

Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
Union Railways Ltd

# Brockton Farm, Charing, Kent

ARC BRO 98

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contract No. 194/870

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 28

Oxford Archaeological Unit

December 1998

© UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED, 1997

All rights including translation reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Union Railways Limited.

**UNION RAILWAYS LTD**

**BROCKTON FARM, CHARING, KENT**

**ARC BRO 98**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***

**Environmental Statement Route Window No. 28**

**OS GRID TQ 9220 4890**

**Contract No. 194/870**

**REPORT**

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

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

December 1998

## BROCKTON FARM, CHARING, KENT

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### CONTENTS

	<i>SUMMARY</i> .....	1
	<b>SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT</b>	
1	BACKGROUND .....	2
1.1	Introduction.....	2
1.2	Geology, landscape and landuse.....	2
1.3	Archaeological background.....	2
2	AIMS .....	3
3	METHODS.....	3
3.1	General .....	3
3.2	Survey.....	3
3.3	Excavation.....	4
3.4	Recording .....	4
4	RESULTS.....	4
4.1	Presentation of results .....	4
4.2	General stratigraphy.....	4
4.3	Summary of archaeology .....	5
4.4	Site archive.....	5
5	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS.....	5
5.1	Western field - Trenches 3212TT - 3219TT .....	5
5.2	Central field - Trenches 3220TT and 3221TT .....	8
5.3	Eastern field - Trenches 3222TT-3228TT and 3492TT-3493TT.....	9
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY .....	12
	<b>SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE</b>	
7	CONCLUSIONS .....	15
7.1	Extent of archaeological deposits .....	15
7.2	Date and character .....	15
7.3	Environmental evidence .....	15
8	IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS.....	16
8.1	Survival/condition.....	16
8.2	Period .....	16
8.3	Rarity .....	16
8.4	Fragility/vulnerability .....	16
8.5	Diversity .....	17
8.6	Documentation .....	17
8.7	Group value.....	17
8.8	Potential.....	17
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	18

*List of Appendices*

Appendix 1: The Glass.....	19
Appendix 2: The Pottery.....	20
Appendix 3: The Animal Bone.....	21
Appendix 4: The Building Materials .....	22
Appendix 5: The Clay Pipe.....	23

*List of Figures*

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench locations and archaeological interpretation
Fig. 3	Detail of Trenches 3215TT-3222TT
Fig.4	Trenches 3215TT-3222TT; sections
Fig.5	Trenches 3212TT, 3224TT and 3228TT; plans and sections

*List of Tables*

Table 1	Context list and associated finds
Table 2	Fragments of glass by context
Table 3	Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per ware type per context
Table 4	Occurrence of animal bone by context
Table 5	Ceramic building material by weight (in g) per context
Table 6	Fragments of clay pipe by context

## **BROCKTON FARM, CHARING, KENT**

### ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***

#### ***SUMMARY***

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Union Railways Ltd to conduct a field evaluation of 5.4 ha of land in the vicinity of Brockton Farm, (NGR TQ 9220 4890). The work formed part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The site is located to the north of the River Great Stour floodplain and included areas of colluvium. The underlying geology was a mixture of Pleistocene drift deposits overlying the solid geology of the Cretaceous, Lower Greensand Sandgate Beds.*

*Nineteen evaluation trenches were excavated across three arable fields. Ten trenches contained archaeological features, predominantly pits, ditches and gullies. Very little dating evidence was recovered, the majority of which was post-medieval in date. Most of the features were probably associated with post-medieval agricultural activities. Two gullies were found, sealed by colluvium, which may have been prehistoric, although neither produced dating evidence.*

## **SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation between the 3rd and 13th August, 1997 on behalf of Union Railways Ltd (URL), on land near Charing Heath in Kent (NGR TQ 9220 4890). The site (Fig. 1) lies in the parish of Charing, to the north of the Great Stour River and between the M20 motorway and the Ashford-Maidstone Railway. The evaluation forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), the aim of which is to assess the affect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage. The site lies within Environmental Statement Route Window No. 28.

1.1.2 The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by URL, detailing the scope and methods of the evaluation, including this report. The area of the evaluation is shown on Figure 2.

#### **1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse**

1.2.1 The site consisted of three arable fields to the west, north and east of Brockton Farm. All three fields were planted with barley at the time of excavation. The westernmost field was harvested before machining started, while the remaining trenches were excavated through the crop.

1.2.2 Brockton Farm, Brockton Oast and Brockton Cottage are all situated on a north-south aligned ridge, from which the land falls away to the west and to the east. There is a shallow stream at the foot of the easternmost field.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the area, as recorded in the Geological Survey of Great Britain (Ordnance Survey, Sheet 288, 1976), is complex. The Pleistocene drift geology consists of 4th Terrace river gravels and Head Brickearth. The underlying solid geology is recorded as Cretaceous Lower Greensand Sandgate Beds.

1.2.4 Holocene colluvial deposits were recorded in seven trenches (3212TT, 3213TT, 3223TT, 3224TT, 3225TT, 3226TT and 3227TT).

