

# Channel Tunnel Rail Link

## North of Westenhanger Castle Post Excavation Assessment Report

May 2001



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**Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
Union Railways (South) Ltd**

**Project Area 440**

**NORTH OF WESTENHANGER CASTLE, KENT.  
ARC WGC 98**

**DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
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**Canterbury Archaeological Trust  
14 August 1999**

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## SUMMARY

Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) were commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd (URS) to undertake an excavation in fields north of Westenhanger Castle as part of an extensive programme of archaeological work in advance of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). This work, in addition to the preceding evaluation by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) and the subsequent Watching Brief by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU), revealed a palimpsest landscape. Fieldwork was undertaken between January 1998 and August 1999, with the watching brief continuing intermittently until July 2000.

The earliest occupation goes back to the Middle Bronze Age and was largely concentrated at the south-east of the area. A circular structure may belong with this phase, or with Iron Age occupation. The latter was extensive and included a rectilinear enclosure, a drove-way and a second circular structure. This settlement was located in the north-western part of the landscape and this area remained a preferred location thereafter.

There is no evidence for Roman or Anglo-Saxon occupation across this area but in the late eleventh century a farmstead was established at the north-west. Partial plans can be established for three structures, which are separated by enclosure ditches, with rubbish pits nearby. The focus of this settlement may have lain in this corner of the landscape, or a little further to the north. It was succeeded in the later twelfth or early thirteenth-century by a ditch and enclosure system which partly overlapped with its eastern fringes, providing an emphatic boundary across this area. A series of ditches, pits and possible animal pens can be assigned to this phase. No buildings could be identified; these are thought to lie further to the north, beyond the limits of the excavation and the watching brief.

Later medieval occupation is limited to a ditch and a small number of related features located a further 100m away to the east. Little can be said about this phase, other than to confirm a shift of settlement from west to east across this landscape in the medieval period.

The Iron Age and medieval phases are both reasonably comprehensive and provide coherent images of rural agricultural practices. This is supplemented by palaeo-environmental material for the early medieval period. Small ceramic assemblages for each period provide good dating frameworks. The ceramics can also be considered in broader terms, in relation to other CTRL sites in this area. The lithics assemblage is small but includes in-situ deposits, whilst the remaining small finds illustrate a part of the range of implements to be expected from the early medieval farmstead.

Although largely recovered under watching brief conditions, the Iron Age and early medieval landscapes are of considerable significance by virtue of their size and completeness. Comparable sites are rare both in Kent and in south-east England as a whole.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 The Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake a detailed archaeological investigation on land to the north of Westenhanger Castle in Kent. The investigation followed on from evaluations carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS) and was itself succeeded by a watching brief undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU). Details of these archaeological interventions are provided in Table 1. 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).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Rail Link Engineering (RLE), agreed in consultation with English Heritage and Kent County Council (KCC) on behalf of the local Planning Authorities.
- 1.1.3 This assessment has been produced by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and is concerned with archaeological investigations to the north of Westenhanger Castle, Westenhanger, Kent. It includes details of a number of Fieldwork Events, which are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
*Fieldwork Events North of Westenhanger Castle*

| <i>Fieldwork Event</i>       | <i>Fieldwork Event Type</i> | <i>Fieldwork Event Code</i> | <i>Contractor</i> | <i>Dates of Fieldwork</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| North of Westenhanger Castle | Evaluation                  |                             | MoLASs            | October 1997              |
| North of Westenhanger Castle | Excavation                  | ARC WGC98                   | CAT               | March to April 1999       |
| North of Westenhanger Castle | Excavation                  | ARC WSG98                   | CAT               |                           |
| North of Westenhanger Castle | Watching Brief              | ARC WSG99                   | OAU               | May 1999 to July 2000     |

- 1.1.4 In total, an area of 6.3 hectares, 63,750m<sup>2</sup> was investigated. This included an excavation of 900 m<sup>2</sup> (30 x 30m), which lay within a watching brief covering 425m x 150m.
- 1.1.5 The excavation site was centred on URL grid point 92125/17525, and the NGR grid point TR 3750N 1220E (Figure 1). Fieldwork was undertaken between January 1998 and August 1999, with the watching brief continuing intermittently until July 2000.

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site was positioned across a series of fields to the north of the London to Folkestone railway and to the south of the M20 railway. It encompasses a slightly higher plateau (75m OD), from which the ground dips down to 70-72m OD to the south and west. The plateau lies to the north-west of the present village of Westenhanger.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site comprises Pleistocene Head Brickearth (British Geological Survey Sheet 305/6). A linear band of alluvium is also noted within the area, aligned north-east to south-west. The Head Brickearth and alluvium form the

drift geology for the area whilst the underlying solid geology is part of the Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone and Sandgate Beds.

### 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 Stone Street lies *c.* 400m to the east of the site. This road is believed to follow the same alignment as the original Roman route leading from Canterbury to the Roman fort of *Lemanis* at Lympe. The medieval village of Westenhangar is thought to have been situated on the line of Stone Street, a little to the east of the present village. Westenhangar Castle is situated immediately opposite the site, to the south, on the southern side of the railway. The standing remains represent a fourteenth-century castle/fortified house, although its origins are likely to be earlier, and may go back to the Norman Conquest.
- 1.3.2 The earliest historical document relating to Westenhangar is the Westenhangar Charter of 1035. Although apparently named *Berwic* during this period, the charter describes the boundaries of the associated land holding as almost identical to those of Westenhangar Manor when sold in 1885. A pocket of land referred to as 'Five Acres' may refer to the area in which the excavation and watching brief were sited. This land lay to the north of the East Stour, and is surmised as being to the north and slightly to the west of the current castle at Westenhangar (Figure 2). This would place it neatly in the area of fieldwork. In addition, a reference is also made to an Anglo-Saxon church within the boundary; this building is also mentioned in the *Domesday Monachorum*. The site may, therefore, have lain within an area encompassing a typical early medieval landscape of castle, church, manor and ancillary structures.
- 1.3.3 There had been little archaeological investigation in this area prior to its adoption as part of the route for the rail link. A desk-top study of the archaeology of the area was prepared for Union Railways Limited (URL) by the OAU in 1994 as part of an environmental assessment of the route of the CTRL. The area is within route window 36 and appears on a series of aerial photographs taken in 1989 (BR CTRL Aerial Photographs Run No. 89-002, Photographs 186-7). Fieldwalking undertaken as part of this work produced concentrations of worked flint.

## **ORIGINAL PRIORITIES, AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Landscape Zone Priorities**

2.1.1 The main archaeological concerns for this area in respect of the Landscape Zone Priorities were:

- 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;
- to establish the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains.

### **2.2 Fieldwork Event Aims**

2.2.1 The primary fieldwork event aims of the investigation as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were:

- to establish the full extent and morphology of any structures or other archaeological remains utilising archaeomagnetic techniques;
- to determine the function and economic basis of the site;
- to recover charred plant material and other economic indicators for palaeo-economic studies.

### **2.3 Fieldwork Methodology and Summary of Excavation Results**

2.3.1 The fieldwork for this investigation consisted of three principal elements:

- Evaluation, leading to
- Excavation, followed by
- Watching Brief.

2.3.2 An evaluation of the particular field in which the excavation took place was carried out by MoLAS in October 1997. This revealed the presence of medieval field boundaries and a pit that was thought to be a corn drying oven. Associated ceramics allowed these features to be dated to the mid twelfth century, which predated the present castle and suggested that they may have been associated with an earlier, manorial farm.

2.3.3 Detailed excavation by Canterbury Archaeological Trust of a 30 x 30m area was undertaken during March and April 1999. The site was cleared using a mechanical excavator and the surface was cleaned using shovels and trowels. Possible features were marked with spray paint and planned using an EDM. Occasional adverse weather conditions led to some problems in the identification of features.

2.3.4 All pits, post-holes and stakeholes were half-sectioned and one half was excavated. Ditches and other linear features were generally sectioned at two locations, one of



which was the terminal end, if present within the excavated area. Feature intersections were excavated, where possible (Figure 3).

- 2.3.5 The principal discoveries made during the excavation were part of an Iron Age round-house and a series of large, linear medieval ditches enclosing a rectangular area. The plan of the round-house could be reconstructed, although there are few associated cultural remains. The early medieval enclosure system (*c.* AD 1050-1250) is indicative of segregation of the landscape into separate areas of activity. During the fieldwork stage it was not thought that any structures of early medieval date could be recognised. The assessment has, however, revealed traces of at least one building in the excavated area. Two phases of medieval occupation could be identified in the excavated area, the earlier lying to the north and west, the later to the south and east.
- 2.3.6 Excavation of the postulated corn-drying oven indicated that its original functional interpretation was incorrect. It consisted of a thick layer of burnt material that had slumped into the top of a pit. Several possible functions can be assigned to the burnt material, which seals a pit initially used to dispose of a variety of waste products. The pit lay within the rectangular area enclosed by the ditches and an interesting assemblage of charred plant remains was identified within its fills.
- 2.3.7 The majority of all datable material retrieved from the archaeological remains belongs to the early medieval period and can be placed in the later eleventh and twelfth centuries. The later medieval phase belongs to the thirteenth to fourteenth century. A small amount of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flint and ceramics was present, as well as later Iron Age pottery and a few Roman sherds.
- 2.3.8 The watching brief undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit encompassed a much wider area than the excavation, extending some distance in all directions (Figure 4). It revealed a curvilinear enclosure of Iron Age date, as well as traces of a second structure of this period or earlier. The majority of the remaining features consisted of linear ditches, predominantly of medieval and post-medieval date, as well as several pits and further buildings of early medieval date. The dating evidence is based, once again, on ceramics and worked flint, and three phases of medieval occupation can again be identified, complementing the situation seen within the excavation, but including also a later medieval phase further to the east. Medieval occupation here was initially centred in the north-western part of the investigated area and shifted further eastwards at some point in the thirteenth century.
- 2.3.9 Most of the archaeological features across this landscape were identified during the watching brief and consisted largely of ditches and gullies. Sections were cut across most of these features, concentrating on intersections and terminal ends. Smaller features were excavated in their entirety. The excavated area complemented the watching brief well and allowed more detail to emerge of features belonging to the different periods. As Figure 4 shows, however, the excavation did not identify all of the features seen in the watching brief, and *vice versa*. Most of the site came under the watching brief, and not under excavation.
- 2.3.10 The broader image of the landscape has emerged during the assessment; the detailed picture may remain a little elusive. This is certainly not the fault of RLE, or the sub-contractors; what is missing for east Kent is a detailed research framework which would have highlighted, for example, the rarity of traces of early medieval settlement in the county. The assessment has allowed the broad image of the landscape to be

defined more closely and it has merged the work of the three contractors into a story which, if incomplete, is nonetheless now reasonably coherent.

## **2.4 General Assessment Methodology**

- 2.4.1 The assessment report was commissioned by URS to the specification for assessment reports produced by RLE (Post Excavation Assessment Instruction Revision AB) as discussed with English Heritage and Kent County Council. This specification follows national guidelines prepared by English Heritage (MAP2) and provides additional information regarding the level of detail required, and the format.
- 2.4.2 The production of assessment reports was project-managed by Ian Riddler. The majority of the specialist work was undertaken by CAT staff, the principal exception lying with the environmental material. The assessment involved the amalgamation of material produced by CAT, OAU and MoLAS, and in Section 6 below we have gratefully acknowledged the assistance provided by members of these various archaeological units.

### 3. FACTUAL DATA AND QUANTIFICATION

#### 3.1 The Stratigraphic Record

##### *Intrusion, Residuality and Truncation*

- 3.1.1 The landscape area was crossed by a considerable number of linear ditches, not all of which were sampled by excavation. Where this was the case, there was a greater likelihood of the occurrence of material of different periods. Of 111 deposits within the excavation area, 43 contained ceramic material and only three of these produced evidence of residual ceramics. Of 220 deposits sampled during the watching brief, 56 produced ceramic material and four of these included a mixture of prehistoric and medieval ceramics. Seven further contexts included a mixture of early medieval and medieval ceramics but, in the current level of our understanding and given the small nature of each sample, these cannot be said to necessarily be residual deposits.
- 3.1.2 The project area forms a broad plateau, with a hollow towards its centre. Features around that hollow were noticeably truncated and proved difficult to plan. Some truncation of linear features was visible but, as Figures 3 and 4 show, most could be seen and planned with parallel sides in accordance with their original form.

##### *Contamination*

- 3.1.3 Contamination across the site was negligible.
- 3.1.4 Six principal phases of occupation have been identified for the landscape:
- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Earlier Prehistoric |
| 2 | Iron Age            |
| 3 | Early Medieval      |
| 4 | Medieval            |
| 5 | Late Medieval       |
| 6 | Post-Medieval       |

Each is briefly described in turn here.

##### *Earlier Prehistoric*

- 3.1.5 Two linear ditches within the excavation area (sub-groups 8 and 35) were sealed by a soil horizon (Group 2) of prehistoric date. No cultural material was retrieved from the ditches, but several worked flints came from the soil horizon. These include a fragmentary axehead and several cores, and they are thought to be broadly of late Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Appendix 4). A tree-throw observed during the watching brief included several sherds of the earliest ceramics from the site, which are of Middle Bronze Age date. There is no obvious link between the ceramics and the flint, and they may or may not be contemporary. Accordingly, they have been gathered here under an 'Earlier Prehistoric' phase which, significantly, includes several *in situ* deposits.

