

Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Union Railways Ltd

Little Monk Wood, Rochester, Kent

ARC MON 98

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 19

Contract No. 194/ 870

Oxford Archaeological Unit

December 1998

© UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED, 1998

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 prior written permission of Union Railways Ltd.

UNION RAILWAYS LTD

LITTLE MONK WOOD, ROCHESTER, KENT

ARC MON 98

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 19

OS GRID TQ 7380 6460

Contract No. 194/ 870

REPORT

Volume 1 of 1

Prepared by:

Date:

Checked by:

Date:

Approved by:

Date:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0LS

December 1998

LITTLE MONK WOOD, ROCHESTER, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CONTENTS

	<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
	SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT	
1	BACKGROUND.....	2
1.1	Introduction.....	2
1.2	Geology, topography and land-use.....	2
1.3	Archaeological and historical background.....	2
2	AIMS	3
3	METHOD	3
3.1	General.....	3
3.2	Survey	3
3.3	Excavation	4
3.4	Recording	4
4	RESULTS: GENERAL.....	5
4.1	Presentation of Results	5
4.2	General stratigraphy	5
4.3	Summary of archaeology	5
4.4	Context and finds descriptions.....	5
4.5	Site archive	5
5	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS	5
5.1	Pleistocene deposits	5
5.2	Holocene colluvial deposits.....	6
5.3	Modern features (Trenches 3111TT, 3128TT and 3132TT)	8
5.4	Remaining Trenches	8
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY.....	9
	SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE	
7	CONCLUSIONS.....	12
7.1	Extent of archaeological deposits.....	12
7.2	Date and character of archaeological deposits	12
7.3	Environmental evidence	12
8	IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.....	13
8.1	Survival/ condition	13
8.2	Period.....	13
8.3	Rarity	13
8.4	Fragility/ vulnerability.....	13
8.5	Diversity.....	13
8.6	Documentation.....	14
8.7	Group value	14
8.8	Potential	14
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	15

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Worked flint	16
Appendix 2: Pottery	17
Appendix 3: Animal bone.....	18

List of Tables

Table 1:	Summary of stratigraphic sequence
Table 2:	Trench 3123TT, stratigraphic description and interpretation
Table 3:	Distribution of worked flint by context and weight in grams
Table 4:	Quantification of all pottery by sherd number and weight

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location map
Fig. 2	Trench location plan and archaeological interpretation
Fig. 3	Trenches 3110TT and 3123TT: plans and sections

LITTLE MONK WOOD, ROCHESTER, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Union Railways Ltd to conduct a field evaluation on land west of the M2 and north of Stony Lane and Upper Nashenden Farm as part of a wider programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

A previous evaluation to the north of the present site recorded Holocene colluvial deposits, from which Bronze Age pottery was recovered, overlying late Pleistocene solifluction deposits. A late glacial soil horizon was located within the solifluction deposits.

The present evaluation at Little Monk Wood recorded a similar sequence of solifucted chalk, a late glacial soil horizon and Holocene colluvium. The late glacial soil was less well-preserved than that recorded previously. No archaeological features were located, although struck flint, burnt flint and a single sherd of late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a deposit near to the base of the colluvial sequence.

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation on land west of the M2 and north of Stony Lane and Upper Nashenden Farm, Rochester, Kent (URL Grid 53800/44600, NGR TQ 73806460) (Fig. 1) on behalf of Union Railways Ltd (URL). The evaluation was carried out between 10th August 1998 and 21st August 1998 as part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The purpose of the investigation was to assess the impact of the rail link on the cultural heritage of the site.
- 1.1.2 The site is situated between two previous URL evaluations: The Nashenden Valley evaluation (URL 1997a) and the Upper Nashenden Farm evaluation (URL 1997b).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by URL and agreed with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage.

1.2 Geology, topography and land-use

- 1.2.1 The site is located in the Nashenden Valley, a steep-sided dry valley, running from south-east to north-west towards the river Medway.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the valley bottom consists of a typical dry valley sedimentary sequence of chalky colluvial sediments. Holocene colluvial deposits in the base of the valley overlie chalky solifluction sediments deposited in the late Pleistocene.
- 1.2.3 Immediately prior to the evaluation, most of the site was under a crop of maize with the exception of the north-west end of the site which was partly under wheat and partly rough grassland.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 An environmental assessment was prepared (URL 1994) for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. During the course of the assessment no archaeological sites were recorded within the boundaries of the evaluation.
- 1.3.2 The OAU numbers listed below refer to reference numbers given in Volumes 2 and 3 of *Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report* (URL 1994). A surface collection survey carried out in 1994 (URL 1995) just north of the site produced a small scatter of undiagnostic struck flint and burnt unworked flint (OAU No. 1824). Although no distinctive pieces of flint were collected the struck flint would be consistent with a Neolithic or Bronze Age date. In addition, a large flake may have been Palaeolithic in date.

- 1.3.3 Two previous evaluations have been undertaken for URL in the Nashenden Valley: Nashenden Valley (URL 1997a) which was situated immediately north of the present site, and Upper Nashenden Farm (URL 1997b) which was located immediately south of the present site.
- 1.3.4 The Nashenden Valley evaluation recorded a colluvial sequence from which pottery of Bronze Age date was recovered, although no Bronze Age features were located. It did not locate any features associated with the previous surface collection finds. A late glacial soil horizon was recorded, within chalky solifluction deposits, which probably dates to the late Devensian (*c.*11,000 BP).
- 1.3.5 The Upper Nashenden Farm evaluation identified colluvial deposits, an undated lynchet and a ditch of probable prehistoric date. Periglacial deposits of soliflucted chalk were also recorded, although these deposits lacked the palaeosol identified at the north end of the Nashenden valley.

2 AIMS

- 2.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, are as follows:
 - 2.1.1 To determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation.
 - 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 establish 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 METHOD

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was prepared by URL and agreed with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following summarises the archaeological aspects of the methodology and notes any deviations from the originally agreed specification.

3.2 Survey

- 3.2.1 It was not possible to set-out the majority of the trenches prior to excavation because of the presence of a maize crop on much of the site. For this reason, most of the trenches were set-out by hand. The trench locations were subsequently surveyed by P.H.Matts, Building and Civil Engineering Land Survey (Reading). The trenches have

been plotted (Fig. 2) from digital information provided by P.H.Matts using the AutoCAD graphics programme.

- 3.2.2 Trenches 3110TT, 3112TT, 3113TT and 3116TT were moved to provide safe clearance from overhead electricity cables.
- 3.2.3 All co-ordinates used in this report relate to the URL local project grid unless otherwise stated. A full list of Ordnance Survey National Grid trench coordinates, together with the conversion formula used to calculate them, is included in the site archive. Individual trenches were planned manually in the field at scales of 1:50 or 1:100. Sections were drawn at 1:20, unless circumstances dictated otherwise.
- 3.2.4 The evaluation area (Fig. 2) falls within URL Route Windows 18 and 19.

3.3 Excavation

- 3.3.1 An array of 23 trenches was excavated to sample the evaluation area. All trenches were 30m long and 1.90m wide. They were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator, with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. In general, machine excavation was stopped at the top of significant archaeological deposits, if encountered, otherwise on reaching bedrock or Pleistocene solifluction deposits. Three trenches were excavated below 1.2m in depth in order to record and sample the underlying Pleistocene deposits.
- 3.3.2 The trenches were hand-cleaned except where archaeological deposits were clearly absent. Sample sections were excavated through all archaeological features and possible features. Representative sample sections through the colluvial deposits in the base and sides of the dry valley were cleaned and recorded. Artefacts from archaeological features and colluvial deposits were collected by context and submitted for specialist examination.
- 3.3.3 Bulk samples were recovered from selected archaeological deposits (those containing artefacts or charred plant remains).
- 3.3.4 A possible late glacial soil horizon in Trench 3123TT, was sampled as a kubiena column for possible future micromorphological analysis.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). All site records were prefaced by the site code ARC MON 98.
- 3.4.2 Dr Martin Bates, a geoarchaeological specialist, visited the site to assist in recording and sampling the sedimentary sequence. His detailed records and interpretative comments are incorporated into the main body of the text.
- 3.4.3 All trenches and archaeological features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Presentation of Results

- 4.1.1 The site is described according to the type of deposits exposed in the trenches. Detailed descriptions are presented in Section 5. A summary of all contexts and finds is presented in the archaeological context inventory (Section 6). Detailed reports on the worked flints, pottery and animal bones are contained in Appendices 1-3.

4.2 General stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence identified can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Summary of stratigraphic sequence

Period	Description
Modern	Topsoil
Holocene	Colluvial deposits in the valley bottom
Pleistocene	Cold climate solifluction deposits in the valley bottom
Cretaceous	Upper Chalk exposed below topsoil on the steep valley sides

4.3 Summary of archaeology

- 4.3.1 Modern features were recorded in Trenches 3111TT, 3128TT and 3132TT. No other archaeological features were recorded.

4.4 Site archive

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

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Pleistocene deposits

- 5.1.1 Pleistocene cold climate solifluction deposits were recorded in Trenches 3110TT, 3113TT, 3123TT and 3125TT. They are likely to have been present in Trenches 3112TT and 3116TT below the maximum depth of excavation (1.2m in both cases).

The top of the Pleistocene sequence was recorded at approximately 2.3m below ground surface in Trench 3110TT at the north-western end of the site and between 1.1m and 1.5m elsewhere. The Pleistocene deposits were characteristically composed of chalk or flint gravel in a silty matrix. A possible late Devensian palaeosol (201) was recorded in Trench 3123TT, within the sequence of solifluction deposits. Although poorly preserved, it is likely to be laterally equivalent to the palaeosol identified in the previous Nashenden Valley evaluation (URL 1997a).

- 5.1.2 A machine-excavated sondage was dug in Trench 3123TT (Fig. 3) to a depth of 2.90m below ground surface. The profile was recorded by Dr M Bates and is given in Table 2. A Kubiena sample (for soil micromorphology) was taken from the possible palaeosol for potential future analysis.
- 5.1.3 Similar soliflucted chalk deposits were recorded in Trenches 3110TT, 3113TT and 3125TT, although the possible late Devensian palaeosol was not present.

5.2 Holocene colluvial deposits

- 5.2.1 Holocene colluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 3110TT-3114TT, 3116TT, 3119TT, 3123TT, 3125TT, 3129TT, 3130TT and 3131TT.
- 5.2.2 The colluvial sequence generally consisted of a series of reddish brown silts. The sequence recorded in Trench 3123TT and presented in Table 2 is typical of that seen in the valley bottom. The sequence was up to 2m deep in Trench 3110TT (Fig. 3), although elsewhere, in Trenches 3113TT, 3123TT and 3125TT, it was c. 1m deep. The colluvial cover rapidly thinned out upslope.
- 5.2.3 A sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery and four undiagnostic, stuck flint flakes were recovered from Layer 169 within the sequence in Trench 3112TT. Burnt unworked flint was also recovered from the colluvium in Trench 3110TT (Layers 159 and 164).

