

**CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK
Union Railways (South) Ltd**

Project Area 440

**CTRL PROJECT AREA 440
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEFS
ARC 440 99**

**WATCHING BRIEF
INTERIM REPORT
FINAL**

Contract: S/400/SP/0009/P482-4

**Oxford Archaeology
November 2003**

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INTERIM REPORT
FINAL**

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Contract: S/400/SP/0009/P482-4

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to monitor all earthworking operations within CTRL Project Area 440. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation and monitoring carried out during the construction of the CTRL.
- 1.1.2 Project Area 440 consists of all permanent and temporary land-take associated with construction of the CTRL, from North of Sevington Railhead (UR Grid 83500E / 20460N, NGR TR 0350 4045) to Frogholt (UR Grid 98281E / 17168N, NGR TR 1810 3715). This includes the trace (at grade, within cuttings and on embankments), bridges and associated works (mitigation earthworks, construction sites, transformer stations etc.). Project Area 440 extends for a distance of 15.5km.
- 1.1.3 Areas previously subject to detailed or strip, map and sample excavation were excluded from the works. Areas that are known not to contain significant deposits; for example tunnels, and areas of known large-scale modern disturbance, are also excluded from the Works.

1.2 Topography, Geology and Landuse

- 1.2.1 From the eastern side of Ashford at Sevington, the CTRL runs parallel to the Ashford to Folkestone Railway following the gentle northern slopes of the East Stour River, and crosses the southern edge of the village of Mersham. The landscape is mainly agricultural with small pasture fields. At Harringe Lane the CTRL rejoins the M20 corridor and passes Sellindge, Westenhanger and the registered park at Sandling. At the eastern end of the Project area, the CTRL route skirts Saltwood to the north of Hythe, crossing the M20 at Newington, ending to the south-east of Frogholt where it enters the Eurotunnel Terminal.
- 1.2.2 Project Area 440 falls within the Wealden Greensand and Low Weald landscape zones. The geology includes heavy Gault Clays and Ragstone. These natural deposits were typically found immediately below the ploughsoil but were occasionally overlain by superficial geological deposits of colluvium.
- 1.2.3 The landuse and relief vary although the overall character is one of a patchwork of farmland and woodland linked by hedgerows. Project Area 440 is currently agriculturally productive, being important for mixed, arable farming and market gardening. It is likely that the area has always been attractive for this reason and thus there is a rich archaeological heritage present.

1.3 Background

Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 A desktop assessment has been conducted for the CTRL route, the results of which can be found in *Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report.* (4 volumes. Prepared for URL by OAU, 1994).

Surface Collection Survey

- 1.3.2 Extensive surface collection surveys were carried out along this section of the CTRL route prior to any construction work. The survey results can be found in *Union Railways Limited, Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and*

Cultural Effects. Supplementary Fieldwork Report, Part 2, (Prepared for URL by OAU, 1994).

Geophysical survey

- 1.3.2 Geophysical Surveys using a variety of techniques were carried at a number of sites within Project Area 440. The results can be found in a series of volumes produced for URL by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy and Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in 1995 and 1996.

Evaluations

- 1.3.3 A large number of evaluations have been carried out along the CTRL route within Project Area 440. The trenches were located either to evaluate areas of archaeological potential suggested by the desk-top assessment and surface collection survey, or to provide coverage of otherwise unknown stretches of the route. A list of evaluations carried out in Project Area 440, with a brief summary of results, year of fieldwork report and the archaeological contractor responsible, is provided below. Individual site reports are available for all evaluations listed:

Site	Site code	Chainage	Comments
North of Sevington Railhead	ARCSRH97	93+250-93+430	Medieval structures (MoLAS, 1998).
West of Blind Lane	ARCBLN97	93+600-93+950	Mesolithic to Early Neolithic worked flints. Middle and Late Bronze Age activity (MoLAS, 1997).
West of Mersham	ARCMSW97	94+500-94+650	Late Iron Age ditch. Possible post-medieval ditches (MoLAS, 1997).
Mersham	ARCMSH97	95+100-95+310	2 possible boundary ditches. Possible medieval iron smelting site (MoLAS, 1997).
Little Stock Farm	ARCLSF98	96+400-97+050	Late Bronze Age to late Iron Age activity. Some medieval features (WA, 1999)
Park Wood Cottage	ARCPWC99	97+050-97+200	Late Iron Age/early Romano-British and medieval features. Some modern remains (WA, 1999)
Harringe Lane	ARCHNG97	99+350-99+750	Possible Late Bronze Age activity. Late Iron Age/ early Romano-British activity. One post-medieval ditch (WA, 1997).
Talbot House	ARCTBH99	101+100	Post medieval features; 15th century timber-framed Wealden Hall (OAU, 1999)
North of Westenhanger Castle	ARCWGC97	102+350-102+600	Probable 11th-12th century corn-drying oven and ditch. 12th-13th century field ditches (MoLAS 1997).
Sandling construction Site	ARCSCS98	104+250-104+750	No archaeological remains (MoLAS 1998)

Detailed Archaeological Works

- 1.3.4 Following the results from the evaluations detailed archaeological work was carried out at the locations listed below in chainage order from west to east. It has been decided to exclude Saltwood Tunnel SDS (originally included in Project Area 440) from this report. An individual post-excavation assessment is available for the site of Saltwood Tunnel. Assessment reports are available for the sites listed :

Site	Site code	Chainage	Results
West of Blind Lane	ARCBLN98	93+600-93+950	Neolithic-early Bronze Age flint scatter. 2 middle-late Bronze Age ditches. Late Iron Age/early Roman activity (OAU, 2001)
Mersham	ARCM98	95+200-95+300	Early medieval metalworking site dated to the period AD 1050-1200 (CAT, 2001)
Little Stock Farm	ARCLSF99	96+800-97+050	Neolithic activity. Late Bronze Age-Iron age settlement, possible evidence of ritual practises. Some medieval activity (WA, 2001)
East of Station Road	ARCSTR99	97+800-98+250	Mesolithic to early Bronze Age flint scatters, not <i>in situ</i> . Late Iron Age-early Roman activity (OAU, 2000)
Church Lane	ARCCHL98	98+150-98+400	Mesolithic to early Bronze Age flint scatters, not <i>in situ</i> . Middle Bronze Age ditches (OAU, 2000)
North of Westenhanger Castle	ARCWGC98	102+400-102+800	Possible Middle Bronze Age structure. Fairly extensive Iron Age occupation. Late 11th to 13th century farmstead (CAT, 2001)

