

**KNIGHTS PLACE CONSTRUCTION SITE,
KENT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

*As part of a programme of archaeological investigation along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Union Railways Limited (URL) commissioned the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) to undertake a trial-trenching evaluation between 20th-26th January 1998. The fieldwork (**ARC KCS97**) was undertaken adjacent to Knights Place Farm, Cobham Park in the parish of Cobham, Kent and comprised thirteen trenches laid out in a single field (URL grid 50289 49266). This site is one of three adjacent evaluations at Knights Place Farm; the other two being Cobham Park (ARC CPK 97) and Knights Place Farm (ARC KPF 98).*

The site lies on the boundary between Thanet Beds and Cretaceous Upper Chalk. The geological deposits were overlain by a colluvial deposit of clean silt.

The archaeological features recorded consisted of:

- *a linear field ditch of late Iron Age or early Roman date*
- *a second undated field ditch*
- *two undated small pits*
- *six oval hollows with stakeholes and evidence of intense heat, interpreted as possible 'ovens', that were partially filled with charcoal rich material.*
- *a post-medieval chalk or head quarry pit*

Although some of the features have been interpreted as possible fireboxes for charcoal ovens, but their function is not precisely known. Colluvial deposits found on site, both pre-date and seal some these 'ovens'.