

SUMMARY REPORT

Chapel Mill, Lenham, Kent (NGR TQ 90395 50001)

OAU was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Limited (URS) to undertake an archaeological investigation at the site of Chapel Mill, Lenham, Kent. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the CTRL.

The site is centred on URL grid point 70400E 30000N and NGR grid point TQ 90395 50001. The site, which was specified as strip, map and sample and was *c.*0.95 hectares in extent, was excavated between 29th March and 21st April 1999.

An archaeological evaluation of the site uncovered a small number of features, including a single pit containing a substantial amount of later prehistoric pottery, from a simple tub-shaped vessel dated to the late Bronze Age (*c.*1750 – 900 BC). Two ditches were also identified, one of which produced a small amount of mid-late Iron Age pottery and some residual Bronze Age material.

The strip, map and sample excavation identified few new features apart from those identified by the evaluation. There was no indication for human settlement on the site at any period. Two cremations, dated on the basis of a small amount of pottery to the Iron Age, were discovered in the same area as a Bronze Age pit discovered during the evaluation. Two parallel, linear boundary ditches, on a north-east to south-west alignment, are also thought to be of later prehistoric (probably late Iron Age) date, on the basis of a small amount of pottery from one of the ditches.

A series of four parallel ditches are thought to be of post-medieval or modern date as they coincide with modern field boundaries crossing the site. The only material recovered from the sections excavated comprised a small amount of Iron Age pottery from the easternmost ditch, which must be residual.