*Iron Age*

- 3.1.6 Evidence for this earlier part of this phase is limited to nine sherds from an OAU ditch fill (sub-group 454), which crossed the middle part of the landscape. These sherds may be residual within that deposit, and the ditch itself cut across two west-east aligned ditches (sub-groups 421 and 422) which are of later Iron Age date. The sherds are small and fragmentary, and not unduly diagnostic. The Early Iron Age part of this phase is thus very nebulous, but that is not to completely deny its existence. The residual sherds may relate to activity nearby.
- 3.1.7 Two structures with associated pits, an enclosure and a drove-way can also be placed in the Iron Age phase. Two circular structures can be identified. Structure 1 lay within the eastern part of the excavation area (Figures 3 and 4). Approximately one quarter of the structure was excavated. It consisted of four stretches of narrow gullies, associated with several pits, as well as post- and stake-holes. No datable material was recovered from any of these features. Stratigraphically, they lay over the earlier prehistoric ditches and soil horizon, and were cut by early medieval ditches. The form of this structure and its location within the landscape, in close proximity to the droveway and enclosure, both suggest that it is of Iron Age date, but it cannot be precisely dated.
- 3.1.8 A second circular structure (Structure 2) can be identified at some distance to the south-east, again cut by later linear ditches. Here also, there is no associated datable material, and it is the form of the structure that has been used to assign it to this phase, alongside its stratigraphic relationships. It was extensively excavated but almost no cultural material was recovered.
- 3.1.9 The two structures were located to either side of two parallel ditches. A sub-rectangular enclosure bounded by ditches (sub-groups 450 and 451) lay to the south-west of Structure 1. Reasonable quantities of late Iron Age ceramics, amounting to just over 100 sherds, were retrieved from the ditch (sub-group 422) which, along with the parallel ditch 421, formed a west-east oriented drove-way. Structure 2 lay to the south of a proposed extension of this ditch system across and under the colluvium-filled hollow (sub-group 456). The undated ditch system (Group 23) may also have formed part of this arrangement, and has been placed in this period. It provides a terminal for the droveway and encloses Structure 1, its alignment strongly suggesting that it is of Iron Age date. Later ditches are all placed on a different alignment.
- 3.1.10 A ditch further to the south (sub-group 423) is undated but is cut by a medieval ditch and its general alignment is similar to that of the droveway, from which it extends southwards. It is possible that it represents the vestige of a field boundary. Further to the east, an isolated pit (sub-group 507) included several late Iron Age sherds in its fill.
- 3.1.11 A similar system invoking structures, enclosures and a droveway can be seen at Pennyland (Williams 1993, 19-20 and fig 5). The similarity extends, in all probability, to the method of land-use, with the structures situated outside of the enclosures, the latter serving to retain animals (predominantly cattle), which could be led to different pasture areas along the droveway. The same elements appear to be present, also, at Little Stock Farm (URS 1999), and possibly also in recent, unpublished work at Iwade in Kent.

### *Early Medieval*

- 3.1.12 The north-western area of the landscape, largely to the north of the Iron Age features, formed part of an early medieval farmstead. Parts of three rectangular structures can be identified, which are associated with a number of pits and enclosure ditches.
- 3.1.13 Two small gullies (sub-groups 54 and 58) formed the beam slots for one side of a rectangular structure located within the south-western corner of the excavated area (Structure 3). Associated with this structure are a post-hole and two conjoined elongated pits at the east, which may have formed part of an outbuilding. These ditches were over 1m in depth, and they were probably cut as a latrine facility. Comparatively little of this building survives, but by comparison with contemporary structures from Monkton in East Kent (Pratt, Riddler and Gardiner, forthcoming) it can be identified as an early medieval sill-beam structure. Its sill beams are of the appropriate size and depth and the adjoining pits recall features seen at Monkton.
- 3.1.14 Further to the north, a rectangular-shaped gully can be regarded as a second structure of early medieval date (Structure 4). This gully is on a broadly similar alignment to Structure 3 and it includes a return for a shorter length of wall at the eastern end. The size and shape of this feature suggest that it is a sill-beam structure. The shorter return lies over a further length of gully and this, alongside another vestige a little to the north (sub-group 425) may represent an earlier phase of this building.
- 3.1.15 To the west of Structure 4 lay an arrangement of eight post-holes and a short length of gully (Group 26). It is possible to reconstruct these into a further building, Structure 5. There is little direct dating evidence for this structure, but both its post-hole construction and its location in the area of early medieval settlement allow it to be placed in that phase. Its form suggests that it is a post-Roman structure and it fits well with the other traces of early medieval settlement in this area of the landscape.
- 3.1.16 Between these structures lay a number of features of early medieval date. These include a sequence of near-parallel linear ditches (sub-groups 14, 20, 32 and 59 on Figure 3; sub-groups 401 and 427 on Figure 4), aligned with the structures and observed in excavation but not in the watching brief. To the west of these, several pits include early medieval ceramics in their fills. All of these pits lay in an area otherwise almost devoid of other archaeological features, possibly a consequence of their location to the west of the enclosure ditch (sub-group 444). This and a near-perpendicular ditch (sub-group 445), may have formed two sides of the enclosure for Structure 4. To the south-west of them lay Structure 3, possibly enclosed by the ditches to the north. The remaining elements of that enclosure system cannot be determined, and although a further ditch (sub-group 59) is a possible candidate, its ceramics belong firmly to the next phase of occupation in this area, and it partially lies over Structure 3 (Figure 3).
- 3.1.17 A second group of pits (sub-groups 9, 11 and 21) mostly lie within this second enclosure, to the north of Structure 3. Several sub-phases can be identified in this area, from the stratigraphic relationships. The pits include one example (sub-group 21), which was initially thought to be a corn-dryer (URS 1998, 13). Dating evidence for the pit is provided by pottery fragments within its separate fills, and this is supplemented by archaeomagnetic dating of the burnt material, which did not confirm the ceramic dating, however, as noted below (Section 3.4.3).

### *Medieval*

- 3.1.18 During the late twelfth or early thirteenth century a series of ditches were dug to the east of Structures 3, 4 and 5. These pronounced linear features (sub-groups 428, 438, 439 and 447) traverse the fieldwork area from south-west to north-east (Figure 4). They are cut by a further ditch (sub-group 440) which follows a similar alignment, before turning to continue perpendicular to the ditch arrangement. Further to the east another ditch (sub-groups 443 and 454) follows a broadly similar alignment.
- 3.1.19 A series of pits (Group 36) lay to the east of the ditch complex, adjacent to several gullies. They are assigned to this phase on the basis of the ceramics in their fills, and because of their close proximity to the linear features. No building plans could be reconstructed in this area but it is likely that they lay nearby, possibly to the north of the excavated area. They are unlikely to have been situated far away from this pit group.
- 3.1.20 Both the excavation and the watching brief provided ceramics of medieval date from the ditch fills, suggesting that they were being infilled during the earlier part of the thirteenth century. Seen in association with the ditches (sub-groups 440, 443 and 454), this area can be tentatively interpreted as a medieval enclosure, forming a successor to those further to the west. In both cases, the focus of settlement may have lain a little further to the north, beyond the limit of excavation.

### *Late Medieval*

- 3.1.21 This phase is represented merely by a short length of ditch (sub-group 453) which runs at a different alignment to those of the earlier medieval phases, at some distance to the east (Figure 4). Its ceramics are a little later and can be placed in the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century. Associated with this ditch, but without any accompanying dating evidence, are two further lengths of ditch (sub-groups 455 and 519) and a rubbish pit (sub-group 517). The presence of later medieval settlement traces in this area tends to reinforce the model presented here of a general shift of settlement across the landscape during the medieval period, from west to east.

### *Post-Medieval*

- 3.1.22 A number of late post-medieval ditch alignments were recorded, largely in the eastern part of the landscape. They are likely to be of relatively modern date. Plough marks were noted across the excavation area and five field drains or gullies were also present, generally running from north-west to south-east. Two pits containing exclusively modern material were located in the north-western corner of the excavation area, and several modern animal burials were encountered in the eastern part of the landscape, where features of an earlier date are scarce.
- 3.1.23 An area of colluvium was recorded to the east of a medieval ditch (sub-group 456). The medieval feature (sub-group 440) appeared to continue under the colluvium, suggesting that it was laid down in the later medieval or post-medieval period, within a hollow in the landscape.

## 3.2 The Artefactual Record

### *Prehistoric Ceramics*

- 3.2.1 Although no prehistoric ceramics were recovered from the evaluation and the excavation, a small assemblage (amounting to 211 sherds) was retrieved during the watching brief. The earliest material stems probably stems from the Middle Bronze Age and includes fragments of a rusticated beaker and a food vessel from a north south aligned ditch (sub-group 524). The latter may be contemporary with a small Deverel-Rimbury assemblage from a tree-throw (sub-group 503). Both elements suggest the presence of settlement of this date nearby, in the south-eastern part of the landscape.
- 3.2.2 Aside from several sherds which may be of early Iron Age date, the balance of the remainder of the material lies with the late Iron Age. This phase can be dated to c. 200 to 50 BC and it includes the majority of the prehistoric ceramics. Some of the sherds can be paralleled in comparable assemblages from East Kent; others are more unusual. One group appears to represent a regional tradition, which can be localised to the Folkestone area.

### *Roman Ceramics and Building Material*

- 3.2.3 There are only three sherds of Roman pottery and all of them are worn and fragmentary. They almost certainly derive from field manuring. One fragment of Roman ceramic building material was recovered during the evaluation. The sherds and the ceramic building material came from the area of the early medieval settlement.

### *Medieval Ceramics*

- 3.2.4 The 647 sherds of medieval ceramics recovered from the excavation and watching brief are predominantly of late eleventh and twelfth century date. This phase of medieval activity is dominated by Canterbury wares, occurring in well-known fabrics, and this allows the ceramic sequence to be dated with some accuracy. A second medieval phase is represented by the advent of local wares. Both a sandy ware and a closely related shelly-sandy ware were produced in the Ashford area. Both wares occur at Westenhanger in their mature, late twelfth/early thirteenth-century form. The sandy ware, however, appears on this site to have earlier antecedents dating to the eleventh century and signalling an earlier phase of the Ashford sandy ware tradition, which was seen also at Mersham (ARC MSH98). The transition to local ware production signals an important change in pottery supply, which can possibly be linked, in terms of its dating, to a transformation in the structural evidence for the landscape. A third medieval phase is attested from a small collection of sherds in a single Tyler Hill fabric from the eastern side of the landscape. A broad outline of the dynamics of pottery supply in East Kent during the medieval period are thus seen within a shifting rural landscape.

### *Fired Clay*

- 3.2.5 The small assemblage of fired clay came mostly from the excavated area. This is not necessarily a bias in collection, given that it was here that one of the early medieval structures was located, and most of the excavated fired clay comes from features related to that structure. Indeed, the presence of the daub indicates that a building lay nearby. A small quantity of similar material was recovered from the evaluation, in a trench close to Structure 3. Unfortunately, the small quantity and generally poor quality of survival of the material does not allow much to be said of the original nature of the walls of the structure.

### *Worked Flint*

- 3.2.6 A small collection of 75 worked flints was recovered from the evaluation, excavation and watching brief. A few of these appear to derive from *in-situ* deposits, both within the earlier prehistoric features identified during excavation, and associated with the curvilinear feature (Structure 2) identified during the watching brief. A number of the other worked flints came from contexts associated with the rectilinear enclosure and associated driveway, which has been placed here in the Iron Age.

### *Burnt Flint*

- 3.2.7 The majority of the burnt flint came from a single pit (sub-group 167) discovered during the watching brief, a small distance to the west of Structure 2 and close to the ditch (sub-group 193) which included ceramics possibly of middle Bronze Age date. There is tentative evidence for Bronze Age activity, therefore, in this part of the site. No worked flint came from this feature, and it was generally located further to the north and west. In general terms, only three of the burnt flints came from the same features as the worked flint.

### *Iron Objects*

- 3.2.8 The iron objects are limited to two knives, both of which are associated with the early medieval Structure 3. They are of familiar early medieval forms although the larger example has a copper alloy hilt plate, which is not common at this period.

### *Stone Objects*

- 3.2.9 The three hones are also associated with Structure 3 and they complement the two knives, which they may have been used to sharpen. All three have been produced from local stone types, reflecting perhaps the distinction between urban and rural trading mechanisms in stone objects at this time.



### 3.3 The Environmental Record

- 3.3.1 No human or animal bone was recovered either by excavation or during the watching brief, and it has not occurred in samples examined to date. Animal bone is generally scarce from early medieval rural contexts, notwithstanding the evidence for animal enclosures both at this time and in the Iron Age. Neither mollusca nor insect remains were recovered.
- 3.3.2 The environmental record is limited, therefore, to plant remains. The majority of these were recovered from a single feature, a pit (sub-group 21) lying to the north of Structure 3.

#### *Plant Remains*

- 3.3.3 Features were sampled for plant remains both during the evaluation and the excavation. In both cases, interest centred on a single pit (sub-group 21), which provided a range of taxa. These are dominated by oats, although they include also rye and free-threshing wheat, and grains of barley are present in small numbers. Cereal chaff was present in one sample and possible pulses were also recorded. The presence of oats indicates that this feature was not related to the drying of grain and the fired clay seen in the deposit is now recognised as structural material relating to the building nearby. The pit appears to have served for the dumping of structural debris, ceramics and plant remains, and this may well have occurred during a refurbishment of Structure 3, or during its demolition. In other words, the structural debris has been removed from a building in the immediate vicinity. This is likely to have been Structure 3. The plant remains form an intriguing group, providing some evidence of agricultural practices at this site in the early medieval period.

