

Channel Tunnel Rail Link  
Union Railways Ltd

# West of Scalers Hill, Cobham, Kent

ARC WSH 98

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contract No. 194/870

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 16

Oxford Archaeological Unit

February 1998

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**UNION RAILWAYS LTD**

**WEST OF SCALERS HILL, COBHAM, KENT**

**ARC WSH 98**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***

**Environmental Statement Route Window No. 16**

**OS GRID TQ 669 698**

**Contract No. 194/870**

**Volume 1 of 1**

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February 1998

# WEST OF SCALERS HILL, COBHAM, KENT

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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# **WEST OF SCALERS HILL, COBHAM, KENT**

## ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***

### ***SUMMARY***

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Union Railways Ltd to conduct a field evaluation of 2.2 ha of land south of the A2 and north-west of Scaliers Hill House, Cobham, Kent (TQ 669 698). The evaluation formed part of a wider programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). The site is presently a mix of grassland and arable cultivation. The underlying geology is sand and silt of the Thanet Beds.*

*Eight evaluation trenches were excavated and a number of archaeological features were located in two of these trenches. The features comprised three substantial ditches in addition to two gullies, a posthole and a small pit. One of the ditches produced a small quantity of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. A small number (four) of struck flints were recovered, three from ploughsoils and a fourth from a feature. The flint probably indicates background activity in the Mesolithic and late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods.*

## **SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological field evaluation (Fig. 1), between 19th and 22nd of January 1998, on land south of the A2 and north-west of the Scalpers Hill House, Cobham, Kent (NGR TQ 669 698) (URL Grid 46900 49820) on behalf of Union Railways Ltd (URL). 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 effect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage of the site. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared (URL 1994). The site lies within Environmental Statement Route Window No.16.
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out according to a 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. The area of the evaluation is shown in Fig. 2.

#### **1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse**

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the sands and silts of the Thanet Beds (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Dartford sheet 271).
- 1.2.2 The land is generally undulating and rises steeply up towards Scalpers Hill in the east. Trenches 3197TT and 3198TT were situated in a broad hollow at 78m-80m above Ordnance datum (OD) and Trench 3207TT on the lower slopes of Scalpers Hill at 89m above OD.
- 1.2.3 The evaluation area is presently mainly arable with a smaller area of grassland in the eastern part of the site.

#### **1.3 Archaeological background**

- 1.3.1 There are no known archaeological features within the immediate area of the site, although the line of Roman Watling Street and the present A2 is situated 150m north of the site.
- 1.3.2 Previous CTRL evaluations have been undertaken to the west of the site at Singlewell (URL 1997) and to the east at Cobham Park Golf Course (URL 1997a). Both sites produced a small number of Bronze Age features.
- 1.3.3 At Ashenbank Wood, 500m to the south-east, there is a scheduled tumulus (Kent SAM 322) (OAU No. 1568). This is a mound surrounded by a quarry ditch and is typical of a late Neolithic to late Bronze Age funerary monument. Although excavated in 1895 the burial was not disturbed.

- 1.3.4 A surface collection survey immediately west of the site at Henhurst (URL 1994) recovered a diffuse background scatter of struck flint which included 92 flakes, eight cores and one scraper. Finds from other periods were not present in significant numbers.
- 1.3.5 The site of a Roman villa (OAU No. 1570) is situated in Cobham Park. Excavations in 1959 concluded that the site developed from a 1st century farmhouse and was occupied until the 4th century.
- 1.3.6 Earthworks within Cobham Park (OAU No. 1569), which were once thought to be the remains of a late prehistoric oppidum, are now generally thought to be a natural hillock modified by garden landscaping in the 18th century.
- 1.3.7 Other findspots within Cobham Park include Roman coins dated to about 353 AD (OAU No. 1571) and an Iron Age silver coin (OAU No. 1572).

## **2 AIMS**

- 2.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation specified the aims of the evaluation which are reiterated below:
- 2.1.2 To determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the evaluation area.
- 2.1.3 To determine the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits.
- 2.1.4 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.

## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 A detailed statement on the methods used in the evaluation is contained in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by URL, and agreed 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 trench location plan provided by URL. Trenches 3194TT, 3200TT and 3207TT were subsequently repositioned to avoid standing trees.

3.2.2 The trenches have been digitally plotted using the AutoCAD graphics programme (Fig. 2). All survey points are based upon the URL local grid rather than the National Grid.

### **3.3 Excavation**

3.3.1 Eight trenches were excavated over the 2.2 ha site. The first two trenches to be excavated, Trenches 3200TT and 3207TT, were 30m long and 1.5m wide. The machine-bucket was then replaced with a wider one and the remaining six trenches were excavated to 30 m long and 2 m wide.

3.3.2 The topsoil and underlying ploughsoil layers were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

3.3.3 Archaeological finds were hand-retrieved from machine-excavated deposits on an opportunistic basis. Spoil heaps were also inspected for superficial finds but not rigorously searched.

3.3.4 Machine-excavation resulted in a generally clean trench base which was not hand cleaned except where archaeological deposits were suspected. Sample sections of all trench sides were cleaned and drawn.

3.3.5 Bulk environmental samples were taken from one of the ditches in Trench 3198TT (Appendix 3).

### **3.4 Recording**

3.4.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). A running sequence of context numbers was adopted for the whole site. Plans were drawn at 1:50 or 1:100. Sections were drawn at 1:20. All evaluation records were prefaced by the site code ARC WSH 98.

3.4.2 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. A summary of all contexts and finds is presented in the archaeological context inventory (Section 6), and Fig. 5 summarises the distribution of archaeological features and finds. Detailed reports on the pottery, flint, and environmental indicators are contained in Appendices 1-3.



## 4.2 General Stratigraphy

### *Recent deposits*

- 4.2.1 The modern topsoil was 0.25m thick across the site. The topsoil directly overlay the natural in Trenches 3194TT and 3195TT, but in Trenches 3196TT, 3197TT, 3198TT, 3199TT, 3200TT, and 3207TT the modern ploughsoil overlay earlier ploughsoils up to 0.60m deep.

## 4.3 Summary of the archaeology (Fig. 5)

- 4.3.1 Three substantial ditches, two smaller ditches or gullies, a posthole and a pit were located in Trenches 3197TT and 3198TT. The majority of the pottery (93% of the total, by weight) was recovered from one of the ditches in Trench 3198TT and has been dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Ceramic dating evidence was scarce or absent from the other features, although it is likely that they all date to the late Iron Age or early Roman period.
- 4.3.2 A possible linear feature in Trench 3207TT produced a single worked flint blade, probably Mesolithic in date, in addition to a piece of burnt flint.
- 4.3.3 Three other struck flints were recovered from the site, all from ploughsoil deposits, including a core of Mesolithic date from Trench 3200TT and a backed knife from Trench 3199TT of probable Neolithic or early Bronze Age date.

## 4.4 Site archive

- 4.4.1 The site archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification prepared by URL. It includes six electronic datasets for the Fieldwork Event, Contexts, Bulk Finds, Finds, Environmental Samples and Graphical Output.

## 5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Late Iron Age to early Roman features (3197TT, 3198TT)

#### *Trench 3197TT (Fig. 3)*

- 5.1.1 The modern ploughsoil (19), overlaid a former ploughsoil (20), which was 0.25m thick, which overlaid Ditch 24 and Pit 26.
- 5.1.2 *Pit/posthole 26.* This was a circular pit, or possibly a posthole which measured 0.40m across and 0.18m deep. The pit fill (25), which was a dark brown silty sand, contained no finds.

