Channel Tunnel Rail Link

London and Continental Railways

Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture

The later prehistoric and medieval landscape to the north of Westenhanger Castle, Stanford, Kent

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ABSTRACT

As part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), the Canterbury Archaeological Trust was commissioned to undertake an excavation on land to the north of Westenhanger Castle (OS NGR 612200 137500). This excavation followed on from an evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service, and was itself succeeded by a watching brief undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The project was carried out between October 1997 and July 2000, under the project management of Rail Link Engineering, on behalf of Union Railways (South) Limited (a subsidiary for London and Continental Railways).

Evidence for Bronze Age activity was limited to four features. In the Iron Age, a farming landscape started to emerge including a trackway, a penannular gully and a well defined enclosure. This activity may have extended into the early Roman period.

The early medieval period represented the main phase of development of the site (*c* AD 1050-1175) with the establishment of a possible small farmstead with associated enclosure system. Although the nature, morphology, and chronological development of the farmstead is difficult to define, as no clear building plans survived, four potential structures have been identified along with associated refuse pits, possible latrines and possible livestock enclosures. This occupation appears to have been short-lived and was abandoned by the late 12th century. No direct evidence for settlement activity was apparent from that date onwards and the site seemed to have been subsequently occupied by successive field systems, showing an eastward shift in activity across the site in the 13th century.

Late medieval and post-medieval evidence are represented by a limited number of features, generally in the eastern part of the site, and related to agricultural activities.

RÉSUMÉ

Le Canterbury Archaeological Trust fut chargé d'entreprendre des fouilles archéologiques au nord de Westenhanger Castle (coordonnées géographiques OS NGR 612200E 137500N), dans le Kent, dans le cadre d'un programme de recherches archéologiques préventives de grande envergure, exécuté en avance de la construction de la ligne ferroviaire du Tunnel sous la Manche (CTRL). Les fouilles furent réalisées à la suite d'une opération de diagnostic menée par le Museum of London Archaeology Service et furent suivies par une surveillance archéologique entreprise par l'Oxford Archaeological Unit (maintenant Oxford Archaeology).

Le projet fut mené entre octobre 1997 et juillet 2000, sous la direction du maître d'oeuvre, Rail Link Engineering, pour le compte de Union Railways (South) Limited (une filiale de London and Continental Railways).

L'activité de l'âge du Bronze était limité à quatre structures. Au cours de l'âge du Fer, un paysage agricole commença à émerger, y compris un chemin, un fossé pseudo-annulaire et une enceinte bien définie. Il est possible que cette période d'activité se soit prolongée au début de l'époque romaine.

Le début de la période médiévale représenta la phase principale de développement du site (1050-1175) avec l'établissement de ce qui constitua peut-être une petite ferme associée avec un système d'enceintes. Bien que la nature, la morphologie et le développement chronologique de cette ferme soit difficile à définir, en raison de l'absence de plans de bâtiments certains, quatre structures potentielles ont été identifiées accompagnées de fosses à déchets, d'éventuelles latrines et de possibles enceintes à bétail. Cette occupation semble avoir été de courte durée et fut abandonnée vers la fin du XIIème siècle. Aucune preuve d'occupation associée à un site d'habitat ne fut évidente à partir de cette période et le site semble avoir été consécutivement occupé par des systèmes agraires successifs, démontrant un déplacement d'activités vers l'est du site au XIIIème siècle.

Les traces liées à l'occupation de la fin du Moyen-Age et de l'époque moderne sont représentées par un nombre limité de faits archéologiques, généralement situés dans la partie orientale du site et associés à des activités agricoles.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Im Rahmen umfangreicher archäologischer Untersuchungen im Vorfeld des Baus der Bahnstrecke durch den Kanaltunnel (Channel Tunnel Rail Link, CTRL) wurde der Canterbury Archaeological Trust mit Ausgrabungen auf einem Landstück nördlich von Westenhanger Castle beauftragt (OS NGR 612200E 137500N). Die Grabung erfolgte nach einer Evaluierung durch den Museum of London Archaeology Service. Auf die Grabung folgte eine Baustellenbeobachtung durch die Oxford Archaeological Unit. Das Projekt fand zwischen Oktober 1997 und Juli 2000 im Auftrag von Union Railways (South) Limited (einer Tochtergesellschaft von London and Continental Railways) unter der Projektleitung von Rail Link Engineering statt.

Zur Bronzezeit gab es lediglich vier Befunde. In der Eisenzeit bildete sich eine Agrarlandschaft heraus, unter anderem belegt durch einen Nutzweg, einen nach einer Seite offenen Abzugskanal und eine klar definierte Einhegung. Die landwirtschaftliche Tätigkeit setzte sich möglicherweise bis in die frührömische Zeit hinein fort.

Die Hauptentwicklungsphase der Stätte fiel in das frühe Mittelalter (ca. 1050–1175 n. Chr.), als ein wahrscheinlich kleines Gehöft mit zugehöriger Einhegung angelegt wurde. Auch wenn Charakter, Morphologie und zeitliche Entwicklung des Gehöfts nur schwer zu definieren sind, da eindeutige Gebäudepläne fehlen, wurden vier potenzielle Strukturen mit zugehörigen Abfallgruben sowie möglichen Latrinen und Weideeinzäunungen identifiziert. Die Ansiedlung war offenbar recht kurzlebig – sie wurde noch vor Ende des 12. Jahrhunderts wieder aufgegeben. Für die Zeit danach fanden sich keine direkten Siedlungsbelege. Wie es scheint, wurde die Stätte in der Folgezeit mit aufeinander folgenden Flursystemen überzogen, wobei im 13. Jahrhundert eine Verlagerung der Aktivitäten hin zum östlichen Teil der Stätte sichtbar wurde.

