

CHATHAM (KE)

Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Union Railways Ltd

South of Medway, Chatham, Kent

ARC MED 98

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Contract No. 194/870

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 18

Oxford Archaeological Unit

December 1998

© UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED, 1998

All rights including translation reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Union Railways Limited.

UNION RAILWAYS LTD

SOUTH OF MEDWAY, CHATHAM, KENT

ARC MED 98

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Environmental Statement Route Window No. 18

OS GRID TQ 7270 6650

Contract No. 194/870

Volume 1 of 1

Prepared by: S Mortimer
Date: 7/12/1998
Checked by: K Webb
Date: 7/12/98
Approved by: R. Williams
Position: HEAD OF FIELDWORK
Date: 9/12/1998

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

December 1998

SOUTH OF MEDWAY, CHATHAM, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CONTENTS

	<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT		
1	BACKGROUND.....	2
1.1	Introduction.....	2
1.2	Geology, landscape and landuse.....	2
1.3	Archaeological background.....	2
2	AIMS.....	3
3	METHODS.....	3
3.1	General.....	3
3.2	Survey.....	3
3.3	Excavation.....	4
3.4	Recording.....	4
4	RESULTS.....	4
4.1	Presentation of Results.....	4
4.2	General Stratigraphy.....	4
4.3	Summary of archaeology.....	5
4.4	Site Archive.....	5
5	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS.....	6
5.1	North-western field - Trenches 3083TT and 3082TT.....	6
5.2	The Paddocks – Trenches 3081TT, 1477TT-1481TT, 1485TT and 1487TT ...	6
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY.....	10
SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE		
7	CONCLUSIONS.....	12
7.1	Extent of archaeological deposits.....	12
7.2	Date and character.....	12
7.3	Environmental Evidence.....	12
8	IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS.....	12
8.1	Survival/condition.....	12
8.2	Period.....	12
8.3	Rarity.....	13
8.4	Fragility/vulnerability.....	13
8.5	Diversity.....	13
8.6	Documentation.....	13
8.7	Group value.....	14
8.8	Potential.....	14
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	15
<i>List of Appendices</i>		
	Appendix 1: The Burnt Flint.....	16
	Appendix 2: The Pottery.....	17
	Appendix 3: The Animal Bone.....	18
	Appendix 4: The Glass.....	19

Appendix 5: The Clay Pipe	20
Appendix 6: The Marine Shell.....	21
Appendix 7: The Building Materials	22
Appendix 8: The Metalwork	23

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench locations and interpretative plan
Fig. 3	Plan of Trench 1480TT and section of ditch 508
Fig. 4	Sections from Trenches 1480TT and 1479TT
Fig. 5	Section containing burnt flint bearing colluvial layer 803
Fig. 6	Section of Trench 3082TT
Fig 7	Section of Trench 3081TT

List of Tables

Table 1	Context list and associated finds
Table 2	Flint by context
Table 3	Pot occurrence by no. and by weight (g) of sherds per ware type per context
Table 4	Animal bone by context
Table 5	Glass by context
Table 6	Clay pipe by context
Table 7	Oyster shell by context
Table 8	CBM by context
Table 9	Metalwork by context

SOUTH OF MEDWAY, CHATHAM, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) was commissioned by Union Railways Ltd (URL) to conduct a field evaluation of land in the vicinity of Borstal Court Farm (NGR TQ 7270 6650), near Chatham in Kent. The work formed part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The site is located on the lower north-west facing slope of the Nashenden Valley.

Ten evaluation trenches were excavated across one arable field and five paddocks. The trenches typically revealed a silty Loessic deposit (Swanscombe Loam), although other Pleistocene deposits were recorded, including Valley gravels and Clay-with-Flints. Colluvium of Holocene date was recorded in all trenches. The only archaeological feature identified was a ditch of recent origin. Burnt flints were also recovered from the colluvium at two locations.

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation between 27th and 31st July, 1998, on land near Chatham in Kent (NGR TQ 7270 6650) (Figure 1). The work was conducted on behalf of Union Railways Ltd (URL) The site lies in the parish of Chatham to the south-east of the River Medway and the Medway Bridge and south-east of the junction of the Wouldham and Burham roads. The evaluation forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), the aim of which is to assess the affect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage. The site lies within Environmental Statement Route Window No. 18.

1.1.2 The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by URL, detailing the scope and methods of the evaluation, including this report. The area of the evaluation is shown on Figure 2.

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The site consists of an arable field, to the west of Burham Road, which was planted with barley at the time of excavation and five paddocks to the south of the Borstal Court Farm buildings.

1.2.2 The western field lies at the bottom of the valley, with a slope south west from the Wouldham Road embankment and a long, shallow slope north-west from the Burham road. The paddocks lie on a slight slope that falls away to the north-west.

1.2.3 Holocene colluvial deposits were recorded in all of the trenches.

1.2.4 The drift geology for the area is recorded as Pleistocene Head deposits (Ordnance Survey 1977). The Head deposits are located along the base of the valley and are associated with a former tributary of the River Medway. British Geological Survey mapping for the area (Sheet No. 272) shows that solid geology in the area consists of Cretaceous Upper Chalk, with overlying superficial caps of Pleistocene Clay-with-Flints.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The site was identified during preparation of the Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (URL 1994). Surface scatters of medieval pottery and prehistoric worked flints were located to the south-east of the evaluation area (OAU Nos 1807, 1824). The area evaluated was not subject to a surface collection survey or walkover survey.

- 1.3.2 Trenches 1471TT, 1478TT, 1480TT, 1479TT, 1481TT, 1485TT and 1487TT formed part of a previous evaluation by URL at Nashenden Valley (URL 1997), but were not excavated at that time.
- 1.3.3 A diffuse scatter of both struck flint and burnt unworked flint was recovered at Nashenden Farm, c. 800 m south-east of Borstal Court Farm (URL 1995). The struck flint included both soft-hammer flakes and a blade-like flake.
- 1.3.4 In the analysis of the overall historic environment of Route Window 18 (URL 1994) it was suggested that Borstal Farm was possibly an outlying portion of Cuxton manor. The earliest known building, a brick cottage or lodge forming part of the Nashenden estate, was built sometime before 1867. A model farm was built in 1887 and shortly afterwards a new three-storey house was built. Borstal Court Farm was included as Grade III on the post-war Provisional List, but has not been upgraded to Grade II. The farm buildings are of local interest because they are relatively early examples of concrete block construction.

