ARC SST 98

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT. EAST AND WEST OF STONE STREET, WESTENHANGER.

Central National Grid Reference TR 1275 3745 & 1290 3705

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

Environmental Statement Route Window 36/37

Volume 1 of 1

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

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SUMMARY

An archaeological field evaluation of land to the east and west of Stone Street, Westenhanger, Kent, was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, between the 15th February and 19th March 1999. This formed part of a programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, and was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited.

The area under investigation consisted of two separate fields either side of Stone Street. The eastern area was located to the south of the existing London to Folkestone railway, whilst the western area lay to the north.

Twelve trenches were excavated in total, archaeological features being identified in six of these. These features consisted of a series of pits, two small ditches, and one larger unidentified linear feature possibly a geological anomaly. The evidence available from the limited datable material retrieved from these features indicates that all of them are of a late post medieval or more recent date.

A conclusion was drawn that there was no significant cut archaeological features or remains present within the areas under evaluation. However further investigations of the natural subsoil deposits revealed the presence of a humic layer sealed beneath a sequence of flood-plain alluvuim associated with the East Stour River. Although this deposit remained undated, it correlated to a similar deposit identified in additional work undertaken for URS by Wessex Archaeology, and interpreted as a ground horizon – possibly dating to the Late Bronze Age or Romano-British periods.

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), between 15th February and 19th March 1999, on land to the east and west of Stone Street, Westenhanger, Kent. The study site is within the parish of Stanford in the District of Shepway (Fig. 1).

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

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

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Topography

2.1.1 The evaluation site was centred on national grid references TR 1275 3745 and TR 1290 3705 (URL Grid 92500–92750E/17320–17430N, and 928600–93700E/17150–7450N).

2.1.2 The land to the east of Stone Street - the eastern area - is located to the south of the existing London to Folkestone railway, and is bounded on the other sides by open farmland (Figure 2). As the anticipated impact of the CTRL works is limited in this area, the archaeological evaluation trenches were located within a 30-40m wide zone along the side of the railway. The current ground levels vary from +82m to +75m OD. A sharp slope up towards the east is evident. A high plateau to the south and east falls outside the immediate scope of this evaluation

2.1.3 The land to the western side of Stone Street - the western area - is located to the north of the existing London to Folkestone railway, with the M20 forming the northern boundary, and open farmland on the western side, marked by a tree-lined drain. The limited impact of the CTRL works in this area meant that the archaeological evaluation trenches were located to the south of a concrete track running east to west across the area under investigation. A tributary of the East Stour River runs along the southern edge of the site beside the railway line and an area of overgrown marsh has formed here. The current ground levels are relatively flat, ranging from 70m to 72m OD, with a slight slope down towards the river on the south side, and to the western limits.

2.1.4 The evaluation site covered an area of 3.5 hectares. A sample of 1.75% was studied in the evaluation trenches.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey 1:50000 is Pleistocene Head Brickearth (NERC 1998). A linear band of alluvium is also noted within the area, aligned north-east to south-west. The Head Brickearth and alluvium form the drift geology for the area and the underlying solid geology consists of Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone and Sandgate Beds.

2.3 Current land use

2.3.1 The site presently consists of rough grazing in both fields. Marsh deposits have formed in the lower southern parts of the western area, closest to the stream.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were to determine:

- the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation;
- the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in archaeological features or deposits;
- the local, regional, national and international importance of such remains, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.

3.2 Archaeological potential

3.2.1 The land under evaluation has archaeological potential for several periods. The route of Stone Street is believed to follow the same alignment as the original Roman road leading out of Canterbury to the Roman fort of *Lemanis*. The original medieval village of Westenhanger is thought to have been situated along the line of the Roman Stone Street (URL 1994). On the southern side of the railway, *c.* 400m to the south-west of the area west of Stone Street is Westenhanger Castle – a fourteenth-century castle/fortified house.

3.2.2 A recent evaluation of the fields immediately to the west of the current area under investigation, carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (URS 1998), revealed the presence of medieval field boundaries and a corn drying oven. On the basis of the pottery, these features were dated to the mid twelfth century, seemingly predating the castle and they may therefore be associated with an earlier manorial farm.