### 3.4 Dating

- 3.4.1 Small quantities of charcoal retrieved from excavated samples could be used for radiocarbon dating but there are few contexts for which this is thought to be necessary. It could be used as confirmation for the dating framework applied to the early medieval ceramics, for example, but it is unlikely to be sufficiently accurate. No samples were taken specifically for radiocarbon dating during the evaluation, excavation or watching brief. No material was suitable for any other forms of scientific dating, with the exception of archaeomagnetic dating.

#### *Archaeomagnetic Dating*

- 3.4.2 The Clark Laboratory took fourteen archaeomagnetic samples taken from the pit near to Structure 3 (sub-group 21). Only five could be used to provide the following two date ranges:

AD 450-480 at 68% confidence level and AD 430-500 at 95% confidence level;  
AD 1470-1500 at 68% confidence level and AD 1450-1520 at 95% confidence level.

- 3.4.3 The discrepancy between the above dates and those provided by the pottery (AD 1050-1250), may be due to post depositional disturbance or subsidence of the burnt material into the underlying pit. The archaeomagnetic dates lie at either end of the medieval spectrum and cannot be treated as reliable. Both the ceramics and the location of the pit within its enclosure suggest that it belongs to the early medieval phase of occupation in this landscape, but this is not reflected, unfortunately, in the archaeomagnetic dating. The discrepancy can be accounted for on the basis that the burnt material did not, after all, represent in-situ burning, but was merely a waste deposit.

### 3.5 Archive Storage and Curation

- 3.5.1 The archive index has been updated and now consists of an enlarged archive which includes material from CAT and OAU. The MoLAS archive has yet to be added to this collection. The quantity of plans and context sheets is now as follows:

| ITEM                           | NUMBER OF ITEMS | NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS     | CONDITION (No. of items)<br>(W = washed; UW = unwashed; M = marked; UM = unmarked P = processed; Up = unprocessed; D = digitised; I = indexed) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Contexts sheets                | 584             | /                       | P, I   |
| A1 plans                       | 56              | /                       | 1(Pre-ex) D  |
| A3 plans                       | 25              | /                       | All reproduced to A1 Post-excavation plan  |
| A1 sections                    | 0               | /                       |  |
| A3 sections                    | 25              | /                       | All Indexed  |
| Small finds                    | 76              |                         | All P  |
| Films (monochrome)<br>PR=print | 5 PR            | /                       | I  |
| Films (colour) S=slide;        | 6 S             | /                       | I  |
| X-Radiographs                  | 1               |                         | I  |
| Flint (boxes)                  | 1               | 52 (inc 45 small finds) | All P/UM   |
| Pottery (boxes)                | 2               | 858                     | P, M   |
| Fired clay (boxes)             | 1               | 155                     | P, UM  |

- 3.5.2 All of the artefacts have been stabilised for long-term storage. They are currently held by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, with the exception of the material from the evaluation, which is stored in the URS stores at Aylesbury, Kent. A conservation archive has been created, which consists of Conservation Record Sheets relating to treatment carried out on the two iron knives. They have been radiographed and the X-ray has been added to the CAT series of object X-rays (CTRL ARC WGC 98, Plate 1).
- 3.5.3 The OAU bulk material has been placed together with the CAT assemblage and stored at the same location. Both collections remain in their original containers.

Both have been stored by context and fabric, with fabric identifications for ceramics placed on labels within bags.

- 3.5.4 The undiagnostic fired clay could be discarded, following recording, in accordance with the CAT policy for the dispersal of material remains from archaeological sites. Some of the prehistoric ceramics could also be discarded. Both collections, however, are relatively small and do not provide any particular storage problems. Folkestone Museum have adequate storage space for this material.

## 4. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

### 4.1 Stratigraphic Potential

#### *Phase 1: Earlier Prehistoric*

- 4.1.1 Few features can be placed in this phase. The ditches seen in excavation (sub-groups 8 and 35) extended for only a short distance and could not be seen during the watching brief, beyond the area of excavation. It is interesting to note that these ditches follow the alignment of the medieval phase 4, if not the intervening phases. A more definite focus of earlier prehistoric activity lay at the south-east, close to the circular Structure 2, which has been placed in the later Iron Age. Structural remains are limited, however, to a pit containing burnt flint and a nearby ditch, the only section of which produced several sherds of Middle Bronze Age date. The lack of good corroboratory dating evidence reduces the significance of these discoveries, but further comparison with other sites in south-eastern England, and more detailed analysis, may help. In summary, there is reasonable potential here to add a small Bronze Age site to the list of those already discovered along the line of the high-speed rail-link.

#### *Phase 2: Iron Age*

- 4.1.2 The possible early Iron Age phase is quite nebulous and relies solely on an assessment of a small group of sherds, which do not appear to come from an *in-situ* deposit. No structural features can be equated with this material and the sherds themselves are residual finds from a medieval ditch (sub-group 454).
- 4.1.3 Later Iron Age features are much more apparent and they form a coherent rural landscape. They include a rectilinear enclosure, a droveway, and two contemporary structures, as well as several pits. These features, together with an isolated pit further to the east, encompass most of the area investigated, and extend beyond its limits. The dating evidence for features is reasonable, although it comes entirely from the ceramics. As with the earlier phase, there is no supporting environmental material. Nonetheless, this Iron Age landscape extends across 170m in length from west to east (excluding the isolated pit to the east), making it one of the largest to have been seen in East Kent. It occupies an area of around 1.5 hectares. Even though only a fraction of it has been recovered by excavation, the overall plan is intelligible and has the potential to be reconstructed as a farming landscape. The lack of comparable area plans on this scale from Kent enhances the potential of this phase and emphasises its importance. This phase is therefore significant in terms of the Fieldwork Event Aims of the project, in particular ‘to determine the function and economic basis of the site’ for this period.

#### *Phase 3: Early Medieval*

- 4.1.4 Settlements of this date are known to have been well-dispersed across their landscape, allowing for the accommodation of livestock within enclosures, and for arable and/or pastoral fields. Part of three buildings, associated pits and enclosures are concentrated in the north-western part of the landscape area. The eastern bounds of this settlement are unclear, although they have probably been removed by the

medieval ditches in this area. No boundaries could be ascertained to the south or west, and the settlement clearly extended further to the north, where further remains of some of the ditches and structures are located (Figure 4).

- 4.1.5 No complete building plans survive, but further analysis should enable their original dimensions to be reconstructed. Although there is limited evidence for early medieval phasing, and possibly for the presence of an earlier building underneath Structure 4, it is unlikely that well-defined sub-phases could be produced by further analysis.
- 4.1.6 This settlement is closely comparable to that from Monkton on the Isle of Thanet in terms of the morphology of the structures and the arrangement of buildings, enclosures and pits. The crops grown, however, are quite different (see below).
- 4.1.7 There is reasonable potential here to establish the form, nature and dating of this settlement. The features include buildings, pits and enclosure ditches and there is a clear focus at the north-west of the landscape. There are no faunal remains, but palaeo-economic information is present from several contexts. Rural settlements of this date are very rare in Kent and south-east England as a whole. The lack of detailed building plans is balanced by the range of landscape features of this date visible across an area of 100 x 50m, a significant part of which has been hand-excavated. The potential for this phase to address the Landscape Zone Priority:

- To establish the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains

and the Fieldwork Event Aim:

- To determine the function and economic basis of the site.

is therefore reasonable.

#### *Phase 4: Medieval*

- 4.1.8 There are more features of this phase from the site, than for any other period represented. They cluster in the central part of the landscape and consist largely of ditches, many of which follow the same alignment and are clustered together. There is no accompanying structural evidence, although the arrangement of pits and gullies to the east of the main ditch complex (sub-groups 439, 440 and 448) is interesting, if not fully understood. There is a resemblance with the smaller animal pens of medieval date seen nearby at Saltwood (ARC SLT 98). It is more likely that the focus of activity/occupation lies further to the north, beyond the limits of the CTRL works.
- 4.1.9 This is essentially a phase of ditches, which define a boundary to the east of the early medieval settlement. A shift in the focus of the settlement looks to have occurred at this time, which corresponds with a change in the economic basis of the material culture. Some of the earlier enclosure ditches are cut by those of this phase, implying that the change was significant and led to a re-alignment of the land use. Medieval

rural settlement shifts can be seen elsewhere, but the underlying mechanisms behind them are not fully understood.

- 4.1.10 Ceramics from the Canterbury area are replaced at this time by those from local sources and it may be possible to investigate this related economic situation further, particularly in relation to nearby sites at Mersham and Parsonage Farm. Is this a broad phenomenon of the region, or a more localised situation ?
- 4.1.11 The lack of a coherent overall plan for this phase, with all of its possible constituent elements, is to be regretted. The potential to understand the mechanism of this phase is rather less than for the Iron Age or early medieval period. On the other hand, documentary evidence is likely to be focused on this phase, rather than any other, and it may assist also in tying this landscape to the castle and the village to the south. There is therefore, some potential for a better understanding of this medieval rural landscape, for establishing its focus (presumed here to be to the north) and for relating it to further medieval features in the wider landscape. It may be that the transformation of the landscape during this phase is related to the establishment of the castle nearby.

#### *Phase 5: Late Medieval*

- 4.1.12 The ceramic evidence is clear cut and allows a third medieval phase to be identified. This, however, is negligible, in comparison with the earlier phases. It consists of a ditch and associated features in the north-eastern part of the landscape, around 100m to the east of the medieval boundary ditch complex. There is a slight change in the alignment of the late medieval ditch, but little further can be said of the nature of this phase. Its significance lies in the impression it presents of a movement further to the east over time, but that impression is based merely on one section of a ditch, and has to be treated with caution.
- 4.1.13 This phase is of interest for the way in which it endorses the model of medieval settlement shift across this landscape, but it has little potential to address the research aims of the project.

#### *Phase 6: Post Medieval*

- 4.1.14 A number of disparate features, including ditches, pits and animal burials, belong to the post-medieval period. Most of these are thought to be relatively modern and they generally lie in the eastern part of the landscape. They have no real potential for further analysis.

## **4.2 Artefactual Potential**

### *Ceramics*

- 4.2.1 The best ceramic groups are those relating to the late Iron Age and early medieval phases. None of the assemblages are large, but for these phases there is sufficient to provide a reasonably accurate dating framework. Thus far, however, this framework has been compiled on the basis of spot-dates, without relating the ceramics to the stratigraphic sequence in any detail. Analysis of this type, which relates the ceramics

directly to the stratigraphic sequence for both this and nearby sites, could further refine the dating evidence. This can be achieved through discussion with the relevant specialists, with the site sequence to hand.

- 4.2.2 There is little potential to go beyond this stage with these assemblages and to examine the forms of vessels present at either period. The quantities are too small for any work with Estimated Vessel Equivalents, and the ceramics are well-dispersed across the area, with few key groups of any size (Tables 1 and 3). Relatively few fabrics are present within either period group, but they can be tabulated by source group, to establish the nature of pottery supply during the various phases.
- 4.2.3 For both the late Iron Age, early medieval and medieval groups regional factors can be identified in the ceramics. These are an important development in the study of the archaeology of this area during these periods. In all of these cases, however, it can also be argued that their potential is greater if the ceramics are viewed in broader, regional terms, encompassing other sites nearby, most of which are also part of the CTRL programme. The principal sites of importance here are Mersham (ARCH MSH98), Saltwood (ARC SLT 98) and Parsonage Farm (ARC PSF98). Both sites lie within the same area and this group of three sites, when viewed together, provides a baseline for the study of the ceramics of this area, which were previously almost unknown. Broader, more synthetic analyses can provide a better framework for the region as a whole for the specific periods outlined above. They are relevant to the Landscape Zone Priority:
- To establish the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains

and to the Fieldwork Event Aim:

- To determine the function and economic basis of the site.

A broader view of the ceramic trends for this area would establish a baseline for future research, as has been achieved for Canterbury, Dover and the Cheriton area, but for few other parts of East Kent. This encompasses both a dating framework, and an appraisal of the mechanisms of ceramic trade and exchange, and it leads towards an understanding of the dynamics of regional production over time.

#### *Fired Clay*

- 4.2.4 This material relates to the early medieval structures. There is no potential to establish anything more about the nature of the superstructure of these buildings. No further work on fabrics, weights and the nature of the wall cladding is possible.

#### *Lithics*

- 4.2.5 The assemblage is small and contains few diagnostic pieces. There is a small amount of *in-situ* material, however, which complements the ceramics and structural evidence for the earlier prehistoric phase. The location of the assemblage of burnt flint is also of interest in this respect. The lithics form a useful component of the earlier

prehistoric landscape, notwithstanding the size of the assemblage. They are relevant to the following Fieldwork Event Aim:

- To determine the function and economic basis of the site

Viewed in association with contemporary ceramics and the structural evidence, they provide an indication of earlier prehistoric settlement across the landscape. They include at least two *in-situ* deposits, both of which lay close to circular structures. Although there are no knapping deposits, the range of objects is fairly broad and most of the items can be placed within the existing dating framework for the landscape. The publication of flint assemblages from East Kent has been fairly erratic until recently, notwithstanding the quantity of material available, and it has often focused on pieces of noticeably early date. *In-situ* deposits like these appear to be under-represented in the archaeological record. They contribute also to an understanding of regional trends for the broad prehistoric periods, particularly when viewed against the underlying geology of those regions.

