

Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Union Railways Ltd

Station Road to Church Lane, Sellindge,
Kent

ARC SCL 97

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contract No. 194/870

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 34

Oxford Archaeological Unit

January 1998

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UNION RAILWAYS LTD

**STATION ROAD TO CHURCH LANE, SELLINDGE,
KENT**

ARC SCL 97

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 34

OS GRID TR 077 384

Contract No. 194/870

Volume 1 of 1

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January 1998

STATION ROAD TO CHURCH LANE, SELLINDGE, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CONTENTS

<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT	
1 BACKGROUND.....	2
1.1 Introduction.....	2
1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse	2
1.3 Archaeological background	3
2 AIMS.....	3
3 METHODS	4
3.1 General.....	4
3.2 Survey	4
3.3 Excavation.....	4
3.4 Recording	5
4 RESULTS	5
4.1 Presentation of Results.....	5
4.2 General Stratigraphy	5
4.3 Summary of archaeology	6
4.4 Site Archive.....	7
5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS.....	7
5.1 Western field - Trenches 1738TT - 1745TT	7
5.2 Central field - Trenches 1746TT - 1757TT, 1761TT, 1762TT.....	11
5.3 Central field - Trenches 1758TT-1760TT, 1763TT-1765TT	14
5.4 Eastern field - Trenches 1770TT-1772TT, 1776TT, 1777TT, 1780TT- 1782TT, 1785TT-1787TT, 1789TT-1792TT and 1980TT	16
5.5 Eastern field - Trenches 1766TT-1769TT, 1773TT, 1774TT, 1778TT, 1779TT, 1783, and 1784TT.	18
5.6 Eastern field - Trenches 1788TT, 1793TT and 1794TT.....	20
6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY	22
SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE	
7 CONCLUSIONS.....	33
7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits	33
7.2 Date and character.....	33
7.3 Environmental Evidence	34
8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS	35
8.1 Survival/condition.....	35
8.2 Period	35
8.3 Rarity.....	36
8.4 Fragility/vulnerability	36
8.5 Diversity.....	36
8.6 Documentation.....	36
8.7 Group value.....	37
8.8 Potential	37

9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	38
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List of Appendices

Appendix 1:	The Worked Flint	39
Appendix 2:	The Pottery	42
Appendix 3:	The Animal Bone	46
Appendix 4:	The Worked Stone.....	47
Appendix 5:	Environmental Indicators	48

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench location
Fig. 3	Trenches 1738TT to 1745TT
Fig. 4	Trenches 1741TT and 1742TT; plans and sections
Fig. 5	Trench 1743TT; plan and sections
Fig. 6	Trenches 1745TT, 1747TT and 1750TT; plans and sections
Fig. 7	Trenches 1746TT to 1758TT
Fig. 8	Trenches 1753TT and 1755TT; plans and sections
Fig. 9	Trenches 1759TT to 1765TT
Fig. 10	Trench 1761TT; plan and sections
Fig. 11	Trenches 1762TT and 1763TT; plans and sections
Fig. 12	Trenches 1759TT and 1760TT; plans and sections
Fig. 13	Trench 1765TT; plan and sections
Fig. 14	Trenches 1778TT and 1786TT; plans and sections
Fig. 15	Trench 1790TT; plan and sections
Fig. 16	Trenches 1791TT and 1794TT; plans and sections
Fig. 17	Trenches 1774TT, 1793TT and 1794TT
Fig. 18	Trenches 1767TT and 1768TT; plans and sections
Fig. 19	Trenches 1769TT and 1773TT; plans and sections
Fig. 20	Interpretative archaeological plan
Fig. 21	Schematic cross-section

List of Tables

Table 1	Lithostratigraphy recorded in Trench 1738TT
Table 2	Lithostratigraphy recorded in Trench 1774TT
Table 3	Summary of flint by trench
Table 4	Condition of bone
Table 5	Animal species present
Table 6	Summary of charred plant remains
Table 7	The waterlogged plant remains and molluscs

STATION ROAD TO CHURCH LANE, SELLINDGE, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Union Railways Ltd to conduct a field evaluation of 17.4ha of land between the M2 motorway and the Ashford-Folkstone railway, near Sellindge in Kent. The work formed part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The site is located on the northern edge of the alluvial floodplain of the East Stour river and included areas of colluvial and alluvial deposits. Remnant Pleistocene deposits were also recorded.

Fifty-eight evaluation trenches were excavated across three arable fields. Flint work of probable Mesolithic date was recovered from alluvial deposits adjacent to a small tributary of the East Stour river. The material was in fairly good condition although it had probably been moved some distance from its original location.

A buried soil horizon, of later prehistoric date, was recorded within colluvial deposits in the eastern part of the area. A number of archaeological features of similar date were also recorded, both within the colluvium and on a bedrock knoll overlooking the East Stour river. In the central part of the area, archaeological features of Late Iron Age date were identified on a low ridge overlooking the alluvial floodplain. A number of undated, though probably post-Roman, drainage ditches were found across the site, especially in the low-lying alluvial areas. A general scatter of worked flint was recovered from colluvial and alluvial deposits across the central and eastern areas and a barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from a Late Iron Age feature. In general, environmental remains were scarce and poorly preserved, although one undated ditch contained better-preserved waterlogged plant remains.

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation (Fig. 1) between 13th and 31st October, 1997, on behalf of Union Railways Ltd (URL) on land near Sellindge in Kent (NGR TR 077384, URL Grid Ref. 8770018400). The site lies in the parish of Sellindge to the north of the East Stour river, between the M2 motorway and the Ashford-Folkstone railway. The evaluation forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), the aim of which is to assess the affect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage. The site lies within Environmental Statement Route Window No. 34.

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

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The site consists of three arable fields, partly within the alluvial floodplain of the East Stour river.

1.2.2 The western field lies within a large, bowl-shaped low-lying area. The central field is low-lying to the south and east, with a low ridge orientated from north-east to south-west across the northern part of the evaluation area. The eastern field is dominated by a small knoll and the land falls away from the central part of the field in all directions.

1.2.3 Bedrock geology within the study area consists of Mesozoic deposits of the Hythe Beds and the Atherfield Clay. Typically the Atherfield Clay consists of shales and mudstones which weather to grey, blue, green or brown mottled clays and silty clays (Gallois 1965). The Hythe Beds vary considerably but are usually formed of alternate layers of bluish, grey sandy limestone and grey, loosely cemented calcareous sandstone speckled with glauconite (Gallois 1965). The boundary between the two deposits is not always distinct but can be traced across part of the eastern area of the site. These units dip gently from north to south across the study area. Typically Atherfield Clay gives way to Hythe Beds on the higher slopes. Weald Clay is present below the Atherfield Clay and occurs at the surface immediately downstream of the study area. Weald Clay may be present below the alluvium in the study area

1.2.4 British Geological Survey mapping for the area (Sheet No. 289) shows the presence of river alluvium adjacent to the East Stour River at the southern end of the site. This extends as narrow strips north-eastwards along small

tributaries and surrounds the high bedrock knoll forming the eastern part of the site.

- 1.2.5 Colluvial deposits were recorded on the slopes of the knoll and probably interdigitate with alluvial deposits at the foot of the slope, adjacent to the small stream forming the western boundary of the eastern field.
- 1.2.6 Remnant Pleistocene deposits of unknown age, but possibly dating to the Devensian, may survive on the flanks of the low rise in the central field and possibly to the south-east of the knoll in the eastern field.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The site was identified during preparation of an Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (URL 1994). Previous finds from the area include a scatter of more than 160 flints, including 32 scrapers and an axe, which have been dated to the Mesolithic (Wymer 1977). In addition, a mound discovered while clearing part of Park Wood was excavated in the 1960s. The mound proved to be Medieval in date, but finds included Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic implements (Bradshaw 1967). There is some confusion as to the location of the mound - reportedly, it was found at the northern edge of Park Wood, although the grid reference given places it at the southern edge of the wood and therefore much closer to the present evaluation area.
- 1.3.2 The three fields which form the site were part of a surface collection survey carried out during 1990, 1991 and 1993 (URL 1995). Scatters of material were given a rating on a scale of 1 (low) to 3 (high), which reflected the degree of confidence that a scatter represented an area of archaeological potential. A general spread of worked flint was retrieved across the site, with a total 12 flakes from the western field, 30 flakes from the central field and 93 flakes from the eastern field. A similar density of burnt flint was also recovered. The scatters were rated at confidence level 2.
- 1.3.3 A detailed gradiometer survey was carried out across the site (URL 1996). The majority of the anomalies recorded were interpreted as modern in origin (field drains etc) or as signals from ferrous objects. A small number of pit-like anomalies were recorded but their isolation from other features made an archaeological interpretation uncertain.

2 AIMS

- 2.1 The Written Scheme of Investigations outlined the general aims of the evaluation, and also the site specific aims, which are set out below:
 - 2.2.1 To determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation;

- 2.2.2 To determine the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits;
- 2.2.3 To determine the local regional, national and international importance of such remains, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local regional and national research objectives;
- 2.2.4 To determine the presence/absence etc of any subsoil features or deposits of archaeological interest which may be associated with, or in close proximity to, surface concentrations of prehistoric worked flint and Iron Age pottery recorded during the recent CTRL Environmental Assessment and anomalies recorded during recent geophysical fieldwork.

3 METHODS

3.1 General

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

3.2 Survey

- 3.2.1 The trench locations were surveyed by P H Matts, Building & Civil Engineering Land Survey (Reading) based on a data file of co-ordinates of the ends of each trench extracted from the digital mapping of the site provided by URL. The trenches have been plotted (Fig. 2) from digital information provided by URL using the AutoCAD graphics programme. The overall site plan shows the URL local site grid which differs from the National Grid.

3.3 Excavation

- 3.3.1 An array of 58 trenches, each 30m by 2m, was excavated across the site.
- 3.3.2 Trenches were generally excavated to a depth not exceeding 1.2 m, the maximum permitted depth for the trench width. Soil was removed mechanically, generally to the top of archaeologically significant deposits. In areas of colluvial and alluvial deposits, layers containing a very low density of, or no, artefactual material were removed by machine, the finds being retained and recorded by layer. Where higher densities of artefacts were present, or archaeological features were encountered, they were left for hand excavation, but parts of the same horizons were removed by machine to allow the investigation of underlying levels.
- 3.3.3 Where archaeological deposits were present the trenches were hand-cleaned as necessary. Where archaeological deposits were clearly absent, hand-cleaning was kept to the minimum consistent with recording the deposits present.

- 3.3.4 Modern field drains were encountered in many of the trenches. In order to avoid damage to the drains parts of many trenches had to be left at a higher level.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). A unique numbering system was employed for the whole site. Plans were drawn at 1:100 or 1:50. Sections were drawn at 1:20. All evaluation records were prefaced by the site code ARC SCL 97.

- 3.4.2 Dr M Bates made a site visit on 24th October 1997, and inspected the open trenches. His observations and interpretations of the geoarchaeological evidence are incorporated into the main text of the report.

- 3.4.3 All trenches and archaeological features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Presentation of results

- 4.1.1 Descriptions of individual trenches are presented in Section 5. They are grouped together by field (western, central and eastern) and by geomorphological environment (areas of colluvium, alluvium etc). A summary of contexts and finds is given in the archaeological context inventory (Section 6). Detailed assessment reports on the flint, pottery, animal bone, worked stone and environmental remains are given in Appendices 1-5.

4.2 General stratigraphy

Modern

- 4.2.1 Modern ploughsoil was encountered in all trenches and varied between 0.25 and 0.35m thick across the site. Recent or modern field drains were encountered in many trenches across the site.

Colluvial and alluvial deposits (Fig. 20)

- 4.2.2 It was often difficult to determine the precise boundaries between colluvial and alluvial deposits, and between these superficial deposits and the bedrock.

- 4.2.2 Colluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 1766TT, 1767TT, 1768TT, 1769TT, 1773TT, 1774TT, 1775TT, 1778TT, 1779TT, 1783TT, 1784TT, 1788TT, 1793TT, and 1794TT in the eastern field. The depth of colluvial deposits increased down the slopes of the knoll, to a maximum of about 0.75m adjacent to the small stream. Finds from the upper part of the sequence include sherds of Medieval pottery, while struck flints of probable Mesolithic date were recovered from alluvial deposits underlying the sequence in Trench 1778TT. A probable buried soil horizon was recorded within the sequence. This horizon was most clearly seen in Trench 1774TT in the western part of

the field, and in Trench 1794TT in the south-eastern part. Artefacts recovered from the horizon, and from features cut from it, suggest a later prehistoric, probably Bronze Age date.

- 4.2.3 Colluvial deposits were also present in Trenches 1748TT, 1749TT, 1751TT, 1752TT, 1757TT, 1761TT, 1762TT and 1763TT in the central field. Few finds were recovered from these deposits, though a sherd of 1st century AD pottery was found in Trench 1763TT.
- 4.2.4 Alluvial deposits were present in all trenches in the western field and were recorded to a depth of 1.8m in Trench 1738. A possible buried soil horizon was recorded at a depth of about 0.5 to 0.6m in Trenches 1738TT and 1739TT.
- 4.2.5 Alluvial deposits were present in the central field in Trenches 1758TT, 1759TT, 1760TT, 1763TT, 1764TT and 1765TT, and were recorded to a depth of 2.4m in Trench 1764TT. The upper part of the sequence overlay the colluvial deposits present in Trench 1764TT.
- 4.2.6 Probable alluvial deposits underlay the colluvial deposits recorded adjacent to the small stream in the eastern field. The precise boundary between alluvium and colluvium was not clear, but alluvium was probably present directly below the buried soil horizon recorded in Trench 1774TT. In Trench 1778TT, flint flakes of probable Mesolithic date were recovered from the alluvial deposits.