- 5.1.3 *Ditch 24.* This ditch was 1.95m wide and 0.63m deep with a steep sided U-shaped profile and orientated approximately east-west. It contained three fills (21, 22 and 23), all brown silty sands. The lowest fill, 23, contained a single small sherd of unidentifiable pottery. The profile of this ditch was similar to Ditch 40 in Trench 3198TT.
- Trench 3198TT (Fig. 3)*
- 5.1.4 The modern ploughsoil (33) overlaid a former ploughsoil (34), which was 0.28m thick, which overlaid Ditches 35 and 40, Gullies 38 and 46, Posthole 48 and Layer 44.
- 5.1.5 *Ditch 35.* This ditch was aligned north-east to south-west. It measured 1.66m wide and 0.50m deep and had a rounded U-shaped profile. Two fills were identified (36 and 37). The primary fill (36), an orangish grey clayey silt contained a large fragment of a vessel, which was located at the base of the ditch directly upon the natural. This pottery has been dated to the late Iron Age to early Roman period. The upper fill (37), a mid-grey clayey silt produced pottery of the same date.
- 5.1.6 Environmental samples (1 and 2) from Ditch 35 produced additional sherds of pottery and a low level of charred material which included a grain of barley (see Appendix 3).
- 5.1.7 *Gully 38.* This gully was orientated north-east to south-west and terminated within the trench. It was 0.34m wide and 0.14m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fill (39), a mid-grey clayey silt, produced no finds.
- 5.1.8 *Ditch 40.* This ditch was aligned approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 2.34m wide and 0.72m deep with a U-shaped profile in the lower half with shallower flared upper profile which may be due to erosion or periodic cleaning of the ditch. Four fills were present (51, 52, 53 and 54). Fills 53 and 54 were orangish brown and mid brown silty clays respectively. Pottery from Fill 53 is likely to be late Iron Age to early Roman in date. The upper fills (51 and 52) were grey brown clayey silts and produced no finds. The sequence of fills may suggest a gradual accumulation of material within the ditch and contrasts with the two fills identified in Ditch 35.
- 5.1.9 *Gully 46.* This gully was orientated north-south and measured 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep with a flat bottomed U-shaped profile. The fill (47) was a mid grey clay silt which produced no finds.
- 5.1.10 *Posthole 48.* This circular posthole was 0.36m in diameter wide and 0.26m deep with a near vertical sided profile. The posthole was situated adjacent to the west side of Gully 46, although there was no stratigraphic relationship between the two features.

- 5.1.11 *Layer 44.* A layer of mid-grey clayey silt was situated on the west side of Ditch 35. This layer was 0.07m deep and extended for 0.50m. There was no relationship with Gully 38, although it was cut by Ditch 35.

## **5.2 Linear feature in Trench 3207TT**

### *Trench 3207TT (Fig. 4)*

- 5.2.1 The modern topsoil (1), overlaid a former ploughsoil (2), which was 0.16m thick, and overlaid another former ploughsoil/colluvium (3), which was up to 0.30m thick. The ploughsoil/colluvium (3) overlaid Feature 18.
- 5.2.2 *Feature 18.* This feature was 1.22m wide and 0.27m deep and had a flat bottomed U-shaped profile. The fill (17) was a light brown sand, similar to the natural sand and produced a piece of burnt flint and a struck flint which probably dates to the Mesolithic. The sides and bottom of the feature were well defined, although it was disturbed by modern roots.

## **5.3 Peripheral trenches (3194TT, 3195TT, 3196TT, 3199TT and 3200TT)**

- 5.3.1 This group of trenches contained no archaeological features. A sequence of ploughsoils up to 0.60m deep was recorded in Trenches 3196TT, 3199TT and 3200TT. Two undated irregular soilmarks in Trench 3196TT were interpreted as tree throw holes.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

The following abbreviations and definitions have been used in the Context Inventory:

o/l overlies  
 c/by cut by  
 f/of fill of  
 f/by filled by  
 o/l by overlain by

