** cutting through the earlier feature (and the subsequent disturbance of both features by medieval pit **2036**), it is not implausible that skeleton 2033 has been disturbed. However, the heavy fragmentation of the rest of the bone, and the absence of most of the skull, suggests there was also some other form of disturbance or bone removal, or that the body was perhaps not complete when initially buried.
- 7.9.9 Skeleton 2030 largely comprised skull, and probably was already dry at the time of deposition. It was located within in a confined space in the north-west corner of pit **2031**, and almost certainly represents re-interred disarticulated remains.

Conservation

- 7.9.10 There are no conflicts between further analysis and short-term storage. Under the terms of Schedule 11 of the CTRL Act 1996, all human remains are to be reburied.

Comparative material

- 7.9.11 The deposition of disarticulated human remains in Iron Age pits is not uncommon (Whimster 1981); in this instance, the discrete location of the bone suggests deliberate placement rather than incidental inclusion in the fill. 'Special' deposits within Iron Age pits may include human bone and similarly, remains have also been recovered from midden deposits. The physical transition from cadaver to skeleton also appears to have carried a transition in the cultural identity of the remains and the way in which they were viewed. The nature of this transition, presumably by way of some form of excarnation, is not clear, but the lack of apparent gnawing by scavengers suggests exposure was not the method used, exhumation being the most likely alternative.

Potential

- 7.9.12 A full archival record of the human remains is required. Some reconstruction of skull fragments is recommended to assess the nature and extent of observed pathological lesions. The full potential of further analysis will lie not necessarily in the extraction of further demographic data or the recovery of pathological information but in consideration of the 'ritual' nature of the deposits and expanding our understanding of Iron Age mortuary activities. The nature of the deposits may be best understood when considered in relation to the other contexts around them.
- 7.9.13 DNA analysis may assist in identifying individual remains, and therefore post-depositional movement between features, as well as potentially indicating related individuals. However, it is by no means certain that suitable samples may be obtained from the remains recovered

at Little Stock Farm. Although diagnostic ceramics were obtained from the graves, radiocarbon dating of the skeletal remains will place these features more confidently within a chronological framework. Again though, it is by no means certain that sufficient material (such as collagen) survives to enable such samples to be taken.

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7.10 Assessment of Animal Bone

Introduction

- 7.10.1 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from excavated features at Little Stock Farm. Although relatively few pieces of the assemblage (i.e. c. 34%) were identifiable to species, the assemblage nevertheless represents one of the larger collections of such material recovered from archaeological excavations in the general area.

Methodology

- 7.10.2 For the purposes of this assessment the complete animal bone assemblage from Little Stock Farm was examined. For each context bones were identified to species where possible, the number of unidentifiable fragments counted, the number of bones complete enough to measure was calculated, as well as those bones capable of yielding age data (mandibular teeth and bones with fusion data were counted). Taphonomic patterns were also looked at with the number of bones bearing butchery marks, evidence of carnivore damage or burning recorded.

Quantifications

- 7.10.3 A total of 421 animal bones (**Table 17**) was recovered from excavations at Little Stock farm, of which 143 (34%) were identified to species during assessment. Although more detailed analysis may slightly increase the number of bones identified to species, it is unlikely to make a significant impact on the overall percentage of identified species.
- 7.10.4 Sheep or goat, cattle, pig, horse, dog, small mammal, bird, red deer and roe deer have been identified. Of the identified fraction the most numerous species represented was sheep or goat (40%), followed by cattle (30%), pig (10%), dog (8%), horse and bird (5% each), deer (2%) and small mammal (1%). A total of 18 bones (12.5%) bore evidence of butchery; most of these had been chopped. As the bone surface of many fragments was eroded it may be that knife marks are no longer visible and that only those marks left from dismembering carcasses are visible.

