

**CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK
UNION RAILWAYS (SOUTH) LIMITED**

Project Area 420

**Archaeological Excavation at
A20 Diversion Holm Hill (ARC HOL99),
near Harrietsham, Kent**

**DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
ASSESSMENT REPORT
FINAL**

**Contract no. URS/400/ARC/0001
WA Report no. 48106a**

**Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB**

4th January 2001

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SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake a 'Strip, Map and Sample' excavation at A20 Diversion Holm Hill, located alongside the A20 Trunk Road, at its intersection with Greenway Court Road to the west of Harrietsham village near Maidstone, Kent. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), which at Holm Hill has included environmental assessment, geophysical survey, and test-pit and trial trench evaluations.

Overall, archaeological features recorded during the excavation comprised 12 ditches, 15 pits, five lynchets, four post-holes and one hearth. In addition, six tree throws, six burnt-out tree stumps and one animal burrow were also recorded. Many features were sealed by extensive colluvial deposits (probably beginning to develop during the prehistoric periods) that varied in thickness across the site. Dating evidence from the excavation indicates both Bronze Age and Iron Age remains; with the preceding evaluations in addition identifying probable Mesolithic, Romano-British and medieval activity beyond the limit of the excavation.

The site is located on the periphery of the Wealden Greensand landscape zone, overlooked by the North Downs to the north, and overlooking the River Len to the south. Within this context the site is ideally situated to exploit a variety of resources, including free-draining farmland in the immediate vicinity, downlands to the north for grazing, and wetland areas alongside the River Len to the south. As such, it is likely that the general locale would be favoured for settlement from the earliest periods onwards, culminating in the characteristic 'polyfocal' settlements present today along the foot of the North Downs, such as Harrietsham and Hollingbourne.

Although the results from Holm Hill would largely be considered unremarkable, the recovery of artefacts representing a broad range of chronological periods may be indicative of such a favoured settlement location through time. As such, the site appears to have been occupied through a number of the time periods defined by the CTRL research strategy (URS 1999a, 65), including;

- *Hunter-foragers (400000 – 4500 BC)*
- *Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)*
- *Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)*
- *The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)*

In particular, archaeological remains attributable to later prehistoric farming communities are comparatively rare in Kent, and the results from Holm Hill therefore offer the potential to contribute to this poorly understood aspect of the county as a whole. Although little was recorded to confidently identify and associate any settlement centres with the remains at Holm Hill, the evidence recorded may help to define the use of landscape components, which in turn may provide data concerning the wider later prehistoric landscape use and organisation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake a ‘Strip, Map and Sample’ excavation at **A20 Diversion Holm Hill**, under the URS site code **ARC HOL99** (Project Area 420). The site is located alongside the A20 Trunk Road, at its intersection with Greenway Court Road to the west of Harrietsham village, near Maidstone, Kent (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). The archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (URS 1999a) was prepared by Rail Link Engineering (RLE), agreed in consultation with English Heritage and Kent County Council, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out between March 29th and April 30th 1999.

The Site

- 1.1.4 The site comprised two distinct areas alongside the A20 Trunk Road, to the north-west (Area A) and south-east (Area B) of Greenway Court Road. Area A was trapezoidal in plan, measuring up to 140 m by 80 m centred on URL grid co-ordinate 64500 33425 (OS NGR TQ 84495 53427), and covering an area of *c.* 0.88 hectares. Area B was approximately subrectangular in plan, measuring *c.* 380 m in length, and 80 m wide for half its length narrowing to 40 m for the south-eastern half of the site. Area B extended from URL grid co-ordinates 64780 33310 to 65090 33110 (OS NGRs TQ 84775 53312 to TQ 85095 53112), and covered an area of *c.* 2.15 hectares. Overall, the principal site zone, incorporating all fieldwork events summarised in **Table 1** below extended over a distance of *c.* 3 km.

Associated Fieldwork Events

- 1.1.5 An environmental assessment (URS 1994) and archaeological evaluation (URS 1999c) have preceded the archaeological excavation at A20 Diversion Holm Hill. In addition, a number of associated fieldwork events (**Figure 1**) have been incorporated into this assessment report (**Table 1**). Brief summaries of the results of these additional events are provided below.

Table 1: Fieldwork Event Details

Event Type	Event Name	URS site code	Contractor
Environmental Assessment	-	-	OAU
Geophysical Survey	Harrietsham	ARC HRT95	GSB
Evaluation	Harrietsham Mesolithic	ARC HRT97	OAU
Evaluation	Harrietsham East Street	ARC HES98	WA
Evaluation	A20 Diversion Holm Hill	ARC HOL98	WA
Excavation	A20 Diversion Holm Hill	ARC HOL99	WA
Watching Brief	Holme Hill and Harrietsham	ARC 420 / 68+500 – 73+500	OAU

1.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrography

- 1.2.1 Topographically, Area A occupies the base of the slope below Warren Wood, descending from a height of *c.* 83 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) along its north-western edge towards Greenway Court Road at a height of *c.* 72.5 m aOD. To the south-east of Greenway Court Road, Area B straddles a north-east to south-west aligned broad undulating ridge extending out into the River Len floodplain to the south-west. The surface of this ridge within the site limits descends from a central maximum height of *c.* 86 m to *c.* 74 m aOD at the south-east extent of the site. The upper surface of this ridge undulates, descending into an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned coombe approximately centrally located across the main body of the ridge noted above.
- 1.2.2 The soils are generally mapped as typical argillic brown earths of the Malling or Fyfield 2 Association, which are characteristically sandy (Jarvis *et al.* 1984). These argillic brown earths are sandy and well-drained and typically produce archaeological deposits in which animal bone, marine shell and snails are poorly preserved. The soils are, however, easily cultivatable and today support both cereals and soft fruit and vegetables.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology comprises Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone Sand Beds, with a more recent superficial cap of 4th Terrace River Gravel formerly mapped immediately to the south-west of the site, in the general area now occupied by the A20 cutting through the ridge noted above (Ordnance Survey 1976).
- 1.2.4 There is only one extant watercourse within the limits of the site, a north-east to south-west flowing drainage ditch that forms the north-west roadside ditch alongside Greenway Court Road. This ditch empties into a culvert system passing under the A20 Trunk Road, and ultimately feeds into the River Len, which in turn converges, to the west-north-west with the River Medway at Maidstone. It is likely that a seasonal (?) palaeochannel formerly flowed through the coombe noted above, also feeding into the River Len floodplain.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Environmental Assessment

- 1.3.1 The environmental assessment (URL 1994) identified a number of archaeological and other remains within the area, including a complex of cropmarks that appear to represent both ring ditch and linear features towards the south-east end of the site (*ibid.* A68; OAU ref. 1315). In addition, the environmental assessment also highlighted two former routes that crossed the site, from Broomfield to the junction of Greenway Court Road and Greenway Lane (*ibid.* A87; OAU ref. 1574), and *Chegworth Lane* from Chegworth to Mount Farm (*ibid.* A62; OAU ref. 1197).

Harrietsham Geophysical Survey (ARC HRT95)

- 1.3.2 The geophysical survey to the south of Harrietsham village identified both discrete and linear magnetometer anomalies, broadly coinciding with enhanced magnetic susceptibility readings (URL 1996). Part of the survey area was subsequently evaluated (see *Harrietsham East Street Evaluation* – URS 1999b).

Harrietsham Mesolithic Evaluation (ARC HRT97)

- 1.3.3 The evaluation comprised 16 hand-excavated 1m² test-pits, located to test the potential for Mesolithic material within two narrow strips of land between the M20 and A20 adjacent to

Fairbourne Lane. The test-pits produced 194 pieces of worked flint, in varying quantities across the evaluation area, although none were sufficiently diagnostic to be identified as Mesolithic, as well as a single piece of Bronze Age pottery. In addition, numerous sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, including examples recovered from colluvium identified towards the north-west end of the evaluation area, as well as a single medieval feature, provisionally interpreted as a ditch (URS 1997).

Harrietsham East Street Evaluation (ARC HES99)

- 1.3.4 The evaluation at Harrietsham East Street focussed on the preceding geophysical survey (see *Harrietsham Geophysical Survey* - URL 1996), although only one trench (3532TT) was observed to coincide with previously noted geophysical anomalies. The evaluation revealed eight archaeological features comprising four ditches and one gully, all undated, a post-medieval palaeochannel and a further two undated palaeochannels. Some of the geophysical anomalies noted in the vicinity of trench 3532TT, in particular, may have represented features recorded in that trench. The remainder of the anomalies are considered either indicative of natural variations in the subsurface solid/drift geology (URS 1999b), as noted throughout the evaluation area, or modern services and/or edge-of-field effects.

A20 Diversion Holm Hill Evaluation (ARC HOL98)

- 1.3.5 The evaluation, comprising 41 evaluation trenches, revealed 58 archaeological deposits and/or features, of which 21 were provisionally dated. The cropmark complex previously noted (URL 1994, A68; OAU ref. 1315) was not positively identified, and in particular ring-ditch features were not recorded, although small concentrations of features were noted in the area (particularly in trenches 3525TT and 3528TT). The former track crossing the site from Broomfield to the junction of Greenway Court Road and Greenway Lane (*ibid.* A87; OAU ref. 1574) was probably represented by feature **351907** (trench 3519TT), whilst *Chegworth Lane* was possibly represented by post-medieval ditch **361105** and adjacent surface **361104** in trench 3611TT (*ibid* A62; OAU ref. 1197).
- 1.3.6 Overall, dated remains indicated Late Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval activity at the site, although insufficient evidence was recorded to characterise the nature of any possible settlement remains associated with these periods. In addition, a small assemblage worked flint of probable Mesolithic date was also recovered from both within and in the vicinity of a ditch-like feature towards the south-east end of the evaluation area (i.e. relatively close to the Harrietsham Mesolithic evaluation area).
- 1.3.7 In general the prehistoric remains were identified on the central and north-western higher ground within the site limits, whilst the Romano-British remains were predominantly recorded on the lower ground towards the south-east end of the site. The evaluation also revealed extensive colluvial deposits throughout the evaluation area. Although generally recorded towards the base of the higher central and north-western portion of the site, colluvium was deepest (i.e. 2m+) within a raised coombe or coll that crossed the peak of the central high ground, an area associated with prehistoric remains.
- 1.3.8 Although many of the features recorded during the evaluation were subsequently identified during the excavation, a few features of note from the evaluation were located beyond the subsequent excavation limits. These include the group of three pits containing cremation-related deposits (**359604**, **359606** and **359609**) located in trench 3596TT and the potential Mesolithic feature (**361204**) in trench 3612TT. Whilst the former features are technically undated, the presence of hobnails within several of the cremation-related deposits suggests

these are very likely to be Romano-British in date, and this date will be considered viable henceforth (URL 1999c).

Holm Hill/Harrietsham Watching Brief (ARC 420/68+500 – 73+500)

- 1.3.9 There were no additional significant discoveries during the watching brief through this area (URS 2000).

2 ORIGINAL PRIORITIES, AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Landscape Zone Priorities

2.1.1 In summary, the primary landscape zone priorities within this part of Kent were to obtain information concerning:

- *The palaeo-environment for all periods represented on site including the effects of man as hunter-forager, tree-clearer or farmer*
- *The basis of the rural economy and trade noting the changes in the landscape use over time along with its division and possible settlement*
- *The ritual use of the landscape including the setting of the Medway Megaliths and burial practices*

2.2 Fieldwork Event Aims

2.2.1 The primary fieldwork event aims, as defined by RLE in contract no. URS/400/ARC/0001 (URS 1999a, 36-7; table 2) were as follows;

- *Determine the extent, morphology and function of, and interaction between possible occupation remains and the landscape settings*
- *Recover individual artefacts and artefact assemblages and other indicators, such as faunal and charred plant remains from securely dated sequences to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities*
- *Determine the local environment of the site through recovery of palaeo-environmental data*

2.3 Fieldwork Methodology and Summary of Excavation Results

Methodology

- 2.3.1 The limits and locations of the evaluation trenches and excavation areas were established by Wessex Archaeology, based on digital mapping provided by RLE, utilising URL project grid.
- 2.3.2 All bulk earth removal at Holm Hill was undertaken using 360° tracked excavators equipped with toothless buckets and was under constant archaeological supervision. All bulk soil removal continued until archaeological features and/or deposits, *in situ* geological deposits or the formation level for anticipated impact was reached, whichever was encountered first.
- 2.3.3 The 1m² Harrietsham Mesolithic test-pits were hand-excavated either to the upper surface of *in situ* geology, or to a maximum depth of 1.2 m, whichever was encountered first. Test-pit 2023TP, located at the deepest point of a colluvial sequence encountered was deepened to 1.35 m to reach the base of this sequence. The test-pits were excavated in discrete 0.1 m thick spits, with fifty litres of soil from each spit dry-sieved through a 4mm mesh to augment the hand-recovery of artefacts.

- 2.3.4 Any archaeological features/deposits encountered were hand-cleaned and recorded to current best archaeological practice. Appropriate *pro-forma* description sheets were used for the individual features with plans and sections generally drawn at scales of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. All archaeological remains were digitally surveyed utilising URL project grid, and located on appropriate large-scale plans.
- 2.3.5 A photographic record both in monochrome prints and colour transparencies was produced to illustrate both the archaeological features and the general progress of the excavation.

Summary of Results

- 2.3.6 The stratigraphic sequence generally encountered comprised topsoil, overlying colluvial deposits (where present), overlying *in situ* Folkestone Sand. Colluvium varied in thickness across the area, being generally thickest at the foot of slopes and absent from the higher ground in both areas. Limited dating evidence was recovered from the colluvium to suggest it may have originated during the Bronze Age, although stratigraphically the deposits recorded in Area B sealed Iron Age as well as Bronze Age features. The colluvium recorded at the Harrietsham Mesolithic evaluation appeared to have formed during the medieval period or later.
- 2.3.7 Archaeological features revealed during the preceding evaluations included a probable ditch (ARC HRT97), five ditches/gullies and three palaeochannels (ARC HES98), as well as 31 ditches, five pits, eight post-holes, three deposits of note, three pits containing cremation-related deposits, one palaeochannel and seven other features (ARC HOL98).
- 2.3.8 Overall, archaeological features recorded during the excavation comprised twelve ditches, fifteen pits, five lynchets, four post-holes and one hearth. In addition, six tree throws, six burnt-out tree stumps and one animal burrow were also recorded.
- 2.3.9 The distribution of all features from all fieldwork events that are mentioned in text can be found on **Figures 2 and 3**.
- 2.3.10 The provisionally dated features of medieval date or earlier identified from all fieldwork events can be summarised by period;
- **Mesolithic:** *A south-east to north-west aligned possible ditch or similar linear feature (361204) crossing trench 3612TT.*
 - **Early/Middle Bronze Age:** *A south-east to north-west aligned ditch located in Area B (4001) including a north-west terminal.*
 - **Late Bronze Age:** *Ditches 360303 (trench 3603TT) and 363303 (trench 3633TT), aligned approximately south-west to north-east and east to west respectively. Ditch 360303 appeared to turn to the east at its north-eastern limit within trench 3603TT, and may therefore be the same feature as ditch 363303.*
 - **Early Iron Age:** *A south-east to north-west aligned ditch located in Area A (4010) previously identified as Late Bronze Age (sic) ditch 359205 in trench 3592TT.*
 - **Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British:** *Four archaeological features and one tree throw (1004) have produced pottery from this period. A single south-west to north-east aligned ditch (4008) was recorded within Area A, sealed by and approximately*

following the upper edge of the colluvium. In Area B, the stratigraphically earliest feature was a south-east to north-west aligned ditch (4007), cut by ditches 4003 and 4004, a pair of parallel features approximately 8m apart and aligned south-west to north-east. Additional features include ditch 360507 (trench 3605TT) and gully 352810 (trench 3528TT).

- **Romano-British:** *Features dated to this period include south-west to north-east aligned ditch/gully 352405 (trench 3524TT), the south-west terminal of south-west to north-east aligned ditch 352806 and approximately north to south aligned ditch 352812 (the latter two both in trench 3528TT). As noted above, also considered to belong to this phase are the three pits (pits 359604, 359606 and 359609) containing cremation-related deposits in trench 3596TT.*
- **Medieval:** *An approximately north to south aligned probable ditch (128) recorded at the base of test-pit 2031TP.*

2.4 Assessment Methodology

- 2.4.1 This assessment report was commissioned by URS to the specification for assessment reports produced by RLE (*CTRL Section 1 Archaeology: Post Excavation Assessment Instruction no. 000-RMA-RLEVC-00030-AB*), as discussed with English Heritage and Kent County Council. This specification follows national guidelines prepared by English Heritage, including *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (English Heritage 1991), and provides additional information regarding the format and level of detail required for CTRL assessment reports. The production of this assessment report was project managed by Andrew Crockett, and all specialist advice was provided by Wessex Archaeology in-house expertise.

3 FACTUAL DATA AND QUANTIFICATION

3.1 The Stratigraphic Record

Stratigraphy

- 3.1.1 The archaeological features recorded during the excavation survived as shallow cuts into either the surface of the natural sand or layers/surfaces within colluvial sequences. Features sealed directly by the topsoil were generally located on the higher ground forming the main sand ridge across the site within Area B. Archaeological features previously identified and described from preceding evaluations will not be discussed further here.
- 3.1.2 The features identified comprised ditches, pits, post-holes, hearths, lynchets, tree-throws and burnt-out tree stumps. Of these, only ditches and one tree-throw produced securely datable artefacts, broadly representing Bronze Age and Iron Age/ Early Romano-British features, although many features produced undiagnostic worked flint.
- 3.1.3 Evidence recovered from features recorded during the preceding evaluation that were subsequently excluded from the excavation limits indicated, in particular, that Romano-British features were also present at the site. These were predominantly concentrated in Area B on the lower south-east facing slope of the area, as well as a series of co-aligned shallow ephemeral gullies crossing the highest ground in Area B, that could not be relocated during the excavation.
- 3.1.4 The Early/ Middle Bronze Age ditch **4001** (Area B) was aligned approximately south-east to north-west, with a north-west terminal exposed within the excavation site limits. The south-east extent was obscured by overlying colluvium in an area of the site which was outside the CTRL impact corridor, and hence not subsoil-stripped during the excavation. The ditch was originally identified during the preceding evaluation (as ditch **360112**).
- 3.1.5 A further pair of co-aligned undated ditches (**4002** and **4006**) parallel to ditch **4001** may be contemporaneous. It was not possible to determine the relationship either between ditch **4001** and undated ditch **4011**, aligned at right-angles to the north-east.
- 3.1.6 The Early Iron Age ditch **4010** (Area A) was aligned approximately south-east to north-west, and was originally identified during the preceding evaluation (as Late Bronze Age ditch **359205**).
- 3.1.7 Iron Age/ Early Romano-British remains comprised four ditches and one tree throw, the latter situated towards the highest north-west corner of Area A. Also within Area A, ditch **4008** was aligned approximately south-west to north-east, and sealed by the most north-westerly extent of the colluvium in this area. This ditch appeared to be contemporaneous with ditch **4009**, and although it was not possible to determine its relationship with Early Iron Age ditch **4010**, it is suggested that ditch **4008** was the more recent feature.
- 3.1.8 The three ditches identified as Iron Age in date within Area B were all located within the raised coombe noted above and therefore sealed by colluvium. The stratigraphically earliest of the Iron Age features was ditch **4007**, aligned south-east to north-west and previously identified during the evaluation as ditch **363406**. This ditch appeared to turn to the south-west at its north-west extent, and was crossed at right angles by later ditches **4003** and **4004**.

- 3.1.9 The dating evidence for ditch **4003** comprised one small sherd which has been provisionally identified as Late Iron Age (or possibly Early Roman), however, the possibility that this piece could be Saxon or early medieval cannot be discounted. Although the dating evidence for ditch **4003** cannot therefore be considered as secure, its apparent spatial relationship with ditch **4004** has determined its assigned phase. The ditches were approximately 8 m apart, although slightly converging towards their north-east extent, and may be broadly contemporaneous with undated ditch **4005**, a co-aligned feature located approximately 20 m to the north-west of ditch **4004**.
- 3.1.10 Although four post-holes and one hearth were recorded, with all but one post-hole located on the higher ground in Area A, it was not possible to determine either structural forms, or possible areas where structural remains may have been focussed with any degree of certainty. The general impression is that such settlement remains may have been primarily focussed on the higher ground either at the very north-western extent of Area A, or perhaps more likely beyond the limits of Area A on Warren Wood ridge.
- 3.1.11 The highly mobile nature of both the *in situ* subsoil and the soils derived from this parent geology (as evidenced by the extensive colluvial deposits recorded throughout the area) suggests that the more ephemeral settlement remains such as post-holes, eaves-drip gullies and hearths may not have survived subsequent truncation through ploughing. This is particularly likely for any remains that may have been located on the higher ground within Areas A and B.
- 3.1.12 Five undated features within Area B have been provisionally interpreted as lynchets (**2132**, **2134**, **2136**, **2138** and **2044**), although the possibility that some of these features may be the truncated remains of shallow broad ditches cannot be wholly discounted. Lynchet **2044** was located on the west facing slope overlooking the junction of the A20 and Greenway Court Road, whilst the remainder were situated on the south-south-east facing slope on the opposite side of the sand ridge.
- 3.1.13 Dating evidence was not recovered from any of these features, although stratigraphic relationships suggest that the group of four situated to the south-east represented at least two phases of activity (with lynchet **2134** cut by lynchet **2136**). Furthermore, lynchet **2044** was recorded cutting the upper surface of colluvium, and is therefore likely to be a relatively recent (i.e. post-medieval or later) feature.
- 3.1.14 Tree-throws, burnt-out tree stumps and other features of probable natural origin represent a significant proportion of features on the site. The distinctive burnt-out tree stumps (**1001**, **1009**, **1014**, **1023**, **1028** and **2068**) contained profuse quantities charcoal and/ or carbonised material, and are provisionally interpreted as such on the basis of their irregular shape in both plan and profile. The possibility remains, however, that some of these features may be, for instance, irregular hearths or pits. These features appear to be a relatively common feature on the Folkestone Beds in the region (e.g. Hurst Wood, Sandway Road).

3.2 The Artefactual Record

Introduction

- 3.2.1 The finds assemblage from Holm Hill includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. Overall quantities are small, and the finds form a low-level scatter across the site. Condition ranges from fair to poor; the ceramic material in particular (pottery, fired clay, ceramic building material) is in a heavily abraded condition. For the purposes of this assessment all finds have been scanned and broad details of their nature, range and condition recorded on a context by context basis. The finds are briefly discussed by material type below; the supporting data are presented under the appropriate category in **Section 7**.

Pottery

- 3.2.2 The small pottery assemblage includes material of Early Bronze Age (13 sherds), Middle/Late Bronze Age (12 sherds), Iron Age (11 sherds), Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British (9 sherds), Romano-British (10 sherds), medieval (24 sherds) and post-medieval date (14 sherds). Overall condition is fair to poor, with most sherds small and heavily abraded; diagnostic sherds are scarce. Approximately half of the assemblage was found unstratified or from topsoil contexts.
- 3.2.3 Of this small assemblage, the small Early Bronze Age group is most interesting, since pottery of this date is rare in Kent.

Ceramic Building Material

- 3.2.4 A total of 60 pieces (2,265g) of ceramic building material was recovered. These all comprise fragments of post-medieval brick and roof tile.

Fired Clay

- 3.2.5 A total of 78 pieces (154g) of fired clay was recovered. This category consists entirely of small, abraded and featureless fragments, of uncertain origin. All but one tiny fragment was found associated with the probable Romano-British cremation-related deposits (3596TT).

Worked Flint

- 3.2.6 A total of 126 pieces of worked flint was recovered. The small lithic assemblage is likely to be chronologically mixed. The majority of the assemblage consists of flake and core material, unpatinated or lightly patinated, and varying in condition from fresh to slightly edge-damaged; the raw material is likely to derive from a local gravel source.
- 3.2.7 While much of this material is not chronologically distinctive, and can only be dated broadly to the Neolithic/Bronze Age, the presence of blades and broken blades indicates the potential presence of an early prehistoric (Mesolithic/early Neolithic) component. One other piece warrants further mention – a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age knife recovered from topsoil in the vicinity of trench 3593TT, which is intrinsically interesting as both an example of its kind and probably the only closely datable piece of retouched worked flint recovered from Holm Hill. This is not, however, a particularly rare item, manufactured from locally available Bullhead flint. The flint distribution forms a low level background scatter, with a few small concentrations; approximately one quarter of the assemblage came from unstratified or topsoil contexts.

Burnt Flint

- 3.2.8 A total of 10 pieces (511g) of burnt flint was recovered. Burnt flint is intrinsically undatable but is often considered to be indicative of prehistoric activity. However, in this instance the majority of the pieces recovered from features came from pit **359609** containing probable Romano-British cremation related deposits.

Humanly Modified and Unworked Stone

- 3.2.9 Two whetstones, both incomplete, were recovered, one from colluvial deposits (3614TT), and one from ditch **4001**. Neither is datable on morphological grounds, but the latter was associated with Early Bronze Age pottery. A broken and burnt flint hammerstone came from ditch **4004**. Two conjoining fragments of burnt stone were recovered from a probable pit (**2124**).

Glass

- 3.2.10 This category comprises two fragments of bottle glass, and one fragment of window glass, weighing a total of 21g, all of a modern date.

Iron

- 3.2.11 One nail, two hobnails and two unidentified fragments came from the probable Romano-British cremation-related deposits (3596TT). Six further objects (all unstratified), including one joiner's dog and several nail fragments are all of post-medieval date.

3.3 The Environmental Record

Introduction

- 3.3.1 Twenty-six bulk soil samples, generally of 10 litres, were taken from the excavation for the recovery of charred plant remains, of which thirteen were selected for processing. These are augmented by a further nine samples from the evaluation.
- 3.3.2 Standard flotation processing methods were used, with sample flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions. All coarse fractions (i.e. >5.6 mm) were hand-sorted, weighed and discarded, with flots scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope in order to quantify the presence of plant macrofossils. The results are briefly discussed by category below, the supporting data is presented under the appropriate category in **Section 7**.

Cremated Human Bone

- 3.3.3 Cremated bone was recovered from three adjacent pits in trench 3696TT, all of probably Romano-British date. The cremated bone from each deposit, ranging in weight from 41.3-97.8g, all represented the well-oxidised remains of adults. The mixed nature of the deposits – small quantities of cremated bone dispersed amongst charcoal and fragments of fired clay – suggests they may not represent cremation burials, but rather redeposited pyre debris cleared from the pyre site(s) after the collection of bone for burial (McKinley 1998).

Macroscopic plant remains and charcoal

- 3.3.4 The samples generally produced large flots (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres) which were largely dominated by charcoal. Overall, flots contained

predominantly low levels of both rooty material and uncharred weed seeds, high quantities of which are often considered indicative of stratigraphic movement.

- 3.3.5 Few samples contained other charred material apart from small quantities of charred weed seeds, present in most samples. Only three samples from the excavation contained cereal remains; sample **3514** from ditch **4005** contained a few charred grain and chaff fragments, whilst sample **3513** from ditch **4004** produced a few charred grains only. Sample **3501** from pit **2003** was exceptional in that it contained a very large amount of charred grain, but no chaff.
- 3.3.6 By comparison, all samples processed from the evaluation produced charred grain, and in the majority of examples, chaff as well. There is no apparent reason to explain the dichotomy between the ecofacts present in evaluation and excavation flots, although the complete absence of cereal remains from the six burnt-out tree stump samples processed may perhaps support their interpretation as such (as opposed to hearths etc.).
- 3.3.7 Large quantities of charcoal fragments of greater than 5.6 mm were recovered from the majority of the samples, and in particular from pits, hearths, burnt-out tree stumps and the possible cremation-related deposits. By comparison, samples from ditch fills produced few fragments of charcoal of this size. The charcoal predominantly comprised large wood fragments, and although not identified to species for the purposes of this assessment, all fragments are non-coniferous.

Mollusca

- 3.3.8 No samples were taken specifically for snails because of the acidic/ circum-neutral status of the soils and deposits over the Folkestone Sands, which inhibits preservation of animal bone and snail shells. Nevertheless, individual shells were noticed in two of the flots scanned for charred remains. In both cases the snails present were fresh/brackish-water and/or amphibious species.
- 3.3.9 One specimen of *Valvata* sp was present in ditch **360303**, and a specimen of *Anisus leucostoma* in burnt-out tree stump **1009**. Both species require bodies of water in which to survive, although the latter can tolerate drying out phases.
- 3.3.10 In view of the presence of fresh-brackish water, the local topography and terrain is important here. Although the excavation is not far from the Len, probably a former headwater tributary of the Stour, the excavated area is located well outside the potential floodplain and areas of watercourse and flooding. These shells, if contemporary with the features, must relate to accidental incorporation along with other materials brought to the site such as alluvium or mud for lining features, or reeds for flooring, thatching or fodder. The presence of these shells therefore possibly confirms exploitation of these wetter, riverine habitats.

Soil Morphology

- 3.3.11 At approximately the highest point of the Folkestone Sand ridge within Area B, a 1.4m deep sandy colluvial deposit sequence was encountered within evaluation trench 3524TT. Although the topographic location appears to preclude the material being hillwash through agriculture, this component cannot be wholly discounted. However, the sandy nature (texture) indicates that the sequence primarily represents local degradation of, or variation in, the Folkestone Series Sands. The lack of any strong silty element (finger texturing)

precludes a Holocene loessic component and this deposit therefore probably represents a purely local variation in, or weathering of, the geological lithology.

3.4 Dating

- 3.4.1 Many of the samples processed have produced relatively large quantities of charred material, including large pieces of charcoal. There is therefore considerable scope to consider obtaining radiocarbon dates from a range of feature types. Dates obtained from burnt-out tree stumps, hearths, cremation pyre debris and specific dumps of material (i.e. large grain concentrations in pits) may provide good chronological dates for these events, particularly where artefactual or stratigraphic evidence for relative chronology is absent.

3.5 Archive Storage and Curation

- 3.5.1 Following completion of the Interim Excavation Report (URS 1999d), the archive has been updated to include records from all fieldwork events carried out by Wessex Archaeology as itemised above (**Table 1**).
- 3.5.2 The paper and photographic archive along with the finds are presently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the URS site codes ARC HOL98, ARC HES98 (evaluations) and ARC HOL99 (excavation). The final destination of the CTRL Section 1 Archaeological Archive is not known. It is hoped that it will be deposited locally in Kent, and for the purpose of assessment it should be assumed that a Kent museum destination will be achieved.
- 3.5.3 Without a certain destination, decisions on long term storage, curation and discard cannot be finalised. However, it is recommended that the entire artefactual and ecofactual assemblage, with the possible exception of post-medieval and later material, should be retained for long term storage.
- 3.5.4 Although a few small pieces of ironwork were recovered, some of which may be Romano-British in date (the remainder certainly post-medieval) it is not anticipated that long term storage of these items will be an issue that needs to be specifically addressed. Moreover, as suggested above, it would be considered appropriate to discard the post-medieval items with the remainder of the artefact assemblage of that date or later.
- 3.5.5 The archives for fieldwork events carried out by Wessex Archaeology currently comprise the following components (**Tables 2a-c**).

Table 2a: A20 Diversion Holm Hill Evaluation (ARC HOL98) Archive Components

Item	Number of Items	Quantity	Condition (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	96	-	P, I
A1 plans and sections			
A3 plans and sections	2	-	P, I
A4 plans and sections	99	-	P, I
Small finds			
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	12S	-	P, I
Films (colour) S=slide; PR=print	12S/2PR	-	P, I (PRs submitted as deliverables)
Pottery	27	328g	W, M, P, I
Fired clay	78	134g	W, M, P, I
CBM	20	796g	W, M, P, I
Worked Flint	62	849g	W, M, P, I
Burnt flint	8	7g	W, M, P, I
Stone	1	378	W, M, P, I
Shell			
Metalwork	7	15g	P, I
Glass	1	5g	W, M, P, I
Slag			
Human Bone	-	187.2g	W, P, I
Animal Bone			
Soil Samples	11	120 litres	9 P, I; 2 UP, I
Soil Samples (Kubiena tins etc.)	1 spot sample column	14 x c. 1 litre	UP, I

Table 2b: Harrietsham East Street Evaluation (ARC HES98) Archive Components

Item	Number Of Items	Quantity	Condition (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	24	-	P, I
A1 plans and sections			
A3 plans and sections			
A4 plans and sections	18	-	P, I
Small finds			
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	3S	-	P, I
Films (colour) S=slide; PR=print	3S/2PR	-	P, I (PRs submitted as deliverables)
Pottery	1	3g	W, M, P, I
Fired clay			
CBM	11	469g	W, M, P, I
Worked Flint	1	1g	W, M, P, I
Burnt flint			
Stone			
Shell			
Metalwork	1	156g	P, I
Glass			
Slag			
Human Bone			
Animal Bone	5	59g	W, M, P, I
Soil Samples			
Soil Samples (Kubiena tins etc.)			

Table 2c: A20 Diversion Holm Hill Excavation (ARC HOL99) Archive Components

Item	Number of Items	Quantity	Condition (No. of items) (W=washed; UW=unwashed; M=marked; P=processed; UP=unprocessed; D=digitised; I=indexed)
Contexts records	172	-	P, I
A1 plans and sections	8	-	P, I
A3 plans and sections			
A4 plans and sections	54	-	P, I
Small finds	1	302g	W, M, P, I
Films (monochrome) S=slide; PR=print	9S	-	P, I
Films (colour) S=slide; PR=print	9S/4PR	-	P, I (PRs submitted as deliverables)
Pottery	71	497g	W, M, P, I
Fired clay			
CBM	29	1,000g	W, M, P, I
Worked Flint	87	2,970g	W, M, P, I
Burnt flint	3	804g	W, M, P, I
Stone	2	210g	W, M, P, I
Shell	1	12g	W, M, P, I
Metalwork	8	202g	P, I
Glass	2	16g	W, M, P, I
Slag			
Human Bone			
Animal Bone			
Soil Samples	26	120 litres	10 P, I; 16 UP
Soil Samples (Kubiena tins etc.)			

- 3.5.6 The total number and capacity of all finds boxes for fieldwork events carried out by Wessex Archaeology is as follows;

Table 3: Quantification of Finds by volume

Description	Capacity	No.	Total Volume
Large Cardboard	0.029 m ³	2	0.058 m ³
Small Cardboard	0.007 m ³	1	0.007 m ³
Small plastic ('Stewart')	0.002 m ³	2	0.004 m ³
	TOTAL	5	0.069 m³

4 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The results of the fieldwork events as itemised in **Table 1** have been assessed against the *CTRL Archaeological Research Strategy* (URS 1999a, 63-7), the *Landscape Zone Priorities* (*ibid.* 34-6) and the specific *Primary Fieldwork Event Aims* (*ibid.* 36-7), with the degree of potential for each data category estimated (**Table 4**).

4.1.2 In light of this assessment the data categories that are considered of above low potential for further analysis have been identified and discussed below. Within data categories, any research objectives, landscape zone priorities and fieldwork event aims not addressed have been assessed and considered at this stage inappropriate/ inapplicable to the results as presented above.

4.2 Stratigraphic Potential

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

4.2.1 Although very few stratigraphically secure datable artefacts were recovered during the excavation (67 pottery sherds in total), with relatively few features dated with any confidence, it is of note that none of the ditches, for instance, appeared to contain either residual or intrusive material. This would suggest that the effects of post-depositional stratigraphic movement are not significant at this site, perhaps borne out by the comparative absence of unburnt weed seeds from the environmental samples processed, and, for instance, the absence of prehistoric worked flint from features to be considered of Romano-British date.

4.2.2 The excavation has therefore provided sufficient evidence to enable a determination of the spatial organisation of the landscape over time attributable to this research objective to be made. To a lesser degree the same may be said for the function of the remains, although insufficient structural elements exist to allow a confident identification of, for instance, occupation centres.

Research Objective: Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – 1700 AD)

4.2.3 The concordance and co-alignment of some archaeological remains with mapped historic routes, alignments and present day administrative boundaries is of note. Most notably, the Late Iron Age/ Romano-British archaeological remains reflecting the route of the present day parish boundary between Hollingbourne and Harrietsham passing through Area B may contribute to a study of the formalisation and organisation of the landscape through time.

Landscape Zone Priority: Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment

4.2.4 Detailed stratigraphic analysis of colluvial sections may identify the sequence, pattern and rate of colluviation throughout the site resulting from the organisation of the landscape. Such analysis may, however, be hampered by the paucity of associated stratigraphically secure dating evidence recovered.

4.3 Artefactual Potential

Research Objective: Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)

- 4.3.1 The small Early Bronze Age pottery assemblage is interesting, since pottery of this date is rare in Kent. This group therefore offers considerable potential for contributing to our understanding of this ceramic tradition in the region, which in turn will contribute in a small way to a study of the early farming communities of Kent.

Fieldwork Event Aim: Economic Basis of Agricultural Communities

- 4.3.2 Given the demonstrated stratigraphically secure nature of the site, the prehistoric pottery *in toto* may be considered as relatively secure chronological indicators of activity. As such, it will form the chronological framework on which to establish the economic basis of the agricultural communities present at the site during prehistory, for which relatively little has as yet been recorded in the region.
- 4.3.3 Furthermore, many of the undated features produced pieces of undiagnostic prehistoric worked flint, and although the possibility that these are residual and/or intrusive finds cannot be wholly discounted, it is probable that the majority of these features may also have prehistoric origins.

4.4 Environmental Potential

Fieldwork Event Aim: Determine the Interaction between Occupation and Landscape

- 4.4.1 The problem of secure dating evidence for the majority of the sampled features detracts from the potential for the palaeo-environmental data. Nevertheless, the general lack of cereal remains from excavation samples is noteworthy. The presence of charcoal throughout the sequences examined indicates the likely proximity of settlement and/or activity areas; if crop-processing was part of this activity, it would be considered likely that charring and preservation of cereal remains would be evidenced within environmental samples. Moreover, as discussed below, reliable radiocarbon determinations of the burnt-out tree stump features may indicate periods of woodland clearance in the area.

Fieldwork Event Aim: Determine the Local Environment

- 4.4.2 The negative information might help to characterise the site, although a significant quantity of charred grain was found in one pit. Other evidence of exploitation of the local resources can be seen in the occurrence of a fresh/ brackish-water mollusc in a burnt-out tree stump. This is likely to be an accidental incorporation, probably on vegetation (i.e. reeds for thatching, flooring or artefacts) or some other riverine source (i.e. fish and edible shellfish, mud/alluvium for construction purposes etc.) obtained from the alluvial flats beyond the site. Moreover, its very presence suggests that not only did such a resource exist in the locality, but that it was probably therefore being exploited. There is, therefore, potential to reconstruct the palaeo-environment from evidence recovered, using the ceramic evidence in particular as a chronological framework.

4.5 Dating Potential

Landscape Zone Priority: Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment

- 4.5.1 The presence of a group of probable burnt-out tree stumps, a feature type recorded at other sites in the general locale, may point to prehistoric tree clearance. Radiocarbon dating of

such features could confirm or deny the potential prehistoric date for this activity, and potentially ally these to the dated archaeological remains recorded. This will also contribute to establishing the local environment of the site (*Fieldwork Event Aim*) for specific periods.

Landscape Zone Priority: The ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape

- 4.5.2 The three pits that contain cremation-related deposits are as yet undated, although it is considered probable that they are Romano-British in date. Secure radiocarbon dating will allow these features to contribute more fully to a wider discussion/ consideration of the funerary rite as a whole for the region during this period, as little attention to these deposits, other than as ‘burials’ *per se*, has been given in the past.

Fieldwork Event Aim: Economic Basis of Agricultural Communities

- 4.5.3 The charred grain recovered from pit **2003** in particular was a notable find, and radiocarbon dating would be considered an appropriate next-step to place this feature into a chronological framework. Identification of the grain, and associated charred weed seeds, may also enable some indication of the agricultural farming regimes and economy for the period to which it belongs.

4.6 Overall Potential

Introduction

- 4.6.1 In assessing the overall potential of Holm Hill, a number of factors have been considered, including not only the contribution to any one particular objective, priority or aim that the data categories outlined above make, but the breadth and depth of all categories *en masse*. Specific research objectives assigned to each CTRL research strategy time period are discussed, followed by a consideration of the landscape zone priorities and fieldwork event aims that have informed those assessments of potential.

Time Periods

- 4.6.2 The following defined time periods are represented at Holm Hill

- *Hunter-foragers (400000 – 4500 BC)*
- *Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)*
- *Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)*
- *The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)*

- 4.6.3 The results from Holm Hill for each time period have been assessed against the research objectives for those time periods, as defined in the CTRL Archaeological Research Strategy (URS 1999a, 64-7). Those research objectives not considered below have been assessed and considered inapplicable and/or inappropriate at this stage of the post-excavation assessment process. The possibility remains however that subsequent analysis may yield data that results in the reconsideration of currently discounted objectives.

Table 4: Summary of Principal Site Archive Potential

Objectives, Priorities and Aims	Data Category					
	Stratigraphy	Artefacts	Environmental	Dating	Other Assessments	Overall
Research Objective: <i>Hunter-foragers (400000 – 4500 BC)</i>	L	L	-	-	-	L
Research Objective: <i>Early agriculturalists (4500 – 2000 BC)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Research Objective: <i>Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC)</i>	M	M / H	L	L	-	M / H
Research Objective: <i>Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700)</i>	M	-	L	-	L	L
Research Objective: <i>The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945)</i>	-	-	-	-	L	L
Landscape Zone Priority: <i>Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment for all time periods present, through 'on-site' and 'off-site' studies and the interaction with past economies.</i>	L / M	-	L / M	M	-	L / M
Landscape Zone Priority: <i>Establish the basis of the rural economy for the area for all time periods, but especially through the recovery of material and environmental remains.</i>	-	L / M	L	L / M	-	L / M
Landscape Zone Priority: <i>The ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape.</i>	L	-	-	M	-	L
Fieldwork Event Aim: <i>Determine the extent, morphology and function of, and interaction between, possible occupation remains and the landscape setting.</i>	-	-	L / M	-	-	L / M
Fieldwork Event Aim: <i>Recover individual artefacts and artefact assemblages and other indicators, such as faunal and charred plant remains from securely dated sequences to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities.</i>	-	L / M	L	L / M	-	L / M
Fieldwork Event Aim: <i>Determine the local environment of the site through the recovery of palaeo-environmental data.</i>	L	-	L	L / M	-	L / M

Key:

- L = Low Potential
- M = Medium Potential
- H = High Potential

Hunter-foragers (400000 – 4500 BC): Research Objective (b) – Define the range of human activity and where it took place, particularly through the study of palaeoeconomy

- 4.6.4 Although the excavation results have identified both material and potential features of Mesolithic date, apart from contributing to the perceived distribution of such remains in this region of Kent, insufficient has been recovered to specifically address this particular research objective in any greater detail. The possibility remains that intra-site comparisons may be made with broadly contemporaneous activity, such as recently recorded at Sandway Road (URS 1999e).

Farming Communities (2000 – 100 BC): Research Objective (b) – Consider environmental change resulting from landscape organisation and reorganisation

- 4.6.5 Archaeological remains attributable to the later prehistoric periods are relatively rare in Kent. As such, the results from Holm Hill offer the potential to contribute to this poorly understood aspect of the county as a whole, and in particular the spatial organisation and

reorganisation of the agricultural landscape throughout time. Unfortunately, little was recorded to confidently identify and associate any settlement centres with such organisation of the landscape locally, but the information recorded may help to define the use of landscape components, which in turn may provide data concerning the wider later prehistoric landscape use and organisation (c.f. Champion 1982).

Towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC – AD 1700): Research Objective (d) – How did the organisation of the landscape change through time

- 4.6.6 The Later Iron Age remains at Holm Hill appear in part to represent the culmination of prehistoric occupation at the site, and as such may not represent evidence for the origins of towns and their rural landscapes *per se*. The Romano-British evidence is likely to represent peripheral activity away from settlement centres, such as Thurnham villa to the west, and as such may not make a significant contribution to our understanding of settlement or its influence on the hinterland during this period in the area. It may, however, be significant that the Romano-British remains so far discovered all appear to be aligned between the River Len to the south-west and the North Downs to the north-east. This may indicate a need and/ or desire to exploit a variety of differing resources. Furthermore, the preservation of some archaeological feature alignments in present day administrative boundaries is of note, and may contribute to a wider study of the formalisation and organisation of the landscape through this period.

The recent landscape (AD 1700 – 1945): Research Objective (a) – In what ways was local rural economy affected by Enclosure and agricultural intensification

- 4.6.7 The results from Holm Hill offer little, at present, to contribute to this research objective. However, the archaeological remains recorded that can be provisionally correlated with documentary sources (such as field name evidence and historic mapping) may serve as qualitative data to indicate the degree of reliability that may be placed on such desk-based resources. Furthermore, it is likely that the general locale would be favoured for settlement from the earliest periods onwards, as evidenced by the range of chronological periods represented. This persistence in patronage has culminated, in some areas, with the characteristic ‘polyfocal’ settlements present today along the foot of the North Downs, such as the nearby villages of Harrietsham and Hollingbourne, and the results from Holm Hill, may therefore contribute to an understanding of the processes influencing such development.

Landscape Zone Priority: Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment

- 4.6.8 At a site-specific level, detailed stratigraphic analysis of the colluvial deposits throughout the site may contribute to an understanding of the organisation of the landscape through time. Moreover, the broad range of chronological periods represented at the site will provide environmental data that may assist in determining the changing environment through time. On a broader level, the site is located on the periphery of the Wealden Greensand landscape zone, overlooked by the North Downs to the north, and overlooking the River Len to the south. Within this context the site is ideally situated to exploit a variety of resources, including free-draining farmland in the immediate vicinity, downlands to the north for grazing, and wetland areas alongside the River Len to the south. The results from Holm Hill will therefore potentially contribute to a better understanding of the changing nature of resource exploitation, both on- and off-site, through time.

Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of rural economies

- 4.6.9 The results from Holm Hill *in toto* are unremarkable, and although they collectively represent a number of distinct chronological periods, little in the way of detail is present for any particular period. Therefore, the value (and potential) of the results rests more in their total, than the sum of their individual parts. As such, there is little potential in using the results to prepare authoritative statements regarding rural economies during any particular chronological period.

Landscape Zone Priority: The ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape

- 4.6.10 The probable Romano-British cremation-related deposits offer little potential for contributing to demographic studies for this period in the area, although they do offer the potential to contribute to our understanding of the funerary process as a whole for this period in the region.

Fieldwork Event Aim: Determine the Interaction between Occupation and Landscape

- 4.6.11 The possibility that the spatial distribution of charcoal quantification, for instance, recovered from samples may indicate potential occupation zones associated with any particular period of activity can be explored. Moreover, as discussed above, reliable radiocarbon determinations of the burnt-out tree stump features may indicate periods of woodland clearance in the area.

Fieldwork Event Aim: Establish the economic basis of agricultural communities

- 4.6.12 This fieldwork event aim largely reflects the landscape zone priority covering the same concerns (see *Landscape Zone Priority: Establish the basis of rural economies*). In that sense, the results from Holm Hill *in toto* are unremarkable, and whilst collectively representing a number of distinct chronological periods, little in the way of detail is present for any particular period. It is of note, however, that there is a general paucity of dated assemblages of charred remains from rural sites in this area.

Fieldwork Event Aim: Determine the local environment of the site

- 4.6.13 This fieldwork event aim largely reflects the landscape zone priority covering the same concerns (see *Landscape Zone Priority: Reconstruction of the changing palaeo-environment*). In that sense, detailed stratigraphic analysis of the colluvial deposits may contribute to an understanding of the organisation of the landscape, and the broad range of chronological periods represented at the site will also assist in determining the changing environment through those periods.

Summary

- 4.6.14 If compared to other ‘green field’ excavations, both locally and further afield, the results at Holm Hill in many respects would be considered unremarkable. Few datable artefacts were recovered, plant macrofossils were generally sparse and structural remains were notably absent from the remains recorded.
- 4.6.15 However, the evidence recorded as a whole is noteworthy. Few later prehistoric sites have been excavated in recent years in the general vicinity, and the general state of knowledge concerning the archaeology of Kent during this period is little advanced since the last significant archaeological overview of the county in 1982 (Leach 1982).

- 4.6.16 As such, the recovery of dated remains, however sparse, to indicate prehistoric activity at the site from the Early Bronze Age onwards is of some significance. Allied to these remains is a comprehensive suite of stratigraphically secure environmental samples, which have demonstrated some interesting yields, including features containing profuse quantities of charred grain, as well as freshwater molluscs that presumably indicate exploitation of local off-site resources.
- 4.6.17 Therefore, it is felt that the main potential for Holm Hill lies not in the individual periods represented themselves, but in the range of periods represented, indicating a preferred locale for activity spanning perhaps several thousand years (not including the low-level Mesolithic component recorded). As such, although it is clearly not a site that warrants full publication in isolation, it will make a significant contribution to a broader overview of the archaeology of the CTRL, and Kent as a whole, particularly with reference to later prehistoric farming communities. Some aspects of the results do warrant further analysis and publication, most notably including the Early Bronze Age pottery, which is not common in Kent.
- 4.6.18 At this stage of assessment there are no updated research objectives identified not included in the original strategy that the principal site archive has the potential to address, notwithstanding the possibility that additional areas of research may be identified on the basis of the results of any further analysis.

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See also individual bibliographies relevant to specialist appendices (**Section 7**).

6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

6.1 Fieldwork

- 6.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Rail Link Engineering, who monitored the fieldwork on behalf of Union Railways (South) Limited. The assistance shown by Jay Carver (RLE) in particular is gratefully acknowledged. Monitoring visits were also attended by Kent County Council (KCC) and English Heritage (EH); their constructive comments, advice and experience, particularly provided by Simon Mason (KCC) and Peter Kendall (EH), were willingly received.
- 6.1.2 Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge Oakes Construction, Dartford, and in particular Paul Rolfe, for the assistance shown in providing all necessary plant to prepare the excavation areas and ancillary works.
- 6.1.3 The excavation fieldwork was managed by Andrew Crockett, directed in the field by Kevin Ritchie, with the assistance of Dominic Barker and Paul Gajos, and carried out by Jo Best, Fiona Edwards, Chris Jones, Roger Linnard, Alex Prior and Matt Wright.

6.2 Post-excavation

- 6.2.1 Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance shown by Oxford Archaeological Unit, and in particular Stuart Foreman, for promptly providing details of the Harrietsham Mesolithic evaluation and the more recent CTRL construction watching brief. In addition, Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, in particular Nigel Macpherson-Grant, for comment on the prehistoric pottery.
- 6.2.2 The post-excavation programme was managed by Andrew Crockett for Wessex Archaeology, with the assistance of Lorraine Mepham (Finds Manager) and Mike Allen (Environmental Manager). This report was compiled by Andrew Crockett and Kevin Ritchie, with the illustrations provided by Rob Goller.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Assessment of Pottery

Lorraine Mephram

Introduction

7.1.1 In total, 156 sherds of pottery were recovered during the fieldwork events itemised in **Table 1**. All pottery was recovered from hand-excavation, including 61 sherds retrieved from dry-sieving deposits from Harrietsham Mesolithic evaluation through 4mm mesh sieves.

7.1.2 In terms of addressing fieldwork event aims, the recovery and assessment of pottery is primarily to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities by placing such evidence in a secure chronological framework.

Methodology

7.1.3 For this assessment, the pottery has been quantified on a context by context basis by broad fabric group (e.g. sandy, flint-tempered), with spot dates and the presence of diagnostic material recorded. At the time of assessment the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) fabric series was not available for consultation. However, it is known that the fabric groups identified from Holm Hill are broadly compatible with the CAT series.

Quantifications

7.1.4 The small pottery assemblage includes material of early prehistoric, later prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date.

7.1.5 Pottery quantification by ware group for those fieldwork events conducted by Wessex Archaeology are provided in **Table 5**.

7.1.6 The earliest pottery recovered comprises 13 grog-tempered sherds from a single context, identified on the basis of fabric and decoration as a late Beaker form. Twelve flint-tempered sherds have been identified as of Middle/Late Bronze Age date on the basis of fabric type; in the absence of diagnostic material only a broad dating has been attempted at this stage. Eleven sherds in non-distinctive sandy or sparsely flint-gritted fabrics are likely to date within the 1st millennium BC (Iron Age). Seven grog-tempered sherds are attributed to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period; whether pre- or post-Conquest is uncertain.

7.1.7 Of the remaining sherds, 10 are dated as Romano-British; these consist entirely of coarsewares. On the basis of fabric and manufacture this small group is unlikely to date later than the 2nd century AD. Six sandy and 18 shelly sherds are medieval (12th/13th century). The post-medieval pottery (14 sherds) includes red earthenwares and one modern industrial ware.

Provenance

7.1.8 Approximately half of the assemblage was found unstratified or from topsoil contexts; the remainder came from features of various types (see **Table 5**).

7.1.9 Overall condition is fair to poor, with most sherds small and heavily abraded; diagnostic sherds are scarce.

Conservation

- 7.1.10 There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

Comparative material

- 7.1.11 Early Bronze Age pottery is not common in Kent, and will add to the overall regional type series. Other pottery types of various dates are not particularly distinctive, but almost certainly represent locally produced wares that fall within the known range for Kent (eg. Macpherson-Grant 1991; Pollard 1988).

Potential for further work

- 7.1.12 The small group of Early Bronze Age pottery is interesting, and warrants further analysis and publication, since pottery of this date is not common in Kent. Detailed analysis and publication of this group, involving full fabric and form analysis, following nationally recommended guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1997) is recommended. Fabric types would be correlated with the CAT regional fabric type series.
- 7.1.13 Apart from this group, the small pottery assemblage is useful as an indicator of activity in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age/Romano-British period, but is otherwise of limited significance, and there is little potential for further analysis.
- 7.1.14 The prehistoric pottery *in toto* will add to the overall regional type series for Kent and may contribute to an overview of prehistoric pottery in the county. The small quantity of other pottery (later prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval) does not warrant detailed analysis or publication, but to fulfil the requirements of a minimum archive will be quantified by CAT fabric type, with notes made of any diagnostic sherds. No further work is recommended for the post-medieval pottery.

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Table 5: Pottery quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Weight	Ware group	Spot date	Comments
	Tree throw 1004	1003	1	2	Sandy	IA	Burnt/overfired
	Ditch 4010	1017	1	6	flint-tempered	EIA	Shouldered form; early 1st mill BC
	Topsoil	1021	2	1	flint-tempered	?LBA	Tiny, abraded sherds
	Ditch 4008	1057	2	8	Sandy	?IA	Coarse, prominent Fe oxides
	Topsoil	2007	3	84	Sandy	Medieval	Late C12/C13
	Topsoil	2007	2	4	Sandy	?RB	Or could be medieval
	Ditch 4001	2028	13	34	grog-tempered	EBA/MBA	?late Beaker; 1 rim + finger impressed body
	Ditch 4007	2076	2	2	Sandy	?IA	Tiny, abraded sherds
	Ditch 4003	2082	1	2	Sandy	?LIA/ERB	Glauconitic; could be Saxon/early med?
	Ditch 4004	2118	1	4	Sandy	IA	
3524TT	Gully 352405	352406	1	1	Sandy	RB	Oxidised; late C1/C2 AD?
3528TT	Pit 352806	352805	1	14	Sandy	RB	Oxidised; flagon handle
3528TT	Gully 352810	352809	3	15	grog-tempered	LIA/ERB	
3528TT	Gully 352810	352809	2	10	Sandy	RB	Inc. Upchurch type; late C1/C2 AD
3528TT	Gully 352812	352811	2	171	grog-tempered	LIA	C1 BC; 'Belgic' type
3528TT	Gully 352812	352811	1	1	Sandy	RB	C2 AD
3592TT	Colluvium	359202	5	39	flint-tempered	?MBA	All 1 vessel (?Deverel-Rimbury)
3603TT	Subsoil	360302	1	16	flint-tempered	?EIA	Early 1st mill BC
3603TT	Ditch 360303	360304	2	5	flint-tempered	?LBA	Small, abraded sherds
3605TT	Ditch 360507	360508	1	23	Sandy	LIA	Or could be Late Saxon/early med?
3612TT	Subsoil	361202	2	5	Sandy	RB	WT greywares; late C1/C2 AD
3633TT	Subsoil	363302	2	18	flint-tempered	?EIA	Early 1st mill BC
3633TT	Ditch 363303	363304	2	1	flint-tempered	?LBA	Tiny, abraded sherds
3634TT	Ditch 363406 (=4007)	363407	2	9	grog-tempered	LIA	1 rim
	Unstratified	unstrat	1	2	flint-tempered	?LBA	Tiny, abraded sherd
	Unstratified	unstrat	18	41	Shelly	early med	Leached
	Unstratified	unstrat	1	3	Sandy	RB	
	Unstratified	unstrat	3	18	Sandy	Medieval	1 rim - bowl?
	Unstratified	unstrat	2	7	Sandy	?LIA/ERB	Glauconitic; could be Saxon/early med?
	Unstratified	unstrat	13	220	Redwares	post-med	
	Unstratified	unstrat	1	47	Industrial	post-med	
		TOTAL	94	813			

7.2 Assessment of Ceramic Building Material

Table 6: CBM quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Weight	Type	Spot date	Comments
3524TT	Gully 352403	352404	1	2	roof tile	Post-med	
3597TT	Topsoil	359701	5	500	Brick	Post-med	
3597TT	Topsoil	359701	2	33	roof tile	Post-med	
3597TT	Subsoil	359702	1	21	Brick	Post-med	
3611TT	Layer	361104	9	70	roof tile	Med/post-med	some handmade
3611TT	Layer	361104	1	20	brick	Post-med	
3611TT	Ditch 361105	361106	1	150	brick	Post-med	
3532TT	Land drain 353205	353205	11	469	brick/tile	Post-med	
	Unstratified	unstrat	27	890	roof tile	Med/post-med	some handmade
	Lynchet 2044	2045	2	110	roof tile	Post-med	
		TOTAL	60	2265			

7.3 Assessment of Fired Clay

Table 7: Fired Clay quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Weight	Spot date	Comments
3528TT	Gully 352812	352811	1	2	RB	
3596TT	Pit 359606	359607	60	92	RB?	Extracted from sample 20
3596TT	Pit 359609	359608	17	60	RB?	Extracted from sample 21
		TOTAL	78	154		

7.4 Assessment of Worked Flint

Table 8: Worked Flint quantification by context

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Period	Comments
	Ditch 4010	1017	5	Neo/BA	Flakes; core
	Topsoil	1021	21	Neo/BA	Flakes; cores
	Ditch 4001	2011	1	Neo/BA	Flake
	Ditch 4010	2028	3	Neo/BA	Flakes
	Tree throw 2033	2032	2	Neo/BA	Flakes
	Lynchet 2044	2045	1	Neo/BA	Flake
	Ditch 4004	2085	7	Neo/BA	Flakes
	Ditch 4005	2104	1	Neo/BA	Flake
	Ditch 4005	2105	2	Neo/BA	Flakes
	Subsoil	2106	1	Neo/BA	Flake
	Pit 2124	2126	12	Neo/BA	Flakes; scrapers; core
3525TT	Subsoil	352502	1	Meso/EN	Blade
3528TT	Gully 352810	352809	1	Meso/EN	Broken blade
3528TT	Gully 352812	352811	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3529TT	Colluvium	352902	1	Neo/BA	Core rejuvenation tablet
3531TT	Layer	353104	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3592TT	Ditch 359205	359202	3	Neo/BA	Flakes
3593TT	Topsoil	359301	1	LN/EBA	Knife; Bullhead flint
3600TT	Topsoil	360001	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3601TT	Ditch 360112 (=4001)	360111	2	Neo/BA	Flake; core
3603TT	Subsoil	360302	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3603TT	Ditch 360303	360304	27	Neo/BA	Flakes
3605TT	Ditch 360507	360508	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3612TT	Subsoil	361202	2	Neo/BA	Blade; flake
3612TT	Ditch 361204	361203	12	Meso	Blades; flakes
3614TT	Ditch 361403	361404	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3633TT	Ditch 363303	363304	1	Neo/BA	Flake
3634TT	Ditch 363406 (=4007)	363407	5	Neo/BA	Flakes
3532TT	Palaeochannel 353218	353211	1	Meso/EN	Broken blade
	Unstratified	Unstrat	7	Neo/BA	Flakes; core
		TOTAL	126		

Table 9: Worked Flint quantification by artefact type

Type	Number	Group %	Total %	Period	Comments
Scrapers	2	66.7%	1.6%	Neo/BA	End scrapers
Piercers					
Burins					
Projectiles					
Denticulates					
Fabricators					
Microliths					
Core tools					
Other tools	1	33.3%	0.8%	LN/EBA	Knife
Misc. retouch					
<i>Tools subtotal</i>	3		2.4%		
Flake cores/core frags	8	88.9%	6.3%	Neo/BA	
Blade(let) cores/core frags					
Rejuvenation tablets	1	11.1%	0.8%	Neo/BA	
Crested pieces					
Microburins					
Chips					
<i>Production sub-total</i>	9		7.1%		
Blades/bladelets	14	12.3%	11.1%	Meso?	
Flakes	100	87.7%	79.4%	Neo/BA	
<i>Blades & flakes sub-total</i>	114		90.5%		
Debitage					
<i>Fragments sub-total</i>					
TOTAL	126				

7.5 Assessment of Burnt Flint

Table 10: Burnt Flint quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Period	Count	Weight
3596TT	Crem. 359609	359608	RB?	7	6
3633TT	Ditch 363303	363304	LBA	1	1
	Unstratified	unstrat	-	2	504
			TOTAL	10	511

7.6 Assessment of Humanly Modified and Unworked Stone

Table 11: Humanly Modified and Unworked Stone quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Material	Period	Comments
3614TT	Subsoil	361402	1	Sandstone	-	Whetstone
	Ditch 4001	2028	1	Sandstone	EBA/MBA	Whetstone (Obj No 951)
	Ditch 4004	2085	1	Flint	IA	Hammerstone, burnt
	Pit 2124	2126	2	Sandstone	?	Unworked, burnt
		TOTAL	5			

7.7 Assessment of Glass

Table 12: Glass quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Weight	Spot date	Comments
	Unstrat.	1021	2	16	Pmed/Mod	Bottle and window glass
3611TT	Surface	361104	1	5	Pmed/Mod	Bottle glass
		TOTAL	3	21		

7.8 Assessment of Metal

Table 13: Metal quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Obj No	Material	Count	Period	Comments
3596TT	Pit 359606	359607	-	Iron	1	R-B	nail
3596TT	Pit 359609	359608	-	Iron	2	R-B	hobnails
3596TT	Pit 359609	359608	-	Iron	2	R-B	fragments
3532TT	Topsoil	353201	-	Iron	1	post-med	horseshoe
	Unstratified	Unstrat	-	Iron	4	post-med	nails
	Unstratified	Unstrat	-	Iron	1	post-med	hobnail?
	Unstratified	Unstrat	-	Iron	1	post-med	joiner's dog
				TOTAL	12		

7.9 Assessment of Cremated Human Bone

J I McKinley

Introduction

- 7.9.1 Cremated bone was retrieved by whole-earth recovery from three adjacent pits in trench 3695TT. The deposits (359605, 359607 and 359608) are all probably of Romano-British date. The deposits were whole-earth sampled to ensure the complete recovery of not only all cremated bone (human or otherwise) but also any associated artefacts. Partial sampling may not have recovered elements of the entire assemblage that may contribute to our understanding of the funerary process as a whole, particularly if spatial variations were present within the deposits.

Methodology

- 7.9.2 The bone from each deposit was weighed, and an assessment of cremation efficiency and bone fragmentation was made (McKinley 1994). The number of individuals per deposit and the age of those individuals were also assessed (*op cit.*) (**Table 14**).

Quantifications

Table 14: Summary of cremated bone

Feature	Context	Context type	Bone weight	Colour	Age
Pit 359604	359605	?Redeposited pyre debris	41.3g	White	Adult
Pit 359606	359607	?Redeposited pyre debris	97.8g	White	Adult
Pit 359609	359608	?Redeposited pyre debris	48.1g	White	Adult
		TOTAL	187.2g		

Provenance

- 7.9.3 The bone was in good condition, both compact and spongy bone being recovered, suggesting little bone is likely to have been lost as a result of adverse burial conditions. Some level of truncation may have occurred, the features ranging in depth from 0.15 - 0.26m, consequently it is possible that some bone may have been lost from the deposits.
- 7.9.4 The mixed nature of the deposits - fragments of cremated bone dispersed amongst charcoal and fragments of fired clay – and the small amounts of bone recovered, suggests they may not represent cremation burials, but rather redeposited pyre debris cleared from the pyre site(s) after the collection of bone for burial (McKinley 1998).

Conservation

- 7.9.5 There are no conservation issues that may affect further analysis.

Comparative material

- 7.9.6 A number of fieldwork events elsewhere on the CTRL have produced cremation-related features and deposits of a broad Romano-British date. Most notably, a considerable number of cremated burials and *in situ* cremations (*bustums*) were recorded at the Waterloo Connection site, Northfleet (ARC NBR98; URS 1999a), as well as examples at, for instance, Pilgrim's Way (ARC PIL98; URS 1999b) and North of Saltwood Tunnel (ARC SLT98; URS 1999c).

- 7.9.7 Similar types of deposit have been recovered from Romano-British cemetery sites at Holborough (Jessup 1959) and East London (Barber and Bowsher 2000, McKinley *in press*). It is likely that these types of deposit are more common elsewhere, but have been mis-interpreted as unurned burials.

Potential for further work

- 7.9.8 The potential for further analysis is limited. Although, given the small quantities of bone recovered, it is difficult to be conclusive, there is no reason to suppose that the three deposits do not all relate to separate cremation episodes. The bone all represent adult remains and further analysis is unlikely to expand on demographic detail. There was no evidence of pathological lesions.
- 7.9.9 The bone is universally white in colour, evidence of efficient cremation (Holden *et al.* 1995a, 1995b). The quantities of bone recovered are very small, ranging from 41.3g to 98.8g, the latter representing a maximum of 10% of the expected weight of bone from an adult cremation (McKinley 1993). The maximum fragment size is *c.* 25mm, most fragments being <10mm. Full analysis further pertaining to pyre technology and ritual will only serve to expand on the skeletal elements represented within the deposit and the possible significance of the distribution, though no obvious bias in skeletal areas was noted in assessment.
- 7.9.10 The main potential of this assemblage lays in the observation that the presence of redeposited pyre debris is indicative of the probable presence of both burials and pyre site(s) in the immediate vicinity. Assessment of published data from comparable sites in the area may illustrate if similar deposits existed in other Romano-British cemeteries in the region.
- 7.9.11 In this capacity, the cremated remains offer the potential to contribute to our understanding of the funerary process as a whole for the Romano-British period in the region, as little attention to these deposits, other than as 'burials' *per se*, has been given in the past. They therefore offer the potential to contribute to the landscape zone priority concerning the ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape.

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7.10 Assessment of Macroscopic Plant Remains and Charcoal

Dr M J Allen

Introduction

- 7.10.1 In total, 22 bulk disturbed samples of generally 10 litres volume have been recovered and processed for macroscopic plant remains and charcoal during the fieldwork events itemised in **Table 1**. All were recovered during the hand-excavation of features.
- 7.10.2 In terms of addressing fieldwork event aims, the recovery and assessment of these samples is primarily to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities, and to determine the local environment of the site through recovery of such palaeo-environmental data.

Methodology

- 7.10.3 Samples were selected for processing according to the following criteria;
- *A broad range of feature types was to be examined,*
 - *Samples should be spatially arranged across the entire site, and*
 - *Where possible, all chronological periods should be examined at the site*
- 7.10.4 Standard flotation processing methods were used, with sample flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions. All coarse fractions (i.e. >5.6 mm) were hand-sorted, weighed and discarded, with flots scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope in order to quantify the presence of plant macrofossils.

Quantifications

- 7.10.5 Macroscopic plant remains and charcoal quantification by sample per context for those fieldwork events conducted by Wessex Archaeology are provided in **Table 15**.

Provenance

- 7.10.6 The samples generally produced large flots (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres), which were largely dominated by charcoal with mainly low levels of both rooty material and uncharred weed seeds, both of which can be indicative of stratigraphic movement.

Conservation

- 7.10.7 Analysis would include extraction and sorting of all charred remains from residues, facilitating storage and archive compilation.

Comparative material

- 7.10.8 A number of sites of these periods are known in the locale, and would provide comparative data sets. These include excavations at Stonar (Paradine n.d.), Keston Camp and Wilmington (Hillman unpub), Maidstone (Arthur 1960) and Bicknor (Arthur 1961), as well as more recent CTRL investigations at sites such as Sandway Road (URS 1999).

Potential for further work

- 7.10.9 Analysis will enable an interpretation of activities performed on site during the periods represented, and possibly the functions of some features. This will enable some indication of the role of the site in the social economy, and provide details of the community economy.

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Table 15: Quantification of Ecofacts

Feature type and number	Context	Sample	Size (litres)	Flot size (ml)	Flot					Other	Residue Charcoal >5.6mm
					Grain	Chaff	Weed Seeds Uncharred	Weed Seeds Charred	Charcoal >5.6mm		
HOL99 Excavation											
BTS 1001	1002	3001	10	625 ^{6.25}			+	+	++		
BTS 1001	1013	3004	10	20 ²			+	+	+		
BTS 1009	1010	3006	2	50 ^{2.5}			+		++	Moll-f (+)	
BTS 1023	1024	3008	10	225 ⁵			+	+	++		
BTS 1028	1027	3010	10	250 ^{12.5}			+	+	++		
BTS 2068	2066	3512	10	700 ⁷			+	+	++		
Ditch 4001	2029	3507	10	10 ^{6.5}			++	+	-		
Ditch 4004	2085	3513	10	5 ^{0.5}	+		+	+(h)	+	Burnt bone	
Ditch 4005	2105	3514	10	1 ^{0.1}	+	+	+	+	-		
Hearth 1033	1034	3012	10	1000 ¹⁰			+	+	++		
Pit 1029	1030	3011	10	1000 ¹⁰			+	+	+++		
Pit 2003	2001	3501	10	350 ^{3.5}	+++		+	+	++		
Pit 2043	2041	3509	10	750 ^{7.5}			+	+	++		
HOL98 Evaluation											
Crem. 359604	359605	19	10	60 ⁶	+	+	+	+	++	Burnt bone	+++
Crem. 359606	359607	20	15	175 ^{1.75}	+		++		++	Burnt bone	
Crem. 359609	359608	21	15	500 ⁵	+		++		++	Burnt bone	
Ditch 360303	360304	2	15	20 ²	+	+	+	+(h)	+	Moll-f (+)	
Ditch 359205 (=4010)	359202	22	10	30 ²	+	+	++	+	+		
Ditch 359205 (=4010)	359203	23	0.7	3 ^{0.3}	++		++	+	-		
Ditch 360507	360508	18	15	35 ^{3.5}	+	+	++		+		
Ditch 361204	361203	26	15	20 ¹²	+	+	++	++			
Layer	352006	1	5	800 ⁸	+		+		+++		+

Key: BTS = Burnt-out tree stump; Flot size in ^{superscript} = ml of rooty material; h = hazelnut; Moll-f = freshwater mollusc
+ = 1-10, ++ = 11-50, +++ = 51-100

7.11 Assessment of Mollusca

Dr M J Allen

Introduction

- 7.11.1 As noted above, bulk disturbed samples were taken for macroscopic plant remains and charcoal, no samples were specifically taken for Mollusca.
- 7.11.2 In terms of addressing fieldwork event aims, the recovery and assessment of these samples is primarily to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities, and to determine the local environment of the site through recovery of such palaeo-environmental data.

Methodology

- 7.11.3 Samples were selected for processing according to the following criteria;
- *A broad range of feature types was to be examined,*
 - *Samples should be spatially arranged across the entire site, and*
 - *Where possible, all chronological periods should be examined at the site*
- 7.11.4 Standard processing methods were used.

Quantifications

- 7.11.5 See **Table 15**.

Provenance

- 7.11.6 These data will provide good local evidence for the site environment.

Conservation

- 7.11.7 Analysis would include extraction and sorting of mollusc remains from residues, facilitating storage and archive compilation.

Comparative material

- 7.11.8 These data are site-specific; there is very little known in archaeological terms, particularly for the prehistoric periods, concerning mollusca in the general area to compare and contrast with Holm Hill.

Potential for further work

- 7.11.9 Analysis and identification will provide some detail of the local flooding/ water regimes contemporary with ditch **360303** and burnt-out tree stump **1009**.

7.12 Assessment of Soil Morphology

Dr M J Allen

Introduction

- 7.12.1 The sequence comprised 14 disturbed 0.1m thick spot samples, each approximately comprising 1 litre of soil. The pedological variations within context 352402 described below were not noted during field recording.

Methodology

- 7.12.2 The spot sample sequence was described (**Table 16**) following pedological notation outlined in Hodgson (1976), but due to the disturbed nature of the bulk spot samples little comment of either the true stoniness or of the structure of the deposits could be made.

Quantifications

Table 16: Pedological description of colluvial deposits

Context no.	Sample nos.	Sample depth	Description
352402	17	0 - 0.1	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand loam, almost stone-free, some humic material derived from roots/worms present, 1% fine macropores. [B/C horizon]
352402	8-16 (inc.)	0.1 - 1.00	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) to dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) stone-free sandy clay loam to clay loam becoming slightly firmer (?compacted) with depth
352402	6, 7	1.00 - 1.20	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam becoming sandier and looser (unconsolidated with depth (loamy sand- medium sand grains, hand lens)
352417	4, 5	1.20 - 1.40	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) unconsolidated/loose loamy sand with some medium flints

Provenance

- 7.12.3 The pedological description provides evidence of the local site-specific soil history.

Conservation

- 7.12.4 There are no conservation issues that may affect further analysis.

Comparative material

- 7.12.5 Colluvial sequences in southern England have been recorded archaeologically by Kerney *et al.* (1964) and Preece and Bridgland (1998) for Kent, and on sandy subsoils in Surrey by Scaife and Macphail (1983), the latter providing useful comparative data. Much work on hillwash in the archaeological domain has been published by Bell (1983) and Allen (1988, 1991, 1992 etc.).

Potential for further work

- 7.12.6 The descriptions will be used to interpret the soil history and erosional events relating to archaeological activity.

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