

**ARC WSC 99**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT.  
LAND AROUND OLD AND  
WATER STREET COTTAGES  
LENHAM.**

**Central National Grid Reference TQ 9060 4980**  
**Contract No. S/400/SP/0009/P484\***  
**Environmental Statement Route Window 36/37**  
**Volume 1 of 1**

**Canterbury Archaeological Trust**  
**92A Broad Street**  
**Canterbury**  
**Kent CT1 2LU**

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Lenham, Kent**

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**November 1999**

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## LIST OF CONTENTS

<b>Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
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### SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1.	Introduction	
1.1	Background	3
2.	Geology and Topography	
2.1	Geology	4
2.2	Topography	4
2.3	Current land use	4
3.	Archaeological potential	
3.1	Evaluation objectives	5
3.2	Evaluation potential	5
4.	Archaeological methodology	
4.1	General	6
4.2	Surveying	6
4.3	Excavations	6
4.4	Recording	6
5.	Trench descriptions	
5.1	Trench results	7

### SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

6.	Summary of trench results	
6.1	Geology	8
6.2	Archaeological features	8
7.	Importance of the archaeological remains	
7.1	Survival and conditions	9
7.2	Period	9
7.3	Fragility and vulnerability	9
7.4	Diversity	9
7.5	Potential	9
7.6	Conclusions and recommendations	9
8.	Bibliography	10

Appendix I: Kent Sites and Monuments Record Sheet

Appendix II: Archaeological Context Inventory

Appendix III: Finds

- Table 1: Bulk Finds
- Table 2: Small Finds
- Table 3: Pottery

### SECTION 3: LIST OF FIGURES

3.1	Site location plan	15
3.2	Trench location plan	16
3.3	Trench section drawings	17
3.4	Photographic plates	
	• Plate 1: TT3739 (south acing)	18
	• Plate 2: TT3739 (north facing)	18
	• Plate 3: Possible feature [15]	19

## **Summary**

An archaeological field evaluation of land in and around Old Cottage and Water Street Cottage, Lenham, was undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May 1999. This formed part of a wider programme of archaeological investigations commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).

Old Cottage and Water Street Cottage are located in a rural setting approximately 1.5 miles south-east of the village of Lenham. The cottages are mid way between Lenham Heath Road and the M20. The property consists of one standing historic building, which has been divided in two, forming Old and Water Street Cottages. There is also a modern stable block and a garage forming the adjoining curtilage.

In order to mitigate the impact of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, this property is to be dismantled and then rebuilt at the Museum of Kent Life in Maidstone. This evaluation has been undertaken in order to assess the quality and quantity of the surviving archaeology prior to the excavation of the site which will follow the dismantling of the property.

A total of five trenches was excavated. Four were devoid of any archaeological features and one trench (TT 3739) contained the remnants of a collapsed stone wall and a fragment of chalk floor. An Ordnance Survey map of 1867 shows a 'non domestic building' in the same location as this collapsed wall (Martin & Martin 1999). The stone wall and the rammed chalk floor are entirely in keeping with the sort of building that we would expect to be used for livestock.

## **SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 An archaeological field evaluation of land in and around Old Cottage and Water Street Cottage, Lenham, was undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May 1999. This formed part of a wider programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd.
- 1.1.2 The works were commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited and were carried out in accordance with 'Specification for Archaeological Investigations' (URS 1998) prepared by them. The preparation of this report is included within that specification.
- 1.1.3 In order to mitigate the impact of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, this property is to be dismantled and then rebuilt at the Museum of Kent Life in Maidstone.
- 1.1.4 This evaluation has been undertaken in order to assess the quality and quantity of the surviving archaeology prior to the excavation of the site following the dismantling of the property.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

- 2.1.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50 000 sheet 288 (Maidstone 1976), the underlying solid geology of the area is the Hythe Beds with outcrops of Head deposits forming the drift geology.

### **2.2 Topography**

- 2.2.1 Old Cottage and Water Street Cottage are located in a rural setting and are approximately 1.5 miles south-east of the village of Lenham. The cottages are roughly mid way between Lenham Heath Road and the M20.
- 2.2.2 A largely overgrown trackway (Water Street) exists at right angles to Lenham Heath Road, and parallel to the cottages. This has now been cut by the M20, but the field boundaries on the other side of the motorway look as if they follow the original line of this road.

### **2.3 Current land use**

- 2.3.1 The surrounding countryside is fairly flat (from 94.75 to 95.43 metres OD), and is well drained, good quality farmland. The land within the property boundary is fenced off and much of it looks as if it formed a paddock for the stables, which form part of the curtilage.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

#### **3.1 Evaluation objectives**

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were to determine:

- The presence / absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation.
- The presence / and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits.
- The local, regional, national and international importance of such remains, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.

#### **3.2 Evaluation potential**

3.2.1 This evaluation, and the subsequent excavation, gives a rare opportunity to tie-in any archaeological remains, with a standing historic building and further with the surviving documentation of the history of the building.

3.2.2 *An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of Old and Water Street Cottages, Lenham, Kent* was produced for the Museum of Kent Life by David and Barbara Martin (1999). The following is a brief summary of this document:

3.2.3 Title deeds for the property for the period 1649-1842 are held at the Centre for Kentish Studies. The latest deed states that the house 'had for some time been occupied as two dwellings' it further mentions a barn and a stable existing. A tithe map of 1841 shows two linked parallel buildings, one set along Water Street and the other set back slightly (the location of the existing building) as does an O.S. map of 1867.

3.2.4 The earliest work on site dates from the late sixteenth century or very early seventeenth century and consisted of a three-bay, timber-framed building. By 1842, the house had been divided in two, in order to provide a smaller dwelling to the south. Prior to 1867 the parallel northern extension had been added to the building. In the twentieth century Old Cottage was extended northwards causing the destruction of the linked parallel building.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with those methods stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

### **4.2 Surveying**

- 4.1.2 The trenches were surveyed using an EDM and utilising Union Railways permanent ground markers (PGMs) and the trench locations digitally plotted. It was not possible to plot the internal trench in this way, so this was measured from the internal corners of the building using 30m tapes and then planned at 1:20.

### **4.3 Excavation**

- 4.3.1 Four, 5 metre long trenches were excavated around the building and one 2 metre long trench within the building. The total length of the trenches (22m) represents approximately 3% of the evaluation area. The internal trench was entirely hand excavated; the external trenches were cut by a mechanical excavator. After excavation, all trenches were hand cleaned and any possible features were investigated. Following excavation and recording, all trenches were backfilled.

### **4.4 Recording**

- 4.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded on Canterbury Archaeological Trust *pro forma* context sheets. Sections were drawn of all trenches, those without archaeological features at 1:20, and those with features at 1:10.
- 4.4.2 All trenches were photographically recorded on 35mm colour transparency and black and white film.



## **5. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS**

### **5.1 Trench results**

#### **5.1.1 ARC 3736 TT**

Natural was exposed at 0.3m below the present ground surface (95.28m OD). Here the natural took the form of light orangy brown, hard, clay.

#### **5.1.2 ARC 3737 TT**

Natural was exposed at 0.3m below the present ground level (95.43m OD). The natural here was a light orangy / reddish brown, hard, sandy clay.

#### **5.1.3 ARC 3738 TT**

Natural was exposed at 0.3m below the present ground level (95.28m OD). The natural here was light orangy brown, hard, sandy clay.

#### **5.1.4 ARC 3739 TT**

Present ground level in this trench was 94.91m OD. This trench was much disturbed by modern activity, especially at the far, eastern end, which contained a great deal of corroded iron. The trench also contained two cable trenches for modern services. There was a possible post-hole immediately underneath one of these cable trenches, but it is more likely that this was simply some form of soil staining or a variation in the natural (plate 3, page 19). The trench contained the collapse of a stone wall (context number 17), consisting of large (up to 0.35m x 35m x 20m) sub-angular and sub-rounded ragstone in a silty topsoil-type matrix. Under this deposit was a fragment of a chalk surface (plates 1 & 2, page 18) which appeared to be a rammed chalk floor (context number 18). Additionally, there were two deposits (contexts 19 and 20) which were possible make up layers for the structure as a whole. These features were located in the area of the non-domestic building shown on the 1867 OS map.

#### **5.1.5 ARC 3740 TT**

This trench was located inside the building. The OS level of the floor was 95.15m. The rotten wooden floor was removed to expose the sandy clay natural 0.14m below. A section of modern brickwork supporting one of the floor joists was exposed. This consisted of one course of bricks, one brick wide, laid end to end, set in cement and laid directly on top of the natural clay. The natural clay was hand excavated to a depth of 0.25m throughout the entire 2.0m x 1.8m trench. One corner of the trench measuring 0.68m x 0.75m was excavated a further 0.4m (a total depth of 0.9m from the top of the wooden floor) in order to be certain that the clay was natural. Here the natural was composed of mid orangey brown, hard, sandy clay.

## **SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE**

### **6. SUMMARY OF TRENCH RESULTS**

#### **6.1 Geology**

- 6.1.1 The geology exposed in each trench was entirely consistent with the known geology of the area.

#### **6.2 Archaeological features**

- 6.2.1 Four of the five trial trenches contained no archaeological features: TT3736, TT3737, TT3738, and TT3740. A small quantity of pottery was recovered from the topsoil layers in these deposits, see Appendix III.
- 6.2.2 The internal trench (TT 3740), perhaps surprisingly, showed no evidence of earlier structural elements within the building. The absence of structural evidence in this trench would seem to suggest that the present building has truncated any possible earlier features. Having said that, this trench was entirely composed of natural clay and was excavated down to 94.23m OD, whereas the wall in TT3739 was encountered at 94.54m OD.
- 6.2.3 One trench (TT3739) was much disturbed by modern activity, but contained the remnants of a collapsed stone wall and a fragment of a rammed chalk surface (Plates 1 & 2, page 18 and Section Drawing on page 17, contexts 17 & 18). This presumably relates to the non-domestic building shown on the 1867 OS map. The remnants of the wall were in a silty, topsoil-like matrix, with no evidence of any mortar. It seems likely; therefore, that the building was demolished with no attempt made to clear away much of the rubble or to reuse the stone elsewhere.
- 6.2.4 There was enough evidence from TT3739 to suggest a fairly solidly constructed building with a rammed chalk floor. This kind of structure is entirely in keeping with a barn for livestock.

## **7. IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**

### **7.1 Survival and conditions**

- 7.1.1 Four of the five trenches contained no archaeological features but trench TT3739 located at the northern end of the standing building contained the remnants of a collapsed stone wall and a fragment of a rammed chalk surface. There was a possible cut feature although it was felt that this was more likely to be natural soil staining. This was assigned cut 15 (Plate 3).

### **7.2 Period**

- 7.2.1 The remains located in Trench TT3739 probably related to the non-domestic building shown on the 1867 OS map.

### **7.3 Fragility and vulnerability**

- 7.3.1 Any intrusive work undertaken in connection with the CTRL will affect any surviving archaeological features.

### **7.4 Diversity**

- 7.4.1 The only archaeological features exposed during the evaluation were thought to relate to the building shown on the 1867 OS map.

### **7.5 Potential**

- 7.5.1 It cannot be stated for certain that no features from an earlier structure or phase of activity survive beneath the current standing building or in its immediate vicinity.

### **7.6 Conclusions and recommendations**

- 7.6.1 This structure has been extensively disturbed by twentieth-century activity.
- 7.6.2 Considering the archaeological potential of the site and the fact that it cannot be stated for certain that there are no features from an earlier structure the following recommendations are made:
- That once the building has been moved, the area beneath it and some of the surrounding area is stripped by machine and any features excavated and recorded.
  - That the area stripped and excavated is extended towards the north to investigate further the stone wall and chalk surface seen in TT 3739.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1976, *1:50 000 Map sheet 288 (Maidstone)*.

Martin, D. & Martin, B. 1999, *An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of: Old and Water Street Cottages, Lenham, Kent*. Archaeology South-East.

Smart, J. G. O., Bisson, G. and Worssam, B. C., 1966, *Geology of the Country Around Canterbury and Folkestone (Combined memoir in explanation of One inch Geological sheets 289,305 & 306.)*, Natural Environmental Research Council.

URL 1998, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Ground Investigations Phase V S400 (400-RUG-RLEVC-00006-AA)*, Union Railways (South) Limited.

**Appendix I Kent Sites and Monuments Record Sheet**

<b>Site Name:</b> Water Street Cottage		
<b>Site Code:</b> ARC WSC 99		
<b>Summary:</b> An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, between 26 <sup>th</sup> April and 5 <sup>th</sup> May 1999, of land around Old and Water Street Cottages, Lenham, Kent. This formed part of a programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Link, and was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited.		
<b>Periods :(v)</b>  <b>Neolithic</b> <b>Bronze Age</b> <b>Iron Age</b>	<b>Roman</b> <b>Saxon</b> <b>Medieval</b> <b>Post Medieval v</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Cent +v</b>	<b>Other (specify)</b>
<b>NGR Easting</b> 590617 (central)		<b>NGR Northing</b> 149773 (central)
<b>Type of Fieldwork : (v)</b>  <b>Evaluation v</b> <b>Excavation</b> <b>Watching Brief</b>		<b>Geophysical Survey</b> <b>Field Walking</b> <b>Measured Survey</b>
<b>Date of Fieldwork (From)</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> April 1999		<b>(To)</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> May 1999
<b>Contractor:</b> <div style="text-align: center;"> Canterbury Archaeological Trust  92A Broad Street. Canterbury. Kent.CT1 2LU  Tel: (01227) 462062 Fax: (01227) 784724 </div>		
<b>Summary of Field Results:</b>  Five trenches were excavated, archaeological features being identified in one trench. This trench contained the remnants of a collapsed wall, and a portion of chalk floor, although these had been disturbed by modern activity. These features almost certainly relate to a non-domestic structure which is shown in this location on an OS map of 1867.		
<b>Sheet summarised from:</b> Evaluation of land around Old and Water Street Cottages, Lenham, Kent. <b>Canterbury Archaeological Trust Evaluation Report 1999</b> Author: Mick Diack		
<b>Compiler:</b> Mick Diack		<b>Date:</b> 19th June 1999

**Appendix II: Archaeological Context Inventory**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Period</b>
1	3740	Deposit	Wooden floor	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
2	3740	Deposit	Modern brickwork	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
3	3740	Deposit	Natural	x
4	3737	Deposit	Topsoil	x
5	3737	Deposit	Natural	x
6	3736	Deposit	Topsoil	1475-1550 (residual)
7	3736	Deposit	Natural	x
8	3738	Deposit	Topsoil	1725-1750/75 (residual)
9	3738	Deposit	Natural	x
10	3739	Fill	Modern cable trench fill	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
11	3739	Cut	Modern cable trench cut	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
12	3739	Fill	Modern cable trench fill	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
13	3739	Cut	Modern cable trench cut	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
14	3739	Fill?	Post-hole/Natural feature fill	?
15	3739	Cut?	Post-hole/Natural feature cut	?
16	3739	Deposit	Topsoil	x
17	3739	Deposit	Collapsed wall	Pre 1867
18	3739	Deposit	Chalk floor	Pre 1867
19	3739	Deposit	Make up layer?	Pre 1867
20	3739	Deposit	Make up layer?	Pre 1867
21	3739	Deposit	Natural	x
22	3739	Deposit	Modern layer	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent.
23	3739	Deposit	Modern disturbance (several layers)	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent
24	3739	Deposit	Modern disturbance (several layers)	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent

**Appendix III: finds****Table 1: Bulk Finds**

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Find No.</b>	<b>Dsk</b>
TR. 3740	1	Pottery	1	15		1	k
TR. 3740	1	Med Roof Tile	1	35	plain	2	d
TR. 3736	6	Pottery	1	5		9	k
TR. 3738	8	Pottery	11	330		5	k
TR. 3738	8	Clay Pipes	5	20	stems	10	k
TR. 3738	8	Roman Tile	5	20		6	d
TR. 3738	8	Post Med Brick	3	370		7	d
TR. 3738	8	Bone	7	215		8	k
TR. 3739	12	Med Roof Tile	1	5	plain	3	d
TR. 3739	12	Glass	3	20	clear ?jar fragments	4	k

**Table 2: Small Finds**

<b>Con No.</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Find No.</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Dsk</b>
23	Stone	1	>2kg	11	Circular grindstone with square perforation in centre.	k

**Table 3: Pottery**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>No. of Sherds</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fabric</b>
(1)	1	c.1825-1850/75	Staffordshire white earthenware with blue transfer printing ('Willow Pattern')	LPM14
(6)	1	c.1475-1550	Worn body sherd, late medieval Wealden Buff Sandy Ware	LM4
(8)	1	1725-1750/75	Staffordshire White Salt Glazed Stoneware. Cup/bowl.	PM26A
(8)	1	1725-1750/75	German Westerwald Stoneware. Jug?	PM6
(8)	1	1725-1750/75	Tin Glazed Earthenware: White. Ointment jar.	PM9.W
(8)	1	1725-1750/75	Tin Glazed Earthenware: Blue Painted. Saucer/tea bowl.	PM9.B
(8)	4	1725-1750/75	Post-Medieval Red Earthware. Includes chamberpot base.	PM1
(8)	2	1725-1750/75	Wealden Fine Sandy Earthenware. Jar base.	PM2.2
(8)	1	1725-1750/75	Calcareous 'Peppered' Smooth Ware. Body sherd.	PM64
(8)	5	1725-1750/75	Clay pipe stems	x