### *Iron and Stone Objects*

4.2.6 The small quantity of iron and stone objects are all associated with the early medieval phase, and particularly with Structure 3. They are relevant to the following Landscape Zone Priority:

- 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;

They are common object types but they are related to the early medieval phase and to one of the structures of that phase in particular. They indicate a level of material culture which is noticeably utilitarian and is centred on rural occupation. Alongside the ceramics, they can also be viewed in broader, regional terms. The knives, in particular, are important in this respect, being suitable for study in terms of their dating, form, function and technology. The knife with a copper alloy hilt plate is intrinsically interesting as an artefact in its own right, given the rarity of that object type in England. The potential of these objects to address the research aims is reasonably high, providing as they do a counterbalance of local, regional artefact types.

## **4.3 Environmental Potential**

### *The Buried Soil*

4.3.1 The CAT excavations revealed a buried soil, located immediately to the north-west of the medieval ditches (Group 2). This deposit sealed two earlier ditch cuts (sub-groups 8 and 35) and was itself truncated by early medieval and medieval features. It included flints which have been dated to the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age period. No samples were taken of this feature. It can be dated in relative terms both on stratigraphic grounds and from the objects found within it; there is no scope to date it, however, by scientific means.



### *Plant Remains*

- 4.3.2 The plant remains from the early medieval pit (sub-group 21) provide a range of taxa, which are dominated by oats, with the presence also of rye, free-threshing wheat, barley, cereal chaff and pulses. The remains survive in good condition and are suitable for further analysis. The potential to examine the palaeo-economic basis of the early medieval settlement is high, even though most of the samples come from a single feature. There are very few samples of this period from rural settlements in southern England, and this assemblage provides very useful information concerning the economic basis of this settlement.

## **4.4 Dating Potential**

- 4.4.1 The archaeomagnetic dating of material from the early medieval pit (sub-group 21) did not prove to be successful, and no further work of this type is envisaged. There are no specific radiocarbon samples and the lack of animal bone reduces the possibility of utilising bone for dating purposes. The quantity of charcoal is very small and is mostly confined to samples taken of the early medieval phase. It is unlikely that any of these samples would provide any further useful scientific dating evidence.

## **4.5 Overall Potential**

- 4.5.1 The overall potential of the landscape is surprisingly good, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of it was identified and recorded during a watching brief. The potential of the landscape can be judged against the Fieldwork Event Aims, which have been outlined above in Section 2.2 and are considered here in sequence:

- 4.5.2 The primary fieldwork event aims of the investigation as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were:

- to establish the full extent and morphology of any structures or other archaeological remains utilising archaeomagnetic techniques

- 4.5.3 Archaeomagnetic techniques did not prove to be as useful as had been hoped, in part because the nature of the deposits under investigation was not clear at the time. It cannot be claimed that the full extent of all structures was revealed, although a reasonable understanding of the morphology of each structure has been possible and the landscape has been phased.

- to determine the function and economic basis of the site

- 4.5.4 Although settlement traces have been established for the earlier prehistoric period, little can be said of the precise nature of that occupation, in the absence of palaeo-environmental studies. The Iron Age settlement has been revealed with greater clarity, its various components forming part of a pastoral regime carried out across most of the easement. It can be compared with the settlement at Little Stock Farm, in particular. Once again, however, the lack of palaeo-environmental indicators means that any possible arable element could not be identified. Palaeo-environmental

indicators are present for the early medieval period but here the settlement is located in the north-western corner of the easement, without extending appreciably to the south or east. This early medieval rural settlement recalls some elements of settlement traces seen some distance to the west, at Northumberland Bottom. The various elements of structures, pits and enclosures are well-represented here, as also with the early medieval settlement at Monkton on the Isle of Thanet. The wider landscape, with accompanying field boundaries, can only be seen again in the medieval period when, as in the Iron Age, the settlement occupies a considerable part of the investigated area. For this period, however, there are few settlement features, and the majority of contexts are ditches. The medieval phases accord with those to be seen nearby at Parsonage Farm.

- 4.5.5 The later medieval and post-medieval periods are poorly represented. Arguably, the absence of features of this date at the west suggests that a settlement shift occurred here during the medieval period, with a movement broadly from west to east. This suggestion could also be tested with further analysis, in relation to a broader range of sources.
- 4.5.6 For all of the periods, therefore, the function and economic basis can be explored to a limited extent, without presenting a complete image of the subsistence basis for any single period.
  - to recover charred plant material and other economic indicators for palaeo-economic studies
- 4.5.7 46 samples were taken from 40 separate contexts for palaeo-economic studies, but the majority of these (85%) relate to the early medieval settlement. A further 10% were taken of medieval features and 5% of prehistoric deposits. The majority of the early medieval samples relate to a single feature. This provides an excellent range of information relating to the cultivated taxa of the period, but it is difficult to extrapolate for the entire area on the basis of a single feature.
- 4.5.8 The main archaeological concerns for this area in respect of the Landscape Zone Priorities were as follows:
  - 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;
  - to establish the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains.

These points have been covered above, in considerations of the Fieldwork Event Aims.

#### **4.6 Realisation of Priorities and Aims**

- 4.6.1 The fieldwork events north of Westenhanger Castle were reasonably successful in fulfilling the original Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims outlined in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 above. It was not possible to view palaeo-environmental changes over time because of the lack of appropriate samples available within the

landscape itself, a common factor within rural landscape studies in Kent. There is good palaeo-environmental material for just one of the periods represented, the early medieval period. The absence of faunal remains is undoubtedly a condition of the sandy, acidic nature of soils in this area, and a similar situation can be seen further to the east at Saltwood. The basis of the rural economy for each period is established, therefore, from a study of the morphology of the settlement traces, which are particularly good for the late Iron Age and early medieval periods. Material remains were scarce across all periods, but that is often the case in rural environments, and the surviving artefacts are mostly of considerable value both in providing a dating framework and as the basis for future statements on the changing economic situation of the settlement.

#### **4.7 Additional Research Potential**

- 4.7.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation provided a number of research questions for this project. Additional research questions that arose during the assessment related once again to broader trends in the ceramics of this area. The best-represented groups of the late Iron Age and early medieval periods were those for which further analysis would benefit from this broader approach, encompassing other sites within this section of the CTRL work. Similarly, the absence of previous work on lithics from this area may be balanced by an approach which also takes a wider remit, and combines this evidence with that seen also at Mersham and Saltwood.
- 4.7.2 Documentary evidence was not examined as a part of this assessment. It is likely to relate to the later medieval and post-medieval phases of the site, and to focus on the castle and its lands. If this area was not owned by one of the large monastic foundations of East Kent, then the documentary sources are not likely to be of much help. Nonetheless, an examination of these may provide some indication of reasons lying behind changes in the landscape during the medieval period.

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## APPENDIX 1

### ASSESSMENT OF PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN CERAMICS

Nigel Macpherson-Grant

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A modest quantity of prehistoric sherds were recovered during this excavation; none were retrieved from environmental samples. The presence of these sherds confirms multi-period prehistoric activity dating to the Bronze Age, possibly the Early Iron Age and definitely the Late Iron Age date. There is a little evidence to suggest that the latter extends into the first century AD. The few sherds of Roman date almost certainly represent agricultural activity in the area, and they cannot be related to any specific features.
- 1.2 The study of the prehistoric ceramics is relevant to the following Fieldwork Event Aims:
  - to determine the function and economic basis of the site;
- 1.3 The ceramics indicate different phases of settlement activity. The Deverel-Rimbury material should represent rubbish discard into a convenient hollow, adjacent to a settlement. Some of the first millenium BC sherds may derive from agricultural manure scatters. The larger Late Iron Age assemblage indicates disposal of domestic refuse into a nearby contemporary field ditch.

#### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The assemblage has received standard, context-based quantification and dating as a preparation for its assessment. It has been reviewed in terms of the assessment requirements and has been considered against the stratigraphic narrative for the landscape. The ceramics have been recorded on computer for their fabric, number and weight, and they have been spot-dated. No detailed analysis of the ceramics in relation to the stratigraphy has been attempted.

#### 3. Quantification

- 3.1 A total of 211 sherds of prehistoric ceramics, weighing 1.770kg, were recorded. Other than noting that the multi-period range of fabrics embraces a number of fabric variations that are generally typical of regional earlier and later prehistoric ceramic traditions, the assemblage has not received detailed fabric analysis and quantification. No biases due to sampling or excavation strategies have been noted.
- 3.2 There are two grog-tempered sherds of earlier prehistoric date, one representing a possible rusticated beaker, the other a rim from a probable Middle Bronze Age food vessel. The latter is only moderately worn and appears to be contemporary with a small flint-tempered Deverel-Rimbury assemblage from a tree-throw (sub-group 503). The latter includes small sherds from at least two globular vessels (including one lugged) and bucket urns; these are similar to vessels from Kimpton, Hampshire

and Ardleigh, Essex (Dacre and Ellison 1981; Erith and Longworth 1960). Several other recent, regional mid-later Bronze Age assemblages appear to show, as here, overlaps of tradition between earlier, principally grog-tempered material and flint-tempered pottery of standard Deverel-Rimbury type. Accordingly, an interim date of c.1700/1600-1400 BC is applied to the material from sub-group 503. The condition and size of the assemblage derived from this context suggests discard closely adjacent to, or within, a settlement zone. Other single or small sherd groups from across the site may belong to this period or are post-1000 BC later prehistoric; these may be of Late Iron Age date or, as suggested by one angle-shouldered jar sherd from sub-group 454, may be of Early-Mid Iron Age date.

- 3.3 The linear ditch (sub-group 422), to which the rectilinear enclosure Group 21 appears to be attached, contained a good, small, unworn group of Late Iron Age pottery, with conjoining sherds representing one or two jar part-profiles. Conjoining jar sherds from the adjoining Ditch (sub-group 424) are also of this period. Overall, sandy wares predominate (some with calcareous inclusions), but there are also flint-tempered fabrics. Associated forms indicate an initial date of c.200/150-50 BC for this material, though this may be modified by the presence of a few worn 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered sherds from linear features within the adjacent CAT excavation zone, some of which could date from as early as c.75/50 BC.
- 3.4 Three sherds are of Roman date. They include two worn sherds of Upchurch fabric from context 182 and an oxidised 'Belgic' style grog-tempered sherd from context 60 which is more likely to be of late first to early second century date, than earlier. These are the only Roman sherds to have been recovered from this landscape.

#### **4. Provenance**

- 4.1 Individual context-based quantities, degree of inter-period context contamination and associated dating are indicated in Table 1. It may be significant that the possible Beaker sherd is from a context adjacent to the curvilinear-gullied feature (Structure 2), though the latter is more likely to represent a Late Iron Age structure. Though isolated, the uncontaminated Deverel-Rimbury assemblage from a tree-throw (sub-group 503) is sufficiently large to suggest that there may be other on-site features of similar date. The probable earlier Iron Age sherds from sub-group 454 may be residual material derived from the manuring of fields but it encourages the need to assess the likely chronological origin of some of the linear features. The unworn and contemporary Late Iron Age sherd groups from ditches provide an interim start-date for all features associated with/stemming from the rectilinear enclosure (sub-groups 450 and 451) and driveway (sub-groups 422 and 424), despite slight intrusive contamination from early medieval phases of activity. The single, small worn flint-tempered sherds (or small sherd clusters) from other contexts are less readily datable and superficially could fall anywhere between c.1600-50 BC - though main site trends from the other ceramics indicate that most are likely to fall into the spans c.1600-1100, c.600-300 or c.150-50 BC depending on site location.

#### **5. Conservation**

- 5.1 The degree of further analysis recommended below does not conflict with long-term storage. There are no displayable elements worth conserving and post-analysis

aspects are indicated in the recommendations below. None of the sherds require any conservation treatment, and they can all be stored as a bulk commodity. The small, fragmentary, featureless sherds within this assemblage could be discarded following recording.

## **6. Comparative material**

- 6.1 The incised decoration on the food vessel rim sherd has not been personally noted before from the region. For the knobbed and inset-shouldered globular Deverel-Rimbury sherds there are good parallels from Kimpton, Hampshire and Ardleigh, Essex (Dacre and Ellison 1981; Erith and Longworth 1960) and amongst recent Kentish assemblages, from Sheppey, Wainscott, near Rochester and the RLE site at Sandway Road, Lenham. The Late Iron Age coarseware jar rim from sub-group 424 belongs to a Kentish tradition for thickened-rim closed-form jars, often with horizontal faceted inner-rim finishes; there are a number of parallels from Bigbury, Canterbury, Highstead near Chislet, Worth, Barham Downs (Macpherson-Grant 1980) and Whitfield near Dover, amongst others. The two jars from sub-group 422 are not so readily paralleled, though they are broadly similar to examples from Bigbury and Whitfield. The presence of both flint-tempered and sandy fabrics is a fairly typical feature of other contemporary dual or multi-ware type regional assemblages. For this site, the sandy fabrics with calcareous inclusions are similar to material that appears to derive mostly from the Folkestone area, with examples from Whitfield, Dover Spine Main and the Channel Tunnel site CT.F25A, though this needs petrological confirmation.