Trench	Context	Type	Associations	Finds	Number	Date
3207	01	topsoil	o/l 2			
3207	02	earlier ploughsoil	o/l by 1; o/l 3			
3207	03	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l by 2; o/l 4			
3207	04	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l by 3; o/l 5			
3207	05	natural	o/l by 4; c/by 17			
3194	06	topsoil	o/l 7			
3194	07	natural	o/l by 6			
3195	08	topsoil	o/l 9			
3195	09	natural	o/l by 9			
3196	10	topsoil	o/l 11	flint	1	
3196	11	earlier ploughsoil	o/l by 10; o/l 12, 14			
3196	12	fill	f/of 13, o/l by 11			
3196	13	tree hole	f/by 12; cuts 16			
3196	14	fill	f/of 15; o/l by 11			
3196	15	tree hole	f/l by 14; cuts 16			
3196	16	natural	c/by 13, 15			
3207	17	fill	f/ of 18; o/l by 3	burnt flint	1	
				flint	1	
3207	18	cut	cuts 5; f/by 17			
3197	19	topsoil	o/l 20			
3197	20	earlier ploughsoil	o/l by 19; o/l 21, 25	burnt flint	1	
3197	21	fill	f/of 24; o/l by 20			
3197	22	fill	f/of 24; o/l by 21; o/l 23			
3197	23	fill	f/of 24; o/l by 22	pot	1	unidentifiable ??late Iron Age
3197	24	ditch	cuts 27, f/by 21, 22, 23			
3197	25	fill	f/of 26; o/l by 20			
3197	26	pit/posthole	cuts 27, f/by 25			
3197	27	natural	c/by 24, 26			
3200	28	topsoil	o/l 29			
3200	29	earlier ploughsoil	o/l 30; o/l by 28			
3200	30	ploughsoil/colluvium	o/l 31, o/l by 29			
3200	31	natural	o/l by 30			
3200	32	unstratified finds		flint	1	
3198	33	topsoil	o/l 34			
3198	34	earlier ploughsoil	o/l 51, 47, 50,37 o/l by 33			
3198	35	ditch	cuts 45, f/by 36, 37			
3198	36	fill	f/of 35; o/l by 37	pot	3	Rim of late Iron Age/early Roman vessel

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Associations</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>
3198	37	fill	f/of 35; o/l 36; o/l by 34	pot	1	Late Iron Age/ early Roman
3198	38	gully	cuts 45; f/by 39			
3198	39	fill	f/of 38; o/l by 34			
3198	40	ditch	cuts 45; f/ by 51, 52, 53, 54			
3199	41	topsoil	o/l 42	flint	1	
3199	42	earlier ploughsoil	o/l by 41; o/l 43			
3199	43	natural	o/l by 42			
3198	44	layer	c/by 35; o/l 45			
3198	45	natural	o/l by 44; c/by 40, 46, 50			
3198	46	gully	f/ by 47; cuts 45			
3198	47	fill	f/of 46; o/l by 34			
3198	48	posthole	cuts 45, f/by 49, 50			
3198	49	fill	f/of 48; o/l by 50			
3198	50	fill	f/of 48; o/l by 34			
3198	51	fill	f/of 40, o/l 52; o/l by 34			
3198	52	fill	f/of 40; o/l 53; o/l by 51			
3198	53	fill	f/of 40; o/l 54; o/l by 52	pot	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman
3198	54	fill	f/of 40, o/l by 53			

## **SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE**

### **7 CONCLUSIONS**

#### **7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits (Fig. 5)**

7.1.1 Late Iron Age/early Roman features were located and excavated in Trenches 3197TT and 3198TT. The features were predominantly ditches and gullies, the majority of which were found in Trench 3197TT.

7.1.2 A total of four pieces of worked flint were recovered from the site. The flint assemblage is too small to reach any firm conclusions about its distribution, although the occurrence of the two Mesolithic flints on the western slopes of Scalpers Hill is worth noting.

#### **7.2 Date and character**

7.2.1 The character of the Mesolithic activity is difficult to assess on the basis of a worked flint blade in Feature 18 in Trench 3207TT and the unstratified core from Trench 3200TT.