1.4 Methods of archaeological monitoring and recording:

Monitoring

- 1.4.1 All groundworks in areas with potential to contain archaeological remains were monitored by an archaeologist, in accordance with the WSI. Works included the removal of topsoil, subsoil, made ground and superficial geological deposits such as alluvium and colluvium. When appropriate, a watching brief was maintained on demolition and site clearance works.
- 1.4.2 Designated areas of comparatively high potential and peripheral areas of detailed mitigation works were subject to **Targeted Watching Brief**. Stripping in these areas was carried out by the Main Contractor using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under the direct control of an archaeologist.
- 1.4.3 In the event of the discovery of significant archaeological remains, the notification procedure was implemented, as defined in the WSI. Following discussions between the Project Manager, Main Contractor, Archaeological Contractor and Statutory Consultees, exposed archaeological features and deposits were subject to an appropriate level of archaeological excavation and recording. In some cases, areas were designated for preservation *in situ*, following necessary changes to the construction specification where possible within the construction arrangements.

1.4.4 Project Area 440 originally contained two areas of Targeted Watching Brief, as specified in the WSI:

- North of Sevington Railhead (93+200-93+440)
- North of Westenhanger Castle (102+400-102+800)

Recording

1.4.5 On a daily basis the watching brief record consisted of, as a minimum:

- Site code (including chainage) of areas observed
- Date
- Personnel present
- A description of works observed
- Type and extent of any activity including:
 - Depths
 - Measure of confidence that any archaeological remains would be observed and reasons.
 - All areas and horizons unaffected by construction activity
 - The specific site code of any archaeological or Quaternary remains (including the chainage reference)
 - Reasons why any particular area of the works was not observed
 - Summary location and description of any modern features

Unexpected Significant Discoveries

1.4.6 Unexpected archaeological and Quaternary remains were recorded to the standards specified by the Archaeological Watching Brief WSI Appendix B1 (3.3.6.8). All recording was conducted in accordance with the WSI and the *OAU Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson 1992), except where superseded by the specific requirements of the WSI.

1.4.7 The general site code applied to Project Area 440 was ARC 440/99. Where investigation of features was undertaken a specific site code was used, derived from the project chainage to within 100m. For example ARC 440/99 93+500. Where sites extend over more than 100m of the route the site code consists of a chainage range. Chainage distances are measured from west to east in metres, starting at London St Pancras.

1.4.8 Feature intersections were excavated to establish relative chronologies and a sample of significant features was excavated to recover artefacts and environmental evidence. The excavation strategy in each case was determined following on-site discussions between representatives of the Project Manager (RLE), the Archaeological Contractor (OAU) and the Statutory Consultees (English Heritage, Kent County Council).

1.4.9 Temporary site grids were employed to record feature complexes or find scatters. A total station theodolite (TST) or GPS was used to record the location of the grid points in relation to the CTRL project grid. The majority of individual finds and isolated features were related to the CTRL project grid by offsetting from chainage markers, which were set out by the construction team at 20 m intervals using a TST or GPS. General observations were recorded directly onto 1:1250 scale route plans. All heights were recorded from UR permanent ground markers related to Ordnance Datum Newlyn.

Human Remains

- 1.4.10 All human remains were recorded in accordance with the CTRL Act 1996, project procedure for reporting the discovery of human remains and the *OAU Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson 1992). When necessary the advice of an osteoarchaeologist was obtained.

Metal Detecting

- 1.4.11 When an area of archaeological remains was considered likely to contain significant metal artefacts, a metal detector was used and the location of all finds was recorded in plan.

Environmental sampling

- 1.4.12 The environmental sampling strategy was undertaken in accordance with the WSI, Appendix B1 (3.3.6.15).
- 1.4.13 Site specific environmental sampling strategies were formulated for Significant Discoveries Individual (SDI - see 2.1.1 below).

2. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

2.1 Presentation of results

2.1.1 All sections of the route have been divided into three categories, defined as follows:

- **Watching Brief General (WBG)** - Areas containing finds and features of relatively low significance with no clear relationship to previously discovered sites.
- **Significant Discoveries Individual (SDI)** - Unexpected discoveries that may be recommended for individual assessment, due to their relative importance as individual sites.
- **Significant Discoveries Supplementary (SDS)** - Data that adds significantly to known sites defined through previous archaeological mitigation works.

2.1.2 Sections of the route in Project Area 440 have been categorised as follows:

Site	Start chainage	End chainage	Category
Sevington	93+250	94+500	WBG
Mersham	94+500	95+900	SDS
Bower Road	95+900	97+100	SDI
East of Station Road to Church Lane	97+100	98+600	SDS
Sellindge and Barrowhill	98+600	102+400	WBG
Westenhanger	102+400	102+800	SDS
Stanford and Sandling	102+800	105+500	WBG

2.1.3 Figures 2 to 12 contain summary information only, detailing archaeological features and deposits but omitting information on conditions of monitoring. This data has been incorporated into RLE's CAD system and will be up-dated as the earthworks proceed. This data has been incorporated into RLE's CAD system and will be updated as the earthworks proceed. Isolated features and deposits are labelled individually with chainage reference and context number. SDS and SDI discoveries are illustrated with a full site plan. Sections of the route with no recorded archaeological deposits are omitted.

2.1.4 The summary results are described in chainage order from west to east (Section 2.2). Each entry includes the fieldwork event code, fieldwork event name, category (WBG, SDS, SDI) and figure reference, and includes a summary of the archaeological discoveries.

2.1.5 The summaries that follow briefly describe feature type, period and the artefactual and palaeo-environmental data recovered.

2.1.6 Artefactual data have been compiled with the collaboration of Edward Biddulph and Jane Timby for pottery spot dating and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark for worked flints.

2.1.7 Environmental data have been compiled with the collaboration of Dana Challinor (Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal).