Provenance

- 7.10.5 Carnivore damage was visible on 47 bones (11% of the complete assemblage) and this, coupled with the general poor surface condition of the bone assemblage may indicate that the bones were not rapidly deposited but had been present on the ground surface for a time before burial.
- 7.10.6 Bones exhibiting carnivore damage were concentrated in and around the three phases of Mid/ Late Iron Age enclosure (groups **5024–6** inc.) adjacent to Station Road. Comparatively few examples were recorded in proximity to round-house **5007** to the west, although a small group was recovered towards the far western end of the site in post-pit **2441** (sub-group **5019**). The latter were recovered from the same context as a number of human skull fragments. The remaining bones demonstrating carnivore damage were recovered from the medieval enclosure and field system ditches throughout the site with no apparent focus.

Conservation

- 7.10.7 There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

Comparative material

- 7.10.8 Animal bone is generally rare or often absent from archaeological investigations in the immediate area, such as at Westenhanger Castle (URS 1999a), and two sites near Smeeth, Church Lane and East of Station Road (URS 1999b). A larger assemblage was recovered from Mersham (URS 1999c), comprising c. 1800 pieces, including a horse burial, but the majority of this assemblage was recovered from early medieval features and may not, therefore be necessarily relevant to the prehistoric material recovered at Little Stock Farm.

Potential for further work

- 7.10.9 Only 9 bones (6.3% of all identified bones) were in a complete enough condition for measurements (following Dreisch 1976) to be taken and no metrical analysis of the animal population on such a small group will be possible. Similarly only 23 bones (16%) will yield any ageing data and this is insufficient for an analysis of the age at death of the population to be made.
- 7.10.10 As a small group of animal bones (with only 143 bones that can be identified to species), there is little evidence surviving of the age at death of the animals and few bones complete enough to measure. The assemblage therefore has little potential to address questions regarding economy or husbandry on site and it is recommended that no further work be done but that the results of the assessment be included in the final report.

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Table 17: Animal Bone quantification

Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep /goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)																	
2001	Ditch 2002	5001	1	1							6	8					1
2003	Hearth 2006		2								5	7		1	1		
2003	Hearth 2006				1							1					
2004	Hearth 2006		1	1							1	3				1	
2011	Pit 2013										4	4					
2012	Pit 2013										1	1					
2015	Ditch 2016	5003	1		1	1					8	11		2			
2017	Ditch 2018	5004									1	1					
2019	Ditch 2020	5005	1		1						3	5					
2021	Ditch 2024	5001	1	1							4	6				1	
2022	Ditch 2024	5001									1	1					
2023	Ditch 2024	5001	1	2							4	7		1		1	
2025	Ditch 2026	5006									1	1					
2029	Grave-pit 2031										25	25					2
2032	Grave-pit 2037									1		1			1		
2032	Grave-pit 2037			1								1			1		
2101	Post-hole 2105										9	9					
2112	L ayer										2	2				1	
2114	Ditch 2113	5005	2	3	1			1				7			2	3	
2115	Ditch 2113	5005	2		1							3				1	
2119	Pit 2118			1								1	1				
2121	Ditch 2120	5008	1									1		1			
2125	Pit 2124										1	1					1
2202	Hearth 2201		1									1					
2203	Ditch 2209	5005	1								4	5					
2204	Ditch 2209	5005					1				2	3					
2205	Ditch 2208	5010		1	1						4	6		1		1	

Contd.

Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.																	
2206	Ditch 2212	5005		2								2			1		
2207	Ditch 2209	5005									2	2				2	
2210	Ditch 2211	5006	1	1								2			1	1	
2214	Pit/ hollow										1	1					
2215	Post-hole 2216				1							1					
2220	Ditch 2221	5008		1							3	4				1	1
2222	Ditch 2223	5011									3	3					
2226	Gully 2227	5007	1									1					
2230	Gully 2232	5007		1								1					
2240	Ditch 2242	5008									4	4					
2241	Ditch 2242	5008									1	1				1	
2301	Layer										1	1					
2303	Vessel-hole 2304		1								1	2		1			1
2319	Layer										1	1					
2320	Ditch 2323	5014		3	1		1				12	17	1	1	1	2	
2321	Ditch 2324	5011									1	1					
2326	Ditch 2325	5005		1							2	3	1		1		
2328	Ditch 2327	5003	2									2				1	
2332	Ditch 2331	5012									2	2					
2337	Ditch 2336	5006	1								1	2					
2339	Post-pit 2338	5015									1	1					
2341	Gully 2340	5007									2	2					
2343	Post-pit 2342	5015		1								1			1		
2402	Ditch 2401	5010	1						6		5	12					
2407	Layer										1	1					1
2409	Post-hole 2408										1	1					1
2411	Layer										5	5					
2412	Ditch 2410	5003	1									1					
2413	Ditch 2410	5003	1								1	2	1	1	1		
2417	Ditch 2414	5004	1								4	5				1	
2418	Ditch 2415	5005	6	2		1					4	13	1	1	2	2	
2419	Ditch 2416	5014									2	2					

Contd.

Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.																	
2422	Layer										1	1					
2423	Hearth 2421			1					1		10	12				1	
2433	Ditch 2432	5005									4	4				3	
2434	Ditch 2432	5005									3	3					
2438	Pit 2437			1								1					
2440	Ditch 2439										1	1					
2442	Post-pit 2441	5019	4	5		2					7	18	2	3		4	6
2444	Ditch 2443	5019	1		1						4	6					
2504	Post-hole 2505										1	1					
2506	Post-hole 2507										3	3					1
2508	Layer										1	1					
2509	Post-hole 2510										1	1					1
2511	Ditch 2513	5008	3	1								4	1	1			
2511	Ditch 2513	5008								1		1			1		
2512	Ditch 2513	5008	1								2	3				3	
2514	Ditch 2515	5005	2	2							1	5		2		3	
2520	Quarry 2522			1								1					
2532	Pit 2531										1	1				1	
2533	Ditch 2534	5006			1		1					2					
2541	Post-hole 2542										1	1				1	
2602	Artefact sample	5008									1	1					
2604	Artefact sample	2244									1	1					
2607	Artefact sample	5013									1	1					
2609	Artefact sample	5004	1									1					1
2612	Artefact sample	5008	2									2				1	
2613	Artefact sample	5012	1									1					
2619	Artefact sample	5033	1									1					
2625	Artefact sample	5007		1								1				1	
2651	Artefact sample	5008								1	3	4					
2659	Artefact sample	5007									1	1					
2663	Artefact sample	5010	1									1		1			
2665	Artefact sample	2439	1								1	2					

Contd.

Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.																	
2666	Artefact sample	5010									1	1					
2676	Artefact sample	5021									2	2					
2677	Artefact sample	5021			1						1	2	1				
Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)																	
354602	Pit 354606				1							1				1	
354603	Pit 354606 (sample)										1	1					
354603	Pit 354606										3	3					
355107	Nat. feature 355111		4									4		4		1	
355117	Pit 355118					1						1					
362203	Colluvium			1	1							2					
362503	Pit 362504										1	1				1	
362705	Ditch 362704 (sample)	5003									3	3					
362705	Ditch 362704	5003		1		1					15	17		1			
362709	Post-hole 362708		1								2	3					2
362716	Ditch 362715 (sample)	5005	1		1						6	8					3
362716	Ditch 362715	5005	1				8				3	12		1		4	
362717	Quarry 362718										1	1					
362720	Ditch 362719	5014	1									1					
362722	Ditch 362721	5011		1		1					1	3					
362722	Ditch 362721 (sample)	5011									7	7					2
362724	Ditch 362723	5008		3							1	4			3	2	
362726	Ditch 362725	5005									19	19					
362726	Ditch 362725 (sample)	5005		2							15	17			1		
	Totals		57	43	14	7	11	1	7	3	278	421	9	23	18	47	24

7.11 Assessment of Macroscopic Plant Remains and Charcoal

Introduction

7.11.1 A large series of bulk samples were taken from sealed contexts to recover charred plants remains and charcoal to aid in determining the following for each defined phase:

- *the archaeological significance of the deposits and thus the site*
- *the nature of the local environments*
- *selection of woodland species for general and specific activities*
- *the use of the wild and cultivated resources*
- *the nature of specific activities undertaken on site, and thus the general economic status of the site*

Methodology

7.11.2 Samples were selected for processing according to the following criteria:

- *a broad range of feature types was to be examined*
- *samples should be spatially arranged across the entire site*
- *where possible, all chronological periods represented at the site should be examined.*

7.11.3 Based on these criteria, 51 bulk samples of between 0.5 and 15 litres were processed from a range of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval and undated features. All bulk samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of both charred plant remains and charcoals, and artefacts.

