

UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED

TUTT HILL

ARC TUT 98

An Archaeological Evaluation

Contract No. 194/870P4



Museum of London Archaeology Service
December 1998

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TUT HILL, KENT

ARC TUT 98

An Archaeological Evaluation

Evaluation Report

Volume 1 of 1

Contract No. 194/870P4

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Museum of London Archaeology Service
December 1998

**TUTT HILL, NEAR ASHFORD,
KENT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The Museum of London Archaeology Service undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of Tutt Hill, to the south-east of Charing and to the north-west of Ashford, between the 6th and the 7th of August 1998. The fieldwork forms part of a series of evaluations which were added to the larger programme of archaeological investigations excavated in 1997 along the line of the future Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The aim was to assess the effect of construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage.

Archaeological features of recent date were recorded in four (3305TT - 3308TT) of the nine trial trenches. An undated stone wall foundation and ditch were located in trench 3311TT. Two sherds of medieval pottery and a struck flint were also recovered.

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SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) was commissioned by Union Railways Limited (URL) to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Tutt Hill, between the 6th and 7th of August 1998, on land to the south of the M20, about 2.5km south-east of Charing and approximately 6.5km to the north-west of Ashford, Kent (Fig 1). The evaluation forms part of a larger programme of archaeological investigations along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, the aim of which is to assess the effect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared (URL 1994). This evaluation is within CTRL route window 29.

1.1.2 The evaluation consisted of two areas, one on either side of the Ashford-Tonbridge railway line. Nine trenches were excavated (3304TT to 3312TT inclusive) and are located on Figure 2 ; the site boundary is edged in bold.

1.1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by URL and agreed with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage, detailing the scope and methods of the evaluation, including this report.

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The uppermost natural geology consisted of sand coloured yellowish grey at the top and orange brown further down. This sand was recorded as three contexts:

- Context [7]: a fine to medium sand with iron pan; recorded in 3304TT to 3308TT inclusive.
- Context [22]: a silty sand; recorded in 3310TT.
- Context [25]: a fine sand and some silt, recorded in 3309TT, 3311TT and 3312TT.

1.2.2 Present ground level exhibits no major changes in height or slope. The following heights were recorded from the north-west to south-east:

81.88m Ordnance Datum (OD hereafter) at 3304TT
82.00m OD at 3306TT
82.04m OD at 3309TT
80.39m OD at 3310TT
82.53m OD at 3312TT.

1.2.3 A foot path lay adjacent to a minor road on the north side of the A20 to the north-east 3308TT and 3309TT. The south-eastern trenches, 3311TT and 3312TT, lay along a little lane in a field north of several cottages.

1.2.4 The site was under arable agriculture.

2 SPECIFICATION

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 In general the works aimed to provide information to determine:

- the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any subsoil and deposits of archaeological interest which may be associated with, or in close proximity to, the surface concentrations of prehistoric flint recorded during the earlier URL Environment Assessment;
- the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits;
- the local, regional and national importance of such remains, and the potential for further fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.

2.1.2 More specifically the works aimed:

- To extend the archaeological knowledge established previously by the Surface Collection Survey in 1994 (URL 1995), and in the vicinity by evaluation in 1997, ie at East of Pluckley Road (ARC PRD 97) and South of Station Road, Parsonage Farm (ARC PFM 97).

3 METHODS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 A detailed written scheme of investigation for the evaluation was prepared and agreed by URL with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following text is intended only to amplify certain aspects of the evaluation methodology.

3.2 Survey

- 3.2.1 The trench locations were surveyed by MoLAS, based on a trench location plan supplied by URL (drawing number 430-DGH-08370-62046-AA). Trenches were positioned accurately using a total station and datalogger, traversing off the URL survey control. Trench corners were marked with pegs on the west side of north-south trenches and on the south side of east-west trenches.
- 3.2.2 The trenches have been plotted on Fig 2 from digital information provided by URL using an AutoCAD graphics programme. The trenches are located on the URL site grid.
- 3.2.3 The archaeological features in trenches 3305TT to 3308TT and 3311TT were planned at 1:20, taking as a grid the line between the two survey pegs used to mark out the trench.