## **7. Potential for Further Work**

- 7.1 The assemblage is relatively small, with few sherds that would warrant illustration or full publication. The ceramics do indicate, however, the presence of several distinct phases of activity across the Westenhangar landscape. The assemblage indicates a modest degree of Bronze Age activity commencing around c.1700 BC, which includes sherds from globular urns; settlement sites producing this aspect of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition are still rare in this region. Though earlier Iron Age material may be present the evidence is slim and the main first millennium phase of activity is Late Iron Age, which is well-represented on this site. In general terms, sites of this period are more common in East Kent but this assemblage does contain atypical formal types that warrant further analysis and publication.
- 7.2 The material is important, therefore, in terms of the Fieldwork Event Aims, particularly in terms of determining the function and economic basis of the site.
- 7.3 Furthermore, the assemblage is also relevant to the Landscape Zone Priority, in establishing the basis of the rural economy for the area. The small quantity of the material inevitably means that it is the first part of that priority, the establishment of a dating framework for the landscape, which is better fulfilled. At the same time, the Late Iron Age material has the potential to provide economic information in relation to other sites in this region.
- 7.4 The assemblage requires the production of a quantified fabric identification catalogue to accompany the site archive and the extraction of fabric samples for the regional

Fabric Reference Collection. Some of the Late Iron Age sherds should be submitted for petrological analysis, as noted above, to confirm their regional character. Elements of both the earlier and later prehistoric assemblages should be illustrated to accompany an appropriate, slimline pottery report. The material from Westenhangar could be considered in isolation, but it could equally well form part of a broader, synthetic approach, which would seek to define regional prehistoric ceramic trends. The southern part of Kent, including Westenhangar and the Saltwood sites, leading to the Channel Tunnel work, forms a useful region suitable for treatment in this way.

**Table One**  
*Prehistoric Ceramics*

| Context | Sub-Group | Group | Fabric  | Number | Weight | Edate  | Ldate  |
|---------|-----------|-------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3       | 0         | 0     | LIA Sandy & Calcite inclusions                | 1      | 1      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 53      | 428       | 31    | LIA Flint-tempered                            | 7      | 6      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 55      | 500       | 38    | LIA Flint-tempered                            | 1      | 3      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 57      | 501       | 17    | Grog & Flint-tempered                         | 1      |        | bc1700 | bc1400 |
| 57      | 501       | 17    | Deverel-Rimbury Flint & Grog Tempered         | 10     |        | bc1500 | bc1200 |
| 57      | 501       | 17    | Deverel-Rimbury Flint Tempered                | 19     |        | bc1500 | bc1200 |
| 63      | 503       | 17    | Deverel-Rimbury Flint Tempered                | 38     | 138    | bc1500 | bc1200 |
| 79      | 422       | 22    | LIA Flint-tempered                            | 1      |        | bc200  | bc50   |
| 79      | 422       | 22    | LIA Sandy & Calcite inclusions                | 1      |        | bc200  | bc50   |
| 79      | 422       | 22    | LIA Sandy & Flint with Fe inclusions          | 85     |        | bc200  | bc50   |
| 98      | 507       | 25    | LIA Fine-silt sandy                           | 2      |        | bc200  | bc50   |
| 98      | 507       | 25    | LIA Coarse sandy                              | 1      |        | bc200  | bc50   |
| 150     | 518       | 29    | LIA Flint-tempered                            | 1      | 3      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 152     | 422       | 22    | LIA Sandy & Flint with Fe inclusions          | 16     | 217    | bc200  | bc50   |
| 195     | 524       | 18    | Rusticated Beaker or Food Vessel              | 1      |        | bc2000 | bc1600 |
| 195     | 524       | 18    | Later BA or LIA Flint-tempered                | 1      |        | bc1500 | bc1200 |
| 242     | 444       | 28    | LIA Coarse sandy                              | 1      | 1      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 308     | 543       | 31    | ?LIA Flint-tempered Sandy                     | 1      | 8      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 414     | 424       | 32    | Deverel-Rimbury Flint Tempered                | 2      | 11     | bc1500 | bc1100 |
| 430     | 424       | 32    | LIA Flint-tempered                            | 7      | 57     | bc200  | bc50   |
| 431     | 424       | 32    | LIA Sandy & Flint with Fe inclusions          | 5      | 8      | bc200  | bc50   |
| 454     | 454       | 34    | EIA-LIA Flint-tempered Sandy                  | 4      |        | bc550  | bc50   |
| 454     | 454       | 34    | EIA-LIA Flint-tempered                        | 2      |        | bc550  | bc50   |
| 454     | 454       | 34    | EIA-LIA or Belgic-style Grog & Flint-tempered | 3      |        | bc550  | bc25   |



## APPENDIX 2

### ASSESSMENT OF THE MEDIEVAL CERAMICS

John Cotter

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A modest assemblage of 647 post-Roman sherds was recovered by hand from pits which contained anything up to 123 sherds. Considerably smaller amounts of pottery came from ditches, gullies and post-holes. The largest concentrations of pottery come from the north-west quarter of the site, roughly coinciding with the densest concentration of excavated features, though slightly on the periphery of these. The most notable assemblages include those from contexts 254; 100, 112, 123, 238-9, 29, 144, 148, 161 and 160 (Table 3).
- 1.2 Provisional examination of the site records in conjunction with pottery dating suggests that the earliest post-Roman activity/occupation commenced in the north-west corner during the eleventh century and had shifted or advanced eastwards to occupy the central northern area of the site by the start of the thirteenth century and by the late thirteenth or start of the fourteenth century had almost reached the north-east corner of the site (Sub-Group 453), though apparently on a much reduced scale.
- 1.3 Groups such as these are mainly of relevance to the elucidation of site development by providing dating information and, furthermore, because they are generally the best preserved and hence the most diagnostic of the ceramics, they also relate to other research objectives such as trade and site status.
- 1.4 Generally the condition of the pottery is fair to good. Small isolated groups of sherds can be fairly small and worn, particularly those from trenches. Those from pits are generally in fairly good condition and include two or three reconstructable vessel profiles.

#### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The sherds from the work of both Units have been recorded on computer by fabric, sherd number and sherd weight. The assemblage has been spot-dated and those dates form the basis of Table 2. All of the sherds have been examined under low magnification. They have been packaged according to context and fabric.

#### 3. Quantification

- 3.1 Details of the medieval ceramics are provided in Table 2. This lists the fabrics per context by sherd number and weight, and records the spot-dates in a simplified format. The earliest and latest dates are given per fabric; these will be subject to further refinement in future analyses. The number and weight of sherds per fabric, for both the CAT and OAU assemblages, are provided in Table 4.

## 5. Conservation

- 5.1 The material has no special conservation or storage needs. It may be necessary however to reconstruct a small number of vessel profiles prior to illustration. It is recommended that all the ceramic material should be retained. The quantity present is, in any case, not great and it may be of relevance to future ceramic research in this area of Kent.

## 6. Comparative material

- 6.1 Remarkably little post-Roman pottery has been published from this general area of Kent (Westenhanger/Hythe) and, in general, known or published assemblages of early medieval pottery from the rural Weald of Kent are scarce. The most relevant published assemblage is merely an interim report, now out of date, which deals with a probable kiln site at Potter's Corner, Ashford, which probably dates to the early thirteenth century (Grove and Warhurst 1952). Both a sandy ware and a closely related shelly-sandy ware were produced at Potter's Corner and most probably at other unlocated production sites in the Ashford area. Both wares occur at the Westenhanger site, in their mature late twelfth/early thirteenth-century form. The sandy ware, however, appears on this site to have earlier antecedents dating to the eleventh century and signalling an earlier phase of the Ashford sandy ware tradition. Similarly, excavations at the CTRL site of Mersham (ARC MSH98), lying closer to Ashford, have produced evidence that both the Ashford sandy and shelly-sandy ware traditions may have their origins in the late Saxon period. A much larger assemblage of medieval pottery from the CTRL site at Parsonage Farm, near Ashford (ARC PFM98) has also produced a high proportion of Ashford Potter's Corner wares and will doubtless be of relevance to the more modest assemblage from Westenhanger (Lyn Blackmore, *pers. comm.*).
- 6.2 The other major local element in the Westenhanger assemblage is the flint- or flint and shell tempered wares, whose chronology and typology is only very poorly understood. These are part of a widespread tradition of flint-tempered wares that were probably made at many locations along the coast of Sussex and south Kent. Comparable but slightly later flint-tempered wares occur at Dover in contexts of c.1150 - 1250 (Cotter forthcoming A). Canterbury sandy wares, also common at Westenhanger, are well known from many sites in east Kent and provide a useful dating tool for less well known ceramic traditions when these occur in the same contexts.

## 7. Potential for Further Work

- 7.1 The importance of the early medieval pottery assemblage from Westenhanger is that it provides a window into the ceramics of an area of rural Kent where virtually no ceramic research has been conducted previously. In terms of local and regional research priorities, as regards the Ashford/east Wealden area, the assemblage is important in demonstrating that wares of the Ashford Potter's Corner tradition were in circulation long before the thirteenth century, which is the usual date assigned to these wares. The Westenhanger assemblage thus provides useful information on the early medieval stage of the industry or tradition, intermediate in date between the earlier assemblage from Mersham and the later assemblage from Ashford itself.

- 7.2 Equally important is the occurrence of local flint-tempered wares in association with datable Canterbury wares, providing a rare opportunity to examine the fabrics and vessel typology of an early and well-dated assemblage of this poorly understood tradition. It is interesting, furthermore, to note that some of the flint-tempered rim forms present are direct copies of contemporary Canterbury wares and thus provide an insight into the interaction between major urban and minor rural ceramic industries.
- 7.3 The post-Roman pottery assemblage also has the potential to address a number of the fieldwork event aims, in the following ways:
1. It elucidates the sequence of site development by providing dating information. Analysis of the occurrence of cross-joining sherds from different contexts can also shed light on this point and can be used to establish the nature of the redistribution of discarded material across the site. A more considered dating can then be offered for site features and for the groups and sub-groups. This is particularly useful for the early medieval period (which forms the bulk of the material) in elucidating the way in which this rural farmstead functioned.
  2. The quality of the pottery provides a degree of information on the status and economy of the site.
  3. The geographic sources of the pottery provide evidence for trade and exchange. The quantities of pottery from known or inferred sources can be compared by grouping fabrics into source groups. This should enable supply trends and hence the relative importance of different trade links to be established and compared. This can be achieved by tabulating the quantified data in terms of source groups. The pottery from Westenhangar suggests two main phases of supply to the site from two chronologically and geographically distinct supply sources. These were an earlier phase of supply c.1050-1150 principally from Canterbury, and a later phase of supply c.1150-1225 from the Ashford area. Throughout both phases, but principally during the first, a third supply source, located nearby or perhaps on the coast, supplied the site with flint-tempered pottery.
- 7.4 The Westenhangar assemblage complements those from Mersham and from Parsonage Corner, and all three allow the nature of ceramic use to be established for rural environments in a particular region of East Kent, broadly from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries. Each assemblage can be considered in isolation and related to the specific features of its particular site. A broader, more synthetic approach to pottery supply in this region at this time could also be attempted.

**Table Two**  
*Medieval Ceramics*

| <i>Site</i>    | <i>Context</i> | <i>Sub-Group</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Fabric</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>Weight</i> | <i>Edate</i> | <i>Ldate</i> |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| CAT Excavation | 20             | 0                | 0            | 0            | EM32          | 2            | 12            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | U/S            | 0                | 0            | 0            | EM1           | 3            | 18            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | U/S            | 0                | 0            | 0            | LS1           | 1            | 4             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 19             | 0                | 0            | 0            | EM1           | 15           | 112           | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 19             | 0                | 0            | 0            | EM32          | 3            | 16            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 19             | 0                | 0            | 0            | EM33          | 1            | 6             | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 175            | 46               | 3            | 2            | EM1           | 2            | 2             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 175            | 46               | 3            | 2            | EM1           | 1            | 4             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 163            | 47               | 3            | 2            | EM1           | 17           | 144           | 1075         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 15             | 28               | 4            | 2            | EM32          | 1            | 2             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 6              | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 2            | 16            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 63             | 59               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 2            | 6             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 63             | 59               | 6            | 3            | EM2           | 1            | 12            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 128            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 2            | 10            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 10             | 29               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 7            | 54            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 115            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 14           | 70            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 115            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM32          | 2            | 6             | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 191            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 12           | 56            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 191            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM32          | 1            | 16            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 173            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM.M5         | 1            | 10            | 1125         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 173            | 32               | 6            | 3            | EM1           | 4            | 4             | 1125         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 47             | 45               | 7            | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 4             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 189            | 45               | 7            | 3            | EM1           | 4            | 36            | 1075         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 189            | 45               | 7            | 3            | EM32          | 1            | 24            | 1075         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 94             | 52               | 7            | 3            | EM33          | 1            | 10            | 1075         | 1175         |
| CAT Excavation | 182            | 45               | 7            | 3            | EM1           | 4            | 24            | 1200         | 1250         |
| CAT Excavation | 182            | 45               | 7            | 3            | EM32          | 3            | 20            | 1200         | 1250         |
| CAT Excavation | 182            | 45               | 7            | 3            | M40b          | 1            | 2             | 1200         | 1250         |
| CAT Excavation | 82             | 14               | 8            | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 6             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 84             | 20               | 8            | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 24            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 165            | 20               | 8            | 3            | EM1           | 2            | 30            | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 165            | 20               | 8            | 3            | EM32          | 1            | 6             | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 162            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM32          | 1            | 10            | 1050         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 110            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 4             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 111            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM1           | 4            | 28            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 155            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 18            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 155            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM32          | 1            | 6             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 130            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 4             | 1150         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 130            | 21               | 11           | 3            | EM6OA         | 1            | 10            | 1150         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 127            | 21               | 11           | 3            | M1            | 1            | 2             | 1175         | 1250         |
| CAT Excavation | 122            | 58               | 12           | 3            | EM32          | 1            | 2             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 67             | 2                | 12           | 3            | M1            | 1            | 2             | 1175         | 1250         |
| CAT Excavation | 158            | 55               | 13           | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 6             | 1075         | 1125         |
| CAT Excavation | 151            | 6                | 13           | 3            | EM1           | 1            | 2             | 1075         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 160            | 55               | 13           | 3            | EM1           | 4            | 36            | 1075         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 160            | 55               | 13           | 3            | EM33          | 16           | 122           | 1075         | 1150         |
| CAT Excavation | 150            | 5                | 14           | 4            | EM1           | 1            | 2             | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 57             | 51               | 15           | 4            | EM1           | 1            | 18            | 1050         | 1225         |
| CAT Excavation | 58             | 51               | 15           | 4            | EM1           | 1            | 24            | 1050         | 1225         |