2.2 Summary of results

- 2.2.1 **Event Code:** ARC 440/ 93+250 to 94+500
Event name: Sevington
Category: WBG
Figure: 2, 9
Summary:

Drawing ref.	Description
Sevington WBG	<p>A probable boundary ditch (group 623) was aligned east-west with a rounded terminal at its eastern end and running into contemporary north-south aligned ditch at its western end. The upper fill of ditch 623 was cut by a parallel sided feature consisting of abraded stones compacted in a clay matrix, a possible pathway (group 626). These three features contained pottery ranging from the late 12th century to the 14th century.</p> <p>On the south and east of the above, a few ditches and undetermined features were observed. They were heavily disturbed by various service trenches and mostly seen in section. The pottery recovered from their fills indicate a similar date range of late 12th to 13th century (93+300).</p> <p>Just on the edge of the road, a post-medieval ditch was identified. It may represent a field boundary or an earlier road drainage ditch (93+300).</p>
200, 202, 206	<p>One linear feature, possibly a shallow ditch (206), contained some pottery of probable late Roman date. One small pit (202) was found next to it. It contained dating evidence of the late 12 to 13th century. A pottery spread (200) of the same date range was recovered 5m south-west of this one. A number of worked flints were also recovered from 200 and around. The flintwork dates from the Mesolithic and could represent the site of a camp, now dispersed by the plough (94+100).</p>
647, 640, 655	<p>One ditch (647) with re-cut, possibly dated 11 to 12th century and two other undated inter-cutting feature (94+150).</p>

- 2.2.2 **Event Code:** ARC 440 / 94+500 to 95+900
Event name: Mersham
Category: SDS
Figure: 3
Summary:

Drawing ref.	Description
Mersham SDS	<p>The principal discovery made during the excavation was an early medieval metalworking site. Pits backfilled with iron slag, ditches cut to bring water to the site and a southern boundary ditch, all dating to the period AD 1050-1200 (most probably AD 1050-1125), were excavated. The western boundary ditch probably also dates to this time.</p> <p>A significant proportion of the early medieval features contained late Anglo-Saxon artefacts. This suggests that the origin of the industry may have lain in the period AD 850-1050. Small quantities of mid Anglo-Saxon and earlier material were also found, but these are thought to be entirely residual.</p> <p>Following the abandonment of the site the southern boundary ditch was retained, while a smaller, parallel, ditch was added in the north. A low-level renewal of activity appears to have taken place during the period</p>

Drawing ref.	Description
	1475-1500, but this ended by AD 1775. Horticultural features excavated at the eastern end of the site are probably contemporary with this later activity.
764	Following the completion of the excavation further evaluation work was undertaken in the field immediately to the east. A continuation of a ditch found running along the southern side of the site was identified, but no further evidence of metalworking was found (95+360).
873, 882, 884, 877	Three ditches of late medieval date. One ragstone trackway (877), containing late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, might have connected Bridge House and Little Hook Farm (95+100).
778, 786, 788	Two truncated pits and a tree-throw, containing a few sherds of late Iron Age- early Roman pottery (94+910).
849,851, 856	Three parallel segments of ditches, possibly dating from the late Iron Age-early Roman period (94+600, 58)
795, 799, 803, 806, 821, 823, 828, 833, 835, 844, 846, 858, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870	Further north, just on the edge of the evaluation realised at West of Mersham (ARCMSW97) and during the excavation of a new drainage ditch for the road, several features were observed mostly in section. They appear to be mainly ditches. The few pottery fragments recovered in two ditch sections were dated 12-13th century (94+600, sections 153, 156).

2.2.3 **Event Code:** ARC 440 / 95+900 to 97+100
Event name: Bower Road
Category: SDI
Figures: 4, 10, 11
Summary:

Bower Road	<p>Evidence of limited activity during the late Iron Age represented by a large pond fed by 2 drainage ditches. The immediate post-conquest period is represented by only 2 ditches.</p> <p>Replacement by a second field system of boundary ditches which probably fell into disuse at the end of the 2nd century. Construction of a substantial posthole building probably linked to farming activity, with an associated enclosure ditch; this is probably datable to the late 2nd century or slightly earlier. A second, heavily truncated posthole building towards the north-west of the site may be associated with the same phase of activity.</p> <p>Modification of the main posthole building, probably in the 3rd century. It may have remained in use until the late Roman period. A further two features, a waterhole and a cremation, have been dated to the period AD 180-270. Evidence of continuing occupation in the 4th century was concentrated in the northern part of the site and comprised 4 pits and a wall.</p> <p>Two ditches running across the site are stratigraphically later than all other features but did not produce satisfactory dating evidence; they are probably late Roman or post-Roman.</p> <p>Some evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity was identified following stripping south-east of the main area (96+300-96+350), in the direction of Little Stock Farm. Three walls constituting possible sheep pens were found, and may have formed part of a farm complex; a fourth wall may have been a field boundary.</p>
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- 2.2.4 **Event Code:** ARC 440 / 97+100 to 98+600
Event name: East of Station Road to Church Lane
Category: SDS
Figure: 5
Summary:

Drawing ref.	Description
	Extensive flint scatters, not <i>in situ</i> , were found on both sites, including material dating from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age.
Church Lane	Four parallel ditches probably dating from the middle Bronze Age and probably forming a small part of a field system were found on the Church Lane site.
East of Station Road	More extensive traces of a late Iron Age-early roman field system were found on the East of Station Road site. This field system consisted of roughly rectilinear fields running down to the stream. Ceramic evidence suggest that this system was first set out in the late Iron Age and fell into disuse early in the 2nd century AD. The artefacts and other features such as pits, postholes and gullies are concentrated in the corner of the fields suggesting that limited activity was taking place at the edges of the fields.
2, 12, 15, 17, 21, 24, 27, 30	<p>One ditch (15) and a possible associated posthole (12) were found during stripping under archaeological supervision, on the east just outside the Church Lane site (98+500). They did not produce any dating evidence. Another pit (2) was found at the edge of the site, containing some pottery from mid 1st to early 2nd century AD (98+400, 1).</p> <p>A ditch (27) and 3 pits (17, 24, 30) were also found in a 300m radius west of the East of Station Road site. None of them could be dated. Three flints, comprising a blade core and two blades, were recovered from pit 24; all three pieces exhibit a deep reddish brown iron staining and can be dated from the later Mesolithic or early Neolithic. A small scatter (21) of 8 Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flints was recovered in the same area (97+500-98+500).</p>

- 2.2.5 **Event Code:** ARC 440 / 98+600 to 102+400
Event name: Sellindge and Barrowhill
Category: WBG
Figure: 6
Summary:

Drawing ref.	Description
38, 39	Two concentrations of worked flint were recovered during stripping (at 99+300 and 99+500), including respectively 40 and 33 pieces. The condition of the flint is variable, although the majority of flints exhibit some post depositional damage. Various tools are present including several scrappers. The majority of the flint is Neolithic, but occasional Mesolithic blade was also noted.
Group 50	A short segment of ditch was investigated, which contained medieval pottery. It was aligned NE-SW and consisted of a probable terminus at one extremity (99+780).
36	A shallow pit, of possible medieval date, was discovered, containing a charcoal and fired clay rich fill (99+290).

- 2.2.6 **Event Code:** ARC 440 / 102+400 to 102+800
Event name: Westenhanger
Category: SDS
Figure: 7, 12
Summary:

Drawing ref.	Description
North of Westenhanger Castle	<p>One circular structure may be of a Middle Bronze Age date.</p> <p>Iron Age occupation, uncovered mainly in the watching brief area, was fairly extensive, including a rectilinear enclosure, a drove-way and a second circular structure.</p> <p>A farmstead was established in the late eleventh century. Partial plans can be established for three structures, which are separated by enclosure ditches, with rubbish pits nearby. It was succeeded in the later 12th or early 13th century by a ditch and enclosure system. A series of ditches, pits and possible animal pens can also be assigned to this phase.</p> <p>Later medieval occupation is limited to a ditch and a small number of related features located a further 100m away to the east.</p>

- 2.2.7 **Event Code:** ARC 440 / 102+800 to 105+500
Event name: Stanford and Sandling
Category: WBG
Figure: 8, 13
Summary:

Drawing ref.	Description
501	A robbed and backfilled stone well was discovered. It did not produce any dating evidence (104+400).
506, 511	A further 100m to the East, a quarry cut of uncertain date, mainly filled with stone debris, was found. A pit (511) of possible Roman date was found in close proximity (104+500).
Stanford and Sandling WBG	An area 38x13.5m was stripped under archaeological control to reveal 4 pits and several ditches. On the west, a group of at least 5 inter-cutting ditches was investigated. Most of them produced Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery. One ditch (575) truncating all the others contained medieval pottery. About 5 m to the east a further 3 parallel ditches, running NE-SW produced Roman pottery. The further one to the east presented 3 phases of recut and strong dating evidence of the mid 2nd to early 3rd century AD. Considering the other ditches and the 4 pits were all located to the west of this one, it could represent a boundary ditch (103+500).

2.3 Periods represented

Hunter-foragers into early agriculturalists (400,000 - 4500 BC, and 4500 - 2000 BC)

- 2.3.1 Extensive flint scatters, not *in situ*, were found on both sites of Church Lane and East of Station Road (97+100-98+600), including material dating from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age.

2.3.2 Two discrete flint scatters were also identified during the watching brief at 99+300 and 99+500. They are not *in situ* and can be dated from the Neolithic with occasional Mesolithic blade.

2.3.3 Other Mesolithic to Neolithic flintwork was recovered during the watching brief around Sevington (93+300-94+300). Most of this material came from topsoil stripping but may indicate the presence of a Mesolithic camp dispersed by ploughing.

Farming communities (c.2000 BC - 100 BC)

2.3.4 Four ditches found at the Church Lane SDS (98+150-98+400) are probably a small part of a middle Bronze Age field system.

2.3.5 The North of Westenhanger Castle SDS (102+400-102+800) produced some evidence of Middle Bronze Age activity. This site also produced Iron Age occupation, including 2 circular structures and several other features.

Towns and their rural landscapes: Sub-period i (c.100 BC - 410 AD)

2.3.6 Extensive traces of a late Iron Age-early Roman field system were found on the East of Station Road SDS (97+800-98+250).

2.3.7 The Bower Road SDI (95+900-97+100) recorded a sequence of late Iron Age and Roman activity dating from the late Iron Age to the 4th century AD.

2.3.8 The watching brief east of Westenhanger (103+500) revealed 4 pits and a few ditches of late Iron Age to Roman date.

Towns and their rural landscapes: Sub-period ii (c. 410 AD - 1100D)

2.3.9 The Mersham SDS (94+500-95+900) has provided evidence for late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval ironworking probably up to 1125 AD.

Towns and their rural landscapes: Sub-period iii (c.1100 AD - 1700 AD)

2.3.10 The North of Westenhanger SDS revealed a medieval farmstead established in the late 11th century and replaced in the later 12th or early 13th century by a ditch and enclosure system.

2.3.11 A few ditches and associated features, dated from the end of the 12th century to the 14th century were identified during a watching brief near Sevington (93+300).

2.3.12 Some evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity, possibly sheep pens, was identified following stripping south-east of the main area (96+300-96+350), within the Bower Road SDI.

2.3.13 A low level of activity, including horticultural features, appears to have begun around 1475-1500 on the Mersham SDS, but had ended by about 1775.

The recent landscape (c. 1700 AD - 1945 AD)

2.3.14 Post-medieval features included ditches and pits within the North of Westenhanger Castle SDS (102+400-102+800), one ragstone trackway (95+100) and a possible road drainage ditch (93+300).

2.4 Artefactual remains

2.4.1 The following total artefact quantities were recovered from Project Area 440 (see individual archive indices for figures divided by Fieldwork Event):

Find type	Box count	Fragment count
Flint	13	1413
Pottery	13	7322
Metalwork	7	310
Glass	1	18
CBM	3	165
Fired clay	2	620
Stone	2	104
Slag	21	3253
Misc	4	
Animal bone	5	4688
Human bone	1	6

2.5 Palaeo-environmental and economic evidence

- 2.5.1 Samples recovered during excavations at Mersham, Bower Road, East of Station Road, Church Lane and North of Westenhanger Castle followed the sampling strategy prepared for those sites. They were recorded under the relevant site specific code and included in the post-excavation assessment reports written for each of these sites.
- 2.5.2 Fifteen samples were recovered during the general watching briefs. They were all processed. Four samples (ARC440 93+250-94+500, Sevington; ARC440 102+800-105+500, Stanford & Sandling) were submitted for assessment of their charred plant macrofossil remains and charcoal. The samples from Sevington were from a ditch dated to AD 13th-14th centuries and the two samples from Stanford and Sandling were from Roman features; a mid 2nd to early 3rd century ditch and a ?Late 4th century pit.

Quantification and provenance

- 2.5.3 All four flots contained modern roots as well as identifiable charred remains (Table 1). The preservation of cereal grain in the Roman flots was generally poor, but *Triticum spelta/dicocum* (spelt/emmer wheat) was provisionally identified. Chaff was also abundant in the Roman samples (mostly *T. spelta/dicocum* glume bases) and a range of weed seeds were recognised, including *Rumex* (docks), *Galium* and legumes. Occasional fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell were present in both flots. The Medieval flots from Sevington were composed mainly of cereal grain, mostly free-threshing *Triticum* sp. (wheat) with occasional *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Occasional *Pisum/Vicia* (pea/bean) type legumes and rare weed seeds were noted. All four flots were generally rich in wood charcoal, with a range of taxa identified - *Quercus* sp. (oak), *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash), *Alnus/Corylus* (alder/hazel), *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn, cherry) and Maloideae (hawthorn, apple, pear etc). Some potential fragments of *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut) were noted in one of the medieval samples (60, context 604) but this identification is tentative, given its anatomical similarities to *Quercus*. Both the Roman and Medieval flots contained fragments of unidentified diffuse porous species, indicating that there were a wider range of taxa in the deposit than has been identified in this assessment.
- 2.5.4 The preservation of charred material was variable and generally better in the medieval flots. The Roman flots had greater quantities of chaff and weed seeds, suggesting that these deposits represent the remains of crop processing debris. Whereas the medieval flots are more likely to represent the burnt remains of stored or cooked food products as they produced few weeds and no chaff.

- 2.5.5 The wood charcoal is likely to represent the dumped remains of fuel, either from fires associated with crop processing or domestic fires. The range of taxa present suggests that there was little deliberate selection of firewood, which was probably collected on an *ad hoc* basis according to availability, although the possibility that the assemblages represents multiple dumping events cannot be ruled out.

Comparative Material

- 2.5.6 The cereal taxa identified are appropriate for the Romano-British and Medieval periods. Hulled wheats were commonly used throughout southern Britain in the Roman period and have been recorded from other contemporary sites within the CTRL project (e.g. Thurnham Villa, Hockers Lane and East of Station Road). The preference for hulled wheat was later replaced by free-threshing wheat which is common in medieval deposits (Greig 1991). One of the research aims is to establish the relative importance of *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer) as a crop, compared to *T. spelta* (spelt), in the region during the Roman-British period. While the Stanford and Sandling samples offer only limited evidence for agricultural activities, the results are of interest in the context of a Kent landscape study.
- 2.5.7 The results of the charcoal assessment are in keeping with those from other CTRL sites of similar periods (e.g. Waterloo Connection). This is the only site with potential identification of *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut), and although this species is regarded as a Roman introduction (Rackham 1997, 54-56), there are very few archaeological records of its presence.

Conservation and potential for further work

- 2.5.8 The flots are in a stable condition and can be archived for long term storage.
- 2.5.9 The charred plant remains from the Project Area 440 are of limited interest on their own as the assemblages are neither particularly rich nor unusual. However, the information from these samples may add to the regional study of agricultural activities in the area, in association with the other CTRL projects. The Roman samples are of some interest, particularly if the late 4th century date of sample 15 is confirmed, as there is little late Roman activity on the CTRL projects. It is also of interest to confirm the presence of *Castanea sativa* (sweet chestnut) in the 13th century sample, given the rarity of archaeological examples. It is recommended that the assessment results of the medieval samples are also included in the final publication and that analysis is merited on the Roman samples, if the dating is confirmed.

References

Greig, J. 1991. The British Isles, in W. van Zeist, K. Wasylkova and K-E. Behre (eds) *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*, 299-334, Rotterdam

Rackham, O, 1997. *The History of the Countryside*, London, Phoenix

Table 1: Samples with charred plant remains and charcoal

Sample details						Flot details						Notes
Sample	Context	Fill of	Feature	Period	Sample size (l)	Flot size (ml)	Charcoal	Charcoal id	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds	
14	519	520	Ditch	Mid 2nd-Early 3rd	35	110	++++	<i>Quercus</i> Maloideae <i>Prunus</i>	++	++	++	<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> grain, glumes <i>Rumex</i> , legumes
15	534	536	Pit	?Late 4th	38	100	+++	<i>Quercus</i> <i>Prunus</i>	++	++	+	<i>T.sp/dic</i> grains, glumes Hazelnut shell <i>Galium</i>
59	605	606	Ditch	C13-14th	34	80	++++	<i>Quercus</i> Maloideae <i>Prunus</i>	+++	-	+	Free-threshing wheat, <i>Hordeum</i>
60	604	606	Ditch	C13-14th	40	100	++++	<i>Quercus</i> <i>Fraxinus</i> <i>?Castanea</i>	+++	-	+	Free-threshing wheat

+ = 1-10; ++ = 11-50; +++ = 51-100; ++++ = 101-1000; 1000+ = >1000

3. FIELDWORK EVENT AIMS

3.1.1 The general fieldwork aims were:

- to record any significant archaeological structures, features or deposits (including retrieval of environmental and economic indicators preserved therein) and retrieve isolated artefacts disturbed during construction, within the framework of the CTRL Research Strategy, with particular reference to the Landscape Zone Priorities, as stated in the watching brief WSI.
- to record the extent and nature of construction where these may affect archaeological and Quaternary remains.
- to record any significant Quaternary deposit (including retrieval of environmental indicators preserved therein) and retrieve samples from deposits disturbed during construction, within the framework of the CTRL Research Strategy.

3.1.2 The above aims were carried out within the limitations of the watching brief conditions. Where possible the fieldwork was orientated towards addressing the aims of CTRL Research Strategy, as detailed in the WSI.

4. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Watching Brief General

General

- 4.1.1 The sections of the route classified as WBG included scattered individual features, the majority of which are of post-medieval or modern date and are consistent with a normal level of agricultural activity. It is recommended that no further work be carried out on these deposits. Possible exceptions are discussed in more detail below.

Sevington: prehistoric occupation? (93+300-94+300)

- 4.1.2 A total of 99 flints were recovered from the watching brief, this material can be broadly divided into two categories; the flintwork recovered from 93/300 to 94/60 and the flint recovered from chainages 94/100 to 94/300. The flintwork recovered from chainages 93/300 to 94/60 comprises 32 heavily damaged flakes, flake cores and the occasional scraper; these probably date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age. The material recovered from chainages 94/100 to 94/300 was in slightly better condition, although is still probably residual. The raw material included a large number of pieces of bullhead bed flint. The assemblage, totalling 67 flints, includes a large proportion of fine blades. Retouched pieces include a backed blade and a backed bladelet, a piercer, scrapers and miscellaneous edge retouch. A distal microburin was also found. This flintwork dates from the Mesolithic, although it is unclear if an earlier or late Mesolithic date is most appropriate, several of the blades are relatively broad perhaps suggesting an earlier Mesolithic date. It is clear from the number of flints recovered that there was a significant Mesolithic presence on site, possibly representing the site of a camp, now dispersed by the plough. This assemblage will be analysed as part of the Section 1 Post-excavation programme and integrated within the Scheme-wide Flint Report.

Sevington: medieval occupation (93+300)

- 4.1.3 In 1997, an evaluation North of Sevington Railhead revealed several slots and postholes, probably part of timber buildings dated from the late 12th to 13th century. The area was subsequently designated as a Targeted Watching Brief. During stripping under archaeological supervision, a series of medieval ditches were found within the same chainage as the evaluation, and dated from the same period of occupation. They do not appear to present any potential for further work as the amount of finds is fairly limited and most of these features were heavily truncated; they are unlikely to bring any further information on the activity undertaken in the medieval settlement. However they do need to be taken into consideration in the interpretation of the Wealden Greensand landscape zone in the 'Towns and their rural landscapes' period (c. 1100 AD - 1700 AD) of the CTRL Research Strategy.

Stanford and Sandling: late Iron Age-Early Roman ditches and 4 pits (103+500)

- 4.1.4 A small group of ditches and pits, located 700m to the east of the North of Westenhanger Castle site, produced late Iron Age/Roman dating evidence. Given the lack of associated archaeology in the vicinity, the function of the features remains unclear, although they are presumably part of a field system, possibly defining its eastern edge. The small size of the pottery assemblage and the lack of other finds reduce the possibility of establishing the date or function of the features. Their potential to address the research aims of the project is therefore limited. However, the watching brief adds evidence for the distribution of late Iron Age-

early Roman activity in the area and is therefore of relevance to the interpretation of the Wealden Greensand landscape zones in the period “Towns and their rural landscape (100 BC - AD 410)” of the CTRL Research Strategy. The Iron Age/Romano-British transitional period is part of the CTRL Landscape Zone Priorities for project Area 440. The presence of a Iron Age settlement at North of Westenhanger Castle showing no evidence of activity beyond the late Iron Age and the evidence of late Iron Age/Roman activity a few hundred metres to the east could indicate changes or movement of population at the period of the Roman conquest.

4.2 Significant Discoveries Individual

Bower Road (ARC 440 99/95+900-97+100)

- 4.2.1 The chronology of Bower Road makes the site of particular significance, since there is generally little evidence for settlements and rural landscapes of the later Roman period in the area. The site can therefore make a valuable contribution to the CTRL research strategy by providing data for a period which is otherwise under represented.
- 4.2.2 The site is of particular relevance to the interpretation of the Wealden Greensand landscape zones in the period ‘Towns and their rural landscapes’ (100 BC - 1700 AD), sub-period i (100 BC - 410 AD).
- 4.2.3 The stratigraphic evidence, finds and environmental data have considerable potential for further analysis of the organisation and function of settlement. The watching brief has also recovered evidence which will be of direct relevance to CTRL research priorities to ceremonial and ritual use of the landscape and Roman burial. At an inter-site level, Bower Road has considerable group value for studying change in the landscape and in the organisation of settlement in the immediate area, notably to understand the effect of the development of the nearby Roman ‘small town’ at Westhawk Farm.

4.3 Significant Discoveries Supplementary

- 4.3.1 The finds and records from the following areas are recommended to be analysed alongside those of the relevant detailed mitigation works. The research aims will be as stated in the relevant WSIs and Post Excavation assessment reports.

Mersham (ARC 440 99/94+500-95+900)

- 4.3.2 The site’s principal interest lies in the evidence it has provided for late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval ironworking. Therefore, the material relating to this date range is considered worthy of further examination; studies of the relevant stratigraphic evidence, ferrous residues, iron objects, Anglo-Saxon and early medieval ceramics, implements used in textile manufacture, animal bone, charred plant remains, marine mollusca and documentary records should be undertaken as, in combination, they have the potential to advance our understanding of both the site and the surrounding landscape.

East of Station Road to Church Lane (ARC 440 99/97+100-98+600)

- 4.3.3 The Church Lane site has the potential to make a small contribution to a wider examination of the distribution and layout of middle Bronze Age field system.
- 4.3.4 The main potential lies in the late Iron Age-Early Roman field system and associated low level economic activity discovered on the site at East of Station Road. This site, in combination with other CTRL sites, has some potential to inform us about the wider distribution of activities away from settlements, with

implications for broader understanding of Iron Age and Roman settlements patterns in the Wealden Greensand landscape zone.

Westenhanger (ARC 440 99/102+400-102+800)

- 4.3.5 The Iron Age and early medieval landscapes are of considerable significance by virtue of their size and completeness, both providing coherent images of rural agricultural practises. Both settlement should be considered in comparison with other recent investigations along the CTRL route.

4.4 Negative evidence

- 4.4.1 The very intensive nature of the watching brief, in which almost every machine working on deposits with archaeological potential was monitored by an archaeologist, means that an unusual level of confidence can be placed on the negative evidence.

- 4.4.2 However, a number of factors must be considered when interpreting the watching brief data:

- Sites of some periods and types are more visible than others under watching brief conditions, particular those that are artefact rich.
- In some areas colluvial or alluvial sub-soils have been left undisturbed during construction works. Unrecorded archaeological deposits could potentially be preserved beneath such deposits. In other areas topsoil stripping was not carried out to a sufficient depth to expose archaeological features.
- The confidence of the watching brief supervisor that any archaeology was present varied greatly according to:
 - The working methods and type of earthmoving machinery. This may lead to a bias between the project areas, since the principal plant contractors in each area favour different working methods and equipment. As a general rule, subject to variability in ground conditions, visibility was at its best when stripped with excavators using a toothless ditching bucket and worst when stripping with a toothed bucket or using bulldozers. The initial stripping of haul roads was generally carried out using a toothless bucket with no dumptrucks in use, resulting in very good visibility. These strips often provided the earliest indication of the presence of significant archaeology.
 - Weather. Wet or very dry weather both impede visibility.
 - Ground conditions. The character of the soils is a particularly important factor, with very good visibility on the chalk and poor visibility on the Wealden Greensand, for example. Visibility was generally poor during the translocation of woodland soils.

- 4.4.3 The watching brief records include detailed information on these factors and an estimate of the supervisors confidence in the results. Assessment of this information has the potential to address methodological issues which may lead to improvements in the targeting and recording of archaeological watching briefs

APPENDIX 1 - ARCHIVE INDICES

(One per fieldwork event, except WGB areas, which are summarised on a single sheet)

ARCHIVE INDEX:**ARC 440 94+500-95+900 SDS Mersham**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS OR BOXES OR OTHER	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS / LITRES	CONDITION: W = washed; UW= unwashed; M = marked; UM = unmarked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised; I = indexed
Contexts records	108		I
A1 plans	11		D
A1 sections	12		I
Flint (boxes)	see Misc. 1	3	W, UM
Pottery (boxes)	1 size 2	332	W, M
CBM (boxes)	see Misc. 1	14	W, M
Clay pipes	see Misc. 1	3	W, M
Stone (boxes)	see Misc. 1	1	UW, UM
Metalwork (boxes)	1 size 4	2	P
Slag (boxes)	see Misc. 1	1	P
Animal bone (boxes)	see Misc. 1	11	W, UM
Misc.	1 size 3		
Soil Samples	8		P

Key to box sizes

Size 1 = Bulk box	391mm x 238mm x 210mm	0.020 m ³
Size 2 = Half box	391mm x 238mm x 100mm	0.009 m ³
Size 3 = Quarter box	386mm x 108 mm x 100mm	0.004 m ³
Size 4 = Eighth box	213 mm x 102 mm x 80 mm	0.002 m ³

ARCHIVE INDEX:**ARC 440 94+900-97+100 SDI Bower Road**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS OR BOXES OR OTHER	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS / LITRES	CONDITION: W = washed; UW= unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised; I = indexed
Contexts records	683		I
A1 plans	21		D
A4 plans	14		D
A4 sections	133		D
Small finds	134		P
Films (monochrome)			I
Films (Colour)			I
Flint (boxes)	1 size 3	133	W,M
Pottery (boxes)	4 size 1 1 size 2	4577	W,M
Fired clay (boxes)	1 size 3	272	W,M
CBM (boxes)	2 size 2	89	W,M
Stone (boxes)	1 size 4	81	W,M
Metalwork (boxes)	1 size 4 3 size 8	211	P
Glass (boxes)	1 size 4	11	W,M
Slag (boxes)	1 size 4	15	P
Human Bone (boxes)	1 size 4	6	W,M
Animal Bone (boxes)	3 size 1	2587	W,M
Cremations (boxes)	1 size 4		P
Shell	1 size 3	142	P
Soil Samples (No.)	55		P
Soil Samples (Number of contexts)	30		P

Key to box sizes

Size 1 = Bulk box	391mm x 238mm x 210mm	0.020 m ³
Size 2 = Half box	391mm x 238mm x 100mm	0.009 m ³
Size 3 = Quarter box	386mm x 108 mm x 100mm	0.004 m ³
Size 4 = Eighth box	213 mm x 102 mm x 80 mm	0.002 m ³
Size 8 = Medium	260mm x 184mm x 108mm	0.005 m ³

ARCHIVE INDEX:**ARC 440 97+800-98+250 SDS East of Station Road**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS OR BOXES OR OTHER	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS/ LITRES	CONDITION (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Context records	363	-	I
A1 plans	20	-	I, D
A4 plans	-	-	-
A1 sections	1	-	I
A4 sections	69	-	I
Small finds	59	-	W, M
Films (monochrome)	2	-	I
Films (colour)	4	-	I
Flint	2 size 3	137	W, M
Pottery	1 size 2	282	W, M
Fired Clay	See Misc	60	W, M
CBM	See Misc	8	W, M
Stone	See Misc	5	W, M
Metalwork	1 plastic size 4	6	W, M
Slag	See Misc	-	W, M
Animal Bone	1 size 2	74	W, M
Misc	1 size 4	-	-
Wood	-	1	W
Shell	See Misc	7	W
Soil samples (bulk)	-	23	P
Soil samples (monolith/kubiena tin)	-	3	P

* flot size

Key to box sizes

Size 2 = Half box	391mm x 238mm x 100mm	0.01 m ³
Size 3 = Quarter Box	386mm x 108mm x 100mm	0.004 m ³
Size 4 = Eighth box	213 mm x 102 mm x 80 mm	0.002 m ³

ARCHIVE INDEX:**ARC 440 98+150-98+400 SDS Church Lane**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS OR BOXES OR OTHER	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS/ LITRES	CONDITION (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Context records	37	-	I
A1 plans	6	-	I, D
A3 plans	1	-	I, D
A4 plans	2	-	I, D
A1 sections	1	-	I
A4 sections	9	-	I
Small finds	921	-	W, M
Films (monochrome)	2	-	I
Films (colour)	2	-	I
Flint	5 size 3 1 size 4	855	W, M
Pottery	1 size 3	131	W, M
CBM	See Misc	8	
Misc	1 size 4	-	

Key to box sizes

Size 3 = Quarter Box

386mm x 108mm x 100mm

0.004 m³

Size 4 = Eighth box

213 mm x 102 mm x 80 mm

0.002 m³

ARCHIVE INDEX:**ARC 440 102+400-102+800 SDS Westenhanger**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS OR BOXES OR OTHER	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS / LITRES	CONDITION: W = washed; UW= unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised; I = indexed
Contexts records	584		I
A1 plans	56		1 (Pre-ex) D, I
A3 plans	25		All reproduced to A1 Post-excavation plan
A3 sections	25		I
Small finds	76		P
Films (monochrome) PR=print	5 PR		I
Films (Colour)	6		I
X-Radiographs	1		I
Flint (boxes)	1 box	52	W,UM
Pottery (boxes)	2 boxes	858	W,M
Fired clay (boxes)	1 box	155	P

ARCHIVE INDEX:**ARC 440 93+250-108+750 ALL WBG AREAS IN PROJECT 440:****ARC 440/ 93+250-94+500/ 99 SEVINGTON WBG****ARC 440/ 98+600-102+400/ 99 SELLINDGE AND BARROWHILL****ARC 440/ 102+800-105+500/99 STANFORD AND SANDLING**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS OR BOXES OR OTHER	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS / LITRES	CONDITION: W = washed; UW= unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised; I = indexed
Contexts records	484		I
A1 plans	21		D
A4 plans	51		D
A1 sections	4		
A4 sections	76		D
Films (monochrome)	42		I
Films (Colour)	52		I
Flint (boxes)	2 size 3	210	W,M
Pottery (boxes)	1 size 1 1 size 2 1 size 3	1178	W,M
Fired clay (boxes)	See Misc.	122	W,M
CBM (boxes)	1 size 2 See Misc.	57	W,M
Stone (boxes)	See Misc.	15	W,M
Metalwork (boxes)	1 size 4	23	
Slag (boxes)	See Misc.	24	P
Shell (boxes)	See Misc.	1	
Animal bone (boxes)	1 size 3	228	
Misc. (boxes)	2 size 3		W,M
Soil Samples (No.)	15		P
Soil Samples (Number of contexts)			P

Key to box sizes

Size 1 = Bulk box	391mm x 238mm x 210mm	0.020 m ³
Size 2 = Half box	391mm x 238mm x 100mm	0.009 m ³
Size 3 = Quarter box	386mm x 108 mm x 100mm	0.004 m ³
Size 4 = Eighth box	213 mm x 102 mm x 80 mm	0.002 m ³

APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY REPORTS

(Summary report for Project Area 440 and summary for each SDI)

SUMMARY REPORT

Channel tunnel Rail Link Project Area 440 (Project chainage 93+250 to 108+750) (TR 0350 4045 to TR 1810 3715)

Watching brief work in Project Area 440 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link uncovered a wide range of finds, features and deposits, ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods.

Additional significant features relating to previous excavations on the route of the CTRL were made at Mersham (Mersham), East of Station Road (Smeeth), Church Lane (Smeeth) and North of Westenhanger Castle (Westenhanger). Summary reports have previously been completed for the main excavation areas.

Previously unexcavated significant discoveries were made at Bower Road (late Iron Age activity and probable Roman agricultural estate centre). An individual summary report has been completed for this site.

Other potentially significant finds include two unstratified scatter of flintwork (Chainage 99+300 and 99+500), a group of late Iron Age-Roman pits and ditches (within the *Stanford and Sandling WBG*, chainage 103+500) and a concentration of medieval activity (within the *Sevington WBG*, chainage 93+300).

The remaining discoveries include a low density of scattered, undated or post-medieval features representing agricultural boundaries, quarry pits and other features of little significance.

Bower Road (TR 0594 3881)

The main area of the site shows slight evidence for activity during the late Iron age, including a large pond fed by 2 drainage ditches. The immediate post-conquest period is represented by only 2 ditches.

The main period of activity of the site has been dated from the late 1st century to the late 3rd century. This includes 5 boundary ditches and a rectangular building associated with a drainage ditch and an enclosure ditch. The complex is likely to represent a farm building with associated enclosure. This complex seems to have been in use until the late 3rd century, and may have continued into the 4th century. A second, heavily truncated posthole building towards the north-west of the site may be associated with the same phase of activity.

A cremation found at the western edge of the site produced 3 vessels dating to the period AD 180-270.

The northern part of the main area revealed evidence of activity datable to the period AD 270-400. The main features were a drystone wall and 4 pits. One of the pits contained a large quantity and range of finds which suggest a special or terminal deposit.

Two ditches running across the site are stratigraphically later than all other features but did not produce satisfactory dating evidence; they are probably late Roman or post-Roman.

Some evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity was identified following stripping south-east of the main area (96+300-96+350), in the direction of Little Stock Farm. Three walls constituting possible sheep pens were found, and may have formed part of a farm complex; a fourth wall may have been a field boundary.

APPENDIX 3 - SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SHEETS

(One summarising Project Area 440 and one for each SDI)

Site Name: Channel Tunnel Rail Link Project Area 440	
Summary: Channel Tunnel Rail Link Project Area 440 (Project chainage 93+250 to 108+750)	
District: Ashford, Folkestone and Hythe	Parish: Sevington, Mersham, Smeeth, Sellindge, Stanford, Saltwood, Postling, Newington
Periods: 1. Early prehistoric 2. Later prehistoric 3. Late Iron Age/Romano-British 4. Anglo-Saxon 5. Medieval 6. Post-medieval	
NGR Easting: TR (start) 0350 TR (end) 1810	NGR Northing: (start) 4045 (end) 3715
Type of Recording: Evaluation (Delete) Excavation	Watching Brief Field Walking Geophysical Survey Measured Survey
Date of Recording: (From)	(To)
Unit Undertaking Recording: Oxford Archaeological Unit	
Summary of Fieldwork Results: Watching brief work in Project Area 440 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link uncovered a wide range of finds, features and deposits, ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods. Additional significant features relating to previous excavations on the route of the CTRL were made at Mersham (Mersham), East of Station Road (Smeeth), Church Lane (Smeeth) and North of Westenhanger Castle (Westenhanger). Summary reports have previously been completed for the main excavation areas. Previously unexcavated significant discoveries were made at Bower Road (late Iron Age activity and probable Roman agricultural estate centre). An individual summary report has been completed for this site. Other potentially significant finds include two unstratified scatter of flintwork (Chainage 99+300 and 99+500), a group of late Iron Age-Roman pits and ditches (within the <i>Stanford and Sandling WBG</i> , chainage 103+500) and a concentration of medieval activity (within the <i>Sevington WBG</i> , chainage 93+300). The remaining discoveries include a low density of scattered, undated or post-medieval features representing agricultural boundaries, quarry pits and other features of little significance.	
Location of Archive / Finds: OAU	
Bibliography:	
Summary Compiler: Valerie Diez	Date:

