

**CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK  
UNION RAILWAYS (SOUTH) LIMITED**

**Archaeological Evaluation at Park Wood Cottage  
(ARC PWC99), nr Mersham, Kent  
Environmental Statement Route Window 34**

**FINAL FIELDWORK REPORT**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 1999**

**Contract no. URS/400/ARC/0001  
WA Report no. 45998b**

**Wessex Archaeology**

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**Volume 1 of 1**

<b>Prepared by:</b> <b>Date:</b>	
<b>Checked by:</b> <b>Date:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b> <b>Position:</b> <b>Date:</b>	

**Wessex Archaeology,  
Portway House,  
Old Sarum Park,  
Salisbury,  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB**

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**Executive Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation of a site at Park Wood Cottage. The evaluation area was situated to the east of Station Road and alongside the Ashford to Folkestone railway, near the village of Mersham (centred on URL grid point 86820 18475; NGR grid point TR 06820 38475). The site is known as Park Wood Cottage (site code ARC PWC99: Environmental Statement Route Window 34).

Previous CTRL work in the area had revealed a complex arrangement of archaeological features, predominantly located to the west of Station Road, which had been dated as Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age, both phases apparently focussing on subrectangular settlement enclosures.

The evaluation has revealed a total of 17 archaeological features, including ditches and pits, distributed throughout the evaluation area. Dating evidence suggests that the features in this area represent Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British, medieval and modern remains, with the pre-modern remains considered indicative of field systems as opposed to settlement remains.

## FACTUAL STATEMENT

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation of a site at Park Wood Cottage. The evaluation area was situated to the east of Station Road and alongside the Ashford to Folkestone railway, near the village of Mersham (centred on URL grid point 86820 18475: NGR grid point TR 06820 38475: **Figure 1**). The site is known as **Park Wood Cottage** (site code ARC PWC99: Environmental Statement Route Window 34).

1.1.2 The land to the west of Station Road was evaluated in January 1999 under the site name Little Stock Farm, and site code ARC LSF98 (URS 1999b). The Park Wood Cottage evaluation was subsequently commissioned as a separate task instruction during the subsequent excavation of part of this earlier evaluation area (**Figure 2**). The LSF98 evaluation revealed a complex arrangement of archaeological features, predominantly located at the eastern end of the earlier evaluation area (i.e. on the opposite side of Station Road).

1.1.3 Dating evidence from the LSF98 evaluation suggested that these features represent both Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age settlement activity, and that both phases appear to focus on subrectangular enclosures. The centre for later medieval and post-medieval activity was apparently shifted slightly to the west of the earlier enclosures, i.e. away from Park Wood Cottage (URS 1999b).

1.1.4 The fieldwork forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the proposed route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), preceded by an Environmental Assessment (URL 1994).

1.1.5 The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with a written *Agreement for the Provision of Archaeological Services* (URS 1999a), which defined the scope, aims and methods for the project.

1.1.6 The fieldwork was carried out between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 1999.

#### 1.2 Site Description, Topography, Geology and Hydrography

1.2.1 The approximately subrectangular site comprised two adjacent plots (Plots 1 and 2 - see below) defined by the Ashford to Folkestone railway cutting to the south, Station Road to the east, and existing field boundaries to the west. The northern boundary to the site comprises the defined limit of evaluation, and does not correspond to existing landscape features (**Figure 2**). At the time of the evaluation Plot 1 to the south was under permanent pasture, whilst Plot 2 to the north contained oil seed rape.

- 1.2.2 Topographically, the site occupies the convex sloping east-south-east face of a south-facing spur of land overlooking the East Stour River floodplain to the south. The higher ground towards the north-west corner of the site is at *c.* 65 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and falls to *c.* 55m aOD at the eastern end of the site.
- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology comprises the southernmost fringes of Cretaceous Lower Greensand Hythe Beds, overlying Atherfield Clay of the same geological period. More recent drift deposits in the area include alluvium mapped along the course of the East Stour River to the south (Ordnance Survey 1974).
- 1.2.4 There are no extant watercourses within the site limits, although recent Ordnance Survey mapping indicates a well in the extreme west of the site, and a spring is shown immediately to the east of the site. Further to the south of the site the drainage pattern is dominated by the west-flowing East Stour River, which converges with the Great Stour River at Ashford.

### 1.3 Methods

- 1.3.1 As noted above (paragraph 1.1.5), the fieldwork was conducted in accordance with an *Agreement for the Provision of Archaeological Services* (URS 1999a), which contains a detailed methodology for all aspects of the evaluation fieldwork. This methodology will not be repeated in full here, although a brief summary is reiterated below:
- *all trenches were located to a horizontal accuracy of  $\pm 0.50$  m and elevation accuracy of  $\pm 0.02$  m (per kilometre traverse) in relation to trench location plans provided and Ordnance Datum (Newlyn);*
  - *all trenches were excavated in discrete 0.10-0.20 m spits using a tracked excavator with a 1.80 m wide toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision, to either 1.20 m depth, the surface of in situ geology, or the surface at which archaeological remains could be identified, whichever was encountered first;*
  - *all trenches were cleaned manually, with a sufficient sample of all exposed features investigated, and sampled where appropriate, in order to fulfil the aims of the evaluation; and,*
  - *all recording conformed to the standards of current best practice, and included a full graphic and photographic record of all stages of the evaluation.*
- 1.3.2 The evaluation comprised eight machine trenches (3691TT – 3698TT inc.) each measuring *c.* 30 m by 1.9 m (**Figure 2**), subject to the variations listed below.
- 1.3.3 For ease of reference, the evaluation area was divided into two identifiable fields, or plots. Trenches within each plot are tabulated below (**Table 1**).