7.11.4 Standard processing methods were used, with sample flots retained on a 0.5mm mesh and coarse residues fractionated into a 4mm mesh. The coarse fraction was hand-sorted, weighed and discarded, with flots scanned under a x10 – x30 stereo-binocular microscope in order to quantify the presence of plant macrofossils.

Quantifications

7.11.5 The quantification of macroscopic plant remains and charcoal by sample per context for those fieldwork events conducted by Wessex Archaeology are provided in **Table 18**.

7.11.6 Neolithic post-hole **2507** produced a few charred grain fragments and high numbers of charred weed seeds, including hazelnut fragments. Only two of the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age samples produced a few charred grains, with similar quantities of burnt weed seeds recovered from three samples. Hazelnuts were also recovered from two samples attributed to this period. It may be of note that none of the earlier prehistoric samples produced additional material such as bone (burnt or otherwise), peas/ beans or molluscs.

7.11.7 Early and Early/ Middle Iron Age samples generally produced greater quantities of charred grain and burnt weed seeds than the earlier prehistoric samples. In particular, significant quantities of charred grain were recovered from the upper fill of Early Iron Age pit **2013**, a charcoal-rich deposit which may represent a shallow hearth located in the partially infilled

remains of the pit. Pit **2013** also produced a few charred fragments of chaff from the lower fill, with similar quantities recovered from three of the Early/ Middle Iron Age samples. Five of the nine Middle/ Late Iron Age samples also produced hazelnut shells.

- 7.11.8 All Middle/ Late Iron Age samples produced charred grain, with the greatest quantities recovered from enclosure **5024**; grave-pit **2031** and pit **2008**, with the enclosure and pit **2008** the only features from this period to also produce charred chaff. All of the Late Iron Age samples produced generally large quantities of charred grain, moderate quantities of burnt weed seeds and low numbers of charcoal fragments. Four of the six samples also yielded low numbers of charred chaff fragments.
- 7.11.9 The single sample from Saxon pit **2437** produced a few charred grains, weed seeds (burnt and unburnt) and charcoal fragments, whereas all 14 medieval samples produced generally high numbers of charred grain, with two samples also producing some charred chaff fragments.

Provenance

- 7.11.10 The samples generally produced small flots (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres) with between 2 and 90% rooty material and varying quantities of uncharred weed seeds. As a general rule, the quantity of rooty material and uncharred weed seeds recovered from a sample is considered to be directly proportional to the amount of post-depositional movement and/or impact that a deposit has experienced. Therefore, samples producing large quantities of both categories can generally be considered not stratigraphically secure. There are, however, other agents that can be responsible for rooty material and/or uncharred weed seeds that do not necessarily comprise stratigraphic security, such as contemporaneous *in situ* bioturbation.

Conservation

- 7.11.11 There are no conservation issues that conflict with long term storage for the sorted residues and extracted flots. However, the unprocessed samples, although currently stored in stable conditions, cannot remain so in perpetuity, and as such a decision regarding discard/retention needs to be reached.

Comparative material

- 7.11.12 There are no major prehistoric charred remains assemblages published from Kent (c.f. Scaife 1987), although smaller assemblages are gradually being published. In particular, Neolithic and domestic Bronze Age (as opposed to funerary) assemblages are especially absent. The most important of these, and relevant to Little Stock Farm, include the Iron Age sites at Wilmington and Keston camp (both Hillman unpubl.)

Potential for further work

- 7.11.13 The presence of Neolithic cereals and charcoal in pit **2507** is significant in providing information on early farming and the nature of local woodland for a period poorly represented in the archaeological record of Kent.
- 7.11.14 There is evidence of cereal cultivation (grain) and preparation (chaff) from the Late Bronze Age onwards, and the large number of weed seeds might provide an indication of the soil types cultivated. Both the charred weed seeds and charcoals may indicate the exploitation of wilder resources, as suggested by the presence of hazelnuts. The wood species may also indicate the nature of the local woodland and whether they were coppiced or managed.