3.3 Excavation

- 3.3.1 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator with a flat bladed bucket 2.00m wide. The trenches were excavated to the uppermost natural geology or to a maximum depth of 1.20m. A sample area at each end of all the trenches was hand cleaned to ensure that the stratigraphy could be accurately recorded. Where necessary greater stretches of the trenches were hand cleaned to determine stratigraphic relationships, and investigate archaeological and geological features.
- 3.3.2 Archaeological features in the form of pits were half-sectioned; linear features were sample excavated by slots. Due to the sterile nature of the fills of the archaeological features no environmental samples were taken.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 Recording was by the standard Museum of London single context recording system but with modifications to adapt the system to the large area under evaluation. Specifically these adaptations concerned layers: where a layer was judged to be the same in two or more trenches (such as topsoil, subsoil and some uppermost geological deposits), the same context number was used. If there was any doubt as to the equality of a layer a new context number was issued. A trench sheet was completed for each trench, on the reverse of which a sketch plan and section (of the entire trench) was drawn using metric measurements and OD heights.
- 3.4.2 Archaeological features were drawn in plan at 1:20; sections/profiles were drawn at 1:10 and 1:20. Geological features were sketched on the reverse of the trench sheets.
- 3.4.3 For all trenches the OD heights were established, each trench having a Temporary Bench Mark incorporated onto one of the survey marker pegs.
- 3.4.4 The results were mostly negative but due to an error the site supervisor did not compile a photographic record of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded in trenches 3305TT and 3311TT, directly cutting natural geology. Modern cut features were recorded in 3306TT, 3307TT, 3308TT, 3310TT and 3312TT. The tops of all cut features had been truncated either by plough action (seen by a plough disturbed subsoil) or by modern activity (seen by modern dumping). The location of the features are illustrated in Fig 2.
- 4.1.2 Above geology or features cutting geology was either a plough disturbed subsoil or a dumped make-up deposit. The plough disturbed subsoil consisted of pale to mid grey sand silt with occasional flint pebbles, charcoal and ceramic building material (CBM) flecks. This subsoil was recorded as [16] in 3306TT, [19] in 3308TT, [21] in 3310TT and [24] in 3312TT. The dumping consisted of heavily compacted mid yellow brown sandy silt with lenses of silty clay and frequent flint pebbles, moderate CBM, charcoal flecks and lumps of asphalt. Dumping was recorded as [2] in 3305TT, [8] in 3304TT, and [9] 3307TT.
- 4.1.3 Three context numbers ([1], [20] and [23]) were issued for topsoil. All topsoil numbers are recorded as light to mid greyish brown fine sandy silt containing frequent small flint pebbles and occasional modern brick fragments:
- In 3304T to 3308TT topsoil was recorded as [1].
 - In 3310TT topsoil was recorded as [20].
 - In 3309TT, 3311TT and 3312TT, topsoil, which also contained chalk flecks was numbered [23].

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trenches with archaeological features

Table 1 : Trenches with archaeological features/finds

Note:

- Heights refer to the upper surface of layers.
- Trench sequences are geology - archaeological cut features - subsoil/dumping - topsoil unless stated otherwise.
- Numbers in square brackets are contexts.

Trench number	Geological layers	Features/finds	Subsoil/dump layer	Topsoil
3305TT	[7] 81.16m OD	Cut [4] (cutting subsoil) Tree boles [6]	[2] 81.86m OD	[1] 82.19m OD
3306TT	[7] 81.41m OD	Modern cut [15]	[16] 81.81m OD	[1] 82.00m OD
3307TT	[7] 81.47m OD	Cuts [11] Tree bole [13]	[9] 81.98m OD	[1] 82.17m OD
3308TT	[7] 81.26m OD	Cut [18]	[19] 81.66m OD	[1] 81.96m OD
3310TT	[22] 79.93m OD	Redeposited struck flint in topsoil	[21] 80.47m OD	[20] 80.73m OD
3311TT	[25] 81.68m OD	Cut [29] Cut [27]	[24] 82.09m OD	[23] 82.28m OD
3312TT	[13] 81.93m OD	Medieval pottery in subsoil	[24] 82.56m OD	[23] 82.96m OD

