

Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
Union Railways Ltd

# Chilston Park, Lenham, Kent

ARC CHPK 97

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contract No. 194/870

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 26

Oxford Archaeological Unit

November 1997

© 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**

**CHILSTON PARK, LENHAM, KENT**

**ARC CHPK 97**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***

**Environmental Statement Route Window No. 26**

**OS GRID TQ 891 510**

**Contract No. 194/870**

**REPORT**

**Volume 1 of 1**

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

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

November 1997

# CHILSTON PARK, LENHAM, 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
2.1	General aims.....	3
2.2	Specific 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	Colluvium.....	5
5.2	Post-Medieval and undated ditches.....	8
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY.....	9
	<b>SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE</b>	
7	CONCLUSIONS.....	11
7.1	Extent of archaeological deposits.....	11
7.2	Date and character.....	11
7.3	Environmental evidence.....	11
8	IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.....	12
8.1	Survival/condition.....	12
8.2	Period.....	12
8.3	Rarity.....	12
8.4	Fragility/vulnerability.....	12
8.5	Diversity.....	13
8.6	Documentation.....	13
8.7	Group value.....	13
8.8	Potential.....	13
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	14

*List of Appendices*

Appendix 1: Prehistoric and medieval pottery .....	15
Appendix 2: Worked flint.....	16

*List of Figures*

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench location
Fig. 3	Trenches 1586TT and 1583TT plans and sections
Fig. 4	Interpretative archaeological plan

*List of Tables*

Table 1:	Summary of topsoil depths and colluvial deposits
Table 2:	Summary of contexts for the colluvial deposits
Table 3:	Summary of deposits in Trench 1580TT
Table 4 :	Summary of deposits in Trench 1584TT
Table 5:	Summary of deposits in Trench 1585TT
Table 6:	Summary of deposits in Trench 1586TT
Table 7:	Summary of deposits in Trench 1589TT

# CHILSTON PARK, LENHAM, KENT

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Union Railways Ltd to conduct a field evaluation of 2.4ha of land south of Lenham, as part of a wider programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). The site was located to the east of Boughton Road (NGR TQ 891 510), south-east of Oxley House and occupies high ground to the north of Lenham Heath Road. There are extensive views north and east towards the North Downs and Ashford. The field slopes down into dry valleys which are situated at the western and eastern limits of the site.*

*Twelve evaluation trenches were excavated. Two ditches were located, one containing post-medieval pottery, which is probably an old field boundary, and the other was undated. The pottery recovered from the site was predominantly medieval in date and occurred in ploughsoils and colluvial deposits. It seems likely the colluvial deposits originated in the medieval period and continued throughout the post-medieval period. A large sherd of probable Iron Age pottery from one of the later colluvial deposits was unabraded and likely to have been sealed by the later accumulation of ploughsoil. No features of this date were located on the site. The isolated occurrence of this pottery at the eastern boundary of the site is noteworthy, but of limited significance.*

## SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological field evaluation (Fig. 1), between 27th and 30th October 1997 inclusive, on land east of Boughton Road and north of the Lenham Heath Road, Lenham, Kent (NGR TQ 891 510) on behalf of Union Railways Ltd (URL). The evaluation forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), the aim of which was to assess the effect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage of the site. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared (URL 1994). The site lies within Environmental Statement Route Window No.26.

1.1.2 The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by URL and agreed with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage, detailing the scope and methods of the evaluation, including this report. The area of the evaluation is shown in Fig. 2. The evaluation was to act a control evaluation of a geophysical prospection (URL 1996).

#### 1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The site lies on the Folkestone Beds along the dip slope of the North Downs. The land slopes gently away to the west. The highest part of the site lies at 125 metres above Ordnance datum (OD), and to the east and west slopes down to 119m above OD. The majority of the site was sand with a thin layer of flint gravel on the hill top with clay located at the northern end of the site. Deposits of ploughsoil/colluvium had accumulated in the dry valleys.

1.2.2 The evaluation area is presently part of a large arable field. The site occupies high ground to the north of Lenham Heath Road ground with extensive views north and east towards the North Downs and Ashford. The field slopes down into dry valleys which are situated at the western and eastern limits of the site.

#### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 There is little archaeology recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. A site of linear and ring cropmarks is situated 1km east of the site (OAU No. 1317). Although undated these are likely to be prehistoric in date.

1.3.2 The majority of other archaeological sites recorded are situated west of Sandway (1.5km west of the site) and were located during the construction of the M20 or as a result of fieldwalking. These sites include a scatter of Mesolithic worked flint (11,000) collected by Lord Monkton (OAU No. 1372). A surface scatter of Mesolithic and Neolithic flints from the line of the M20

(OAU No. 1371). Other lesser scatters occur just south of Sandway about 300-500m south-west of the site (OAU Nos 1346, 13471 and 1351).

- 1.3.3 The site is situated north of the historic 17th/18th landscape of Chilston Park, which is listed Grade II in the English Heritage register of parks and gardens (OAU No. 2047). Oxley House, situated immediately north of the site, is Grade II listed (OAU No. 975) and is a two-storey brick house of the 18th century.
- 1.3.4 A geophysical survey (URL 1996) across the site gave a uniform response, although a slightly stronger magnetic response was recorded at the west end of the site towards Boughton Road, probably indicating geological variations in the sand.

## **2 AIMS**

The Written Scheme of Investigation specified the general aims of the evaluation and also the site specific aims, both of which are reiterated below.

### **2.1 General aims**

- 2.1.1 To determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area.
- 2.1.2 To determine the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits.
- 2.1.3 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.

### **2.2 Specific aims**

- 2.2.1 To act as a control evaluation of the geophysical prospection survey.

## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 A detailed statement on the methods used in the evaluation is contained in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by URL, and agreed 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 trench locations were surveyed by P H Matts, Building & Civil Engineering Land Survey (Reading) based on a trench location plan provided by URL. Trench 1580TT was subsequently repositioned to maintain access into the site.

3.2.2 The trenches have been digitally plotted using AutoCAD graphics programme (Fig. 2). All survey points are based upon the URL local grid rather than the National Grid.

### **3.3 Excavation**

3.3.1 Twelve trenches were excavated over the 2.4 ha site. Trenches were 30 m long and 2 m wide.

3.3.2 The topsoil and soil layers were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

3.3.3 Archaeological finds were hand-retrieved from machine-excavated deposits on an opportunistic basis. Spoil heaps were also inspected for superficial finds but not rigorously searched.

3.3.4 Machine-excavation resulted in a generally clean trench base which was not hand cleaned except where archaeological deposits were suspected. Sample sections of all trench sides were cleaned and drawn.

3.3.5 No bulk environmental samples were taken.

### **3.4 Recording**

3.4.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). A running sequence of context numbers was adopted for the whole site. Plans were drawn at 1:50 or 1:100. Sections were drawn at 1:20. All evaluation records were prefaced by the site code ARC CHPK 97.

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 divided into the trenches with colluvial deposits which are summarised in Tables 1-7 and then a description of the two ditches in Trench 1583TT. A summary of all contexts and finds is presented in the archaeological context inventory (Section 6) and Fig. 3 summarises the distribution of archaeological



features and finds. Detailed reports on the pottery and worked flint are contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

## 4.2 General stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 In all trenches the upper 0.35 m consisted of the modern ploughsoil.
- 4.2.2 Colluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 1580TT, 1584TT, 1585TT, 1586TT, and 1589TT. The depth of the colluvial sequence was identified in all except Trench 1585TT where the colluvium within the steep incised valley was substantially deeper than 1.2m (see Table 1).

## 4.3 Summary of the archaeology

- 4.3.1 Two ditches were located in Trench 1583TT (6 and 11). Ditch 6 produced a sherd of post-medieval pottery and this ditch is probably a former field boundary. Ditch 11 produced no finds and so is undated.
- 4.3.2 The other deposits on the site were colluvium in Trenches 1580TT, 1584TT, 1585TT, 1586TT and 1589TT. The colluvium probably originated in the medieval period and continued through the post-medieval period.
- 4.3.3 A single pottery rim sherd from a colluvial deposit in Trench 1584TT is probably Iron Age in date. Small fragments of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery, which may also be Iron Age, were recovered from Trench 1586TT. There were no Iron Age features identified on the site.