Table 2: Trench 3123TT, stratigraphic description and interpretation

Depth below ground surface in m (context no)	Sediment description	Inferred environment of deposition	Age ascription
0.00 – 0.36 (187)	Mid to dark grey silt. Structureless and unconsolidated. Common modern roots and occasional angular to rounded flint clasts (2-5cm). Common small (0.5-1cm) chalk clasts.	modern topsoil	Holocene
0.36 – 0.96 (188) (189) (190) (191)	---diffuse, sub-horizontal contact--- Reddish-brown silt. Homogenous and structureless. Common modern roots and large (0.5-1cm wide) empty root canals. Occasional angular flint clasts (<5cm) and rare chalk clasts (<0.5cm). Chalk clasts increase in frequency with depth. Dense and compact.	Colluvial slope wash deposits	
0.96 – 1.26 (192)	---abrupt, sub-horizontal contact--- Very dark reddish-brown silt. Similar to overlying unit except decrease in frequency of chalk clasts relative to overlying unit.	Possible unconformity Colluvial slope wash deposits possibly subjected to weathering and pedogenesis	
1.26 – 1.47 (193)	---diffuse, sub-horizontal contact--- Reddish-brown silt with common small chalk clasts (<1cm, sub-rounded) and very rare flint clasts.	Colluvial slope wash deposits	
1.47 – 1.50 (198)	---sharp, slightly undulating contact--- Clast supported chalk pellet gravel. Chalk clasts are commonly 1-2mm. Loose and unconsolidated. Very little matrix, where present matrix is silt.	Unconformity representing Holocene-Pleistocene boundary Chalk solifluction deposit laid down under cold climate periglacial conditions.	Late glacial cold stage
1.50 – 1.64 (199)	---abrupt, sub-horizontal contact--- Pale brown silt with some small (1-2mm) chalk clasts. Structureless, massive and relatively loose.	Possible loess (wind blow silt) reworked and redeposited downslope	
1.64 – 2.20 (200)	---abrupt, slightly undulating contact--- Clast supported chalk pellet gravel interbedded with lenses and discontinuous beds of light brown silt. Chalk clasts decrease in size upwards from 2-4cm at base to <1cm near top. Matrix of silt where present. Silt beds are wavy, undulating and discontinuous but where present are 2-5cm thick.	Chalk solifluction deposit laid down under cold climate periglacial conditions.	
(201)	---abrupt, undulating contact---	Possible unconformity and surface of buried soil	
2.20 – 2.60 (202)	Clast supported flint gravel at base becoming matrix supported towards the top. Clasts are poorly sorted (<2 to >12cm) and angular. Smaller sub-rounded to sub-angular chalk clasts (c.1cm) also occur. Upper 5-10cm contains a dark greyish brown silt matrix containing many small chalk clasts and small carbonate tubules.	Chalk solifluction deposit laid down under cold climate periglacial conditions. Evidence of incorporation of finer grained sediments and weathering/pedogenesis at top of unit	Late Pleistocene
2.60 – 2.84 (203)	---abrupt, undulating (c.0.1m) contact--- White matrix supported chalk gravel with occasional flint clasts. Clasts are 2-6cm and clast size generally increases up profile. Dense, compact and structureless.	Chalk solifluction deposit laid down under cold climate periglacial conditions.	
2.84 – (204)	---diffuse, slightly undulating contact--- White chalk gravel with chalky silt matrix. Unit is matrix supported, very dense and compact. Chalk clasts are angular, 1-6cm in size. No flint clasts. Structureless and massive.	Chalk solifluction deposit laid down under cold climate periglacial conditions.	
---base of profile 2.90m---			

5.3 Modern features (Trenches 3111TT, 3128TT and 3132TT)

- 5.3.1 Modern features were recorded in Trenches 3111TT, 3128TT and 3132TT.
- 5.3.2 Ditch 186 in Trench 3132TT was cut from below the modern topsoil and had a U-shaped profile. It was 3.3m wide and 1.4m deep and produced modern pottery of which only a small sample was retained. It was orientated parallel to the present Stony Lane and is probably a former field boundary.
- 5.3.3 The features in Trenches 3111TT and 3128TT, Pits 130 and 113 respectively, were both cut from immediately below the modern topsoil and probably represent quarry or 'marl' pits.
- 5.3.4 Pit 130 was at least 21m wide and 1.4m deep and its fills produced 20th-century pottery and a wooden fence post. A fire-grate was noted in Trench 3128TT and a wooden fence post in 3111TT.
- 5.3.5 Pit 113 was 10m wide and at least 0.8m deep and contained pieces of plastic sheeting and barbed wire.

5.4 Remaining Trenches

- 5.4.1 In Trenches 3115TT, 3117TT, 3118TT, 3120TT, 3121TT, 3122TT, 3124TT, 3126TT and 3127TT, topsoil directly overlay chalk bedrock. No archaeological features were present.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

CONTEXT	TRENCH	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
100	3132	layer	over 184	modern ploughsoil			
101	3132	layer	under 100, cut by 186	chalk natural			
102	3130	layer	over 103	redeposited topsoil			
103	3130	layer	over 104	redeposited chalk			
104	3130	layer	over 105	modern ploughsoil			
105	3130	layer	over 106, under 104	colluvium			
106	3130	layer	under 105	natural chalk			
107	3131	layer	over 108	modern ploughsoil			
108	3131	layer	over 109, under 107	colluvium	bone	1	
109	3131	layer	over 110, under 108	colluvium			
110	3131	layer	under 109	natural chalk and silt			
111	3128	layer	over 112	modern ploughsoil			
112	3128	fill	fill of 113, under 111	fill of modern disturbance			
113	3128	cut	filled by 112, cuts 114	modern disturbance			
114	3128	layer	cut by 113	natural chalk			
115	3129	layer	over 116	modern ploughsoil			
116	3129	layer	over 119, under 115	colluvium			
117	3129	layer	over 118, under 115	colluvium			
118	3129	layer	over 119, under 117	colluvium			
119	3129	layer	over 118, under 116	natural chalk			
120	3115	layer	over 121	modern ploughsoil			
121	3115	layer	under 120	natural chalk			
122	3114	layer	over 123	modern ploughsoil			
123	3114	layer	over 124, under 122	colluvium			
124	3114	layer	under 123	natural chalk			
125	3117	layer	over 126	modern ploughsoil			
126	3117	layer	under 125	natural chalk			
127	3111	layer	over 128	modern ploughsoil			
128	3111	fill	fill of 130, over 129	upper fill of modern disturbance			
129	3111	fill	fill of 130, over 132	primary fill of modern disturbance			
130	3111	pit	filled by 128, and 129	modern disturbance			
131	3111	layer	over 132, under 130	colluvium			
132	3111	layer	under 131	natural chalk			
133	3127	layer	over 134	modern ploughsoil			
134	3127	layer	under 133	natural chalk			
135	3126	layer	over 136	modern ploughsoil			
136	3126	layer	under 135	natural chalk			
137	3125	layer	over 138	modern ploughsoil			
138	3125	layer	over 139, under 137	colluvium			
139	3125	layer	over 140, under 138	colluvium			
140	3125	layer	over 141, under 139	colluvium			
141	3125	layer	over 142, under 140	colluvium			
142	3125	layer	over 143, under 141	colluvium			
143	3125	layer	under 142	natural chalk			
144	3124	layer	over 145	modern ploughsoil			
145	3124	layer	under 144	natural chalk			
146	3121	layer	over 147	modern ploughsoil			
147	3121	layer	over 148, under 146	colluvium			
148	3121	layer	under 147	natural chalk			
149	3122	layer	over 150	modern ploughsoil			

CONTEXT	TRENCH	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
150	3122	layer	under 149	natural chalk			
151	3120	layer	over 152	modern ploughsoil			
152	3120	layer	under 151	natural chalk			
153	3118	layer	over 154	modern ploughsoil			
154	3118	layer	under 153	natural chalk			
155	3110	layer	over 156	modern ploughsoil			
156	3110	layer	over 157, under 155	colluvium	tile	1	post-med
157	3110	layer	over 158 & 164, under 156	colluvium	tile	1	post-med
158	3110	layer	over 159, under 157	colluvium	burnt flint	9	
159	3110	layer	over 160, 164, under 158	colluvium			
160	3110	layer	over 161, under 159	colluvium			
161	3110	layer	over 162, under 160	colluvium			
162	3110	layer	over 163, under 161	Holocene silt and flint			
163	3110	layer	under 162	soliflucted chalk			
164	3110	layer	over 165, under 159	colluvium	struck flint	1	
165	3110	layer	under 164	colluvium			
166	3112	layer	over 167	modern ploughsoil			
167	3112	layer	over 168, under 166	colluvium			
168	3112	layer	over 169, under 167	colluvium	tile	8	post-med
169	3112	layer	over 170, under 168	colluvium	pot	1	bronze age
					burnt flint	2	
					struck flint	4	
170	3112	layer	under 169	colluvium			
171	3113	layer	over 172	modern ploughsoil			
172	3113	layer	over 173, under 171	colluvium			
173	3113	layer	over 175, 177 under 172	colluvium			
174	3113	layer	over 177, under 173	colluvium			
175	3113	fill	fill of 176, under 173	fill of ?tree throw hole			
176	3113	cut	cuts 177, filled by 175	?tree throw hole			
177	3113	layer	over 178, cut by 176	Holocene silt and flint			
178	3113	layer	under 177, 175, 176	soliflucted chalk			
179	3113	fill	fill of 176	fill of ?tree throw hole			
180	3116	layer	over 181	modern ploughsoil			
181	3116	layer	over 182, under 180	colluvium			
182	3116	layer	over 183 & 197, under 181	colluvium			
183	3116	layer	over 197, under 182	colluvium			
184	3132	fill	fill of 186, over 185, under 100	upper fill of ditch 186	pot	1	modern
185	3132	fill	fill of 186, under 184	primary fill of ditch 186	pot	2	modern
186	3132	ditch	filled by 184 & 185	modern ditch			
187	3123	layer	over 188	modern ploughsoil			
188	3123	layer	over 189, under 187	colluvium			
189	3123	layer	over 190, under 188	colluvium			
190	3123	layer	over 191, under 189	colluvium			
191	3123	layer	over 192, under 190	colluvium			

CONTEXT	TRENCH	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
192	3123	layer	over 193, under 191	Holocene silt			
193	3123	layer	under 192, over 198	colluvium			
194	3119	layer	over 196	modern ploughsoil			
195	3119	layer	under 196	natural chalk			
196	3119	layer	over 195, under 194	colluvium			
197	3116	layer	under 183, over 198	flinty natural			
198	3123	layer	under 193, over 199	soliflucted chalk			
199	3123	layer	under 198, over 200	possible loess			
200	3123	layer	under 199, over 201	soliflucted chalk			
201	3123	layer	under 200, over 202	late glacial buried soil			
202	3123	layer	under 201, over 202	soliflucted chalk			
203	3123	layer	under 202, over 204	soliflucted chalk			
204	3123	layer	under 203	soliflucted chalk			

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits (Fig. 2)

- 7.1.1 A sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery, four struck flints and 12 pieces of burnt flint were found within the colluvial sequence in Trenches 3110TT and 3112TT at the north-western end of the site
- 7.1.2 Three modern features were recorded, in Trenches 3111TT, 3128TT and 3132TT.
- 7.1.3 Pleistocene cold climate deposits were recorded in the valley bottom, in Trenches 3110TT, 3113TT, 3123TT and 3125TT. A possible late glacial palaeosol was recorded within the Pleistocene cold climate sequence in Trench 3123TT. Holocene colluvial deposits were recorded throughout the valley bottom.

7.2 Date and character of archaeological deposits

- 7.2.1 The Pleistocene deposits are thought to have been deposited under cold climate periglacial conditions, and can probably be ascribed to the Late Pleistocene (Devensian) period. The poorly preserved palaeosol probably developed during a late glacial interstadial.
- 7.2.2 Dating of the colluvial deposits, while certainly of the Holocene period, is problematic due to the paucity of artefactual material and because the deposits, and therefore artefacts within them are, by definition, redeposited from further upslope. The single sherd of probable Bronze Age pottery, struck flints and unworked burnt flints from Trenches 3110TT and 3112TT indicate that there has been prehistoric activity in the area but does not allow secure dating of the deposits within which they were found. It is likely, though, that at least some of the colluvium was deposited in Later Prehistory. Post-medieval tile was recovered from the upper part of the sequence, indicating that colluvial processes were active more recently.
- 7.2.3 The only archaeological features recorded were modern. Two large pits, in Trenches 3111TT and 3128TT, may have been quarry or 'marl' pits. The ditch recorded in Trench 3132 was orientated parallel to Stony Lane and may be a former field boundary.

7.3 Environmental evidence

- 7.3.1 A late glacial buried soil horizon was recorded in Trench 3123TT but was poorly preserved and therefore has limited potential for palaeo-environmental reconstruction.

8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

8.1 Survival/condition

- 8.1.1 The possible Late Pleistocene palaeosol in Trench 3123TT is poorly preserved, probably due to the nature of the parent material in which the soil developed.

8.2 Period

- 8.2.1 The periglacial deposits were probably laid down during the Late Pleistocene. It is likely that the palaeosol is equivalent to that recorded during a previous evaluation at Nashenden Valley (URL 1997a) where it was ascribed to the Allerod chronozone (c. 11000 BP).
- 8.2.2 The colluvial deposits are of Holocene date. Limited later prehistoric artefactual evidence was recovered from within the sequence at the north-west end of the site and post-medieval tile was recovered from the upper part of the sequence.
- 8.2.3 Three modern features were recorded on the site.

8.3 Rarity

- 8.3.1 The occurrence of a late glacial palaeosol is rare, although a number of better-preserved examples have been studied in Kent, most recently the sequence at Holywell Coombe in Folkestone (Preece 1992).
- 8.3.2 The sequence of colluvial deposits is typical of sediments found in chalkland dry valleys in southern England which formed during the Holocene period as a result of soil erosion, often associated with human clearance of the upper chalk slopes and downland tops

8.4 Fragility/vulnerability

- 8.4.1 Any archaeological features on the steep eastern slopes of the valley would be vulnerable to plough damage.
- 8.4.2 The Pleistocene horizons in the base of the valley are overlain by colluvium which has provided protection from later plough disturbance.
- 8.4.3 The lower, possibly prehistoric, colluvial deposits are also protected from plough disturbance by overlying colluvium.

