UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED

KNIGHTS PLACE FARM, AREA 20

ARC KPF 98

An Archaeological Evaluation

Contract No. 194/870

museum of LONDON
Museum of London Archaeology Service
May 1998

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KNIGHTS PLACE FARM, AREA20, KENT

ARC KPF 98

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Final Report

Volume 1 of 1

Contract No. 194/870

Prepared by: Date:
Checked by: Date:
Approved by: Position: Date:

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KNIGHTS PLACE FARM, AREA 20

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 the 27th and 29th January 1998. The fieldwork was undertaken in URL Area 20, adjacent to Knights Place Farm, Cobham Park in the parish of Cobham, Kent. The evaluation trenches were laid out in two blocks; one to the west, Area 1 (centred on URL grid 50012 49267), and one to the east , Area 2 (centred on URL grid 50532 48999), of Knights Place Farm (Figs 1 and 2). The evaluation sitecode is ARC KPF 98 and is one of three adjacent evaluations at Knights Place Farm; the other two being Cobham Park (ARC CPK 97) and Knights Place Construction Site (ARC KCS 98) (Fig 3).

Geologically, Area 1 was on the boundary between Thanet Beds and Cretaceous Upper Chalk. Area 2 overlies Thanet Beds.

The result was six archaeological features: two in Area 1 (one each in trenches 3136TT and 3137TT) and four in Area 2 (one in 3152TT and three in 3154TT). These features comprised four undated pits/cut features and two undated oval hollows (features [13] 3154TT and [19] 3152TT), containing evidence of integrated structures and in-situ *burning. Features [13] and [19] have tentatively been interpreted as late medieval or post-medieval ovens. All the other pits are of unknown date and function.*

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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 KPF 98, between the 27th and 29th January 1998 on land to the south of the M2, to the east and west of Knights Place Farm, Cobham Park in the parish of Cobham, Kent. The evaluation trenches were laid out in two blocks; Area 1 to the west, (centred on URL grid 50012 49267) and Area 2 to the east, (centred on URL grid 50532 48999) (figs. 1 and 2). Evaluation ARC KPF 98 is one of three adjacent evaluations at Knights Place Farm; the other two being Cobham Park (ARC CPK 97) and Knights Place Construction Site (ARC KCS 98) (Fig 3).

1.1.2 The works 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.

1.1.3 Evaluation ARC KPF 98 consisted of seven trial trenches numbered: Area 1 3135TT to 3137TT and Area 2 3152TT to 3155TT.

1.1.4 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 an all figures or written in the text relate to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Project Grid unless otherwise stated. The two areas of the evaluation are shown on Fig 2.

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The site overlies a boundary between Thanet Beds and Cretaceous Upper Chalk (URL geology map 4 of North Kent). Weathered chalk was recorded in Area 1 sealed by a thin band of very badly truncated Thanet Beds [7], [11], [22], [23], [30], [31] and [32] (trenches 3135TT, 3136TT and 3137TT).

1.2.2 All trenches in Area 2 revealed Thanet Beds; a light grey silty fine sand [25], [26], [28] (trenches 3152TT, 3153TT, 3154TT and 3155TT) with abundant evidence of ferrous staining. The Thanet Beds were sealed by a layer of light brown clayey silt [2].

1.2.3 In Area 1, trenches 3135TT and 3137TT revealed two (undated) phases of hillwash. The earlier phase consisted of mid brown slightly clayey silt [10] containing frequent chalk flecks and fragments. The later phase consisted of orange-brown clayey silt [3].

1.2.4 Modern landuse is arable cultivation represented by a layer of modern topsoil; a very dark greyish-brown slightly clayey silt [1]. No finds were recovered from the topsoil.

1.2.5 The modern landscape in Area 1 consisted of a gentle west-facing hillslope where ground level drops from 87.07m OD to 80.76m OD over a distance of approximately 140m. In Area 2 there was a fairly level area at approximately 96.00m OD between 3152TT and 3153TT and then a gentle slope down to 88.97m OD (3155TT) over a distance of approximately 90m.

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 to the east and west 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-08300-620479-AA).