Hinweise auf eine spät- und nachmittelalterliche Nutzung ergaben sich durch eine begrenzte Zahl an Funden, die vornehmlich im Ostteil der Stätte auftraten und auf landwirtschaftliche Aktivitäten hindeuteten.

ABSTRACTO

Canterbury Archaeological Trust fue encargado de realizar una excavación al norte de Westenhanger Castle (OS NGR 612200E 137500N), como parte de un extenso programa de investigación arqueológica previo a la construcción del Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Esta excavación sucedía a una evaluación llevada a cabo por Museum of London Archaeological Services y fue a su vez continuada por un seguimiento de obra realizado por Oxford Archaeological Unit. El proyecto se desarrolló entre Octubre de 1997 y Julio de 2000 bajo la dirección de Rail Link Engineering (RLE) para Union Railways (South) Limited (parte de London and Continental Railways Limited).

La evidencia de actividad en la Edad del Bronce se reduce a cuatro estructuras. En la Edad del Hierro, un paisaje agrario comienza a emerger incluyendo un camino, una zanja casi anular y un encerramiento bien definido. Esta actividad pudo haberse extendido hasta el periodo romano.

El inicio del periodo medieval representa la fase principal del yacimiento (c AD 1050-1175) con el establecimiento posiblemente de una granja pequeña con un encerramiento asociado. A pesar de que la naturaleza, morfología y desarrollo cronológico es difícil de precisar ya que no han perdurado plantas de edificios, se han identificado cuatro estructuras junto a hoyos de residuos, posibles letrinas y con encerramientos de ganado. Esta ocupación parece haber durado poco tiempo y fue abandonada al final del siglo XII. No hay evidencia directa de ocupación desde esta fecha en adelante y el yacimiento parece haber estado ocupado seguidamente por sistemas agrícolas mostrando un cambio en la actividad hacia el este a lo largo del yacimiento en el siglo XIII.

La evidencia tardo-medieval queda representada por un número limitado de estructuras, generalmente en el lado este del yacimiento y relacionadas con actividad agrícola.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The investigations at Westenhanger Castle were undertaken principally by staff from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) (strip, map and sample phase) and Oxford Archaeology (OA) (watching brief phase). The post-excavation assessment for both phases was carried out by CAT. The overall management framework during the post-excavation analysis phase was provided by the Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (OWA). The work was supervised by an archaeological team from Rail Link Engineering (RLE), on behalf of the employer, London and Continental Railways.

The fieldwork and post-excavation assessment were supervised by Adrian Gollop (CAT) and managed by Mark Houliston. Andrew Parkinson (OA) supervised the watching brief fieldwork. Other members of the field team are credited in the main project acknowledgements in the digital archive (ADS 2006).

The following specialists contributed to this report: David Martin and Tim Tatton-Brown (documentary research), Lorraine Mepham (medieval pottery) and Chris Stevens (charred plant remains). Specialist contributors to the assessment included John Cotter (medieval pottery), Louise Harrison (fired clay), Tania Holmes (worked and burnt flint), Nigel Macpherson-Grant (prehistoric and Roman pottery), Enid Allison and Ruth Pelling (charred plant remains), and Ian Riddler (small finds). All illustrations were prepared by Peter Atkinson. CAD drawings were prepared by Simon Skittrell. The abstract was translated by Mercedes Planas (Spanish), Gerlinde Krug (German) and Valerie Diez (French).

Sub-editorial work was carried out by Valerie Diez. The report was edited by Julian Munby (medieval period team leader). Julie Gardiner was the project senior editor.

The author is also grateful to those who contributed to the management of the CTRL post-excavation project: Leigh Allen (finds manager), Niall Donald (data manager), Rob Goller and Anne Stewardson (senior illustrators), Elizabeth Stafford (environmental manager) and Michael J Allen (radiocarbon dating manager). Peter Clark managed the CAT report programme, and the OWA senior project managers were Stuart Foreman and Valerie Diez.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The site, on land to the north of Westenhanger Castle (centred on OS NGR 612200 137500), was discovered and excavated as part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigations carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). CTRL was built by London & Continental Railways Limited in association with Railtrack Group plc. The project was authorised by Parliament with the passage of the CTRL Act, 1996. The high-speed line runs for 109 km (68 miles) between St Pancras station in London and the Channel Tunnel and was built in two sections. Section 1 lies entirely within Kent and runs from Fawkham Junction (Gravesham) to Folkestone. The work was project managed by Rail Link Engineering (RLE).

The Canterbury Archaeological Trust was initially commissioned to undertake a detailed archaeological investigation. This excavation followed on from an evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS), and was itself succeeded by a watching brief undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU). The location of the site is shown on Figure 1 and the details of the archaeological fieldwork events are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Fieldwork Events

Fieldwork Event Name	Type	Fieldwork Event Code	Contractor	Dates of Fieldwork
North of Westenhanger Castle	Evaluation	ARC WSG 97	MoLAS	October 1997
North of Westenhanger Castle	Excavation	ARC WGC 98	CAT	March – April 1999
North of Westenhanger Castle	Watching Brief	ARC WSG 99	OAU	May 1999 – July 2000

The total area investigated covered a roughly rectangular area measuring 425 m by 159 m, *c* 6.37 ha, of which 0.09 ha were initially subjected to detailed archaeological investigation. The excavation was undertaken over a two-month period between March and April 1999, the watching brief continued intermittently until July 2000.

1.2 Geology and Topography

The site is located in open fields to the north of the London to Folkestone railway and to the south of the M20 motorway (Fig. 1). The northern limits encompass a slightly higher plateau from which the ground dips down to the south and west towards marshland formed in the floodplain of the East Stour river. This plateau lies to the northwest of the present village of Westenhanger, and is opposite Westenhanger Castle itself. The site was under arable cultivation before the CTRL works started. The local drift geology comprises Pleistocene or recent Head Brickearth and alluvium, overlying Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone and Sandgate Beds.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies *c* 400 m to the west of Stone Street. This road is believed to follow the same alignment as the original Roman route leading from Canterbury to the Roman fort of *Lemanis* at Lympne. The medieval village of Westenhanger is thought to have been situated on the line of Stone Street, a little to the east of the present village. Westenhanger Castle is situated immediately opposite the site, to the south, on the southern side of the railway. The standing remains represent a 14th century castle/fortified house with later Grade 1 Listed sixteenth century barns. Its origins are likely to be earlier, and may go back to the Norman Conquest.

The earliest historical document relating to Westenhanger is the charter of 1035 (Sawyer 1968, no. 974) describing a Canterbury estate called *Berwic* with boundaries almost identical to those of Westenhanger Manor when sold in 1885. A reference to a pocket of land as 'Five Acres' may refer to the area in which the excavation and watching brief were sited. This land lay to the north of the East Stour, and is surmised as being to the north and slightly to the west of the current castle at Westenhanger. This would place it neatly in the area of fieldwork. It is also likely that the church of *Berewic* mentioned in the *Domesday Monachorum* was the lost church of St John at Westenhanger, and that the outlying woodland mentioned in the 1035 charter at *Gimmincge* was the detached portion of the manor still lying in Gibbins Brook in 1885 (Ward 1935). The site may, therefore, have lain within an area encompassing a typical early medieval landscape of a newly colonised estate with its own church. The later medieval history is complicated, with the manor of *Hangre* being partitioned before 1191 into Westenhager and Ostenhanger; only the castle, licensed to crenellate in 1343, now remains (Martin and Martin 2001). The medieval village has vanished, while the church was reported by Hasted to have been pulled down 'several years ago' (Hasted 1797-1801).

This area has been subjected to little archaeological investigation prior to its adoption as part of the CTRL route. A desktop study of the archaeology of the area was prepared for Union Railways Limited (URL) by the OAU in 1994 as part of an environmental assessment

of the route of the CTRL. Field walking produced concentrations of prehistoric worked flint and medieval pottery (URL 1994). The site was initially identified during the MoLAS evaluation (URS 1998), which revealed the presence of medieval features including a suspected corn dryer. Further evaluations, undertaken by CAT, to both the east and west, failed to identify any meaningful archaeological remains beyond the site (URS 1999a, 1999b).

2 AIMS

The aim of this report is to present synthesised data at an interpretative level that can be assimilated into complementary studies. This synthetic report is supported by the fieldwork and research archive, which is freely available as a web-based digital archive.

In support of the CTRL Project Section 1 Monograph (Booth *et al.* 2007), the Westenhanger report integrates key assemblages and stratigraphic data into a site sequence secured on key dating evidence from artefact groups. The report includes a discursive narrative describing the sequence of activity and reasoning evidence (URS 2003, 15-16).

The updated research aim specific to this site focuses on identifying the reason for the abandonment or shift in medieval settlement (URS 2003, 40).

Other site aims include refining the chronology, and understanding of the basis and function of the site within a rural economy (URS 2001).

3 METHODS

The site was discovered during the MoLAS evaluation. No archaeological evidence had previously been identified by the desk-based assessment (URL 1994). An area of 30 by 30 m was identified for detailed archaeological investigation by CAT (URS 1999c). However the majority of the site area (and identified features) were investigated by OA under watching brief conditions. All fieldwork, from site stripping to recording and sampling, was in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (URL 1998, URS 1999d) prepared by the Project Manager, Rail Link Engineering (RLE).

The MAP2 assessment report was produced by CAT (URS 2001) in accordance with the specification produced by RLE (URS 2000). All method statements followed national guidelines and were agreed in consultation with English Heritage and Kent County Council (KCC) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The post-excavation analysis and report were carried out by CAT on behalf of the Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (OWAJV) following the methodology set out by the Updated Project design for archaeological analysis and publication (URS 2003). All project design documents are available in the digital archive (ADS, 2006).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Phase Summary

The overall phase plan is shown on Figures 3 and 4. The sequenced phases on the site are based initially on the stratigraphic record, and their dating depends almost entirely upon the ceramic evidence, although some aceramic features could be dated by the presence of prehistoric worked flint. In some cases spatial analysis alone was used as the basis for assigning discrete features to specific phases. A number of features remain undated and could not be attributed to any phase. Most of these were recorded only in plan and not investigated further; consequently the nature of these features is unknown.

Through the evidence provided from the dateable archaeological deposits and features, the following phases were recorded as being present on the site:

- Bronze Age (*c* 2000-1200 BC): The earliest activity on site can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age, however these features are disparate and the nature of the activity they represent incoherent.

- Late Iron Age (*c* 200-50 BC): During this phase the site became part of a coherent rural farming landscape, with limited evidence for settlement.

- Early medieval (*c* AD 1050-1175): This was the main phase of development of the site. A small farmstead with an associated enclosure system was established. Although the nature, morphology, and chronological development of the farmstead is difficult to define, as no clear building plans survived, four potential structures have been identified along with associated refuse pits, latrines and possible livestock enclosures.

- Medieval (*c* AD 1175-1275): The earlier farmstead appears to have been short-lived and had been abandoned by this period. A large drainage ditch complex was established across the site, along with a second enclosure system to the east of the earlier medieval activity. No direct structural evidence for settlement was evident, however an eastward shift in activity is evident across the site.

- Late medieval (*c* AD 1275-1350/75): This phase was poorly represented on the site, with only one feature securely dated to this phase. Remnants of a field system were present along with a potential drove-way. These features further endorse the model of an eastwards shift in activity across the medieval landscape.

- Post-medieval (*c* AD 1500 to the present day): This phase is represented by a number of disparate features, most of which are thought to be relatively modern relating to recent

agricultural practises. As with the medieval and late medieval phase above, these features generally lay in the eastern part of the site.

4.2 Hunter-gatherers and early Agriculturalists- Mesolithic to late pre-Roman Iron Age (*c* 13,000 BC - *c* 300 BC)

Two linear and two discrete features were tentatively assigned to this period, but only one was fairly closely dated. The discrete features were a possible tree-throw pit (501) in the eastern part of the site and an isolated oval pit (167), 2.4 m x 1.1 m and 0.18 m deep, in the central part of the site towards its southern edge. The former produced an assemblage (68 small sherds) of flint-tempered and flint-and-grog-tempered Deverel Rimbury pottery, indicating a middle Bronze Age date, while pit 167 produced 1.5 kg of burnt flint. Two short lengths of parallel ENE-WSW aligned ditches, 708 and 735, were identified within the CAT excavation area. These were undated apart from a single flint in ditch 735, but were thought to be possibly Bronze Age in date as they were sealed by deposits interpreted as a buried soil, which contained a further 11 fragments of worked flint, including cores and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. It is, however, possible that this material was redeposited (and earlier).

A total of 75 pieces of worked flint came from the site; 7 from the evaluation, 47 from the detailed excavation and 21 from the watching brief. Apart from two barbed-and-tanged arrowheads the flint, which was not reported upon in detail, contained little diagnostic material and most of it can only be assigned a general Neolithic-Bronze Age date range. Only those pieces from the buried soil and the underlying ditch were potentially *in situ*, but the character of the ditches beneath the buried soil, and their alignments, are more consistent with those of adjacent later prehistoric features in the vicinity. Despite their primary position in the stratigraphic sequence of the area of detailed excavation, therefore, a Bronze Age date for these features must be regarded as uncertain, at best.

A small group of flint-tempered sherds, redeposited in medieval ditch 454, was not closely dated but may belong to the early Iron Age rather than later.

4.3 Towns and their Rural Landscapes I - The later pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British Landscapes II (*c* 300 BC to *c* AD500)

A number of ditches and gullies, forming a coherent layout, were assigned to the later Iron Age. All were revealed in the watching brief phase of the project. Sampling levels were therefore generally low and the quantities of dating material (pottery) are correspondingly small; no other finds or environmental material were recovered. Some features are assigned to this period only on the basis of spatial associations with more confidently dated features.

At the west end of the site was a sub-square enclosure, largely sited upon a patch of sand subsoil, with maximum dimensions of *c* 54 m (WNW-ESE) x *c* 46 m. On the west side the ditch (450) was up to 1.45 m wide and 0.50 m deep, with a rounded profile. Elsewhere it was generally less substantial, perhaps as a result of preservation factors rather than genuine variation in its circuit. A short length of ditch (451) might have formed part of the original north side of the enclosure. This was cut by a WNW-ESE aligned ditch 422, which extended both west and east of the enclosure limits and was clearly later than ditch 450. On the south side of the enclosure and perhaps related to it was a length of curved ditch (522). An irregularly shaped, shallow, undated pit (512) was the only feature within the enclosure.

Ditch 422 extended east-south-eastwards in a fairly straight line for some 177 m from the west edge of the site, terminating just short of a natural hollow filled with later colluvium (556). Another ditch (421), with two main phases, lay parallel to 422, 10-12 m to the north, the two together defining a trackway. The eastern terminus of 421 was in line with that of 422, while at its west end there was a gap of almost 10 m before the alignment was resumed, almost immediately curving through a right angle into a more substantial SSW-NNE aligned ditch 539. This ditch was only examined at its south-western end. As it ranged from 2.1-3.5 m in width it is almost certain that it was recut several times. The recuts generally terminated at the south-west end of the ditch and did not involve the short length of return which lined up with feature 421.

South of the trackway were two related ditches. 423 was aligned perpendicular to the trackway and terminated just short of ditch 422. Further east, ditch 524 ran north-south rather than parallel to 423, but was aligned exactly on the eastern terminus of 422 (its northern limit was not identified), on which basis it is assigned to this phase. It produced a sherd of early Bronze Age pottery, but also a flint-tempered sherd for which a late Iron Age date is quite possible.

East of feature 524 was a penannular gully (214), defined as structure 2. The gully was at most 0.4 m wide and was slightly irregular in plan, enclosing an area up to 12 m across, open on the east side. The gully could have enclosed a circular structure, but there were no internal features. Since there were no associated finds either, its attribution to this period is uncertain. An earlier or (less likely) a later date is possible. Some 120 m east of structure 2 was an isolated pit (507), 1 m across and 0.18 m deep, which produced three sherds of late Iron Age pottery.

The dating evidence for this period consists entirely of pottery, some 150 sherds of which, dominated by flint-tempered, sand-tempered and sand-and-flint-tempered fabrics, were dated broadly to the late Iron Age (assessment data only). This material was

concentrated in ditch 422 at the point where this feature formed the north side of the enclosure, but was otherwise mostly redeposited in medieval features.

Nineteen sherds of pottery and a single fragment of ceramic building material were dated to the Romano-British period. The datable pieces are of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, although fabrics such as R73 could be dated later than this. Most of the sherds were abraded and redeposited in medieval features; they may have arrived at the site in the course of activities such as manuring of fields. Two sherds were recovered from the upper fills of late Iron Age ditches, however, one from the south-west terminal of ditch 539 and the other from feature 422 immediately south of here. It is unclear if these sherds were intrusive or if they suggest continuity of use of these features into the Roman period.

Discussion

The probable late Iron Age activity is clearly of more than one phase. It is possible that the western enclosure was originally an isolated feature only later incorporated into a more organised layout that eventually included a well-defined broad trackway associated with a substantial linear boundary (539) which may have been intended to help funnel livestock into the trackway. It is possible that the area of later colluvial soil (556) masked earlier wells or waterholes and that the trackway formed a specific access to this area for animals. The division of the area south of the trackway into fields may have been for arable purposes or for stock holding, and the absence of internal features or any significant quantity of domestic debris may suggest that the western enclosure was also for stock although, in view of the low level of sampling, this is only speculative. The emphasis on definition of the north central part of the site might suggest that any domestic focus lay in this direction, but most probably beyond the northern edge of the site. As already indicated, the presence of Roman sherds in two Iron Age features might further suggest that there was some continued use of the established boundaries at least into the early Romano-British period. Finally, the longer term survival of some elements of this landscape is suggested by the physical coincidence of some late Iron Age and later features, in particular the location of the south-west terminus of medieval ditch 424 with the line of Iron Age ditch 422 just east of the north-east corner of the western enclosure.

4.4 Towns and their Rural Landscapes II - The post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon Landscape (*c* AD 410 to *c* AD 1000)

Only a single sherd of late Saxon pottery, *c* 850-1050, can be attributed to this period. Unfortunately this sherd was unstratified, but does offer a hint of earlier activity pre-dating the medieval agricultural landscape.

The presence of residual grains of hulled wheat was observed from environmental samples taken from later eleventh and twelve-century contexts. Usually associated with prehistoric activity, recent work has shown that hulled wheat may have still been exploited in the post-Roman period in some areas of Kent and the southeast (Allison *pers. comm*.).

4.5 The medieval and recent Landscape - *c* AD 1000 to the modern day

4.5.1 Early medieval (c AD 1050 to 1175) (Fig. 7)

It is during the early medieval 11th and 12th centuries that the archaeological evidence indicates the start of intensified activity on the site, with the establishment of a probable farmstead. Unfortunately the exact nature and chronological development of the farmstead is difficult to define. Activity from this phase is seemingly confined to the north-western limits of the site, although both fieldwork and assessment have failed to establish eastern, southern and western boundaries to any settlement area; any northern boundary would have fallen beyond the fieldwork limits. Absence of further activity (especially to the immediate south) is partly a result of truncation of features and deposits by later activity, and difficulties in identifying surviving feature in the field, especially during the watching brief.

The watching brief was conducted subsequently to the main excavation and the stripping conditions meant that the surviving archaeology was truncated further by the machine. The ephemeral nature of many of the small ditches found during the excavation meant that they were not subsequently identified in the watching brief.

The archaeological features that did survive indicate the presence of several enclosure ditches, with associated refuse pits, gullies and post alignments. The available pottery from these features shows a potential date range from the mid 11th century through to the late 12 century (*c* 1050-1175), but cannot be used to further define any chronological development. Four groups of features have also been tentatively interpreted as possible structures. They consist of two possible rectangular-shaped gullies (structures 3 and 4), a seven-post structure (structure 5) and a semi-circular one (structure 1).

Surviving structures?

The remnants of a circular structure, structure 1, can be partially identified in the south-east corner of the CAT excavation area, comprising two parallel, thin, curving gullies. The gullies were approximately 0.20 m deep, varied in width from 0.25-0.45 m and would have enclosed an area with a postulated internal diameter of *c* 11 m. The presence of three post-holes in the base of the gullies suggests that a post-built phase preceded them. A series of stake-holes, present on the internal side of the gullies, may have been the remains of an internal super-structure, but no coherent pattern could be identified. The function of this feature is unknown,

it possibly represented an animal pen or enclosure. Structure 1 had been truncated by one of the enclosure ditches (727) and a refuse pit (734), suggesting that it was very short-lived and was no longer in use when the enclosure system was established. A total of 20 sherds (163 g) of early medieval pottery was recovered from its fills.

Structure 3 can also be tentatively identified in the CAT excavation area to the west of structure 1. Very little remained but what did survive has been interpreted as the remnants of a beam slot, measuring 9.52 m, which formed the long side of a rectangular building aligned north-west to south-east.[1] Associated conjoined pit 755 was interpreted as a latrine facility, mostly based on its depth (in excess of 1.20 m), suggesting that there was an attached outbuilding. Pit 755 contained 27 sherds (199 g) of pottery and an iron knife (SF 81) of early medieval date.

To the north, a rectangular-shaped gully can be tentatively regarded as another structure of early medieval date (structure 4). This gully was on a broadly similar alignment to that of structure 3, measuring 15.67 m with 4.70 m return to the north-east for a shorter length of wall at the eastern end. The size and shape of this feature suggested that it was a sill-beam structure. The shorter return lies over a further length of gully (425) which may represent an earlier phase of this building.

To the west of structure 4 lay an arrangement of eight post-holes and a short length of gully. This could possibly represent the remnants of a further building, structure 5 (Fig. 8). Its full plan was not visible as it extended beyond the limits of the fieldwork area, but the visible elements suggested an L-shaped form. The visibly longer arm was 14.45 m long and 2.30 m wide, and aligned NE-SW while the north-west part was 2.80 m wide with a visible length of 7.30 m. There is little direct dating evidence for this structure, but both its post-hole construction and its location within the area of early medieval activity make it likely to belong to this phase.

The enclosures and associated occupation

Associated with structures 3, 4 and 5 was a series of ditches and gullies, all of a similar parallel alignment, roughly NW-SE. The plan of these features is incomplete but they seem to represent several enclosures. In the CAT excavation area, two comparatively substantial ditches were identified (727 and 759; probably respectively the same as ditches 445 and 518, recorded in the watching brief area). Both ditches were between 0.55 and 0.70 m deep and over 1.60 m wide. It is likely that these represent boundaries of possible enclosure(s). Very

[1] Parallels drawn in the assessment, to similar structures at Monkton, east Kent, are incorrect as those were of a post in trench construction.

little evidence of occupation was identified to the south of ditch 759, suggesting that the latter to be the south-western limit of the early medieval enclosure. Ditches 727 and 759 may have formed the eastern and western sides of a separate NW-SE aligned enclosure. The width of this enclosure would have been *c* 28 m and the length was unknown although it would not have been shorter than 34 m and could have extended to 46 m. Post and stake-holes were present in the base of 727, most likely representing a fence line, the ditch itself had been recut at least once. A total of 39 sherds (195 g) of pottery mostly dated to AD 1050-1225 was recovered from both ditches in the excavation area.

Ditch 429 was the easternmost ditch associated with this phase. It was up to 1.05 m deep and could represent the eastern boundary of the early medieval enclosure. No features of that date was identified further to the east. It produced 31 sherds (283 g) of pottery dated to AD 1050-1225 and was truncated by several ditches of later medieval date (438, 440 and 447).

Between ditches 727 and 759 were four parallel gullies, 704, 714, 720 and 767, and a line of posts, 701. Seemingly representing drainage gullies, they also suggest internal division within the enclosure area, possibly serving as animal pens. To the north of 727, a further three ditch segments (553, 530 and 604) could be the remnants of further internal divisions. Their attribution to this phase is based on their alignment and on stratigraphic relationships (530 and 553 are respectively cut by ditches 444 and 424).

Several refuse pits were present within the space delineated by ditch 759/518 and the northern limit of the site. A group of features, located to the west of structure 5, may have been associated with this structure. It consisted of four circular refuse pits (508), and a ditch segment with three associated postholes (452). Further refuse pits identified in the CAT excavation area, 711, 721 and 734, were spatially associated with the southernmost enclosure, and may be directly related to structure 3. Pit 734 cut structure 1 so this would mean than structure 3 would be of a later date to structure 1. Refuse pit 721 contained several fragments of daub with wattle impressions, believed to have come from a building nearby. Two more refuse pits, 529 and 537, were also present to the north-west of structure 3.

With the exception of two knife blades the dating evidence has come solely from the ceramic assemblage. The assemblage as a whole is small and is sparsely distributed across the site, suggesting that this phase was short lived or represented only by sporadic activity on the site. The majority of the pottery comprised sandy wares from Canterbury, probably produced at Tyler Hill. Smaller quantities of locally produced flint- and shell-tempered wares are also present, possibly produced along the south Kent coast. The only diagnostic forms were plain handmade jars, the rims which were either everted and thickened, or everted and flattened; both styles forms can be seen as utilitarian in function. Although a potential date range of AD

1050-1175 is provided by the pottery, the smaller quantity of the local sandy/flint-tempered ware suggests an emphasis on the later part perhaps the mid to late 12th century (Mepham 2006).

Further artefactual evidence for the site came from two iron knives and three honing stones. Iron knifes SF 81 and 82 came respectively from the latrine pit 755 and gully 720. The smaller example (SF 81) is more common in Saxon contexts in Kent but can also be associated with 11th or 12th centuries deposits. The second knife (SF 82) is larger with a copper alloy sleeve at the junction of the tang and blade and is consistent with an early medieval date (Riddler 2006). The three honing stones had been produced from a local fine-grained stone, and therefore may not have been that effective. It is interesting that two of the stones were found in gully 720 and therefore can be directly associated with one of the knives, while the third stone came from ditch 727.

The environmental samples from the early medieval features indicated that the common crops utilised were free-threshing wheat, barley, and rye (Stevens 2006); although the rye predominated in a single refuse pit (721) and was less common in other features. Oat was also present in smaller quantities, as were cultivated 'celtic' beans. These crops are in the whole typical of those recovered from medieval sites. Of particular interest is the quantity and quality of the charred plant remains from the refuse pit 721, which had been backfilled with dumps of burnt clay and charcoal. This feature was initially thought to be a corn-dryer (URS 1998, 13), but there was no evidence of *in situ* burning or structural elements within or surrounding it. The charred plant remains appear to have been relatively unprocessed and not to have been threshed to remove the plant rachis fragments, which also disprove this initial interpretation. The presence of frequent weed seeds also suggests that unprocessed sheath/ ears or their associated waste was present. This could be a result of waste products being discarded during the use of the crops for thatching and flooring, although rye was not commonly used for thatching during the medieval period, and may be more associated with bread production.

Nature of the occupation?

During the 11th and 12th centuries, the limited archaeological evidence indicates that a small and short-lived farmstead was established on the site. There is evidence for three, possibly four buildings, an associated enclosure system, and settlement/ agricultural activity in the form of several refuse pits. Unfortunately the origins of the settlement cannot be ascertained, neither its chronological or morphological development. Similarly there is little to elucidate the settlement's economic function and basis. Generally it appears to be relatively poor in status and would have formed part of a rural subsistence economy. This is apparent in the

environmental evidence, which suggests limited small-scale crop exploitation and seems to be indicative of the waste products from domestic activity. The presence of the two main ceramic traditions of both locally produced wares and Canterbury wares shows social interaction, if not trade, on a local and regional level.

A key question for the interpretation of this phase is whether the site lay within the 'Berwic' estate of the charter of AD 1035. It certainly lay close to the boundary as reconstructed from the charter and as followed by the modern estate in 1885. Perhaps more importantly it shows that minor settlements could appear and disappear at this period.

4.5.2 *Medieval (c AD 1175 to 1275)* (Fig. 4)

The field system

During the late 12th and 13th centuries, the earlier activity was superseded by a series of ditches mostly aligned NE-SW and likely to have been associated with a field system. The more pronounced of these , 428, 438 and 439, traversed the fieldwork area, covering a visible length of 205 m. The individual widths of these ditches varied between 1.01 m and 2.70 m, and collectively their overall banded width is *c* 15 m. Clearly truncating the earlier medieval activity, their perpendicular alignment relative to preceding features suggests that initially they may have been contemporaneous with the early medieval structures. It would seem reasonable to assume that they had followed the alignment of the southern boundary to the earlier enclosures, or possibly a drove or track way.

To the west and parallel to this alignment was ditch 424. It was not dated but truncated several earlier ditches (425, 445 and 553).

There is evidence for several phases within this ditch complex, including recuts (as many as four within one ditch) and ditches diverging into two or more alignments. Towards the south-west, two of these ditches (428 and 439) diverge to avoid a further ditch, 175. Although 175 is undated, the spatial distribution of surrounding ditches indicates that it was in use at this time. Further to the east diverging ditches 454/443, follow a broadly similar alignment. The latter ditches seem to delineate the eastern extent of the medieval activity on the south-eastern side.

L-shaped ditch 427 has also been interpreted as part of this phase. It could represent the south-west corner of an enclosure, which extended beyond the northern limit of the site. It was originally thought to be part of the early medieval phase. Its alignment is parallel with early medieval ditches and it produced 10 sherds (48 g) of pottery dated AD1150-1225. However it clearly cuts ditch 424 so has been attributed to the medieval phase.

Ditch 444 was the westernmost ditch associated with this phase. It was approximately 0.20 m deep and produced 25 sherds (121 g) of pottery dated to AD 1150-1225.

Overlying the ditch complex, was a series of ditch and gullies 440, 544, and 545 that formed an area of small rectangular or square enclosures. There is no coherent plan and it appears that the full extents of these features have not survived, but it is possible to extrapolate them to at least four separate enclosed areas. The largest enclosure (545) was approximately 19 by 3.85 m and aligned north-west to south-east, perpendicular to the ditch complex. The smallest (544) was 6.65 by 5.85 m and parallel to the ditch complex. Although there were three refuse pits (527) nearby, there was no accompanying structural evidence for settlement; but it is likely that buildings would have been lain nearby, possibly to the north of the fieldwork area. The small size of the enclosures is reminiscent of animal pens or paddocks.

The artefactual evidence for this phase is limited to the ceramic assemblage. As with the earlier phase, the quantity of pottery is small; again suggesting this phase was short lived or activity on the site was sporadic. The predominating pottery is later Ashford-type sandy and shelly/sandy wares. Canterbury-type wares are still present but could be residual. The only diagnostic forms are jars with expanded or expanded/ flattened rims. Although the potential date range suggested from the pottery is AD 1175-1400, no criteria ascertain a date later than the 13th century.

Only a single environmental sample was taken from a feature dated to this phase, and although free-threshing wheat and oats were recovered, no further inference can be drawn on the crops cultivated during this phase.

Nature of the occupation

The late 12th and 13th century activity on the site is far from coherent. However, along with a shift in activity towards the east, the available evidence does imply that there was a significant change in focus that led to a re-alignment of land use. There is no direct archaeological evidence that alludes to this transformation; no structural elements could be identified and the focus of settlement activity is thought to be to the north possibly near Stanford, if not directly related to Westenhanger Castle and/or village to the south. At the least, this activity may reflect the reorganisation of field or estate boundaries or the intensification of land-use. Work at Westenhanger Castle itself have shown the foundation trench for the northern curtain wall has truncated earlier occupation horizons. Pottery from these horizons has been dated to the early 13th century (Martin and Martin 2001, 206), although it has not been compared directly with the material from this site. The irregular shape of the Castle is also thought to be a direct result of being dictated too by pre-existing structures, including the moat (*ibid*). More recent work on the site of the earthworks, directly to the north of the Castle (thought to represent a

deserted medieval village), has initially concluded that these represent a series of paddocks and track-ways (James *pers comm*). The East Stour separates this area from the site.

The pottery assemblage, however, does show a change in economic basis, which corresponds with the shift in land-use. The earlier predominately Canterbury based wares are supplemented and largely superseded by Ashford-type wares during this phase, in contrast with the larger assemblages from Mersham and Parsonage Farm, and appears to be a localised phenomenon.

If the earlier medieval phase does represent a small scale farmstead, forming part of a rural subsistence economy, the perceived change in economic basis (as evident from the pottery) may be directly related to the situation at the manor of Westenhanger, (originally a single manor Le Hangre, this was split in two before 1199 but reunited *c* 1300).

4.5.3 Late medieval (c AD 1275 to 1350/75) **(Fig. 4)**

Evidence for later medieval activity on the site is sporadic, with only a single ditch, 453, producing datable material from this period. Associated with this ditch, but without any accompanying dating evidence are two further ditches 455 and 519, and a refuse pit 517. The surviving evidence, limited as it is, appears to represent the remnants of a field system, the alignment of which differs from those of the earlier medieval phases. Another length of ditch, 504, parallel with 519 is present to the east. Seemingly delineating a possible drove way, with ditches 455 and 519 forming the opposing side.

Further to the south and west, three more undated ditches 525, 608, and 632, have been tentatively associated with the later medieval activity purely based on similarities in alignment. Any direct relationship has been masked by the later build up of colluvium 556.

Discussion

The identification of a third phase of medieval activity, based on pottery from a single feature, must be treated with caution. Similarly, any significance in the impression this phase presents of a further easterly shift in medieval settlement across the landscape is most likely illusionary.

The twenty-three sherds of pottery may represent a single glazed jug of Tyler Hill (Canterbury) ware, dated to between the end of the 13th and the mid-late 14th centuries. Although this vessel may be seen as being less utilitarian than the pottery from the preceding two medieval phases, it would be difficult to directly relate it to the establishment of Westenhanger Castle. A licence to crenellate at Westenhanger was granted in 1343, and the change in the manorial centre must have involved changes in the disposition of the land around the castle.

4.5.4 Post-medieval (c AD1500 to the modern day) (Fig. 4)

A further decline in activity is evident in the post-medieval period. Again, as seen in the later medieval period, the little activity present is concentrated towards the eastern limits of the investigated area. This comprises of three contemporaneous ditch alignments 500, 505, and 627, possibly representing a field system, or as is more likely, to have functioned as drainage ditches. The most substantial of these ditches, 505, is aligned north to south across the excavation area, four further parallel truncated ditch sections 607, 618, 619, and 533 were observed to the west. Although a fragment of post-medieval roofing tile was present in one of these ditches, they are likely to be more modern in date.

In the centre of the site a large area of colluvium, 556, has formed in a natural depression or hollow in the landscape. Difficult to date, it can be seen to overly the medieval ditch 440, suggesting that it started to form in the later medieval or post-medieval periods. It may indicate that areas of the site have become increasingly waterlogged and difficult to work, possibly creating an obstacle to the western limits of the site.

Further modern features included plough marks, ceramic field drains, animal burials and small scale quarrying pits, which can be attributed to recent agricultural practises and activities. It is noted that the field drains, where encountered, were aligned northwest to south-east, parallel with the medieval ditch system. They were also seen to truncate the post-medieval ditches discussed above. The return to this alignment, following the direction of the natural contour, may indicate that the colluvium in-filled hollow had dried out at this stage; possibly no longer creating an obstacle to working the site as a single unit.

5 GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVE

The site has been analysed and published as part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Section 1 Post-excavation Project. This Integrated Site Report is one of 20 publication level site reports available to download from the Archaeology Data Service website:

http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/projArch/ctrl/.

These present synthesised data from key site sequences at an interpretative scale that can be assimilated into complementary studies. The ADS site also includes five schemewide specialist reports, which provide synthetic overviews of the specialist data from CTRL Section 1 in its regional context. Underpinning the site reports and overviews, is a comprehensive archive of individual specialist reports and databases, which are also available to download. The CTRL reports and data can be accessed through the 'Project Archives' section of the ADS website.

Hard copy publication of the CTRL Section 1 results comprises a single volume synthetic overview of the excavated results in their regional context, which includes a complete site gazetteer and guide to the archive (Booth et al 2007).

Table 2 below details all available digital data for the Westenhanger site. The Post-excavation assessment report is included in the digital archive, but assessment databases have only been included for categories of material which were not subsequently subject to full analysis. All reports and accompanying figures are presented as downloadable, print-ready Adobe Acrobat files (.pdf). ADS also maintain archivally stable versions of report image pages (.tiff), sometimes available at higher resolution than the pdf versions. Report texts and databases are also available as text files (.rtf and .csv respectively). The digitised site plan is available as an Arcview shapefile (.shp) and in drawing exchange format (.dxf).

The following tables give the detail of the archive components.

Table 2: Digital archive components

Description	Filename root	Principal authors and organisation
Integrated site report		
Integrated site report	WGC_ISR	Gollop A (CAT)
Integrated site report figures	WGC_ISR	Gollop A (CAT)
Site research database		
Site database	WGC	Gollop A (CAT)
CAD/ GIS drawings		
CAD drawing	WGC_CAD	
ESRI ArcMAP GIS project	WGC_GIS	
GIS limit of excavation shapefile	WGC_GIS	
GIS feature plan	WGC_GIS	
Specialist research reports		
Ceramics (early prehistoric)	CER_EPR_WGC	Edwards E (OWA JV)
Ceramics (late Iron Age and Roman)	CER_ROM_WGC	Every R
Ceramics (post-Roman)	CER_MED_WGC	Mepham L (OWA JV)
Small finds	SFS_WGC	Riddler I (Freelance)
Charred plant remains	ENV_Charredplants_WGC	Stevens C (OWA JV)
Specialist datasets		
Ceramics (early prehistoric)	CER_EPR_WGC	Edwards E (OWA JV)
Ceramics (late Iron Age and Roman)	CER_ROM_WGC	Every R
Ceramics (post-Roman)	CER_MED_WGC	Mepham L (OWA JV)
Charred plant remains	ENV_Charredplants_WGC	Stevens C (OWA JV)
Post-excavation assessment		
Post-excavation Assessment	WGC_PXA	CAT

Table 3: Artefactual and environmental archive index

Item	Number of fragments	Weight (g) if appropriate	Number of boxes
Flint (total)	247	2481	1
Pottery (total)	891	6424	4
Prehistoric pottery	211	453	
Roman pottery	24	180	
Medieval pottery	656	5791	
Ceramic Building material (total)	3	24	1
Metalwork Small Finds (total)	4	228	1
Fired Clay (total)	157	2801	1
Slag (total)	12	95	1
Stone	3	202	1

Table 4: Fieldwork paper archive

Contents	Comments
Final report	
Primary Context records	
Context registers	20
Context record sheets	586
Synthesised context records	
Matrices	4
Catalogue of drawings	
Plan registers	2
Section registers	4
Primary drawings	
Plans	56 A1 sheets
	25 A3 sheets
Sections	15 A3 sheets
	42 A4 sheets
Primary finds data	
Small finds record sheets	2
Catalogue of photographs	
Black & white photo record sheets	5
Colour photo record sheets	6
Primary environmental records	
Soil sample sheets	46
Soil sample register	2

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