7.2.2 The pottery from Ditch 35 in Trench 3198TT dates it to the later Iron Age to early Roman period. This represents the majority of the pottery recovered from the site (93% of all the pottery, by weight).

7.2.3 The small quantity of ceramic material from the features, along with the low level of carbonised remains, indicates that the activity was small and or short-lived or that the area is peripheral to a larger settlement.

#### **7.3 Environmental evidence**

7.3.1 The environmental potential of the site is very limited as carbonised remains were sparse (see Appendix 3).

7.3.2 No animal bones were recovered during the evaluation. The absence of bone may, in part, be due to poor preservation resulting from acid soil conditions.

7.3.3 Terrestrial snails were not present.

## **8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS**

### **8.1 Survival/Condition**

8.1.1 The undulating topography of the site has led to some soil truncation on higher ground in the west ( Trenches 3194TT and 3195TT) and accumulation of soils in lower areas in the east. The late Iron Age/early Roman features in Trenches 3197TT and 3198TT were sealed by an earlier ploughsoil and consequently not truncated by modern ploughing. A similar sequence of ploughsoils was also recorded within Trenches 3196TT, 3199TT, 3200TT and 3207TT.

### **8.2 Period**

8.2.1 The small quantity of worked flint from Trenches 3197TT, 3199TT, 3200TT, and 3207TT provides evidence for a background of Mesolithic and Neolithic or early Bronze Age activity. The previous surface collection survey immediately to the west of the present site, between Henhurst Dale and Henhurst Road, also recorded a background scatter of flint (URL 1995).

8.2.2 The pottery recovered from Trench 3198TT indicates a date in the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

### **8.3 Rarity**

8.3.1 The ditches recorded in Trenches 3197TT and 3198TT probably form part of a late Iron Age/early Roman field system.

8.3.2 The late Iron Age to early Roman period is under-represented in the archaeological record in this area although the Medway valley was extensively settled by farms taking advantage of the undulating ground and light soils which would have been attracted cultivation (Detsicas 1987, 92). The Roman villa at Cobham Park illustrates the presence of Roman farming, but the general pattern of late Iron Age and Roman landuse is not known (URL 1994, 107).

8.3.3 Finds of Iron Age date in the area are mainly limited to occasional findspots and include a worn silver Iron Age coin found at Cobham Park (OAU No. 1572). Other casual finds include coin moulds from Rochester which suggest there was a late Iron Age precursor to Roman Rochester (Detsicas 1987, 3).

8.3.4 Late Iron Age/early Roman rural activity has been located on other evaluations along the CTRL route in Kent, for example Hollingbourne (URL 1996), at Saltwood Tunnel (URL 1997b) and at Sellinge (URL 1998). An early Roman site was also identified near Peene (3km to east of the Saltwood site), which consisted of intercutting ditches and pits mostly dated from the mid 1st to mid 2nd century. Although no structures were located, there was a considerable quantity of pottery recovered (Rady 1990, 38).

8.3.5 No late Iron Age/early Roman features were recorded in the nearby evaluations at West of Church Road, Singlewell to the west (URL 1997) or at the Cobham Golf Course evaluation to the east (1997a ).

#### **8.4 Fragility/vulnerability**

8.4.1 The archaeological features were sealed and protected from modern ploughing by former ploughsoils. Where such ploughsoils are not present, any archaeological deposits would be susceptible to plough damage.

#### **8.5 Diversity**

8.5.1 The background scatter of worked flint demonstrates a low level of activity in the Mesolithic as well as the Neolithic to early Bronze Age period.

8.5.2 The main phase of archaeological features present seems limited to a short lived episode in the late Iron Age/early Roman identified around 3197TT and 3198TT.

#### **8.6 Documentation**

8.6.1 There is no documentation which relates directly to the site. The Surface Collection Survey to the west at Henhurst (URL 1995) provides evidence of a background scatter of worked flint to the west of the site.

