ARC ESD 98

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT. EAST STOUR DIVERSION BARROWHILL SELLINDGE.

Central National Grid Reference TR 1120 3770

Contract No. S/400/SP/0009/P484*

Environmental Statement Route Window 36
Volume 1 of 1

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

UNION RAILWAYS (SOUTH) LIMITED

ARC ESD 98

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October 1999

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LIST OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY 2

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background 3
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY
2.1 Topography 4
2.2 Geology 4
2.3 Current land use 4
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL
3.1 Aims 5
3.2 Archaeological potential 5
3.3 Evaluation objectives 5
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY
4.1 General 6
4.2 Surveying 6
4.3 Excavation 6
4.4 Recording 6
5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS
5.1 Introduction 8
5.2 Trench results 8

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

6 SUMMARY OF TRENCH RESULTS
6.1 Geology 10
6.2 Archaeological features 10
7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
7.1 Survival and conditions 11
7.2 Period 11
7.3 Fragility and vulnerability 11
7.4 Diversity 11
7.5 Potential 11
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY 12

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I: Events I
Appendix II: Archaeological Context Inventory II
Appendix III: Bulk Finds Dataset III
Appendix IV: Small Finds Dataset III
Appendix V: Kent Sites and Monuments Record sheet IV

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location plan
Figure 2: Trench location plan
Figure 3: Trench 3582TT plan and section
Figure 4: Trench 3583TT plan and section
Figure 5: Trench3584TT plan and section
Figure 6: Trench 3585TT plan and section
Figure 7: Trench 3586TT plan and section
Figure 8: Trench 3587TT plan and section

SUMMARY

An archaeological field evaluation of land at the East Stour Diversion, Barrowhill, near Sellindge, Kent was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), between 12th and 20th February 1999. This formed part of a programme of archaeological investigations commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).

The area under investigation was located to the north of the existing London to Folkestone railway, and south of the M20 motorway. It was bounded to the east by open farmland and to the west by woodland.

A total of six trenches was excavated and no archaeological features were identified.

A feature located in the most easterly of the trenches was identified as part of the old course of the East Stour River which had been filled in during the construction of the present motorway. Further investigation of this feature revealed the remains of at least three more archaic stages to this river course, dating from the late post-medieval period.

A sequence of alluvium was identified in one trench. These deposits remained undated but are thought to represent flood-plain materials associated with a previous course of the East Stour. Further work in this trench by Wessex Archaeology (on behalf of URS) suggests that this archaic river course may be prehistoric.

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 12th and 20th February 1999 on land at the East Stour Diversion, Barrowhill, near Sellindge, Kent. The study site is within the parish of Sellindge in the District of Shepway (URL Grid 91000–91500E/17510–17540N, TR 1120 3770, Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The evaluation was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS), and forms part of a larger programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).

1.1.3 The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the effect of the construction of the CTRL upon the cultural heritage of the study area. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by URS and agreed with English Heritage and the County Archaeological Officer.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Topography

2.1.1 The evaluation site was centred on national grid reference TR 1120 3770 (URL Grid 91000–91500E/17510–17540N) and is located within a corridor created by the existing London to Folkestone railway to the south, and the M20 motorway to the north (Fig. 1). The western limits are marked by a tree-lined boundary fence, which follows the line of an unmarked public footpath, beyond which is woodland. To the east there is open farmland presently separated from the site by a boundary fence. Tributaries of the East Stour River are present along the southern, eastern, and western sides of the study site.

2.1.2 The current ground levels for the study site vary from 67m to 53m OD. The highest area of the site is to the west and north where the ground is relatively flat and appears to be part of a natural plateau. The ground slopes sharply down towards the south-east. The stream has cut a small gorge through the central area cutting the field into two. An area of marsh has formed in the central southern and eastern part of the site.

2.1.3 The evaluation site covered an area of 4.8 hectares. A sample of 1% was studied in the evaluation trenches.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 The underlying geology of the site (British Geological Survey) comprises Head Brickearth, although a band of alluvium is shown in the vicinity. The alluvium and Head Brickearth are part of the drift geology for the area. The underlying solid geology is formed from the Folkestone Beds.

2.3 Current land use

2.3.1 When investigated the study site was used as grazing land for sheep.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

3.1 Aims

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 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 Archaeological potential

3.2.1 The land under evaluation was of unknown archaeological potential. An evaluation of the fields immediately to the east of the current area under investigation, carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (URS 1998), revealed the presence of medieval field boundaries and a corn drying oven. Although this field was directly to the north of the fourteenth-century castle/fortified house at Westenhanger, the pottery evidence dated these features to the mid twelfth century, seemingly predating the castle. They may therefore be associated with an earlier manorial farm.

3.2.2 The fields in which the MoLAS evaluation was undertaken produced surface concentrations of prehistoric worked flint during the CTRL Environmental Assessment (URL 1994).

3.2.3 Approximately 300m to the east of the area under investigation lies Talbot House, a timber-framed Wealden hall-type farmhouse, constructed in the fifteenth century with several later alterations. A public footpath leads from this building directly past the area of woodland and onto the site.

3.3 Evaluation objectives

3.3.1 The principal objective was to determine the presence/absence (etc.) of any subsoil features or deposits of archaeological interest.

3.3.2 The secondary objective of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of cultural material potentially sealed within or below alluvial and fluvial deposits associated with the evolution of the River Stour.

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

4.2.1 The trench locations specified by URS were established using a total station EDM utilising the permanent ground markers (PGMs) supplied by URS. The trench location plan (Fig. 2) has been digitally plotted using an AutoCAD graphics programme.

4.2.2 All co-ordinates used in this report relate to the URS local project grid unless otherwise stated. A full list of Ordnance Survey National Grid trench co-ordinates, together with the conversion formula used to calculate this, is included in the site archive.

4.3 Excavation

4.3.1 The trenches were excavated using a 360 degree hydraulic excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under close archaeological supervision.

4.3.2 All undifferentiated topsoil, made grounds and modern overburden/hard-standing were stripped down in spits of *c.*100mm thickness. The subsequent plough and subsoils were removed in 50mm thick spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or the upper surface of the 'natural' deposits was reached

4.3.3 To address the potential of early prehistoric remains existing within or below the basal deposits (interpreted as natural) a slot was cut at the end of each trench through these deposits down to a maximum depth of 1.200m below present ground levels.

4.3.4 An additional investigation (in trench 3583TT) was carried out by Wessex Archaeology, on behalf of URS, and a subsequent alluvial deposit report was prepared (URS 1999).

4.3.5 Following machine clearance, the base and long sections of the trenches were inspected and cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and any subsequent excavation carried out by hand.

4.3.6 In trenches in which archaeological deposits were identified one long section was drawn at a scale of 1:20, the base was planned at a scale of 1:50, and both were levelled with respect to OD.

4.3.7 A temporary benchmark was transferred from the Ordnance Survey benchmark +63.25m. OD located on the railway underpass to the north of the site.

4.4 Recording

4.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded on CAT *pro forma* context recording sheets.

4.4.2 Any deposit that could be distinguished from those above and below was considered

as a context, and recorded individually. These stratigraphic units were numbered sequentially and are shown below in square brackets thus [100].

4.4.3 Those trenches found not to contain any stratified archaeological deposits, were recorded using CAT *pro forma* trial trench recording sheets.

4.4.4 Photographic coverage employed colour transparency and black and white print formats.

4.4.5 Where identified, all artefacts were retrieved from stratified archaeological contexts. Retrieval of finds from non-stratified deposits removed by machine was carried out on an opportunistic basis.

4.4.6 A site code (ARC ESD 98) was provided by URS; all records can be referenced from this code.

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The initial mechanical excavation revealed an identical upper sequence of deposits over the entire site, although there were localised variations from trench to trench in exact composition, depths and heights in respect to OD. The sequence consisted of topsoil [+] overlying either, a layer of made-ground [++], or an accumulated or developed soil horizon (ploughsoil/subsoil), recorded as [0].

5.2 Trench results

5.2.1 The lower archaeological or geological remains are covered below on a numerical trench by trench basis.

Trench 3582TT (Fig. 3)

5.2.2 After removal of topsoil [+], a modern layer of made ground [++], and a very disturbed layer of ploughsoil [0], the natural was exposed at depths of 0.60–0.80m below present ground level. The upper surface levels for the natural were recorded as being relatively flat at +60.68m to + 60.72m OD

5.2.3 Here the upper surface of the natural was recorded as a very weathered light brown silty clay with reddish mottling. A deeper sondage at the eastern end of the trench showed that the clay became greyer with depth, indicating that the sequence of alluvial clays present was the same as that seen in trench 3583TT.

5.2.4 Hand cleaning of the upper surface and exposed section of the natural failed to identify any cut archaeological features or surfaces.

Trench 3583TT (Fig. 4)

5.2.5 In this trench the natural deposits were exposed beneath a heavy build up of topsoil [+], subsequent made ground [25], and accumulated soil horizon [28], at a depth of 0.6m to the north end of the trench, beyond 1.2m at the south. The upper surface of the natural was recorded at +61.67m OD at the north, sloping sharply down to +60.20m OD at the south end of the trench.

5.2.6 The deep sondage placed at the northern end of this trench revealed a sequence of alluvial clays. The lowest basal deposits, recorded at a depth of 1.30m, consisted of grey clay [29, and 30] up to 0.09m thick. This was overlain by [27] a 0.44m thick pale brown silty clay loam with yellowish red sandy mottles, and [26] a 0.35m thick dark greyish brown silty clay loam, with very fine sand brown mottles.

Trench 3584TT (Fig. 5)

5.2.7 Natural was only exposed along the southern side of this trench, at a depth of *c.* 0.90m below present ground levels. The whole of the northern side of the trench was truncated by a modern disturbance containing large blocks of concrete. It is believed that this was cut when the motorway was constructed

5.2.8 Where exposed the upper surface of the natural was hand cleaned and no cultural material was found. Similarly no cut archaeological features were identified.

Trench 3585TT (Fig. 6)

5.2.9 Natural was exposed 0.38–0.47m below present ground levels at +62.72m OD at the north end sloping down to +61.99m OD at the south end. It was recorded as dull light orange brown sandy clay, and was uniform throughout the trench. A deep sondage at the north end of the trench revealed the same sequence as seen in trench 3587TT.

5.2.10 The upper surface of the natural was hand cleaned but no cultural material or cut archaeological features identified.

Trench 3586TT (Fig. 7)

5.2.11 Natural was exposed 0.37–0.43m below present ground levels at +63.10m OD at the northern end sloping down to +62.56m OD at the south. It was recorded as softly compacted bright yellow/brown clay. The deep sondage at the southern end of the trench revealed the same sequence as recorded in trench 3587TT (see 5.2.13 below).

5.2.12 The upper surface of the natural was hand cleaned but no cultural material or cut archaeological features identified.

Trench 3587TT (Fig. 8)

5.2.13 In this trench the natural was only exposed in the first six metres at the north easterly end, *c.* 0.40m below present ground levels at +62 – +62.10m. The upper surface was recorded as a firm softly compacted dull light orange/brown sandy clay with occasional small angular flints and black manganese specking. A sondage was excavated through this layer at the eastern end of the trench, revealing that it was 0.28–0.40m thick. Beneath the above layer was a similar deposit but greyer in colour and with a higher sand content, up to 0.35m thick. The lowest deposit exposed consisted of firmly compacted orange/grey slightly sandy clay. The upper surface of the lowest deposit was recorded at +61.62m OD, and had a depth exceeding 100mm.

5.2.14 The remainder of the trench was occupied by a large build up of made ground, with a depth exceeding 1.3m at the south-western end. This was identified as the infill of the most recent course of the East Stour, before it was backfilled and diverted during the construction of the M20 motorway. Below the backfill was a series of river bed/bank deposits. The excavation of a slot through these deposits revealed the presence of at least three earlier river channels. Although organic preservation was excellent, the earliest of the deposits identified at a depth of 2.50m below the present ground surface, recorded as [10], contained late post-medieval artefacts, including a leather shoe. There was no evidence for earlier prehistoric deposits and no deeper trenching was carried out in this area.

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

6 SUMMARY OF TRENCH RESULTS

6.1 Geology

6.1.1 The mapped drift geology for the area under evaluation consists of Pleistocene Head Brickearth, and later Alluvium (British Ggeological Survey) associated with the course of the East Stour River. The underlying limestone solid geology of the Folkestone and Sandgate Beds was not exposed in any of the trenches.

6.1.2 Of the natural deposits exposed in the evaluation trenches an alluviated sequence of clays was identified in the three most westerly trenches (3582-4TT). These deposits represent an unremarkable sequence of channel fill, or overbank floodplain alluvium. A fluvial gravel deposit was observed by Wessex Archaeology (URS 1999), possibly representing a former course of the East Stour. Although undated this deposit possibly post-dates the Holocene period.

6.1.3 The lighter sandier clays exposed in the easterly trenches (3585-7TT), are possibly of a wind-blown/hill wash origin and may correlate to the Head Brickearth, formed on the gentle slopes and across the interfluves between the tributaries of the East Stour.

6.2 Archaeological features

6.2.1 There were no cut archaeological features identified in any of the evaluation trenches

6.2.2 The most recent course of the East Stour River, was found in the south-westerly end of trench 3587TT. The river itself had been diverted and the old channel subsequently backfilled during the construction of the motorway. Three earlier channels were observed but material recovered from the fill of the lowest (earliest) of these was dated to the late post-medieval period.

7 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

7.1 Survival and conditions

7.1.1 As stated above the evaluation trenches have shown no evidence for cut archaeological features from any period.

7.1.2 It remains a possibility that features may have been missed by the placing of the trenches, but it would seem that if any features did exist they have been truncated by recent agricultural practices such as ploughing. A very abrupt horizon was noted between the underlying natural deposits and topsoil, which conforms with the land having been removed, quarried, or lowered – most likely very recently by the construction of the M20 motorway.

7.1.3 The only feature excavated was natural in origin, consisting of the channel and fills of the most recent course of the East Stour river.

7.2 Period

7.2.1 The oldest material from the recent course of the East Stour river was of a late post-medieval date.

7.2.2 The alluvial deposits associated with the former (more archaic) course of the East Stour river are most likely of prehistoric date. Although no conclusive dating evidence was retrieved correlations with deposits of a similar date were observed by Wessex Archaeology (URS 1999).

7.3 Fragility and vulnerability

7.3.1 Any intrusive work undertaken in connection with the CTRL will affect the buried prehistoric alluvial and fluvial deposits

7.4 Diversity

7.4.1 Any diversity which may be present within the prehistoric alluvial and fluvial deposits was not identified and remains an unknown factor.

7.5 Potential

7.5.1 The evaluation has shown that there is very little potential, if any at all, for any surviving archaeological features or deposits. The evaluation failed to clarify what potential the alluviated sequence has, whether it was typical for the area and can be placed in to an established chronological framework.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Geological Survey of Great Britain: Geology of the Country around Canterbury and Folkestone (Map Sheets 305/6 Folkestone Dover A) Her Majesty's Stationery Office (London).

URL 1994: *Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects, Final Report, Volume 1 of 4*. Prepared for URL by the Oxford Archaeological Unit.

URL 1997: *Agreement for the Provision of Archaeological Provisions,* URL.

URS 1998: *North of Westenhanger Castle, an ArchaeologicalEvaluation*. Prepared for URS by the Museum of London Archaeological Service.

URS 1999: *Archaeological evaluation at East Stour Diversion Alluvial Deposit Report*, Prepared for URS by Wessex Archaeology.

APPENDIX I: EVENTS DATASET

EVENT NAME	East Stour Diversion, Barrowhill, Sellindge.
EVENT CODE	ARC ESD 98
EVENT TYPE	Evaluation
CONTRACTOR	Canterbury Archaeological Trust & Wessex Archaeology
DATE	12/02/99 to 20/02/99
GRID	URL Grid 91000 - 91500E / 17510 - 17540N
PROJECT	Channel Tunnel Rail Link
COUNTY	Kent
DISTRICT	Shepway
PARISH	Sellindge
SMR	
SITE TYPE	Cultivated land 3
PERIOD	Post-medieval
METHOD	Mechanical removal of topsoil and geotechnic trenches, hand excavation and recording of archaeological features
PHASING	Recent late post–medieval alluviated/fluvial riverbed sequence
ENVIRON	Alluvial and Fluvial sequence sampled by Wessex Archaeology
FINDS	
GEOLOGY	Head Brickearth and Alluvium overlying Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone and Sandgate Beds.
CONTEXT Nos.	
THREAT	Channel Tunnel Rail Link
SAMPLE	c. 1 – 3%
SUMMARY	
ARCHIVE	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
ACC NUM	