#### **1.3 Archaeological background**

1.3.1 The OAU numbers listed below refer to Volumes 2 and 3 of *Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report* (URL 1994). Mesolithic, Neolithic, late Iron Age and Roman finds have been recovered from a sand quarry near to Hurst Wood (OAU No. 1078). To the west of Hurst Wood and east of Newlands, surface

collection (URL 1995) revealed scatters of prehistoric worked flint (OAU Nos. 1815 and 1816) (URL 1994).

- 1.3.2 The Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (URL 1994) identified the unlisted Brockton Cottages, (OAU No. 169) as 18th to 19th Century in date and of local interest because they encroach upon the former Charing Heath.
- 1.3.3 Brockton Farm (OAU No. 170) is a complex of farm buildings of 17th century or later date. The farm is Grade II listed and of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin although the house was extended, refaced and extensively rebuilt in the early 19th century. It is possible that the farm replaced an earlier building. The most important of the Brockton Farm buildings is a 17th century aisled barn, (OAU No. 171), probably built at the same time as the house and listed Grade II. Brockton Oast (OAU No. 173) is 19th century in date, with two circular hop-kilns.

## **2 AIMS**

- 2.1 The Written Scheme of Investigations outlined the general aims of the evaluation which are set out below:
  - 2.2.1 To determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation;
  - 2.2.2 To determine the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits;
  - 2.2.3 To determine 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 METHODS**

### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation for the programme of evaluations was agreed by Union Railways Limited with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following is intended only to amplify certain aspects of the evaluation methodology.

### **3.2 Survey**

- 3.2.1 The proposed trench locations were supplied by Union Railways Ltd. (URL). Access could not be arranged for surveying prior to machining and so the trenches were laid out by hand. The trench locations were subsequently surveyed by P H Matts, Building & Civil Engineering Land Survey (Reading). The trenches have been plotted (Fig. 2) using the AutoCAD graphics

programme. The overall site plan shows the URL local site grid, which differs from the National Grid.

### **3.3 Excavation**

- 3.3.1 Nineteen trenches, each 30 m by 1.9 m, were excavated across the site. Trenches were generally excavated to a depth not exceeding 1.2 m, the maximum permitted depth for the trench width. Soil was removed mechanically, generally to the top of archaeologically significant deposits. In areas of colluvial deposition, layers were carefully removed by machine. All finds were retained and recorded by layer.
- 3.3.2 Where archaeological deposits were present the trenches were hand-cleaned as necessary. Where archaeological deposits were clearly absent, hand-cleaning was kept to the minimum consistent with recording the deposits present. Following on site discussion with the director's representative a proportion of the features in Trenches 3215TT, 3216TT, 3219TT, and 3221TT were not excavated once the majority of similar features had been dated to the post-medieval period.
- 3.3.3 Modern field drains were encountered in many of the trenches. In order to avoid damage to the drains parts of some trenches had to be left at a higher level.

### **3.4 Recording**

- 3.4.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). A unique numbering system was employed for the whole site. Plans were drawn at 1:100 or 1:50. Sections were drawn at 1:20. All evaluation records were prefaced by the site code ARC BRO 98.
- 3.4.2 All trenches and archaeological features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Presentation of results**

- 4.1.1 Descriptions of individual trenches are presented in Section 5. They are grouped together by field (western, central and eastern). A summary of contexts and finds is given in the archaeological context inventory (Section 6). Detailed specialist reports on the pottery, ceramic building materials, stone, glass and animal bone are given in Appendices 1-5.

### **4.2 General stratigraphy**

*Modern*

- 4.2.1 Modern ploughsoil was encountered in all trenches and varied between 0.2 m and 0.40 m in depth across the site. Modern field drains were encountered in many trenches across the site.

*Colluvial deposits*

- 4.2.2 Colluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 3212TT, 3213TT in the western field and Trenches 3223TT, 3224TT, 3225TT, 3226TT and 3227TT in the eastern field. The depth of the colluvial deposits increased downslope to a maximum depth of 0.86 m. The colluvium varied in colour from a mid red brown to a light yellow brown clay silt. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the colluvium.

### **4.3 Summary of archaeology**

- 4.3.1 Two gullies, in Trenches 3212TT and 3224TT, were found to be sealed by colluvium. Neither of the features produced any artefactual material. The depth of colluvium overlying the gullies, in excess of 1 m in both instances, may indicate an early, possibly prehistoric date.
- 4.3.2 Two sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved during the evaluation. One sherd, from Pit 1006 in Trench 3222TT, was found in association with post-medieval material and was certainly residual. The second sherd, from Pit 414 in Trench 3216TT, was found together with four fragments of tile of possible Roman date. It is possible that the pit was Roman in date, however its proximity to post medieval features suggests the finds may be residual.
- 4.3.3 In the western field, a large number of shallow pits, ditches and gullies were recorded. Five features produced post-medieval or modern artefacts. The remaining features were undated, but the character of their fills suggests that they were also of recent origin.
- 4.3.4 In the central field two pits, two ditches and a gully were excavated. One further pit was recorded as a soilmark, but not excavated. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features.
- 4.3.5 In the eastern field a pit and two gullies were excavated. Pit 1006 in 3222TT produced post-medieval material.

### **4.4 Site Archive**

- 4.4.1 The site archive has been compiled in accordance with specifications prepared by URL. It includes six digital data sets for the Fieldwork Event, Contexts, Bulk Finds, Small Finds, Environmental Samples and Graphical Output.

