CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK
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- INTERNALLY: PROJECT KENT ENVIRONMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS.
- EXTERNALLY: ENGLISH HERITAGE INSPECTOR FOR KENT & KENT COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGIST.

MAIN REFERENCES

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORTS PRODUCED FOR AREAS 410 & 430

COMPUTER STORAGE

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STATEMENT PREPARED BY Helen J Glass	DATE: ..16/3/98.

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMME

STRATEGIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLAN PROJECT KENT: AREAS 410 AND 430

2nd February 1998

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This document covers the detailed archaeological mitigation works to be undertaken within contract areas 410 (from the River Medway to Pilgrims Way) and 430 (from Charing Heath to the east side of Ashford). This work is placed in the wider context of Project Kent as a whole and thus the archaeological background and Landscape Zone prioritisation for areas 420 and 440 are also examined in Section 5. A summary of the archaeological background and recent findings from evaluation works undertaken is given in Section 4. Proposed fieldwork events to be undertaken in advance of construction are illustrated on the attached figures and described in Section 6. These locations are based on careful consideration of all available archaeological information, which includes desk top studies, geophysical and fieldwalking surveys, observation of geotechnical work and trial trenching evaluations. The impact on the archaeological resource from construction activities has also been considered.

1.2 In addition, further areas of evaluation work are also proposed to reduce still further the risk of unforeseen remains during the construction of critical structures. This evaluation work will be undertaken to the same specification as agreed with the Statutory Consultees for previous evaluation work.

1.3 This strategic document will be developed as a Written Scheme of Investigation for the areas under consideration and will be presented to the Statutory Consultees.

1.4 A similar strategic document will be produced for areas 420 and 440.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Through the CTRL Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs), RLE is committed to take account of the principles of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 and to commission a programme of archaeological works in advance of development. It is recognised that the CTRL Archaeology Programme will generate information that will contribute to wider archaeological studies of the area, conducted by others but not part of the CTRL programme.

2.2 Thus, RLE have developed a Research Strategy (Appendix 1) to prioritise the archaeology programme so that it both discharges its responsibilities under the EMRs and seeks to provide academic benefit from the works. The Strategy provides a strategic routewide framework which sets the general research themes and objectives to be addressed by the archaeology programme. The Strategy recognises that the archaeology programme can be undertaken in the context of five broad Landscape Zones: each zone being defined as having a distinctive historical character, landscape and natural history. Within each zone, archaeological works can further be considered in the context of five broad time-periods and one can determine the history of the landscape through which the CTRL passes and what gives the area its specific characteristics today.

2.3 The Strategy is interpreted at the landscape zone level in light of the known or expected archaeological resource for the area and the key questions that it is considered desirable to address within each zone: hereafter termed 'landscape zone priorities'.

2.4 This is further refined, and implemented, through the formulation of specific aims to guide individual field work events.

2.5 Thus the CTRL archaeology programme will be undertaken within a hierarchical and flexible research design comprising the following elements:

1. Research Strategy

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2. Landscape Zone priorities

⇑⇓

3. Fieldwork Event aims

2.6 There will be feedback between the tiers to ensure that each level reacts to changing circumstances.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Landscape Zones

Project Kent falls within three of the Research Strategy Landscape Zones: on the edge of the North Kent Plain; the North Downs; and the Wealden Greensand, with some Low Weald. The following summaries are taken from the Character Map of England descriptions (Countryside Commission and English Nature 1997).

3.1.1 North Kent Plain

The North Kent Plain consists of open, essentially low and gently undulating land between the Greater Thames Estuary to the north and the North Downs to the south. The Medway towns and their associated development, as well as transport corridors such as the M2, form a distinctive contrast to the predominantly open agricultural landscape. This landscape zone is restricted to that area between the Medway Crossing and the North Downs Country Portal.

