

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Union Railways (South) Ltd**

Project Area 440

**NORTH
OF
SALTWOOD TUNNEL KENT.**

ARC SLT 98C

**DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
INTERIM REPORT**

Contract S/400/SP/0009/P484A*

**Canterbury Archaeological Trust
23 November 1999**

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**NORTH OF SALTWOOD TUNNEL, KENT.
ARC SLT 98C**

**DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
INTERIM REPORT**

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

Contract S/400/SP/0009/P484A*

**Canterbury Archaeological Trust
92a Broad Street
Canterbury
Kent CT1 2LU**

23 November 1999

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Specification

- 1.1.1 The Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd (URS) to undertake detailed archaeological investigation North of Saltwood Tunnel, immediately to the south of the M20 motorway, in Kent (Figure 1). This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).
- 1.1.2 The site is centred on URL grid point 95748/16941 and NGR grid point TR 1575 3695. The area of this part of the site was 0.16 hectares. The site was specified as detailed excavation.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site (Figure 2) lies 180m to the east of the Iron Age and Roman settlement at North of Saltwood Tunnel. It lies towards the east of a plateau situated within the Folkestone Beds, a distinct formation of lower cretaceous sandstones (British Geological Survey Sheet 305/6). The land drops away steeply south-westwards into the narrow valley of the Slay Brook where the underlying Hythe and Sandgate Beds are exposed. The cemetery is slightly higher in level than the traces of the accompanying settlement to the west.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology was capped in places by a distinctive and very localised deposit, up to 500mm thick, consisting of a brown, sandy clay containing weathered flints and calcareous concretions. A loessic drift material overlies the Folkestone Beds in some areas.
- 1.2.3 The site is in an area of broadly mapped typical Argillic brown earth soils (Fyfield 2) on cretaceous sands and loams. Some of the soils are more acidic, sandy humo-ferric podzols developed on the sandy Folkestone Beds. These have acidic pH 3 values, are well-drained and are prone to water erosion.
- 1.2.4 The topsoil consisted of a ploughsoil 0.25-0.3m in depth, beneath which was a homogeneous deposit with a few redeposited finds, suggesting that here (as also further to the west) a period of deep ploughing had preceded the laying of field drains.

1.3 Background

- 1.3.1 Details of earlier discoveries made further to the west have been provided in the Interim Report dealing with the Iron Age and Roman settlement. The general area was identified in the CTRL *Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects* (1994) as a site potentially of regional significance which justified further investigation.
- 1.3.2 In 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation over 4.5 hectares of the site to the west (ARC SLT 97). The evaluation trenches were centred on the Iron Age and Roman settlement. Further evaluation work was carried out by CAT in the area to the east of the Iron Age and Roman settlement in order to establish the extent of that settlement. Most of these trenches produced no archaeological features, but one of those placed at the north-eastern extremity revealed four graves of early Anglo-Saxon date. On the basis of this discovery, an

area of 40m² was stripped and a detailed excavation took place between April and September 1999.

- 1.3.3 The discovery of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery in this particular location came as a surprise. No burials or objects of Anglo-Saxon date had previously been recorded from this general area, with the exception of a loomweight of Middle or Late Saxon date, which was retrieved from the watching brief carried out during the construction of the M20 motorway ('A new archaeological site at Saltwood', J. Willson, *Kent Archaeological Review* 80, Summer (1985), 226-235). There are traces of Anglo-Saxon activity nearby, however, the nearest cemeteries being Lyminge to the north and Dover Hill (Folkestone) to the south-east. The cemetery at Lyminge was excavated by Alan Warhurst and revealed 44 burials, located to the north of the present village. These were largely of sixth-century date. Discoveries at Dover Hill, near Folkestone, go back to the nineteenth century and indicate that a further cemetery of sixth- to seventh-century date lies there.
- 1.3.4 A small part of a contemporary settlement east of Dolland's Moor, 1,600m to the east of Saltwood, was excavated by CAT as a part of the Channel Tunnel project. It produced two sunken-featured buildings and several related features. Traces of a second settlement of this date were located to the north-west of Biggins Wood, below Cheriton Hill. This included a sunken-featured building which was associated with a trackway, rubbish pits and fence lines.
- 1.3.5 Further excavation of the same cemetery North of Saltwood Tunnel has been undertaken subsequently by CAT and Wessex Archaeology. The results of this work by CAT are incorporated as an appendix to this interim report (Appendix 4). This report is largely concerned, however, with details of a prehistoric ring ditch and 63 graves of early Anglo-Saxon date.