## 4.4 Site archive

- 4.4.1 The site archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification prepared by URL. It includes six electronic datasets for the Fieldwork Event, Contexts, Bulk Finds, Finds, Environmental Samples and Graphical Output.

## 5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Colluvium (1580TT, 1584TT, 1585TT, 1586TT & 1589TT)

- 5.1.1 Five trenches revealed colluvial deposits which had formed as a result of ploughsoils accumulating in the dry valley on the western and eastern limits of the site. The information from these trenches is summarised in Tables 1 to 7:

Table 1. Summary of topsoil depths and colluvial deposits

Trench	1580	1584	1585	1586	1589
Thickness of topsoil (m)	0.32	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.37

Thickness of ploughsoil/ colluvium (m)	0.66	0.47	1.00+	1.36	0.56
Disturbed natural sand (m)	0.25	-	-	-	0.15
<b>Total Depth (m)</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>1.35+</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.08</b>

Table 2. Summary of contexts for the colluvial deposits

<b>Trench</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>1586</b>	<b>1589</b>
Post- medieval ploughsoil/ colluvium	15	2	54 & 55	21	60
Upper ploughsoil/ colluvium	16	3	56	22	61
Lower ploughsoil/ colluvium	17	-	57	23	62
Disturbed natural sand	18	-	-	-	63

*Trench 1580TT*

5.1.2 This trench was positioned along the bottom of a slope and parallel to the Boughton Road. It revealed a sequence of deposits up to 1.23m deep.

Table 3. Summary of deposits in Trench 1580TT

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b> Finds</b>
14	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	0.32	
15	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand 20% flint gravel	0.40-0.53	
16	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand 5% flint gravel	0.12-0.25	1 Medieval pot sherd
17	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Light-mid-brown silty sand with charcoal	0.20	
18	Disturbed natural	Light-brown sand	0.20-0.25	
19	Natural	Light-brown sand	-	

5.1.3 *Trench 1584TT*

This trench was positioned along the bottom of a slope at the eastern end of the site. It revealed a sequence of deposits up to 1.10m deep.

Table 4. Summary of deposits in Trench 1584TT

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b> Finds</b>
----------------	-------------	--------------------	----------------------	---------------

1	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt	0.36	
2	Ploughsoil/ colluvium	Light-brown sandy silt	0.12-0.41	1 medieval pot sherd. 1 Iron Age pot sherd 1 Struck flint
3	Ploughsoil/ colluvium	Light-brown-silty sand	0.14-0.40	
4	Natural	Light-brown sand	-	

#### 5.1.4 Trench 1585TT

This trench was positioned across a steep incised valley at the bottom of a slope at the western end of the site. It revealed a sequence of deposits over 1.20m deep.

Table 5. Summary of deposits in Trench 1585TT

Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)	Finds
53	Topsoil	Dark grey silty sand >5% flint gravel	0.34	
54	Ploughsoil/ colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand 5% flint gravel, chalk and charcoal	0.22	
55	Ploughsoil/ colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand <5% flint gravel	0.28	
56	Ploughsoil/ colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand <5% flint gravel	0.20	1?post-medieval brick/ tile
57	Ploughsoil/ colluvium	Mid-brown-silty sand 5% gravel with charcoal	16+	
58	Natural	Light-brown sand	-	

#### Trench 1586TT (Fig.3)

5.1.5 This trench was aligned downslope into a steep incised dry valley on the west facing slopes of the site. It revealed a sequence of deposits up to 1.68m deep. The edge of the dry valley was exposed in the trench (see Fig. 3). A linear feature (30) was excavated at the east end of the trench. This feature is located at the top of the slope and it is likely to be caused by a combination of erosion and ploughing into the upper slopes of the dry valley. Residual undiagnostic pottery was recovered from the upper fill (28).