4.3 Summary of archaeology

- 4.3.1 The scatter of struck flint recovered from Trench 1778TT within alluvial deposits is technologically consistent with a Mesolithic date although the material did not contain forms which would confirm this date. A single flake and a burnt flint were recovered from a similar depth in Trench 1766TT.
- 4.3.2 A sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a colluvial layer in Trench 1757TT. A sherd of similar date was recovered from a possible buried soil horizon in Trench 1794TT.
- 4.3.3 Flint work of a generally Neolithic or Bronze Age character was recovered from Trenches 1750TT, 1753TT, 1755TT, 1759TT, 1763TT, 1764TT, 1765TT, 1766TT, 1769TT, 1774TT, 1776TT, 1779TT, 1785TT, 1786TT, 1788TT, 1790TT, 1793TT, 1794TT.
- 4.3.4 In Trench 1786TT, a ditch and several possible post-holes or small pits were excavated. Pottery recovered from the ditch and one of the post-holes suggests an Iron Age date for the features.
- 4.3.5 A number of features were cut from the level of the buried soil horizon in the eastern field. Two linear features were excavated in Trench 1769TT, and another in Trench 1778TT. This latter feature contained a large sherd of Bronze Age pottery. A post hole or small pit in Trench 1769TT, containing Mid-Late Bronze Age pottery, was probably also cut from this level.

4.3.6 In the central field, two ditches, orientated east to west and a ditch or pit within Trench 1755TT produced pottery of Late Iron Age or Early Roman date. A ditch and a pit in Trench 1750TT and two other ditches, in Trenches 1759TT and 1762TT, also contained pottery of 1st century AD date.

4.3.7 Undated, mostly linear, features were excavated in Trenches 1738TT - 1745TT, 1748TT, 1752TT, 1757TT, 1760TT, 1761TT and. These features are likely to date to the Roman period or later - in Trench 1764TT, for example, a linear feature was cut into an alluvial layer which yielded a sherd of 1st century AD pottery.

4.4 Site Archive

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

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Western field - Trenches 1738TT - 1745TT

5.1.1 Modern ploughsoil was from 0.28 to 0.35m thick across the field.

5.1.2 Underlying the ploughsoil was a sequence of alluvial deposits which tended to become sandier with depth. A typical profile, in Trench 1738TT, was recorded by Dr M Bates and is given in Table 1:

Table 1: Lithostratigraphy recorded in Trench 1738TT

Depth below ground surface (m)	Context number	Lithological description	Inferred environments of deposition
0.00 - 0.23	202	Dark greyish-brown slightly sandy-silt. Structureless and dense. Common red ceramic fragments (<0.5 - 1.5cm), occasional black charcoal fragments. Modern roots present.	Topsoil
		---abrupt/undulating contact---	
0.23 - 0.54	208	Greyish-brown becoming greenish-grey (with depth) clay-silt. Some sand is also present. Structureless and dense. Some modern roots and occasional sub-angular flint clasts (1-2cm) and occasional red ceramic fragments. Occasional orange-brown mottles. Coarsens downwards to a clayey-silty-sand.	Overbank alluvial floodplain sediments
		---diffuse contact---	
0.54 - 0.66	209	Mid-grey clay-silt. Blocky structure with occasional modern roots. Common empty root canals (2-3mm). Occasional large flint clasts (rounded, >6cm). Occasional red-brown mottles. Moderately dense and compact.	Possible palaeosol developed in alluvial floodplain sediments
		---diffuse contact---	

Depth below ground surface (m)	Context number	Lithological description	Inferred environments of deposition
0.66 - 0.81	209	Light grey slightly sandy clay-silt (marginally coarser than the overlying unit). Commonly mottled with reddish-brown mottles and occasional dark brown stains. Slightly less firm and compact than overlying unit. Slightly blocky structure. Occasional empty root canals (2-3mm).	
		---diffuse contact---	
0.81 - 0.88	210	Mid-grey silty-sand (slightly coarser than overlying unit). Slightly blocky structure. Dense dark brown and some red-brown mottles, occasional modern roots and small rounded flint clasts (<1cm).	
		---abrupt contact---	
0.88 - 1.04	210	Light grey slightly silty-sand. Soft, and unconsolidated and pliable. Occasional reddish-brown mottles. Modern roots and common small empty root canals. Some possible remnant organic fragments. No apparent structure.	Alluvial overbank sediments indicative of floodplain accretion or lateral channel migration
		---graded contact---	
1.04 - 1.20	211	Yellowish-brown coarse sand. Loose and unconsolidated. Occasional dark brown mottles, sub-angular flint clasts (0.5-2cm). Structureless with a possible increase in grain size with depth.	
		---diffuse contact---	
1.20 -		Light grey to yellowish-brown coarse sand to gravelly sand. Common flint clasts (sub-angular, 1-3cm). Occasional non-flint clasts (>6cm). Some dark brown mottles present. Loose and unconsolidated.	
		---base of profile 1.25---	

5.1.3 In general, the alluvial deposits become coarser with depth with a series of fine-grained deposits (silts and clays) overlying coarser-grained deposits (sands). A geotechnical test pit (TP 6142), some 50m to the south of Trench 1739TT, displayed a layer of peat, 0.1m thick, beneath 0.6m of fine-grained alluvial sediments. No such organic deposit was present within the evaluation area, although the possible palaeosol may occupy a similar stratigraphic position. All archaeological features are cut from above (ie are later than) the sandy alluvial deposits.

5.1.4 The possible buried soil horizon (palaeosol) was also present in Trench 1739TT at the western edge of the area. Elsewhere, it was not possible to distinguish a palaeosol, although the alluvial sequence is otherwise similar.

Trench 1738TT (Fig. 3)

5.1.5 Ditch 213 was cut from the top of the possible palaeosol (the upper part of Layer 209) at 48.55m OD. It was 0.6m wide, 0.5m deep, and orientated from north to south. It was filled with a series of sandy lenses, 212, which would have been deposited in a relatively high energy fluvial environment.

Trench 1739TT (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.6 The possible palaeosol, 199, was present at a depth of between 0.5 and 0.6m below the ground surface (48.33-47.98m OD), although it was not present at the southern end of the trench. No features were cut from this level, although two linear features were present at the base of the fine-grained alluvial deposits.
- 5.1.7 Gully 217 was 0.64m wide, 0.5m deep and was orientated from south-south-east to north-north-west. It was filled with a grey clay, 218. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.8 Gully 222 was up to 1.0m wide, 0.26m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained two fills, 220 and 221, both orange-grey, silty clays. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1740TT (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.9 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m. Underlying the ploughsoil was a silty clay alluvial deposit, 257, overlying a sandy clay alluvial deposit, 258. Two features were cut into the top of Layer 257.
- 5.1.10 Ditch 259 was up to 0.7m wide, 0.4m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained two fills, 260 and 267, both grey, silty clays. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.11 Feature 264 which was irregular in plan, was 2.0m from north to south and 0.44m deep. It contained two fills, 265 and 266. No artefacts were recovered. The irregular shape of this feature indicates that it is a tree throw-hole.

Trench 1741TT (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.12 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. Underlying the ploughsoil was a silty clay alluvial deposit, 225, overlying a sandy alluvial deposit, 226. Four features were cut into the top of Layer 226.
- 5.1.13 Ditch 228 was 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained one fill, 229, an orange- grey sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.14 Ditch 230 was 0.8m wide, 0.24m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained one fill, 231, an orange-brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.15 Ditch 249 was 0.7m wide, 0.18m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained one fill, 250, a grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.16 Feature 232, sub-circular in plan, was 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained one fill, 233, an orange-brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered. The irregular shape of this feature indicates that it is a tree throw-hole.

Trench 1742TT (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.17 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m. Underlying the ploughsoil was a sandy clay alluvial deposit, 289. Five features were cut into the top of Layer 289.
- 5.1.18 Ditch 288 was 1.9m wide, 0.7m deep and was orientated from north to south. It contained five fills, 283-287, all sands or clay sands. No artefacts were recovered. Soil sample 21 was taken from Fill 285 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).
- 5.1.19 Ditch 282 was a re-cut of Ditch 288. It was 1.1m wide, 0.7m deep and was orientated from north to south. It contained two fills, 280 and 281, both grey sandy silts. The upper fill, 280, contained a fragment of post-Medieval tile.
- 5.1.20 Feature 294 was circular in plan, 0.4m in diameter and 0.25m deep. It contained Fill 293, a brown clay silt. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.21 Post hole 279 was circular in plan, 0.24m in diameter and 0.38m deep. It contained Fill 278, a grey sandy silt. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.22 Gully 292 was 1.0m wide, 0.15m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained one fill, 291, a grey clay silt. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1743TT (Fig. 5)

- 5.1.23 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Underlying the ploughsoil were silty clay alluvial deposits, 248 and 303, overlying sandy clay alluvial deposit 304. Three features were cut into the top of Layer 304.
- 5.1.24 Ditch 241 was 0.82m wide, 0.3m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained one fill, 242, a grey sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.25 Ditch 305 was 1.64m wide, 0.5m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained three fills, 306 - 308, all greyish-brown sandy clays. No artefacts were recovered. It was cut by Ditch 309.
- 5.1.26 Ditch 309 was 0.85m wide, 0.3m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained two fills, 310 and 311, both grey sandy clays. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.1.27 Ditch 234 was 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained one fill, 229, an orange-grey sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered. It was truncated along its south-western edge by Ditch 237.
- 5.1.28 Ditch 237 was 1.7m wide, 0.45m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained three fills, 238, 239 and 240, all grey sandy clays. No artefacts were recovered. Soil sample 20 was taken from Fill 238 (see Section

5.7 and Appendix 5). Ditch 237 was truncated along its south-western edge by Ditch 237.

Trench 1744TT (Fig. 3)

5.1.29 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.66m. Underlying the ploughsoil was a silty clay alluvial deposit, 269, overlying sandy clay alluvial deposit 270. One feature was cut into the top of Layer 270.

5.1.30 Ditch 271 was 0.6m wide, 0.2m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It was contained Fill 272, a greyish-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1745TT (Fig. 6)

5.1.31 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. Underlying the ploughsoil was a sandy clay alluvial deposit, 252. One feature was cut into the top of Layer 252.

5.1.32 Pit 255 was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum width of 1.1m within the trench, and 0.20m deep. It contained Fill 254, a brown clay with up to 80% charcoal fragments. No evidence of *in situ* burning was present. No artefacts were recovered. Soil sample 18 was taken from Fill 254 but no charred remains were present (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

5.2 Central field - Trenches 1746TT - 1757TT, 1761TT and 1762TT

5.2.1 These trenches lie on the low ridge across the northern part of the area.

5.2.2 Modern ploughsoil was from 0.28 to 0.35m thick across the field. Alluvial deposits were not present although thin colluvial deposits were. In some trenches gravel-rich layers may be remnant Pleistocene deposits.

Trench 1746TT

5.2.3 No archaeological features were present in this trench. Underlying the ploughsoil was a layer, 0.2m thick, of silty clay colluvium. This overlay natural clay bedrock.

Trench 1747TT (Fig. 7)

5.2.4 The ploughsoil directly overlay clay bedrock, 274. One feature was cut into Layer 274.

5.2.5 Feature 276 was irregular in plan, with a maximum width of 1.7m within the trench and was 0.23m deep. It contained Fill 275, a mixed clay silty clay fill. No artefacts were recovered. The irregular shape of this feature indicates that it is a tree throw-hole.

Trench 1748TT (Fig. 7)

5.2.6 Modern ploughsoil overlay a layer of silty clay colluvium, 339, 0.2m thick across most of the trench. Layer 339 was cut by a linear feature. In the

southern 5m of the trench, south of the linear feature, the colluvial deposit (339 = 351) was up to 0.45m thick and overlay natural clay.

- 5.2.7 Ditch 345 was more than 2m wide, 1.04m deep and was orientated from east-north-east to west-south-west. It contained two fills, 344 and 343, both brown silty clays. Fill 343 yielded a sherd of 19th- or 20th-century pottery.
- 5.2.8 Ditch 342, a re-cut of Ditch 345, was 2m wide, 0.68m deep and was orientated from east-north-east to west-south-west. It contained Fill 341, a brown silty clay which yielded a sherd of 18th- or 19th-century pottery.

Trench 1749TT

- 5.2.9 Modern ploughsoil overlay a layer of silty loam colluvium, 298, up to 0.3m thick, which overlay natural clay. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 1750TT (Fig. 6)

- 5.2.10 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay. Two features were cut into the top of the clay.
- 5.2.11 Feature 335 was irregular in plan. It was 2.2m long, 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained Fill 334, a greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It yielded frequent pottery sherds of probable 1st-century AD date as well as a flint flake.
- 5.2.12 Feature 337 was probably an east to west aligned linear feature, although only partly within the trench. It was more than 0.65m wide and 0.50m deep and contained Fill 336, a grey clay. Fill 336 yielded a sherd of 1st-century AD pottery and a flint flake.

Trench 1751TT

- 5.2.13 Modern ploughsoil overlay a silty clay colluvial deposit, 317, which overlay natural clay. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 1752TT (Fig. 7)

- 5.2.14 Modern ploughsoil overlay a silty clay colluvial deposit, 320, which overlay a natural clay. The surface of the clay contained patches of sandy clay with occasional angular flints - these may be remnant Pleistocene deposits. Two features were cut into the natural clay.
- 5.2.15 Ditch 322 was 1.64m wide, 0.46m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained Fill 323, an orange-grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.2.16 Ditch 324 was 0.44m wide, 0.19m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fill 325, an orange-grey clay. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1753TT (Fig. 8)

5.2.17 Modern ploughsoil overlay a brown sandy clay containing frequent angular flints. This layer, 327, may be a remnant Pleistocene deposit. Layer 327 was cut by two features.