3.2.2 The trenches were accurately positioned using a total station and datalogger, traversing off the URL survey control. The trenches were marked out with pegs on the western side of a north to south trench or the southern side of an east to west trench,

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. Trench sections were sketched and later drawn at 1:100. Archaeological profiles were drawn at 1:20.

3.3 Excavation

3.3.1 Seven trenches were excavated but two were relocated from the original positions as shown on drawing 330-DGH-08300-620479-AA;

- 3135TT was repositioned to the south to avoid a hedge
- 3136TT was moved 5.00m south to avoid two high-pressure gas mains (which run north to south across this area). The position of the gas mains was marked out on 29/1/98 by a Transco Network Technician, before trench 3136TT was 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 small pits and pits with stakeholes and burnt material (possible ovens) were hand cleaned and half-

sectioned. A bulk sample was taken from a charcoal rich fill ([12] 3154TT) for environmental evidence (Appendices 2 and 3).

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 adaptions 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 30.00m long and 1.80m wide. Archaeological features were recorded in four of the seven trenches. Many of the trenches contained a complex sequence of drift deposits which was recorded in detail.

4.1.2 The western Area 1 was sited on the boundary between the Thanet Beds and the Cretaceous Upper Chalk and the eastern Area 2 overlay Thanet Beds.

4.1.3 The archaeological features consisted of four undated small pits and two undated oval hollows with stakeholes and evidence for burning:

Area 1
- pit [21] in 3136TT
- pit [5] in 3137TT

Area 2
- possible oven [19] in 3152TT
- pit [15], pit [17] and oven [13] in 3154TT

4.1.4 The fills of four of the features (oven [13], possible oven [19], pit [15] and pit [17]) contained charcoal; pits [15] and [17] also contained fragments of burnt sandstone and oven [13] and pit [5] contained fragments of burnt daub. Stakeholes were associated with oven [13] and pit/oven [19].

4.1.5 Modern plough action had truncated the upper parts of all features and all archaeological features were sealed by modern topsoil.

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

AREA 1 (Western)

5.1 Trench 3135TT (Fig 2)

5.1.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 82.73m OD
- Subsoil [3] at 82.48m OD
- Colluvial hillwash [10] at 82.20m OD
- Chalk [29] at 80.53m OD to 81.97m OD

5.1.2 Weathered chalk was overlain by brown clay silt hillwash [10] containing frequent chalk flecks. Layer [10] was in turn overlain by an orange-brown clay silt [3].

5.1.3 Topsoil [1] capped the sequence. The present ground surface sloped from east (82.73m OD) to west (80.76m OD).

5.2 Trench 3136TT (Fig 4)

5.2.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 85.50m OD
- Pit [21] at 84.96m OD
- Orange brown hillwash deposit [2] at 84.96m OD
- Sloping deposits of fine grey sands [22] and [23] max. 85.06m OD
- Sloping deposits of chalk [29] and Head deposit [9] max. 84.71m OD.

5.2.2 At the northern end of the trench Upper Chalk [29] and head [9] (84.71m OD) were revealed. At the southern end of the trench there was a layer of light grey fine sand [22] over 1.20 m thick (85.06m OD). Within deposit [22] a layer of light grey clayey-silt [23] was recorded. Chalk [29], head [9], silts [23] and sands [22] were all sealed by a layer of mid orange-brown clayey silt hillwash [2].

5.2.3 Cut into the hillwash [2] was a small, truncated, oval pit [21] (dimensions: 0.60m x 0.50m x 0.08m deep; top 84.96m OD, base 84.81m OD). Pit [21] had sloping sides, an irregular base and was filled with yellow-brown silty clay [20]. No finds were retrieved.

5.2.4 The sequence was sealed by topsoil [1]. Within the centre of the trench was an area of root disturbance representing a small tree-hole. The present ground surface was roughly level at 85.50m OD.

5.3 **Trench 3137TT** (Fig 4)

5.3.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 87.00m OD
- Pit [5] at 86.60m OD
- Orange brown hillwash deposit [3]
- Hillwash deposit with flints [6]
- Silty hillwash deposit [10]
- Grey sands [22] in a possible palaeo-channel at 86.57m OD
- Sloping deposits of fine grey sands [7], [11], [30], and [24] max. 86.54m OD
- Sloping deposits of chalk [29] and Head deposit [9] max. 85.92m OD.