- 7.11.15 The latter is a theme that can be addressed to a greater or lesser extent in both the Late Iron Age and medieval periods, but more significant in both these phases is the increased intensity (recovery) of evidence for the use of agricultural produce (grain). From the Middle Iron Age onwards, in particular, there is a demonstrable intensification in arable farming at Little Stock Farm: cereal grain is common and there is potential for changes in the species grown, and also peas/beans are a part of the crop.
- 7.11.16 Given the enhanced potential for the site as a whole to contribute to the study of the prehistory in Kent, it is recommended that all remaining samples from 4th Rank (see **Appendix 7.1**) or greater features are processed and sorted to augment the ecofact and micro-artefactual assemblages already obtained.
- 7.11.17 In summary, the palaeo-environmental information is well preserved, with stratigraphically secure features identified to provide a basis for future analysis. The archive may therefore enable the examination of changing woodland and exploitation of the local environment. The cereal and charred plant remains can provide detailed of the farming economy and activities occurring on site in each period, as well as recording the developments in the crops and farming from the Neolithic to the medieval period. Within this the weed seeds might enable some comment of changing soil types or of selection of specific soil types for cultivation, the former indicating degradation by human action and the latter specific selections.
- 7.11.18 All of the palaeo-environmental data will aid in the interpretation of the activities and function of each phase of activity, above and beyond mere presence/ absence statements. This will provide an environmental framework on which to base consideration of human economy, intervention and interaction with the landscape of Little Stock Farm from the earlier prehistoric to medieval times.

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Table 18: Quantification of Ecofacts

Sample Details (by period)				Flot Details							Residue Details
Feature (inc. sub-group)	Context no.	Sample no.	Size (litres)	Size (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weed Seeds Unburnt Burnt		Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
Middle Neolithic											
Post-hole 2507	2506	3024	10	30 ^{0.6}	+		++	++(h)	+		
Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age											
Vessel-hole 2104 (fill of ON 4002)	2103	3003	4	10 ²			+	+(h)	+		
Vessel-hole 2503 (fill of ON 4003)	2501	3009	0.5	5 ^{0.5}			+	+(h)	+		
Vessel-hole 2503	2502	3011	6	5 ¹	+		+	+	+		
Ditch 2346 (=5016)	2347	3057	3	3 ^{1.5}			+				
Vessel-hole 362706	362707	6	15	10 ¹	+		+				
Early Iron Age											
Pit 2013	2011	3020	5	40 ⁴	++		+	+	+	burnt bone; p/beans (+); min. matter	
Pit 2013	2012	3022	8	5 ^{0.5}	+	+	+	+	+	unburnt bone; p/beans (+)	
Vessel-hole 2304 (fill of ON 4001)	2302	3004	6	5 ^{0.5}			++	+	+	unburnt bone	
Vessel-hole 2304	2303	3010	10	15 ^{0.5}	+		++		+	burnt bone	
Vessel-hole 2304	2303	3013	10	10 ¹	+		++	+	+	unburnt and burnt bone	
Vessel-hole 2304	2303	3017	10	40 ²			++	+	++	unburnt bone	
Vessel-hole 2304	2303	3018	0.25	3 ^{0.3}			+		+		
Early/ Middle Iron Age											
Grave-pit 2037	2032	3042	10	5 ¹	+		+	+		mollusc (+)	
Post-pit 2441 (=5019)	2442	3062	10	10 ^{0.5}	+		+	+(h)	+		
Post-hole 2505	2504	3023	10	20 ²	+		++	++(h)	+		
Gully 2010 (=5002)	2009	3016	5	10 ¹	+	+	+	+(h)	+	unburnt bone	
Gully 2028 (=5007)	2027	3040	5	5 ^{0.5}	+		+	+(h)	+		
Pit 354606	354602	1	15	150 ¹³⁵	+	+	++			mollusc (++); smb (+)	
Pit 354606	354603	2	15	125 ^{112.5}	+		+	+		mollusc (++); smb (+)	
Ditch 355116	355112	15	15	10 ¹	+	+	++			mollusc (+); smb (+)	
Pit 355118	355117	16	15	5 ^{1.5}			++	+(h)		mollusc (+); smb (+)	
Post-hole 362708	362709	7	15	20 ²	++		+		+	smb (+)	
Middle/ Late Iron Age (Phase I)											
Grave-pit 2031	2029	3041	10	25 ^{3.75}	++		+	+(h)	+	unburnt bone	
Ditch 2410 (=5003; part of 5024)	2413	3034	10	35 ^{0.7}	+		+	+	+	smb (++)	
Ditch 362704 (=5003; part of 5024)	362705	5	15	30 ³	+		+		+	smb (+)	
Ditch 2324 (=5011; part of 5024)	2321	3029	10	25 ^{7.5}	++	+	++	++		smb (+); p/beans (+)	
Ditch 362721 (=5011; part of 5024)	362722	12	15	10 ³	++	+	+	+	+	smb (+); p/beans (+)	