5.2.20 Feature 399 was only partly revealed within the trench. It was more than 0.45m across and 0.45m deep. It contained two fills, 397 and 398. Fill 397 was a brown silty clay and Fill 398 was a mottled brown and orange clay. No artefacts were recovered. It was cut by Ditch 400.

5.2.19 Ditch 400 - two sections were excavated across this feature which was up to 1.36m wide, 0.23m deep and orientated from west-south-west to east-north-east. It contained Fill 386 (= 395), a brown silty clay which yielded five worked flints, including a scraper.

Trench 1754TT

5.2.20 Modern topsoil overlay a sandy clay, 331, containing occasional angular flints. Layer 331 may be a remnant Pleistocene deposit. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 1755TT (Fig. 8)

5.2.21 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay. A number of features were cut into the clay.

5.2.22 Ditch 419 was 0.9m wide, 0.1m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained Fill 418, a brown silty clay, which yielded pottery of 1st-century date as well as two flint flakes.

5.2.23 Ditch 459 was at least 1.7m wide and 0.28m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 460, a greyish brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered. It was cut by Ditch 421.

5.2.24 Ditch 421 was 1.6m wide, 0.65m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained three fills, 422, 455, and 456, all sandy clays. Fill 456 yielded a large quantity (212 sherds) of 1st-century AD pottery, which appeared to be from a limited number of vessels, a flint flake and a cattle tooth. It was cut by Gully 457. Soil samples 27 and 29 were taken from Fill 456, the latter from soil within and surrounding what appeared to be a crushed pottery vessel (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

5.2.25 Gully 457 was 0.65m wide, 0.1m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 458, a greyish-brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered.

5.2.26 Ditch 413 was at least 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep, and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 414 and 415, both brown silty clays. Both fills yielded pottery of 1st-century AD date, as well as a barbed and tanged arrowhead and other worked flint, from Fill 415. Soil sample 24 was taken from Fills 414/415 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

Trench 1756TT

- 5.2.27 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay with occasional patches of angular flint gravel, possibly a remnant Pleistocene deposit. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 1757TT (Fig. 9)

- 5.2.28 Modern ploughsoil overlay a silty clay colluvial deposit, 353, in the southern 4m of the trench. Layer 353 yielded a sherd of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery. The underlying clay contained occasional patches of angular flint gravel, possibly a remnant Pleistocene deposit. A linear feature cut the clay.

- 5.2.29 Gully 355 was 0.8m wide, 0.25m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained Fill 356, a greyish-brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1761TT (Fig. 10)

- 5.2.30 Modern ploughsoil overlay a silty clay colluvial deposit, 358, which overlay a sandy clay deposit, 359, which contained patches of angular flint gravel. Layer 359 may be a remnant Pleistocene deposit. Layer 358 was cut by two features.

- 5.2.31 Ditch 360 was 1.4m wide, 0.58m deep and was orientated from north to south. It contained Fill 361, an orange-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

- 5.2.32 Ditch 371 was 1.78m wide, 0.62m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fills 372 and 375, an orange-brown silty clay and an orange-grey clay respectively. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1762TT (Fig. 11)

- 5.2.33 Modern ploughsoil overlay a silty clay colluvial deposit, 377, which overlay a sandy clay deposit, 380, containing patches of angular flint gravel. Layer 380 may be a remnant Pleistocene deposit. Layer 380 was a cut by a linear feature.

- 5.2.34 Ditch 379 was 2.1m wide, 0.30m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 378, a greyish-brown silty clay which yielded pottery dated to the 1st-century. It was cut by a modern land drain, 385, which also produced 1st-century pottery, clearly derived from the ditch. Soil sample 19 was taken from Fill 378 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

5.3 Central field - Trenches 1758TT-1760TT, 1763TT-1765TT

- 5.3.1 These trenches were located on the relatively steep flank of the low ridge and in the low-lying area to the south-east.

- 5.3.2 Modern ploughsoil varied in depth from 0.30 - 0.35m. Alluvial deposits were present in all trenches, and were 2.4m deep in Trench 1764TT. The northward extent of the alluvial deposits lay within Trenches 1758TT, 1760TT and

1763TT, where the upper part of the sequence overlay remnant Pleistocene deposits. This was most clearly seen in Trench 1760TT.

Trench 1758

- 5.3.3 Modern ploughsoil overlay possible Pleistocene deposits at the north end of the trench. These were overlain by alluvial deposits in the southern half but the interface could not be clearly seen. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 1759 (Fig. 12)

- 5.3.4 Modern ploughsoil overlay a silty clay alluvial deposit, 363, which yielded a sherd of 1st-century AD pottery. This overlay a sandy clay alluvial deposit, 364. A linear feature was cut into the top of Layer 364.

- 5.3.5 Ditch 367 was 1.3m wide, 0.6m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 365 and 366. Fill 365 was a grey clay which yielded 2 sherds of 1st-century AD pottery and four flint flakes. Soil sample 22 was taken from Fill 365 but no charred plant remains were recovered (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

Trench 1760TT (Fig. 12)

- 5.3.6 Modern ploughsoil overlay a sequence of silty and sandy clay alluvial deposits, 424, 426, and 429, in the southern 20m of the trench. Layer 424 overlay a sandy clay with frequent angular flint gravel, Layer 425, which is probably a Pleistocene deposit. Three linear features were present in the trench.

- 5.3.7 Ditch 430 was cut into the top of Layer 429. It was 0.48m wide, 0.28m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fill 431, a brownish-grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

- 5.3.8 Ditch 432 was cut into the top of Layer 426. It was 1.24m wide, 0.86m deep and was orientated from east to west. It contained Fills 433 and 434, both brownish-grey silty clays. No artefacts were recovered. Soil sample 26 was taken from Fill 433 and contained quite well-preserved waterlogged plant remains, perhaps indicative of a woodland environment.

- 5.3.9 Ditch 437 was cut into the top of Layer 425. It was 3.6m wide, 1.0m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 438, 439 and 440. Fragments of recent field drain were recovered from Fill 438 but were not kept. This feature is a recently backfilled field boundary, visible as a crop mark, and also recorded in Trenches 1759TT, 1763TT and 1765TT.

Trench 1763TT (Fig. 11)

- 5.3.10 Modern ploughsoil overlay a sandy clay colluvial layer, 402, at the north end of the trench, which yielded a sherd of 1st-century AD pottery. Layer 402 overlay a layer of sandy clay, 403, containing frequent angular flints. This layer may be a remnant Pleistocene deposit. At the southern end of the trench, the ploughsoil overlay silty clay alluvial layers, 404 and 405. The interface

between the alluvial deposits to the south and the colluvial and Pleistocene deposits to the north was obscured by a recent ditch which was cut from beneath the ploughsoil. Three other features were also excavated.

- 5.3.11 Ditch 412 was 2.4m wide and orientated from north-east to south-west. This is a recently backfilled field boundary and was not excavated.
- 5.3.12 Feature 411 was crescent-shaped in plan, and was 1m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained Fill 410, a grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered. Its shape is characteristic of a tree throw-hole.
- 5.3.13 Feature 407 was crescent-shaped in plan, and was 1m wide and 0.40m deep. It contained Fill 406, a grey sandy silt. No artefacts were recovered. Its shape is characteristic of a tree throw-hole.
- 5.3.14 Gully 409 was 0.42 wide, 0.18m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 408, a grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1764 (Fig. 9)

- 5.3.15 Modern ploughsoil overlay silty clay alluvial deposits, 394 and 389. Layer 389 yielded a sherd of 1st-century AD pottery. A machine-excavated sondage was dug at the west end of the trench which showed that the alluvial deposits became more sandy with depth to a depth of 2.4m where they overlay gravel. A linear feature was cut into the top of Layer 389.
- 5.3.16 Ditch 390 was 1.85m wide, 0.5m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 391 and 392, both grey clays. No artefacts were recovered. Soil sample 23 was taken from Fill 391 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

Trench 1765TT (Fig. 13)

- 5.3.17 Modern ploughsoil overlay silty clay alluvial deposits, 442 (=449) and 446. A linear feature was cut into the top of Layer 442. Two linear features were cut into the top of layer 446. It was unclear from what level a fourth linear feature was cut.
- 5.3.18 Ditch 445 was cut from the top of Layer 446. It was 2.0m wide, 0.5m deep and was orientated from north to south. It contained Fills 443 and 444, both grey silty clays. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.3.19 Ditch 451 was cut from the top of Layer 446. It was 1.0m wide, 0.28m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fill 450, a greyish-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.3.20 Ditch 454 was 1.2m wide, 0.44m deep and orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 452 and 453, both clay silts. Fill 453 yielded a struck flint flake. Soil sample 25 was taken from Fill 453 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5). The ditch was cut by Ditch 448.

5.3.21 Ditch 448 was cut from the top of Layer 449. It was 3.5m wide, more than 0.68m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fill 447, a very mixed greyish-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered. This feature is a recently backfilled field boundary, visible as a crop mark, and also recorded in Trenches 1759TT, 1760TT and 1763TT.

5.4 Eastern field - Trenches 1770TT-1772TT, 1776TT, 1777TT, 1780TT-1782TT, 1785TT-1787TT, 1789TT-1792TT and 1980TT

5.4.1 These trenches all lie on the upper slopes of the small knoll which dominates this field. No alluvial or colluvial deposits were present and modern topsoil directly overlay bedrock. No archaeological features were present in Trenches 1770TT-1772TT, 1776TT, 1777TT, 1780TT-1782TT, 1785TT, 1787TT and 1789TT and these are not further described. A linear feature, which appears as a cropmark on aerial photographs, proved to be of recent origin.

Trench 1786TT (Fig. 14)

5.4.2 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay which was cut by a number of features.

5.4.3 Post-hole 150 was sub-circular in plan. It was 0.35m by 0.27m and 0.07m deep. It contained a grey silty clay, Fill 112, which yielded a sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery.

5.4.4 Pit 149 was irregular in plan. It was 1.4m by 0.6m and 0.07m deep. It contained a grey silty clay, Fill 148. No artefacts were recovered.

5.4.5 Pit 152 was oval in plan. It was 0.7m by 0.4m and 0.08m deep. It contained a grey silty clay, Fill 151. No artefacts were recovered.

5.4.6 Ditch 111 was 0.7m wide, 0.95m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 147, 110 and 146, all grey clays. Fills 110 and 147 both yielded pottery of probable Iron Age date. Fill 110 also produced two struck flints and seven burnt flints. Ditch 111 was truncated along its northern edge by Ditch 145.

5.4.7 Ditch 145 was 1.7m wide, 0.3m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fills 144, 109 and 143. Fill 144 was a brown clay. Fills 109 and 143 were grey silty clays. Fill 109 yielded largely Bronze Age pottery, although two sherds were Late Iron Age in date, as well as six struck flints and nine burnt flints. A soil sample was taken from Fill 109 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

Trench 1790TT (Fig. 15)

5.4.8 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay. A shallow ditch was cut into the top of the natural.

- 5.4.9 Ditch 153 was 1.3m wide, 0.15m deep and was orientated from north to south. It contained Fill 154, a grey silty clay which yielded a sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery and two flint flakes.

Trench 1791TT (Fig. 16)

- 5.4.10 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay which was cut by two linear features.
- 5.4.11 Ditch 192 was 1.5m wide, 0.26m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 188, a greyish-brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered.
- 5.4.12 Ditch 190 was 1.9m wide, 0.4m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 191, a greyish-brown sandy clay which contained large fragments of recent ceramic land drain. This feature was also recorded in Trenches 1983TT, 1792TT and 1793TT and appears as a crop mark on aerial photographs.

Trench 1792TT

- 5.4.13 Modern topsoil overlay natural clay which was cut by a linear feature, 193. This feature appears as a cropmark on aerial photographs and is of recent origin. It was not excavated in this trench (see Section 5.4.12 for description).

5.5 Eastern field - Trenches 1766TT-1769TT, 1773TT, 1774TT, 1778TT, 1779TT, 1783, and 1784TT.

- 5.5.1 These trenches were located to the north and west of the knoll and were characterised by colluvial deposits underlying the modern topsoil. Close to the stream forming the western boundary of the field, alluvial deposits may be present, underlying the colluvium. A distinct palaeosol was recorded in Trench 1774TT and an equivalent horizon was probably present in Trenches 1766TT, 1769TT, 1779TT and 1778TT.
- 5.5.2 No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1766TT, 1774TT, 1775TT, 1779TT, 1784TT or 1980TT. Detailed descriptions of these trenches are only given where other significant deposits were encountered (eg. the palaeosol described below).

Trench 1774TT (Fig. 17)

- 5.5.3 A profile through the colluvial/alluvial sequence present in the western part of the field, in Trench 1774TT, was recorded by Dr M Bates and is given in Table 2. Two monolith (pollen) samples were taken through the sequence, and kubiena (soil micromorphological) samples were taken across the possible palaeosol for possible future examination.

Table 2: Lithostratigraphy recorded in Trench 1774TT

Depth below ground surface (m)	Unit/ Context Number	Lithological description	Inferred environments of deposition
0.00 - 0.22	63		Topsoil
0.22 - 0.58	IV/64	Greyish-brown slightly silty-clayey-sand. Apparently structureless and massive. Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm and compact although easy to clean. Common small (1-2mm) empty root canals. Occasional modern roots. Occasional large, sub-angular (2-5cm) rolled flint clasts.	Colluvium
		---diffuse contact---	
0.58 - 0.76	III/65	Dark brownish-grey clayey-silty-sand. Firm and compact but homogenous. No structure. Common dark brown mottled patches (possibly manganese) common black charcoal flecks. Occasional empty root canals. Very rare terrestrial molluscs. Occasional small (1-3cm) sub-angular, rolled flint clasts.	Palaeosol developed in colluvium
		---diffuse contact---	
0.76 - 1.08	II/66	Light brownish-grey friable silt with some patches of fine sand. Common dark brown staining and some reddish brown mottles. Massive and structureless. Appears to fine downwards to a clay-silt. Some modern roots and common empty root canals (2-4mm). Becomes denser and more compact with depth.	Overbank alluvial deposits
		---diffuse contact---	
1.08 -	I/67	As above but more dense and compact. Becomes finer grained.	Bedrock (weathered)

5.5.4 The palaeosol, Layer 65, yielded 21 sherds of Bronze Age pottery, along with 7 flint flakes, from a 5m², hand-excavated sample. The layer was sampled for charred plant remains and small artefacts (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

5.5.5 The sequence recorded in Trenches 1766TT, 1769TT, 1778TT, 1779TT and 1983TT is broadly similar. However, the palaeosol horizon was not clearly defined although an increase in manganese flecking was evident.