2 AIMS

- 2.1 The Written Scheme of Investigations outlined the general aims of the evaluation which are set out below:
 - 2.2.1 To determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation;
 - 2.2.2 To determine the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits;
 - 2.2.3 To determine the local regional, national and international importance of such remains, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local regional and national research objectives.

3 METHODS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 A detailed specification for the evaluation of the CTRL route was agreed by Union Railways Limited with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following is intended only to amplify certain aspects of the evaluation methodology.

3.2 Survey

- 3.2.1 The trench locations were surveyed by P H Matts, Building & Civil Engineering Land Survey (Reading) based on a data file of end-point co-ordinates of each trench extracted from the digital mapping of the site provided by URL. The trenches have been plotted (Fig. 2) from digital information provided by URL

using the AutoCAD graphics programme. The overall site plan shows the URL local site grid which differs from the National Grid.

3.3 Excavation

- 3.3.1 Ten trenches, each 30 m by 1.9 m, were excavated across the site.
- 3.3.2 Trenches were generally excavated to a depth not exceeding 1.2 m, the maximum permitted depth for the trench width. Soil was removed mechanically, generally to the top of archaeologically significant deposits, or to 1.2 m, whichever was the shallower. In areas of colluvial deposition, layers were carefully removed by machine. All finds were retained and recorded by layer.
- 3.3.3 Where archaeological deposits were present the trenches were hand-cleaned as necessary. Where archaeological deposits were clearly absent, hand-cleaning was kept to the minimum consistent with recording the deposits present.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 Recording followed the standard OAU single context recording system (Wilkinson ed. 1992). A unique numbering system was employed for the whole site. Plans were drawn at 1:100 or 1:50. Sections were drawn at 1:20. All evaluation records were prefaced by the site code ARC MED 98.
- 3.4.2 All trenches and archaeological features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Presentation of results

- 4.1.1 Descriptions of individual trenches are presented in Section 5. The trench descriptions are ordered in relation to the position of the trenches on the ground, moving from north to south and where appropriate describing the trench at the top of the slope before another of equivalent position at the base of the slope. A summary of contexts and finds is given in the archaeological context inventory (Section 6). Detailed assessment reports on the flint, pottery and other artefacts are given in Appendices 1-8.

4.2 General stratigraphy

Modern

- 4.2.1 Modern ploughsoil was encountered in all trenches and varied between 0.20 m and 0.40 m thick across the site. An earlier buried ploughsoil, of recent origin, was encountered in all trenches, with an average depth of 0.15 m.

Colluvial deposits (Figs 4, 5 and 6)

- 4.2.2 Colluvial deposits were recorded in all of the trenches. The depth of the deposits increased downslope within the individual trenches and the deepest

deposits were found in the northernmost trench (3083TT) and the three most south-westerly trenches (1481TT, 1485TT, 1487TT). The individual layers of colluvium were typically *c.* 0.20 m thick, although they were found to a maximum of 0.70 m in depth. The colluvium was generally a mid reddish brown clay silt. The only major exceptions to this were the colluvial layers in Trench 3088TT which appeared to be derived from a more calcareous source, perhaps from the chalk-rich, south facing valley slopes. The only artefacts recovered from the colluvium that had not been ploughed into the top of the sequence, were a number of pieces of burnt flint from the uppermost colluvial layer in Trench 1485TT.

Pleistocene deposits

- 4.2.3 Silty Loessic deposits were encountered in Trenches 3081TT, 1478TT, 1477TT, 1479TT, 1480TT, 1481TT and 1485TT. These deposits consisted of light, yellow-brown, clay silt with some chalk flecking. They may relate to the Swanscombe and North Kent sequences, generically known as 'Swanscome Loam'. A sondage was machine excavated at the north-eastern end of Trench 3081TT. This revealed that the silty Loessic deposit overlay a band of Clay-with-Flints, 0.30 m thick, which consisted of a reddish brown, silty clay with occasional small angular flints. Valley gravels were exposed beneath the Clay-with-Flints at a depth of *c.* 1.2 m. The Valley gravels consisted of poorly sorted coarse flint gravel in a sandy matrix. Similar Valley gravel deposits were also found in a sondage within Trench 3082TT at a depth of *c.* 1 m. This stratigraphic sequence is broadly comparable to that observed in the previous evaluation at Nashenden Farm (URL 1997).

4.3 Summary of archaeology

- 4.3.1 Burnt flints found within a colluvial layer in Trench 1485TT may possibly be derived from prehistoric activity upslope of the trench.
- 4.3.2 Tree-throw holes and root disturbance were found in Trenches 1479TT and 3082TT and suggest that there may have been some tree-clearance pre-dating colluvial deposition, although the date of this is not apparent.
- 4.3.3 A recent ditch was recorded immediately beneath the topsoil within Trench 1480TT. Both fills of the ditch produced modern ceramic building material.

4.4 Site Archive

- 4.4.1 The site archive has been compiled in accordance with specifications prepared by URL. It includes six digital data sets for the Fieldwork Event, Contexts, Bulk finds, Small finds, Environmental Samples and Graphical Output.

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 North-western field (Trenches 3083TT and 3082TT)

Trench 3083TT

- 5.1.1 This trench was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. A layer of undifferentiated light grey brown, clay silt colluvium (3) was found sealed by the buried ploughsoil, (2). The colluvium was in excess of 0.80 m thick and was not bottomed.
- 5.1.2 The buried ploughsoil was almost uniformly 0.20 m deep and it produced modern pottery.
- 5.1.3 The modern topsoil (1) was 0.40 m deep.
- 5.1.4 The soil profile within this trench was markedly different from any of the other evaluation trenches. The soil was light greyish brown and highly calcareous, in contrast to the mid reddish brown colluvial sequences found in the other trenches.

Trench 3082TT (Fig. 6)

- 5.1.5 This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of *c.* 1 m. A layer of frost-shattered-flint fragments in a mid reddish brown clay matrix, layer 105, was exposed in a 12 m long sondage at the south-eastern end of the trench. It was interpreted as part of the Valley Gravels.
- 5.1.6 An area of root disturbance was recorded in the surface of layer 105. It was visible as an amorphous mid reddish brown silty clay soil mark (107).
- 5.1.7 Two colluvial layers were exposed beneath the buried ploughsoil. The upper colluvial horizon, (103) was a light reddish brown silty clay, which contained frequent chalk flecks and occasional flint fragments. This layer varied in thickness from 0.22 m to 0.26 m. The lower colluvial layer, (104) was similar to layer 103, but it contained more flint and less chalk.
- 5.1.8 The buried ploughsoil was almost uniformly 0.20 m deep and produced modern pottery.
- 5.1.9 Modern topsoil (101) was 0.22 m in depth.