APPENDIX II: ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Trench	Type	Association	Comments	Period
+		Deposit		Topsoil	Modern
++		Deposit		Made-grounds	Modern
0		Deposit		Developed/Plough soils	Modern
1	3587	Deposit		Topsoil	Modern
2	3587	Deposit	2nd sealed river course, upper fill	Silt	Post-med.
3	3587	Deposit		Natural	
4	3587	Deposit		Natural	
5	3587	Deposit		Natural	
6	3587	Deposit	Back-filling of river channel	Made-ground	Modern
7	3587	Deposit	3rd sealed river course, upper fill	Silt	18th +
8	3587	Deposit	1st sealed river course	Silt	Post-med.
9	3587	Deposit	1st sealed river course	Silt	Post-med.
10	3587	Deposit	1st sealed river course	Silt, lowest fill, contained leather shoe	Post-med.
11	3587	Deposit	2nd sealed river course, lower fill	River silt	Post-med.
12	3587	Deposit	1st sealed river course	Silt	Post-med.
13	3587	Deposit		Natural, same as 4	
14	3587	Deposit	Back-filling of river channel	Made-ground	Modern
15	3587	Deposit	Latest river course	Silt	20th cent
16	3587	Deposit	Latest river course	Silt	20th cent
17	3587	Deposit	Latest river course	Silt	20th cent
18	3587	Deposit	3rd river course	Silt, same as 7	18th +
19	3587	Deposit	3rd river course	Alluvial silts	18th +
20	3587	deposit	3rd river course	Fluvial silts	18th +
21	3587	Deposit	3rd river course	Alluvial silts	18th +
22	3587	Deposit	3rd river course	Alluvial silts	18th +
23	3587	Deposit	Latest river course	silt	20th cent
24	3583	Deposit		Topsoil	Modern
25	3583	Deposit		Made-ground	Modern
26	3583	Deposit		Made-ground	Modern
27	3583	Deposit	Same as [358304]	Natural	
28	3583	Deposit	Same as [358305]	Natural	
29	3583	Deposit	Same as [358306]	Natural	
30	3583	Deposit	Same as [358307]	Natural	

APPENDIX III: BULK FINDS DATASET

Context No.	Material	Quantity	Weight	Comments	Find No.	Dsk
14	Glass	1	3	opaque turquoise vessel fragment	5	k
14	Post Med. Brick	1	3		4	d
14	Post Med. Roof Tile	5	230	ridge	3	d
14	Pottery	1	2		2	k
15	Post Med. Roof Tile	1	85		14	d
15	Post Med. Tile	1	135	drainage fragment	15	d
15	Pottery	2	110		13	k
18	Glass	1	30	square sided clear bottle fragment	20	k
18	Glass	1	3	clear vessel rim	21	k
18	Glass	1	5	clear body fragment	22	k
18	Post Med. Brick	2	225		19	d
18	Post Med. Roof Tile	3	55		17	d
18	Post Med. Roof Tile	1	10	ridge	18	d
18	Pottery	1	50		16	k
19	Post Med. Brick	1	1675	20th century	12	d
19	Post Med. Roof Tile	6	165		11	d
19	Pottery	1	15		10	k
20	Bone	1	80		9	k
20	Post Med. Roof Tile	9	215		8	d
20	Post Med. Roof Tile	1	35	ridge	7	d

APPENDIX IV: SMALL FINDS DATASET

Con No.	Material	Quantity	Weight	Comments	Find No.	Dsk
10	Leather	15	183	Fragments, including 4 sole frags, one heel with iron studs *in situ.*	1	d

APPENDIX V: KENT SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SHEET

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Site Name: The East Stour Diversion, Barrowhill, Nr Sellindge. Kent.
Site Code: ARC ESD98</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">District : Shepway</td><td>Parish : Sellindge</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Summary :
An archaeological field evaluation of land at the East Stour Diversion, Barrowhill, near Sellindge, Kent was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, between 12th and 20th February 1999. This formed part of a programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, and was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited. The area under investigation was located to the north of the existing London to Folkestone railway, and south of the M20 motorway. It was bounded to the east by open farmland, and to the west by woodland.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Periods :(v)

Neolithic
Bronze Age
Iron Age</td><td>Roman
Saxon
Medieval
Post Medieval v
19th Cent + v</td><td>Other (specify)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">National Grid Reference : TR 11200E 37700N (central)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Type of Fieldwork : (v)

Evaluation v
Excavation
Watching Brief</td><td>

Geophysical Survey
Field Walking
Measured Survey</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Date of Fieldwork (From);12 / 02 / 1999 (To); 20 / 02 / 1999</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Contractor: Canterbury Archaeological Trust
92A Broad Street. Canterbury. Kent.CT1 2LU
Tel: (01227) 462062 Fax: (01227) 784724</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Summary of Field Results: A total of six trenches was excavated and no archaeological features were identified in any of them. A feature located in the most easterly of the trenches was identified as part of the old East Stour River course, filled in during the construction of the present motorway. Further investigation of this feature revealed the presence of the remains of at least three more archaic stages to this river course, dating back to the post-medieval period.

A sequence of alluvium was recorded in a deep sondage cut into one of the archaeological evaluation trenches. This was thought to have little potential for early prehistoric cultural material.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Location of Archive:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Bibliography: CTRL Evaluation Report
Author : Adrian G. Gollop BSc (Hon)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Compiler: Adrian G. Gollop</td><td>Date: 25 / 03 / 1999</td></tr>
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