Trench 1766TT

5.5.6 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The upper part of the colluvial/alluvial sequence, Layer 33 (equivalent to Unit IV in Table 2), yielded two sherds of 1st century AD pottery. A flint flake and a burnt flint were recovered from Layer 37, the lower part of Unit II.

Trench 1767TT (Fig. 18)

5.5.7 Modern ploughsoil overlay a greyish-brown silty clay, 25, equivalent to Unit IV, which contained pottery of medieval date. This overlay natural silty clay which was cut by a linear feature,

5.5.8 Gully 30 was 0.6m wide, 0.12m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 31, a greyish-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1768TT (Fig.18)

5.5.9 Modern ploughsoil overlay a sandy clay colluvial deposit (Unit IV) in the southern 7m of the trench. At the northern end of the trench, a linear feature was cut into natural sandy clay.

5.5.10 Gully 21 was 0.6m wide, 0.28m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 221, a brownish-grey silty clay which yielded a sherd of Medieval pottery.

Trench 1769TT (Fig. 19)

5.5.11 Modern ploughsoil overlay sandy clay colluvial deposits, 128 and 129 (Unit IV). Layer 128 yielded a struck flint flake and Layer 129 produced a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery. Below this was the probable palaeosol horizon, 132 (= 135 and 137), from which a number of features were cut. It overlay a sandy clay alluvial deposit, 131, which overlay the weathered bedrock, 127. A column of mollusc samples were taken from the sequence but no molluscs were present (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

5.5.12 Ditch 123, only partially revealed within the trench, was cut from the top of Layer 137. It was more than 2.0m wide, 0.65m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fills 124 - 126, all grey clay sands. Fills 125 and 126 yielded two flint flakes each. Soil sample 17 was taken from Fill 123 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

5.5.13 Feature 133, only partially within the trench, was cut from the top of Layer 135. It was irregular in plan, with a maximum width of 2.2m and a depth of 0.32m. It contained Fill 134, a grey clay sand. No artefacts were recovered.

5.5.14 Post hole 119 was circular in plan, 0.35m in diameter and 0.08m deep. It contained Fill 120, a greyish-brown clay loam which yielded eleven sherds of Bronze Age pottery and a flint flake. Although only seen in the top of layer 127, the date of the pottery suggests that it was probably cut from the palaeosol, 132.

5.5.15 Ditch 121 was cut into the top of the weathered bedrock. It was more than 0.5m wide, 0.31m deep and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained Fill 122, a grey clay sand, which yielded a flint flake.

Trench 1773TT (Fig. 19)

5.5.16 Modern ploughsoil overlay a sandy clay colluvial deposit (Unit IV). It was cut by a linear feature.

5.5.17 Gully 6 was 1.4m wide, 0.22m deep and was orientated from north-north-east to south-south-west. It contained Fill 7, an orange-brown clay sand. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 1778TT (Fig. 14)

5.5.18 This trench contained a similar sequence of deposits as described above (see Table 2). The lateral equivalent to the palaeosol, Layer 88, was marked by frequent manganese flecks. A linear feature was cut from the top of the layer.

Layers 86 and 159, alluvial deposits overlying weathered bedrock, yielded a total of 70 worked flints, including forms indicative of a Mesolithic date. Soil samples 8 and 9 were taken from Layers 86 and 159 respectively (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

- 5.5.19 Ditch 100 was 1.6m wide, 0.9m deep and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It contained Fill 160, a greyish-brown sandy clay, which yielded a sherd of Bronze Age pottery and a struck flint. Soil sample 11 was taken from Fill 160 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5).

Trench 1783TT

- 5.5.20 The back-filled field boundary visible as a crop mark crossing the field (see Section 5.4) was recorded in this trench but not fully excavated.

5.6 Eastern field - Trenches 1788TT, 1793TT and 1794TT

- 5.6.1 These trenches were located on the relatively steep south-eastern slope of the knoll above the floodplain of the East Stour river. They are characterised by colluvial deposits underlying the modern topsoil. A probable palaeosol horizon was recorded in Trench 1794TT which may be the lateral equivalent to that located in Trench 1774TT.

Trench 1788TT

- 5.6.2 Modern ploughsoil overlay natural clay bedrock at the northern, upslope, end of the trench. At the southern end of the trench, the bedrock was overlain by a sequence of sandy clay colluvial deposits, 72 - 74, at least 0.8m thick. Layers 72 and 73 each yielded a flint flake.

Trench 1793TT (Fig. 17)

- 5.6.3 At the northern end of the trench modern ploughsoil overlay a sandy silt colluvial deposit, 181, which overlay clay bedrock. At the southern end of the trench, where a machine-excavated sondage was dug to a depth of 2.8m, there was a sequence of sandy silt colluvial deposits, 181 - 184, 1.45m thick. Layer 183 yielded 12 sherds of Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery, 17 flint flakes and 19 burnt flints.

- 5.6.4 Sandy silt deposit, 195, underlay the colluvial deposits to a depth of at least 2.8m below the ground surface. This deposits were very similar to the colluvium, but may be waterlain (see Section 5.6.5).

Trench 1794TT (Figs. 16 and 17)

- 5.6.5 Modern ploughsoil overlay clay silt colluvial deposits, 163 and 164. Both layers yielded medieval pottery. These layers dipped and thickened, from 0.15m thick at the west end of the trench to 0.48m thick at the east. Underlying the colluvium was a probable palaeosol, Layer 165, a grey sandy silt with common dark brown staining. This layer also dipped towards the east, being 0.1m thick at the west end and 0.4m thick at the east. Hand excavation of this layer produced six sherds of pottery including a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sherd, as well as sherds of later Bronze Age or

Iron Age date, 17 struck flints, including a microlith of Mesolithic date, 23 burnt flints and a small quantity of animal bone. In addition, a worked stone object, possibly a sharpening stone, was recovered (see Appendix 4).

5.6.6 A machine-excavated sondage was excavated at the west end of the trench to a depth of 3.2m. Below the palaeosol was a sequence of sandy silt deposits, 166, 167 and 196, similar to those present in Trench 1793TT. These deposits became coarser with depth so that the lower part of 196 was a fine sand. The sand deposit, which was observed by Dr M Bates, appeared to be bedded, perhaps indicating deposition by water.

5.6.7 Pit 172 was cut into the top of layer 164. Only partially revealed within the trench, it was probably circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.75m and 0.24m deep. It contained two fills, 170 and 171. Fill 170 was a grey sandy silt which overlay Fill 171, a black, charcoal deposit. Soil sample 10 was taken from Fill 171 (see Section 5.7 and Appendix 5). No artefacts were recovered.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

fo = fill of

fb = filled by

LNeo = Late Neolithic

EBA = Early Bronze Age

BA = Bronze Age

IA = Iron Age

Medieval = AD 1066 to AD 1500

Post-medieval = AD 1500 to AD 1800

Modern = AD 1800 to present

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Finds	Number	Date
1773	1	ploughsoil	over 2,3			Modern
1773	2	colluvium	under 1, over 4			
1773	3	colluvium	under 6, over 4,5			
1773	4	natural clay	under 2,3.			
1773	5	natural sand	under 3,8.			
1773	6	gully	fb 7, cuts 3,4,5.			
1773	7	gully fill	fo 6, under 1,			
1773	8	colluvium	under 1, over 5.			
1772	9	ploughsoil	over 14,16.			Modern
1772	10	natural clay	under 13.			
1772	11	sandy clay natural	under 15,17, over 12.			
1772	12	sandy clay natural	under 11.			
1772	13	natural interface				
1772	14	root disturbance	fo 15, under 9.			
1772	15	root disturbance	fb 14, cuts 11.			
1772	16	root disturbance	fo 17, under 9.			
1772	17	root disturbance	fb 16, cuts 11.			
1768	18	ploughsoil	over 19,20.			Modern
1768	19	sandy clay natural	under 18.			
1768	20	sandy clay natural	under 18, over 23			
1768	21	gully	fb 22, cuts 20.			
1768	22	gully fill	fo 21, under 19.	Pottery	1	Medieval
1768	23	natural sand	under 20			
1767	24	ploughsoil	over 25.	Tile		Modern
1767	25	colluvium	under 24, over 31.	Pottery	2	Medieval
1767	26	natural	under 30, over 27, cut			

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Finds	Number	Date
			by 30.			
1767	27	natural	under 26.			
1777	28	ploughsoil	over 29.			Modern
1777	29	natural clay	under 28.			
1767	30	gully	fb 31, cuts 26.			
1767	31	gully fill	fo 30.			
1766	32	ploughsoil	over 33.			Modern
1766	33	colluvium	under 32, over 34.	Pottery	2	?Medieval
1766	34	?palaeosol	under 33, over 35.			
1766	35	alluvium	under 34, over 36.			
1766	36	alluvium	under 35, over 37.			
1766	37	alluvium	under 36, over 38.	Flint Burnt flint	1 1	
1766	38	natural	under 37, over 39.			
1766	39	natural	under 38.			
1980	40	ploughsoil	over 45.			Modern
1980	41	colluvium	under 40, over 45.			
1980	42	natural	under 46, over 45. cut by 46.			
1980	43	tree hole	fb 44, cuts 45.			
1980	44	tree hole fill	fo 43, under 40.			
1980	45	natural	under 43.			
1980	46	tree hole	fb 50, cuts 42.			
1771	47	ploughsoil	over 48.	Pottery	1	Modern
1771	48	natural	under 47, over 49.			
1771	49	natural sand	under 48.			
1980	50	tree hole fill	fo 46.			
1776	51	ploughsoil	over 52.	Tile Flint	2	Modern
1776	52	natural sand	under 51.			
1770	53	ploughsoil	over 54.			Modern
1770	54	natural sandy clay	under 53.			
1775	55	ploughsoil	over 56,57.			Modern
1775	56	colluvium	under 55, over 57.			
1775	57	natural	under 56.			
1781	58	ploughsoil	over 59,60.	Tile		Modern
1781	59	natural clay	under 58			
1781	60	natural clay	under 58.			
1787	61	ploughsoil	over 62	Tile		Modern
1787	62	natural clay	under 61			
1774	63	ploughsoil	over 64.			Modern
1774	64	colluvium	under 63, over 65.			
1774	65	palaeosol	under 64, over 66.	Pottery Flint	21 7	BA /IA
1774	66	alluvium	under 65, over 67.			
1774	67	natural sand	under 66.			
1782	68	ploughsoil	over 69.			Modern
1782	69	natural clay	under 68, over 70.			
1782	70	natural clay	under 69.			
1788	71	ploughsoil	over 72.			Modern
1788	72	colluvium	under 71, over 73.	Flint Burnt flint	1 2	
1788	73	colluvium	under 72, over 74.	Flint	1	
1788	74	colluvium	under 73, over 75.			
1788	75	natural clay	under 76.			

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Findings	Number	Date
1788	76	natural clay	under 71, over 75.			
1779	77	natural sandy clay	under 78.			
1779	78	colluvium	under 79, over 77.			
1779	79	colluvium	under 80, over 78.	Flint	1	
1779	80	colluvium	under 81, over 79.			
1779	81	ploughsoil	over 80.	Burnt flint	2	Modern
1780	82	ploughsoil	over 83.	Pottery	1	Modern
1780	83	natural sandy clay	under 82.			
1785	84	ploughsoil	over 85.	Flint	1	
1785	85	natural sandy clay	under 84.			
1778	86	alluvium	under 87, over 159.	Flint	55	
1778	87	alluvium	under 88, over 86.			
1778	88	?palaeosol	under 100, over 87.			
1778	89	colluvium	under 90, over 88.			
1778	90	ploughsoil	over 89			Modern
1778	100	ditch	fb 160, cuts 161, 88.			
1784	101	ploughsoil	over 108,102.			Modern
1784	102	colluvium	under 101, over 107.			
1784	103	natural clay	under 108,104.			
1784	104	natural sandy clay	under 106, over 103.			
1784	105	colluvium	under 107, over 106.			
1784	106	colluvium	under 105, over 104.			
1784	107	colluvium	under 102, over 105.			
1784	108	natural clay	under 101, over 103.			
1786	109	ditch fill	fo 145, under 143.	Pottery Flint Burnt flint	13 6 9	BA/IA
1786	110	ditch fill	fo 111, under 146.	Pottery Flint Burnt flint	9 2 7	BA/IA
1786	111	ditch	fb 146,110,147, cuts 142.			BA/IA
1786	112	posthole fill	fo 150, under 141.	Pottery	1	BA/IA
1783	113	ploughsoil	over 116.			Modern
1783	114	colluvium	under 117, over 115, cut by 117,155.			
1783	115	colluvium	under 114, over 118, cut by 117,155.			
1783	116	ditch fill	fo 117, under 113, over 158.			
1783	117	ditch	fb 116,158, cuts 114,115,118,156,157.			
1783	118	natural	under 115.			
1769	119	posthole	fb 120, cuts 127.			
1769	120	posthole fill	fo 119, under 131.	Pottery Flint	11 1	M-LBA
1769	121	gully	fb 122, cuts 127.			
1769	122	gully fill	fo 121, under 131.	Flint	1	
1769	123	ditch	fb 124,125,126, cuts 127,131,137.			
1769	124	ditch fill	fo 123, under 125.			
1769	125	ditch fill	fo 123, under 126, over 124.	Flint	2	
1769	126	ditch fill	fo 123, under 136.	Flint	2	
1769	127	natural sandy clay	under 131.			