3.1.2 North Downs

The North Downs have a typical Chalk downland landscape with steep scarp slopes, rolling north facing dip slopes and dry valleys. Springlines and coombes are characteristic landscape features at the foot of the scarp. The rivers Medway and Stour cut through the Downs. Although locally of an open character there are hedges and numerous linear woods and shaws. The area is predominantly rural with a mixture of pasture and arable farmland. Chalk pits and quarries are distinctive features in the landscape.

3.1.3 Wealden Greensand

The Wealden Greensand forms the ridge between the Low Weald and the Chalk of the North and South Downs. The geology of the Wealden Greensand includes heavy Gault Clays and Ragstone. The landuse and relief vary although the overall character is one of a patchwork of farmland and woodland linked by hedgerows. Farming tends to be mixed. The character of the area is enhanced by small streams and gullies which cut through the bedrock. The Kent end of the area is less wooded and the topography less dramatic and there is a more obvious human impact. The transport corridors of the M20 and the railway line to Ashford are prominent in the landscape. The area has traditionally supported a pattern of dispersed settlement.

3.1.4 Low Weald

The Low Weald coincides with outcrops of the Weald Clay, sandwiched between the older rocks of the High Weald and Wealden Greensand ridge. This area is mainly low lying, gently undulating dominated by heavy, damp soils but variable in character with thin beds of Limestone and Sandstone outcropping. The area is well-wooded and is rich in hedgerows and predominantly rural in character.

3.2 Contract Area 410 (North Kent Plain, the North Downs)

The broad Medway Valley is enclosed on both sides by steep scarp slopes, which the CTRL will cross on a viaduct. The 410 contract area commences at the southern embankment of the viaduct. Nashenden Valley, on the edge of the North Kent Plain, runs perpendicular to the river valley with a complex of smaller spurs and valleys, characteristic of the ridge and dry valley landform associated with chalk scenery.

The CTRL will traverse the valley via a series of cuttings and embankments parallel to the M20. The CTRL will run in tunnel under the North Downs emerging near White Horse Stone. The chalk scarp of the North Downs faces southwards and is wooded. The majority of land affected by the CTRL is under arable cultivation. The contract area ends at the Pilgrims Way, close to the Old Chatham Road.

3.3 Contract Area 420 (Wealden Greensand)

From Pilgrims Way at the foot of the chalk scarp the CTRL crosses the Boxley Valley: an historic landscape typified by fields of pasture dotted with trees in a deep cutting. The route passes to the north of Maidstone across large arable fields and substantial belts of trees before running close to the M20 at Detling. The CTRL continues to follow the M20, the larger arable field giving way to a pattern of smaller pasture, copses and hedgerows. The route will cross the A20 at Harrietsham where the landscape continues the variable pattern of open agriculture and small country lanes and settlements. East of Harrietsham and the village of Sandway, the Great Stour River commences to the south of the M20 within the degraded landscape of Chilston Park. Towards the end of this contract area near Lenham Heath, the landscape is gently undulating, primarily agricultural with a patchwork of fields and distinctive woodland blocks.

3.4 Contract Area 430 (Wealden Greensand with some Low Weald)

From Lenham Heath, the CTRL crosses a diverse landscape of undulating farmland including woodland, Hothfield Common, the Great Stour Valley fed by a number of tributaries, and many small settlements typical to this part of Kent. The CTRL passes through the denuded historic parkland of Godinton on the western edge of Ashford. Approximately 5km of contract 430 lies within the urban area of Ashford. The east side of the town is characterised by new roads, business and industrial development. The contract area ends at the parish boundary between Sevington and Mersham, to the east of the A2070 orbital road.

