

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Union Railways (South) Ltd**

Project Area 330

**KNIGHTS PLACE CONSTRUCTION SITE
ARC KCS 98**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
FINAL REPORT**

Contract 194/870

MUSEUM OF LONDON

Museum of London Archaeology Service

February 2000

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Contract 194/870

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February 2000

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**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 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) (Figs 1 and 2). 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) (Figure 3).

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'.

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Fig 2 ARC KCS 98: Plan of the evaluation trenches

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Fig 4 Trenches 3336TT and 3338TT with profiles of features [13], [15] and [17]

Fig 5 Trenches 3343TT and 3344TT with profiles of features [32], [34] and [9]

Fig 6 Trenches 3346TT and 3347TT with profiles of features [36], [38], [40] and [42].

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) was commissioned by Union Railways Limited (URL) to carry out an archaeological evaluation sitecode ARC KCS 98, between 20th and 26th January 1998 on land to the south of the M2 at Knights Place Farm, Cobham Park in the parish of Cobham, Kent. The trenches were laid out over proposed construction site Area 13 (URL grid 50289 49266; Fig 1-2). Evaluation ARC KCS 98 was one of three adjacent evaluations undertaken at Cobham Park (the others being Cobham Park, ARC CPK 97, and Knights Place Farm, ARC KPF 98) (Figure 3). This work formed part of a larger programme of archaeological investigation along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), the aim of which was to assess the effect of construction upon the cultural heritage of Kent. An Environmental Assessment for the project has been prepared (URL 1994). The evaluation was within route window 17.

1.1.2 Evaluation ARC KCS 98 consisted of 13 trial trenches numbered 3336TT to 3348TT inclusive.

1.1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by URL, detailing the scope and methods of the evaluation, including this report. Grid co-ordinates illustrated on all figures or written in the text relate to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Project Grid unless otherwise stated. The area of the evaluation is illustrated on Figure 2.

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The site overlies a boundary between Thanet Beds and Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 1994). Weathered chalk was recorded in trenches 3339TT, 3340TT; a flint filled head deposit, associated with weathered chalk was identified in 3337TT and 3345TT. To the west of the site, trenches 3338TT and 3336TT revealed deep layers of colluvium.

1.2.2 Overlying the geological layers were deposits of sterile orange brown silty sand. These deposits were recorded in all trenches and appear to represent colluvial build-up dating from post-glacial times through to the post-medieval period. In trenches 3336TT and 3338TT layers of colluvium sealed archaeological cut features.

1.2.3 The modern landscape consisted of rounded knolls and hillslopes. In all trenches the depositional sequence was capped by a layer of modern agricultural topsoil; a very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt [1]. No finds were recovered from the topsoil.

2 SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 In general the works aimed to provide information to determine:

- the presence / absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the area of the evaluation;
- the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits;
- 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.

2.1.2 Specifically the works aimed to:

- to extend archaeological knowledge in an area to the north of the site evaluated previously in 1997, *ie* Cobham Park (ARC CPK 97).

3 METHODS

3.1 General

3.1.1 A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation was prepared by URL and agreed with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following text is intended only to amplify certain aspects of the evaluation methodology.

3.2 Survey

3.2.1 The trench locations were surveyed by MoLAS, based on a trench location plan supplied by URL (drawing number 330-DGH-04710-62045-AA).

3.2.2 The trenches were accurately positioned using a total station and datalogger, traversing off the URL survey control.

3.2.3 The trenches have been plotted on Fig 2 from digital information provided by URL using an AutoCAD graphics programme. The trenches are located on the URL site grid.

3.2.4 Archaeological features were planned at 1:20 and 1:50, taking as a grid the line between the two survey pegs used to mark out the trial trench. Full length trench sections were drawn at 1:100. Archaeological profiles were drawn at 1:20.

3.3 Excavation

3.3.1 Thirteen trenches were excavated, however, three of them were relocated from their original URL positions shown on drawing 330-DGH-04710-62045-AA;

- 3336TT was dug due east of its proposed position (so the east end of the original trench became the west end of the new one) to avoid a South-East Electricity Board pole;
- 3338TT was relocated 5.00m due south of its planned position to avoid two high-pressure gas mains which ran across the north-west corner of site;
- 3340TT was relocated 6.00m due south of its planned position and then dug on the south side of the new position to avoid two high-pressure gas mains. The position of the gas mains was marked out at the site on 20/1/98 by a Transco Network Technician, before the trenches were dug.

- 3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a ditching bucket 1.80m wide. Topsoil and subsoil was removed to expose deposits or features of archaeological significance or, if absent, the underlying geological strata. In most cases trenches were deepened at each end (up to *c.* 1.20 m) to test the natural geology.
- 3.3.3 A sample area at each end of all the trenches was hand cleaned to ensure that the stratigraphy could be accurately recorded.
- 3.3.4 Archaeological features in the forms of ditches, pits and pits with burnt material (the base of possible charcoal ovens) were hand cleaned and half-sectioned. Bulk samples were taken for environmental evidence (Appendices 5 and 6).

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 Recording was by the standard Museum of London single context recording system but with modifications to adapt the system to the large area under evaluation. Specifically these adaptations concerned layers: where a layer was judged to be the same in two or more trenches (such as topsoil, subsoil and some uppermost geological deposits), the same context number was used. If there was any doubt as to the equality of a layer a new context number was issued. A trench sheet was completed for each trench, on the reverse of which a sketch plan and section (of the entire trench) was drawn using metric measurements and OD heights.
- 3.4.2 Where archaeological features were located; they were drawn in plan at 1:20 or 1:50 and in profile at 1:20.
- 3.4.3 For all trenches the OD heights were established, each trench having a Temporary Bench Mark incorporated onto one of the survey marker pegs.
- 3.4.4 A photographic record of the evaluation was compiled of half-sectioned archaeological features, cleaned sections and excavated trenches.

4 RESULTS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 All trenches were 30m long and 1.80m wide. Archaeological features were recorded in seven of the thirteen trenches. Many of the trenches contained a complex sequence of drift deposits which was recorded in detail.
- 4.1.2 The general site sequence began with geological layers (either weathered chalk, head or Thanet Beds silts and sands) overlain by a layer of orange sandy silt colluvium. In 3346TT this lower silty layer was cut by a Late Iron Age - early Roman ditch. The land surface then appeared to have been overlain by colluvium, which was in turn cut by six burnt hollows ringed with stakeholes and filled with charcoal. These features have been interpreted as the bases of possible charcoal ovens (fireboxes) as the only evidence coming from the environmental samples is charcoal; two were recorded in 3336TT, one in 3338TT, two in 3346TT and one in 3347TT. In the lower, western, area of the site the possible ovens (in 3336TT and 3338TT) were overlain by a second deposit of colluvium; the other ovens (in 3346TT and 3347TT) were sealed by modern agricultural topsoil. Clearly a charcoal fuelled oven implies nearby woodland and tree boles were recorded in 3341TT, 3344TT and 3346TT. Also sealed by modern topsoil was a 19th century quarry pit in 3340TT and two simple pits in 3343TT.
- 4.1.3 Although undated at ARC KCS 98, the possible charcoal ovens are not uncommon in Kent and probably date from the medieval and post-medieval periods.

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 General

5.1.1 All trenches are described in numerical order; archaeological features were recorded in 3336TT, 3338TT, 3340TT, 3343TT, 3344TT, 3346TT and 3347TT.

5.1.2 The levels and stratigraphic sequence summary describes the trench sequence from the highest levels to the lowest, the levels reflect the upper surface of the layers

5.2 Trench 3336TT (Fig 4)

5.2.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 82.76m OD
- Subsoil [10] at 82.45m OD
- Colluvium [11] at 81.91m OD
- Ovens [13] and [15] at 81.45m OD to 81.73m OD
- Colluvium [63] at 81.45m OD to 81.73m OD

5.2.2 Silty colluvium [63] extended below the limit of excavation (lowest point 81.30m OD).

5.2.3 Cut into layer [63] were two undated archaeological features [13] and [15], both interpreted as charcoal fuelled ovens, the upper parts of both ovens [13] had been truncated by erosion. Oven feature [13] was oval in shape with steeply sloping sides and rounded base. The dimensions were 0.77m x 0.76m x 0.20m deep (top 81.45m OD, base 81.25m OD). Inserted into the base were five stakeholes. One stakehole [18] leaned to the east, the remainder were vertical:

Stakehole dimensions:

- [18] diameter 0.05m, depth 0.09m
- [19] diameter 0.08m, depth 0.10m
- [20] diameter 0.07m, depth 0.09m
- [21] diameter 0.06m, depth 0.09m
- [22] diameter 0.06m, depth 0.12m

Around the sides and base of the feature the adjoining brickearth had been reddened by intense heat.

5.2.4 The feature was filled with light to mid greyish-brown fine sandy silt [12], containing a moderate frequency of burnt flints, pebbles and charcoal flecks. In the lower portion of the fill the charcoal became abundant. Analysis of a bulk sample of this material (sample <1>) revealed that it contained numerous small flecks and fragments of charcoal, occasional seeds preserved by either waterlogging or charring and occasional fragments of daub and burnt flint (see Appendix 5 and 6). Several fragments of unidentified magnetic mineral were also recorded within the oven residue but they appear to be naturally occurring. All the stakes had been withdrawn and the voids filled

with fill [12]. The only find from [12] was a worked flint blade, with retouch along one edge for use as a knife. It was of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and was interpreted as a residual find (see Appendix 3).

- 5.2.5 The second oven [15] was circular in shape with a rounded base. It was 1.02m in diameter and about 0.38m deep. The excavated part contained five stakeholes, four set in a circle around the base and one to the south nearer to the edge of the hearth. The diameter of the stakeholes varied between 50mm and 70mm and their depth between 60mm and 90mm.
- 5.2.6 Oven [15] was filled with a mid grey-brown fine sandy silt [14] containing a moderate frequency of burnt pebbles and charcoal flecks and small fragments. All the stakeholes had been withdrawn and the voids filled with [14].
- 5.2.7 Both ovens [13] and [15] and a tree-bole were sealed by a build-up of light orange brown silty sandy colluvium [11], over 0.57m thick, (top 82.05m OD, lowest point 81.54m OD).
- 5.2.8 Colluvium [11] was sealed by a layer 0.37m thick of orange-brown sandy silt [10].
- 5.2.9 Subsoil [10] was sealed by topsoil [1]. The present ground surface of 3336TT was level (east 82.75m OD, west 82.76m OD).

5.3 Trench 3337TT (Fig 2)

5.3.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 84.00m OD
- Subsoil [44] at 83.70m OD
- Sands [45] at 83.00m OD
- Head [46] at 82.33m OD

5.3.2 The lowest layer [46] was an orange brown clayey silt with frequent flint nodules. This was overlain by a stone free orange brown clay silt [45].

5.3.3 Overlying layer [46] was an orange brown sandy silt [44] which was sealed by topsoil [1].

5.4 Trench 3338TT (Fig 4)

5.4.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 81.97m OD
- Subsoil [10] at 81.62m OD
- Colluvium [11] at 81.22m OD
- Oven [17] at 80.97m OD
- Colluvium [63] at 81.45m OD to 80.97m OD

- 5.4.2 The lowest deposit consisted of colluvium [63] (over 0.75m thick), which was not bottomed (top maximum 81.01m OD).
- 5.4.3 Cut into colluvium [63] was an undated, oval shaped oven [17] (dimensions: 0.70m x over 0.38m x 0.36m deep; top 81.01m OD , base 80.71m OD). Oven [17] had sloping sides and a concave base (Fig 4). Around the basal part of the cut were traces of heat reddened brickearth. The oven bowl was filled with pale yellowish-brown fine sandy silt [16], which contained frequent charcoal flecks and fragments. In the basal 0.05m of the fill the charcoal flecks were abundant.
- 5.4.4 Oven [17] was sealed by an accumulation of colluvium [11] (81.01m OD). This was in turn sealed by an orange-brown sandy silt [10] up to 0.57m thick (82.02m OD).
- 5.4.5 At the top of the sequence was topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from south (82.29m OD) to north (81.62m OD).

5.5 Trench 3339TT (Fig 2)

5.5.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 83.58m OD
- Colluvium [2] at 83.29m OD
- Colluvium at 81.91m OD
- Colluvium [45] at 82.99m OD
- Head [48] at 82.15m OD
- Head [46] at 82.15m OD
- Chalk [47] from 81.89m OD to 83.19m OD

5.5.2 Solid geological deposits comprised three outcrops of angular, frost shattered chalk [47] (top 83.19m OD). At the northern end of the trench the chalk was sealed by a band of iron stained brown sandy silt, packed with flint cobbles [46]. Layer [46] was sealed by a band of pale grey-green, stone-free, silty sand [48] (top 82.15m OD). These two deposits are interpreted as part of the Bullhead Beds, which form the base of the Thanet Beds. Within the southern and central part of the trench was a layer of orange-brown, ferrous stained, slightly clayey fine sand [45] (top 82.69m OD), interpreted as the *in-situ*, basal portion of the Thanet Beds.

5.5.3 The Thanet beds were sealed by an orange-brown, sandy silty clay colluvium [2]. This deposit was sealed by topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped down from west (83.67m OD) to east (82.22m OD).

5.6 Trench 3340TT (Fig 2)

5.6.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 80.58m OD
- Quarry pit [30] at 79.33m OD
- Colluvium [2] at 80.29m OD
- Chalky head [43] at 79.97m OD

5.6.2 Solid geology was an outcrop of angular, frost shattered chalk fragments set in orange-brown sandy clay matrix [43] (79.97m OD), interpreted as head deposits. The chalky head was sealed by a layer of colluvium [2] (80.29m OD).

5.6.3 In the eastern part of the trench the subsoil had been cut by a post-medieval quarry pit [30]. The lower portion of the pit was filled with light greyish-brown sandy silt [29], containing 19th century bottle glass (see Appendix 2). The upper portion of the pit was backfilled with orange brown silty sand [28] (80.27m OD).

5.6.4 The backfilled quarry pit was sealed by topsoil [1] which was 0.61m thick at the east end of the trench. The present ground surface sloped from east (81.33m OD) to west (80.23m OD).

5.7 Trench 3341TT (Fig 2)

5.7.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 85.00m OD
- Treeboles at 84.62m OD
- Subsoil [10] at 84.62m OD
- Sands [48] and [49] at 83.74m OD

5.7.2 Solid geological deposits were Thanet Beds of grey-green fine sand [48] (83.74m OD), overlain in the centre of the trench by a pale greyish-brown, stone-free, ferrous stained, slightly silty sand [49] (84.29m OD).

5.7.3 The sandy layers were sealed by a layer of pale yellow-brown silty sand [10], over 0.73m thick at the south end of the trench (85.79m OD). Within the top of this deposit were three areas of root disturbance, interpreted as modern tree-boles. The largest area of disturbance at the north end of the trench contained rotten tree roots. These tree boles were sealed by a 0.44m thick layer of topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from south (86.08m OD) to north (83.87m OD).

5.8 Trench 3342TT (Fig 2)

5.8.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 89.28m OD
- Colluvium [2] at 89.02m OD
- Silts [3] at 88.80m OD
- Sands [4] and [5] at 88.35m OD

5.8.2 Solid geological deposits comprised a pale grey-brown, fine sand [5], discoloured by ferrous staining, which sloped from east to west (89.18m OD). This was sealed by a series of light grey-blue, light grey-brown and light greenish-brown sandy silts [4]. These silts and sands are interpreted as part of the Thanet Beds.

5.8.3 The Thanet Beds were sealed by a layer of colluvium [2] (89.12m OD). It was sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from south (102.32m OD) to north (99.93m OD).

5.9 Trench 3343TT (Fig 5)

5.9.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 88.55m OD
- Pits [32] and [34] 88.37m OD
- Colluvium [2] at 88.37m OD
- Silts [50] at 88.50m OD
- Silts [51] at 87.43m OD
- Sands [48] between 87.83m OD - 88.22m OD

5.9.2 Solid geological deposits were exposed at the northern end of the trench and comprised a grey-green silty sand [48] (88.22m OD), interpreted as part of the basal portion of the Thanet Beds (Bullhead Beds). The top of this deposit undulated suggesting that it has been extensively eroded before being sealed by an accumulation (up to 0.77m thick) of pale orange brown slightly clayey silt [51]. At the southern end of the trench silt [51] was sealed by a layer (up to 0.05m thick) of pale yellow-brown brickearth [50] (88.50m OD), interpreted as a Pleistocene brickearth. This layer was sealed by a further build-up of colluvium [2] (88.62m OD), which had undergone a massive amount of *in-situ* biological reworking and weathering.

5.9.3 Cut into the colluvium [2] were two undated, small pits [34] and [32]. Pit [34] was only defined in section. It had sloping sides and concave profile (dimensions: 1.05m x 0.48m deep; top 88.81m OD, base 88.32m OD). It was backfilled with light grey silty fine sand [33]. Pit [32] was only defined in plan during the excavation of brickearth [2]. It consisted of the basal portion of an oval shaped pit with a sloping base (dimensions: 1.00m x 0.74m x 0.13m deep; top 87.38m OD, base 87.20m OD). It was filled with a

greyish-brown slightly silty sand [31], containing a moderate frequency of pebbles and a few fragments of charcoal.

5.9.4 The pits were sealed by a layer of topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from north (88.87m OD) to south (88.04m OD).

5.10 Trench 3344TT (Fig 5)

5.10.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] between 89.90m OD and 92.18m OD
- Tree boles
- Subsoil [10] between 89.60m OD and 91.92m OD
- Ditch [9] at 89.72m OD
- Silts [7] between 89.22m OD and 91.65m OD

5.10.2 The upper drift geological deposit comprised a layer of light greyish-brown, ferrous stained, slightly sandy clayey silt [7] (91.65m OD).

5.10.3 Cut into this deposit was ditch [9] of late Iron Age or early Roman date (see Appendix 1). It was aligned south-west to north-east. The upper part of the ditch was largely destroyed by biological reworking and was only defined in section. A 3.60m length was exposed of which 1.90m was excavated; it had an east to west width of 0.86m and depth of approximately 0.60 m, sloping sides and a flat base (top 89.91m OD, base 89.31m OD). The base of ditch [9] appeared to slope from west to east. Ditch [9] was filled with a light greyish-brown silty sand [8], containing a few pebbles (some burnt), one fragment of burnt sandstone and some sherds of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery.

5.10.4 The ditch was sealed by a build-up of light yellow and greyish-brown fine sandy clayey silt [6] (91.45m OD).

5.10.5 In three places deposit [6] had been truncated by areas of extensive root disturbance, interpreted as tree boles of recent date. The tree boles were all sealed by a layer of topsoil [1]. Present ground surface sloped from south (92.18m OD) to north (89.90m OD).

5.11 Trench 3345TT (Fig 2)

5.11.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 82.76m OD; subsoil [10] at 82.45
- Colluvium at 81.91m OD
- Sands [48] at 86.22m OD
- Sands [46] at 86.51m OD and [49] at 86.98m OD
- Chalky head [43] at 86.38m OD

- 5.11.2 The upper solid geological deposit at the eastern end of the trench comprised a mass of frost shattered angular chalk fragments set in a brickearth matrix [43] (86.38m OD), interpreted as head deposits. This was sealed by a 0.30m wide, sloping band of mid brown, silty fine sand [46], containing frequent cobbles and pebbles, (86.51m OD). Above this was a deposit of grey-green, stone-free, slightly clayey silty fine sand [48] (86.22m OD). Geological material at the western end of the trench comprised pale grey, stone-free slightly clayey fine sand [49] (86.98m OD).
- 5.11.3 The sequences at both ends of the trench were sealed by an accumulation of mottled pale grey and orange-brown slightly silty fine sand [10] (87.30m OD). This deposit was sealed by a layer of topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from east (86.80m OD) to west (87.62m OD).

5.12 Trench 3346TT (Fig 6)

5.12.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 82.76m OD
- Oven [13], oven [15], ditch [40] and a tree bole between 88.74m OD and 90.34m OD
- Silty sand [11] between 88.74m OD and 90.34m OD
- Silty clay [3] 88.49m OD
- Sands [4] at 88.06m OD

5.12.2 The solid geological deposit revealed a pale grey-brown ferrous stained sand [4] (89.81m OD), interpreted as part of the Thanet Beds. At the west end of the trench sand [4] was overlain by a layer of orange-brown clayey brickearth [3] (88.49m OD). These deposits were sealed by a layer of colluvium [11] (90.34m OD).

5.12.3 Cut into colluvium [11] were three undated archaeological features and a modern treebole. A linear feature [40], interpreted as a ditch aligned north-west to south-east, was recorded (dimensions: 2.14m long (visible), 1.02m wide x 0.65m deep) but the upper portion of the ditch had been largely destroyed by biological reworking and could only be defined in section (top 90.01m OD, base 89.25m OD). Ditch [40] had sloping sides and rounded base and appeared to have filled naturally with a light yellow-brown silty fine sand [39].

5.12.4 To the east of ditch [40] was oven [38] (dimensions: 0.95m in diameter x 0.16m deep but badly truncated by modern ploughing; top 90.34m OD, base 90.15m OD). It was oval shaped, had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The adjacent deposits had been reddened by intense heat. Oven [38] was filled with a mid greyish-brown silty fine sand [37], containing frequent charcoal flecks.

5.12.5 To the west of ditch [40] was a further oval hearth [36] (dimensions: 1.20m x 1.10m x 0.36m deep; top 89.39m OD, base 89.03m OD). It had sloping sides and concave base and the adjacent deposits reddened by intense heat. Within the southern portion of the base were eleven vertical, oval shaped stakeholes:

- [52] diameter 0.06m, depth 0.07m;
- [53] diameter 0.40m, depth 0.50m;
- [54] diameter 0.06m, depth 0.80m;
- [55] diameter 0.70m, depth 0.80m;
- [56] diameter 0.75m, depth 0.80m;
- [57] diameter 0.50m, depth 0.50m;
- [58] diameter 0.12m, depth 0.15m;
- [59] diameter 0.70m, depth 0.15m;
- [60] diameter 0.50m, depth 0.05m;
- [61] diameter 0.60m, depth 0.80m.

All the stakes had been withdrawn and the voids filled with a mid grey brown clayey silt [35].

- 5.12.6 The feature [36] was filled with a mid grey-brown clayey silt [35], containing abundant charcoal flecks and fragments. Examination of a sample (<2>) revealed that it contained abundant flecks and fragments of charcoal, occasional seeds preserved by waterlogging and occasional fragments of mineral and burnt flint (see Appendix 5 and 6).
- 5.12.7 The features in trench 3346TT were sealed by topsoil [1]. The present ground level sloped from east (90.67m OD) to west (89.12m OD).

5.13 Trench 3347TT (Fig 6)

5.13.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] between 97.13m OD and 99.45m OD
- Colluvium [2] between 96.90m OD and 99.24m OD
- Oven [42] at 98.63m OD
- Silt [4] between 96.70m OD and 99.03m OD

- 5.13.2 The solid geological deposit comprised a mixed orange-brown and light grey ferrous stained, slightly clayey silt [4] (99.03m OD), interpreted as part of the Thanet Beds.
- 5.13.3 Cut into silt [4] was an undated oval, flat based oven [42] (dimensions: over 0.70m x 0.65m x 0.03m deep; top 98.63m OD, base 98.60m OD). The adjacent deposits had been reddened by intense heat. It was filled with brown silty fine sand [41], containing abundant charcoal flecks.
- 5.13.4 Oven [42] was sealed by a layer of pale brown-yellow sandy silt colluvium [2] (top 99.24m OD).
- 5.13.5 Sandy silt [2] was sealed by topsoil [1]. The present ground level sloped from south (99.45m OD) to north (97.13m OD).

5.14 Trench 3348TT (Fig 2)

5.14.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 87.30m OD
- Colluvium [2] at 86.90m OD
- Sand [5] at 86.40m OD

5.14.2 The solid geological deposit comprised a light grey-brown ferrous stained fine sand [5] (top 86.55m OD), interpreted as part of the Thanet Beds. It was sealed by a layer, up to 0.60m thick, of pale orange-brown sandy silt colluvium [2] containing concentrations of pebbles (top 87.00m OD).

5.14.3 The sandy deposit [2] was sealed by the topsoil [1]. The present ground surface was flat (south 87.34m OD, north 87.23m OD).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATASETS

6.1 Table 1: Events dataset

EVENT_NAME:KNIGHTS PLACE CONSTRUCTION SITE
EVENT_CODE:ARC KCS98
EVENT_TYPE:Evaluation
CONTRACTOR:Museum of London Archaeology Service
DATE:20/1/98-26/91/98
GRID:50289 49266 (URL Grid)
PROJECT:CTRL
COUNTY:Kent
DISTRICT:Rochester
PARISH:Cobham CP
SMR:
SITE_TYPE: Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth >0.25m
PERIOD: Roman and probably medieval or post-medieval
METHOD:Mechanical removal of topsoil; hand excavation and recording of geological deposits.
PHASING: late Iron Age or early Roman, post-medieval.
ENVIRON: 2 samples
FINDS: residual prehistoric flint, late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery
GEOLOGY: Thanet Beds, Upper Chalk, head and undated drift deposits
CONTEXT_NUM: 48 (+ 13 trench sheets)
THREAT:CTRL
SAMPLE:1%
SUMMARY: A late Iron Age or early Roman ditch, a second undated ditch, two small undated pits and six oven bases. These oven bases are undated but are probably of medieval or post-medieval date. Accumulations of colluvium both pre-date and seal the ovens.
ARCHIVE:
ACC_NUM:

6.2 Table 2: Archaeological context inventory

TRENCH_ URL	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOC	RES/ INT	COMMENTS
3336TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3337TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3338TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3339TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3340TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3341TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3342TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3343TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3344TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3345TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3346TT	1	deposit				topsoil
3339TT	2	deposit				subsoil
3340TT	2	deposit				subsoil
3342TT	2	deposit				subsoil
3343TT	2	deposit				subsoil
3347TT	2	deposit				subsoil
3348TT	2	deposit				subsoil
3342TT,	3	deposit				brickearth
3346TT	3	deposit				brickearth
3342TT,	4	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3346TT	4	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3347TT	4	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3342TT	5	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3348TT	5	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3342TT	6	deposit				reworked natural drift.
3344TT	7	deposit				natural drift, brickearth
3344TT	8	fill		9		fill of 9
3344TT	9	cut		8		field ditch
3336TT,	10	deposit				reworked natural drift
3338TT	10	deposit				reworked natural drift

TRENCH_ URL	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOC	RES/ INT	COMMENTS
3341TT	10	deposit				reworked natural drift
3345TT	10	deposit				reworked natural drift
3336TT,	11	deposit				natural drift, colluvium
3337TT	11	deposit				natural drift, colluvium
3338TT	11	deposit				natural drift, colluvium
3336TT	12	fill		13		fill of 13
3336TT	13	cut		12		charcoal hearth
3336TT	14	fill		15		fill of 15
3336TT	15	cut		14		charcoal hearth
3336TT	16	fill		17		fill of 17
3336TT	17	fill/cut		16		charcoal hearth
3336TT	18	fill/cut				stakehole in 13
3336TT	19	fill/cut				stakehole in 13
3336TT	20	fill/cut				stakehole in 13
3336TT	21	fill/cut				stakehole in 13
3336TT	22	fill/cut				stakehole in 13
3336TT	23	fill/cut				stakehole in 15
3336TT	24	fill/cut				stakehole in 15
3336TT	25	fill/cut				stakehole in 15
3336TT	26	fill/cut				stakehole in 15
3336TT	27	fill/cut				stakehole in 15
3340TT	28	fill		30		fill of 30
3340TT	29	fill		30		fill of 30
3340TT	30	cut		28; 29		quarry pit
3343TT	31	fill		32		fill of 32
3343TT	32	cut		31		pit
3343TT	33	fill		34		fill of 34
3343TT	34	cut		33		pit
3346TT	35	fill		36		fill of 36
3346TT	36	cut		35		charcoal hearth
3346TT	37	fill		38		fill of 38

TRENCH_URL	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOC	RES/INT	COMMENTS
3346TT	38	cut		37		charcoal hearth
3346TT	39	fill		40		fill of 40
3346TT	40	cut		39		field ditch
3347TT	41	fill		42		fill of 42
3347TT	42	cut		41		charcoal hearth
3340TT	43	deposit				natural drift, head
3345TT	43	deposit				natural drift, head
3340TT	44	deposit				reworked natural drift
3339TT,	45	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3347TT	45	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3339TT,	46	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3345TT	46	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3347TT	46	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3339TT	47	deposit				geology, Upper Chalk
3339TT,	48	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3341TT	48	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3343TT	48	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3345TT	48	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3341TT,	49	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3345TT	49	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3343TT	50	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3343TT	51	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3346TT	52	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	53	fill/cut				stakehole in 36

TRENCH_URL	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOC	RES/INT	COMMENTS
3346TT	54	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	55	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	56	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	57	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	58	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	59	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	60	fill/cut				stakehole in 36
3346TT	61	fill/cut				stakehole in 36

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits

7.1.1 Archaeological remains were confined to cut features only. The upper parts of these cut features and all ancient landscape horizons had been substantially re-worked/truncated by natural or agricultural forces. A total of eleven archaeological features were recorded together with a number of tree boles of recent date. The features were recorded in the southern half of the site and, with the exception of two small concentrations around 3346TT (two charcoal fired ovens and a ditch) and 3336TT (two charcoal fired ovens), were evenly distributed. The density of features, relative to the size of the evaluated area, was very low.

7.1.2 The ovens occurred in two areas: trenches 3336TT and 3338TT to the west of the site and trenches 3346TT and 3347TT in the eastern part of the site. It is perhaps notable that these locations are near to present trackways.

7.2 Nature of archaeological deposits

7.2.1 All archaeological features were interpreted as representing the truncated, basal portion of cuts. There is no evidence of any buried land surfaces.

7.2.2 The Late Iron Age - early Roman ditch in 3346TT may represent part of a field system. The possible fireboxes associated with charcoal ovens are not uncommon on sites in Kent (URL, East of Newlands ARC NEW 98 and Knights Place Farm ARC KPF 98) and may be connected with woodland management and fuel production.

7.3 Character of the site

- 7.3.1 The site occupied an undulating area. The impression is that the present topography is the result of extensive fluvial erosion, with hollows and valleys being slightly filled with colluvial material.
- 7.3.2 The low density of features and low levels of information retrieved from the features suggests that the site experienced sparse activity and landuse; possibly associated with rural activities and woodland management.

7.4 Date of occupation

- 7.4.1 There is little dating evidence for the archaeological features found during the evaluation. The ditch [9] revealed 19 sherds of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date (see Appendix 1), however, no finds were retrieved from ditch [40]. It is probable that all the undated ovens are of late medieval or post-medieval date and are associated with rural activities or dispersed occupation. A flint of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was retrieved from oven [13] 3336TT (Appendix 3) but is considered to be residual. Quarry pit [30] in 3340TT revealed one sherd of glass dated to the 19th century or later (Appendix 4).

7.5 Environmental evidence

- 7.5.1 Examination of two charcoal rich samples from the fill of possible ovens [13] 3336TT and [36] 3346TT did not revealed any evidence of function (see Appendices 5 and 6).

7.6 Truncation by ploughing and other activities

- 7.6.1 All the archaeological features recorded were interpreted as representing the basal portion of cuts, presumably truncated by arable cultivation or eroded by colluvium. The depth of some features suggests that only the deepest archaeological features may have survived and no horizontal stratigraphy was recorded on the site.

8 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

8.1 Survival and conditions

- 8.1.1 All the archaeological features located during the evaluation had been truncated by arable cultivation or eroded by colluvium. Only the deepest portion of archaeological features survived. No horizontal archaeological stratigraphy was encountered and no buried land surfaces were identified.
- 8.1.2 The nineteen late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from the evaluation were in poor condition.

8.2 Period

- 8.2.1 The earliest archaeological activity on site (apart from a residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flake in [13] 3336TT) is represented by a late Iron Age or early Roman field ditch [9] 3344TT.
- 8.2.2 The main period represented on the site, as seen by the six ovens, and possibly a ditch, is late medieval or post-medieval. This is supported by a similar sequence of features recorded on the adjacent evaluation ARC KPF 98 (Area 20). In both cases the lateness of the features is attested by their relatively high position within the stratigraphic sequence. The retrieval of a fragment of 19th century (or later) glass from the backfill of quarry pit [30] 3340TT indicates further recent activity.

8.3 Rarity

- 8.3.1 Field ditches of late Iron Age or early Roman date are not considered particularly rare in the immediate area (close to the line of Roman Watling Street). The oven features are not uncommon on other rural archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity (for example Knights Place Farm ARC KPF 97).

8.4 Fragility and vulnerability

- 8.4.1 Due to their position directly beneath the topsoil [1] and close to the present land surface, it is likely that all archaeological remains would be liable to destruction due to construction activity.

8.5 Diversity

- 8.5.1 The features recorded may be divided into two groups; field ditches and possible ovens. There was very little diversity within each group suggesting that only very limited activity was undertaken on the site. This is supported by the low density and the dispersed nature of features.

8.6 Documentation

- 8.6.1 There is no documentation for archaeological finds relating directly to the site, except for the find of a Neolithic axe in 1915 for the area of Knights Place Farm (CTRL 1994, 5.17.2.3).
- 8.6.2 In 1995 a geophysical survey, including magnetic susceptibility and magnetometer surveys, was carried out by A. Bartlett and Associates at Knights Place Farm (URL, April 1996). This indicated weak areas of activity distributed across the site but with no areas of concentrations. Little information relating to the archaeological features recorded in the evaluation may be drawn from these results.
- 8.6.3 Nearby woodland is attested by the fact that in 1651 George Mapliden visited 'Cobham Park' and other woods in Kent to look for timber for suitable for ship building (Chalkin 1965, 105).

8.7 Group value

- 8.7.1 The medieval/ post medieval oven features may represent rural activities and would therefore have little group value. The Neolithic or Bronze Age flint, although possibly of similar date to the Neolithic axe found in 1915 (see 8.6.1 above) does not suggest potential for group value as this is the only find of that date from the 13 evaluation trenches and must be considered a chance find. A similar situation is suggested for the late Iron Age or early Roman ditch. Only one feature of that date was recorded within 13 evaluation trenches.

8.8 Potential

- 8.8.1 The low density of features and limited finds assemblage from the site indicates that the potential for information retrieval is very limited. The potential for further work is therefore considered to be low.

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APPENDIX 1

POTTERY

By Louise Rayner with Robin Symonds

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The evaluation (ARC KCS 98) produced a total of 19 sherds (54g) of late Iron Age - early Roman date. The sherds are in very poor condition, very fragmentary and with heavily abraded surfaces. The average sherd weight is under 3g. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and recorded using standard MoLAS codes on pro-forma sheets. Quantification of the material was by sherd count and weight. Pottery was recorded from context [8] (fill of ditch [9]) 3344TT.

1.2 Fabrics

1.2.1 The two fabrics identified are both glauconite (greensand) rich. The Medway Valley is a focus for sites with glauconite rich fabrics, because of the local deposits of greensand.

1.2.2 Two fabrics have been identified. The first, GLAUC1, has abundant glauconite with occasional larger clear quartz and sparse plates of limestone. The second fabric, GLAUC2, is more sandy and granular in texture.

GLAUC1 1 sherd, 24g
GLAUC2 18 sherds, 30g

1.3 Forms

1.3.1 The sherds represent two vessels, both of which are probably jars. The sherd of GLAUC1 is from the shoulder of a slightly slack profile jar. The sherds of GLAUC2 include two rim fragments probably from an everted rim jar.

1.4 Chronology

1.4.1 The assemblage is not closely datable. The use of glauconite fabrics in this area has its origins in the mid Iron Age and continues in use until the conquest period. The sherd of GLAUC1 is likely to date to the late Iron Age - Romano-British transition period. The sherds of GLAUC2 appear more Romanised in character, but cannot be more closely dated.

1.5 General Comments

- 1.5.1 The recovery of glauconite rich fabrics from this site is not unexpected and fits with our understanding of ceramics for this region.

1.6 Assessment of Potential and further work

- 1.6.1 The small assemblage size and poor condition of the sherds results in an assemblage that is of little potential.

1.7 Table 3: Bulk dataset, pottery

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
3344TT	8	POT	19	54	Romano-British

APPENDIX 2

BUILDING MATERIALS

By Terence Paul Smith

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The material from this site consists of one piece of daub and one fragment of stone. Both have been examined microscopically (x10) and recorded.

1.2 The Daub

- 1.2.1 The daub, which weighs 94 g, is in a hard fine fabric, light brown in colour, with few inclusions. Part of one irregular surface shows blackening due to burning. Passing through the piece is a single wattle hole, indicating use of a wattle rod of 9 mm diameter.

1.3 The Stone

- 1.3.1 The stone is a small fragment (92 g) of ferruginous sandstone ('ironstone', MoLAS fabric 3111). It has no extant worked faces and shows no mortar.

1.4 Conclusion

- 1.4.1 It is impossible to date featureless items of this kind. They do not warrant further attention.

1.5 Table 4: Bulk dataset, building material

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
3344TT	8	DAUB	1	93	
3344TT	8	STONE	1	92	

APPENDIX 3**FLINT***By Jonathan Cotton***1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 Only one worked flint was recovered. This came from context [12], the fill to possible oven [13] 3336TT.

1.2 Discussion

1.2.1 The worked flint is a robust cortical blade with steep marginal retouch along one edge and at the distal tip and is probably a knife. It is of Neolithic to Bronze Age date and probably comes from chalk-derived flint.

1.3 Table 5: Bulk dataset, flint

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
3336TT	12	FLINT	1	11	

APPENDIX 4**GLASS***By Jackie Keily***1.1 Summary**

1.1.1 One small body fragment of green glass from a wine bottle was recovered from the fill [29] of quarry pit [30]3340TT. This is of 19th century or later date.

1.2 Table 6: Bulk dataset, glass

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
3340TT	29	GLASS	1	14	Pmed green bottle

APPENDIX 5

PLANT REMAINS

By John Giorgi

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Two 10 litre bulk samples were taken from the evaluation. They were taken from two pit fills [12] (sample <1>) (Trench 3336TT) and [35] (sample <2>) 3346TT, for the potential recovery of biological and artefactual remains. These fills were both from shallow bowl-shaped features. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills although both were provisionally dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the quality of preservation and the abundance and diversity of biological and artefactual remains in the two samples. It was hoped that the remains in the samples could throw some light on the function of these features, with the possibilities that they could be associated with charcoal production or iron smelting.

1.2 Methods

- 1.2.1 The two samples were processed in a flotation tank and the flots recovered on a 0.25 mm mesh. The residues, retained on a 1mm sieve, were dried and sorted for biological and artefactual remains.
- 1.2.2 The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope. Modes of preservation, abundance and diversity of organic remains were noted. A summary of the results is shown below (*enviro dataset*).

1.3 Results

- 1.3.1 *Late Medieval/Post-Medieval Pitfill [12] 3336TT (sample <1>, flot vol. 15ml.):* The flot and residue consisted mainly of flecks and small fragments of charcoal. Other botanical remains included occasional seeds preserved by waterlogging, eg. *Brassica/Sinapis* spp., and charring, eg. blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus* sp.). The residue also contained occasional fragments of daub and burnt flint.
- 1.3.2 *Late Medieval/Post-Medieval Pitfill [35] 3346TT (sample <2>, flot vol. 30ml.):* The contents of the flot and residue were similar to the previous sample, consisting mostly of flecks and small fragments of charcoal. Other botanical remains included occasional seeds preserved by waterlogging, eg. blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus* sp.), and charring, eg. ‘buttercups’ (*Ranunculus* spp.), bedstraw (*Galium* spp.). The residue contained large quantities of charcoal and occasional fragments of burnt flint.

1.4 Statement of Potential

- 1.4.1 The aim of the assessment was to try to establish the possible function of the two features, for instance, whether they were intended for domestic use, charcoal production or iron smelting. The assessment results, with both large quantities of charcoal and occasional fragments of a possibly natural mineral, suggest that a domestic oven or charcoal production could have been carried out in these features.
- 1.4.2 The small body of seed evidence can provide little information; the ‘waterlogged’ seeds are probably intrusive while the few charred seeds are probably from plants growing in the vicinity of the two features. The potential of the material, however, relies upon accurate dating of the two features. If the potential of the site was high, then Archaeomagnetic dating may be suggested as an option for the two pits, in this case, however, further work may not be necessary.

1.5 Recommendations

- 1.5.1 No further work is suggested.

1.6 Table 7: Environmental dataset, plant remains

TRENCH	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	METHOD	SUMMARY	COMMENTS
3336TT	12	1	flotation (flot size 0.25mm)	charcoal+++; waterlogged seeds+; charred seeds+;	species identification of charcoal for woodland exploitation
3346TT	35	2	flotation (flot size 0.25mm)	charcoal+++; waterlogged seeds+; charred seeds+;	species identification of charcoal for woodland exploitation

Key:

- + 1-10 plant remains
- ++ 11-50 plant remains
- +++ 51-250 plant remains
- ++++ Over 250 plant remains

APPENDIX 6

OVEN RESIDUE

By Lynne Keys

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 A total of 82g of material was recovered during the evaluation. It was visually scanned and categorised on the basis of morphology, density, and colour. Each category within each context was quantified and weighed.

1.2 The material

- 1.2.1 Before quantification the material recovered was thought (on the basis of its highly magnetic properties) to be hammerscale, a distinctive micro-slag derived from iron smithing. During quantification it became apparent that, although extremely magnetic, the material was not hammerscale, and no iron slag of any type was present amongst the material.
- 1.2.2 A 52g portion of the material were fragments of burnt flint while 20g were fragments of fired clay (non-magnetic).
- 1.2.3 A 10g portion consisted of small fragments of very highly fired clay mixed with occasional tiny, black, extremely magnetic, unidentified mineral fragments. These black pieces are themselves able to act as magnets when passed over the other material. There is the possibility that these are naturally occurring fragments of weathered mineral iron which were fired, by accident, with the clay and have become highly magnetic as a result.

1.3 Recommendations and further work

- 1.3.1 If identification is essential before future work, the samples could be shown to a geologist but it does not appear the mineral was being deliberately exploited since the amount per volume of soil sample was small.

1.4 Table 8: Sample dataset, oven residue

TRENCH	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	COMMENTS
3346TT	35	2	burnt flint	52	
3346TT	35	2	fired clay	15	
3346TT	35	2	fired clay & mineral(?)	3	both highly magnetic
3336TT	12	1	fired clay	5	
3336TT	12	1	fired clay & mineral(?)	7	both highly magnetic

Kent SMR Record Sheet

Site Name: Knights Place Construction Site, Area 13, Kent			
Site code: ARC KCS98			
Summary:			
An evaluation of 13 trenches, commissioned by Union Railways Limited, was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in January 1998 in Kent, west of Rochester, near Knights Place Farm. Archaeological features were located in six trenches.			
District: Rochester		Parish: Cobham CP	
Period(s):			
1. Roman			
2. Probably medieval or post-medieval			
NGR Easting 570300		NGR Northing 169350	
Type of Recording:	Evaluation	Watching Brief	Field Walking
(Delete)	Excavation	Geophysical Survey	Measured Survey
Date of Recording: (From) 20/1/98		(To) 26/1/98	
Unit Undertaking Recording:			
Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB			
Summary of Field Results:			
A Romano-British field ditch, a second undated field ditch, two small undated pits, plus six 'ovens', cut into subsoil. The similarity of the 'ovens' in construction (stakeholes implying wattle superstructure) and use (fills of magnetic mineral fragments and charcoal, but no slag) points to a common , but specifically unknown, purpose. Accumulations of brickearth colluvium both pre-date and seal the ovens. These ovens contained no datable material but according to their position in the stratigraphic sequence were probably of medieval or post-medieval date.			
Location of Archive/Finds:		URL archive at Aylesford	
Bibliography:		Evaluation Report	
Summary Compiler: Bruce Watson			Date: 6/3/98

Fig 1 Knights Place Construction Site, ARC KCS 98.
National Grid reference: TQ 570300 169350. Reproduced from the 1993 Ordnance Survey
Pathfinder 1193 Chatham map with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary
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