Station Road to Church Lane, Sellindge (ARC SCL 97) Evaluation Report

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Finds	Number	Date
1769	128	colluvium	under 129, over 134,	Flint	1	
1769	129	colluvium	under 130, over 128.	Pottery	1	?IA
1769	130	ploughsoil	over 129.			
1769	131	alluvium	under 132,135,137, over 120,122.			
1769	132	?palaosol	under 128, over 131, same as 135/137			
1769	133	tree hole	fb 134, cuts 127,131,135.			
1769	134	tree hole fill	fo 133, under 128.			
1769	135	?palaeosol	under 133, over 131.			
1769	136	colluvium	under 128, over 126.			
1769	137	?palaeosol	under 136, over 131, cut by 123, same as 132/135.			
1790	138	ploughsoil	over 139.			
1790	139	disturbed natural	under 138, over 140.	Pottery Flint	1 4	Medieval
1790	140	natural clay	under 139,			
1786	141	ploughsoil	over 143, 148, 112, 151, 142.	Pottery Tile Flint	1 1	Modern
1786	142	natural clay	under 111, 149, 150, 152.			
1786	143	ditch fill	fo 145, under 141, over 109.			BA/IA
1786	144	ditch fill	fo 145, under 109,			BA/IA
1786	145	ditch recut	fb 143,109,144, cuts 146.			BA/IA
1786	146	ditch fill	fo 111, under 141, over 110.			BA/IA
1786	147	ditch fill	fo 111, under 110.	Pottery	2	BA/IA
1786	148	posthole fill	fo 149, under 141.			BA/IA
1786	149	posthole	fb 148, cuts 142.			BA/IA
1786	150	posthole	fb 112, cuts 142.			BA/IA
1786	151	posthole fill	fo 152, under 141.			BA/IA
1786	152	posthole	fb 151, cuts 142.			BA/IA
1790	153	gully	fb 154, cuts 140.			
1790	154	gully fill	fo 153, under 175,	Pottery Flint	1 2	?BA
1783	155	ditch	fb 156, 157, cuts 114,115,118.			
1783	156	ditch fill	fo 155, under 117, over 157,			
1783	157	ditch fill	fo 155, under 156,			
1783	158	ditch fill	fo 117, under 116.	Tile		Post-Medieval
1778	159	alluvium	under 86.	Flint	20	
1778	160	ditch fill	fo 100, under 89.	Pottery Flint	1 1	?BA
1778	161	alluvium	under 100, 160.			
1794	162	ploughsoil	over 163.	Pottery Flint	1 9	Modern
1794	163	colluvium	under 162, over 170.	Pottery Flint	1 1	Medieval
1794	164	colluvium	under 172, over 168.	Pottery	1	Medieval

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Finds	Number	Date
1794	165	palaeosol	under 169, over 166.	Pottery Flint Worked stone Burnt flint Bone	6 17 1 23 2	BA/IA
1794	166	?colluvium	under 165, over 167.			Holocene
1794	167	?colluvium	under 166, over 196.			Holocene
1794	168	root disturbance				
1794	169	root disturbance				
1794	170	pit fill	fo 172, under 163, over 171.			Medieval
1794	171	pit fill	fo 172, under 170.			Medieval
1794	172	pit	fb 170,171, cuts 164.			Medieval
1790	173	colluvium	under 138 over 174.			
1790	174	natural	under 173.			
1790	175	mixed ploughsoil and natural clay	under 138, over 154.			Modern
1789	176	ploughsoil	over 177.			Modern
1789	177	natural	under 176			
1792	178	ploughsoil	over 179.			
1792	179	natural silty clay	under 178.			
1793	180	ploughsoil	over 181.			Modern
1793	181	colluvium	under 180, over 182.			
1793	182	colluvium	under 181, over 183.			
1793	183	colluvium	under 182, over 184.	Pottery Flint Burnt flint	12 17 19	?BA or ?IA
1793	184	colluvium	under 183, over 195			
1793	185	natural clay	under 195.			
1791	186	ploughsoil	over 187.			Modern
1791	187	natural clay	under 186			
1791	188	ditch fill	fo 192, under 186.			
1791	189	natural	under 186.			
1791	190	ditch	fb 191.			
1791	191	ditch fill	fo 190, under 186.			
1791	192	ditch	fb 188.			
1792	193	field boundary	fb 194, cuts 179, same as 155, 190.			Modern
1792	194	fo field boundary	fo 193, under 178, same as 156,191.			Modern
1793	195	?colluvium	under 184, over 185.			
1794	196	?colluvium	under 167.			
1739	197	ploughsoil	over 198.			Modern
1739	198	alluvium	under 197, over 219			
1739	199	palaeosol?	under 198, over 200.			
1739	200	alluvium	under 199, over 201,215,218.			
1739	201	alluvium	under 200, over 214.			
1738	202	ploughsoil	over 203, 208.			Modern
1738	203	alluvium	under 202, over 204.			
1738	204	alluvium	under 203, over 205.			
1738	205	alluvium	under 204, over 206.			
1738	206	alluvium	under 205, over 207.			
1738	207	alluvium	under 206.			

Station Road to Church Lane, Sellindge (ARC SCL 97) Evaluation Report

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Finds	Number	Date
1738	208	alluvium	under 202, over 212.			
1738	209	palaeosol/alluvium	under 213, over 210.			
1738	210	alluvium	under 209, over 211.			
1738	211	alluvium	under 210,			
1738	212	gully fill	fo 213, under 208.			
1738	213	gully	fb 212, cuts 209.			
1739	214	alluvium	under 210, over 223.			
1739	215	alluvium	under 200, over 216.			
1739	216	alluvium	under 220,221,215,218.			
1739	217	gully	fb 218, cuts 215,216.			
1739	218	gully fill	fo 217, under 200, over 216.			
1739	219	alluvium	under 198, over 220,221.			
1739	220	gully fill	fo 222, under 219, over 221,			
1739	221	gully fill	fo 222, under 220, over 216.			
1739	222	gully	fb 221,220, cuts 216.			
1739	223	alluvium	under 214.			
1741	224	ploughsoil	over 225.			Modern
1741	225	alluvium	under 224,over 226, same as 208,198.			
1741	226	alluvium	under 225, over 227.			
1741	227	alluvium	under 226.			
1741	228	gully	fb 229.			
1741	229	gully fill	fo 228, under 225.			
1741	230	gully	fb 231.			
1741	231	gully fill	fo 230, under 225.			
1741	232	tree hole	fb 233.			
1741	233	tree hole fill	fo 232, under 225.			
1743	234	ditch	fb 235,236, cuts 304.			
1743	235	ditch fill	fo 234, under 236, cut by 237.			
1743	236	ditch fill	fo 234, under 237, over 235.			
1743	237	ditch recut	fb 238, 239, 240, cuts 236,235,304.			
1743	238	ditch fill	fo 237, under 239.			
1743	239	ditch fill	fo 237, under 240, over 238.			
1743	240	ditch fill	fo 237, under 303, over 239.			
1743	241	gully	fb 242, cuts 304.			
1743	242	gully fill	fo 241, under 303.			
1743	243	gully	fb 244, cuts 304.			
1743	244	gully fill	fo 243, under 303.			
1743	245	root disturbance	fb 246, cuts 304.			
1743	246	root disturbance	fo 245, under 303.			
1743	247	ploughsoil	over 248.			
1743	248	alluvium	under 247, over 303.			
1741	249	ditch	fb 250.			
1741	250	ditch fill	fo 249, under 225.			
1745	251	ploughsoil	over 254, 253.			
1745	252	alluvium	under 255			

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Finds	Number	Date
1745	253	alluvium	under 251.			
1745	254	pit fill	fo 255, under 251.			
1745	255	pit	fb 254, cuts 252.			
1740	256	ploughsoil	over 257.			Modern
1740	257	alluvium	under 259, over 266, cut by 259.			
1740	258	alluvium	under 258.			
1740	259	gully	fb 260,267, cuts 258, 257.			
1740	260	gully fill	fo 259, under 267.			
1740	261	tree hole	fb 262, cuts 257, 258.			
1740	262	tree hole fill.	fo 261, under 256.			
1740	263	alluvium	under 257, cut by 264.			
1740	264	tree hole	fb 265,266, cuts 257,263,258.			
1740	265	tree hole fill	fo 264, under 266.			
1740	266	tree hole fill	fo 264, under 256, over 265.			
1740	267	gully fill	fo 259, under 256, over 260.			
1744	268	ploughsoil	over 269.			Modern
1744	269	alluvium	under 268, over 270.			
1744	270	alluvium	under 269.			
1744	271	ditch	fb 272.			
1744	272	ditch fill	fo 271, under 269.			
1747	273	ploughsoil	over 275.			Modern
1747	274	natural clay	under 276.			
1747	275	tree hole fill	fo 276, under 273.			
1747	276	tree hole	fb 275, cuts 274.			
1742	277	ploughsoil	over 278, 280, 291, 293, 295.			Modern
1742	278	posthole fill	fo 279, under 277.			
1742	279	posthole	fb 278, cuts 289.			
1742	280	ditch fill	fo 282, under 277, over 281.	Tile		Post-Medieval
1742	281	ditch fill	fo 282, under 280.			
1742	282	recut ditch	fb 281,280, cuts 283.			
1742	283	ditch fill	fo 288, under 282, over 284, cut by 282.			
1742	284	ditch fill	fo 288, under 283, over 285.			
1742	285	ditch fill	fo 288, under 284, over 286.			
1742	286	ditch fill	fo 288, under 285, over 287.			
1742	287	ditch fill	fo 288, under 286.			
1742	288	ditch	fb 283-287, cuts 289.			
1742	289	alluvium	under 277, over 290, cut by 279,288,294.			
1742	290	alluvium	under 289, cut by 292,296.			
1742	291	ditch fill	fo 292, under 277.			
1742	292	ditch	fb 291, cuts 290.			
1742	293	posthole fill	fo 294, under 277.			
1742	294	posthole	fb 293, cuts 289.			

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Findings	Number	Date
1742	295	posthole fill	fo 296, under 277.			
1742	296	posthole	fb 295, cuts 290.			
1742	297	ploughsoil	over 298.			modern
1742	298	subsoil	under 297, over 299.			
1742	299	alluvium	under 298, over 230.			
1742	300	natural clay	under 299.			
1742	301	tree hole fill	fo 302, under 299,			
1742	302	tree hole	fb 301, cuts 300.			
1743	303	alluvium	under 248, over 303,240,242,244,246,236,311,308.			
1743	304	alluvium	under 303, cut by 234,237,241,243,245,305,309.			
1743	305	ditch	fb 306-308, cuts 304.			
1743	306	ditch fill	fo 305, under 307, cut by 309.			
1743	307	ditch fill	fo 305, under 308, over 306.			
1743	308	ditch fill	fo 305, under 303, over 307.			
1743	309	recut ditch	fb 310,311, cuts 304,306,308.			
1743	310	ditch fill	fo 309, under 311.			
1743	311	ditch fill	fo 309, under 303, over 310.			
1746	312	ploughsoil	over 314.			modern
1746	313	natural	under 312, cut by 315.			
void	314	void	void			
void	315	void	void			
1751	316	ploughsoil	over 317.			modern
1751	317	alluvium	under 316, over 318.			
1751	318	natural	under 317.			
1752	319	ploughsoil	over 320.			modern
1752	320	colluvium	under 319, over 323,325.			
1752	321	natural clay	under 320, cut by 322,324.			
1752	322	gully	fb 323, cuts 321.			
1752	323	gully fill	fo 322, under 320.			
1752	324	gully	fb 325, cuts 321.			
1752	325	gully fill	fo 324, under 320, over 326.			
1753	326	ploughsoil	over 327.			modern
1753	327	layer	under 326.			?Pleistocene
1756	328	ploughsoil	over 329.			modern
1756	329	layer	under 328.			?Pleistocene
1754	330	ploughsoil	over 331.			modern
1754	331	layer	under 330.			?Pleistocene
1750	332	ploughsoil	over 334,336.333.	Flint	1	modern
1750	333	natural clay	under 335,337.			
1750	334	tree hole fill	fo 335, under 332.	Pottery Flint	17 1	1st century AD
1750	335	tree hole	fb 334, cuts 333.			
1750	336	ditch fill	fo 337, under 332.	Pottery	1	1st century AD

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Findings	Number	Date
1750	337	ditch	fb 336, cuts 333.			
1748	338	ploughsoil	over 339.			modern
1748	339	colluvium	under 338, over 340, same as 341.			
1748	340	natural clay	under 345, 351.			
1748	341	ditch fill	fo 342, under 338, same as 339.	Pottery	1	modern
1748	342	recut ditch	fb 341, cuts 343.			modern
1748	343	ditch fill	fo 345, over 344, cut by 342.			modern
1748	344	ditch fill	fo 345, under 343.	Pottery	1	modern
1748	345	ditch	fb 343,344, cuts 351,340,			modern
1758	346	ploughsoil	over 347,348.			modern
1758	347	alluvium	under 346, over 348.			
1758	348	alluvium	under 347, over 349.			
1758	349	alluvium	under 348, over 350.			
1758	350	layer	under 349.			?Pleistocene
1748	351	colluvium	under 341, over 340.			
1757	352	ploughsoil	over 356.			modern
1757	353	colluvium	under 352, over 354.	Pottery	1	LNeo/EBA
1757	354	layer	under 355. cut by 355.			?Pleistocene
1757	355	gully	fb 356, cuts 354.			
1757	356	gully fill	fo 355, under 352.			
1761	357	ploughsoil	over 361,374.			modern
1761	358	alluvium	under 360, 371, over 370.			
1761	359	natural	under 370.			
1761	360	gully	fb 361, cuts 358.			
1761	361	gully fill	fo 360, under 357.			
1759	362	ploughsoil	over 363.	Flint	1	modern
1759	363	alluvium	under 362, over 365, 368.	Pottery	1	1st century AD
1759	364	alluvium	under 367,369.			
1759	365	ditch fill	fo 367, under 363, over 366.	Pottery Flint	2 4	modern
1759	366	ditch fill	fo 367, under 365.			modern
1759	367	ditch	fb 365,366, cuts 364.			modern
1759	368	root disturbance	fo 369, under 363.			
1759	369	root disturbance	fb 368, cuts 364,			
1761	370	colluvium	under 358, over 359.			
1761	371	ditch	fb 372,375, cuts 358,370, cut by 373.			
1761	372	ditch fill	fo 371, under 357, 374, over 358,375, cut by 373.			
1761	373	drain	fb 374, cuts 372,258,270,371,375.			modern
1761	374	drain fill	fo 373, under 357.			modern
1761	375	ditch fill	fo 371,under 372, cut by 373.			
1762	376	ploughsoil	over 377.			modern
1762	377		under 376, over 378,341,343.			
1762	378	gully fill	fo 379, under 377.	Pottery	7	1st century AD

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Findings	Number	Date
1762	379	gully	fb 378, cuts 380.			
1762	380	natural	under 379,382,384.			
1762	381	tree hole fill	fo 382, under 377.			
1762	382	tree hole	fb 381, cuts 380.			
1762	383	root hole fill	fo 384, under 377.			
1762	384	root hole	fb 383, cuts 380.			
1762	385	land drain	under 376, cuts 378.	Pottery	1	1st century AD
1753	386	ditch fill	fo 387,	Flint	4	
1753	387	ditch	fb 386, part of 400.			
1764	388	ploughsoil	over 294			modern
1764	389	alluvium	under 394, cut by 390.	Pottery Flint	1 1	1st century AD
1764	390	ditch	fb 391,392,392, cuts 389.			
1764	391	ditch fill	fo 390, under 392,			
1764	392	ditch fill	fo 390, under 393, over 391.			
1764	393	ditch fill	fo 390, under 394, over 392.			
1764	394	alluvium	under 388, over 393			
1753	395	ditch fill	fo 396, part of 400.	Flint	1	
1753	396	ditch	fb 395, part of 400.			
1753	397	pit fill	fo 399, under 396, over 398, cut by 396.			
1753	398	pit fill	fo 399, under 397,			
1753	399	pit	fb 397,398., cuts 327.			
1753	400	ditch	399,396			
1763	401	ploughsoil	over 412	Flint	1	modern
1763	402	colluvium	under 401, cut by 412, over 406.	Pottery	1	1st century AD
1763	403	natural	cut by 407.under 402.			
1763	404	alluvium	under 412, over 408,410.cut by 412.	Flint	1	
1763	405	alluvium	under 404, cut by 409, 411.			
1763	406	tree hole fill	fo 407, under 402.			
1763	407	tree hole	fb 406, cuts 403.			
1763	408	gully fill	fo 409, under 404.			
1763	409	gully	fb 408, cuts 405.			
1763	410	root disturbance	fo 411, under 404	Flint	1	
1763	411	root disturbance	fb 410, cuts 405.			
1763	412	ditch	under 401, cuts 402,404.			modern
1755	413	pit	fb 141,415, cuts 420.			
1755	414	pit fill	fo 413, under 415.	Pottery Flint	14 4	1st century AD
1755	415	pit fill	fo 413, under 416, over 414.	Pottery Flint	43 3	1st century AD
1755	416	plough soil	over 415,416.	Flint	1	modern
1755	417		under 416, over 418,455.			
1755	418	ditch fill	fo 419, under 417.	Pottery Flint	3 2	1st century AD
1755	419	ditch	cuts 420, cut by 418, fb 418.			1st century AD

Trench	Cxt	Type	Association	Findings	Number	Date
1755	420	natural	under 413,419,421.			
1755	421	ditch	fb 422,455,456, cuts 460, 420.			1st century AD
1755	422	ditch fill	fo 421, under 455.			1st century AD
1760	423	ploughsoil	over 424.			modern
1760	424	alluvium	under 423, over 425.			
1760	425	colluvium	under 424, over 427.			
1760	426	alluvium	under 425, over 428.			
1760	427	colluvium	under 425, over 428.			
1760	428	colluvium	under 427, over 429.			
1760	429	alluvium	under 428			
1760	430	gully	fb 431, cuts 429.			
1760	431	gully fill	fo 430, under 426.			
1760	432	ditch	fb 433,434, cuts 426.			
1760	433	ditch fill	fo 432, under 434.			
1760	434	ditch fill	fo 432, under 424, over 433.			
1760	435	colluvium	under 423, over 436.			
1760	436	colluvium	under 435.			
1760	437	field boundary	fb 438,439,440.			modern
1760	438	f.o. field boundary	fo 437, under 439.			modern
1760	439	f.o. field boundary	fo 437, under 440, over 438.			modern
1760	440	f.o. field boundary	fo 437, under 423, over 439.			modern
1765	441	ploughsoil	over 442			modern
1765	442	alluvium	under 441, over 443.			
1765	443	ditch fill	fo 445, under 442, over 444.			
1765	444	ditch fill	fo 445, under 443.			
1765	445	ditch	fb 443,444, cuts 446.			
1765	446	natural	cut by 451,454,445.			
1765	447	ditch fill	fo 448, under 441.			modern
1765	448	ditch.	fb 447, cuts 449,450,452,442.			modern
1765	449	alluvium	under 441, over 450.			
1765	450	ditch fill	fo 451, under 449, cut by 448.			
1765	451	ditch	fb 450, cuts 446.			
1765	452	ditch fill	fo 454, under 448, over 453.			
1765	453	ditch fill	fo 454, under 452.	Flint	1	
1765	454	ditch	fb 452, 453, cuts 446.			
1755	455	ditch fill	fo 421, under 456, over 421.			1st century AD
1755	456	ditch fill	fo 421, under 457, over 455.	Pottery Flint Bone	212 1 6	1st century AD
1755	457	gully	fb 458, cuts 456,420.			1st century AD
1755	458	gully fill	fo 457, under 417,			1st century AD
1755	459	gully	fb 460, cuts 420.			1st century AD
1755	460	gully fill	fo 459, under 421.			1st century AD

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits

7.1.1 Archaeological features were found in all three fields comprising the site (Fig. 20). The western field was characterised by linear features containing almost no cultural material. In the central field, the features were again mostly probably ditches containing little cultural material. However, the low ridge may have been a focus of occupation. A second area of occupation may have been on the brow of the knoll overlooking the valley of the East Stour in the eastern field (Trench 1786TT). There were no archaeological features on the top of the knoll, perhaps because of truncation by ploughing. A post-hole and several linear features occurred close to the small stream. There was a much more general spread of cultural material from the eastern field, although much of it was from secondary contexts (colluvium and alluvium).

7.2 Date and character

7.2.1 The evaluation demonstrates that both the bedrock and superficial geology at the site is complex (Figs 20 and 21). It was often difficult to determine the precise position of boundaries between individual stratigraphic units or between bedrock and superficial sediments due to the local derivation of much of the sedimentary matrix of the site (in particular from the Hythe Beds). In places only the presence of archaeological artefacts allowed these boundaries to be determined

7.2.2 A group of flint flakes from Trench 1778TT, including soft-hammer flakes, blade-like flakes, and blades, is probably of Mesolithic date (see Appendix 1). This material is in fairly fresh condition, but it is unlikely to represent *in situ* knapping debris as this type of deposit would be accompanied by quantities of very small flint chips (micro-debitage), which are almost entirely lacking in this case. However, the condition of the material suggests that it has not been moved very far and may have originated from the top of the knoll.

7.2.3 The dated archaeological features can be broadly divided into features of the 1st century AD in the central field, and Bronze Age and/or Iron Age features and deposits in the eastern field. The pottery from the eastern field consisted largely of undiagnostic body sherds and although much of it is probably Bronze Age, on the basis of fabric alone, it is not possible to rule out an Iron Age date for at least some of the material (see Appendix 2).

7.2.4 The Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery sherds are generally small and often from secondary, colluvial, contexts. On the upper slopes of the knoll, in Trench 1786TT, there are several shallow features of this date which have clearly suffered from a large degree of plough truncation, but which may have been part of an area of later Prehistoric settlement overlooking the East Stour

river. Much of the material found in colluvial deposits may therefore have originated from deposits at the top of knoll. The concentration of cultural material in Trenches 1793TT and 1794TT may, therefore, reflect the location of these trenches down slope from the area around Trench 1786TT.

- 7.2.5 The vast majority of the pottery was 1st-century AD in date and came from a limited area on the low ridge in the central field, focused on the area around Trench 1755TT.
- 7.2.6 Several features were recorded within the colluvial deposits adjacent to the small stream. These were probably cut from a level equivalent to the palaeosol horizon recorded in Trench 1774TT. Of these features, most are ditches containing sparse cultural material, although a probable post-hole was excavated in Trench 1769TT and this contained frequent pottery sherds of Mid-Late Bronze Age date.
- 7.2.7 Most of the linear features in the alluvial area of the western and central fields are probably drainage ditches, and the lack of consistency of orientation probably suggests activity over a considerable period of time.
- 7.2.8 Struck flint was recovered from a number of trenches, all in the central and eastern fields. Most of this material is not particularly diagnostic, although the barbed and tanged arrowhead is of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date and the other retouched tools (including scrapers, backed knives and other forms) are also typical of Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblages. A slight concentration of struck flint, from close to the small stream in the eastern field, recovered during surface collection (URL 1995) coincides with the upslope limit of colluvial deposits and probably derives from these.
- 7.2.9 A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the eastern field. Most of this material came from the upper part of the colluvial sequence although one sherd was recovered from a shallow ditch in Trench 1768TT.
- 7.2.10 The linear anomalies, recorded during geophysical survey relate almost entirely to the presence of recent field drains. It is likely that many of the linear features of archaeological origin, recorded within trenches, are too deeply buried within the alluvial and colluvial deposits to be susceptible to geophysical techniques. Few of the discrete anomalies recorded fell within the evaluation trenches and so their origin is difficult to evaluate. However, on the basis of the sparse nature of the discrete features recorded in trenches, these anomalies are unlikely to be archaeological in origin.

7.3 Environmental Evidence

- 7.3.1 The assessment of environmental samples (Appendix 5) suggests that the quantity and preservation of charred plant remains is poor.
- 7.3.2 One sample, from Trench 1760TT, produced quite well-preserved waterlogged remains and it is likely that other deposits exist within the area of alluvial

deposition in the central field. Although outside the range of the present work, it is likely that similar deposits exist, to the south of the evaluation area in all three fields, within the floodplain of the East Stour river. The presence of peat at a depth of 1m below ground level in geotechnical pit TP 6142 (NGR TR 0720038363) should be noted in this respect (see 5.1.3 above).

- 7.3.3 Very little animal bone was found on site (Appendix 3). The eight bones identified to species were in fact all fragments of a single tooth. The absence of bone is likely to be a factor of poor preservation.
- 7.3.4 Molluscs, apart from modern burrowing species, were largely absent from the site and is also likely to have resulted from poor preservation in slightly acidic soil conditions. Well-preserved mollusc shells were present in the sample from Trench 1760TT which also produced waterlogged remains.

8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

8.1 Survival/condition

- 8.1.1 In areas where colluvial and alluvial deposits were absent, plough truncation appeared to have been quite severe, so that only deeper features are likely to survive. For example, in Trench 1786TT, several pit- or post hole-like features only survived to a depth of 0.1m or less, and although several ditches were present on the low ridge in the central field, no discrete features were recorded.
- 8.1.2 In areas of colluvial or alluvial cover, survival of archaeological deposits is better. The depth of colluvium/alluvium overlying archaeological deposits has protected such deposits from later activity. As a result, probable preserved palaeosols (buried soil horizons) survive in the eastern field and perhaps in the western field. In the eastern field, the palaeosol, as present in Trenches 1774TT and 1794TT, dates to the later prehistoric period. Features are cut from a similar level in nearby trenches, although the palaeosol was not easily identifiable. In addition, flint work of probable Mesolithic date was recovered from a stratigraphically earlier deposit in Trench 1778TT.

8.2 Period

- 8.2.1 A range of periods are represented on site. In the central field, short-lived activity of the immediately pre-Roman Iron Age is present on the low ridge. In the eastern field, material of Mesolithic to Medieval date was recovered. Much of this material has been transported by colluvial processes and is, therefore, not *in situ*. However, the local topography suggests that the material may not have been moved far. Where cultural material has been recovered from features, rather than from layers, much of it is probably Bronze Age in date, although an Iron Age date for some of the pottery cannot be ruled out. A probably short-lived phase of activity dating to the late Iron Age or very early Roman period is represented in the central field. Most of

the linear features in the alluvial areas of the western and central fields are undated, although a post-Roman date is most likely.

8.3 Rarity

- 8.3.1 Areas of localised alluvium and colluvium, which may contain significant archaeological deposits, are quite common in Kent but have not been widely investigated.
- 8.3.2 Few sites of Mesolithic date are known in Kent, and most finds have been of isolated implements (Champion and Overy 1989). The apparent scarcity of such sites is, in part, a result of a lack of fieldwork.
- 8.3.3 Although the number of known sites of later prehistoric date in Kent has increased in recent years, the south-eastern corner of Kent, between the South Downs to the north and the Weald to the west, displays a notable lack of known sites (Drewett *et al* 1988, Champion and Overy 1989).
- 8.3.4 Late Iron Age sites are relatively common in Kent, but again the south-eastern part of Kent seems to be under-represented in the distribution of known sites (Drewett *et al* 1988, Champion and Overy 1989).

8.4 Fragility/vulnerability

- 8.4.1 The archaeological evidence in those areas with no alluvial/colluvial cover is extremely vulnerable to disturbance. Truncation by ploughing is already quite severe and, under present conditions, will continue to affect the archaeology.
- 8.4.2 In areas of colluvial and alluvial deposits, the archaeological evidence is much less vulnerable under present conditions. The depth of overburden has protected archaeological deposits from most modern agricultural activity, although some disturbance has been caused during the laying of field drains.

8.5 Diversity

- 8.5.1 The archaeology on the site has a wide chronological range, including Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age, as well as some Medieval material, much of which comes from colluvial deposits. Most of the features recorded on site were probably associated with drainage. However, in two areas (the low ridge in the central field, and the brow of the knoll in the eastern field) some occupation is indicated, of late Iron Age and Bronze Age date respectively.

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 Previous work in the area includes the excavation of a medieval mill mound (Bradshaw 1967) and a scatter of Mesolithic worked flint (Wymer 1977).

8.7 Group value

- 8.7.1 The site has significant value in terms of its potential for *in situ* Mesolithic remains because of the paucity of excavated sites in Kent.
- 8.7.2 The site is one of a number on the route of the CTRL with evidence of later prehistoric activity (URL 1994 and 1995) and field evaluations have been carried out at several of these, for example at Cobham (URL 1997a) and Singlewell (URL 1997c). The value of the site would be enhanced when placed in this context. However, the features of this period are not well preserved and much of the value of the site lies in the potential of the colluvial deposits to preserve associated deposits.
- 8.7.3 The site has value in extending the known distribution of Late Iron Age sites in this part of Kent. However, the extent and quality of the remains are likely to be limited.

8.8 Potential

- 8.8.1 The site has considerable potential for the preservation of archaeological material of all ages within the colluvial and alluvial deposits. While much of the cultural material may have been transported for some distance, where buried soil horizons exist there is clear potential for the survival of undisturbed occupation features and artefacts.
- 8.8.2 The Mesolithic flintwork from the eastern field, although probably not *in situ*, highlights the potential for such deposits, both alluvial and colluvial, to contain discrete clusters of knapping debris. Other material of similar date has been found in the area (Wymer 1977).
- 8.8.3 In areas without colluvial or alluvial cover, surviving archaeological evidence appears to be very localised. However, the quantity of material found in adjacent areas of colluvium indicates at least a low level of activity on the higher areas of both the central and eastern fields. However, because of the degree of plough damage recorded where features were encountered, the potential of these areas is much more limited.
- 8.8.4 In general, the economic and environmental potential of the site is limited. However, where waterlogged deposits are present, for example in the alluvial areas of the central field as well as to the south of the evaluation area, the potential for environmental reconstruction is much greater.

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APPENDIX 1

The Worked Flint

by Philippa Bradley, Oxford Archaeological Unit

1 Introduction

- 1.1 One hundred and ninety pieces of worked flint and 69 pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the evaluation. The material consists of flakes, blades, chips, cores, core fragments and a variety of retouched forms including scrapers, retouched flakes, backed knives, a microlith and a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead. The flint was mostly dark brown to black in colour with a buff or white cortex which is sometimes chalky, although it is mostly quite worn and abraded. Occasional pieces of grey, light brown and orange flint were also recovered. Cortication, where present, is generally light although pieces from some trenches, for example, Trench 1778TT, Context 86, were quite heavily corticated. The condition of the material is quite mixed with some pieces retaining sharp edges and others being fairly abraded and rolled.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The flint was briefly scanned and recorded using standard codes. Technological traits such as butt type, hammer mode and position in reduction sequence were recorded where it was felt that this information would enhance the characterisation of the material. The general condition of the flint and raw material types were also noted.

3 Dating and discussion

- 3.1 There are diagnostic retouched forms of Mesolithic (obliquely blunted point) and later Neolithic/early Bronze Age date (barbed and tanged arrowhead). The obliquely blunted point has been inversely retouched and appears to have been snapped at its proximal end to form a point. The left-hand side is slightly curved. This type of microlith occurs throughout the period (cf Pitts and Jacobi 1979, 169 fig. 5) but its relatively small size and its complex manufacture may suggest that it is of later Mesolithic date. A group of debitage which is also likely to be of Mesolithic date was recovered from Trench 1778TT, Contexts 86 and 159. This material consisted of soft-hammer struck flakes, blade-like flakes and blades, single platform blade cores and blade core fragments. Two core tablets, also from blade cores, were recovered. A possible oblique truncation and a plunging flake from an opposed platform blade core were also recovered. Butts were punctiform and linear and platform edge abrasion was commonly noted. Although there are no retouched forms to confirm the dating of this group, technologically it is consistent with Mesolithic assemblages. It is interesting to note that much of this material is fairly heavily corticated whereas the microlith from Trench 1794TT, Context 165 is very fresh and uncorticated. This *may* mean that these groups are of different dates within the Mesolithic but the use of cortication as an indicator of age is notoriously

unreliable. The probable Mesolithic material from Trench 1778TT is fairly fresh and not rolled but is probably not *in situ*. However, given its condition it is likely that it has not moved very far from its original place of deposition.

- 3.2 The barbed and tanged arrowhead is from Trench 1755TT, Context 415. It is quite a fine form originally with drooping barbs and it has been extensively retouched over its dorsal face. Two flakes and a few pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered from this context.
- 3.3 The other retouched forms recovered from the site are not particularly diagnostic and include scrapers, retouched flakes, a serrated flake, two backed knives and a variety of miscellaneous pieces. In general these forms are typical of Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblages.

4 Summary of flint by trench

- 4.1 The flint from each trench is summarised below in Table 3. In general the majority of trenches produced very little flint, only Trenches 1755TT, 1769TT, 1778TT, 1786TT, 1793TT and 1794TT produced more than five pieces of worked flint. Flint was concentrated on the knoll and the alluvium and colluvium surrounding this higher ground. Flint was noticeably more sparsely distributed in trenches in the western part of the area evaluated. Only a single trench in this area, Trench 1755TT, produced any quantity of material. A broken barbed and tanged arrowhead provides an early later Neolithic/Bronze Age date for at least some of the material. However, it is likely that much, if not all, of the material in this area is redeposited. Trench 1778TT produced an interesting group of probably Mesolithic flintwork (see above). Trench 1769TT produced relatively undiagnostic material including a finely serrated flake with edge gloss. Trenches 1786TT, 1793TT and 1794TT produced 25, 36 and 53 flints respectively. The total for Trench 1786TT is largely composed of burnt unworked flint but also includes one miscellaneous retouched piece which may be a knife or scraper. The total for Trench 1793TT is also inflated by a quantity of burnt unworked flint (Table 3), the worked element consisting of relatively undiagnostic debitage. Trench 1794TT contained a mixed group including a microlith (Context 165), an end and side scraper (Context 162) and a miscellaneous retouched piece (Context 162). This group would seem to include some possible Neolithic flint, including perhaps the scraper and the miscellaneous piece.
- 4.2 Fieldwalking undertaken by OAU in the vicinity produced fairly dispersed scatters of worked and burnt flint (OAU 1995, 19, maps 18a-18b). Only three retouched pieces were recovered, a hammerstone, a notched piece and a side scraper. These pieces may be of Neolithic/early Bronze Age date. Mesolithic flintwork has been found in the general area (Drewett *et al* 1988, 12, fig. 1.3; Jacobi 1982; Wymer 1977). At Smeeth and Aldington Mesolithic flint including flakes, blades, cores, axes, and various retouched forms were recovered (Wymer 1977, 143, 158). Other findspots to the north and west of Sellindge include Ashford, Selling, Wye and a series of sites (Olantigh

Barrow, Chilham and Broughton Aluph) located along the Great Stour (Wymer 1977).

Table 3: Summary of flint by trench

Trench	Flakes	Blades, blade-like flakes	Chips	Irregular waste	Cores, core fragments	Retouched forms	Burnt unworked flint	Total
1750 (ctxs 332, 334)	-	1	-	-	-	1 (backed knife)	-	2
1753 (ctxs 386, 395)	3	-	-	-	-	2 (1 backed knife, 1 end and side scraper)	-	5
1755 (ctxs 414, 415, 416, 418, 456)	7	1	2	-	-	1 (barbed and tanged arrowhead)	4	15
1759 (ctxs 362, 365)	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	6
1763 (ctxs 401, 404, 410)	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
1764 (ctx 389)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1765 (ctx 453)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1766 (ctx 37)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
1769 (ctxs 120, 122, 125, 126, 128)	5	1	-	-	-	2 (1 serrated flake, 1 end and side scraper)	-	8
1774 (ctx 65)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1776 (ctx 51)	1	-	-	-	-	1 (misc. retouch)	-	2
1778 (ctxs 86, 88, 159, 160)	39*	6	29	1	4 (2 blade cores, 2 core fragments)	1 (misc. retouch)	-	80
1779 (ctxs 79, 81)	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
1785 (ctx 84)	-	-	-	-	-	1 (retouched flake)	-	1
1786 (ctxs 109, 110, 141)	8	-	-	-	-	1 (misc. retouch)	16	25
1788 (ctxs 72, 73)	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
1790 (ctxs 139, 154)	4	1	-	-	-	1 (retouched flake)	-	6
1793 (ctx 183)	16	1	-	-	-	-	19	36
1794 (ctxs 162, 163, 165)	22	3	2	-	-	3 (1 microlith, 1 end and side scraper, 1 misc. retouch)	23	53

Station Road to Church Lane, Sellindge (ARC SCL 97) Evaluation Report

Trench	Flakes	Blades, blade-like flakes	Chips	Irregular waste	Cores, core fragments	Retouched forms	Burnt unworked flint	Total
Total	121	17	33	1	4	14	69	259

* includes three core rejuvenation flakes (one face/edge, two tablets)

APPENDIX 2

The Pottery

by Paul Booth, Oxford Archaeological Unit

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The evaluation produced some 398 sherds (2702 g) of pottery, comprising principally late Iron Age-early Roman material from the western part of the site and more mixed groups, ranging in date from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age to medieval and post-medieval, from the eastern part. Late Iron Age-early Roman sherds formed the bulk of the material.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The pottery was recorded by context in terms of broad fabric categories for the purposes of assigning dates, with quantification by sherd count and weight. Vessel type, where identifiable, was also recorded, and other characteristics were noted as appropriate. Coding followed the standards established in the OAU prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system.

3 Condition of material

- 3.1 The pottery was at best only in moderate condition and the average sherd weight, 6.8 g, was small. This was a consequence in particular of a high degree of fragmentation of the late Iron Age-early Roman sherds encountered in quantity in Trench 1755TT (which accounted for 68.3% of all sherds (70% by weight) from the site). Modern breaks were discounted as far as possible in determining sherd numbers, but with such highly fragmented material it was not possible to identify all of these. The overall sherd count may therefore be slightly inflated. The pottery, apart from that in Trench 1755TT, shows varying degrees of abrasion, but many sherds were at least moderately worn and preservation of surfaces was also no more than average. On the late Iron Age-early Roman sherds, for example, burnishing survived only rarely.

4 Fabrics, forms and chronology

- 4.1 Fabrics fell into three main groups; hand made prehistoric material, grog-tempered fabrics in a late Iron Age-early Roman tradition, and a small amount of medieval and post-medieval material. The hand made prehistoric fabrics were dominated by flint-tempered sherds, none of which had chronologically diagnostic characteristics. Distinctions of date were therefore based on variations in the fabric alone. Very coarse and/or dense flint tempering has been taken as indicating a Bronze Age date, while sparser flint-tempering, particularly where associated with sand or organic inclusions, is thought here to indicate an Iron Age date, but it is accepted that these distinctions are somewhat arbitrary.

5 Hand made prehistoric fabrics

- 5.1 These fabrics were defined on the basis of their most common inclusion type, defined by a letter. In approximate chronological order they were as follows:

G. Grog tempered, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. 2 sherds, 21 g.
F. Coarse flint-tempered, Middle-Late Bronze Age. 58 sherds, 304 g.
F. Fine/sparse flint-tempered, ?Iron Age. 10 sherds, 51 g.
A. Sand tempered and sand/flint-tempered, ?Iron Age. 8 sherds, 50 g.
P. Clay pellet-tempered, ?Iron Age. 1 sherd, 5 g.
Z. Uncertain voids common, ?Iron Age. 1 sherd, 6 g.

- 5.2 Diagnostic sherds were almost entirely absent amongst this material. The Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sherds, defined on the basis of the fabric, were from Contexts 165 (Trench 1794TT) and 353 (Trench 1757TT), the latter being from a colluvial layer not associated with any other dating material.

- 5.3 A possible rim sherd in a coarse flint-tempered fabric was too fragmentary to allow the angle of the rim to be determined. The form is therefore uncertain. One flint-tempered sherd with noticeably dense and relatively fine tempering (from context 183, Trench 1793TT) had a slight angle in the body wall indicating an angled form, consistent with a Bronze Age date. The only feature sherd present amongst the probable Iron Age material was a very small tapering rim fragment in a sandy fabric (from Context 110, Trench 1786TT) with slight impressed or incised nicks on the top of the rim. This could have been from a simple barrel or bucket shaped form.

6 Late Iron Age-early Roman

- 6.1 The late Iron Age-early Roman period was represented almost entirely by grog-tempered sherds. Many of these were small and in very poor condition, so definition of the fabric was somewhat arbitrary. The fabrics appeared to be very consistent, however, most containing grog and organic inclusions or voids. The ware subgroups present in this component of the assemblage were:

E30. Medium sand-tempered fabrics. 1 sherd, 28 g.
E80. Grog-tempered fabrics. 302 sherds, 2046 g.
O10. Very fine oxidised fabric. 3 sherds, 8 g.

- 6.2 The grog-tempered fabrics are typical of a tradition which dominated assemblages at least up to the beginning of the Flavian period in this part of Kent (Pollard 1988, 45). Relatively few rim sherds were recorded, representing three jars of medium-necked type, two ?barrel-shaped jars with thickened, incurving rims, a bead-rimmed jar and two uncertain jar or bowl types, a total of eight vessels - it was clear in the excavation that the large numbers of fragments from Trench 1755TT probably only represented a few pots. The range of forms is characteristic of these fabrics. There was little evidence for decoration, partly as a result of the poor condition of the material,

but furrowed sherds were noted fairly frequently. This material could date to both before and after the Roman conquest. The fine oxidised (O10) fragments are of uncertain source and date, though an early Roman date seems most likely.

7 Post-Roman pottery

7.1 Small amounts of Post-Roman material were present as follows:

Medieval (sandy fabrics). 9 sherds, 134 g .

Post-medieval (18th-20th century). 3 sherds, 49 g.

7.1 The medieval sherds, all in sandy (usually oxidised) fabrics, included two small rims, possibly from cooking pots (from Contexts 163 and 25) and a stabbed oval-sectioned handle also from Context 25. A further rim sherd (33 g) was an unstratified find.

8 Context and Distribution

8.1 With few exceptions the Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery was confined to the eastern half of the site. Two coarse flint-tempered sherds were recovered from a late Iron Age context in Trench 1755TT, but the principal exception was a grog-tempered sherd of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date from Context 353 in Trench 1757TT, the sole sherd recovered from this trench. The only other sherd in this tradition came from Trench 1794TT, in a context (165) in which it was associated with flint-tempered sherds probably of Bronze Age date and two further sherds assigned to the Iron Age. Sherds in flint-tempered fabrics of probable Bronze Age date were found in Trenches 1769TT, 1774TT, 1778TT, 1786TT, 1790TT, 1793TT and 1794TT, lying mainly along the southern and western margins of the eastern half of the site, though not all identifications can be considered absolutely secure. In only a limited number of contexts (120 in Trench 1769TT, 65 in Trench 1774TT, 160 in Trench 1778TT and perhaps 154 in Trench 1790TT) were these fabrics unassociated with later material. Their occurrence may indicate the proximity of activity of Bronze Age date rather than reflecting the presence of substantial Bronze Age features within the site.

8.2 The distribution of sherds assigned an Iron Age date was confined to the eastern half of the site, where it was broadly similar to that of the Bronze Age material. A single sherd in a sand and flint-tempered fabric was recovered from a buried soil (129) in Trench 1769TT, while other flint-tempered material from this trench was thought to be of Bronze Age date. It is possible that the sherd from Layer 129 was also of Bronze Age date rather than later, in which case the distribution of Iron Age material would have been confined to the southern part of the area (in Trenches 1786TT, 1793TT and 1794TT), but on fabric grounds the Iron Age date is preferred. An Iron Age date is possible for Contexts 110 and 147 in Trench 1786TT, 183 in Trench 1793TT and 165 in Trench 1794TT, but again the level of activity indicated by this material is potentially fairly low.

- 8.3 The bulk of the pottery from the site was of late Iron Age to early Roman date and largely confined to the western half of the site. The occurrence of material of this date in the eastern half of the site was negligible, with sherds from Trenches 1766TT (2 sherds), 1786TT and 1794TT (1 sherd each). Even in the western half of the site concentrations of pottery of this date was quite localised, with four trenches towards the eastern side of this area (Trenches 1759TT and 1762TT-1764TT) producing only 13 sherds between them. As indicated above, the great majority of this pottery was confined to Trench 1755TT (272 sherds from four contexts), with a further 18 sherds from Trench 1750TT to the west. The consistency of this assemblage is remarkable, the fine oxidised sherds (from Context 334 in Trench 1750TT) being the only pieces for which a post-conquest date is almost certain. These fragments aside, the whole group could date from the late 1st century BC up to the middle of the 1st century AD. The fine oxidised fragments, if not in some way intrusive, need not extend the date of the group as a whole beyond the early Flavian period. A short period of relatively localised activity, principally of pre-conquest date, is indicated.

APPENDIX 3

The Animal Bone

by Kathy Ayres, Centre for Human Ecology, Southampton University

1 Methods and quantification

1.1 The bones were rapidly assessed, and all bones from all contexts were examined. The total number of fragments was recorded for each context, with species identified where possible. The presence of butchery and gnawing was noted, as was burnt bone.

2 Condition of the bone

2.1 The condition of the bone from each context was graded on a scale of 1-5, where grade 1 bone was in excellent condition with little or no post-depositional damage and that graded as 5 could not be identified further than 'bone'. Table 4 summarises the condition of the bone

Table 4: Condition of bone

Recovery	1	2	3	4	5
Hand retrieved	0	1	0	0	2

3 Species representation

3.1 All of the bone recovered from this site was hand retrieved. 27 bone fragments were recorded, eight of which could be identified to species and were all identified as cattle.

Table 5: Animal species present

Recovery	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Dom Fowl	Fish	Unid.
Hand retrieved	8	0	0	0	0	0	19

4 General comments

4.1 Burnt bone was noted, some of which was calcined. None of this could be identified to species.

4.2 Fusion evidence was limited and there were no mandibles available for ageing.

4.3 There are insufficient identifiable bones to comment further.

APPENDIX 4

The Worked Stone

by Fiona Roe, Worked stone specialist

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A worked stone object was collected from a context of probable Bronze Age date.

2 Description

- 2.1 The object, a hollowed stone rod, was found in Layer 165, a probable buried soil horizon in Trench 1794TT. The object now measures 155mm in length, one end having broken off, with a rectangular cross-section, 39mm in breadth and 29mm maximum in depth. The underside is flat and appears to have been partly pecked into shape. The upper side is hollowed, the recessed area being wider than the type of groove found on a point sharpener, or an arrow-shaft straightener. The object is made from a local, fine-grained, sandy buff coloured sandstone, probably from the Cretaceous Hastings Beds.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 The object appears to have been utilised, although for an unknown purpose. At present, there are no known parallels.

APPENDIX 5

Environmental Indicators

by Dana Challinor, Oxford Archaeological Unit and Ruth Pelling, Oxford University Museum

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Twenty samples were submitted for assessment of their charred plant remains. Three samples were of Bronze Age date (Contexts 65, 109 and 147), the remaining samples are undated but are assumed to be prehistoric. Samples were taken from ditch, pit and gully fills and a tree-throw pit. Sample volumes ranged from 10 to 40 litres. In addition a sample of 4.4 kg was taken from soil surrounding a crushed pottery vessel (from Fill 456).
- 1.2 Five samples were taken as column to assess the preservation of mollusca. None were recovered and no further comment is made on these samples.
- 1.3 Monolith samples and Kubiena samples were taken from Trench 1774TT. These have not been assessed but will be retained for any future micromorphological study
- 1.4 The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the quality of the preservation of the charred material and the potential for further sampling and analytical work.

2 Methods

- 2.1 Following pre-processing treatment to break down these clay-rich deposits, between 10 and 40 litres of soil were processed to extract the charred plant remains by flotation in a modified Siraf flotation machine, with the sample held on 0.5 mm mesh and the flot collected on 0.5 mm mesh. The mineral residue that remained following the processing was washed through a stack of 10 and 4 mm sieves. The coarse residue fraction (>10 mm) was sorted for bones and artefacts, and the medium residue fraction (10-4 mm) was sorted for bone, artefacts other than fired clay, and wood charcoal (which was added to the flot). The finest fraction (4-0.5 mm) was scanned for small bones and micro debitage. Flotation recovery was good and no sample required further flotation by hand. For the snail samples, 1 kg of soil was floated onto a 0.5 mm mesh and the resulting residue was retained.
- 2.2 Each flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. Large flots were separated into manageable fractions by being put through a stack of sieves ranging from 2mm to 500µm. Each fraction was then scanned individually. The quality and quantity of charred plant material was noted. Material was provisionally identified and estimates were made of the abundance of grain, chaff, weed seeds, charcoal and other charred items. The results are shown in Table 6 below. In addition one sample (Context 433)

was found to contain dried waterlogged remains. This sample was scanned as above and the results are shown in Table 7.

3 Results

- 3.1 *Mesolithic deposits:* Two samples were taken from Layers 86 and 159 in Trench 1778TT which had yielded probable Mesolithic flint debitage. Both flots were very small and contained no charred remains. The samples are not included within the table.
- 3.2 *Later prehistoric samples:* Six samples were assessed from deposits of Neolithic and/or Bronze Age date. Samples were taken from ditches (1769TT, Ditch 123; 1786TT, Ditches 111 and 145; 1778TT, Ditch 100), a pit (1794TT, Pit 172) and a palaeosol horizon (1774TT, Layer 65). Five of the samples produced small amounts of charred remains. Grains of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and occasional fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell were identified. Charcoal was dominated by *Quercus* sp. (Oak). No charred plant remains were recovered from Ditch 100.
- 3.3 *Late Iron Age-Early Roman Samples:* Three samples of 1st-century AD date were examined, all from ditch fills (contexts 456 (2 samples) and 414). Two glume bases of *Triticum* cf. *dicoccum* (possible emmer wheat) were the only economic species recognised in two of the samples, while occasional fragments of probable Pomoideae (hawthorn, apple, pear etc.) and *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal were also noted. Grains of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and of indeterminate cereal, and fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) were present in the sample taken from soil surrounding the crushed pottery vessel in Fill 456.
- 3.4 *Undated Ditch Samples:* A further seven samples were taken from ditches of unknown date. Four samples produced charred remains (Contexts 238, 285, 391, 378). Cereal remains identified include the grain of *Hordeum* sp. (barley), grain and glume bases of *Triticum spelta/dicoccum* (spelt/emmer wheat), and rachis nodes of free-threshing *Triticum* sp. (bread type wheat).
- 3.5 *Other Undated Features:* Two samples were taken from an undated pit and a tree throw-hole. Grains of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and of indeterminate cereal were noted in the tree throw-hole sample. Fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) were present in the pit sample. Pomoideae (hawthorn, apple, pear etc.) and *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal were also noted.
- 3.6 *Waterlogged Sample (Context 433):* A single sample from a ditch fill (Context 433) was found to contain waterlogged seeds. The range of species represented and the number of seeds were small. Species represented include arable/ruderal weeds such as *Stellaria media* agg. (chickweed), *Urtica urens* (dead nettle), *U. dioica* (stinging nettle) and *Sambucus nigra* (elder) and species characteristic of damp pasture or grassy places, such as *Carex* sp. (sedges), *Ajuga reptans* (bugle) and *Carduus/Cirsium* sp. (thistle). *Silene dioica* (red campion), *Viola* subgen *Viola* (violet) and *Glechoma hederacea* (ground ivy) are characteristic of woodland or woodland edges and *Rubus* cf.

idaeus (cf. raspberry) and *R. fruticosus* agg. (blackberry/bramble) may have derived from woodland, scrub or hedgerows. The various species of *Stachys* sp. (woundwort) may have been growing in a range of habitats including grassland, as an arable/ruderal weed or within woods. No charred remains were recovered from this sample.

- 3.7 Well-preserved mollusc shells are also present in sample 26 (Context 433) which are included in Table 7. The molluscs are mostly woodland snails but the aquatic bivalve *Pisidium* sp. is also present. Their presence demonstrates that some of the deposits on the site, including ditches, have the potential for useful molluscan analysis.

4 Potential for further work

- 4.1 The density of charred plant remains is generally very low and the quality of preservation is fairly poor. The species present are in keeping with prehistoric assemblages in Southern Britain. The potential of the site for producing further useful charred plant remains is low. There is a paucity of published archaeobotanical records for the region, especially from the Bronze Age, however, therefore there may be some potential for useful information given the excavation of unusual or special deposits.
- 4.2 The waterlogged plant remains and the molluscs are quite informative. The results are indicative of a woodland environment in the immediate vicinity of the site. The preservation was quite good suggesting that there is the potential for useful sampling of waterlogged deposits and for molluscan analysis.

Table 6: Summary of charred plant remains

	Date	Neol/BA	LIA /E R-B	Undated Features		
				Ditches	Pits	Tree
	Feature type	-	-			
	Number of Samples	6	3	7	1	1
	Samples with remains	5	2	4	1	1
	Total Volume of Soil	140	64.4	180	25	12
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	Barley grain	+	+	+	-	+
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>dicoccum</i>	cf. Emmer wheat grain	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Triticum</i> <i>spelta/dicoccum</i>	Spelt/Emmer wheat grain	-	-	+	-	-
Cerealia indet	Indeterminate grain	+	+	+	-	+
<i>Triticum</i> <i>spelta/dicoccum</i>	Glume base	-	+	+	-	-
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Free-threshing wheat rachis	-	-	+	-	-
Other Chaff		-	-	+	-	-
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel nut shell fragments	+	-	-	-	-
Weeds		+	+	+	+	-
CHARCOAL						
Pomoideae	Hawthorn/apple/pear etc.	+	+	-	-	++
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak	+++	+	-	++++	+

+ = present; ++ = common; +++ = frequent; ++++ = abundant

Table 7: The waterlogged plant remains and molluscs

	Sample	26
	Context	433
	Volume (litres)	20
	Feature type	ditch
SEEDS		
<i>Viola</i> subgen <i>Viola</i>	Violet	+
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	+
<i>Stellaria media</i> agg.	Chickweed	+
<i>Rubus</i> cf. <i>idaeus</i>	Raspberry	+
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Blackberry/Bramble	+
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle	++
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	++
<i>Stachys</i> sp.	Woundwort	+
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	+
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	+
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	+

	Sample	26
	Context	433
	Volume (litres)	20
	Feature type	ditch
<i>Carduus</i> sp.	Thistle	+
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedges	++
MOLLUSCS		
<i>Carychium</i> sp.		+
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>		+
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.		+
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>		+
Clausiliidae indet		+
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.		+

+ = present; ++ = common