5.2 The Paddocks (Trenches 3081TT, 1478TT, 1477TT, 1479TT, 1480TT, 1481TT, 1485TT and 1487TT)

Trench 3081TT (Fig. 7)

- 5.2.1 This trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.68 m. To allow the stratigraphic sequence to be related to that observed previously (URL 1997), a sondage, 1.8 m in depth, was cut at the north-eastern end of the trench.

- 5.2.2 The lowest deposit reached was a layer of Valley Gravels (206), which was found at a depth of 1.2 m below the present ground surface but not fully excavated.
- 5.2.3 The Valley Gravels were overlain by a 0.28 m thick layer of Clay-with-Flints (205), in turn overlain by a layer of light yellowish brown clay silt Loess (204), with a maximum thickness of 0.20 m. This was a localised deposit in base of the trench.
- 5.2.4 A colluvial layer (203), a mid reddish brown clayey silt, overlay Layer 204 and increased in depth from 0.10 m to 0.40 m downslope.
- 5.2.5 A buried ploughsoil (202) overlay the colluvium (203) and was in turn overlain by a layer of modern topsoil (201). Both layers were *c.* 0.25 m thick.

Trench 1478TT

- 5.2.6 This trench was machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1 m. The earliest deposits were layer 406, a pale yellowish brown, silty clay Loessic deposit, with frequent small to medium sized flint nodules, and layer 405, a light reddish brown, silty clay, containing frequent flint gravel. Both deposits were sealed by colluvium.
- 5.2.7 Two colluvial layers, layers 403 and 404, were identified and both were reddish brown silty clays. layer 403 was *c.* 0.18 m thick and sealed a further colluvial layer (404). It was similar to layer 403, although slightly lighter in colour.

Trench 1477TT

- 5.2.8 This trench was machined to a maximum depth of 1.2 m. The lowest deposit found within the trench, layer 305, was a light orange brown silty clay, and may have been a colluvial deposit. It was more than 0.60 m thick.
- 5.2.9 Two further colluvial layers were identified, layers 303 and 304. Both consisted of reddish brown silty clay. The lower layer, 304, was 0.3m thick and was slightly lighter in colour than layer 303. layer 303 was 0.2 m thick.
- 5.2.10 A buried ploughsoil was overlain by a layer of modern topsoil. Both layers were *c.* 0.20 m thick.

Trench 1479TT (Fig. 4)

- 5.2.11 The trench was machine-excavated to the top of a light yellow brown, clay silt Loessic deposit. Layer 604, at an average depth of 0.75 m below the surface. A band of similar Loessic material containing frequent chalk fragments (605) was exposed underlying layer 604, *c.* 10 m from the southern extent of the trench.
- 5.2.12 Three tree-throw holes (607, 609 and 610) cut layer 604. Each of the tree-throw holes was filled with mid reddish brown silty clay, similar to the overlying colluvium, layer 603.

5.2.13 Colluvial layer 603 sealed layers 604 and 605. The colluvium varied in thickness from 0.40 m at the south-western end of the trench to 0.15 m at the north-eastern end of the trench and consisted of mid reddish brown, silty clay.

5.2.14 A buried ploughsoil, which overlay the colluvium, was sealed by modern topsoil. Both layers were *c.* 0.20 m thick.

Trench 1480TT (Figs. 3 and 4)

5.2.15 The trench was machine-excavated to an average depth of 1 m beneath the present ground surface. A pale orange brown, clay silt Loessic deposit, layer 505, was exposed in the base of the trench.

5.2.16 Two colluvial layers were recorded within the trench, layers 503 and 504. Both consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay. The lower colluvial layer, 504 was slightly lighter in colour than layer 503 and it contained more flint and chalk inclusions. Both layers were on average 0.30 m thick.

5.2.17 Ditch 508 was cut through the buried ploughsoil, layer 502. The ditch was orientated from north-east to south-west and was *c.* 1 m in depth and 2 m in width. It had steep, straight sides and a flat base and contained two reddish brown, silty clay fills, 506 and 507. Both fills contained modern ceramic building material. The lower fill, 507 contained more flint inclusions than Fill 506.

5.2.18 The buried ploughsoil, layer 502, was overlain by topsoil. Both the topsoil and the ploughsoil were approximately 0.20 m in depth.

Trench 1481TT

5.2.19 This trench was machined to a maximum depth of 1.2 m. A Loessic light yellowish brown, clay silt deposit, layer 705, was exposed at the base of the trench.

5.2.20 Two colluvial deposits, layers 703 and 704, were recorded within the trench. Both layers were mid reddish brown, clay silt. The upper horizon, layer 703, was 0.20 m thick and the lower horizon, layer 704, was 0.70 m thick. layer 704 was slightly darker in colour and contained more clay than layer 703.

5.2.21 Modern topsoil and a buried ploughsoil overlay the two colluvial layers. Both layers were *c.* 0.20 m thick.

Trench 1485TT (Fig. 5)

5.2.22 The trench was machined to a maximum depth of 1.2 m, onto a light orange brown, clay silt Loessic deposit, layer 805.

5.2.23 Two colluvial deposits, layers 803 and 804, were recorded overlying layer 805. Both colluvial layers were composed of mid reddish brown clay silt with occasional flint and chalk inclusions. The upper colluvial layer, 803 contained a number of pieces of burnt flint towards the base of the deposit. layer 803 was 0.20 m thick and layer 804 varied from 0.3 m to 0.5 m thick.

5.2.24 A buried ploughsoil with an average thickness of 0.2 m sealed layer 803 and was in turn overlain by topsoil which was on average 0.2 m thick.

Trench 1487TT

5.2.25 This trench was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.6m at the south-west end and 1.2m at the north-east end. A layer of Loessic, light brown, clay silt, layer 904, was exposed in the base of the trench.

