

LITTLE STOCK FARM (Kent)

TR 06 38

The site at Little Stock Farm sits near Mersham in Kent on a spur overlooking the East Stour river floodplain and overlies Cretaceous Lower Greensands Hythe Beds (Ritchie 2006). Wessex Archaeology investigated the site in advance of construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Ritchie 2006, 1). The excavations uncovered a small Iron Age occupation site that consists of enclosures, droveways, pits and possible round structures (Ritchie 2006, 6-9). Investigators also recovered four inhumations and two disarticulated bones from Little Stock Farm. One of the skeletons (2033) appears to have been buried originally at the entrance of a probable livestock enclosure (McKinley 2006, 69). Later, the inhumation was exhumed, leaving a skull fragment in the original burial pit, and reinterred in the northern area of the site (McKinley 2006a, 69). The skeletal assemblage from Little Stock Farm indicates prolonged processes prior to deposition and the state of the inhumations suggests exhumations, not excarnation, as the main disposal method (McKinley 2006a, 70). Jacqueline McKinley (2006a) conducted the osteological analysis of the human remains from Little Stock Farm.