## **5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS**

## 5.1 Western field - Trenches 3212TT to 3219TT

5.1.1 The modern ploughsoil was from 0.24 m to 0.35m thick across the field.

### *Trench 3212TT (Fig. 5)*

5.1.2 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 1 m. A layer of orange brown clay silt (3) was exposed in the base of the trench. This was cut by a north-west to south-east orientated gully (5). The gully was between 0.7 m and 1 m wide, varied in depth between 0.24 m and 0.40 m and had a V-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid greenish grey silty clay (4). No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

5.1.3 Gully 5 was sealed beneath a 0.7 m thick colluvial deposit (2). The colluvium consisted of mid red brown, silty clay, with occasional chalk inclusions. It was 0.68 m. wide and the depth is estimated at 0.50 m. The gully was not fully excavated so as not to exceed a safe working depth of 1.2 m.

### *Trench 3213TT*

5.1.4 This trench was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.4 m at the south-east end increasing to 0.8 north-west end. Layer 103, found in the base of the trench was a light yellow brown, silty clay, forming part of the Sandgate Beds. Layer 103 was overlain by a layer of colluvium (102) which was a light brown clay silt that increased in depth from 0.1 m to 0.6 m downslope.

### *Trench 3214TT*

5.1.5 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.3 m, exposing a light yellow brown silty clay (202), forming part of the Sandgate Beds.

### *Trench 3215TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

5.1.8 This trench was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35 m. A layer of mottled light grey brown and mid orange brown, silty clay (303) was exposed at the base of the trench, forming part of the Sandgate Beds. Lenses of flint gravel (302) were found overlying Layer 303. It is possible that the flint gravel was a remnant Pleistocene deposit. Six features cut Layer 303.

5.1.9 Pit or Ditch terminus 304 measured 1.33 m from east to west, 1.8 m from north to south and 0.23 m deep. It extended beneath the eastern trench edge. It was filled with mid grey brown silty clay (305). A 19th-century copper alloy button was recovered from the fill, together with brick and tile.

5.1.10 Ditch 306 was 1.36 m wide, 0.35 m deep and was orientated from north to south. It contained one fill (307) a light grey brown, silty clay with frequent chalk flecks. Post-medieval tile, clay pipe and ironwork was recovered from the ditch.

5.1.11 Gully 308, 0.4 m wide and 0.25 m deep, was orientated approximately from north to south. It was filled with a grey silty clay with frequent flint inclusions (309). No artefacts were recovered.

- 5.1.12 Ditch 310 was 1.45 m wide and 0.22m deep and terminated within the trench. It was filled with a mid grey brown, silty clay (311). No finds were recovered from the ditch.
- 5.1.13 Pit or Ditch terminus 312 extended beyond the southern trench edge. It was 0.88 m from east to west, 0.35 m from north to south and 0.26 m deep. It was filled with a mid grey brown, silty clay (313). No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.14 Soil mark 314 was not excavated. However, it is likely to have been a pit or ditch terminus, extending beneath the southern trench edge. It was 1.6 m wide, east-west and 0.60 m long, north-south.

*Trench 3216TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

- 5.1.15 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.5 m. A reddish brown silty clay layer (402) was exposed in the base of the trench, forming part of the Sandgate Beds. This layer was overlain by lenses of flint gravel, similar to those in Trench 3215TT. Layer 402 was cut by eight features.
- 5.1.16 Ditch 406 was 0.6 m wide and 0.7 m deep and terminated within the trench. It was orientated from east to west and was filled with a mid yellow brown, silty clay (407). No artefacts were recovered. Ditch 406 was cut by Furrow 405.
- 5.1.17 Furrow 405 was 5 m wide and 0.5 m deep. It was aligned from east to west and contained Fills 403 and 404. Fill 403 was a mid yellow brown, silty clay which overlay Fill 404, a pale brown chalky silt. Both fills produced post-medieval tile and glass as well as fragments of burnt clay.
- 5.1.18 Ditch 408 was 3 m wide and 0.3 m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained three fills, 409, 410 and 411. Fill 409 was a mid yellow brown, silty clay. Fill 410 was a mid red brown, sandy clay. Fill 411 was a dark yellow brown, silty clay. No artefacts were retrieved from the ditch. Ditch 408 was cut by Ditch 412.
- 5.1.19 Ditch 412 was 1.7 m wide and was orientated from east to west. The ditch was filled with a mid yellow brown silty clay, Fill 413. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.20 Pit 414 was 2 m wide, 0.3m deep and extended beneath the southern trench edge. It contained a mid yellow brown silty clay (415), which produced a sherd of Roman pottery and four fragments of tile which are possibly of the same date.
- 5.1.21 Pit 416 was 2 m long from north to south, 1m wide from east to west and 0.25 m deep. It contained a dark brown, silty clay (417), which produced post-medieval tile.
- 5.1.22 Pit or Ditch terminus 418 was 1.4 m wide, 0.5 m deep and it extended beneath the southern baulk. It was filled with mid yellow brown, silty clay (419) which

produced post-medieval tile. A possible ditch cut (424), which may be a land drain, was left unexcavated.