Contd.

Sample Details (by period)				Flot Details						Residue Details
Feature (inc. sub-group)	Context no.	Sample no.	Size (litres)	Size (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weed Seeds Unburnt Burnt	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoa >5.6mm
Middle/ Late Iron Age (Phase II)										
Pit 2008	2007	3008	4	5 ¹	++	+	++	+	smb (+); p/beans (+)	
Ditch 362725 (=5004; part of 5025)	362726	13	15	5 ¹	+		+	+	p/beans (+)	
Late Iron Age										
Hearth 2006	2003	3005	10	10 ³	++	+	++	++	+	smb/f (++); p/beans (+)
Hearth 2006	2003	3007	4	15 ^{1.5}	++	+	++	++	+	smb (+); p/beans (++)
Post-pit 2124 (=5015)	2125	3043	10	25 ^{1.25}	++		+	+	+	smb (+)
Ditch 2002 (=5001; part of 5026)	2001	3002	10	5 ¹	+	+	+	+	+	smb (+)
Ditch 362725 (=5005; part of 5026)	362716	8	15	25 ^{2.5}	++	+	+	+	+	smb (+); p/beans (+)
Saxon										
Pit 2437	2438	3056	10	10 ³	+		+	+	+	
Medieval (Phase I)										
Pit 2036	2034	3044	5	10 ^{1.5}	+		+	+	smb (+)	
Pit 2036	2035	3045	4	15 ¹⁰	+		+	+(h)	+	
Hearth 2421	2423	3048	10	50 ¹	++	+	++	+(h)	++	smb/f (+); mollusc (+)
Hearth 2421	2423	3049	10	60 ^{1.2}	++		++	+	++	smb (+); p/beans (+)
Hearth 2421	2423	3050	10	50 ¹	++		+	+	++	smb (+); p/beans (+)
Quarry 2522	362717	11	15	10 ⁵	+		++			mollusc (+); smb (+)
Ditch 2026 (=5006)	2025	3038	8	15 ^{7.5}	++		+	+		smb (+); p/beans (+)
Ditch 2211 (=5006)	2210	3015	10	10 ^{0.5}	++		++	+	+	smb (+); min. matter
Ditch 362712 (=5006)	362711	3	15	15 ⁶	++	+	++	+		smb (++) ; p/beans (+)
Ditch 355205 (=5027)	355206	10	15	30 ^{1.5}	+		+			mollusc (++) ; smb (+)
Medieval (Phase II)										
Ditch 2439	2440	3055	10	5 ^{1.25}	+		+	+(h)	+	unburnt bone
Ditch 362714 (=5010)	362713	4	15	20 ¹⁴	+		+	+		smb (+)
Ditch 355203 (=5010)	355204	9	15	20 ¹	++		+			mollusc (++) ; smb (+)
Pit 362504	362503	14	15	5 ⁴	+		++			mollusc (++)
Undated										
Natural feature 355111	355107	17	15	20 ²	+		++			mollusc (++) ; smb (+)

Key: Flot size in ^{superscript} = ml of rooty material; ON = Object No.; h = hazelnut; smb/f = small mammal bone/ fish; p/beans = peas/beans; min. = mineralised;
+ = 1-10 items, ++ = 11-50 items