5.3.2 The latest geological deposits were chalk [29] (85.92m OD), and head deposits [9]. Chalk [29] was sealed by Thanet Beds recorded as fine grey sands [7], [11], [30], [24]. The sands were sealed by a layer of pale grey, ferrous stained silty fine sand [22] 0.93m thick, possibly laid down within a palaeo-stream channel.

5.3.3 In the centre of the trench were several deposits of hillwash including a light orange-brown clayey silt [10] and a layer of mottled mid brown and dark brown clayey silt, containing frequent pebbles [6]. This layer was sealed by a substantial deposit (over 0.70m thick) of orange brown silty hillwash [3].

5.3.4 Cut into subsoil [3] was a small, truncated, sub-round pit [5] of unknown date and function (dimensions: 0.44m diameter x 0.12 m deep; top 86.60m OD). Pit [5] had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and was filled with a mid brown clayey silt [4], containing abundant fragments of burnt daub.

5.3.5 The feature was sealed by topsoil [1]. Present ground surface sloped from east (87.07m OD) to west (86.94m OD).

AREA 2 (Eastern)

5.4 **Trench 3152TT** (Fig 5)

5.4.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 95.65m OD
- Pit [19] at 95.26m OD
- Thanet Beds sands [26] at 94.81m OD and sands [25] at 95.35m OD

5.4.2 The geological deposits comprised Thanet Beds composed of a light greyish-brown slightly clayey fine sand [26] (94.81m OD) and a layer of light brown, ferrous stained fine sand [25] (top 95.35m OD).

5.4.3 Cut into the sands was a small, undated, truncated oval pit [19] (dimensions: 0.80m x 0.72m x 0.09m deep; top 95.26m OD, base 95.13m OD). It had a concave profile and in the base were three stakeholes:

- diameter 0.15m, depth 0.17m
- diameter 0.13m, depth 0.09m
- diameter 0.06m, depth 0.02m

All stakeholes appeared to have been withdrawn (there was no evidence of *in-situ* decay). The pit was filled with a yellow-brown clayey silt [18] containing frequent charcoal flecks. There was no obvious evidence of intense heat.

5.4.4 Pit [19] was sealed by topsoil [1]. Present ground surface was roughly level at 95.65m OD.

5.5 **Trench 3153TT** (Fig 2)

5.5.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 96.50m OD
- Thanet Beds sands [25] at 96.07m OD

5.5.2 The latest geological deposits were a series of light brown or light grey slightly clayey or silty, ferrous stained fine sands [25], over 0.75m thick (96.07m OD).

5.5.3 These deposits were sealed by topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from west (96.70m OD) to east (96.36m OD).

5.6 **Trench 3154TT** (Fig 6)

5.6.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 95.65m OD
- Oven [13] at 93.23m OD, pit [15] at 93.56m OD and pit [17] at 93.17m OD
- Silty hillwash [2] at 93.56m OD
- Thanet Beds sands [27] at 93.55m OD
- Thanet Beds sands [28] at 93.55m OD

5.6.2 The latest geological deposit was a layer of light grey, ferrous stained, silty fine sand [28] (max. 93.55m OD), interpreted as part of the Thanet Beds. It was sealed by a layer of light brown clayey silt brickearth [27] (max. 93.55m OD), which in turn was sealed by a thick deposit of silty hillwash [2].

5.6.3 Cut into the hillwash [2], at the east end of the trench, were three archaeological features (in each case excavation revealed no dating evidence).The first was a small oval feature [13], with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base (dimensions: 0.72m x 0.60m x 0.12m deep; top 93.23m OD, base 93.11m OD). Around the sides and base of the feature the adjoining silts had been reddened by intense heat. Inserted into the base were eight oval or circular stakeholes:

- diameter 0.07m, depth 0.11m
- diameter 0.09m, depth 0.09m
- diameter 0.09m, depth 0.19m
- diameter 0.10m, depth 0.13m
- diameter 0.12m, depth 0.14m
- diameter 0.10m, depth 0.12m
- diameter 0.04m, depth 0.05m
- diameter 0.05m, depth 0.04m