5.1.1 Trench 3305TT (Fig 3)

5.1.1.1 Two tree boles [6] were oval shaped, the larger one was 0.60m x 0.55m in size, the smaller one 0.20m in diameter and 0.25m deep. They were filled with mixed very pale sand with yellow with orange brown mottles and occasional small pebbles [5].

5.1.1.2 Cut [4] was a linear cut, either a field drain or a wall footing. Cut [4] was 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. The fill [3] consisted of light greyish brown medium sandy silt, with frequent brick fragments. Fill [3] possibly represented the backfill from a robbed post-medieval structure.

5.1.2 Trench 3306TT (Fig 3)

5.1.2.1 Cut [15] was 1.00m wide and 0.58m deep with steep sides and rounded base. The fill [14] consisted of mid grey sandy silt with frequent angular lumps of asphalt and occasional plastic. Fill [14] is interpreted as representing a modern backfill.

5.1.3 *Trench 3307TT* (Fig 3)

5.1.3.1 Cut [13] was nearly circular in plan 0.80m across and 0.11m deep, with irregular concave sides and an irregular flat base. It was filled with heavy pale yellow brown sandy silty clay [12] with occasional small pebbles. Cut [13] is interpreted as representing a tree bole.

5.1.3.2 Rectangular pit cut [11] was 1.20m long, 0.45m wide and 0.62m deep, with vertical sides. As the pit fill [10] was modern the base was not exposed. The fill [10] consisted of mixed yellow brown and dark grey black sandy silt with coal ash and frequent CBM fragments and part of a cement sack. Fill [10] is interpreted as representing a modern backfill.

5.1.4 *Trench 3308TT* (Fig 4)

5.1.4.1 Linear cut [18] was 0.33m wide and 0.68m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It contained mixed yellow to orange brown with grey bands silty sand [17] with frequent fragments of asphalt. Fill [17] is interpreted as representing a modern backfill.

5.1.5 *Trench 3310TT* (Fig 2)

5.1.5.1 Topsoil [20] contained one struck flint.

5.1.6 *Trench 3311TT* (Fig 4)

5.1.6.1 Linear cut [27] was 0.87m wide and 0.23m deep, with straight steep sloping sides and a flatish base. It contained mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and several large stone blocks, 0.24m x 0.17m x 0.14m and occasional flint nodules [26].

5.1.6.2 Linear cut [29] was 1.10m wide and 0.15m deep, with a V-shaped profile. It contained soft mid brown sandy silt [29].

5.1.7 *Trench 3312TT* (Fig 2)

5.1.7.1 The subsoil [24] contained medieval pottery. One tree bole was located cutting geology.

5.2 Trenches without archaeological features

Table 2 : Trenches without archaeological features

Note:

- Heights refer to the upper surface of layers.
- Trench sequences are geology - subsoil - topsoil unless stated otherwise.
- Numbers in square brackets are contexts.

Trench number	Geological layers	Subsoil	Topsoil
<i>3304TT</i>	[7] 81.18m OD	[8] 81.72m OD	[1] 81.88m OD
<i>3309TT</i>	[25] 81.52m OD	[24] 81.83m OD	[1] 82.04m OD