2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

2.1 Site Summary (Figures 3-4)

- 2.1.1 The investigation provided evidence for a prehistoric ring ditch of Bronze Age date and for the re-use of this site for burial during the early Anglo-Saxon period, from the later sixth century onwards.

Prehistoric

- 2.1.2 A single-ditched barrow, *c.* 30m in circumference, lay within the northern part of the excavated area. It was originally penannular, with an entrance at the north-east. This entrance was subsequently filled in part by a short length of narrow ditch. No central burial of prehistoric date could be found, although several irregular scoops, located both within and outside of the barrow, are probably of this period. The ceramics and lithic artefacts associated with the ring ditch suggest that it is of Bronze Age date. Soils within the ring ditch were noticeably different to those beyond its circumference and it appeared that elements of the original barrow survived here.

Early Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 550-700)

- 2.1.3 A sequence of 63 inhumation burials was located within the area of the barrow, as well as further to the south and the east. No western boundary could be established for this cemetery although, with just one exception, no burials were found west of a line 5m to the west of the barrow ditch. To the north, burial continued beyond the barrow, largely in the form of graves within penannular ditches, a form of burial which is often found towards the periphery of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. This may suggest that few burials lay beyond the limit of excavation in that direction. No limits to the cemetery could be established to the south and the east. To the south, burial may continue towards and over the railway tunnel; beyond this tunnel the ground slopes markedly, and this may form a limit to the cemetery. Further investigation of a limited area immediately to the east identified further inhumations (Fig. 5). The eastern boundary of the cemetery was not identified in the area under discussion. A continuation of the cemetery lies east of the modern Stone Farm Bridleway, and is currently under investigation by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of URS.
- 2.1.4 All of the burials are inhumations and the majority lie on an east-west alignment. Where the orientation of the body could be ascertained, the head lay to the west. The burials include one within a stone cist, a chamber grave within a 12m wide penannular ditch, a number within wooden coffins (for which the outlines of the wooden structures could be ascertained) and one burial laid on a wooden bier.

2.2 Feature types

- 2.2.1 A small range of feature types was identified from this excavation, although some variety in burial practice is evident. Various types of grave were recorded:

- Ring ditch and blocked causeway
- Ring ditch
- Irregular pits
- Penannular ditches
- Cist grave
- Graves with traces of coffins
- Simple rectangular graves with no trace of a coffin
- Chamber grave
- Burial on a wooden bier

2.2.2 No ledges or other internal fittings could be identified for any of the graves. These features tend to be characteristic of chalk-cut graves, predominantly on the Isle of Thanet. Eight groups of graves were set within penannular ditches and in three cases these included two intercutting inhumations.

2.2.3 Bone survival was generally very poor. Only one grave produced a reasonably complete human skeleton and elements of bodies were retrieved from four others. In seventeen further graves the remains of tooth crowns were found. One burial was that of a horse, apparently complete, without any grave goods, and bone survival in this grave was also poor.

Ring ditch with blocked causeway

2.2.4 A prehistoric ring ditch with a U-shaped section appears to have been cut originally in a penannular form with an entrance at the north-east. Subsequently, a small ditch 0.6 m. in width was cut across the ditch entrance. No trace could be found of any primary burial associated with the ring ditch. A small quantity of ceramics was recovered from the ditch fill, alongside a number of flints which include a hammerstone.

Ring ditch

2.2.5 A smaller ring of Anglo-Saxon date was located in the north-west of the cemetery and partly cut into the prehistoric ring ditch. It surrounded grave 9, a burial which included beads of glass and amethyst, as well as an iron knife, and is probably of seventh-century date.

Irregular pits

2.2.6 Five shallow pits of irregular shape were found within the prehistoric ditch. Two were located towards the centre of the area encompassed by the ring ditch, whilst the remaining three lay near the inner circumference of the ring ditch at the south and the east. No finds were retrieved from any of these features and they may be geological in origin. A further pit (1491) was located underneath the penannular ditch which surrounded grave 7. It contained a reasonable quantity of carbonised grain in its lower fill. It is possibly of Iron Age date.

Penannular ditches

- 2.2.7 Complete and incomplete penannular ditches surrounded graves both at the northern and southern areas of the site. At the north they were located around graves 3, 12, 34, 36 and 49, and at the south, around graves 7, 15, 18/39, 53/54, 57, 59 and 63. With one exception, these ditches were relatively shallow and 4 to 6m in diameter. In several cases they surrounded multiple burials, particularly in the south. The ditch surrounding grave 7 was 19m in diameter, and contained numerous fills.

Cist grave

- 2.2.8 One burial was contained within a stone cist, parts of which survived on two sides of the grave. The skull of the deceased survived, together with a few fragments of post-cranial bone, and the head had been laid on a pillow stone.

Graves with traces of coffins

- 2.2.9 Traces of coffins could be seen within five burials, usually as soil stains forming part of a rectangular structure. Where more substantial wooden remains were seen, these were sampled for future analysis.

Simple rectangular graves with no trace of a coffin

- 2.2.10 The majority of the graves were simple rectangular or sub-rectangular cuts with no traces of any original structure. They included graves both with and without grave goods.

Chamber grave

- 2.2.11 The southernmost grave to be excavated was enclosed within a 12m wide penannular ditch with an entrance to the north. The grave included a reasonably well-preserved skeleton in a coffin which was situated within a larger chamber, and some of the grave goods lay in this chamber.

Burial on a wooden bier

- 2.2.12 One burial had been laid on a wooden structure which survived in a mineralised state. It appears to have been a wooden tree trunk, hollowed out to an appropriate shape for burial.

2.3 Artefactual remains

- 2.3.1 The artefactual remains from this site fall into two groups. The first encompasses ceramics and lithics of prehistoric date, and the second includes objects of the early Anglo-Saxon period.

Prehistoric ceramics and lithics

- 2.3.2 Small quantities of prehistoric ceramics were recovered from the fills of the ring ditch. Most of the sherds are small and abraded, and few are diagnostic, but they do at least suggest that the barrow is broadly of Bronze Age date.
- 2.3.3 Just less than 300 flints were recovered from the area of the prehistoric ring ditch, largely from the ditch fills. The assemblage includes flakes, knapping debris and a hammerstone, and suggests that flint-working was taking place in this area. The quantity of retouched and utilised artefacts is very significant. Comprising as much as 14% of the entire assemblage it is likely that some form of domestic activities are represented at the site, and the assorted tool types may suggest the presence of a settlement at, or close to, the study area.

Early Anglo-Saxon small finds

- 2.3.4 A total of 582 small finds have been recorded from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The majority of these objects were retrieved from the graves and many are made of iron, although there are also quantities of glass beads and objects of copper alloy. There are no items of precious metal, except for the pommel of the sword in Grave 7, which is made of silver. The range of objects identified to date can be summarised as follows:

Amber beads	12
Amethyst beads	4
Glass beads	281
Bone or antler gaming pieces	14
Ceramic loom weight	1
Ceramic vessels	6
Copper alloy 'Coptic' bowls	2
Copper alloy bracelet	1
Copper alloy brooch	1
Copper alloy buckle	1
Copper alloy coins	2
Copper alloy finger rings	2
Copper alloy pins	2
Iron angons	3
Iron arrowheads	12
Iron barrel	1
Iron belt set	1
Iron buckles	15
Iron cauldron chain	1
Iron chatelaines	2
Iron keys	4
Iron knives	31

Iron pin	1
Iron shield bosses & fittings	8
Iron spearheads	18
Iron swords	4

- 2.3.5 The remaining objects have yet to be identified. Mineralised textile remains are visible on a number of the iron objects, and several small fragments of dessicated textile have also been recorded.
- 2.3.6 The sampling programme provided additional quantities of glass beads, bone or antler gaming pieces and human teeth, which have not been included in the totals above. In addition, just over 80 assemblages of small finds were block-lifted from the site, and further objects remain in these, which have been seen on x-rays, but have yet to be excavated. They are not included in the totals above.
- 2.3.7 All of the objects are of early Anglo-Saxon date and they can be assigned to the period *ca.* AD 550-675, encompassing Kentish phases III/IV to VI. From the grave goods alone, seventeen burials can be identified as male, and eight as female.
- 2.3.8 The weaponry includes swords, shields, spears, angons and arrowheads. There are no less than seventeen weapon burials and these show the development of this burial rite from the second half of the sixth to the later seventh century. A range of iron objects discovered around the head area in Grave 15 may possibly relate to some form of helmet fitting, but they currently appear to be too insubstantial for this purpose. The angons are comparatively rare objects in Anglo-Saxon contexts and, alongside several other items, including some of the spearheads, they may possibly be of Merovingian origin. In three graves spearheads were positioned so as to face towards the feet of the deceased, which is generally considered to be a Merovingian burial rite.
- 2.3.9 Two of the graves (5 and 7) can be described as ‘princely’, by virtue of the number of objects found in them and the elaboration of their burial rites. Almost 70 separate objects came from Grave 5, including a full set of weapons. This grave provided the only coins discovered in the cemetery, one of which (a Roman coin) probably lay in the mouth of the deceased. Grave 7 provided only nine separate items, but each of these is of exceptional quality, and the burial rite here involved deposition in a coffin within a chamber enclosed by a 12m penannular ditch. Almost identical ‘Coptic’ bowls, of a type well-known from East Kent Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, were discovered in both of these graves.
- 2.3.10 Virtually all of the glass beads are monochrome, confirming that they are essentially of seventh-century date. Five graves produced strings of beads, varying in number from 17 to 130, and each of these were recorded in detail in the ground, which will enable the strings to be reconstructed. Aside from the beads, there are very few items of jewellery at all, a circumstance which also indicates a relatively late, seventh-century date for most of the burials.
- 2.3.11 The chronology for the cemetery relies on spot-dates acquired from an examination of the weapons, knives, beads, buckles and ceramic vessels, as well as the two Coptic bowls. Grave 5, which included 69 separate objects, is of late sixth- or early seventh-century date and it may be contemporary with the chamber grave, Grave 7, where the second Coptic bowl was found. These may be the earliest burials in the cemetery, but it is possible that some of the graves go back to *c.* AD 550. A number of other graves, including 3, 9, 14 and 16, have objects of seventh-century date, whilst one of the latest burials is probably Grave 25, which has objects of late seventh-century date.

- 2.3.12 Knives represent the most common object type to be found in the graves, and they were found in 28 of the 63 burials. They include several types which can be dated fairly closely, as well as other forms which have only a broad date range. Three of the knives have blades long enough to be described as small seaxes, and these possibly belong to graves which can be identified as late forms of weapon burials of the second half of the seventh century.
- 2.3.13 The ceramic vessels mostly came from the graves of children or juveniles. All are in local, coarse sandy or tempered fabrics, and none have necessarily been made specifically for burial. They include a cooking pot and two small beakers, all of which show external sooting, as well as a small vessel with four external lugs pierced for suspension and a small globular vessel with decorative bosses under the rim. Several of the vessels are similar to those discovered nearby at Lyminge.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental and economic evidence

- 2.4.1 The only animal bone to come from the cemetery is the horse burial in Grave 27. Only the teeth and fragments of some of the leg bones survived from this burial.
- 2.4.2 All of the samples taken from the graves have been sieved and, as noted above, these generally failed to produce environmental or artefactual information. Just under six tonnes of soil were sieved, producing small quantities of beads, fish bones, human teeth and bone or antler gaming pieces.
- 2.4.3 Seven bulk samples were taken from the prehistoric ring ditch, providing evidence for charred cereal grains, pulses and other seeds. The various fills of the chamber grave (Grave 7) were also extensively sampled.
- 2.4.4 As noted above, the survival of human remains was generally very poor and it will only be possible to provide accurate indications of age and gender for one individual on the site. Elements of bodies were retrieved from four burials and in seventeen further graves the remains of tooth crowns were found.

3. FIELDWORK EVENT AIMS

3.1 The evaluation revealed the presence of four burials of early Anglo-Saxon date, which lay within some form of prehistoric landscape.

3.2 The primary aims of the excavation were:

- To identify the nature of the prehistoric activity, determine its extent and place in the landscape.
- To establish a chronology for the Anglo-Saxon cemetery;
- To investigate the relationship between the prehistoric features and the Anglo-Saxon cemetery;
- To establish the range variation in burial rites, and to view possible change in rite over time;
- To indicate the general development of the cemetery;
- To identify the use of space within the burial landscape.

3.3 The results of the excavation provide sufficient information to allow these aims to be answered in full measure. The results are generally consistent with the evaluation in terms of the periods of activity and the range of burials and features.

4. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL

- 4.1 The potential contribution of this site towards answering the research aims of the archaeological component of the CTRL can be considered under the heading 'Farming Communities (2,000 to 100BC)' as well as 'Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC - AD 1700)', taken from the CTRL research strategy for the period.
- 4.2 The prehistoric barrow has yet to be closely dated but it has some affinities with other monuments in East Kent. On the Isle of Thanet, for example, there are further examples of single-ditched, causewayed barrows which also include a subsequent blocking of the causeway. It seems clear that part of the mound of the barrow itself remained, and that Anglo-Saxon burials had been cut into the mound surface. Later, Iron Age activity in the area had not disrupted the mound. If the pit (1491) to the south is of Iron Age date, then the mound may still have been respected as a monument at this period.
- 4.3 The Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies towards the eastern end of a relatively flat plateau. A sunken-featured building of early Anglo-Saxon date was excavated approximately 200m to the west, close to the late Iron Age and Roman settlement. In its original form, with mounds over the graves with penannular ditches, and possibly also over other burials, the cemetery would have been readily visible from this settlement.
- 4.4 The re-use of a prehistoric burial ground in the early Anglo-Saxon period is a well-known phenomenon, which has been seen elsewhere in East Kent, as at Mill Hill, Deal and Dover, Buckland for example. Anglo-Saxon cemeteries should be seen within their local landscapes, in relation to contemporary settlements and trackways, as well as monuments of prehistory.
- 4.5 The stratigraphic record provides potential for the establishment of burial rites, for the elucidation of the burial sequence where graves are intercutting, and for the investigation of the dynamics of on-site ritual, with respect to pathways, burial structures and the overall use of space in cemeteries.
- 4.6 The small finds assemblage provides the opportunity to establish a chronology for the burials, to examine changes in male and female burial rite over time, to observe and establish the nature of Anglo-Saxon costume in East Kent at this time, to investigate the possibility that some of the burials might contain Merovingians, rather than Anglo-Saxons, and to view the differences between objects selected for burial and those used in daily life in nearby contemporary settlements.
- 4.7 The Saltwood Anglo-Saxon cemetery lies to the south of the royal vill at Lyminge, and between two ports, at West Hythe and Dover, although it is much closer to West Hythe. Activity at both of these ports can be attested as early as the seventh century. Close relationships existed with the Continent, and these are echoed in the quantity and variety of Frankish objects found in East Kent cemeteries. Attention has traditionally centred on jewellery and ceramics, and recent studies have focused on dress accessories of southern Scandinavian and Frankish origin which have been found in Kent cemeteries. Whilst the changing rite of weapon burial in southern England has been considered in detail by Heinrich Härke, (*Angelsächsische Waffengräber des 5. bis 7. Jahrhunderts*, Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters, Beiheft 6, Köln) a corresponding analysis of foreign weapons in Kent cemeteries has yet to be undertaken. The study of jewellery has indicated that Continental objects

are common in East Kent, but there are very few actual burials of Franks or Scandinavians. At Saltwood it is just possible that the deceased in Grave 7 was Frankish, and burial rites associated with the Continent were visible in several other graves which are, however, almost certainly those of Anglo-Saxons.

- 4.8 The various phases of early Anglo-Saxon burial have been set out in detail by Professor Vera Evison and Dr Birthe Brugmann (V.I. Evison, Dover: *Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery*, HBMC Archaeological Report 3, London, 136-42; K. Parfitt and B. Brugmann, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery on Mill Hill, Deal, Kent*, London, 94-109). Six phases (labelled I-VI) have been established and correlated with Continental practice. There are, as yet, no burials of Phase I in Kent. The Saltwood Anglo-Saxon cemetery includes burials of Phases III/IV-VI and it is contemporary with burials nearby at Dover Buckland (15 km to the east). Similarities between the two cemeteries are already evident, particularly the re-use of a prehistoric burial site, the division of burial into distinct groups (more apparent at Buckland), the predominance of east-west aligned burials and the deposition of burials in elongated groups forming sub-rectangular assemblages, so that the cemetery develops in an easterly direction across the landscape, from one or more nuclei.
- 4.9 Burial within penannular ditches is generally a late phenomenon of the seventh and early eighth centuries, which can usually be seen at the periphery of cemeteries. There are numerous comparable examples in Kent, from cemeteries which include St. Peters at Broadstairs, Finglesham, and Polhill.

APPENDIX 1

ARCHIVE INDEX

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS	CONDITION (No. of items) (W = washed; UW = unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; P = unprocessed; D = digitised; I = indexed.)
Context Records	514		I
A1 Plans	26		I
A4 Plans	61		I
A1 Sections	15		I
A4 Sections	25		I
Small Finds	585822		I
Films (monochrome)	22PR		I
Films (colour)	24S		I
Flint (boxes)	1	297	I W
Pottery (boxes)	1 size 1	55	I W M
Metalwork (boxes and packages)	97 size 2	264	I P
Glass (boxes)	3 size 2	318	I W
Human Bones (boxes)	2 size 1	225	W
Animal Bones	1 size 1	30	W
Soil Samples	2001 litres		I P
Grave Fill Samples	235		I P

Key to Box Sizes:

Size 1	Bulk Box	425 x 300 x 223mm
Size 2	Small Finds Plastic Box	260 x 184 x 108mm

'Packages' refers to block-lifted materials. 80 block-lifts were undertaken on-site, all of which have been x-rayed, but not dismantled.

APPENDIX 2**SUMMARY REPORT****North of Saltwood Tunnel**

Excavations to the North of Saltwood Tunnel, east of the settlement of Iron Age and Roman date, produced evidence for an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery, which lay over a prehistoric ring ditch. The ring ditch was penannular in form, with an entrance at the north-east. In a later phase its causeway had been blocked by a narrow secondary ditch. Ceramics and lithics recovered from the fills of the ring ditch suggest that the monument is of Bronze Age date. The lithics suggest that knapping and domestic activity took place within the general area of the ring ditch.

An early Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located over and beyond the ring ditch. Sixty-three graves of early Anglo-Saxon date were identified, extending in date from *c.* AD 550-675. The graves include two elaborate 'princely' burials, as well as fifteen other weapon graves. Coptic bowls were found in both of the 'princely graves'. Female grave goods include beads, bracelets, finger rings, keys and chatelaines. Knives were identified in 28 of the graves. Six graves included ceramic vessels, all of which have been made in local fabrics, in a range of forms.

Bone survival was generally very poor and human skeletal remains were only recovered from a few of the graves. One of the burials was that of a horse, interred without any grave goods.

Graves within penannular ditches were located on the periphery of the cemetery at the north and the south-east. There were single examples of cist graves, chamber graves and burial within a hollowed section of a tree, as well as traces of five coffins. The relative sizes of the graves, and the range of grave goods, suggests that both adults and juveniles were buried in the cemetery. From the grave goods alone, it can be suggested that seventeen of the burials included males, and eight were those of females.

APPENDIX 3

KENT SMR SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name: North of Saltwood Tunnel, Saltwood, Kent	
Summary: Site discovered during course of evaluation by Canterbury Archaeological Trust prior to construction of the CTRL high speed rail link. A prehistoric ring ditch was found to have been re-used for the site of an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery of 63 graves accompanied by a wide range of grave goods dating to the 6th and 7 th centuries. The cemetery was focussed on a high status burial with rich grave goods in the centre of the ring. Another similar grave lay within a contemporary penannular ditch adjoining this. The penannular ditch cut an earlier storage pit and contained traces of later Anglo-Saxon activity.	
District: Shepway	Parish: Saltwood
Period(s): 1. Prehistoric- ? Bronze Age 2. Early Anglo-Saxon 3. Later Anglo-Saxon	
NGR Easting: TR1575	NGR Northing: TR3695
Type of recording: Excavation	
Date of recording: (From) May 1999 (To) August 1999	
Unit undertaking Recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust	

Summary of Fieldwork Results:

Excavations to the North of Saltwood Tunnel, east of the settlement of Iron Age to Early Anglo-Saxon date, produced evidence for an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery, which lay over a prehistoric ring ditch. The ring ditch was originally penannular in form, with an entrance at the north-east. In a later phase its causeway had been blocked by a narrow secondary ditch. Ceramics and lithics recovered from the fills of the ring ditch suggest that the monument is of Bronze Age date. The lithics suggest that knapping and domestic activity took place within the general area of the ring ditch.

An early Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located over and beyond the ring ditch. Sixty-three graves of early Anglo-Saxon date were identified, extending in date from *c.* AD 550-675.

The graves include two elaborate 'princely' burials, as well as fifteen other weapon graves. Coptic bowls were found in both of the 'princely' graves. Female grave goods include beads, bracelets, finger rings, keys and chatelaines. Knives were identified in 28 of the graves. Six graves included ceramic vessels, all of which have been made in local fabrics, in a range of forms.

Bone survival was generally very poor and human skeletal remains were only recovered from a few of the graves. One of the burials was that of a horse, interred without any grave goods.

Graves within penannular ditches were located on the periphery of the cemetery at the north and the south-east. There were single examples of cist graves, chamber graves and burial within a hollowed section of a tree, as well as traces of five coffins. The relative sizes of the graves, and the range of grave goods, suggests that both adults and juveniles were buried in the cemetery. From the grave goods it can be suggested that seventeen of the burials included males and eight were those of females.

Location of Archive/Finds:

Bibliography: CAT Excavation Report

Summary Compiler : Christopher Sparey-Green

Date: 21 October 1999

APPENDIX 4**LAND TO THE NORTH OF SALTWOOD TUNNEL
ARC SLT 98C****1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS****1.1 Site summary (Figure 5)**

- 1.1.1 Further investigation of a limited area immediately to the east of ARC SLT 98C provided further evidence of inhumations dated to the early Anglo Saxon period. These included the eastern extent of a grave with associated ring-ditch identified and partially excavated from the earlier phase of ARC SLT 98C.
- 1.1.2 A total of eleven further graves was identified. They were all simple rectangular or sub-rectangular with no traces of coffin. With the exception of two relatively small, shallow graves, [79] and [80] situated on the southern side of the ring ditch belonging to grave [63] (ARC SLT 98) and a further two graves, [77] and [78] to the east, the graves formed a close grouping along the southern limit of the excavated area.
- 1.1.3 Human remains, in the form of tooth enamel, were found in only two graves, [70] and [79].
- 1.1.4 Grave [70] produced five polychrome glass beads and an iron object, which from its position relative to the beads, may be a pin or clasp.
- 1.1.5 The majority of the grave cuts were oriented east - west, although a number showed a more north-west by south-east alignment. Where tooth enamel was present it can be shown that the occupant was laid with the head to the west.
- 1.1.6 No further evidence of funerary activity was identified east of Grave [77].
- 1.1.7 Earlier activity in the form of poorly defined ditches and areas of much later disturbance associated with the modern concrete hardstanding and bridle path were identified to the east and north-east of the cemetery. Due to the restrictions imposed on machine stripping in this area only very limited investigation of these features was possible. Further reference to these features will be contained in further reports.

APPENDIX 5

ARCHIVE INDEX

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS	CONDITION (No. of items) (W = washed; UW = unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised I = Indexed)
Context Records	288		I
A1 Plans	10		I
A4 Plans	11		I
A1 Sections	4		I
A4 Sections	8		I
Small Finds	8	8	I
Films (monochrome)	29PR		I
Films (colour)	31S		I
Flint (boxes)	1	60	W
Pottery (boxes)	1 size 1	344	W
Metalwork (boxes and packages)	1 size 2	1	P
Glass (boxes)			
Human Bones (boxes)	1 size 2	5	W
Animal Bones			
Soil Samples	800 litres	80	P
Monolith/kubiena tins			
Grave Fill Samples	6	6	P

Key to Box Sizes:

Size 1	Bulk Box	425 x 300 x 225 mm
Size 2	Small Finds Plastic Box	260 x 184 x 108mm