8.5 Diversity

- 8.5.1 Considerable diversity of geological deposits (Chalk, cold climate solifluction deposits, a palaeosol, colluvium) exists within the evaluation area.
- 8.5.2 Little diversity of archaeological features or artefacts was recorded.

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 Two previous evaluations were carried out for URL, immediately to the north (URL 1997a) and to the south (URL 1997b).

8.7 Group value

- 8.7.1 There is little group value that can be attributed to the results of this evaluation. Some group value can be attached to the poorly-preserved late glacial palaeosol in Trench 3123TT when placed in the context of the better-preserved soil recorded to the north-west (URL 1997a).

8.8 Potential

- 8.8.1 The results of the evaluation suggest that the late glacial palaeosol has limited potential for palaeo-environmental reconstruction.
- 8.8.2 The evaluation recorded a low concentration of redeposited prehistoric artefacts in the colluvial deposits at the northern limits of the site. However, these have little potential to contribute to an understanding of the impact of human activity on the area.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Preece R. C. 1992 'Episodes of erosion and stability since the late-glacial: The evidence from dry valleys in Kent.' 175-184. In Bell, M and Boardman, J. (eds.) *Past and Present Soil Erosion. Archaeological and Geographical Perspectives*. Oxbow Monograph **22**, 175-184, Oxbow Books: Oxford.
- URL 1994 *Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report*. (4 vols. Prepared for URL by OAU).
- URL 1995 *1994 Surface Collection Survey*. Unpublished report prepared by OAU for Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link.
- URL 1997a *Nashenden Valley, Borstal, Rochester Kent, Archaeological Evaluation Report*
- URL 1997b *Upper Nashenden Farm, Stony Lane, Rochester, Kent, Archaeological Evaluation Report*
- Wilkinson, D.(ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

APPENDIX 1

WORKED FLINT

by P.Bradley, Oxford Archaeological Unit

- 1.1 A small quantity of worked and unworked burnt flint was recovered. The flint is summarised by context in Table 3. The flint was recovered from colluvial deposits and is generally abraded and worn.

Table 3: Distribution of worked flint by context and weight in grams

Context	Trench	Description	Struck flint	Burnt unworked flint
158	3110	Colluvium		9 pieces (89g)
164	3110	Colluvium		1 piece (14g)
169	3112	Colluvium	4 flakes	
169	3112	Colluvium		2 pieces (26g)
Total			4	12 pieces (129g)

2 Discussion

- 2.1 This small flint assemblage is undiagnostic. To the north of this site the surface collection survey recovered struck and burnt flint (OAU No. 1824). This was also undiagnostic although a Neolithic to Bronze Age date is suggested (URL 1995). The evaluation at Nashenden Valley (URL 1997a) also recovered undiagnostic flint work.

APPENDIX 2

POTTERY

by A.J.Barclay, Oxford Archaeological Unit

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The evaluation produced a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery and a quantity of post-medieval tile and modern pottery. The pottery is summarised in Table 4.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The assemblage is quantified by sherd count and weight (see Table 4). In the absence of diagnostic featured sherds dates have been assigned by fabric.

3 Bronze Age

- 3.1 A small and abraded sand-tempered sherd from colluvium (169) could be of Bronze Age date.

Table 4. Quantification of all pottery by sherd number and weight.

Context	Trench	Type	Bronze Age	Post-medieval tile	Modern	Total
156	3110	Colluvium		1 (59g)		1 (59g)
157	3110	Colluvium		1 (15g)		1 (15g)
168	3112	Colluvium		8 (131g)		8 (131g)
169	3112	Colluvium	1 (4g)			1 (4g)
184	3132	Modern ditch fill			1 (5g)	1 (5g)
185	3132	Modern ditch fill			2 (11g)	2 (11g)
Total			1 (4g)	11 (205g)	3 (16g)	14 (225g)

APPENDIX 3

ANIMAL BONE

By Bethan Charles, Oxford Archaeological Unit

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The evaluation produced a 1 bone, retrieved by hand.

2 Condition of the bone

- 2.1 The condition of the bone is graded on a scale of 1 to 5. Bone graded as 1 is in excellent condition with little post-depositional damage, and that graded as 5 cannot be attributed to either species or element. The bone from Little Monk Wood had post-depositional surface pitting and root damage and is grade 4.

3 Species representation

- 3.1 The single bone recovered from the colluvium (108) in Trench 3131TT was a proximal horse phalanx.