The stakes had been withdrawn and the voids were filled with the same material as the general fill; a yellow-brown clayey silt [12]. Fill [12] contained frequent flecks and fragments of charcoal and flecks of daub. Fill [12] was bulk sampled, <sample 1>, to try to determine the function of the feature (see Appendix 2 and 3). The results of the analysis of the sample <1> showed it contained charcoal, daub and small fragments of a naturally occurring black mineral. The absence of fragments of iron slag and hammerscale indicates that the feature did not represent a smithing hearth.

5.6.4 The second feature, pit [15] was only recorded in section (dimensions: 0.48m long x 0.31m deep; top 93.56m OD). The sides merged into a concave base. Pit [15] was filled with light greyish-brown fine sandy silt [16] with moderate fragments of charcoal and frequent burnt sandstone fragments, pebbles and cobbles.

5.6.5 The third feature was a truncated oval pit [17] (dimensions: 0.62m x 0.38m x 0.19m

deep; top 93.17m OD). It was filled with light greyish-brown fine sandy silt [16], containing moderate amounts of charcoal, frequent burnt sandstone, pebbles and cobbles.

5.6.6 All three features were sealed by topsoil [1]. The present ground surface sloped from west (95.41m OD) to east (93.48m OD).

5.7 Trench 3155 (Fig 2)

5.7.1 Levels and stratigraphic sequence summary:

- Topsoil [1] at 90.10m OD
- Orange brown hillwash [2] 89.80m OD
- Fine sands [25]89.45m OD

5.7.2 The geological sequence consisted of fine sands [25] with frequent ferrous staining. These were sealed by hillwash [2] containing frequent gravels.

5.7.3 These deposits were sealed by topsoil [1] which sloped from north (90.10m OD) to south (88.97m OD).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATASETS

6.1 Table 1: Events dataset

EVENT_NAME:KNIGHTS PLACE FARM, AREA 20
EVENT_CODE:ARC KPF 98
EVENT_TYPE:Evaluation
CONTRACTOR:Museum of London Archaeology Service
DATE:27/1/98-29/1/98
GRID:50012 49267 west, 50532 48999 east (URL Grid)
PROJECT:CTRL
COUNTY:Kent
DISTRICT:Rochester
PARISH:Cobham CP
SMR:
SITE_TYPE: Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth >0.25m
PERIOD:Probably medieval or post-medieval
METHOD:Mechanical removal of topsoil; hand excavation of features and recording of geological deposits.
PHASING:No finds
ENVIRON: 1 sample
FINDS: Daub
GEOLOGY: Thanet Beds, Upper Chalk and undated drift deposits
CONTEXT_NUM:32 (+ 7 trench sheets)
THREAT:CTRL
SAMPLE:1%
SUMMARY: Six undated cut features, probably of medieval or post-medieval date. Two contained evidence of an upper structure represented by stakeholes and one showed evidence for *in-situ* burning. All features were recorded below modern topsoil.
ARCHIVE:
ACC_NUM:

6.2 Table 2: Archaeological context inventory

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOC	RES_ INT	COMMENTS
3135TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3136TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3137TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3138TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3152TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3153TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3154TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3155TT	1	deposit				topsoil, arable
3136TT	2	deposit				natural drift
3137TT	2	deposit				natural drift
3154TT	2	deposit				natural drift
3155TT	2	deposit				natural drift
3155TT	3	deposit				natural drift, hillwash
3157TT	3	deposit				natural drift, hillwash
3137TT	4	fill		5		fill of pit
3137TT	5	cut		4		pit
3137TT	6	deposit				natural drift, hillwash.
3137TT	7	deposit				natural drift
3137TT	8	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3137TT	9	deposit				natural drift, head
3135TT	10	deposit				natural drift, hillwash
3137TT	10	deposit				natural drift, hillwash
3137TT	11	deposit				natural drift
3154TT	12	fill		13		fill of oven
3154TT	13	cut		12		charcoal oven
3154TT	14	fill		15		fill of pit

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOC	RES_ INT	COMMENTS
3154TT	15	cut		14		pit
3154TT	16	fill		17		fill of pit
3154TT	17	cut		16		pit
3152TT	18	fill		19		fill of oven
3152TT	19	cut		18		charcoal oven
3136TT	20	fill		21		fill of pit
3136TT	21	cut		20		pit
3136TT	22	deposit				natural drift
3137TT	22	deposit				natural drift
3136TT	23	deposit				natural drift
3136TT	24	deposit				natural drift
3152TT	25	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3153TT	25	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3155TT	25	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3152TT	26	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3154TT	27	deposit				natural drift, Brickearth
3154TT	28	deposit				natural drift, Thanet Beds
3135TT	29	deposit				Upper Chalk
3137TT	29	deposit				Upper Chalk
3155TT	29	deposit				Upper Chalk
3137TT	30	deposit				natural drift
3137TT	31	deposit				natural drift
3137TT	32	deposit				natural drift

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits

7.1.1 A total of six archaeological features were found; two in Area 1(3136TT and 3137TT) and four in Area 2 (one in 3152TT and three in 3154TT).

Area 1 (Western)

7.1.2 Two small pits were located, pit [21] in 3136TT and pit [5] in 3137TT.

Area 2 (Eastern)

7.1.3 A probable oven [19] 3152TT, a fired oven [13] 3154TT and two small pits [15] 3154TT, [17] 3154TT were recorded. Possible ovens [13] and [19] contained numerous stakeholes indicating a covering structure.

7.1.4 All these cut features, are of unknown date and function and are sealed by topsoil. They appear to occur with a fairly even distribution across the landscape.

7.2 Nature of archaeological deposits

7.2.1 Archaeological features comprised small, dispersed, undated, pits and sunken ovens. These features had been truncated by modern plough action and were cut into hillwash deposits overlying geological layers.

7.3 Character of the site

7.3.1 The site is characterised by small, dispersed, undated, pits and sunken ovens truncated by modern plough action. The low density of features suggest a less than intense landuse, probably agricultural or woodland management in nature.

7.4 Date of occupation

7.4.1 No dating evidence was recovered from any of the archaeological features. The relative position of the cuts within the stratigraphic sequence indicates the possibility of a late medieval or post-medieval date.

8 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

8.1 Survival and conditions

8.1.1 All the archaeological features had been truncated by arable cultivation. Only the deepest portion of archaeological features survived.

8.2 Period

8.2.1 No dating evidence was recovered from any of the archaeological features. The relative position of the cuts within the stratigraphic sequence indicates the possibility of a late medieval or post-medieval date.

8.3 Rarity

8.3.1 Small, dispersed cut features of the types found here are not rare in the immediate area or in Kent as a whole (six similar ovens and two pits were located at the adjacent URL evaluation of ARC KCS 98).

8.4 Fragility and vulnerability

8.4.1 It is likely that archaeological remains would be liable to damage or destruction due to construction activity.

8.5 Diversity

8.5.1 Small pits and oval hollows cut into and geological and hillwash deposits were recorded. Similar results were obtained from the adjacent evaluations, Cobham Park ARC CPK 97 and Knights Place Construction Site (Area 13) ARC KCS 98. The site portrayed a lack a diversity.

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 (URL, April 1996). This indicated weak areas of activity distributed across ARC KPF 98 but with no areas of concentrations. Little information relating to the archaeological features recorded in the evaluation may be drawn from these results.

8.7 Group value

8.7.1 Similar features to those found on ARC KPF 98 were found on the URL evaluations ARC CPK 97 and ARC KCS 98. The suggestion of agricultural activity, based on the lack of intense landuse (reflected in the paucity of features), would indicate a low group value.

8.8 Potential

8.8.1 The site has little potential for further work. It is suggested that the features recorded represent rural activity of a relatively late date. This low intensity landuse may also be reflected in the paucity of finds and the dispersed nature of the features.

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APPENDIX 1

BUILDING MATERIALS
By Terence Paul Smith

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The building material from Knights Place Farm, Area 20 ARC KPF 98 consists of eight fragments of daub-like material retrieved from the charcoal rich backfill [12] of a cut feature [13] which was tentatively interpreted as an 'oven'. It has been examined microscopically (x10) and recorded.