- 5.1.23 Three areas of mid yellow brown, silty clay were recorded, (420, 421 and 423) overlying Layer 402; it is likely that each was a pit.

*Trench 3217TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

- 5.1.24 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.40 m. A layer of mid red brown clay silt (503) was exposed at the base of the trench, forming part of the Sandgate Beds. Layer 503 was overlain by lenses of flint gravel (502). It is possible that the flint gravel was a remnant Pleistocene deposit. Two ditches cut Layer 503.

- 5.1.25 Ditch 506 terminated in the trench and extended beneath the northern trench edge. The ditch was 0.90 m wide and 0.40 m deep and it contained two fills. The upper fill (504) was a light grey brown, silty clay. The lower fill (505) was a light grey, silty clay with frequent flint gravel inclusions. Neither fill produced artefactual material.

- 5.1.26 Ditch 507 was 0.75 m wide and 0.2 m deep and it contained two fills. The upper fill (509), was a light grey brown, silty clay. The lower fill (510) was a light grey, silty clay with frequent flint gravel inclusions. Neither fill produced artefactual material.

*Trench 3218TT (Fig. 3)*

- 5.1.27 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.36 m. A layer of mid orange brown clay silt (603) was revealed in the base of the trench, forming part of the Sandgate Beds. It was overlain by occasional lenses of flint gravel (602) which may have been remnant Pleistocene deposits.

*Trench 3219TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

- 5.1.28 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.4 m. Layer 702, a mottled orange brown, sandy clay, was revealed at the base of the trench and was probably part of the Sandgate Beds. Three pits cut Layer 702.

- 5.1.29 Pit 705 extended beneath the southern trench edge. It was 1.8 m long and 0.3 m deep and contained two fills, 703 and 704. The upper fill (703) was a light brown silt. The lower fill (704) was a light grey, chalky silt. No artefacts were recovered from the pit.

- 5.1.30 Pit 707 was 1.1 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep. It was filled with a light grey, chalky silt (706). No artefacts were recovered from the pit.

- 5.1.31 Pit 709 measured 1.4 m east to west, 1.1 m north to south and 0.3 m deep. It was filled with a light grey, chalky silt (708). No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

5.1.32 Soilmark 710 was recorded but not excavated. It was a lens of light grey, chalky silt and is likely to have been a pit, similar to Pits 705, 707 and 709.

## **5.2 Central field - Trenches 3220TT and 3221TT**

5.2.1 The modern ploughsoil was from 0.2 m to 0.4 m thick across the field.

### *Trench 3220TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

5.2.2 This trench was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40 m. The top of the Sandgate Beds, a mid yellowish orange silty clay (802) was exposed in the base of the trench. Layer 802 was cut by a ditch, a pit and a tree-throw hole.

5.2.3 Ditch 804 was 1.35 m wide, 0.3 m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. The ditch contained a white, chalky silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions (803). No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

5.2.4 Pit 808 measured 1.6 m from north-west to south-east, 0.93 m from north-east to south-west and was 0.26 m deep. It was filled with light grey clay silt (807) which produced no finds.

5.2.5 Tree throw hole 806 was 0.90 m long, 0.55m wide and 0.1 m deep. It had irregular edges and was filled with a mid brownish grey clay silt (807).

### *Trench 3221TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

5.2.6 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.28 m. The Sandgate Beds (903) were exposed in the base of the trench and were overlain by lenses of flint gravel. One gully, a ditch, a tree-throw hole and a natural depression cut Layer 903 and were excavated. A further linear feature was recorded as a soil mark but not excavated.

5.2.7 Gully 906 was 0.5 m wide, 0.2 m deep and was orientated from east to west. It was filled with mid grey brown, clay silt (907) which produced no artefacts.

5.2.8 Ditch 908 was 1.2 m wide, 0.6 m deep and orientated from east to west. It was filled with chalky grey silt (909), which produced no finds.

5.2.9 Tree-throw hole 904 was 1.10 m long, 0.60 m wide and was filled with mid grey brown clay silt (905). The edges of the feature were irregular and undercut. No artefacts were retrieved from the feature.

5.2.10 A linear soilmark (912) was recorded in the centre of the trench, but not excavated. It was a mid grey brown, clay silt and is likely to have been a ditch.

## **5.3 Eastern field - Trenches 3222TT-3228TT and 3492-3493TT**

5.3.1 The modern ploughsoil was from 0.2 m to 0.35 m thick across the field.

### *Trench 3222TT (Figs 3 and 4)*

- 5.3.2 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.30 m. An orange brown clay silt (1003) was exposed in the base of the trench and was overlain by occasional lenses of flint gravel (1002). Layer 1003 was cut by a pit and a possible gully.
- 5.3.3 Pit 1006 extended beneath the eastern trench edge. It was 3.1 m long, 0.50 m deep and contained two fills (1004 and 1005). Fill 1004 was a dark grey brown clay silt which overlay Fill 1005, an orange brown silty clay. Both fills produced post-medieval artefacts
- 5.3.4 Gully 1008 was an extremely vague feature. It was 0.60 m wide and 0.06 m deep and was filled with a light orange grey, sandy clay.

*Trench 3223TT*

- 5.3.5 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.8 m. A layer of light orange brown, silty clay (1103) was exposed in the base of the trench and interpreted as Pleistocene Head Brickearth. Layer 1103 was overlain by a light yellow brown, clay silt colluvium (1102) which varied in thickness from 0.25 m to 0.5 m.

*Trench 3224TT (Fig. 5)*

- 5.3.6 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 0.8 m. A dark red-brown sandy clay layer (1206) was exposed in the base of the trench and was interpreted as Pleistocene Head Brickearth. Two colluvial layers were recorded within the trench (1203 and 1204). Layer 1204 consisted of a mid red-brown silty clay. Layer 1203 overlay Layer 1204 and was of similar character, but was lighter in colour. Both colluvial layers were *c.* 0.12 m thick.
- 5.3.7 Gully 1208 cut Layer 1203 and was sealed by Layer 1202. The gully was 0.28 m wide, 0.1 m deep and it was orientated from north-east to south-west. It was filled with mid brownish grey, clay silt.

*Trench 3225TT*

- 5.3.8 This trench was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. Two colluvial layers were recorded, the lower of which (1303) was not fully excavated. Layer 1303 was a mid red brown, clay silt which was more than 0.20 m thick. The overlying layer (1302) was a mid red grey, clay silt which varied in thickness from 0.7 m to 0.86 m.

*Trench 3226TT*

- 5.3.9 This trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 1 m. A layer of light orange brown, clay silt (1403) was exposed in the base of the trench, which was interpreted as Pleistocene Head Brickearth. Layer 1403 was overlain by light yellow brown, silty clay colluvium (1402) which was an average of 0.5 m thick.

*Trench 3227TT*

- 5.3.10 This trench was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1 m. A layer of greenish clay sand (1503) was exposed in the base of the trench and was probably part of the Sandgate Beds. Overlying Layer 1503 was band of light brown, clay silt colluvium (1502) which varied in thickness from 0.35 m to 0.5 m.

*Trench 3228TT (Fig. 5)*

- 5.3.11 This trench was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35 m. A layer of reddish brown clay sand (1602) was exposed in the base of the trench, overlain by occasional flint lenses (1603). It is thought that these layers represent Pleistocene Head Brickearth, overlain by remnant Pleistocene gravels. Layer 1602 was cut by a shallow gully (1604).

- 5.3.12 Gully 1604 was 0.75 m wide, 0.2 m deep and orientated east-west. The gully was filled with light grey brown silty clay (1605). No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

*Trench 3492TT*

- 5.3.13 This trench was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4 m. Layer 1703 was exposed in the base of the trench and consisted of mid orange brown, silty clay, which was interpreted as the surface of the Sandgate Beds. It was overlain by occasional lenses of flint gravel (1702) which may have been remnant Pleistocene deposits. Both Layers 1702 and 1703 were heavily plough scored.

*Trench 3493TT*

- 5.3.14 This trench was machined-excavated to an average depth of 0.3 m. The surface of the Sandgate Beds was revealed in the base of the trench as Layer 1803, a mid orange brown, silty clay. Lenses of remnant Pleistocene gravels (1802) overlay Layer 1803.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Post-medieval = AD 1500 to AD 1800

Modern = AD 1800 to present

Table 1: Context list and associated finds

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
3212TT	1	topsoil	over 2			
3212TT	2	colluvium	over 3, under 1			
3212TT	3	clay	under 3			
3212TT	4	gully fill	over 5, under 2			
3212TT	5	gully	cuts 3, filled by 4			
3213TT	101	topsoil	over 102			
3213TT	102	colluvium	over 103			
3213TT	103	colluvium	under 102			
3214TT	201	topsoil	over 202			
3214TT	202	colluvium	under 201			
3215TT	301	topsoil	over 302			
3215TT	302	stone spread	over 303			
3215TT	303	natural	under 302			
3215TT	304	pit	over 305, under 301			
3215TT	305	fill of pit	over 303, under 304	Cu alloy button Tile Brick	1 1 1	Mod
3215TT	306	linear ditch	cuts 303, filled by 307			
3215TT	307	fill of ditch	over 307, under 301	Fe nail Tile Clay pipe	1 3 2	Post medieval
3215TT	308	gully	cuts 303, filled by 309			
3215TT	309	fill of gully	over 308, under 301			
3215TT	310	ditch	cuts 303, filled by 311			
3215TT	311	fill of ditch	over 310, under 301			
3215TT	312	pit	cuts 303, filled by 313			
3215TT	313	fill of pit	over 312, under 301			
3215TT	314	fill of pit	under 301			
3216TT	401	topsoil	over 402			
3216TT	402	natural	under 401			
3216TT	403	fill of furrow/ditch	over 405, under 401	Tile Glass	6 1	Post- medieval
3216TT	404	chalky fill of furrow/ditch	over 405, under 403	Daub	4	Post- medieval
3216TT	405	furrow/ditch	cuts 402, filled by 404			
3216TT	406	ditch	cuts 402, filled by 407			
3216TT	407	fill of ditch	over 406, under 405	Pot Tile	2 14	16 <sup>th</sup> C+
3216TT	408	probable ditch	cuts 402, filled by 411			
3216TT	409	upper fill of ditch	over 410, under 401			
3216TT	410	reddish fill of ditch	over 411, under 409			
3216TT	411	lower fill of ditch	over 408, under 410			
3216TT	412	large ditch	cuts 402, filled by 413			
3216TT	413	fill of ditch	over 412, under 401			
3216TT	414	oval pit	cuts 402, filled by 415			
3216TT	415	fill of oval pit	over 415, under 401	Pot Tile	1 4	RB?
3216TT	416	oval pit	cuts 402, under 417			
3216TT	417	fill of oval pit	over 416, under 401	Tile	16	Post-

Brockton Farm, Charing (ARC BRO 98) Evaluation Report

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
				Stone	5	medieval
3216TT	418	square pit/ditch end	cuts 402, filled by 419			
3216TT	419	fill of pit/ditch end	over 418, under 401	Tile	1	Post-medieval
3216TT	420	soil in feature at NE end	under 401			
3216TT	421	soil in oval feature at NE	under 401			
3216TT	422	soil in unexc chalky feature	under 401			
3216TT	423	soil in unexc oval feature	under 401			
3216TT	424	soil in unexc linear feature	under 418			
3217TT	501	topsoil	over 502			
3217TT	502	?Pleistocene flint deposit	over 504, under 501			
3217TT	503	natural	under 506			
3217TT	504	upper fill of ditch	over 505, under 502	Tile	3	Post-medieval
3217TT	505	primary fill of ditch	over 506, under 504			
3217TT	506	ditch	cuts 503, filled by 505			
3217TT	507	ditch	cuts 503, filled by 505			
3217TT	508	hollow into natural	cuts 503, filled by 502			
3218TT	601	topsoil	over 602			
3218TT	602	compact clay silt	over 603, under 601	Brick	2	Post-medieval
3218TT	603	clay deposit	under 602			
3219TT	701	topsoil	over 703			
3219TT	702	natural	under 705			
3219TT	703	upper fill of pit	over 705, under 701			
3219TT	704	primary fill of pit	over 705, under 703			
3219TT	705	pit	cuts 702, filled by 704			
3219TT	706	fill of pit	over 707, under 701			
3219TT	707	pit	cuts 702, filled by 706			
3219TT	708	fill of pit	over 709, under 701			
3219TT	709	pit	cuts 702, filled by 708			
3219TT	710	lens of material in 3 pits	over 702, under 701			
3220TT	801	modern ploughsoil	over 803,805,807			
3220TT	802	clay with flints	under 804,806,808			
3220TT	803	fill of ditch	over 804, under 801			
3220TT	804	ditch	cuts 802, filled by 803			
3220TT	805	fill of tree throw hole	over 806, under 801			
3220TT	806	tree throw hole	cuts 802, filled by 805			
3220TT	807	fill of pit	over 808, under 801			
3220TT	808	pit	cuts 802, filled by 807			
3221TT	901	topsoil	over 902			
3221TT	902	flint spreads	over 903, under 901			
3221TT	903	clay natural	under 902			
3221TT	904	tree throw hole	cuts 903, filled by 905			
3221TT	905	fill of tree throw hole	over 904, under 901			
3221TT	906	gully	cuts 903, filled by 907			
3221TT	907	fill of gully	over 906, under 901			
3221TT	908	ditch	cuts 903, filled by 909			
3221TT	909	fill of ditch	over 908, under 901			
3221TT	910	probable natural feature	cuts 903, filled by 911			
3221TT	911	fill of natural feature	over 910, under 901			
3221TT	912	fill of linear ditch	under 901			
3222TT	1001	topsoil	over 1002			
3222TT	1002	flint spreads	over 1003, under 1001			
3222TT	1003	natural	over 1009, under 1002			

Brockton Farm, Charing (ARC BRO 98) Evaluation Report

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
3222TT	1004	fill of pit	over 1005, under 1001	Pot Fe nail Brick Stone Glass	3 1 1 1 1	16 <sup>th</sup> C+
3222TT	1005	fill of pit	over 1006, under 1004	Pot Fe Hinge? Tile Brick Bone	3 1 1 5 5	19 <sup>th</sup> C Mod
3222TT	1006	pit	cuts 1003, filled by 1005			
3222TT	1007	fill of gully/natural feature	over 1008, under 1001			
3222TT	1008	gully or natural feature	cuts 1003, filled by 1007			
3222TT	1009	flint band	under 1003			
3223TT	1101	topsoil	over 1102			
3223TT	1102	colluvium	over 1103			
3223TT	1103	colluvium	under 1102			
3224TT	1201	topsoil	over 1202			
3224TT	1202	colluvium	over 1203,under 1201			
3224TT	1203	colluvium	over 1204,under 1202			
3224TT	1204	colluvium	over 1206,under 1203			
3224TT	1205	flint / gravel layer	over 1206,under1204			
3224TT	1206	natural	under 1205			
3224TT	1207	fill of gully	over 1208,under 1202			
3224TT	1208	shallow gully	cuts 1203, filled by 1207			
3225TT	1301	topsoil	over 1302			
3225TT	1302	colluvium	over 1303,under 1301	Fe object tile	1 1	Post- medieval/ mod
3225TT	1303	clay colluvium	under 1302			
3226TT	1401	topsoil	over 1402			
3226TT	1402	colluvium	over 1403,under 1401			
3226TT	1403	colluvium	under 1402			
3227TT	1501	topsoil	over 1502			
3227TT	1502	colluvium	over 1503,under 1501			
3227TT	1503	natural	under 1502			
3228TT	1601	topsoil	over 1602			
3228TT	1602	natural	over 1603,under 1601			
3228TT	1603	flint spreads	under 1602			
3228TT	1604	gully	cuts 1603, filled by 1605			
3228TT	1605	fill of gully	over 1604,under 1601			
3492TT	1701	topsoil	over 1702			
3492TT	1702	flint spreads	over 1703,under 1701			
3492TT	1703	natural	under 1702	Fe nail brick	1 3	Post- medieval/ mod
3493TT	1801	topsoil	over 1802			
3493TT	1802	flint spreads	over 1803,under 1801			
3493TT	1803	natural	under 1802			

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

### **7 CONCLUSIONS**

#### **7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits**

7.1.1 Archaeological features were found in all three fields (Fig.2). The majority of the features were found on the ridge of high ground on which the present Brockton Farm and Brockton Cottages are located. Very few features were found in the low-lying areas of the site.

#### **7.2 Date and character**

7.2.1 Two gullies, in Trenches 3212TT and 3224TT, were sealed by colluvial deposits. It is possible that the features were prehistoric, although no dating material was recovered from either the features or from the overlying colluvium.

7.2.2 Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were found. One sherd, dating to the 2nd-4th Century AD, from a pit in Trench 3222TT was found in association with post-medieval material and was residual. The second sherd, dating to the 2nd-3rd Century AD, from a pit in Trench 3216TT, was found together with four fragments of tile of uncertain date. It is possible that this pit was Roman in date, although the pottery could be residual.

7.2.3 Six features in Trenches 3215TT, 3216TT and 3222TT, produced post-medieval or recent material and were probably associated with agricultural activities relating to Brockton Farm.

7.2.4 The remaining excavated features produced no artefacts. However, the fills of these features were similar to those containing post-medieval material and it is likely that the bulk of the undated features were of post-medieval date.

#### **7.3 Environmental Evidence**

7.3.1 No deposits containing material suitable for palaeo-environmental reconstruction were identified. No environmental samples were taken during the evaluation.

7.3.2 Very little animal bone was found on site (see Appendix 3). The absence of bone may be, in part, due to poor preservation.

7.3.3 Molluscs were largely absent from the site. Their absence is probably a result of poor preservation in slightly acidic soil conditions.

7.3.4 No evidence was found of waterlogged deposits.

## **8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS**

### **8.1 Survival/condition**

8.1.1 In areas where colluvial deposits were absent, plough truncation appeared to have been quite severe, so that only deeper features are likely to survive.

8.1.2 In areas of colluvial cover, the depth of colluvium overlying archaeological deposits would protect such deposits from later activity. Thus the gullies in Trenches 3212TT and 3224TT may survive to their original depth.

### **8.2 Period**

8.2.1 A range of periods are represented on site. The undated features sealed beneath colluvium in trenches 3212TT and 3224TT may pre-date the post-medieval activity that characterises the bulk of the site. However, there was no direct or indirect dating evidence for the colluvial sequence.

8.2.2 Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation. Pit 414, in Trench 3216TT, contained one sherd of pottery dating to the 2nd-3rd Century AD and four pieces of tile which are probably of a similar date. A second sherd of pottery of a similar date was recovered from Pit 1006 in association with substantial amounts of post-medieval material.

8.2.3 The bulk of the dated features were post-medieval or more recent pits and ditches concentrated on the higher ground to the north and west of Brockton Farm. The fills of the undated features were similar to the post-medieval features and probably date to the same period.

### **8.3 Rarity**

8.3.1 Pleistocene deposits and Holocene colluvial deposits with little or no associated archaeological material are common at similar sites in Kent.

8.3.2 The archaeological features identified are common to many sites associated with post-medieval farms.

### **8.4 Fragility/vulnerability**

8.4.1 The archaeological evidence in those areas with no colluvial cover is extremely vulnerable to disturbance. Truncation by ploughing is already quite severe and, under present conditions, will continue to affect the archaeology.

8.4.2 In areas of colluvial deposits, the archaeological evidence is much less vulnerable under present conditions. The depth of overburden would protect archaeological deposits from modern agricultural activity.

## **8.5 Diversity**

- 8.5.1 There was substantial diversity in the range of geological deposits, which included Cretaceous Sandgate Beds, Pleistocene deposits and Holocene colluvium.
- 8.5.2 Although only a limited quantity of cultural material was recovered there was some diversity including artefacts of Roman, post-medieval and 19th Century date.
- 8.5.3 Most of the features recorded were probably associated with recent agricultural activities.

## **8.6 Documentation**

- 8.6.1 There is little documentation relating directly to the site prior to the Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (URL 1994).
- 8.6.2 A previous evaluation was carried out for URL at Hurst Wood (URL 1997), to the south-east of the present site.

## **8.7 Group value**

- 8.7.1 There appears to be very little group value that can be attributed to the results of this evaluation.

## **8.8 Potential**

### *Structural*

- 8.8.1 The archaeological deposits identified have limited potential to contribute to the understanding of the agricultural activity associated with the post-medieval Brockton Farm. It is possible that there may be limited prehistoric and Roman rural background activity on site. The finds from Pit 414 in Trench 3216TT suggest it is Romano-British in date, although the presence of post-medieval pits in the same trench indicates the finds could be redeposited.

### *Artefactual*

- 8.8.2 The datable artefacts are predominantly of recent origin and have no further archaeological potential.

### *Environmental*

- 8.8.3 The deposits recorded have very limited potential for the reconstruction of the palaeo-environmental sequence.



## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- |                                 |      |  |
|---------------------------------|------|--|
| McCarthy M.R.<br>and Brooks C.M | 1988 | Medieval Pottery in Britain AD 900-1600, Leicester University Press  |
| Ordnance<br>Survey              | 1977 | <i>Geological Survey of Great Britain (Maidstone), Sheet 288.</i>  |
| URL                             | 1994 | <i>Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report.</i>                    |
| URL                             | 1995 | <i>Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (Supplementary Fieldwork Report).</i> |
| URL                             | 1997 | <i>Archaeological Evaluation at Hurst Wood, Charing Heath, Kent (Final Fieldwork Report).</i>                  |
| Wilkinson D<br>(ed)             | 1992 | <i>Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual (unpub.).</i>   |

## APPENDIX 1

### The Glass

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Two pieces of bottle glass were recovered during the evaluation. Both were of 19th-20th Century date and from recent contexts.

#### 2 Quantification/Description

- 2.1 Table 2 lists the occurrence of glass by context.

#### 3 Assessment

- 3.1 All of the glass fragments are of modern date. One piece was found within the fill of a ditch (403) and the second fragment was from Pit 1006.

Table 2: Fragments of glass by context

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Description	Date
403	3216TT	1	Bottle	Mod
1004	3222TT	1	Bottle	Mod

## APPENDIX 2

### The Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn, Oxford Archaeological Unit

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised nine sherds with a total weight of 134 g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per ware type per context is shown in Table 3.

#### 2 Quantification/Description

- 2.1 Table 3 lists the pottery by number and weight for each context.

#### 3 Assessment

- 3.1 All the pottery was post-medieval in date, except for two sherds of Romano-British material. One of these was redeposited in a later context, but the other, from the rest of the artefactual material present in the deposit, appears to be securely stratified. Otherwise, two sherds (28 g) were of 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> date, and five sherds (84 g) were Red Earthenwares. The latter pottery came into general use during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but sometimes continued to be made to virtually the present day, especially in the 'country potteries' of relatively remote rural areas (cf McCarthy and Brooks 1988). Therefore, the 16<sup>th</sup> century date ascribed to such contexts should be treated very much as a *terminus post quem*, as the assemblages could easily be considerably later.

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per ware type per context

Ware Type	Romano-British		Red Earthenware		Misc 19thC		TPQ
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
407			2	16			16 <sup>th</sup> C+
415	1	14					RB?
1004	1	8	2	5			16 <sup>th</sup> C+
1005			1	63	2	28	19 <sup>th</sup> C
Total	2	22	5	84	2	28	

## APPENDIX 3

### The Animal Bone

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Four pieces of unidentified animal bone were recovered during the evaluation, from a 19th Century pit (1006).

#### 2 Quantification/Description

- 2.1 Table 4 lists the occurrence of animal bone by context.

#### 3 Assessment

- 3.1 The four pieces of bone recovered were from the lower fill of a 19th Century pit and could not be identified.

*Table 4: Occurrence of animal bone by context*

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Description	Date
1005	3222TT	4	Unidentified	Mod

## APPENDIX 4

### The Building materials

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Seventy-two pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the evaluation, all from modern contexts, with the possible exception of Pit 414 (Fill 415), which is possibly Romano-British.

#### 2 Quantification

- 2.1 50 fragments of tile, 12 fragments of brick and 10 fragments of daub were recovered from 15 contexts.

#### 3 Assessment

- 3.1 Tile (4 fragments) of possible Romano-British date occurred in Pit 414 (Fill 415). The tile was associated with a sherd pottery sherd which is probably of the same date. The remaining material recovered is modern and does not justify further work.

Table 5: Ceramic building material by weight (in g) per context

Material Type Context	Tile		Brick		Daub	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
305	1	25	1	14		
307	3	32				
403	6	34				
404					4	8
407	14	42				
415	4	8				
417	16	59				
419	1	20				
504	3	10				
602			2	15		
1004			1	14		
1005	1	24	5	1643		
1102					6	12
1302	1	89				
1703			3	315		

## APPENDIX 5

### Clay pipe

#### 1 Introduction

1.1 A total of 3 pieces of clay pipe were recovered from the evaluation.

#### 2 Quantification/Description

2.1 Two of the pieces were stem fragments and one piece, from fill 1005 was a bowl fragment.

#### 3 Assessment

3.1 All of the clay pipe fragments were 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. Two fragments were found within ditch fill 307 and the third fragment was found within pit fill 1005. No further work is justifiable.

Table 6: Fragments of clay pipe by context

Context	Trench	No. of frags.	Description	Date
307	3215TT	2	Stem	19 <sup>th</sup>
1005	3222TT	1	Bowl	19 <sup>th</sup>