Table 6. Summary of deposits in Trench 1586TT

Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)	Finds
20	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt	0.30-0.42	
21	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand, 20% flint gravel	0.38-0.53	1 Medieval pot sherd

22	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand, 15% flint gravel	0.18	
23	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Light brown-silty sand, 10% gravel, with charcoal	0.63	
24	Natural	Light-brown sand	-	

*Trench 1589TT*

5.1.6 This trench was aligned down slope on the eastern dry valley. It revealed a sequence of deposits up to 1.08m deep.

Table 7. Summary of deposits in Trench 1589TT

Context	Type	Description	Thickness (m)	Finds
59	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt, 10% flint gravel	0.32-0.38	
60	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Mid-brown silty sand, 10% flint gravel	0.10-0.42	
61	Ploughsoil/colluvium	Orangey-brown sandy silt, 5% flint gravel	0.10-0.22	
62	Disturbed natural	Light-brown silty sand, 2% flint gravel, charcoal	0.15	
63	Natural	Light brown sand	-	

## 5.2 Post-medieval and undated ditches (1583TT)

5.2.1 *Ditch 6.* This ditch was orientated approximately north to south and had a broad flat bottomed U-shaped profile. It measured 4.00m wide and 0.60m deep. The ditch contained two sandy fills (7 and 8). A single post-medieval sherd of pottery was recovered from Fill 8. A shallow linear depression on the surface of the field was on the same alignment as the ditch, which suggests it is a probably a former field boundary.

5.2.2 *Ditch 11.* This ditch was orientated approximately north to south and had a U-shaped profile with a rounded base. It measured 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep. The fill was a mid brown silty sand with 15% coarse. A hand dug section across the feature produced no finds.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

The following abbreviations and definitions have been used in the Context Inventory

o/l	overlies	IA	Iron Age
c/by	cut by	Prehistoric	Indeterminate date
f/of	fill of	Medieval	AD 1066 to AD 1500
o/lby	overlain by	Post-Medieval	AD 1500 to AD 1800
f/by	filled by	Modern	AD 1800 to present

Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Finds	Number	Date
1584	01	present ploughsoil	o/l 2			
1584	02	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l by 1, o/l 3	pot	2	medieval
				pot	1	IA
				flint	1	
1584	03	disturbed natural	o/l by 2, o/l 4	pot	1	?prehistoric
1584	04	natural	o/l by 5			
1584	05	natural	o/l by 3, o/l 4			
1583	06	ditch	f/by 7, 8, cuts 10			
1583	07	fill	f/of 6 o/l by 8			
1583	08	fill	f/of 7, o/l by 9	?tile	1	post-medieval
1583	09	layer	o/l 8, 12			
1583	10	natural	c/by 6, 11, o/l by 10			
1583	11	ditch	f/by 12, cuts 10			
1583	12	fill	f/of 11, o/l by 13			
1583	13	earlier ploughsoil	o/l 12, o/l by 9			
1580	14	present ploughsoil	o/l 15			
1580	15	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 16, o/l by 14			
1580	16	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 17, o/l by 15	pot	1	medieval
1580	17	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 18, o/l by 16			
1580	18	disturbed natural	o/l 19, o/l by 17			
1580	19	natural	o/l by 18			
1586	20	present ploughsoil	o/l 21			
1586	21	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/ 22, o/l by 20	pot	1	medieval
1586	22	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 23, o/l by 21			
1586	23	colluvium	o/l 24, o/l by 24			
1586	24	natural	o/l by 23			
1578	25	present ploughsoil	o/l 26	pot	1	?medieval
1578	26	earlier ploughsoil	o/l by 25			
1579	27	present ploughsoil	o/l 31			
1586	28	fill	f/of 30, o/l 29, o/l by 21	pot	3	?prehistoric
1586	29	fill	f/of 30, o/l by 28			
1586	30	cut	f/by 28, 29, cuts 24			
1579	31	earlier ploughsoil	o/l by 27	pot	1	medieval
1581	32	present ploughsoil	o/l 33			
1581	33	earlier ploughsoil	o/l 34, 37, 39			
1581	34	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 35, o/l by 33			
1581	35	natural	c/by 36, 38, 42			