#### **8.7 Group value**

8.7.1 The late Iron Age/early Roman features identified in the evaluation are of local interest. Their value is slightly enhanced due to the under-representation of rural sites of this date within the area. Previous evidence has been restricted to isolated findspots and excavations undertaken some time ago e.g. Cobham Villa (OAU No. 1570) excavated in 1959 (Champion and Overly 1989, 33).

#### **8.8 Potential**

8.8.1 The evaluation has identified a low level of late Iron Age/early Roman features, concentrated in Trenches 3197TT and 3198TT. The small quantity of pottery and very small amount of charred material suggest that there was little or no domestic occupation in the immediate area. The density of features in Trench 3198TT may well indicate there is a linear pattern of survival within a broad north-east to south-west hollow which was observed in the present topography of the field.

8.8.2 The small quantity and type of pottery recovered from the evaluation would suggest there is limited potential for the recovery of a closely datable assemblage of pottery.



- 8.8.3 The environmental potential of the site is very low. The sandy acidic soils probably do not favour the preservation of animal bones.

## **8.9 Overall Conclusions**

- 8.9.1 The late Iron Age to early Roman activity is significant considering the under-representation of this period in the local area. The date range for the pottery means the site can only be assigned a broad date range, either side of the Roman conquest. Consequently its significance, location and role in the local economy is difficult to assess, particularly in relation to the development of Roman Watling Street and its influence on local patterns of settlement.

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **LATE IRON AGE TO EARLY ROMAN POTTERY**

*by Paul Booth, Oxford Archaeological Unit*

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Only six sherds (324 g) of pottery of late Iron Age and Roman date were recovered in the evaluation. A single tiny fragment came from context 23 in Trench 3197TT, and the remainder of the material from Trench 3198TT.

#### **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 (Table 1). 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 Fabrics and chronology**

- 3.1 The pottery was mostly in moderately good condition, with a very high average sherd weight if recent fractures are discounted. Three principal fabrics were represented: shell or organic-tempered and sand-tempered fabrics of late Iron Age date and a sand-tempered reduced ware of Roman date, respectively ware groups E10, E30 and R30 in the OAU system. A tiny fragment in a sand and flint-tempered fabric from Trench 3197TT was not closely datable, and may even have been a fragment of fired clay and not pottery. Fabric E10 sherds were irregularly fired and characterised by voids which could have contained either shell or organic inclusions, though the former is thought more likely. These sherds also had quartz sand inclusions. The oxidised E30 sherd was predominantly sand-tempered but also had small voids in the fabric and sparse inclusions of chalk and mica. It was the rim of a narrow-mouthed jar. R30 sherds had medium sand tempering with very occasional flint inclusions.
- 3.2 The E10 and E30 fabrics are consistent with regional traditions in the late Iron Age, and the vessel in E30 is loosely of 'Belgic' type, in a form which continued to be produced after the Roman conquest (cf Monaghan 1987, 78-79 type 3B1.2).

Table 1: Pottery summary by context and period

Trench	Context	Type	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Date
3197	23	Ditch fill	1	1	Unidentifiable
3198	36	Ditch fill	2	228	Late Iron Age
3198	36	Ditch fill	1	75	Early Roman
3198	37	Ditch fill	1	9	Early Roman
3198	53	Ditch fill	1	11	Late Iron Age?
Total			6	324	

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 This material could date to either side of the conquest. The R30 sherds are not closely datable. Both were probably from fairly large, thin-walled jars and a late 1st-2nd century date is most likely but not conclusively demonstrable.
- 4.2 Four of the six sherds came from fills of Ditch 35 in Trench 3198TT. In the primary fill (36) large sherds of E10, E30 and R30 were associated and a smaller sherd of R30 came from the upper fill (37). This might suggest a broad sequence from late Iron Age into late 1st-2nd century, though it is possible that the feature was entirely of post-conquest date. However, it is unlikely that all the components of its lower fill could have been contemporary, and since the E10 and E30 sherds seem too large and fresh to be substantially residual, it may be that the sherd of R30 was intrusive from the upper fill of the feature. A single sherd of fabric E10 came from the fill of Ditch 40 (Fill 53) in Trench 3198TT. Together the material indicates localised activity in the immediate vicinity of Trench 3198TT.