3.3 Evaluation objective

3.3.1 The principal objective was to determine the presence/absence (etc.) of any subsoil features/deposits of archaeological interest, which may be associated with or be in close proximity, to the Roman road (Stone Street), the medieval village of Westenhanger, and Westenhanger Castle itself.

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

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with those methods stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

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

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

4.1.4 Twelve evaluation trenches (each 30m long by 1.8m wide) were proposed to provide a 1.75% sample of the evaluation area. During the course of the work a number of variations to the size and orientation of the trenches was agreed with URS due the presence of vegetation and/or underground services. Trench 3557TT was moved from its original position to the east to avoid a tree-lined embankment alongside Stone Street. Also trench 3558TT was split in to two trenches, 3558(i)TT and 3558(ii)TT, to avoid overhead electric cables. In the western area trenches 3553TT, 3554TT, and 3616TT were moved towards the north to avoid the overgrown marshy areas. The repositioning of these trenches was agreed with representatives from URS. Figure 2 shows the final location of the trenches.

4.2 Excavation

4.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a 360 degree hydraulic excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under close archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated topsoil, made grounds, and modern overburden/hard-standing were stripped down in spits of *c*.100 mm thickness. The subsequent plough and subsoil was then removed in 50 mm thick spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or the upper surface of the 'natural' deposits was reached.

4.2.2 In order to address the potential of early prehistoric remains existing within or below the basal deposits (interpreted as natural) a slot was cut at the end of each trench through these deposits down to a maximum depth of 1.200m below present ground levels. This however was not deemed necessary in all trenches in the eastern area, because of the limited impact from the proposed CTRL works.

4.2.3 Due to the information gained from the northern end of trench 3617TT, further work was carried out by Wessex Archaeology, on behalf of URS, and a subsequent alluvial deposit report was prepared (URS 1999).

4.2.4 Following machine clearance, the bases and long sections of the trenches were inspected and cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and any subsequent excavation carried out by hand. In trenches in which archaeological deposits were identified one long section was drawn at a scale of 1:20, the base was planned at a scale of 1:50, and both were levelled with respect to OD.

4.2.5 A temporary benchmark was transferred from a PGM, located at the end of the track to Fairmead Farm. Its value was +73.069m. OD.

4.2.6 All archaeological deposits were recorded on CAT *pro forma* context recording sheets. Any deposit that could be distinguished from those above and below was considered as a context, and recorded individually. These stratigraphic units were numbered sequentially and are shown below in square brackets, thus, [100]. Those trenches, found not to contain any stratified archaeological deposits, were recorded on CAT *pro forma* trial trench recording sheets.

4.2.7 Photographic coverage employed colour transparency, and black and white print formats.

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

4.2.9 A site code (ARC SST 98) was provided by URS and all records can be referenced from this code.

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The initial mechanical excavation revealed an identical upper sequence of deposits over the entire site, although there were localised variations from trench to trench in exact composition, depths, and heights in respect to OD. The sequence consisted of topsoil [+] overlying in most cases an accumulated or developed soil horizon (plough-soil/sub-soil), recorded as [1]. The lower archaeological or geological remains are covered below on a trench by trench numerical basis, starting with the area to the east of Stone Street.

5.2 East of Stone Street (Fig. 3)

Trench 3557TT (Fig. 5)

5.2.1 Removal of the topsoil [+] and accumulated soil horizon [1] exposed the level of the natural deposits at depths of 0.28–0.33m below the present ground level, +75.89m OD at the southern end, sloping down to +75.86m OD at the northern end. Here the natural was recorded as being a mixture of softly compacted dull yellow/brown sandy clays and silty sands, mottled with occasional lenses of grey clay. Occasional inclusions of small angular flints were present along with manganese or iron panning. No changes were noted and the natural remained uniform throughout the trench.

5.2.2 A linear feature was recorded running perpendicular across the centre of the trench, this was identified as the continuation of the drainage ditch [2] recorded earlier in trench 3558TT(ii), (see 5.2.6 below).

Trench 3558(i)TT

5.2.3 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at a depth of 0.32–0.36m below present ground levels. The basal deposits were relatively flat varying from +75.98m OD at the north to +75.96m OD at the south end. Here it was recorded as bright yellow/brown sandy clay, with occasional small angular flints, and was uniform throughout the trench.

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

Trench 3558(ii)TT (Fig. 5)

5.2.5 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.34–0.40m below present ground levels, +76.21m OD at the west end sloping up to +76.40m OD at the east end. It was recorded as softly compacted bright yellow/brown sandy clay, with occasional small angular flints, and was uniform through out the trench.

5.2.6 A linear feature, recorded as [2], was seen running along the length of the trench, from the north-west to south-east corners. Two slots were excavated through this feature and it was identified as a drainage ditch, with a “V” shaped profile and two fills [3] and [4], the lower one being mostly flints which acted as percolation material. The ditch was 1.10m in width, and had a depth of 0.70–0.80m. No cultural dating material was retrieved from the excavated slots.

Trench 3559TT (Fig. 5)

5.2.7 The level of the natural deposits was exposed 0.35–0.40m below present ground levels, +76.77m OD at the west end sloping up to +77.65m OD at the east end. It was recorded as softly compacted dull yellow/brown silty sands mottled with grey clays,

with occasional small angular flints, and was uniform throughout the trench.

5.2.8 Two linear parallel features were recorded, running perpendicular across the trench, at the west end. The larger of these two features, recorded as [5], was 3.80m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.65m evident in an excavated *sondage* along the north side of the trench (Fig. 3). The fills were a variable mixture of silty sand, clayey silt, silty clay, and fine sands, recorded as [6, 7, 8, and 9]. No cultural material was retrieved and it remained unclear whether this feature represented a ditch with a series of re-cuts or a geological feature..

5.2.9 Along the west side of [5], and slightly truncating it, was a shallow linear feature [10]. Excavation of a slot through this feature revealed a maximum depth of 0.08m. Its width was 1.20m. A small fragment of modern brick fabric was retrieved from its fill of silty sand [11].

Trench 3560TT (Fig. 6)

5.2.10 The level of the natural deposits was exposed 0.50–0.60m below present ground levels, +77.26m OD at the north end sloping up to +79.15m OD at the south end.

5.2.11 An exploratory sondage through the natural revealed a similar sequence to that seen in trench 3561TT. This consisted of predominantly bright yellow and light dull grey clayey sands, although a build up of reddish brown silty sand with frequent small angular flints was present at the north end of the trench (see 5.2.6 below).

Trench 3561TT (Fig. 7)

5.2.12 The level of the natural deposits was exposed 0.60–0.80m below present ground levels, +79.47m OD at the west sloping up to +80.04m OD at the east end. The natural was seen to vary quite significantly in the trench. It was predominantly a bright yellow clayey sand, with occasional angular flint inclusions at the western end, and became a light greyish brown silty clay sand towards the eastern end. In the central area the upper surface of the natural consisted of a thin layer of red silty sands and small angular flints.

5.2.13 A slot excavated through the natural at the east end of the trench, revealed a build up of dull yellow/brown clayey sands mottled with small lenses of grey clay, forming the lower deposit, below the light grey brown silty sands. At the extreme eastern end of the slot a build up of light grey sands and clays heavily impregnated with black manganese panning seemed to indicate the presence of a geological feature.

5.3 West of Stone Street (Fig. 4)

Trench 3553TT (Fig. 8)

5.3.1 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.62–0.32m below the present ground surface, +70.03m OD at the west, sloping slightly up to +70.13m OD at the east of the trench.

5.3.2 The upper surface of the natural deposits was recorded as a dull yellow/orange brown sandy clay. A sondage cut through the natural at the western end of the trench (**Plate 2**), revealed that the above deposit had a thickness of 0.08–0.12m, below which was a 0.060–0.08m build up of bright orange sandy clay mottled with lenses of grey clay. The lower sequence consisted of a 0.20m thick layer of light grey brown, possibly slightly humic sandy clay, heavily impregnated with black manganese panning, below which was a 0.23m thick layer of bright olive brown clayey sands. The lowest

basal deposit consisted of dull grey/orange brown slightly sandy clays, the upper surface of which was recorded at +68.79m OD, and had a thickness exceeding 0.30m.

5.3.3 No archaeological deposits were identified, or cultural material retrieved, although a modern metal pipe was seen to run across the trench at the eastern end.

Trench 3554TT (Fig. 9)

5.3.4 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.30–0.26m below the present ground surface, +70.22m OD at the south rising to +70.30m OD at the northern end of the trench. It was the same as that recorded in trench 3618TT (a dull orange brown sandy clay) and a deep sondage at the northern end revealed a similar sequence.

5.3.5 A linear feature, running across the middle of the trench, was identified as the same ditch [18] recorded earlier in trenches 3556TT and 3617TT. No other archaeological deposits were identified, or cultural material retrieved.

Trench 3555TT

5.3.6 The level of the natural deposits (the same dull orange brown sandy clay as trench 3618TT) was exposed at 0.32–0.26m below the present ground surface. The trench remained relatively flat at +70.42–70.48m OD. A deep sondage at the western end revealed a similar sequence as to that in trench 3618TT.

5.3.7 No archaeological deposits were identified, or cultural material retrieved.

Trench 3556TT (Fig. 9)

5.3.8 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.30–0.26m below the present ground surface and remained relatively flat at +70.82m–70.86m OD. It was similar to that in trench 3618TT, dull orange brown sandy clay, and a deep sondage at the northern end confirmed the same sequence.

5.3.9 A linear feature [18], 0.65m in width, was identified running across the southern end of the trench. An excavated slot through this feature revealed a 'U' shape profile with a depth of 0.50m. The fill [19], consisting of sandy silt with frequent small rounded pebbles and flints, confirmed the probability that this was a drainage ditch. One fragment of animal bone was recovered from this feature.

5.3.10 A small sub-rounded pit [20] was identified towards the centre of the trench. Partial excavation revealed a depth of 0.06m. The fill [21] was very silty and similar in nature to the topsoil.

5.3.11 Although no datable material was retrieved from either of these features, the nature of the fill suggests a recent date certainly late post-medieval.

Trench 3616TT

5.3.12 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.30–0.26m below the present ground surface and was relatively level at +70.22m OD at the south rising to +70.30m OD at the northern end of the trench. It was similar to that in trench 3618TT, a dull orange brown sandy clay and a deep sondage at the northern end confirmed the same sequence.

Trench 3617TT (Fig. 10)

5.3.13 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.32–0.28mm below the present ground surface, and was relatively flat at +70.62 to +70.59m OD.

5.3.14 The deep sondage placed at the northern end of this trench revealed the presence of a stratified sequence of alluvial and fluvial deposits (Plate 1). The lowest basal deposit was a fluvial gravel of variable thickness (0.2 - 0.6m) comprising of mixed small, medium and large predominately water-worn subrounded flint gravel in a yellowish red sand loam matrix. This was sealed by a 0.5m thick layer of alluvial light grey clay loam with very fine bleached sand. A humic stabilisation horizon consisting of a 0.13m thick deposit of dark grey silty humic clay, had subsequently formed above the alluvium. This was sealed beneath a 0.55m build up further alluvial clays, on which the topsoil had accumulated.

5.3.15 A deeper geotechnical trench was subsequently cut and recorded by Wessex Archaeology (URS 1999).

5.3.16 A linear feature, running across the south end of the trench, was identified as the same ditch [18] identified earlier in trench 3556TT, and later in 3616TT. No other cut archaeological features were identified, or cultural material retrieved.

Trench 3618TT (Fig. 11)

5.3.17 The level of the natural deposits was exposed at 0.26–0.22m below the present ground surface, and was relatively flat at +71.02 - +71.06m OD.

5.3.18 The upper surface of the natural was recorded as firmly compacted dull orange brown slightly sandy clay, with very occasional small angular flint inclusions. A sondage was excavated through this layer at the eastern end of the trench, revealing that it was 0.15–0.20m thick. Beneath the above layer was a thin deposit (0.10m) of bright orange sandy clays, over light grey silty clays, over bright orange sandy clays. The basal deposit recorded in the deep sondage consisted of softly compacted light to mid grey silty clay, which was heavily contaminated with black specking, presumably manganese panning. This deposit was markedly darker towards the base and possibly slightly humic and may therefore correlate to the humic layer identified in trench 3617TT. The upper surface of the lowest deposit was recorded at +70.23m OD, and had a depth exceeding 0.40mm (**Plate 3**).

5.3.19 Three archaeological features were identified cutting into the upper surface of the natural subsoil.

5.2.20 A thin linear feature [12] was recorded cutting across the middle of the trench, only 0.23m in width with depth of 0.16m. A ‘V’ shaped profile, and dark brown silty fill [13], indicated that this was a probable drainage gully. One shard of pottery of post-medieval date was retrieved from the fill.

5.3.21 A small pit, c.0.56m in diameter with a depth of 0.32m, was partially excavated along the northern side of the trench. This feature was found to contain modern china.

5.3.22 An feature [16] partially exposed in the north-west corner of the trench was found to contain post-medieval brick and tile fragments in the fill. Profile suggests this feature was a pit, but as the full extent, size and shape could not be ascertained due to the limited exposure, the nature of this feature remains unknown.

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

6 SUMMARY OF TRENCH RESULTS

6.1 Geology

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

6.1.2 Of the natural deposits exposed in the evaluation trenches, an alluviated sequence of silty and sandy clays was identified in six of the trenches in the western area (3554-6, 3616-8TT). These deposits represent an unremarkable sequence of channel fill, or overbank floodplain alluvium, with the exception of the possibly humic "stabilisation" layer. The presence of fluvial (river-lain) gravel at a lower depth, suggests a former course of the East Stour or a tributary.

6.1.3 The lighter sandier clays exposed in the evaluation trenches in the area to the east of Stone Street (3557–61TT), and the most westerly of the trenches in the western area (3553TT), are possibly of a wind-blown/hill wash origin and may correlate to the head brickearth, having formed on the gentle slopes and across the interfluves between the tributaries of the East Stour.

6.2 Archaeological potential of the alluvial and fluvial sequence

6.2.1 The further investigations carried out by Wessex Archaeology in trench 3617TT identified lower deposits of mixed fluvial gravel and sands. This is indicative of high energy water action, mixing deposits from various parent materials, and as a result these are generally associated with glacial retreat and lowered sea levels. This deposit could originate following the Devonian glaciation – c. 18,000 BP, although it could be associated with the later Boreal/Early Atlantic period, c.11 – 9,000 BP (URS 1999).

6.2.3 The higher layer of Fluvial gravel was undated, but the organic deposit is thought unlikely to predate the early Holocene period (Mesolithic), and more likely to from the relatively recent Neolithic or Bronze Age periods.

6.2.4 As already stated the alluvial sequence overlying the fluvial deposits is unremarkable, the exception being the possibly humic stabilisation layer. This seems to represent a more rapidly buried surface. Previous sequences seen elsewhere in Kent, generally associate stabilisation horizons with either the Mesolithic, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, or Roman periods. It is thought most likely that this particular layer most likely represents the Late Bronze Age rather than the later Roman period, although no datable material was retrieved from it.

6.3 Archaeological features

6.3.1 Archaeological cut features were found in six of the twelve trenches. In the eastern area, trench 3560TT contained an unidentified linear feature [5], aligned north-south, which remains undated. Running parallel beside it was a shallow ditch [10] of post-medieval date. A late, possibly modern, drainage ditch [2], aligned east–west, was seen in two trenches 3557 and 3558(ii). In the western area another late drainage

ditch [18], of similar alignment was recorded in trenches 3554, 3556, and 3618TT. A small pit [20] in trench 3556TT, and the two pits [14 and 16] and a narrow north – south aligned gully [12], were all of a post-medieval or later date.

7 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

7.1 Survival and condition

7.1.1 The evaluation has only indicated the presence of post-medieval or later archaeological features cutting into the upper surface of the natural deposits. These feature were isolated and in accordance with the land being utilised predominately for agricultural purposes or pasture, and are therefore of little significance or importance.

7.1.2 Earlier archaeological features were not identified. It remains a possibility that any earlier features may have been truncated by the later agricultural activities, most probably by plough action. On the area to the east of Stone Street a very abrupt horizon was noted between the underlying natural deposits and topsoil, conforming with the land having been removed, quarried, or lowered. A brick and tile works was known to exist on this side of Westenhanger Station and it is therefore possible that the upper layers of brickearth were utilised for brickmaking (a quarry was also present in the centre of Folkestone Race course).

7.1.3 The secondary objective was partially successful in the identification of alluvial and fluvial deposits associated with the former (more archaic) course of the East Stour River, including a humic stablisation horizon representing a buried ground surface.

7.2 Period

7.2.1 The layer interpreted as a humic stabilisation deposit may represent a ground surface of possible Late Bronze Age date, buried within a sequence of alluvial deposits.

7.2.2 Similar deposits were seen in the deeper *sondages*, excavated in the ends of the CAT evaluation trenches, in the area to the west of Stone Street. Plates 1, 2 and 3 show these layers in trenches 3617TT, 3553TT and 3618TT, respectively. The level of the upper surface for this layer remains relatively flat, with a slight drop progressing east to west, from +70.20 (trench 3618TT), +70.11 (3617TT), to 69.90m OD (3552TT). This mirrors the slight drop in present ground levels. This stabilisation layer is much more diffuse in trench 3553TT and probably represents extensive bio-turbation of the surface in the areas associated with more windblown/hillwash accumulation of head brickearth. It is unclear why this layer was not noticed in the eastern area; this may be possibly due to its existing at a lower depth, or due to later truncation.

7.3 Fragility and vulnerability

7.3.1 Any intrusive work undertaken in connection with the CTRL will effect any cut archaeological features and the prehistoric layers buried in the alluvial sequence.

7.4 Diversity and group value

7.4.1 As stated above the evaluation trenches appear to have shown no evidence for cut features associated with either the Roman road of Stone Street, the medieval village of Westenhanger, Westenhanger Castle, or the medieval field boundaries and corn drying oven known to exist in the area.

7.4.2 The only cut features were those of post-medieval date and of isolated nature.

7.4.3 The secondary objective was partially successful in the identification of layers within recent alluvial and fluvial deposits with an archaeological potential, associated with

the former course of the East Stour River. This sequence is most likely of prehistoric date; no conclusive dating evidence was retrieved from these deposits.

7.5 Potential

7.5.1 The potential of any surviving archaeological features is low, those that were identified were late in date and of no intrinsic value.

7.5.2 The potential for further research into the buried prehistoric alluvial and fluvial deposits is unknown, and their place within a chronological framework for the local area could not be established.

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APPENDIX I: EVENTS DATASET

EVENT NAME	East and West of Stone Street, Westenhanger.
EVENT CODE	ARC SST 98
EVENT TYPE	Evaluation
CONTRACTOR	Canterbury Archaeological Trust & Wessex Archaeology
DATE	15/02/99 to 19/03/99
GRID	URS Grid 92625E / 17350N, & 92865E / 17300N.
PROJECT	Channel Tunnel Rail Link
COUNTY	Kent
DISTRICT	Shepway
PARISH	Stanford
SMR	
SITE TYPE	Cultivated land 3
PERIOD	Post-medieval
METHOD	Mechanical removal of topsoil and geotechnic trenches, hand excavation and recording of archaeological features
PHASING	Late Post–medieval cut archaeological features. Pre-historic alluviated and fluvial archaic riverbed sequence
ENVIRON	Alluvial and Fluvial sequence sampled by Wessex Archaeology
FINDS	All late post-medieval and modern
GEOLOGY	Head Brickearth and Alluvium overlying Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone and Sandgate Beds.
CONTEXT No's	23, + 12 trench sheets (8 from Wessex Archaeology
THREAT	Channel Tunnel Rail Link
SAMPLE	c. 1 – 3%
SUMMARY	Evaluation failed to identify any cut archaeological features of a pre post-medieval date. Alluvial and fluvial deposits inspected in deep geotechnic trench possibly correlate to known similar deposits of pre-historic date.
ARCHIVE	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
ACC NUM	

APPENDIX II: ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Trench	Type	Association	Comments	Period
+	All	Deposit		Topsoil	Modern
1	All	Deposit		Developed/Plough soils	Modern
2	3557/8(ii)	Cut	Filled by 3 & 4	Drainage ditch	18th modern
3	3558(ii)	Fill	Upper fill of 2	No finds	18th/modern
4	3558(ii)	Deposit	Lower fill of 2	No finds	
5	3559	Cut	Filled by 6 - 9	Unidentified linear feature	
6	3559	Deposit	Fill of 5	No finds	
7	3559	Deposit	Fill of 5	No finds	
8	3559	Deposit	Fill of 5	No finds	
9	3559	Deposit	Fill of 5	No finds	
10	3559	Cut	Filled by 11	Shallow liner ditch	Modern
11	3559	Deposit	Fill of 10	Modern brick frag.	Modern
12	3618	Cut	Filled by 13	Thin gully	Post-med.
13	3618	Deposit	Fill of 12	Post-med. pottery (1)	Post-med.
14	3618	Cut	Filled by 15	Small pit	19th cent
15	3618	Deposit	Fill of 14	China Shard	19th cent
16	3618	Cut	Filled by 17	Unidentified feature	Post-med.
17	3618	Deposit	Fill of 16	Post- med. tile fragments	Post-med.
18	3556, 3616/7	Cut	Filled by 19	Drainage ditch	18th/modern
19	3556	Deposit	Fill of 18	Bone	18th/modern
20	3556	Cut	Filled by 21	Small pit	Modern?
21	3556	Deposit	Fill of 20	No finds	Modern?

APPENDIX III: BULK FINDS DATASET

Context No.	**Material**	**Quantity**	**Weight**	**Comments**	**Find No.**	**Dsk**
11	Brick frag	1	10	Modern	7	k
13	Glazed pottery	1	5	19th cent	8	k
15	Post Med. Roof Tile china	2 1	25	19th cent	6	d
17	Post med. Roof Tile Metal hook	1 1	24 45	19th cent modern	5 4	
19	bone	1	25		3	d

APPENDIX IV: KENT SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SHEET

Site Name : East and West of Stone Street, Westenhanger. Kent. **Site Code :** ARC SST 98		
District : Shepway	**Parish :** Stanford	
Summary : An archaeological field evaluation of land to the east and west of Stone Street, Westenhanger, Kent, was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, between the 15th of February and 19th of March 1999. This formed part of a programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, and was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited. The area under investigation consisted of two separate fields either side of Stone Street. The eastern area was located to the south of the existing London to Folkestone railway, whilst the western area to the north.		
Periods :(∨) **Neolithic** **Bronze Age** **Iron Age**	**Roman** **Saxon** **Medieval** **Post Medieval ∨** **19th Cent + ∨**	**Other** (specify)
National Grid Reference : TR 12750E 37450N + 12900E 37050N		
Type of Fieldwork : (∨) **Evaluation ∨** **Excavation** **Watching Brief**	 **Geophysical Survey** **Field Walking** **Measured Survey**	
Date of Fieldwork (From) : 15/02/99	**(To) :** 19/03/99	
Contractor: Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street. Canterbury. Kent.CT1 2LU Tel: (01227) 462062 Fax: (01227) 784724		
Summary of Field Results: A total of twelve trenches were excavated, archaeological features being identified in six of these. The features were interpreted as a series of pits, ditches, and one larger unidentified linear feature, all thought to be relatively recent of a late post medieval date. A conclusion was drawn that there was no significant cut archaeological features or remains present within the areas under evaluation. However further investigations of the natural subsoil deposits has shown that, at least in one trench, a humic layer is present - possibly correlating to similar ground horizons associated with the either the Mesolithic, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age and Roman periods, but most likely the later two. Fluvial gravel deposits of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date were also identified, and appear to form part of an archaic channel of the East Stour river or associated tributaries.		
Location of Archive:		
Bibliography:.CTRL Evaluation Report (ARC SST 98) **Author :** Adrian G. Gollop BSc (Hon)		
Compiler: Adrian G. Gollop		**Date:** 24 / 03 / 99