5.2.26 Two colluvial deposits, layers 903 and 905 overlay layer 904. Both layers consisted of light reddish brown, clay silt. The upper colluvial layer, layer 903, was 0.20 m thick and the lower horizon, layer 905, varied in thickness from 0.10 m to 0.50m.

5.2.27 Modern topsoil and a buried ploughsoil overlay the colluvial deposits. Both layers were approximately 0.20 m thick.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Table 1: Context list and associated finds

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
3038TT	1	modern topsoil	over 2			
3038TT	2	poss buried ploughsoil	over 1			
3038TT	3	colluvium	over2			
3082TT	101	topsoil	over 102			
3082TT	102	buried ploughsoil	Over 103, under 101			
3082TT	103	colluvium	Over 104, under 102			
3082TT	104	colluvium	Over 105, under 103			
3082TT	105	poss valley gravel	under 104			
3082TT	106	natural feature	Cuts 105, filled by 107			
3082TT	107	fill of natural feature	Under 104, fill of 106			
3081TT	201	modern topsoil	over 202			
3081TT	202	buried ploughsoil	over 203			
3081TT	203	colluvium	over 204/205			
3081TT	204	loess/colluvium	under 203			
3081TT	205	colluvium	under 203			
3081TT	206	glacial gravel	under 205			
1477TT	301	topsoil	over 302	Pot Tile	2 2	19 th C
1477TT	302	subsoil	over 303	Brick	3	
1477TT	303	brick earth	over 304	Brick	1	
1477TT	304	colluvium	over 305			
1477TT	305	natural	under 304			
1478TT	401	topsoil	over 402	Pot Tile Sewer pipe Slate	10 2 1 1	19 th C
1478TT	402	subsoil	over 403	Pot Tile Claypipe Bone Shell Burnt flint	3 1 4 1 1 1	19 th C
1478TT	403	colluvium	over 404			
1478TT	404	colluvium	Over 405/406			
1478TT	405	colluvium	Under 404			
1478TT	406	weathered natural	under 404			
1480TT	501	topsoil	over 502	Pot Brick Slate Claypipe Bone Shell	4 1 1 3 2 1	19 th C
1480TT	502	subsoil	over 503	Pot Tile Claypipe	3 1 2	19 th C+
1480TT	503	colluvium	over 504			
1480TT	504	colluvium	over 505			
1480TT	505	Loess	under 504			
1480TT	506	upper fill of 508	Over 508, under 501	Tile Slate Daub	1 1 2	
1480TT	507	primary fill of 508	Over 508, under 506	Tile	1	
1480TT	508	modern ditch	under 506, 507			

South of Medway, Chatham. (ARC MED 98) Evaluation Report

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	ASSOCIATION	FINDS	NUMBER	DATE
1479TT	601	modern topsoil	over 602			
1479TT	602	buried ploughsoil	under 601	Pot Tile Brick Daub Claypipe	2 2 1 1 1	19 th C
1479TT	603	colluvium	under 602			
1479TT	604	colluvium/loess	under 603			
1479TT	605	flint gravel and silt	under 604			
1479TT	606	fill of tree throw hole	fill of 607			
1479TT	607	tree throw hole	over 604, under 606			
1479TT	608	fill of tree throw hole	fill of 609			
1479TT	609	tree throw hole	over 604, under 608			
1479TT	610	tree throw hole	over 604, under 611			
1479TT	611	fill of tree throw hole	fill of 610			
1479TT	612	tree throw hole redeposit	over 603			
1481TT	701	modern topsoil	over 702			
1481TT	702	buried ploughsoil	under 701			
1481TT	703	silty colluvium	under 702			
1481TT	704	clay colluvium	under 703			
1481TT	705	Loess	under 704			
1485TT	801	modern topsoil	over 802	Pot Tile Brick Slate Claypipe Shell	3 1 1 1 3 1	19 th C
1485TT	802	buried ploughsoil	under 801	Pot Claypipe	1 1	17 th C+
1485TT	803	colluvial layer	under 802	Burnt flint	8	Prehistoric?
1485TT	804	colluvial layer	under 803			
1485TT	805	Loess	under 804			
1487TT	901	Topsoil	over 902	Pot Claypipe Shell Burnt flint	1 1 1 1	19 th C
1487TT	902	subsoil	over 903	Tile Brick Slate Charcoal	2 1 2 1	
1487TT	903	colluvium	over 905			
1487TT	904	colluvium	under 905			
1487TT	905	colluvium	under 903			

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits

7.1.1 Only one cut feature, a recent ditch within Trench 1480TT, was identified within the evaluation area. Three tree-throw holes were recorded in Trench 1479TT and evidence of root disturbance in Trench 3082TT. Burnt flint was recovered from a colluvial deposit in Trench 1485TT.

7.2 Date and character

7.2.1 No evidence for occupation of any period was recorded. The tree-throw holes suggest that there may have been clearance activity prior to the first, undated, phase of colluvial deposition. The small assemblage of burnt flint within colluvium 803 may indicate prehistoric activity higher up the valley sides. In the evaluation at Nashenden Farm (URL 1997), a thermoluminescence date of 790 ± 350 BC (68% confidence level) was obtained from burnt flint within the colluvium. Taken together with the early Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery found within the colluvium in that instance, it appears probable that the colluvial sequence formed sometime after *c.* 2000BC and prior to the Roman period.

7.2.2 Ditch 508 appears to be a post-medieval field boundary associated with Borstal Court Farm.

7.3 Environmental Evidence.

7.3.1 Deposits bearing significant environmental inclusions were absent. No environmental samples were taken. However, the sequence of colluvium overlying Pleistocene deposits compares very closely with that found in the Nashenden Farm evaluation (URL1997).

8 IMPORTANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

8.1 Survival/condition

8.1.1 Any archaeological deposits which may exist within or below the Holocene colluvial deposits would survive in good condition due to their depth of burial. However, any archaeological deposits post-dating colluvial deposition would have been affected to some extent by plough truncation.

8.2 Period

8.2.1 The probable Clay-with-Flints, Loessic and Valley Gravels deposits are of Pleistocene date.

8.2.2 There was no secure dating evidence from the colluvial deposits. However, they are likely to be of similar date to colluvial deposits recorded during previous evaluation work in the valley. At Nashenden Farm (URL 1997) it was suggested that the colluvium was deposited after the early Bronze Age and before the Roman period.