## APPENDIX 2

### WORKED FLINT

by Philippa Bradley, Oxford Archaeological Unit

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Four pieces of worked flint and two pieces of burnt unworked flint (117 g) were recovered from the evaluation (Table 2). The flint was recovered from topsoil, an earlier ploughsoil, and the fill of a feature.

#### 2 Method

- 2.1 The flint was recorded using the OAU standard typological recording system. Raw materials, condition, and some technological attributes such as hammer mode and butt type were noted in order to aid the dating of the material. Burnt unworked flint was counted and weighed.

#### 3 Raw materials and condition

- 3.1 The flint was in good condition with only one piece exhibiting much edge damage. The flint was generally uncorticated except for the core which had light to medium cortication. The raw materials were quite varied: a single piece of Bullhead flint (Shepherd 1972, 114) was used for the knife, a yellow flint was used for the blade, and the remaining pieces were made on grey to brown flint. All of the flint contained many cherty inclusions. The burnt unworked flint has been very heavily burnt and is crazed. It is likely that the raw materials would have been available locally.

#### 4 Dating and discussion

- 4.1 None of the material is particularly diagnostic, however, the blade core has been carefully worked and has had its platform edges abraded between knapping episodes to remove overhangs. It seems to have been fairly heavily rejuvenated with its base being removed. It is possible that it would originally have been an opposed platform core but that the rejuvenation has removed the opposing platform. This type of core is of Mesolithic date. The broken blade from Context 17 is also probably of this date. The backed knife is probably of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date.

Table 2: Flint Assemblage composition

Context	Flake	Blade	Core	Retouched forms	Burnt unworked flint
10	1	-	-	-	-
17	-	1	-	-	1
20	-	-	-	-	1
32	-	-	1 blade core	-	-

- 4.2 The flint would seem to represent two knapping episodes, probable Mesolithic material including the core and the broken blade, and Neolithic or early Bronze Age material, for example the backed knife and probably also the large preparation flake. The burnt unworked flint may belong with either episode.
- 4.3 In the immediate area flint was recovered during a surface collection survey (URL 1995). The area between of Henhurst Dale and Henhurst Road, immediately adjacent to the present site, produced a diffuse scatter of largely Bronze Age material but some soft-hammer struck flakes indicated a possible Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic element. A thin scatter of burnt unworked flint was also recovered at Henhurst. An evaluation of Cobham Park Golf Course (URL 1997a) produced Neolithic/earlier Bronze Age flintwork together with some middle Bronze Age material.

## APPENDIX 3

### ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

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

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Two soil samples were taken during excavation for the retrieval of charred plant remains. Samples were taken from the lower fills of a ditch of probable Roman date. A total volume of 20 litres was processed by bulk water flotation for each sample. Flots were collected onto a 500µm mesh and allowed to air dry slowly before being submitted for evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the quality and quantity of material present, the state of preservation and the potential for further sampling.
- 1.2 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 the clay-rich deposits, 20 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.
- 2.2 Each flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification. The quantity and quality of any charred plant material was noted. Material was provisionally identified and estimates made of the abundance of grain, chaff, weed seeds, charcoal and other charred items. The results are recorded in Table 3.

#### 3 Results

- 3.1 Both samples were very small and dominated by modern roots. A single grain of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) was present in Sample 2 (Ditch fill 37).

#### 4 The Potential for Further Work

- 4.1 The present evidence suggests there is little potential for further sampling, although given that this is based on two samples only some sampling should take place if further suitable features are excavated.
- 4.2 Bone was not recovered from the site.
- 4.3 Snails were not present in the samples.

Table 3: Summary of charred remains

	Trench	3197	3197
	Sample	1	2
	Ditch fill	37	36
	Volume (litres)	20	20
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	Barley grain	-	1