**Table 1: Correlation of Plot and Trench numbers**

Plot number	Trenches
Plot 1	3693TT, 3694TT, 3695TT, 3696TT, 3697TT, 3698TT
Plot 2	3691TT, 3692TT

## 1.4 Variations

1.4.1 The following agreed variations were actioned during the course of the fieldwork.

- *Trench 3691TT was relocated c. 11.5 m to the east-south-east (on a bearing of c. 113°) and slightly re-aligned to avoid an existing field boundary and entrance into the remainder of Plot 2 beyond the evaluation limits.*
- *The southernmost 3.5 m of trench 3695TT was backfilled prior to recording to protect and support a repaired water pipe.*
- *Trench 3698TT was shortened by 4.7 m at its north-west end to avoid trenching across the only vehicular entrance to Plot 1.*

## 2 RESULTS

### 2.1 General

2.1.1 In summary, eight evaluation trenches were excavated within the two defined plots (**Figure 2**), revealing 17 archaeological deposits and/or features. The archaeological features, including provisional dates where known, are summarised by trench in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Summary of archaeological features by trench**

Key: LIA/ERB = Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British, Med = Medieval, Pmed = Post-medieval, Mod = Modern

Trench	Features
3691TT	LIA/ERB ditch 369104
3692TT	LIA/ERB layer 369203
3693TT	Ditch 369302, Pit 369304, Mod gully 369309
3694TT	Pit 369404, Med ditch 369406, Med pit 369408, Ditch 369412, Ditch 369413
3695TT	LIA/ERB ditch 369501, Ditch 369503, LIA/ERB tree-throw 369508
3696TT	Ditch 369602, LIA/ERB ditch 369604, Med ditch 369606
3697TT	Eighteen features and/or deposits, all identified as 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> century (Mod) date
3698TT	Pmed ditch 369804, Mod disturbance 369806

2.1.2 A number of other potential archaeological features were investigated during the course of the evaluation. These were demonstrated to be either natural variations in the geology of the area or features of non-archaeological origin (i.e. animal burrows), and will not be discussed further here. In addition, 18



features and associated layers of 20<sup>th</sup> century date were identified and investigated in trench 3697TT. Similarly these will not be discussed in detail, although a summary for this trench will be provided.

- 2.1.3 A context inventory (by trench) is provided in **Appendix 1**, whilst deposits and features of note are described below.

## 2.2 Stratigraphy

- 2.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence identified within the evaluation area can be broadly summarised as:

- *Modern topsoil*
- *Colluvium*
- *Cretaceous Lower Greensand/ Atherfield Clay*

### *Topsoil*

- 2.2.2 Topsoil encountered ranged between brown and very dark greyish brown in colour, and comprised a silty loam or clay loam, with fine sand occasionally present, and very few stones. Fine roots were recorded in all the trenches of Plot 1. Topsoil was generally thickest within the four trenches (trenches 3691TT, 3692TT, 3697TT and 3698TT) along the highest ground forming the north and west sides of the site, varying between 0.25 and 0.35 m thickness. Topsoil further downslope within Plot 1 (i.e. trenches 3693TT – 3696TT inc.) was generally much shallower and only varied between 0.09 and 0.12 m thickness.

### *Colluvium*

- 2.2.3 Colluvial subsoil was recorded in all trenches with the exception of trench 3693TT, and in general comprised a relatively stone-free mid brown to slightly yellowish brown sandy loam. Where present the colluvium was on average 0.32 m thick, ranging between 0.08 m (trench 3698TT) and 0.67 m thickness (trench 3697TT), and was generally thickest towards the lower eastern portion of the site. Variations within colluvial sequences were not noted within individual evaluation trenches.
- 2.2.4 Notwithstanding the likelihood for intrusive and/or residual material, and the reworked nature of colluvial deposits *per se*, artefactual and stratigraphic indicators would suggest that the majority of this deposit is of medieval or later date. The only ambiguous evidence regarding this deposit was recorded within trench 3691TT, where Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British ditch **369104** appeared to be cut from the surface of colluvium 369102 (the only instance where a feature was recorded cutting colluvium) that produced post-medieval fragments of ceramic building material. Although the finds evidence may be intrusive and/or residual, it is more likely that the relationship between feature and deposit has been misidentified.

### ***Cretaceous Lower Greensand/ Atherfield Clay***

- 2.2.5 This deposit was the basal *in situ* geology recorded within all trenches. It generally comprised pale olive green sandy clay with ferruginous reddish brown mottling.

## **2.3 Structural Reports**

### ***Trench 3691TT (Figure 3)***

- 2.3.1 Ditch **369104** comprised an east to west aligned Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British feature with moderate slightly concave sides and a flat base, apparently turning towards the south-west at its western end. Furthermore, no trace of this ditch was recorded within trench 3692TT immediately to the east, although spread 369203 (see below) was located on this alignment. The feature was exposed for a length of *c.* 7.5 m, was *c.* 0.8 m wide and 0.21 m deep, and filled with a dark brown clay (fill 369105/ 369106) with very occasional small flint fragments. Finds recovered from this ditch included predominantly Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery, as well as a single sherd of probable Late Bronze Age pottery, an undiagnostic iron rivet head, worked flint and animal bone. This feature was recorded cutting from the upper surface of a colluvial layer (layer 369102) that produced post-medieval brick and tile fragments. It is considered probable that the relationship between the ditch and the colluvium has therefore been misidentified, possibly obscured by recent plough damage that coincidentally follows either side of the ditch.

### ***Trench 3692TT (Figure 3)***

- 2.3.2 An apparently sub-circular spread of dark brown silty clay loam containing flecks of charcoal and fired clay (layer 369203) was recorded extending beyond the northern limit of the trench. The recorded spread measured 3.45 m east to west, 0.95 m north to south and up to 0.10 m thick, with no discernible 'cut' identified to contain this deposit. Dating evidence recovered comprised sherds of Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery, and the spread was sealed by colluvium. This layer was on the same alignment as ditch **369104** within trench 3691TT (see above), and they may therefore be related.

### ***Trench 3693TT (Figure 4)***

- 2.3.3 Ditch **369302** comprised a south-south-west to north-north-east aligned feature with shallow concave sides and a rounded base. The ditch was 0.91 m wide and 0.19 m deep, filled with a dark brown sandy clay loam (fill 369301) containing few stones, some flecks of charcoal and no artefacts, and was cut from the surface of *in situ* geology and sealed directly by topsoil.
- 2.3.4 Tree-throw **369304** was recorded extending beyond the southern limit of the trench, and was roughly sub-rectangular in shape, measuring 1.60 m east to west, at least 0.38 m north to south and 0.43 m deep, and with steep sides and a flat base. Numerous deeper root holes of less than 40mm diameter extended into the geological deposits from the base of this feature. The tree-throw was filled with a dark brown sandy clay loam (fill 369303) containing many fine roots, fragments of ceramic building material (too small to retain)

and fragments of charcoal and burnt clay concentrated on the east side of the feature.

- 2.3.5 Gully **369309** comprised an east to west aligned narrow 0.35 m wide feature with very even vertical sides and an apparent eastern terminal within the trench limits, at least 0.32 m deep and filled with a dark brown sandy clay loam (fill 369308). On the basis of its morphology and the nature of its fill, this was identified as a modern feature during investigation (probably drainage-related) and was therefore not fully excavated.

***Trench 3694TT (Figure 4)***

- 2.3.6 Pit **369404** comprised a south-west to north-east aligned elliptical feature with steep slightly irregular sides and a sloping base, and measured 0.81 m in length, 0.51 m in width and 0.28 m deep. It was filled with a brown fine sandy clay loam (fill 369405) containing very occasional stones and fragments of coal (?post-medieval); there was, however, no secure dating evidence.
- 2.3.7 Ditch **369406** comprised a south-west to north-east aligned linear feature with moderate fairly even sides and a broad flat base. It was 0.73 m wide, 0.19 m deep, and filled with grey brown fine sandy clay loam (fill 369407), containing rare stones, frequent fragments of coal (?post-medieval), sherds of both Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval pottery, and worked flint.
- 2.3.8 Pit **369408** comprised a subrectangular pit aligned roughly south-west to north-east and at least 1.28 m long, 1.62 m wide and 0.27 m deep, with a steep north-west side, shallow south-east side and broad flat base. It was filled with a heavily charcoal-flecked and stained fine sandy clay loam (fill 369409), and produced coal (not retained), worked and burnt flint, Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval pottery, ceramic building material and a piece of wattle-impressed fired clay. This was cut by ditch **369412** (see below).
- 2.3.9 Ditch **369412** comprised a roughly south-west to north-east aligned linear feature at least 1.2 m wide and 0.2 m deep, with shallow irregular sides and an uneven base. It was filled with dark brown fine sandy clay (fill 369411) with occasional small subangular fragments of stone. This ditch cut through pit **369408** (see above).
- 2.3.10 The southernmost edge of south-east to north-west aligned ditch **369413** was recorded crossing the extreme north-west corner of the trench. The feature was at least 0.6 m wide within the trench limits and filled with greyish brown fine sandy clay loam with very occasional small subangular stones. The feature was not excavated. The feature may be part of ditch **369503** identified in trench 3695TT (see below).
- 2.3.11 A modern vertical-sided gully was recorded at the south-east end of the trench. This was identified as modern during excavation, probably representing a land drain feature and was therefore not further recorded.

**Trench 3695TT (Figure 5)**

- 2.3.12 Ditch **369501** comprised a south-east to north-west aligned linear feature measuring 1.7 m wide, 0.36 m deep and with shallow even sides and a fairly narrow rounded base. It was filled with grey fine sandy clay loam (fill 369502) containing rare small stones and occasional charcoal fragments, and also produced Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery. This feature was parallel to, and *c.* 7 m to the south-west of (centre line to centre line) ditch **369503** (see below).
- 2.3.13 Ditch **369503** comprised a south-east to north-west aligned linear feature measuring 1.1 m wide, 0.25 m deep and with moderate to steep convex slightly stepped sides and a rounded base. It was filled with grey fine sandy clay loam (fill 369504) containing rare small stones and occasional charcoal fragments. This feature was parallel to, and *c.* 7 m to the north-east of (centre line to centre line) ditch **369501** (see above). This feature appeared to continue into trench 3694TT as ditch **369413** (see above).
- 2.3.14 Probable tree-throw **369508** was located between ditches **369501** and **369503** (see above) and comprised a sub-elliptical feature with irregular sides and base, measuring *c.* 0.7 m by 0.6 m and 0.21 m deep. This was filled with grey to pale grey sandy clay loam (fill 369509) containing lenses of redeposited natural and occasional small stones, and also produced two sherds of Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery, including a sherd of samian. The feature is interpreted as a tree-throw on the basis of its morphology, both in plan and section, and the mixed nature of its fill (i.e. including redeposited lenses of natural).

**Trench 3696TT (Figure 5)**

- 2.3.15 Ditch **369602** comprised a poorly-defined ephemeral feature aligned north to south, with an asymmetrical profile formed from a very steep/ vertical east side and a shallow slightly concave west side. The ditch was 0.72 m wide and 0.17 m deep, and was filled with dark brown sandy clay loam (fill 369601) containing rare small stones and some flecks of charcoal. This feature was immediately adjacent to ditch **369604** (see below) to the east, the two ditches apparently converging at some point just to the south of the trench limit.
- 2.3.16 Ditch **369604** comprised a north to south aligned linear feature, also with a slightly asymmetrical profile formed from a very steep/ vertical west side, a moderate slightly concave west side and a broad rounded (or even very slightly pointed) base. The ditch was 0.9 m wide and 0.28 m deep, and was filled with dark brown sandy clay loam (fill 369603) containing rare small stones, some flecks of charcoal, animal bone and Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery.
- 2.3.17 Ditch **369606** comprised a south-south-east to north-north-west aligned linear feature measuring 0.85 m wide, 0.31 m deep and with moderate slightly concave sides and a relatively narrow rounded base. It was filled with dark brown sandy clay loam (fill 369605) with flecks of charcoal, and produced a mixed assemblage of Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval ceramic material, as well as an iron nail shank.

**Trench 3697TT (Figure 6)**

- 2.3.18 A total of 18 features and/or deposits were identified and investigated within this trench, all of which are considered to be modern (i.e. late 19<sup>th</sup> century or later). The features an insubstantial south-south-west to north-north-east aligned *c.* 4 m wide building (foundation trenches **369703** and **369705**) located at the west end of the trench (i.e. adjacent to an existing area of hard-standing and fronting onto Station Road).
- 2.3.19 To the front (i.e. west) of the building was a brick rubble spread (surface **369707**) that may either represent a surface or a construction/demolition deposit. To the rear of the building a small possible drainage ditch (ditch **369709**) runs down the slope, probably feeding into ditch **369713**, which was parallel and *c.* 8 m to the east of the building. A second ditch (ditch **369715**) approximately perpendicular, and therefore possibly related to ditch **369713** was located within the eastern portion of the trench. It is possible that ditch **369713** continues to the north to cross trench 3698TT as ditch **369804** (see below).
- 2.3.20 Also to the rear of the building was a probable fence line indicated by post-holes **369711**, **369718**, **369722** etc., which appears to have continued beyond the line of ditch **369713**, although the definition of the fence line is more vague to the east of the ditch.

**Trench 3698TT (Figure 6)**

- 2.3.21 Ditch **369804** comprised a north-north-east to south-south-west aligned linear feature crossing the central portion of the trench, measuring 1.1 m wide and 0.4 m deep with moderate convex sides and a rounded concave base. It was filled with greyish brown sandy silt loam (fill **369803**) containing occasional limestone fragments, medieval pottery, a fired clay spindlewhorl and a fragment of post-medieval roof tile. It is possible that this feature continues to the south to cross trench 3697TT as ditch **369713** (see above). Feature **369806** was identified as a modern disturbance during excavation.

**2.4 Artefactual Reports**

*by Lorraine Mephram*

- 2.4.1 A small quantity of artefactual material, in a limited range of material types, was recovered from seven trenches. Finds totals, by material type and by context are given in Appendix 2. The potential date range of material recovered is prehistoric to post-medieval.

**Pottery**

- 2.4.2 The pottery assemblage (112 sherds) includes material of later prehistoric, Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. Post-medieval material (16 sherds) is not discussed here but is tabulated below (**Table 3**).
- 2.4.3 Four sherds have been identified as of Late Bronze Age (or possibly Early Iron Age) date on the basis of fabric type – all are in coarse flint-tempered

fabrics characteristic of the post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic phase. All sherds are abraded, and there is no diagnostic material present. These sherds occurred residually in two trenches (3691TT, 3692TT).

- 2.4.4 A total of 71 sherds are broadly dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period; these were restricted to five trenches (3691TT, 3692TT, 3694TT, 3695TT, 3696TT). The majority of these are in grog-tempered fabrics; these wares belong to a native Iron Age tradition in the area, although continuing in production and use after the Roman conquest. In this instance their dating remains uncertain.
- 2.4.5 In some contexts the grog-tempered wares are accompanied by fully 'Romanised' coarsewares (greywares, oxidised wares) and in one case, South Gaulish samian, in which case a mid to late 1st century AD date might be suggested. In other contexts the grog-tempered wares occur without these Romanised wares and a date range in the 1st century AD, either pre- or post-conquest, is possible.
- 2.4.6 Medieval material (20 sherds) occurred in four trenches (3694TT, 3695TT, 3696TT, 3697TT). These are all in unglazed sandy wares (one sherd also has some fine shell inclusions). Diagnostic material comprises one jar rim, one jug rim and the handle from a second jug. A possible source for these sherds is the suspected 13<sup>th</sup> century production centre at Potters Corner, Ashford.

#### ***Worked Flint***

- 2.4.7 The lithic assemblage comprises flake and core material that is not chronologically distinctive. With the exception of one retouched piece (3692TT), there are no tools or utilised pieces present, and a broad date range of Neolithic to Bronze Age is suggested. The raw material is likely to derive from a local gravel source, and includes one piece of Bullhead flint. Most pieces are slightly edge-damaged. The flint occurred in very small quantities in four trenches (3691TT, 3692TT, 3694TT, 3695TT).

#### ***Burnt Flint***

- 2.4.8 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered in very small quantities from one trench (3694TT)

#### ***Fired Clay***

- 2.4.9 Of the 16 fragments of fired clay, 15 (3694TT) are small and abraded, although two of these have traces of either perforations (possibly spindlewhorl or loomweight fragments) or wattle impressions (i.e. structural fragments). These pieces were associated with both Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval pottery. The remaining fragment (3698TT) is an identifiable spindlewhorl fragment, of uncertain date, possibly medieval.

#### ***Iron***

- 2.4.10 Two iron objects were recovered, an undiagnostic rivet head associated with Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British pottery (3691TT), and a nail shank recovered in association with medieval pottery (3696TT). The rivet head was subcircular, measuring approximately 11 mm in diameter, and with a slightly domed profile.

***Post-medieval and modern finds***

- 2.4.11 These comprise pottery, ceramic building material and glass, and are summarised in Table 3 below:

**Table 3: Post-medieval artefact summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
CBM:	Fragments of bricks and roof tiles (not closely datable); 1 modern floor tile
Glass:	Small fragments of bottle/jar glass (19th/20th century)
Pottery:	Coarse redwares (not closely datable); industrial whitewares (19th/20th century)

**2.5 Environmental Reports**

***Plant macrofossils***

- 2.5.1 In the absence of any features that were considered at the time of excavation to be *securely* dated, no environmental samples were taken. The recent evaluation of land immediately to the west of this site (URS 1999b) has however demonstrated the potential for environmental samples from the area to produce good palaeo-environmental evidence such as grain, peas/beans, chaff and weed seeds. Furthermore, the presence of land snails within bulk samples also demonstrates that their preservation occurs on deposits derived from the local geology.

***Animal Bone***

- 2.5.2 Three pieces of animal bone were recovered, comprising two fragments of cow tooth (trenches 3696TT and 3697TT) and a skull fragment from a large mammal (trench 3691TT).

## STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

### 3 CONCLUSIONS

#### 3.1 Extent of Archaeological Remains

3.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded throughout the evaluation area, with a slight concentration of features towards the base of the slope closest to Park Wood Cottage. In addition, modern remains were almost exclusively located within trench 3697TT in the south-west corner of the site adjacent to Station Road. Other than the modern remains in trench 3697TT, there were no clear concentrations of features by period, although only Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British features were recorded in Plot 2.

#### 3.2 Nature of the Archaeological Remains

3.2.1 Most archaeological features survive as cuts into the upper surface of the *in situ* geology and were either sealed by colluvium if present, or directly by topsoil. The modern remains in trench 3697TT were cut from the surface of colluvium if present, and sealed directly by topsoil. Few inter-relationships between features were observed, with the exception of trench 3694TT and the modern remains in trench 3697TT.

3.2.2 Most features contained dating evidence from more than one period, with only one layer and three features (including a tree-throw) providing evidence exclusively from one phase (all Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British), demonstrating that there is a strong possibility that most features contain either intrusive and/or residual material. However, given the relative absence of inter-relationships noted above it is perhaps unlikely that this is a direct result of physical impact, and may therefore indicate the relatively intensity with which each phase used the land.

#### 3.3 Character of Site

3.3.1 Little or no evidence was recovered to suggest that the Late Bronze Age settlement site located to the west of Station Road (URS 1999b) extended into this evaluation area, with only four sherds recovered from Plot 2 to indicate that such activity occurs in the immediate vicinity.

3.3.2 Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British remains possibly contemporaneous with the similarly dated settlement also located to the west of Station Road are recorded within the site. However, these remains do not appear to indicate features close to an occupation centre (i.e. there are few finds, and no dated structural features or pits etc.). It is therefore possible that the remains recorded during this project represent an associated field system extending down the hillside from the settlement enclosure previously identified on the brow of the hill to the west.

3.3.3 Medieval remains are coherently represented within the evaluation area, possibly representing outlying features, field systems etc. associated with a



settlement located under or near the existing farm buildings at Park Wood Cottage.

- 3.3.4 The modern remains within trench 3697TT are clearly related to an area of extant hard-standing, including a sheep dip trough, that is located in the south-west corner of the field fronting onto Station Road. It is likely that documentary sources will inform the nature of occupation in this area as accurately as any field evaluation can.

### **3.4 Site Chronology**

- 3.4.1 Secure chronological indicators demonstrate Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval/ modern activity at or near the site. None of the evidence could be described as indicative of intensive occupation activity, with the exception of the modern remains within trench 3697TT.

## **4 IMPORTANCE OF REMAINS**

### **4.1 Scheduled Monument Criteria**

- 4.1.1 The Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling monuments has been addressed. The remains recorded during this evaluation do not appear to satisfy any of the criteria as defined.

### **4.2 Period**

- 4.2.1 The nature of prehistoric settlement pattern in the immediate area is poorly understood, and the Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British features as recorded contribute little to improve such understanding, although their very presence may be considered significant. However, when considered in conjunction with the contemporaneous settlement remains noted on the opposite side of Station Road, the features do combine to help characterise the nature of the settlement 'landscape' at the time, and the localised juxtaposition between occupation and agriculture.

- 4.2.2 The medieval settlement pattern is perhaps better understood in the area, and the region as a whole, including work that has re-assessed the evidence and proposed that small two- or three-building farmsteads may represent the primary early medieval villages of Kent (i.e. Rigold 1982, 85). Within this context, the evidence recorded may indicate that the remains of a medieval farmstead is located under or very near the existing farm buildings at Park Wood Cottage. If so, this may suggest that occupation at the site may have persisted from the medieval period, and as such the evaluation results may be considered to have at least local significance.

### **4.3 Rarity**

- 4.3.1 Although generally the archaeological features recorded during the evaluation are unremarkable, the sustained level of archaeological features (from at least three chronologically distinctive periods) across the entire

evaluation area is of note. If the density of archaeological remains represents the intensity with which the site has been exploited through time, then this may also be of significance.

#### **4.4 Documentation**

4.4.1 Prior to CTRL investigations in the area, little had been previously documented regarding the archaeological resource of the site or surrounding area. Evidence for this is borne out in the comparative lack of information regarding any pre-Romano-British settlement pattern (c.f. Leach 1982) for either the region or Kent as a whole.

4.4.2 The initial environmental assessment (URL 1994) identified ridge and furrow earthworks and associated field boundaries that may represent the remnants of a medieval field system, located to the south of Little Stock Farm cottage (itself dated as 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century in origin) and to west of the evaluation area.

#### **4.5 Group Value**

4.5.1 As a collection of features and/or deposits that may represent a continuous presence at the site from the (? early) medieval period onwards, it may be valid to suggest that the remains do possess some significance as a group. Furthermore, when viewed in conjunction with the adjacent evaluation and excavation results (URS 1999b) the analogy can be extended to include prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in the immediate area.

4.5.2 However, insufficient data has been recorded at this stage to characterise the exact nature of activity within the evaluation area, and as such insufficient evidence exists to place these results into a wider landscape to enhance their group value.

#### **4.6 Survival/ Condition**

4.6.1 Archaeological features recorded during the evaluation predominantly survive as cuts in the surface of geology and are sealed by colluvial subsoil and/or topsoil. The subsoil will serve to protect some of these features from present-day ploughing, although it is very likely that all have suffered varying degrees of truncation in the past.

4.6.2 As recorded above, it has already been demonstrated that the local geology and derived deposits support a wide range of palaeo-environmental data, including animal bone and mollusca. The degree and range of such preservation is not common and may therefore be considered significant.

#### **4.7 Fragility/ Vulnerability**

4.7.1 It is unlikely that Plot 1 has been ploughed for many years (certainly not within the memory of the tenant farmer at the time of evaluation) and as such the archaeological remains within this plot are currently under little or no threat from agriculture.

- 4.7.2 The features within Plot 2 are currently subjected to seasonal ploughing, and it is therefore possible that these features may be gradually truncated through further ploughing. All features will be impacted by the construction of the CTRL.

#### **4.8 Diversity**

- 4.8.1 The remains recorded during the course of the evaluation do not represent a diverse range of feature types and/or activities. With the exception of the modern features in trench 3697TT, the features generally appear to represent field boundaries and/or enclosures associated with contemporaneous settlement centres located beyond the evaluation area.

#### **4.9 Potential**

##### ***Structural***

- 4.9.1 The archaeological features recorded offer some potential for contributing to the understanding of the nature of Late Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval settlement and agricultural activity in the area. However, this potential can only be realised when the results are viewed in context; in isolation they offer little to inform the archaeological development of the local landscape.

##### ***Artefactual***

- 4.9.2 The small pottery and flint assemblage is useful as an indicator of activity in the Late Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval periods, but is otherwise of limited significance, and there is little potential for further analysis unless incorporated into wider analysis.

##### ***Environmental***

- 4.9.3 As outlined above, environmental samples were not taken during this evaluation. Previous work in the immediate area (URS 1999b) has already demonstrated the potential degree of preservation that may be anticipated for plant macrofossils, mollusca etc. within deposits derived from the local geology.

## **4.10 Discussion**

- 4.10.1 The evaluation has revealed a number of archaeological features throughout the evaluation area that occupies the east-facing slope above Park Wood Cottage, overlooking the East Stour River valley to the south-east.
- 4.10.2 Dating and morphological evidence suggests that these features represent both Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British and medieval field systems. The former probably extend from a known contemporaneous settlement centre located immediately to the west of Station Road, whilst the latter probably extend from a medieval settlement centre at or near the Park Wood Cottage farm buildings at the base of the slope to the east.
- 4.10.3 Modern remains were concentrated within the south-west corner of the evaluation area, probably representing either an independent farmstead or outhouses associated with Park Wood Cottage that formerly fronted onto Station Road. It is probable that documentary sources may provide the recent history of these remains.
- 4.10.4 Colluvial deposits recorded at the site, although extensive, were generally thin and probably of post-medieval origin.

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## Appendix 1: Context Inventory

NB: Context inventories per trench are provided in stratigraphic order where possible; **Associations** are generally restricted to stratigraphic, not physical relationships; CBM = Ceramic Building Material; LBA = Late Bronze Age; LIA/ERB = Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British; Med = Medieval; Pmed = Post-medieval

Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Finds	No.	Date etc.
3691TT	369101	Topsoil	Seals 369105 and 369106			
3691TT	369105	Ditch fill	Equivalent to 369106 Fill of <b>369104</b>	Animal Bone Worked Flint Pottery Iron	1 1 21 1	LIA/ERB Rivet head
3691TT	369106	Ditch fill	Equivalent to 369105 Fill of <b>369104</b>	Pottery	16	?LBA (1), LIA/ERB(15)
3691TT	<b>369104</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369105 and 369106 Cuts 369102			
3691TT	369102	Colluvium	Cut by <b>369104</b> Seals 369103	CBM Pottery	5 10	Pmed LIA/ERB
3691TT	369103	Natural geology	Sealed by 369102			
3692TT	369200	Topsoil	Seals 369201	Pottery	8	?LBA (3), LIA/ERB (5)
3692TT	369201	Colluvium	Sealed by 369200 Seals 369203	Worked Flint	1	
3692TT	369203	Layer	Sealed by 369201 Seals 369202	Pottery	3	LIA/ERB
3692TT	369202	Natural geology	Sealed by 369203			
3693TT	369305	Topsoil (Turf)	Seals 369306			
3693TT	369306	Topsoil	Sealed by 369305 Seals 369301, 369303 and 369308			
3693TT	369301	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369306 Fill of <b>369302</b>			
3693TT	<b>369302</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369301 Cuts 369307			
3693TT	369303	Tree-throw fill	Sealed by 369306 Fill of <b>369304</b>			
3693TT	<b>369304</b>	<b>Tree-throw</b>	Filled with 369303 Cuts 369307			
3693TT	369308	Gully fill	Sealed by 369306 Fill of 369309			
3693TT	<b>369309</b>	<b>Gully</b>	Filled with 369308 Cuts 369307			
3693TT	369307	Natural geology	Cut by <b>369302, 369304</b> and <b>369309</b>			
3694TT	369401	Topsoil	Seals 369402			
3694TT	369402	Colluvium	Sealed by 369401 Seals 369405, 369407, 369410 and 369411			
3694TT	369411	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369402 Fill of <b>369412</b>			
3694TT	<b>369412</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369411 Cuts 369409			
3694TT	369409	Pit fill	Cut by <b>369412</b> Fill of <b>369408</b>	Worked Flint Burnt Flint CBM Fired Clay Pottery	2 7 1 15 6	?Wattle impressions LIA/ERB (1), Med (5)
3694TT	<b>369408</b>	<b>Pit</b>	Filled with 369409 Cuts 369403			
3694TT	369405	Pit fill	Sealed by 369402 Fill of <b>369404</b>	Coal	-	Not retained (?Pmed)
3694TT	<b>369404</b>	<b>Pit</b>	Filled with 369405 Cuts 369403			
3694TT	369407	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369402 Fill of <b>369406</b>	Worked Flint Pottery Coal	1 4 -	LIA/ERB (1), Med (3) Not retained (?Pmed)
3694TT	<b>369406</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369407 Cuts 369403			

Trench 3694TT record contd. overleaf

Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Finds	No.	Date etc.
3694TT	369410	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369402 Fill of <b>369413</b>			
3694TT	<b>369413</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369410 Cuts 369403			
3694TT	369403	Natural geology	Cut by <b>369404, 369406, 369408</b> and <b>369413</b>			
3695TT	369505	Topsoil	Seals 369506			
3695TT	369506	Colluvium	Sealed by 369505 Seals 369502, 369504 and 369509	Worked Flint Pottery	1 2	LIA/ERB (1), Med (1)
3695TT	369502	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369506 Fill of <b>369501</b>	Pottery	3	LIA/ERB
3695TT	<b>369501</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369502 Cuts 369507			
3695TT	369504	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369506 Fill of <b>369503</b>			
3695TT	<b>369503</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369504 Cuts 369507			
3695TT	369509	Tree-throw? fill	Sealed by 369506 Fill of <b>369508</b>	Pottery	2	LIA/ERB (1 Samian)
3695TT	<b>369508</b>	<b>Tree-throw?</b>	Filled with 369509 Cuts 369507			
3695TT	369507	Natural geology	Cut by <b>369501, 369503</b> and <b>369508</b>			
3696TT	369607	Topsoil	Seals 369608			
3696TT	369608	Colluvium	Sealed by 369607 Seals 369601, 369603 and 369605	Pottery	3	LIA/ERB (1), Med (2)
3696TT	369601	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369608 Fill of <b>369602</b>			
3696TT	<b>369602</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369601 Cuts 369609			
3696TT	369603	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369608 Fill of <b>369604</b>	Animal Bone Pottery	1 5	LIA/ERB
3696TT	<b>369604</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369603 Cuts 369609			
3696TT	369605	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369608 Fill of <b>369606</b>	CBM Pottery Iron	1 11 1	?Med LIA/ERB (4), Med (7) Nail shank
3696TT	<b>369606</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369605 Cuts 369609			
3696TT	369609	Natural geology	Cut by <b>369602, 369604</b> and <b>369606</b>			
3697TT	369700	Turf	Seals 369701			
3697TT	369701	Topsoil	Sealed by 369700 Seals 369707, 369704, 369706, 369710, 369712, 369714, 369716, 369721, 369723, 369725, 369727, 369729, 369731, 369733, 369735, 369737, 369739 and 369741			
3697TT	369707	Surface	Sealed by 369701 Seals 369717	Modern Bricks	-	Not retained
3697TT	369704	Foundation trench fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369703</b>			
3697TT	<b>369703</b>	<b>Foundation trench</b>	Filled with 369704 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369706	Upper foundation trench fill	Sealed by 369701 Seals 369708 Fill of <b>369705</b>			
3697TT	369708	Primary foundation trench fill	Sealed by 369706 Fill of <b>369705</b>			
3697TT	<b>369705</b>	<b>Foundation trench</b>	Filled with 369706 and 369708 Cuts 369717			

Trench 3697TT record contd. overleaf

Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Findings	No.	Date etc.
3697TT	369710	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369709</b>	Glass Pottery	1 1	Mod (jar) Mod
3697TT	<b>369709</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369710 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369712	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369711</b>	CBM Glass Pottery	1 4 2	Mod Pmed (bottle/jar) Mod
3697TT	<b>369711</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369712 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369714	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369713</b>	Pottery	3	Mod (2), Med (1)
3697TT	<b>369713</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369714 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369716	Pit fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369715</b>	Pottery	6	Mod
3697TT	<b>369715</b>	<b>Pit</b>	Filled with 369716 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369721	Post-pipe fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369720</b>			
3697TT	<b>369720</b>	<b>Post-pipe</b>	Filled with 369721 Cuts 369719			
3697TT	369719	Post-hole fill	Cut by <b>369720</b> Fill of <b>369718</b>	CBM Glass Pottery	1 4 1	Pmed Mod (jar) Mod
3697TT	<b>369718</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369719 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369723	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369722</b>			
3697TT	<b>369722</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369723 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369725	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369724</b>	Animal Bone CBM	1 1	Mod
3697TT	<b>369724</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369725 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369727	Stake-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369726</b>			
3697TT	<b>369726</b>	<b>Stake-hole</b>	Filled with 369727 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369729	Stake-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369728</b>			
3697TT	<b>369728</b>	<b>Stake-hole</b>	Filled with 369729 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369731	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369730</b>	Glass Pottery	1 2	Mod (jar) Mod
3697TT	<b>369730</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369731 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369733	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369732</b>			
3697TT	<b>369732</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369733 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369735	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369734</b>			
3697TT	<b>369734</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369735 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369737	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369736</b>	CBM Glass Pottery	1 2 2	Mod (jar) Mod
3697TT	<b>369736</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369737 Cuts 369717			
3697TT	369739	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369738</b>			
3697TT	<b>369738</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369739 Cuts 369702			
3697TT	369741	Post-hole fill	Sealed by 369701 Fill of <b>369740</b>			
3697TT	<b>369740</b>	<b>Post-hole</b>	Filled with 369741 Cuts 369702			

Trench 3697TT record contd. overleaf



Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Finds	No.	Date etc.
3697TT	369702	Colluvium	Sealed by 369701 Cut by <b>369738</b> and <b>369740</b> Seals 369717			
3697TT	369717	Natural geology	Cut by <b>369703, 369705, 369709, 369711, 369713, 369715, 369718, 369722, 369724, 369726, 369728, 369730, 369732, 369734</b> and <b>369736</b> Sealed by 369707 and 369702			
3698TT	369801	Topsoil	Sealed 369802			
3698TT	369802	Colluvium	Sealed by 369801 Seals 369803 and 369805			
3698TT	369803	Ditch fill	Sealed by 369802 Fill of <b>369804</b>	CBM Fired Clay Pottery	1 1 1	Pmed Spindlewhorl Med
3698TT	<b>369804</b>	<b>Ditch</b>	Filled with 369803 Cuts 369807			
3698TT	369805	Modern disturbance fill	Sealed by 369802 Fill of <b>369806</b>			
3698TT	<b>369806</b>	<b>Modern disturbance</b>	Filled with 369805 Cuts 369807			
3698TT	369807	Natural geology	Cut by <b>369804</b> and <b>369806</b>			

## Appendix 2: Artefact Quantification

NB: Quantities are presented by number/weight in grams; LBA = Late Bronze Age; LIA/ERB = Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British; Med = Medieval

Trench	Context	Animal Bone	Flint	Burnt Flint	CBM	Fired Clay	?LBA pottery	LIA/ERB pottery	Med pottery	Iron
3691TT	369102				5/96			10/150		
3691TT	369105	1/2	1/12					21/190		1
3691TT	369106						1/8	15/276		
3692TT	369200						3/46	5/40		
3692TT	369201		1/4							
3692TT	369203							3/14		
3694TT	369407		1/4					1/8	3/8	
3694TT	369409		2/19	7/332	1/24	15/132		1/4	5/20	
3695TT	369502							3/24		
3695TT	369506		1/40					1/5	1/61	
3695TT	369509							2/4		
3696TT	369603	1/2						5/24		
3696TT	369605				1/6			4/7	7/55	1
3696TT	369608							1/16	2/8	
3697TT	369714								1/22	
3697TT	369725	1/1								
3697TT	369737				1/4					
3698TT	369803					1/10			1/3	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>3/5</b>	<b>6/79</b>	<b>7/332</b>	<b>8/130</b>	<b>16/142</b>	<b>4/54</b>	<b>72/762</b>	<b>20/197</b>	<b>2</b>