8.3 Rarity

8.3.1 The archaeological features identified are common on many rural sites. Pleistocene and Holocene colluvial deposits with little or no associated archaeological material are common in similar sites within the steeply incised valleys of north Kent.

8.4 Fragility/vulnerability

8.4.1 The Pleistocene horizons recorded at South of Medway are protected by substantial colluvial layers. However, they would be disturbed by deep, intrusive works.

8.4.2 The burnt flint bearing colluvial deposit, layer 803, is protected by overlying colluvium and recent ploughsoils. The colluvial layer is not at threat from ploughing, although it would be damaged by deep, invasive works.

8.4.3 The only other archaeological feature, Ditch 508 has already been plough damaged and is vulnerable to any groundworks that remove the topsoil/buried ploughsoil.

8.5 Diversity

8.5.1 There was no significant diversity of archaeological finds or features. There was however substantial diversity in the range of geological deposits, which included Valley gravels, Clay-with-Flints, Loess, colluvium, buried ploughsoil and topsoil.

8.6 Documentation

8.6.1 There is little documentation relating directly to the site prior to the Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (URL 1994). The desk-based assessment noted the significance of the Nashenden Farm complex to the north-east of the evaluated area and described the development of Borstal Court Farm.

8.6.2 A manor house is mentioned in Domesday Book (AD 1086) at Nashenden Farm, and this may indicate a Late Saxon origin. An excavation in 1969/1970 identified the foundations of a chalk-and-flint building, which were provisionally dated to the 12th century AD, and were assumed to be the site of the manor house. It has since been proposed that the foundations are instead the remains of a chapel dedicated to St. Margaret.

8.6.3 Borstal Court Farm (OAU No. 972) is an unlisted 19th century, concrete block constructed building.

8.6.4 Burham Road is aligned upon the supposedly prehistoric trackway known as the Pilgrim's Way (OAU No. 1776).

8.7 Group value

8.7.1 The group value of the archaeological deposits is very limited. However, the sequence of Pleistocene and Holocene deposits has some group value in relation to the results of previous work in the valley (URL 1997).

8.8 Potential

Structural

8.8.1 The archaeological deposits identified have little potential to contribute to the understanding of the development of the area.

Artefactual

8.8.2 The datable artefacts are of recent origin and have no further archaeological potential.

Environmental

8.8.2 The deposits recorded have limited potential for the reconstruction of the palaeo-environmental sequence.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- McCarthy, MR 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain c AD900 – 1600*
and Brooks, CM, Leicester University Press
- Ordnance Survey 1977 Geological Survey of Great Britain (Chatham)
- URL 1994 *Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects. Final Report.*
- URL 1995 *Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects (Supplementary Fieldwork Report).*
- URL 1996 *Geophysical Surveys. Contract No. 194/580*
- URL 1997 *Archaeological Evaluation at Nashenden Valley (ARCNSH97), Borstal, Rochester, Kent*
- Wilkinson D 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual* (unpub.).
(ed)

APPENDIX 1

The Burnt Flint

1 Introduction

1.1 A total of 10 pieces of burnt flint were recovered during the evaluation. Eight pieces were taken from colluvial layer, 803 the remaining two were from modern contexts.

2 Quantification

2.1 Table 2 quantifies the burnt flint by context.

3 Assessment

3.1 The bulk of the burnt flint was found within a colluvial layer which indicates that it is derived from elsewhere. It is likely to be prehistoric and may possibly indicate that there was prehistoric activity upslope.

3.2 The remaining pieces of burnt flint were from modern contexts.

Table 2: Burnt flint in grammes by context

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Weight (g)
401	1478TT	1	100
507	1480TT	1	35
803	1485TT	8	900

APPENDIX 2

The Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn, Oxford Archaeological Unit

1 Introduction

1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 33 sherds with a total weight of 489 g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per ware type per context is shown in Table 3.

2 Quantification/Description

2.1 Table 3 lists the pottery by number and weight for each context.

3 Assessment

3.1 All the pottery was post-medieval in date. The majority of the assemblage (28 sherds, 434 g) comprised 19th or early 20th century wares, but five sherds (55 g) were Red Earthenwares. Such pottery came into general use during the 16th century, but sometimes continued to be made to virtually the present day, especially in the 'country potteries' of relatively remote rural areas (cf McCarthy and Brooks 1988). Therefore, the 16th century date ascribed to such contexts should be treated very much as a *terminus post quem*, as the assemblages could easily be considerably later.

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per ware type per context

Ware Type	Red Earthenwares		Misc 19 th C		TPQ
	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S	1	12	8	137	U/S
301			2	15	19 th C
401			8	146	19 th C
402			2	19	19 th C
501			4	88	19 th C
502	3	35			16 th C+
602	1	4	1	5	19 th C
801			2	19	19 th C
802	1	4			16 th C+
901			1	5	19 th C
Total	5	55	28	434	

APPENDIX 3

The Animal Bone

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Three pieces of unidentified animal bone were recovered during the evaluation, from two ploughed contexts.

2 Quantification/Description

- 2.1 Table 4 lists the occurrence of animal bone by context.

3 Assessment

- 3.1 The three pieces of bone recovered were from topsoil contexts and could not be identified.

Table 4: Occurrence of animal bone by context

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Description	Date
401	1478TT	1	Unidentified	Mod
501	1480TT	2	Unidentified	Mod

APPENDIX 4

The Glass

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Eighteen pieces of glass were recovered during the evaluation, of which 17 are bottle glass and 1 window glass. All were of 19th-20th century date from modern, ploughed layers.

2 Quantification/Description

- 2.1 Table 5 lists the occurrence of glass by context.

3 Assessment

- 3.1 All of the glass fragments are of modern date, derived from topsoil and buried ploughsoil deposits.

Table 5: Fragments of glass by context

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Description	Date
301	1477TT	1	Bottle	Mod
302	1477TT	2	Bottle	Mod
401	1478TT	1	Bottle	Mod
501	1480TT	2	Bottle	Mod
801	1485TT	4	Bottle	Mod
901	1487TT	6	Bottle	Mod
902	1487TT	1	Window	Mod
U/S		1	Bottle	Mod

APPENDIX 5

Clay pipe

1 Introduction

1.1 A total of 16 pieces of clay pipe were recovered from the evaluation.

2 Quantification/Description

2.1 Fifteen of the pieces were stem fragments and one piece, from layer 901 was a bowl fragment. The stem fragment from layer 802 had a stamp from Rochester and the name Anderson written along it. Table 6 lists the occurrence of clay pipe by context.