Chilston Park (ARC CHPK 97) Evaluation Report

Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Finds	Number	Date
1581	36	?ditch	f/by 37, cuts 35			
1581	37	fill	f/of 36, o/l by 33			
1581	38	cut	f/ by 39, 40, 41, cuts 35			
1581	39	fill	f/of 38, o/l by 33			
1581	40	fill	f/of 41, o/l by 39			
1581	41	fill	f/of 38, o/l by 40			
1581	42	cut	f/by 43, cuts 35			
1581	43	fill	f/of 42, o/l by 32			
1587	44	present ploughsoil	o/l 45			
1587	45	natural	o/l by 44			
1588	46	present ploughsoil	o/l 47			
1588	47	earlier ploughsoil	o/l 48, o/l by 46			
1588	48	natural	o/l by 47			
1582	49	present ploughsoil	o/l 50			
1582	50	natural	o/l 51, o/l by 49			
1582	51	natural	o/l by 50			
1582	52	natural	o/l by 50			
1585	53	present ploughsoil	o/154, o/l by 52			
1585	54	earlier ploughsoil	o/l 55, o/l by 53			
1585	55	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 56, o/l by 54			
1585	56	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 57, o/l by 55	Tile/brick	1	post-medieval
1585	57	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 58, o/l by 56			
1585	58	natural	o/l by 57			
1589	59	present ploughsoil	o/l 60			
1581	60	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 61, o/l by 59			
1589	61	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 62, o/l by 60			
1589	62	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 63, o/l by 61			
1589	63	natural	o/l by 62			

## SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

### 7 CONCLUSIONS

#### 7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits (Fig. 4)

- 7.1.1 A single pottery rim sherd from a ploughsoil/colluvial deposit in Trench 1584TT is probably Iron Age in date. Small fragments of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery, which may also be Iron Age, were recovered from Trenches 1584TT and 1586TT.
- 7.1.2 A small quantity of medieval pottery (6 sherds) were recovered from deposits of ploughsoils/colluvium. No features of this period were located. The small number and abraded condition of the pottery would be consistent with it being brought onto the fields with a manure scatter.
- 7.1.3 A wide ditch was identified in Trench 1583TT containing post-medieval material. The ditch was on the same alignment as a wide depression in the field, suggesting this is an old field boundary. Another ditch, also in Trench 1583TT, produced no finds.
- 7.1.4 Colluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 1580TT, 1584TT, 1585TT, 1586TT, and 1589TT.

#### 7.2 Date and character

- 7.2.1 The earliest finds from the site are restricted to a few sherds of prehistoric pottery, which are likely to be Iron Age in date. The nature of the Iron Age activity has not been revealed in the evaluation.
- 7.2.2 The earliest ploughing of the light sand and gravel soils and subsequent movement of deposits downslope (colluviation) probably originated in the medieval period and continued through into the post-medieval period. The charcoal within the lower colluvium may result from the initial clearance prior to ploughing.

#### 7.3 Environmental evidence

- 7.3.1 No environmental samples were taken; charcoal was noted in the lower colluvial deposits and the disturbed natural but, lack of dating evidence and the character of the soft sandy deposits aiding migration of material, means any interpretation the colluvial sequence from sampling is likely to be limited.

## **8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS**

### **8.1 Survival/Condition**

8.1.1 The size and unabraded condition of the probable Iron Age pottery sherd from Trench 1584TT suggests it probably derived from an isolated feature truncated by later ploughing, rather than the result of a manuring scatter. There is, however, no evidence of contemporary archaeological features, or their condition if any are present.

### **8.2 Period**

8.2.1 A single pottery rim sherd from colluvial deposits in Trench 1584TT is probably Iron Age in date. Small fragments of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery, which may also be Iron Age, were recovered from Trenches 1584TT and 1586TT. There were no Iron Age features identified on the site, although the pottery clearly demonstrates some limited prehistoric activity in the vicinity, most likely during the Iron Age.

8.2.2 A wide ditch containing post-medieval pottery was identified in Trench 1583TT. The ditch was on the same alignment as a wide depression in the field suggesting this is an old field boundary. Another ditch, also in Trench 1583TT, produced no finds.

8.2.3 There were three main phases of colluviation, the latest and most substantial deposit up to 0.53m deep contained post-medieval finds. The date of the upper colluvial layer is probably post-medieval, based on the probable post-medieval tile from Trench 1585TT. There was no dating evidence from the lower colluvial deposits, although the most of the pottery (50%) from the site consisted of residual medieval pottery sherds in the later deposits. It would appear that most of the colluviation is medieval or later.

### **8.3 Rarity**

8.3.1 Medieval and later colluvial deposits and linear ditches are very common. The single unabraded sherd of Iron Age pottery is the only indication of anything more unusual.