3.5 Contract Area 440 (Wealden Greensand with some Low Weald)

From the eastern side of Ashford at Sevington, the CTRL runs parallel to the Ashford to Folkestone Railway following the gentle northern slopes of the East Stour River, and crosses the southern edge of the village of Mersham. The landscape is mainly agricultural land with small pasture fields. At Harringe Lane the CTRL rejoins the M20 corridor and passes Sellindge, Westenhanger and the registered park at Sandling. The CTRL skirts Saltwood to the north of Hythe, crossing the M20 at Newington where it enters the Eurotunnel terminal.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMARY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The landscape has been much altered through time by human activity. Past archaeological work in the area, much of which has been generated as a consequence of the CTRL, indicates that remains of human activity are present for all of the time periods defined within the Research Strategy. However, it is clear that some are better represented than others and are more likely to benefit from a prioritised approach to archaeological investigation. The following section considers the entire Project Kent area from the Medway viaduct to Cheriton

4.2 Hunter-foragers (400,000 - 4,500 BC)

4.2.1 In general the Palaeolithic period is represented by the chance finds of implements within the Project Kent area. However, no artefacts or implements were discovered during evaluation work, thereby adding little beyond negative evidence to existing knowledge.

4.2.2 At the 'White Horse Stone' and 'Nashenden Valley' sites, the CTRL evaluation of the colluvial sequences has demonstrated the potential of dry valley deposits: at 'White Horse Stone' deposits of late glacial origin were located at the base of a sequence which continues through to the late Bronze Age /early Iron Age; at 'Nashenden Valley', dry valley deposits relating to the late glacial ?interstadial transition were recorded which contain the potential for the study of the wider impact of humans on the post glacial landscape.

4.2.3 There is a paucity of excavated Mesolithic sites in Kent and evidence to date is insufficient to say whether any of these sites are of more than of local importance. Known remains focus on implements as an indication of activity, with no definitive evidence for settlement. The presence of Mesolithic material at 'Station Road to Church Lane' together with the possibility for *in situ* deposits to exist within the alluvial and colluvial deposits, is of significance because of the lack of data for this period.

4.3 Early Agriculturalists (4,500 - 2,000 BC)

4.3.1 As with the Mesolithic period there is little settlement evidence for the Neolithic period in Kent. Current knowledge focuses on sites such as the Medway Megaliths on the North Downs, which include Kits Coty and supposedly White Horse Stone. A priority for further work in Kent is research into these monuments and their inter-relationship with the surrounding environment and settlements. Evaluation work at 'White Horse Stone' and 'Nashenden Valley' although not producing any funerary or settlement evidence for the Neolithic period, did reveal depths of colluvial deposits which may provide environmental information on the development of the landscape.

4.3.2 A series of features, possibly dating to the late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age were recorded during evaluation work at 'Hurst Wood'. Such sites are rare on the Wealden Greensand and although evidence from the evaluation is limited, any information relating to landscape divisions, settlement morphology, environmental and economic information gained would be important. Neolithic/Bronze Age flint implements were also recovered from 'Station Road to Church Lane', thus highlighting the potential to increase the understanding of landuse during this period.

4.4 Farming Communities (2,000 - 100 BC)

4.4.1 Colluvial areas within dry valleys and the foot of scarp slopes are considered to hold a valuable resource of archaeological information for settlement and economy during the Bronze Age in Kent. The lack of systematic research and the extensive areas not conducive to aerial photography has provided an uncertain picture of settlement activity for this period. There is little information, for example on land division.

4.4.2 Evaluation works at 'West of Blind Lane' indicated possible settlement activity with associated field systems of middle and late Bronze Age date, and thus may provide some of the missing evidence outlined above. Several other evaluations produced middle and/ or late Bronze Age deposits and artefacts, e.g. 'Station Road to Church Lane' and 'Chapel Mill' near Lenham which produced a late Bronze Age pit containing Deverel-Rimbury or post Deverel-Rimbury pottery.

4.4.3 The opportunity for the examination of continuity between the Bronze Age and Iron Age may occur at 'White Horse Stone' where late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery and possible buried land surface have been located.

4.4.3 At 'Chapel Mill' a ditch containing a small quantity of mid-late Iron Age pottery was located which may indicate that remains are peripheral to a larger settlement or, more significantly, that they represent a small short-lived unenclosed farmstead. Iron Age farmsteads and their associated field systems are a priority for future research.

4.5 Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC - AD 1700)

c.100 BC - AD 410

4.5.1 There has previously been a bias towards 'spectacular' sites of the Romano-British period at the expense of landscape studies, the 'peasant' farmstead and industrial sites. Little is known about rural settlement other than villas, despite the fact that majority of the farming settlements in the Roman countryside were less wealthy/less sophisticated. Many such settlements span the entire period of the Roman occupation, and probably originate in the late Iron Age, yet their nature and interaction with towns and villas has not been defined. As with other periods there is a lack of information about the economic and environmental aspects of all types of settlements. Past excavations of the more well-studied types of sites, such as villas, have concentrated on the structural plan and layout with less attention on their role in the broader landscape and their economic function.

4.5.2 Several evaluation sites contained deposits of late Iron Age/ early Romano-British date which may provide information relating to the influence of Roman administration on native settlement and economy within the region; the transition period is not well understood. The 'Boarley Farm' evaluation revealed two areas considered to be of late Iron Age/ early Roman date and although there is no definitive evidence of settlement at either location, both areas appear to be of differing functions - ritual on the high ground close to White Horse Stone and agricultural on the lower area near the modern farm. The farmstead identified at 'North of Saltwood Tunnel' could contribute to our understanding of the Romanisation of Iron Age communities in the region and their role within the local and regional economy. A rare feeding beaker was recovered providing a very human link between the archaeological recording and the past inhabitants of the site. On this site there is also the possibility that a cemetery may be associated with the farmstead; this may allow the opportunity the examination of continuity and change in burial practices. At 'South of Beechbrook Wood' a series of probable enclosure ditches, including early first to mid third century pottery, were located and may provide important information on the relatively sparsely populated Wealden Greensand.

4.5.3 The scheduled Roman villa at Thurnham has the potential for addressing a range of issues associated with the villa estate and its predecessor, including economic and environmental evidence which is lacking for the county. The interaction with, and influence of, the villa with its hinterland is also an important theme of research.

4.5.4 The presence of ditches and metalling at 'East of Newlands'/ 'East of Pluckley Road' evaluations indicate the possible presence of a Roman road and could provide information on a possible Roman transport corridor.

c. AD 410 - 1100

4.5.5 Little is known regarding rural settlement of the early Anglo-Saxon period, or the expansion of settlement in the late Saxon period, particularly in relation to the Weald; much of the settlement pattern having been deduced from documentary sources. No Anglo-Saxon remains have been recorded during any of the evaluations. Only one abraded sherd of chaff-tempered ware found at 'Boys Hall Road - Sevington Railhead' was retrieved.

c. AD 1100 - 1700

4.5.6 The rural settlement and the effects of industrialisation is relatively unexplored during this period. In general economic and environmental evidence is slight. However, the pattern of the rural landscape was largely established in the Medieval period and is believed to have culminated in the basic settlement pattern which exists today. Several of the evaluations have identified medieval or later activity, mainly of a dispersed nature and this may help in the understanding of the wider landuse, although the material recovered was not abundant.

4.5.7 Elements of field systems were the most commonly recorded feature during evaluation works. For example at 'East of Pluckley Road' two or three phases of ditches with pottery dated from AD 900 to 1300 were recorded and at 'Boys Hall Road to Sevington Railhead' where boundary or drainage ditches were revealed which may be associated with Boys Hall moated site (SAM) situated about 300m away. The evaluation site to the north of Westenhanger Castle located a 11/12th century oven or kiln together with possible associated structural elements and perhaps part of an early medieval open field system.

4.5.8 On a more substantial level, close to Parsonage Farm, the foundations of a building and associated features may indicate the remains of a moat. The earliest pottery retrieved was late 11th century, but most was of mid 12th to mid 14th century date. Although not rare on the Weald, little investigation to date has focused beyond the internal features of moated sites. The wider context of this site and its possible industrial use, may provide material relating to its interaction with its surroundings.

4.5.9 Other sites revealed evidence of industrial activity, most notably at Mersham where 13th and 14th century iron-working activity and possibly associated structures were recorded and could extend our knowledge of the industry in this part of Kent.

Post 1700

4.5.10 Works to date have revealed only field boundaries and trackways for this period. It is not anticipated that information gained will greatly add to existing understanding beyond the recording of landscape division.

The Palaeo-Environment

4.5.11 The retrieval of palaeo-environmental data is of importance for all time periods within this area in the context of existing knowledge in Kent. 'Off-site' studies are likely to be of greater importance for earlier periods (e.g. Nashenden Valley and White Horse

Stone) and possibly 'on-site' for later periods (e.g. Mersham). The evaluations suggest that direct evidence for interaction of hunter-foragers with the environment may be minimal but the effect of hunter-foragers on the wider landscape may be detectable in colluvial deposits. Environmental changes derived from later agricultural and industrial activity should be detectable on a number of sites.

5.0 Landscape Zone Priorities

5.1 Primary Archaeological Concerns

5.1.2 In light of the above discoveries during the evaluation work (section 4.0), the existing extent of knowledge within these areas of Kent, and the nature of the CTRL, the primary archaeological concerns of the areas will be:

i. 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:

- the interaction with hunter-foragers
- changes arising from the adoption of agricultural economies
    - the effects of and extent of clearance of the 'Wealden Wild Wood'
- changes arising from early industrial economies
    - woodland management for Roman, medieval and post-medieval iron working

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

- changes to the organisation of the landscape through time
    - prehistoric landscape division
    - the effects of the Roman administration
- settlement morphology and function
    - reliance on pasturalism versus arabalism
    - the importance of early industrialisation, e.g. medieval and later iron working and fulling
    - utilisation of natural resources, e.g. woodland management/ utilisation of riverine and coastal resources
    - the effects of the rise and decline of the Roman administration on existing economies
    - local, regional and international trade

iii. ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape:

- evidence for continuity in the area of the Medway Megaliths
- the landscape setting of the Medway Megaliths
- evidence for change and continuity of burial practices between the late Iron Age and Romano-British period in east Kent

6.0 Primary Fieldwork Event Aims

6.1 It is the primary concerns, outlined above, which define the Fieldwork Event specific archaeological aims detailed in the tables below. In addition information gained from the following sites will be compared and contrasted with the other landscape zones such as the North Kent Plain.

Table 1: **Detailed Mitigation**

Area	Reason for Mitigation
50	Nashenden Valley: Evaluation work across the valley has revealed limited archaeological remains of probable post medieval date. In addition, colluvial deposits were identified within the valley floor which contained Bronze Age pottery, although these finds were not *in situ*. Burnt flint and charcoal were recovered from the interface between the colluvium and the underlying chalk melt-water deposits. The chalk melt-water deposits contained a soil horizon which may have originated in the late glacial Aller∅d chronozone (C.11,000BP). The colluvial deposits are the most important aspect of this area, and the possible late glacial soil horizon may provide information on the Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic transition in the area. Primary aims: • the retrieval of palaeo-environmental indicators and a dated sequence to define the contemporary environment and changes over time and to make comparisons with and augment colluvial deposits on the south side of the North Downs (Area 2); • to determine the contemporary environment of Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic communities which may have been present in the area, and any changes arising from the adoption of an agricultural economy.

51	White Horse Stone:
	Evaluation work has located artefact bearing colluvial silts, and an extensive buried soil horizon cut by ditches and a shallow pit, sealed beneath approximately 1.2m of hillwash. The best preserved colluvial sequences belong to the late glacial and late Bronze Age - early Iron Age periods. Assessment of the molluscs and plant macro fossils indicate a change from woodland to open country occurring in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age perhaps as a result of human activity. It will be important to determine the local environment landscape setting of the Medway megaliths (was there minimal forest clearance, given that there is no evidence for significant contemporary colluvium?), and to study later prehistoric landscape organisation and settlement function particularly through the recovery of ceramic and palaeo-botanical remains.
	
	Primary aims:
	• to recover suitable samples, to establish changes in the palaeo-environment for the area and its immediate hinterland, and to make comparisons with and augment the sequence preserved on the North side of the North Downs (Area 1);
	  • to determine the late Glacial landscape and environment within the area;
	  • to determine the landscape setting and contemporary environment of the Medway Megaliths in the immediate area;
	  • to determine the environment of local late prehistoric agricultural communities;
	• to recover suitable samples, and individual artefacts and artefact assemblages to establish the economic basis of late prehistoric agricultural communities, including;
	  • the recovery of LBA/EIA pottery assemblages to contrast with assemblages from elsewhere in Kent;
	  • the recovery of later prehistoric archaeo-botanical remains to establish the relative importance of emmer and spelt wheat;
	• to establish the extent, morphology and function of, and interaction between, settlement and possible ceremonial features in the area.

52	**Hurst Wood:** A small number of undated features, including two fired clay and charcoal-rich shallow pits, were located within an area of archaeological potential identified previously by fieldwalking. These features suggest a discrete area of activity. A small quantity of worked flint, including a late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age plano-convex knife was recovered. Should the artefacts be contemporary with the features the remains would be rare in this part of Kent. However, the evaluation results do not preclude the possibility that these features are considerably later (even post-medieval) and thus of little importance. It is RLE's intention to submit suitable samples (subject to availability) for C14 dating to resolve this issue. **Primary aims:** • to establish the extent, morphology and function of remains; • to determine whether they are associated with other contemporary features and form part of a settlement; • recovery of dated environmental and economic indicators if these are found to be present on site.

53	**East of Newlands:**
	Evaluation has established that the majority of this area has been disturbed by the removal of woodland and the construction of the M20 and associated activity. The area is of restricted potential. A possible hollow-way, perhaps of Roman date, was recorded between Newlands Stud and the M20. A discrete concentration of medieval-post-medieval pits was recovered from the east end of the site.
	
	Primary aims:
	• to verify the date, alignment and construction method of the possible road and any associated features;
	• to establish the origins and any later development of the possible road;
	• to establish the extent, morphology and function of any medieval remains;
	  • to determine whether they are associated with other contemporary features such as structural remains;
	  • to determine whether the function of the site is agricultural, industrial or settlement.

54	**West of Station Road, Parsonage Farm:**
	Evaluation works revealed the stone foundations of a rectangular building. Pits and ditches located to the NW and E of the building are also of medieval date and may be associated with the structure. An artificial channel was recorded to the north of the building. Given the proximity of the site to a former stream course, and the local topography of the site, it is possible that the structure is surrounded by a moat or it is utilising the stream as a power source. The area has a high potential for examining the organisation and functioning of medieval rural settlement and landscape and possible accelerated environmental change due to population increase and concentration.
	
	Primary aims:
	• determine the function and economic basis of the site;
	  • establish the full extent and morphology of any structures or other archaeological remains;
	  • establish the presence/absence extent and morphology of any moat or other water course;
	  • establish a dated sequence of occupation/use;
	  • establish a snap-shot profile of a 'domestic' assemblage through the recovery of dated pottery assemblages;
	  • investigate patterns of natural resource exploitation through the recovery of economic indicators such as faunal and charred plant remains;
	• determine the landscape setting of the site and interaction with the contemporary local environment;
	  • recover palaeo-environmental indicators from well dated sequences, including ditches, the 'moat' and any palaeo-channels.

55	**South of Beechbrook Wood:**
	Evaluation work has identified a series of ditches dated between the early 1st and mid 3rd centuries AD. Roman deposits were also found in two ephemeral 'pits'. The presence of relatively early imported ware suggests a focus of possible domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity. In addition to the impact from the CTRL, associated works in this area will include extraction for sand over approximately 10ha. There is potential for recovering information on the morphology and organisation of past landscapes.
	
	Primary aims:
	• determine the morphology and organisation of the local Roman landscape;
	  • establish a dated sequence for the origin and development of any land divisions, including enclosures and trackways;
	  • establish the absence/presence of any settlement focii and other activity areas;
	  • establish the association between land divisions and possible settlement focii;
	• determine the contemporary local environment;
	  • recover samples for palynological analysis from enclosure ditches.

56	Boys Hall Road to Sevington Railhead: Evaluation works have revealed two areas of interest - to the west a number of medieval features were located close to Boys Hall; to the east several late Iron Age and early Romano-British features were identified and are probably associated with remains already known in the vicinity from evaluations and watching briefs undertaken by others. Medieval/post medieval gardens features associated with the scheduled Boys Hall moated immediately to the south of the site were also recorded. Development in this area will be constrained within a narrow corridor adjacent to the existing railway track, and it is unlikely that much information will be forthcoming concerning landscape organisation or settlement morphology. Primary aims: • to determine the economic basis of medieval and LIA-ERB settlement in the vicinity; • recover artefacts and other economic indicators, including faunal and charred plant remains, from securely dated medieval and LIA-ERB sequences; • determine the contemporary local environment and landscape setting for settlement in the LIA-ERB, medieval and post-medieval periods.

57	North of Sevington Railhead:
	Trial-trenching identified a number of medieval features including slots and postholes of a possible 12th century building and part of a medieval field system or property boundaries. Whilst nationally there have been excavations on numerous medieval rural settlements, this is not reflected in Kent. The potential exists to examine the origins, development, morphology and demise of the medieval settlement of Sevington. There are no indications that the site contains deposits with significant economic and environmental indicators, but it would still be important to recover these given the general Kent wide lack of such information.
	
	Primary aims:
	• determine the origins, development, morphology and organisation of the medieval settlement through time;
	  • establish the plan, extent, phasing and association of the remains;
	  • establish the function of features and structures and the presence of any functional zones - occupation, agricultural, industrial;
	  • determine the morphology and, where possible, building techniques of individual structures;
	• determine the economic basis of the settlement;
	  • recover artefacts and other economic indicators, including faunal and charred plant remains, from securely dated contexts;
	• determine the contemporary local environment of the settlement.

6.2 In addition to the above detailed mitigation works, RLE's desire to minimise the risk of the discovery of unforeseen archaeological remains during construction necessitate some more prosaic aims for the additional evaluations to be undertaken: these are included in Table 2.

Table 2: **Additional Evaluation**

Area	Reason for Mitigation
58	South of Medway: Additional trenches focused on the southern embankment of the crossing. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.

59	Little Monk Wood Additional trenches between the Nashenden Valley site and Upper Nashenden Farm site. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
60	Pilgrims' Way Additional trenches. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
61	Brockton Farm: Additional trenches. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
62	Leacon Lane: Additional trenches. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
63	Westwell Leacon: Additional trenches. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
64	Leda Cottages: Additional trenches. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
65	Tutt Hill: Additional Trenches. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains

	within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.
66	Beechbrook Wood: Additional trenches due to borrow pit. This evaluation will be staged with the north-western half being targeted first in line with the requirements of extraction. Primary Aims • to reduce the risk of unforeseen remains during construction. • to determine the presence / absence, extent, condition, importance and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area; the presence and potential of any environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits; the importance of any remains that are present. • to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary in advance of construction.

7.0 PROGRAMME

7.1 The following sites have been provisionally programmed to fit in with the priorities of construction. The time limits given represent 'windows' within which the works are to be undertaken. It is aimed that all sites will start as early as possible within each 'window'.

7.2 The works set out below will be spread between the archaeological contractors available to RLE in order to phase the works.

7.3 Depending on the results of the additional areas of evaluation further detailed works may be required.

Table 3: Detailed Mitigation

Site Name		March	April	May	June
Nashenden Valley	410				
White Horse Stone	410				
Hurst Wood	430				
East of Newlands	430				
Parsonage Farm	430				
S. Beechbrook Wood	430				
Boys Hall Road	430				
North of Sevington	430				

Table 4: Additional Evaluation

Site Name		March	April	May	June
South of Medway	410				
Little Monk Wood	410				
Pilgrims' Way					
Brockton Farm	430				
Leacon Lane	430				
Westwell Leacon	430				
Leda Cottages	430				
Tutt Hill	430				
Beechbrook Wood	430				