3 Assessment

3.1 All of the clay pipe fragments were 19th century in date and found within recent, ploughed contexts. No further work is justifiable.

Table 6: Fragments of clay pipe by context

Context	Trench	No. of frags.	Description	Date
401	1478TT	4	Stem	19 th
501	1480TT	3	Stem	19 th
502	1480TT	2	Stem	19 th
602	1479TT	1	Stem	19 th
801	1485TT	3	Stem	19 th
802	1485TT	1	Stem	19 th
901	1487TT	1	Bowl	19 th
U/S		1	Stem	19 th

Appendix 6

Marine Shell

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A very small assemblage (6 pieces) of marine shell was hand retrieved from the evaluation. All of the shell was oyster (*Ostrea*).

2 Quantification

- 2.1 Table 7 lists the occurrence of marine shell by context.

3 Assessment

- 3.1 The shell assemblage was recovered from ploughed, modern contexts and is too small to warrant further analysis.

Table 7: Pieces of oyster shell by context

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Description
301	1477TT	1	Oyster
401	1478TT	1	Oyster
501	1480TT	1	Oyster
502	1480TT	1	Oyster
801	1485TT	1	Oyster
901	1487TT	1	Oyster

Appendix 7

Building materials

1 Introduction

1.1 Forty-two pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the evaluation, all from modern contexts.

2 Quantification

2.1 22 fragments of tile, 9 fragments of brick, 1 fragment of sewer pipe, 7 fragments of slate and 3 fragments of daub were recovered from 14 contexts.

3 Assessment

3.1 All of the material recovered is modern and predominantly from ploughed contexts.

Table 8: CBM by weight (g) per context

Context	Tile		Brick		Sewer Pipe		Slate		Daub	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
U/S	7	228	1	40			1	29		
301	2	52								
302			3	40						
303			1	25						
401	2	32			1	77	1	6		
402	1	18								
501			1	19			1	11		
502	1	103								
506	1	29					1	26	2	6
507	1	1								
602	2	33	1	26					1	22
801	2	73								
802	1	15	1	24			1	24		
902	2	50	1	10			2	5		

Appendix 8

The Metalwork

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Five iron objects were recovered during the evaluation, all from modern, ploughed contexts. One object, from Topsoil 401, was a horseshoe, the remaining pieces were unidentified.

2 Quantification/Description

- 2.1 The iron objects are listed by context in Table 9.

3 Assessment

- 3.1 All of the material recovered was modern and found within modern, ploughed contexts.

Table 9: Metalwork by context

Context	Trench	No. of Frags.	Description	Date
401	1478TT	1	Horseshoe	Mod
501	1480TT	2	Unidentified	Mod
901	1487TT	1	Unidentified	Mod
902	1487TT	1	Unidentified	Mod



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 Map of 1989 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 854166