### **8.4 Fragility/vulnerability**

8.4.1 The sequence of deposits demonstrates that there had been substantial ploughing of the light sand and gravel soils. The colluvial deposits attest to substantial ploughing in the past but these deposits are presently sealed and undisturbed. Modern ploughing on the higher ground in the area of Trenches 1582TT, 1587TT, and 1588TT is likely to have truncated any features that may have existed in this area. Some truncation may also be expected in Trenches 1578TT and 1579TT considering the shallow depth of the modern ploughsoil.



If any prehistoric features related to the Iron Age sherd exist, it is likely that they would survive best under the colluvial deposits.

## **8.5 Diversity**

8.5.1 The site has no significant archaeological features or deposits. The archaeology on the site appears have be limited both in its chronological range and in the nature of the evidence.

## **8.6 Documentation**

8.6.1 The evaluation has confirmed the general impression from the geophysical survey which gave a uniform response, although a slightly stronger magnetic response was recorded at the west end of the site towards Boughton Road, which indicated geological variations in the sand.

## **8.7 Group value**

8.7.1 The Iron Age pottery demonstrates there is prehistoric activity in the vicinity, although its precise nature is unclear.

8.7.2 The Chapel Mill evaluation (URL 1997) at Lenham Heath (1.5km to the south-east) also located ditches with probable Iron Age pottery.

## **8.8 Potential**

8.8.1 The general lack of cultural remains and evidence of substantial post-medieval ploughing demonstrates the site has little potential.

8.8.2 The isolated occurrence of the probable Iron Age pottery at the eastern boundary of the site is noteworthy, but of limited significance, although it may suggest activity beyond the eastern boundary of the present evaluation.

8.8.3 There was only a single piece of worked flint from the site and this provides useful negative evidence when examined in relation to the flint scatters recorded to the west of Sandway (700m to the west) (OAU Nos 1347, 1346, 1371 and 1372).

## 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Drewett P, Rudling D & Gardiner M 1988 *The South-East to AD 1000.*
- URL 1994 *Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report. (4 vols.).*
- URL 1996 *Geophysical Surveys. Contract No. 194/580.*
- URL 1997 *Chapel Mill, Lenham, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation Report.*
- Wilkinson D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual (unpub.)*

## APPENDIX 1

### PREHISTORIC AND MEDIEVAL POTTERY

by Paul Booth, Oxford Archaeological Unit

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Eleven sherds of pottery with a total weight of 116 g were recovered from the evaluation, none from feature fills. The pottery was of two broad periods, prehistoric and medieval.

#### 2 Character of assemblage

- 2.1 Prehistoric material consisted of a single rim sherd (37 g), probably of Iron Age date, in a flint/organic-tempered fabric, from ploughsoil/colluvium (2), and a further four flint-tempered sherds (11g), one from ploughsoil/colluvium (3) and the rest from Context 28. These are not closely datable, and may be assigned either to the Bronze Age or the Iron Age.
- 2.2 Medieval sherds, all in oxidised sandy or sandy/organic fabrics, occurred in Contexts 2 (2 sherds), 16, 21, 25 and 31. Two sherds were glazed and one had a red-brown ?slip or eroded glaze. A rod handle and a sagging base angle were the only feature sherds.
- 2.3 Small tile fragments, probably of post-medieval date, were noted from a ditch fill (8) and a ploughsoil/colluvial deposit (56).

#### 3 Discussion

- 3.1 Almost all the sherds were abraded and in relatively poor condition. The principal exception was the large Iron Age rim sherd from Layer 2, a ploughsoil or colluvial deposit. It is unlikely that this sherd had been much redeposited before reaching this location and it may therefore indicate some Iron Age activity in the vicinity. The other prehistoric fragments were all small. The medieval sherds were all from ploughsoils or ploughsoil/colluvial deposits. Both small and large pieces showed signs of frequent redeposition within these layers. No significant concentrations of pottery were noted in individual trenches.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **WORKED FLINT**

*by Philippa Bradley, Oxford Archaeological Unit*

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 A single struck flint flake was recovered from a ploughsoil/colluvium (2) in Trench 1584TT. The flint is a dark brown to black colour with a worn, buff cortex.

#### **2 Dating and discussion**

- 2.1 There is obviously insufficient material to provide any dating evidence.