

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
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**Small Finds from North of Westenhanger Castle,  
Westenhanger, Kent (ARC WGC 98)**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Five small finds of medieval date were recovered from excavations to the north-west of Westenhanger Castle (ARC WGC 98). They consist of two incomplete knives and fragments of three hones. In addition, a small quantity of ferrous metalworking residues were recovered from the excavation area, and this material is summarised below. Both knives came from Phase 3 contexts. The small knife (SF 81) was retrieved from the fill of the L-shaped feature (sub-group 755), which has been interpreted as an annex to Structure 3. The larger knife (SF 82) came from the fill of the ditch (sub-group 720), a little to the north of Structure 3. The hones were retrieved from features around Structure 3, in association with the knives. Almost all of the objects are related to Structure 3 and derive from features of the same phase and date, of *c* AD 1050 – 1150. The exceptions are two small fragments of smithing slag from a post-medieval context, and two unstratified pieces.

The following table gives a summary of small finds provenance.

*Table 1: Quantification of small finds*

SF Number	Context	Feature Number	Px Interpretation	Phase*	Object Identification	Material	Record ID
3	4	727	Ditch boundary	AD 1050-1225	Smithing slag	Iron	W-6
19	138	701	Postholes (fence line)	AD 1050-1225	Smithing slag	Iron	W-10
32	191	727	Ditch boundary	AD 1050-1225	Smithing slag	Iron	W-11
48	19	0	Cleaning layer		Smithing slag	Iron	W-7
69	95	704	Ditch/ gully	AD 1050-1225	Smithing slag	Iron	W-9
75	21	727	Ditch boundary	AD 1050-1225	Smithing slag	Iron	W-8
79	115	715	Ditch	2199-700 BC	Whetstone	Stone	W-3
80	146	147	Gully		Whetstone	Stone	W-1
81	158	755	Pit	AD 1075-1225	Knife	Iron	W-4
82	165	720	Ditch	AD 1050-1225	Knife	Iron	W-5
83	165	720	Ditch	AD 1050-1225	Whetstone	Stone	W-2

\* based on site phasing; LIA-ER: Late Iron Age/Early Roman

## 2 DISCUSSION

### 2.1 Knives

Both of the knives are incomplete, but they can be assigned to broad types and their original dimensions can be reconstructed. Both originally included wooden handles, of which only small residues survive. The smaller example (SF 81) has a sloping back and a straight cutting edge. It can be assigned to Evison's type 4 and Ottaway's type D (Evison 1987, 113; Ottaway 1992, 572). The type occurs from the seventh century onwards in Kent but was never popular there. Indeed, most of the knives of this type from Kent occur in seventh or eighth century

deposits, and there are very few from contexts of a later date. Similar examples of small knives of this type do occur in tenth to eleventh century deposits at Århus, Thetford and York, again in small numbers (Andersen *et al* 1971, 159 EUP; Dallas 1993, fig 123.55; Ottaway 1992, fig 227.2770 and 2776). A larger version of a twelfth or thirteenth-century knife of this type, embellished with a scale tang, came from Townwall Street, Dover (Riddler and Walton Rogers forthcoming).

The larger knife (SF 82) is quite different in its form. The length of the tang cannot be determined but the blade is long and broad, with a straight back. The cutting edge rises towards the tip and the front of the blade may have curved downwards to meet it, but this is not certain. The size and proportions of the blade are matched by contemporary examples from a number of sites, including Townwall Street, Dover (Riddler and Walton Rogers forthcoming). At the junction of the tang and the blade there is a copper alloy sleeve, which helped to secure the wooden handle. A decorative version of this type of plate can be seen on a knife from Århus (Andersen *et al* 1971, 161.CPE). A knife of thirteenth to fourteenth century date from York utilises a simple copper alloy band to retain an ivory handle, whilst two knives from Trelleborg have elaborate decorative wire bindings at the junction of the shoulder and the tang (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, fig 1355.8169; Nørlund 1948, tav XXVII.5 and 6). A closer parallel for the Westenhanger knife is provided by a copper alloy mount on a twelfth-century knife from Beverley (Goodall 1992, 155 and fig 80.328).

## 2.2 Ferrous Metalworking Residues

A small quantity of residues, amounting to twelve fragments, weighing 95 g, was recovered from six contexts of the excavation (Table 2). All of the residues are small pieces of smithing slag and most were recovered from medieval contexts, although two fragments came from a post-medieval deposit and two are unstratified.

*Table 2: Ferrous Metalworking residues*

Context	Sub-Group	Group	Phase	Count	Weight
4	27	6	3	5	10
19	0	0	0	2	5
21	32	6	3	1	5
95	4	15	4	2	35
138	12	12	3	1	35
191	32	6	3	1	5

## 2.3 Hones

The three hones have all been produced from a buff-grey fine grained sandstone, a stone type local to the Westenhanger area (Gallois and Edmunds 1965, 31-5). Two of the hones (SFs 79 and 80) are of Kars' bar shape (Kars 1983, 11-17) and are square sectioned, with roughly

hewn ends. They are of similar dimensions and they may stem from the same hone, although they are not conjoining fragments. The longer section (SF 80) includes two lightly convex faces, which are a consequence of wear. The third example (SF 83) is a broad and flat hone, which can be placed in Kars' block group (Kars 1983, 8-11), although it is relatively small and was probably used in the hand, as noted for hones of this type from Haithabu (Resi 1991, 17-19). A distinctive sharpening groove has been cut diagonally across the upper face, which is concave in section.

Knives and fragments of hones are amongst the most common objects to have been recovered from east Kent rural sites of medieval date (Table 3). In general, these sites tend to produce very few objects at all, and those recovered lie within a noticeably restricted range of functional categories.

*Table 3: The range of small finds from East Kent rural sites of medieval date*

Object Type:	Knife	Hone	Hooked Tag
<i>Site:</i>			
Westenhanger	•	•	
Monkton	•	•	•
Channel Tunnel CTF 107		•	

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