|                    |     |     |    |   |       |    |     |      |      |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|---|-------|----|-----|------|------|
| CAT Excavation     | 87  | 49  | 15 | 4 | EM1   | 2  | 14  | 1050 | 1225 |
| CAT Excavation     | 89  | 49  | 15 | 4 | EM1   | 4  | 44  | 1050 | 1225 |
| CAT Excavation     | 190 | 49  | 15 | 4 | EM1   | 1  | 6   | 1050 | 1225 |
| CAT Excavation     | 88  | 49  | 15 | 4 | EM1   | 5  | 42  | 1140 | 1200 |
| CAT Excavation     | 88  | 49  | 15 | 4 | EM32  | 1  | 14  | 1140 | 1200 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 178 | 521 | 29 |   | EM1   | 2  | 22  | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 178 | 521 | 29 |   | EM32  | 7  | 57  | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 242 | 444 | 28 |   | EM1   | 6  | 40  | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 242 | 444 | 28 |   | EM32  | 5  | 29  | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 260 | 537 | 29 |   | EM1   | 5  | 34  | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 260 | 537 | 29 |   | EM32  | 1  | 4   | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 269 | 541 | 26 |   | EM1   | 1  | 2   | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 269 | 541 | 26 |   | EM32  | 1  | 1   | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 273 | 541 | 26 |   | EM32  | 1  | 1   | 1050 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 271 | 541 | 26 |   | EM1   | 1  | 1   | 1050 | 1175 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 325 | 429 | 31 |   | EM1   | 1  | 2   | 1050 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 330 | 445 |    |   | EM1   | 2  | 7   | 1050 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 357 | 548 |    |   | EM1   | 2  | 5   | 1050 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 361 | 440 | 32 |   | EM41  | 1  | 5   | 1050 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 378 | 446 | 33 |   | EM1   | 1  | 2   | 1050 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 400 | 447 | 31 |   | EM1   | 2  | 10  | 1050 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 112 | 508 | 29 |   | EM1   | 33 | 310 | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 123 | 508 | 29 |   | EM1   | 10 | 400 | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 123 | 508 | 29 |   | EM33  | 1  | 10  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 129 | 510 | 29 |   | EM1   | 16 | 160 | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 129 | 510 | 29 |   | EM100 | 1  | 5   | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 129 | 510 | 29 |   | EM2   | 1  | 18  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 129 | 510 | 29 |   | EM34  | 1  | 1   | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 129 | 510 | 29 |   | M40B  | 1  | 5   | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 144 | 510 | 29 |   | EM1   | 12 | 103 | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 148 | 510 | 29 |   | EM1   | 2  | 47  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 148 | 510 | 29 |   | EM33  | 2  | 46  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 161 | 510 | 29 |   | EM1   | 7  | 137 | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 161 | 510 | 29 |   | EM32  | 1  | 10  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 238 | 529 | 29 |   | EM1   | 2  | 8   | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 238 | 529 | 29 |   | EM32  | 30 | 475 | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 238 | 529 | 29 |   | EM33  | 7  | 29  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 275 | 541 | 26 |   | EM1   | 2  | 24  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 323 | 445 |    |   | EM1   | 1  | 11  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 345 | 444 | 28 |   | EM1   | 11 | 46  | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 345 | 444 | 28 |   | EM31  | 1  | 1   | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 345 | 444 | 28 |   | EM32  | 1  | 1   | 1075 | 1125 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 239 | 529 | 29 |   | EM1   | 3  | 15  | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 239 | 529 | 29 |   | EM32  | 9  | 118 | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 239 | 529 | 29 |   | EM33  | 1  | 2   | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 239 | 529 | 29 |   | M40B  | 2  | 17  | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 303 | 440 | 32 |   | EM1   | 1  | 23  | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 303 | 440 | 32 |   | EM31  | 1  | 8   | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 387 | 438 | 31 |   | EM1   | 2  | 14  | 1075 | 1150 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 328 | 444 | 28 |   | EM33  | 1  | 11  | 1075 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 328 | 444 | 28 |   | M40B  | 8  | 38  | 1075 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 100 | 508 | 29 |   | EM1   | 11 | 64  | 1125 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 100 | 508 | 29 |   | EM41  | 5  | 62  | 1125 | 1225 |

|                    |     |     |    |  |       |     |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|--|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| OAU Watching Brief | 100 | 508 | 29 |  | EM58  | 1   | 18   | 1125 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 3   | 0   | 0  |  | EM.M5 | 1   | 2    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 254 | 532 | 36 |  | EM.M5 | 101 | 1033 | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 254 | 532 | 36 |  | EM32  | 9   | 100  | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 254 | 532 | 36 |  | M40B  | 13  | 205  | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 259 | 535 |    |  | EM.M5 | 11  | 46   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 259 | 535 |    |  | EM33  | 4   | 17   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 259 | 535 |    |  | M40B  | 7   | 16   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 288 | 542 |    |  | EM32  | 3   | 61   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 290 | 426 | 27 |  | EM1   | 1   | 17   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 306 | 427 | 33 |  | EM.M5 | 1   | 1    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 306 | 427 | 33 |  | EM33  | 1   | 3    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 312 | 427 | 33 |  | EM33  | 1   | 42   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 318 | 446 | 33 |  | EM.M5 | 2   | 16   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 318 | 446 | 33 |  | M40B  | 1   | 37   | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 321 | 448 | 33 |  | EM.M5 | 51  | 272  | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 321 | 448 | 33 |  | M40B  | 1   | 6    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 338 | 440 | 32 |  | EM.M5 | 2   | 5    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 338 | 440 | 32 |  | EM33  | 1   | 1    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 441 | 555 | 36 |  | EM.M5 | 4   | 5    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 441 | 555 | 36 |  | EM32  | 2   | 9    | 1150 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 308 | 543 |    |  | EM1   | 1   | 2    | 1175 | 1225 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 228 | 440 | 32 |  | M40A  | 1   | 8    | 1175 | 1250 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 230 | 443 |    |  | EM.M5 | 2   | 2    | 1175 | 1250 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 230 | 443 |    |  | M40B  | 3   | 18   | 1175 | 1250 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 150 | 518 |    |  | EM1   | 3   | 14   | 1175 | 1300 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 150 | 518 |    |  | EM32  | 1   | 2    | 1175 | 1300 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 150 | 518 |    |  | M40A  | 1   | 1    | 1175 | 1300 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 150 | 518 |    |  | M40B  | 2   | 2    | 1175 | 1300 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 44  | 453 |    |  | M1    | 23  | 182  | 1250 | 1325 |
| OAU Watching Brief | 47  | 439 | 31 |  | M1    | 1   | 2    | 1250 | 1325 |

**Table Three***Contexts with Notable Medieval Ceramic Assemblages*

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Sub-Group</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Context Type</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>Dating</i>   |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 254            | 532              | 29           | Fill of Pit 253     | 123          | 1150-75 to 1225 |
| 100+112+123    | 508              | 29           | Fill of Pit 99      | 60           | 1075 to 1125/50 |
| 238+239        | 529              | 29           | Fill of Pit 240     | 54           | 1050 to 1125/50 |
| 29+144+148+161 | 510              | 29           | Fill of Pit 130     | 44           | 1075 to 1125    |
| 160            | 55               | 13           | Fill of Pit 55      | 20           | 1075 to 1150    |

**Table Four***Medieval Fabrics, by Number and Weight*

| <i>Fabric</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>Weight</i> | <i>Percentage:</i> |                  |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
|               |              |               | <i>By Number</i>   | <i>By Weight</i> |
| LS1           | 1            | 4             | 0.15               | 0.07             |
| EM1           | 263          | 2388          | 40.6               | 41.4             |
| EM2           | 2            | 30            | 0.3                | 0.5              |
| EM31          | 2            | 9             | 0.3                | 0.16             |
| EM32          | 89           | 1002          | 13.75              | 17.4             |
| EM33          | 37           | 299           | 5.7                | 5.2              |
| EM34          | 1            | 1             | 0.15               | 0.02             |
| EM41          | 6            | 67            | 0.9                | 1.16             |
| EM58          | 1            | 18            | 0.15               | 0.31             |
| EM60A         | 1            | 10            | 0.15               | 0.17             |
| EM100         | 1            | 5             | 0.15               | 0.09             |
| EM.M5         | 176          | 1392          | 27.2               | 24.13            |
| M1            | 26           | 188           | 4                  | 3.26             |
| M40A          | 2            | 9             | 0.3                | 0.16             |
| M40B          | 39           | 346           | 6                  | 5.99             |

## APPENDIX 3

### ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRED CLAY

Louise Harrison

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Most of the fired clay was retrieved by hand from features within the site excavated by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Additionally, a small quantity of daub weighing 1.211kg was extracted from the soil samples.
- 1.2 A small amount of material retrieved from a watching brief carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) has also been included in this report. No daub /fired clay from the evaluation carried out by the Museum Of London (MoLAS) has been seen by the author and it has not been included in this report, although it is described in their evaluation report (URS 1998, Appendix 2, 21). This consisted of eight fragments, four of which came from a context close to Structure 3.
- 1.3 Due to the poor quantity and quality of the material, the daub is unlikely to address any of the fieldwork aims. Although daub/fired clay is present in the area of excavation, it is far too sparse in quantity and too poor in quality to provide much indication of the presence and nature of a wattle and daub lined structure in the area of excavation. It is likely that it relates to a structure situated nearby, probably Structure 3.

#### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 All the daub has been recorded by number and weight and scanned for features such as wattle impressions and flat surfaces. The material was then divided up into fragments to be kept in long-term storage (those pieces with wattle impressions and surfaces) and those pieces that can be discarded after recording.

#### 3. Quantification

- 3.1 The daub retrieved from the excavation consists of 157 fragments weighing a total of 1.590kg. This includes 34 fragments weighing 515g that have features such as flat surfaces and wattle impressions. The remaining material (excluding the daub retrieved from the soil samples) amounts to 123 fragments weighing 1.075 kg. This material is abraded and has no diagnostic features. The daub retrieved from the soil samples weighing 1.211kg is also abraded and has no diagnostic features. The daub and fired clay retrieved by OAU during field walking is of the same poor condition.
- 3.2 The daub with diagnostic features has been separated from the remainder and is outlined in Table 5. The daub present in Table 5 consists of mainly small, abraded fragments. Although the majority of this material had wattle impressions and/or surfaces, the general condition of the daub is poor.



#### **4. Provenance**

- 4.1 The majority of the daub was retrieved from medieval or post-medieval contexts (Phases 3 and 4 of the CAT excavation). 83 fragments came from Phase 3 contexts, and 63 from Phase 4 contexts. The remaining few fragments were either unstratified or came from features thought to be of prehistoric date. No distinctions could be seen between the prehistoric and the later fired clay.
- 4.2 The fired clay from Phase 3 contexts stems largely from sub-groups 12, 21 and 45. As noted in the stratigraphic narrative, the debris from the pit which forms sub-group 21 probably came from a building nearby, almost certainly a structure which can be identified to the west of the pit (Structure 3). Sub-group 12 represents the beam slot for one of the walls of this structure. Most of the daub of Phase 3, therefore, lies close to the location of this structure.

#### **5. Conservation**

- 5.1 The poor condition of the daub suggests that no conservation work is appropriate or deemed necessary. The daub has been stored in plastic bags with waterproof labels and then placed in museum boxes. It is stored as a bulk commodity.
- 5.2 The fired clay with recordable features (such as wattle impressions and surfaces) is recorded in detail and is kept for possible future analysis. The daub with no diagnostic features is usually discarded after recording and assessment has taken place.

#### **6. Comparative Material**

- 6.1 Because of the lack of work carried out on daub and fired clay, it is difficult to find any published work on comparative material. However, the CTRL excavation at Mersham produced quantities of daub that appear to be of a similar quality to that from Westenhangar. Additionally, the daub from Mersham was dated (by the pottery) to the early medieval period, which is broadly contemporary to the Westenhangar material.

#### **7. Potential For Further Work**

- 7.1 The daub discussed above is both poor in quality and condition. The presence of the daub and its location indicate that there were wattle and daub lined structures present nearby. However, the lack of large quantities of good quality material from secure contexts and features suggests that any further work on the material is unlikely to contribute to any significant extent to the Land Zone Priorities and the Fieldwork Event Aims. The principal use of the material will be to provide some (admittedly limited) information on the nature of Structures 3 and 4, according with one of the Fieldwork Event Aims, but without using the narrow definition of the utilisation of archaeomagnetic techniques alone.

- 7.2 In the light of this, it is thought that a small note including the quantity, condition and location of the daub is all that is required. The spatial location of the material in relation to nearby structures is a key element of any further analysis.

**Table Five**

*The Quantity and Weight of Fired Clay with Diagnostic Features*

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Sub-Group</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>Weight</i> | <i>Comments</i>         |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 51             | 49               | 15           | 4            | 2            | 55            | with wattle impressions |
| 57             | 51               | 15           | 4            | 1            | 25            | with wattle impressions |
| 88             | 49               | 15           | 4            | 1            | 20            | with wattle impression  |
| 89             | 49               | 15           | 3            | 25           | 270           |                         |
| 138            | 12               | 12           | 3            | 1            | 75            | with wattle impression  |
| 189            | 45               | 7            | 3            | 4            | 70            | with wattle impressions |

## APPENDIX 4

### ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKED FLINT

Tania Holmes

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A total of 68 struck flints were recovered during the archaeological excavations by CAT to the north of Westenhangar Castle, and during the watching brief carried out by the OAU. 21 artefacts were collected during the watching brief and the remainder were collected during the excavation. The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) undertook the evaluation of the area, but no struck flint from that phase of fieldwork has been seen by the author, and it is not considered here. It is briefly described in the evaluation report (URS 1998, Appendix 3) and it consists of seven pieces of struck flint, six of which are unstratified. It was noted in that report that 'there are no diagnostic types present among the unstratified material and the dating could run from Mesolithic through to Bronze Age but it is more likely to be Neolithic through to Bronze Age' (URS 1998, 22).
- 1.2 All of the artefacts were recovered by hand, during excavation. None have been retrieved from environmental samples.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that further analysis of the struck flint assemblage may assist in addressing the fieldwork event aims, specifically when determining the function and economic basis of the prehistoric activity on the site.

#### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The assemblage has been quantified and scanned but no detailed recording of the artefacts has taken place. Each individual artefact has been assigned to basic category, as indicated in Table 6.

#### 3. Quantification

- 3.1 The assemblage composition is shown in Table 6. A broad range of artefacts are represented which suggest that there was no bias in the collection of material and it is likely therefore that the assemblage is fairly representative for the site as a whole. The overall total is relatively small, at just 68 struck flints, 47 of which were recovered by excavation. Several of the flints, however, came from Groups of Phases 1 and 2, which are of prehistoric date. Those from Groups 1 and 2, in particular, may well have been *in situ*.

#### 4. Provenance

- 4.1 The provenance of the individual artefacts is shown in Table 7. An initial look at the material recovered during the excavation shows that the majority (70%) of the assemblage was recovered from phase 3 deposits and later. With the exception of one piece from a group 1 context and two pieces from group 3, a small yet significant

group, forming 23% of the excavated assemblage, was recovered from group 2, the buried soil deposit seen in excavation.

- 4.2 Given that the assemblage from the buried soil has the potential to be *in situ*, it is considered likely that the struck flints have some value in addressing some of the research objectives.
- 4.3 The remaining 21 flints came from the watching brief. These were dispersed across a number of features, including the circular feature (Structure 2), which is of Iron Age date, the rectilinear enclosure (sub-group 450) of Iron Age date and associated Iron Age features. No struck flints from the OAU work appear to come from *in-situ* deposits, with the possible exception of those relating to the circular feature (Structure 2).

## 5. Comparative Material

- 5.1 There are no published references relating to discoveries of struck flint assemblages from the immediate vicinity of the Westenhangar site. In fact the nearest recorded assemblage is that recovered on the CTRL site to the north of Saltwood Tunnel.
- 5.2 Detailed assessment and analysis of the Saltwood assemblage is yet to take place, but initial scanning suggests a late Neolithic-Bronze Age date range, which may be broadly contemporary with the Westenhangar assemblage.
- 5.3 Previous discoveries of flintwork in the Saltwood area have been recorded (Willson 1985, 234) and a substantial bronze hoard was also found in the vicinity in 1872 during the excavations for the railway (O'Neill Osborne 1939, 202). Hence activity during this period, in the general locality, is well attested.

## 6. Potential for further work

- 6.1 The presence of the buried soil and the earlier features demonstrate prehistoric activity in the area, and the association of struck flint artefacts with these deposits provide good potential for addressing the Fieldwork Event Aims and the Landscape Zone Priorities.
- 6.2 In regional terms, this small assemblage is of some significance, given the paucity of previous discoveries in the area. This increases in status when considering the associated archaeological deposits. It is therefore recommended that the assemblage is reported on in full.

**Table Six**

*Worked Flint Assemblage Composition*

| Artefact Type | Number | Group % | Total % | Period     | Comments      |
|---------------|--------|---------|---------|------------|---------------|
| Scrapers      | 1      | 12.5    | 1.5     |            |               |
| Piercers      |        |         |         |            |               |
| Burins        |        |         |         |            |               |
| Projectiles   | 2      | 25      | 3       | Bronze Age | B & T A/heads |

|  |    |      |     |  |  |
|--|----|------|-----|--|--|
| Denticulates                           | 1  | 12.5 | 1.5 |  |  |
| Fabricators                            |    |      |     |  |  |
| Microliths                             |    |      |     |  |  |
| Core tools                             |    |      |     |  |  |
| Other tools                            | 3  | 37.5 | 4   |  |  |
| Misc. retouch                          | 1  | 12.5 | 1.5 |  |  |
| <i>Tools - sub total</i>               | 8  |      | 12  |  |  |
|  |    |      |     |  |  |
| Flake cores & core frags               | 6  | 75   | 9   |  |  |
| Blade(let) cores & core frags          | 1  | 12.5 | 1.5 |  |  |
| Rejuvenation tablets                   |    |      |     |  |  |
| Crested pieces                         |    |      |     |  |  |
| Microburins                            |    |      |     |  |  |
| Chips                                  | 1  | 12.5 | 1.5 |  |  |
| <i>Production - sub total</i>          | 8  |      | 12  |  |  |
|  |    |      |     |  |  |
| Blades & bladelets                     | 10 | 20   | 15  |  |  |
| Flakes                                 | 41 | 80   | 60  |  |  |
| <i>Blades &amp; flakes - sub total</i> | 51 |      | 75  |  |  |
|  |    |      |     |  |  |
| Debitage                               | 1  | 100  | 1.5 |  |  |
| <i>Fragments - sub total</i>           | 1  |      | 1   |  |  |
|  |    |      |     |  |  |
| Total                                  | 68 |      |     |  |  |

Table Seven

*Worked Flint Provenance*

| <i>Site</i>    | <i>Context</i> | <i>Sub-Group</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Count</i> |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Excavation     | 19             | 0                | 0            | 0            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 186            | 35               | 1            | 1            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 55             | 50               | 2            | 1            | 3            |
| Excavation     | 79             | 15               | 2            | 1            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 93             | 53               | 2            | 1            | 7            |
| Excavation     | 175            | 46               | 3            | 2            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 4              | 27               | 6            | 3            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 6              | 32               | 6            | 3            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 10             | 29               | 6            | 3            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 63             | 59               | 6            | 3            | 3            |
| Excavation     | 115            | 32               | 6            | 3            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 173            | 32               | 6            | 3            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 191            | 32               | 6            | 3            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 8              | 45               | 7            | 3            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 102            | 52               | 7            | 3            | 8            |
| Excavation     | 182            | 45               | 7            | 3            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 189            | 45               | 7            | 3            | 2            |
| Excavation     | 84             | 20               | 8            | 3            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 180            | 34               | 13           | 3            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 52             | 49               | 15           | 4            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 53             | 49               | 15           | 4            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 89             | 49               | 15           | 4            | 1            |
| Excavation     | 190            | 49               | 15           | 4            | 1            |
| Watching Brief | 55             | 500              |              |              | 1            |

|                |     |     |    |   |   |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|---|---|
| Watching Brief | 60  | 558 |    |   | 4 |
| Watching Brief | 71  | 450 | 21 | 2 | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 76  | 450 | 21 | 2 | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 80  | 506 |    |   | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 112 | 508 | 29 | 3 | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 113 | 511 |    |   | 2 |
| Watching Brief | 198 | 422 | 22 | 2 | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 204 | 214 |    |   | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 220 | 525 |    |   | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 321 | 448 | 33 | 4 | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 330 | 445 |    |   | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 345 | 444 | 28 | 3 | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 350 | 424 |    |   | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 369 | 425 |    |   | 1 |
| Watching Brief | 418 | 424 |    |   | 2 |

## APPENDIX 5

### ASSESSMENT OF THE BURNT FLINT

Tania Holmes

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A total of 178 fragments of burnt flint, weighing some 1.6kg, were recovered during the archaeological fieldwork to the north of Westenhangar Castle (this excludes any material which may have been collected by MoLAS during the evaluation. This is limited, however, to a single burnt flint). Only 3% of this assemblage was recovered during the excavation phase. The assemblage was hand recovered and no burnt flint has been retrieved from environmental samples, to date.
- 1.2 Whilst much of this assemblage may be residual, it is possible that it derives from the prehistoric activity noted at the site and therefore it does have some potential for addressing the Fieldwork Event Aims.

#### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The assemblage has been quantified and weighed, the results of which are shown in Table 8. No detailed recording has been carried out, but this is not thought to be necessary.

#### 3. Quantification

- 3.1 In total 178 pieces of burnt flint were recovered. There is no observable bias in collection, hence it is likely that this assemblage is fairly representative for the site. The distribution of the burnt flint is shown in Table 8. This indicates that most of the assemblage came from the watching brief. The majority came, in fact, from a single context (context 164, sub-group 167, Group 19) in the south-eastern part of the site, close to deposits of Middle Bronze Age ceramics, with Structure 2 a little further to the east.

#### 4. Provenance

- 4.1 The provenance of the individual fragments is shown in Table 8. With the exception of one group (noted above), the table shows that there are no apparent concentrations of burnt flint. All of the material recovered during the excavation was retrieved from medieval and later contexts. The material from the watching brief, in contrast, derives from at least one *in-situ* prehistoric deposit, although the remainder again came from medieval deposits.

#### 5. Potential for further work

- 5.1 The discovery of prehistoric deposits on the site at Westenhangar may suggest that the burnt flint is a result of activity, of this date, in the area. It is difficult to suggest a

date for this assemblage but burnt flint is commonly associated with Bronze Age activities although it is not impossible that the flint was incidentally burnt during the later activities. Further study of this assemblage, particularly in regards to distribution, may address the Fieldwork Event Aims and the Landscape Zone Aims.

- 5.2 It is recommended that this assemblage is considered alongside the struck flint assemblage and that it forms part of the main report.

**Table Eight**  
*Burnt Flint Distribution*

|                | <i>Context</i> | <i>Sub-Group</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Watching Brief | 113            | 511              |              |              | 3             | 4             |
| Watching Brief | 115            | 511              |              |              | 5             | 17            |
| Watching Brief | 164            | 167              | 19           | 1            | 161           | 1501          |
| Watching Brief | 228            | 440              | 32           | 4            | 1             | 1             |
| Watching Brief | 321            | 448              | 33           | 4            | 1             | 13            |
| Watching Brief | 330            | 445              |              |              | 1             | 11            |
| Excavation     | 51             | 49               | 15           | 4            | 3             | 15            |
| Excavation     | 127            | 21               | 11           | 3            | 1             | 20            |
| Excavation     | 182            | 45               | 7            | 3            | 2             | 15            |



## APPENDIX 6

### ASSESSMENT OF FERROUS RESIDUES

Ian Riddler

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A small quantity of ferrous residues, amounting to just twelve fragments, weighing 95g, was recovered from the CAT's excavations north of Westenhanger Castle. No further residues came from the OAU watching brief. The residues are summarised in Table 9.

#### **2 Methodology**

- 2.1 The residues have been examined visually under low magnification, and identified to type. They have been weighed and counted, and tested with a magnet for their ferrous qualities.

#### **3 Quantification**

- 3.1 The twelve fragments of ferrous residues are small pieces of smithing slag, with characteristic vesicular texture. Two pieces are unstratified and the remainder come from Phase 3 contexts, with the exception of two pieces from a post-medieval context. All of the material is typical of smithing slag of this period, but it has few distinguishing or notable characteristics.

#### **5 Conservation**

- 5.1 The material is stable and has been appropriately packaged. It does not decay unduly over time and can easily be prepared for long-term storage. Once fully recorded, it could be discarded, although the quantities involved are very small, and the material does not present any particular storage difficulties.

#### **6 Comparative Material**

- 6.1 Small quantities of smithing slag of this type are widespread across contemporary sites in southern England. This small assemblage stands in contrast to the larger quantities of material, including smelting slag, retrieved from excavations at Mersham. All of the material has come from early medieval or later contexts and is likely to be of early medieval date.

#### **7 Potential for further work**

- 7.1 The small size of this assemblage and the lack of any distinctive elements relating to other aspects of the smithing process diminish the significance of this material. Although little work has been carried out on ferrous residues from early medieval

contexts in East Kent, other sites have provided far better assemblages. This material is tied to domestic activity in one area of the site but it provides little information about the nature of ferrous metalworking there. The entire assemblage can be briefly summarised in several sentences, if thought necessary. It has little significance in terms of the Land Zone Aims and the Fieldwork Event Aims, although it does relate to the small assemblage of cultural material of early medieval date associated with that rural landscape.

**Table Nine**  
*Ferrous Residues*

| <i>Site</i>    | <i>Context</i> | <i>Sub-Group</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| CAT Excavation | 4              | 27               | 6            | 3            | 5            | 10            |
| CAT Excavation | 19             | 0                | 0            | 0            | 2            | 5             |
| CAT Excavation | 21             | 32               | 6            | 3            | 1            | 5             |
| CAT Excavation | 95             | 4                | 15           | 4            | 2            | 35            |
| CAT Excavation | 138            | 12               | 12           | 3            | 1            | 35            |
| CAT Excavation | 191            | 32               | 6            | 3            | 1            | 5             |

## APPENDIX 7

### ASSESSMENT OF SMALL FINDS

Ian Riddler

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The small finds from the CAT excavations consist of two iron knives and three hones. All of the objects come from Phase 3 (early medieval) contexts. Both object categories are amongst the most common to be seen at this period, but they do nonetheless add significant information to our understanding of the material culture of rural sites at this time.

#### **2 Methodology**

- 2.1 The iron knives have been radiographed at the City of Lincoln Conservation Laboratories. They have been recorded and added to the database of Anglo-Saxon and early medieval knives held at the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. The hones have been weighed and identified to stone type.

#### **3 Quantification**

- 3.1 The two knives are of contrasting types. The smaller knife (Sf 81) is of angled-back form, with the back rising from the tang towards the point. It is a noticeably small knife, with a blade length of around 50mm. The second knife (Sf 82) in contrast, includes a large wide blade with a tapering back and edge. A copper alloy hilt-plate lies at the junction of the blade and the tang.
- 3.2 All three hones have been cut from a local, fine-grained grey siltstone. This stone type is commonly seen in the Hythe area and is local to Westenhangar, stemming from the Folkestone Beds.

#### **4 Provenance**

- 4.1 Both knives came from Phase 3 contexts. The small knife was retrieved from the fill of the L-shaped feature (sub-group 55) which has been interpreted as an annex to Structure 3. The larger knife came from the fill of the ditch (sub-group 20), a little to the north of Structure 3. The hones were retrieved from features around Structure 3, in association with the knives. All of the objects are therefore tied to Structure 3.

#### **5 Conservation**

- 5.1 The knives have been radiographed and are now packaged in a stable environment. A full record should be made of each during the analysis phase, before they inevitably decay. They will not survive in the longer term without a full cleaning programme. The larger knife, in particular, is a composite object utilising both copper alloy and

iron, and it may require a limited amount of investigative conservation during the analysis phase.

- 5.2 The hones have been cleaned, stabilised and packaged. They can be placed in long-term storage and treated as a bulk item without any problems.

## **6 Comparative Material**

- 6.1 The small angled back knife belongs to the most common type of knife of the Middle and Late Saxon periods in East Kent. The type, which is first seen in the later sixth or early seventh centuries, becomes very common thereafter. Examples are known from a variety of East Kent sites, including Canterbury, Mersham, Saltwood and *Sandtun* (Frere, Bennett, Rady and Stow 1987, fig 121.20-3; Garrard and Elder 1988, fig 21.52; Driver, Rady and Sparks 1991, fig fig 70.137 and 144; Blockley *et al* 1995, fig 468.750-3; URL 2000; Riddler forthcoming). This particular example has a back which slopes upwards towards the point, which allows it to be defined as an Ottaway type A2 (Ottaway 1992, 561). During the middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods this is the most common sub-type of angled back knife to be seen in East Kent. The type continues in use beyond the Conquest, and occurs, for example, at Townwall Street, Dover (Riddler and Walton Rogers forthcoming). By the thirteenth century, however, this type of knife had gone out of use.
- 6.2 The larger knife has a blade form which is commonly seen from the Roman period onwards, and is not overly diagnostic. The presence of a copper alloy hilt-plate, however, allows the knife to be placed firmly in the early medieval period. Hilt-plates of this type can be seen on comparable knives from Winchester of late tenth to eleventh century date, and they are known also from other sites, although they are not common (Biddle 1990, 838 and figs 254.2704 and 255.2748).
- 6.3 The hones include two examples of rectangular form with concave sides, and one broader example with a diagonal groove across one face. The broader hones are thought to have been used for sharpening larger implements, and the same can be said for the rectangular-sectioned examples, both of which are relatively substantial. The use of this fine-grained stone type for hones is unusual and, as a relatively soft stone, it may not have been overly useful. Contemporary deposits in Canterbury and particularly in Dover include imported mica schist hones, which became widespread in East Kent before the Norman Conquest. In rural environments, however, both here and at Monkton, local stones were adapted as hones, and a clear distinction can currently be drawn in the supply of imported materials between urban and rural contexts.

## **7 Potential for further work**

- 7.1 The two knives both add to our understanding of domestic and craft implements of the early medieval period. The example with a copper alloy hilt-plate represents a comparatively rare type, which is almost unknown in East Kent. The small angled-back knife, although of a common type, is nonetheless important in providing additional evidence for the continuation of this style of implement beyond the Conquest.

- 7.1 The same can be said, in effect, for the hones, which also indicate the nature of implements used in a rural setting at this time. Little can be said about rural settlement in East Kent at this time, and these objects thus form useful cultural indicators. The hones can be viewed against the trading network in stone implements that developed in East Kent during the early medieval period.
- 7.3 The material culture of early medieval rural settlements in East Kent is sparse, and an interesting comparison can be drawn between the presence of knives and hones both here and at Monkton, where the early medieval small finds assemblage was not much larger. In part, this follows from the types of surface-built building seen at both sites and the relative lack of pits, into which domestic rubbish was thrown. The excavation strategy employed in each case may also have influenced the recovery of cultural material.
- 7.4 All of the small finds assist therefore in one of the Fieldwork Event Aims: Determine the function and economic basis of the site.
- 7.5 Both sets of implements warrant publication alongside the other early medieval material from the excavations and the watching brief. The knives provided useful corroboratory dating evidence and the hones relate to aspects of trade and the utilisation of local resources.

## APPENDIX 8

### ASSESSMENT OF PLANT REMAINS

Ruth Pelling and Enid Allison

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A total of 46 bulk samples with individual volumes of 2-70 litres were taken during the excavation phase. The total volume of soil processed was 878 litres, with 435 litres of this coming from the fills of a feature containing plant remains, which was initially thought to be a possible oven or corn drier (URS 1998, 13).

#### 2 Methodology

- 2.1 Due to the high clay content of the soil, each sample was soaked in a weak hydrogen peroxide solution (<1%) prior to processing. After this, bucket flotation to remove lighter biological material was carried out to produce a washover onto 0.5mm mesh. The soil remaining in the bucket after this process was then sieved to 2mm. Washovers and residues from each sample were dried and examined briefly.

#### 3 Quantification

- 3.1 A number of features, including ditches, gullies, pit fills and the fill of a post hole were sampled. These generally produced small washovers, of 20ml or less. Most of these contained only a few cereal grains (less than 10) and small amounts of charcoal, although there were several where charred remains were a little more common. These included the upper fill of a ditch (sub-group 45), several ditch fills (sub-groups 14 and 20), the fill of a burnt feature (sub-group 10). Most of these are features assigned to Phase 3 (Table 10).
- 3.2 The principal results of interest, however, came from the eleven samples taken of the pit fill (sub-group 21). Samples taken from this feature were very rich in charred cereal remains, some containing several thousand grains. The bulk of these are grains of oat (*Avena*). Lower numbers of grains of rye (*Secale cereale*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum*) and occasional grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also present. Cereal chaff was present in one sample. Weed seeds, especially brome grass (*Bromus* subset *Eubromus*) were common, and possible pulses were also seen.

#### 4 Conservation

- 4.1 The charred remains are in an excellent state of preservation. They are currently stored in sealtight plastic bags. No conservation work is required on them. They take up only a small amount of space and, given the rarity of plant remains of this period from East Kent, it is recommended that they are retained in long-term storage.

## 5 Comparative Material

- 5.1 There is little comparative material of early medieval date from rural sites in East Kent. The principal assemblages against which these remains can be compared are the much smaller assemblage from Mersham and the plant remains from Monkton on the Isle of Thanet (Wiltshire forthcoming). The plant remains from Townwall Street, Dover are contemporary, although they stem from an urban context (Campbell forthcoming). The earlier evaluation report noted also the presence of botanical remains from other CTRL sites at Boys Hall Road and East of Pluckley Road (URS 1998, 25).

## 6 Potential for further work

- 6.1 The potential for analysis of the principal assemblage here is very high and further work on the assemblage is strongly recommended. The site information is reasonable, allowing the assemblage to be placed within a dated framework. Relatively little is known of the crop history of East Kent and the composition of this assemblage is unusual by the standards of other areas of southern Britain. Further work should produce information on agricultural practices and crop processing techniques relating to the farmsteads, and also on the contemporary environment.
- 6.2 Detailed analysis of the plant remains from the pit may help to establish the function of the feature, or determine if the assemblages are redeposited burnt refuse. The large numbers of oat grains present may suggest that the feature is not a corn drier, as oats do not usually require drying. It will be particularly important to examine spatial differences within the feature for evidence of its use. Analysis of the charcoal will provide evidence of fuel types.
- 6.3 The plant remains are directly relevant to the Fieldwork Event Aim to: Recover charred plant material and other economic indicators for palaeo-economic studies.
- 6.4 This assemblage, although centred on a single period, provides significant information relating to agricultural practices and crop processing techniques within a rural environment at that time.

## Table Ten

### *Summary of Principal Excavated Contexts with Plant Remains*

| Site           | Context | Sub-Group | Group | Phase | Sample No. |
|----------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|------------|
| CAT Excavation | 47      | 45        | 7     | 3     | 9          |
| CAT Excavation | 82      | 14        | 8     | 3     | 15         |
| CAT Excavation | 138     | 12        | 12    | 3     | 29         |
| CAT Excavation | 144     | 20        | 8     | 3     | 30         |
| CAT Excavation | 156     | 21        | 11    | 3     | 35,36      |
| CAT Excavation | 165     | 20        | 8     | 3     | 43         |

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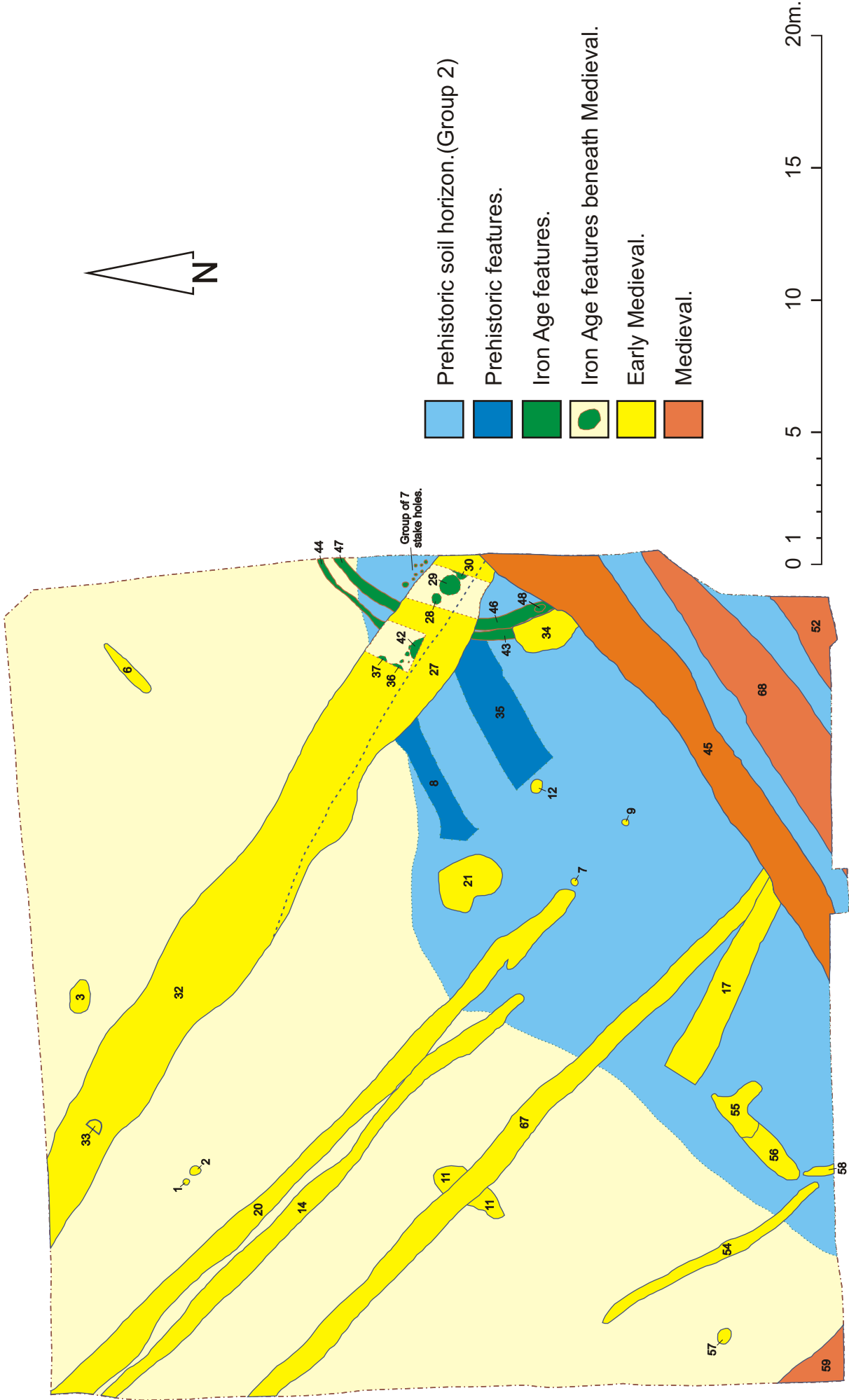
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FIGURE 3: THE EXCAVATED AREA.

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Area 440 North of Westenhangar Castle ARCWGC98



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NORTH OF WESTENHANGER CASTLE  
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FIGURE 4:OVERALL SITE PLAN. ALL PHASES.

Area 440 North of Westenhangar Castle ARC WGC98  
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0 250 500 750 1000m.

Fig. 4