Figure 1. Site location

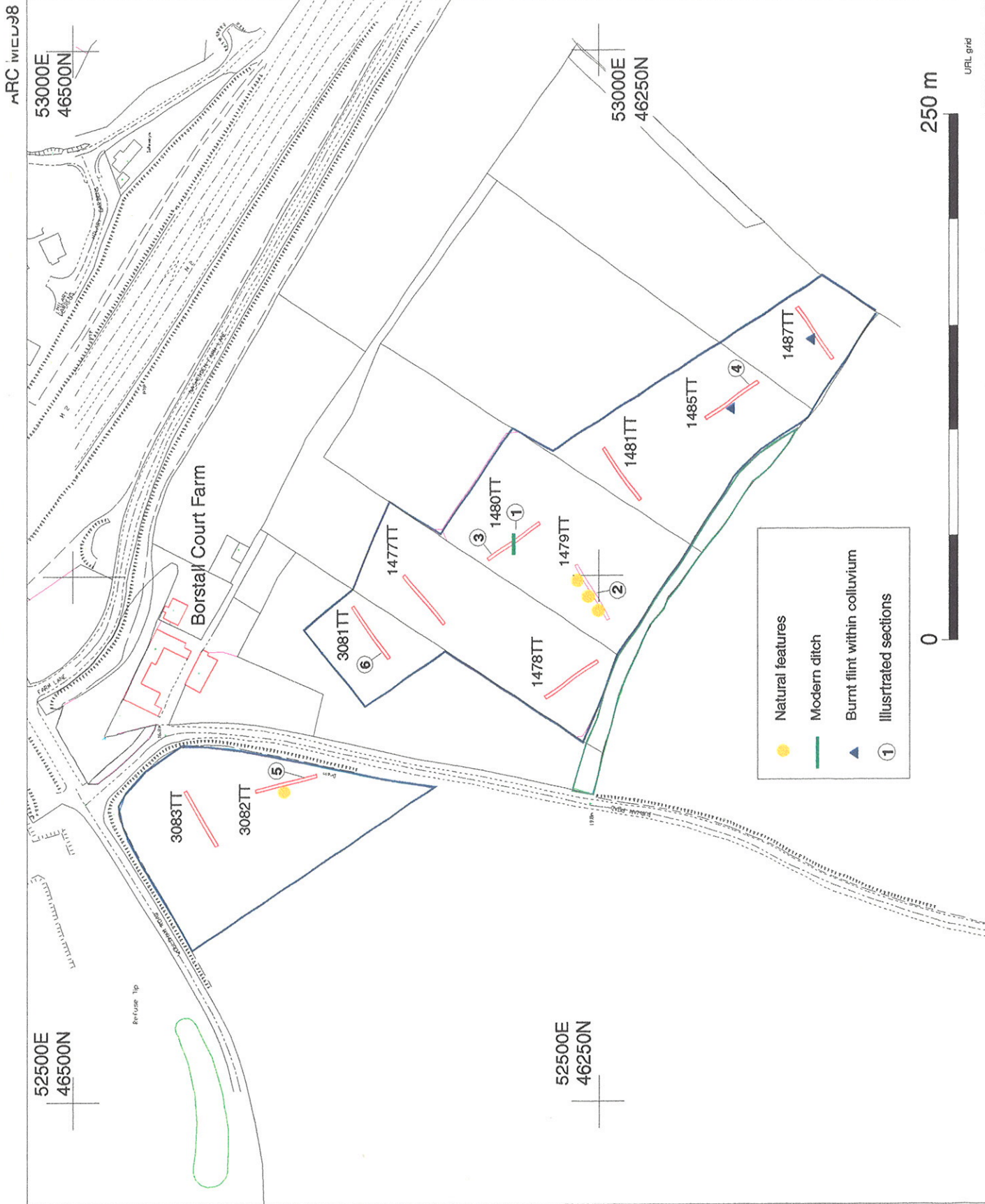


Figure 2. Trench locations and interpretative plan

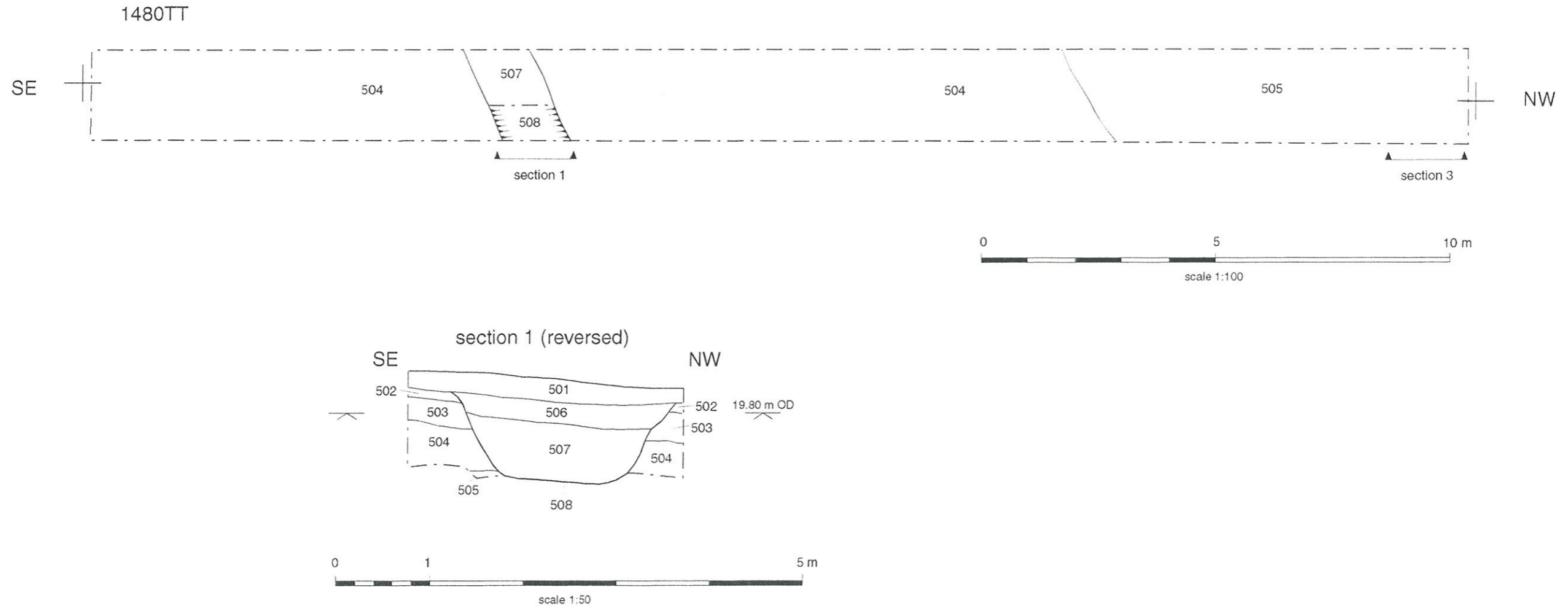


Figure 3. Plan of trench 1480TT and section of ditch 508

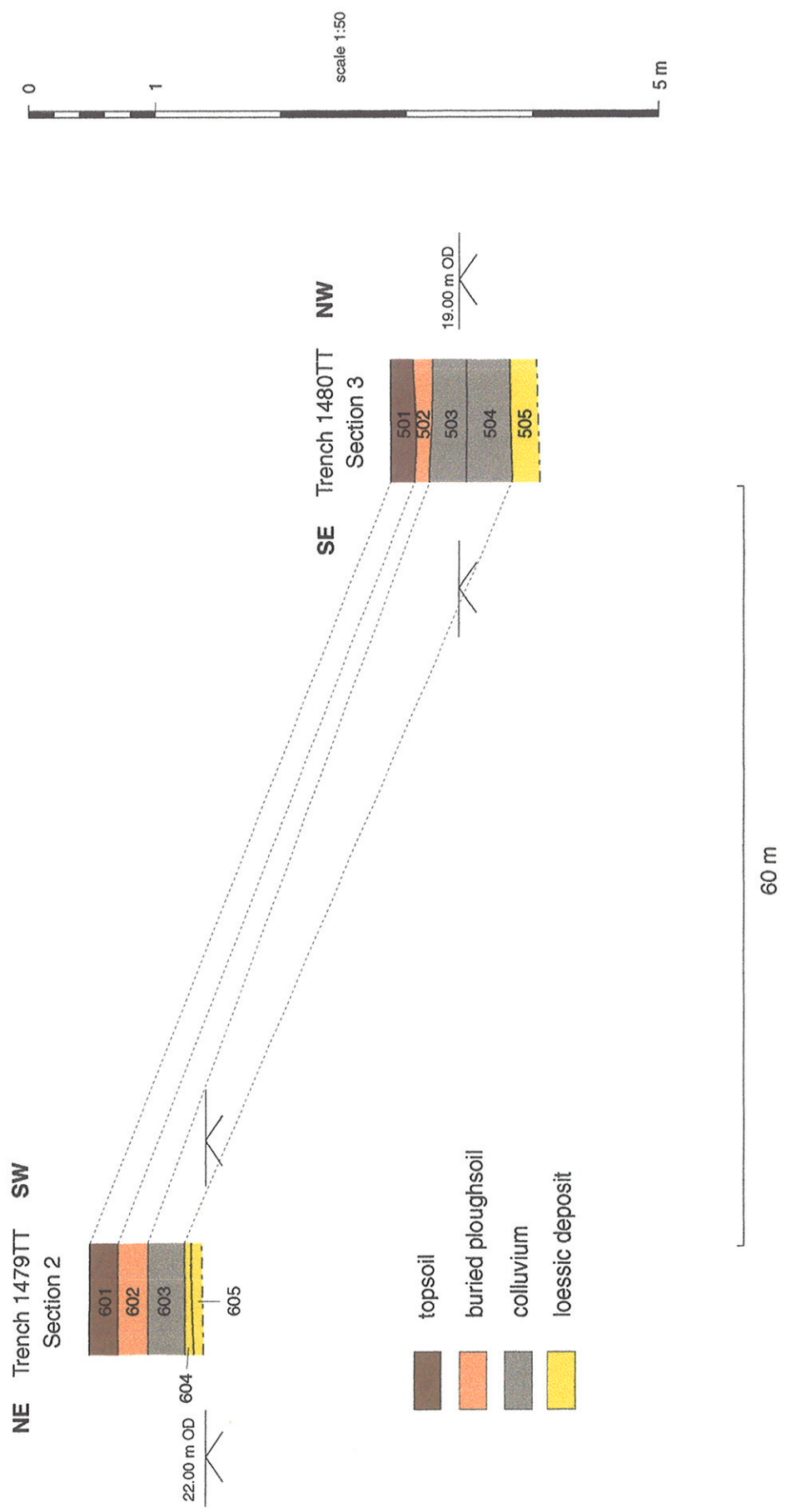


Figure 4. Sample sections from trenches 1480TT and 1479TT

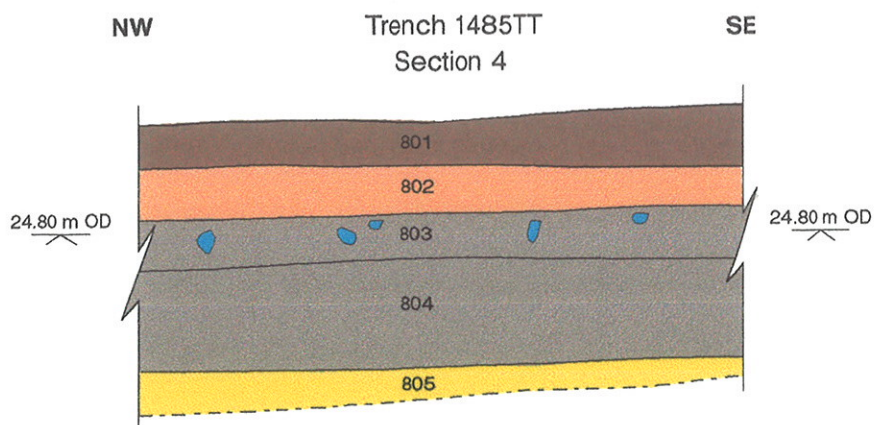


Figure 5. Section containing burnt flint bearing colluvial layer 803

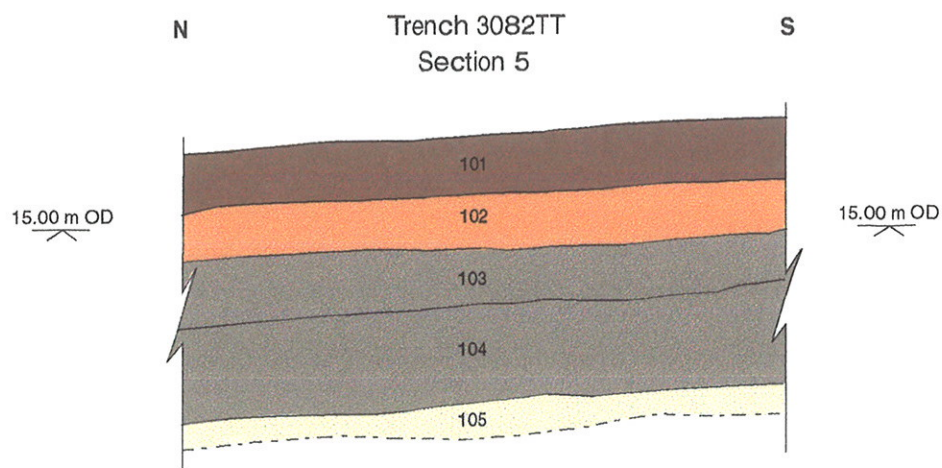
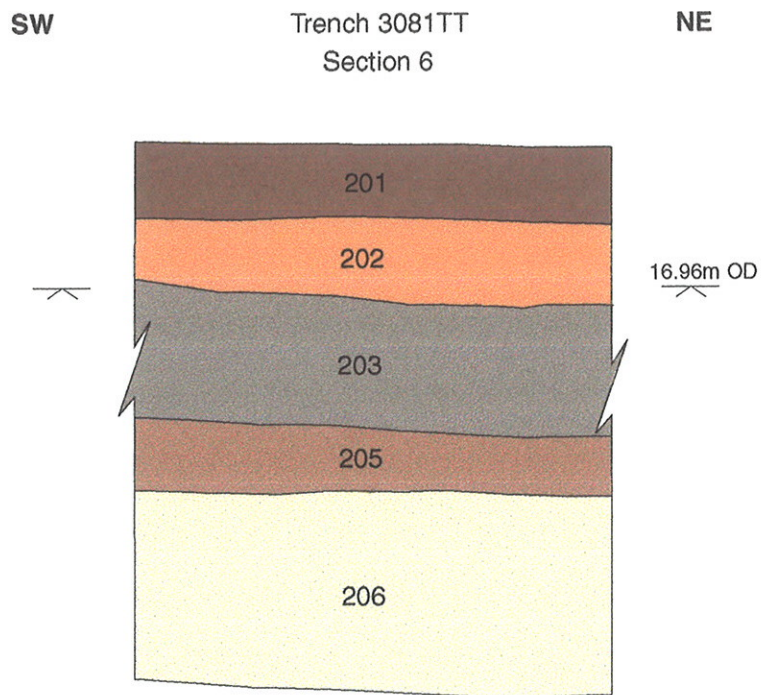







Figure 6. Section of trench 3082TT

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> topsoil buried ploughsoil colluvium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loessic deposit valley gravels burnt flint |
|---|--|





- | | |
|---|--|
|  topsoil |  clay with flints |
|  buried ploughsoil |  valley gravels |
|  colluvium | |

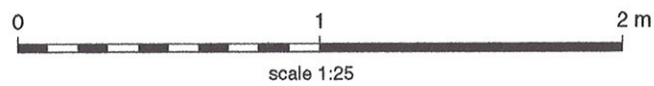


Figure 7 Section of Trench 3081TT



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

email: postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk



Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.E.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES