

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

**Project Area 330**

**ASHENBANK WOOD ARMY CAMP  
ARC AWC 98**

**STANDING BUILDING SURVEY  
INTERIM REPORT**

**Contract No. S/300/0052**

**MUSEUM OF LONDON**

**Museum of London Archaeology Service**

**September 1999**

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
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INTERIM REPORT**

Prepared by:
Date:
Checked by:
Date:
Approved by:
Position:
Date:

**Contract No. S/300/052**

**Museum of London Archaeology Service  
87 Queen Victoria Street  
London EC4V 4AB**

**September 1999**

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd (URS) to undertake a detailed standing building survey of the military buildings affected by the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) at Ashenbank Wood, situated just south of the A2 London to Dover road, west of Halfpence Lane Cobham, Kent (site code ARC AWC 98, Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigations carried out in advance of the construction of the CTRL. The site is centred on Union Railways Limited grid point 47800 49600 and NGR grid point TQ 6750 6970.
- 1.1.3 The survey took place in September 1998 and only included those structures in the area to be affected by the CTRL. The work was also in advance of woodland clearance and vegetation masked much of the low, brick walls noted so that the true forms of the buildings were not clear. This document reports on the pre-clearance survey only and does not include additional information gained during the CTRL Package 330 Watching Brief.

## 1.2 Description of work

- 1.2.1 The primary research aim is to provide a written and drawn record of all Second World War (WWII) buildings suitable for National Monument Record archiving.
- 1.2.2 All of the structures were recorded in accordance with Level 2 of 'Recording Historic Buildings A Descriptive Specification' as provided by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England, 1996, Third Edition which is based on the standards supplied by the Council of Europe.
- 1.2.3 All buildings or structural elements that could have dated from the military phase of the site were numbered and recorded. The structures consisted of four air raid shelters and the slight remains of some brick foundations, indicating the presence of perhaps three other buildings (all previously located by Smith, 1998). The air raid shelters were the only reasonably complete structures surviving, and all were of standard concrete panel construction with brick staircases.
- 1.2.4 For each structure a record sheet was completed. The survey was purely visual and some structures were unsafe to enter and therefore a more limited record was made. Military historian Victor Smith was consulted and visited the site.
- 1.2.5 A photographic record of the structures was made. These included both colour slide and black and white prints. The location of the site in woodland with dense undergrowth hampered the location of the structures and foundations and made detailed survey impractical. Further detail location was later undertaken during the Package 330 Watching Brief.

### 1.3 BIBLIOGRAPHY

For further information and background history of the Army Camp :

Smith V, 1998 *The Camps at Ashenbank Wood, Cobham* Gravesend Historical Society and New Tavern Fort Project

Other works:

Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England, 1996 '*Recording Historic Buildings A Descriptive Specification*'

URL (Union Railways Limited), 1994 *Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects, Final Report* (prepared by Oxford Archaeological Unit)

**APPENDIX 1 - ARCHIVE INDEX**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ITEMS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS</b>	<b>CONDITION (No. of items)</b> (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	6		
A1 plans			
A4 plans	1		
A1 sections			
A4 sections			
Small finds (boxes)			
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	1PR		
Films (Colour) S=slide; PR=print	1S		
Flint (boxes)			
Pottery (boxes)			
Fired clay (boxes)			
CBM (boxes)			
Stone (boxes)			
Metalwork (boxes)			
Glass (boxes)			
Slag (boxes)			
Human Bone (boxes)			
Animal Bone (boxes)			
Soil Samples (No.)			
Soil Samples (bags/tubs)			
Soil Samples (Monolith/kubina tin)			

## **APPENDIX 2 - INTERIM SUMMARY REPORT**

The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake a standing building survey at Ashenbank Wood Army Camp, Kent (site code ARC AWC 98). This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigations carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). The site is centred on URS grid point 47800 E 49600 N and NGR grid point TQ 675697.

The site comprised several second World War army camps which had been demolished to the foundations. The works consisted of a brief overview of those structures due to be affected by the construction of the CTRL. Due to the height of vegetation only the partial foundations of three buildings and four air raid shelters were recorded.

## 2 appendix 3: Kent SMR Record Sheet

<b>Site Name:</b> Ashenbank Wood Army Camp, Kent			
<b>Site code:</b> ARC AWC 98			
<b>Summary:</b> Building survey of some of the Second World War structures located in Ashenbank Wood due to be affected by the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited.			
<b>District:</b> Gravesham		<b>Parish:</b> Cobham CP	
<b>Period(s):</b>  1. <b>Modern</b> - Second World War 1930 - 1950			
<b>NGR (to centre):</b>		100 km ref: TQ	
<b>NGR Easting</b> 6380		<b>NGR Northing</b> 7110	
<b>Type of Recording:</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Watching-Brief</b>	<b>Field-Walking</b>
(Delete)	<b>Excavation</b>	<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	<b>Measured Survey</b>
<b>Date of Recording: (From)</b> September 1998		<b>(To)</b> October 1998	
<b>Unit Undertaking Recording:</b>  Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB			
<b>Summary of Field Results:</b>  Building foundations and a number of air raid shelters were recorded in dense woodland.			
<b>Location of Archive/Finds:</b>		MoLAS temporarily	
<b>Bibliography:</b> Smith V, 1998 <i>The Camps at Ashenbank Wood</i> , Cobham Gravesend Historical Society and New Tavern Fort Project  URL 1994 <i>Channel Tunnel Rail Link, assessment of historic and cultural effects, final report</i> (Oxford Archaeological Unit), vol 1,  URS 1999 <i>Ashenbank Wood Bottom Army Camp (ARC AWC 98) Interim report</i> , Museum of London Archaeology Service			
<b>Summary Compiler:</b> Julian Ayre			<b>Date:</b> 26 July 1999