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

6.1 Table 3: Events dataset

EVENT_NAME:Tutt Hill
EVENT_CODE:ARC TUT 98
EVENT_TYPE:Evaluation
CONTRACTOR:Museum of London Archaeology Service
DATE:6-7/8/1998
GRID:26700N 77250E (CTRL Grid)
PROJECT:CTRL
COUNTY:Kent
DISTRICT:Ashford
PARISH:Charing CP
SMR:
SITE_TYPE:Cultivated Land 3 - Operation to a depth >0.25m
PERIOD:Undated cut features and modern cut features
METHOD:Mechanical removal of topsoil; hand excavation and recording of sections of archaeological features.
PHASING:Undated and modern features cutting geology
ENVIRON:No samples taken.
FINDS:Med pottery
GEOLOGY:Folkstone Beds (yellow to light brown sands with iron pan and pockets of pebbles).
CONTEXT_NUM:29
THREAT:CTRL
SAMPLE:1%
SUMMARY:Possible robbed masonry foundation, undated linear cuts, post-medieval field drains. Modern cut features and modern levelling deposits
ARCHIVE: URL archive at Aylesford
ACC_NUM:

6.2 Table 4: Archaeological context inventory

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
3304TT-3308TT	1	deposit			topsoil
3305TT	2	deposit			subsoil
3305TT	3	deposit		4	fill
3305TT	4	cut		3	robbed drain
3305TT	5	deposit		6	fill
3305TT	6	cut		5	tree bole
3304TT-3308TT	7	deposit			natural
3304TT	8	deposit			subsoil
3307TT	9	deposit			subsoil
3307TT	10	deposit		11	fill
3307TT	11	cut		10	mod. trench
3307TT	12	deposit		13	fill
3306TT	13	cut		12	tree bole
3306TT	14	deposit		15	fill
3306TT	15	cut		14	drain/ditch
3306TT	16	deposit			subsoil
3308TT	17	deposit		18	fill
3308TT	18	cut		17	trench/ditch
3308TT	19	deposit			subsoil
3310TT	20	deposit			topsoil
3310TT	21	deposit			subsoil
3310TT	22	deposit			natural
3312TT	23	deposit			topsoil
3312TT	24	deposit			subsoil
3312TT	25	deposit			natural
3311TT	26	deposit		27	fill
3311TT	27	cut		26	robbed wall trench
3311TT	28	deposit		29	fill
3311TT	29	cut		28	drainage ditch

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological remains

7.1.1 A range of archaeological features was recorded, although the evidence indicates that most of them are of modern origin. Two medieval pottery sherds and one flint flake, possibly prehistoric, were recovered; however, they can not be associated directly with any of the features.

7.2 Nature of archaeological remains

7.2.1 In 3305TT a linear feature [4] was backfilled with frequent brick fragments and this has been interpreted as a drain or robbed wall of post-medieval or later date. A ditch [15] in 3306TT had been cut from the surface of the subsoil and contained a modern backfill. Of the two pits recorded in 3307TT one contained modern material, the other remains undated. Both pits lay close to the railway line. Ditch [18] in 3308TT was cut from subsoil but it too contained modern material in its backfill.

7.3 Date of occupation

7.3.1 A probable robbed stone wall [27] and a ditch [29] were recorded in 3311TT. The stone wall was located 4m from the south end of the trench indicating the possibility that further walls lay beyond the trial trench (although there is no evidence to support this). Neither feature could be dated directly. pottery (two sherds) recovered from the subsoil of the adjacent trench (3312TT) is dated as medieval (see Appendix 1). Trench 3311TT is located close to the minor road aligned to the north-east from the A20. Wall [27], which is constructed perpendicular to this road, may suggest a building or boundary. Ditch [29] was located close to but at a different alignment to the wall.

7.4 Character of the site

7.4.1 Situated just north of Tutt Hill, the site lay in a rural country side, at present used for agricultural purposes. The wall in 3311TT may indicate that the settlement once extended beyond its present boundary.

8 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

8.1 Survival and condition

8.1.1 Only cut features survived and there was no evidence for surfaces or other stratified deposits. The robbed wall and ditch in 3311TT lay under subsoil and were cut into the natural geology. It is possible that further similar remains may be present between 3311TT and 3312TT.

8.2 Period

8.2.1 In addition to the obviously modern deposits, no other contexts could be closely dated. Thirteenth century pottery suggests some unspecified activity during the medieval period, although it can not be associated confidently with any features or structures. Likewise, the single flint flake is of no value for dating or characterising past activity.

8.3 Rarity

8.3.1 The paucity of evidence and the concomitant difficulty with its categorisation makes comment on rarity almost meaningless. Having said this, however, there seems no reason to believe that any rare or unusual remains are present.

8.4 Fragility and vulnerability

8.4.1 It is likely that any archaeological remains present would be damaged or destroyed by construction activity that may take place.

8.5 Diversity

8.5.1 From the limited evidence recovered it would appear that the remains may be associated with agricultural or possibly settlement activity.

8.6 Documentation

8.6.1 Historical maps or documents for the area were not consulted as part of the works. No previous fieldwork is known to have been undertaken on the site.

8.7 Group value

8.7.1 The results from this site add little archaeological evidence to the picture already established by previous fieldwork in the environs. It is not considered that any group value accrues from nearby locations.

8.8 Potential

8.8.1 The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low. Further features associated or in proximity to the 'robbed wall' may be present between trenches 3311TT and 3312TT.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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A Thirteenth Century Kiln at Ashford. Archaeol. Cantiana 65: 183-7.

Museum of London, 1994

Archaeological Site Manual.

URL, 1994, *Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report.* (Four volumes. Prepared for URL by OAU).

URL, 1997a, *East of Pluckley Road*

Archaeological Evaluation Report (Prepared for URL by MoLAS)

URL, 1997b, *South of Station Road, Parsonage Farm*

Archaeological Evaluation Report (Prepared for URL by MoLAS)

Kent SMR Record Sheet

Site Name: Tutt Hill															
Site code: ARC TUT 98															
Summary: An evaluation of nine trenches, commissioned by Union Railways Limited, was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in August 1998 at Tutt Hill, near Charing, north-west of Ashford, Kent. The evaluation forms part of a large investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.															
District: Ashford		Parish: Westwell CP													
Period(s): 1. Residual prehistoric 2. Residual medieval 3. Modern															
NGR Easting 597200		NGR Northing 146800													
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Type of Recording:</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Evaluation</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Watching Brief</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Field Walking</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(Delete)</td> <td>Excavation</td> <td>Geophysical Survey</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Measured Survey</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Type of Recording:	Evaluation	Watching Brief	Field Walking		(Delete)	Excavation	Geophysical Survey			Measured Survey	
Type of Recording:	Evaluation	Watching Brief	Field Walking												
	(Delete)	Excavation	Geophysical Survey												
		Measured Survey													
Date of Recording: (From) 6/08/1998		(To) 7/08/1998													
Unit Undertaking Recording: Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4															
Summary of Field Results: One residual struck flint was recovered in topsoil. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil in a single trench. One trench revealed an undated and robbed stone wall and an undated ditch. Four trial trenches contained pits, ditches and drains of modern date.															
Location of Archive/Finds:		URL archive at Aylesford													
Bibliography:		Evaluation report													
Summary Compiler: Friederike Hammer			Date: 4/10/1998												

APPENDIX 1**Pottery***By Roy Stephenson***Introduction**

The evaluation at Tutt Hill (ARC TUT 98) produced a total of two sherds (76g) of medieval date. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and recorded using standard MoLAS codes on pro-forma sheets. Quantification of the material was by sherd count and weight. Pottery was recorded from one context [24] 3311TT.

Fabrics

The two sherds were of the same fabric but came from two different vessels: a cooking pot or bowl. Although not entirely certain, they may have been produced at the Ashford Kiln, excavated in the 1950's by Graves and Warhurst (1952) and dated to the 13th century.

Assessment of Potential and further work

The small group size of the sherds results in an assemblage that is of little potential.

Table 5: Bulk dataset, pottery

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
3311TT	24	POT	2	76g	13th century

APPENDIX 2**Flints***By Jonathan Cotton***Summary**

One small piece of flint flake was examined. It had been struck from a patinated nodule of attractively coloured 'gravel' flint, presumably derived from a secondary source of possibly river cobbles.

Table 6: Bulk dataset, Flints

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
3442TT	20	WORKED FLINT	1	3g	flake