1.2 The eight fragments of daub-like material vary in size and total 247gm in weight. It is in a light brown and fairly fine fabric with some quartz, black iron oxide specks and white calcium carbonate specks; there are also a number of small flints and other small stones and some traces of organic material which would have served as a binder. There are no wattle impressions.

2 CONCLUSION

2.1 It is impossible to date this featureless material. The material does not warrant further work.

3 TABLE 3: BULK DATASET, BUILDING MATERIAL

EVENT _CODE	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
ARC KPF 98	12	DAUB	6	248	

APPENDIX 2

PLANT REMAINS
By John Giorgi

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 One 10 litre bulk sample was taken from the fill [12] of a shallow bowl-shaped feature [13] for the potential recovery of biological and artefactual remains. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill although it was provisionally dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period because of its relatively high stratigraphic position.

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 sample. It was hoped that the remains in the sample could throw some light on the function of the feature, with the possibility that it was either associated with charcoal production or iron smelting.

2 METHODS

2.1 The sample was processed in a flotation tank and the flot recovered on a 0.25 mm mesh. The residue, retained on a 1mm sieve, was dried and sorted for biological and artefactual remains.

2.2 The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope. Modes of preservation, abundance and diversity of organic remains were noted. A summary of the results is shown in Table 4 below.

3 RESULTS

3.1 *Fill [12] 3154TT (sample <1>, flot vol. 10ml.)*: The flot and residue consisted mainly of flecks and small fragments of charcoal. Other botanical remains included very occasional seeds preserved by waterlogging, *eg* goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.). The residue also contained occasional burnt flint.

4 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

4.1 The aim of the assessment was to try to establish the possible function of feature [13]. Following the analysis of sample <1> from fill [12], it is clear that iron smelting was not a function of the feature as no slag was present (see Appendix 3 below). The interpretation of the feature as a possible oven remains a possibility. The lack of dating evidence and the unknown function of the feature means that the potential is very limited.

4.1.1 The only other botanical evidence consists of a very small number of 'waterlogged' weed seeds which are probably intrusive.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Further work on the identification of the charcoal could be carried out to establish the range of wood species. However, the lack of evidence to suggest a function or date for feature [13] means that this would contribute very little to the final interpretation. It is therefore recommended that no further work take place.

6 TABLE 4: ENVIRONMENTAL DATASET, PLANT REMAINS

EVENT _CODE	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	METHOD	SUMMARY	COMMENTS
ARC KPF 98	12	1	flotation (flot size 0.25mm)	charcoal+++; waterlogged seeds+;	species identification of charcoal for woodland identification

APPENDIX 3

OVEN RESIDUE

By Lynne Keys

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A total of 5g of material, initially thought to be iron slag, was recovered during the excavation of evaluation ARC KPF 98. For this evaluation it was visually scanned and categorised on the basis of morphology, density, and colour. Each category within each context was quantified and weighed.

2 THE MATERIAL

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.

2.2 Of the sample 2g consisted of non-magnetic fired clay while the other 3g fragments were of very highly fired clay mixed with 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.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

4 TABLE 5: SAMPLE DATASET, OVEN RESIDUE

TRENCH	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	COMMENTS
3154TT	12	1	fired clay	2	
3154TT	12	1	fired clay & mineral(?)	3	both highly magnetic

Kent SMR Record Sheet

Site Name: Knights Place Farm, Area 20, Kent

Site code: ARC KPF 98

Summary:

An evaluation of seven 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 four trenches.

District: Rochester	**Parish:** Cobham Park CP

Period(s):

1. Possibly of late medieval to post-medieval

(Centre of two separate areas):	
NGR Easting 570300	**NGR Northing** 169300

Type of Recording: **Evaluation** ~~**Watching Brief**~~ ~~**Field Walking**~~

(Delete) ~~**Excavation**~~ ~~**Geophysical Survey**~~ ~~**Measured Survey**~~

Date of Recording: (From) 26/1/98 **(To)** 29/1/98

Unit Undertaking Recording:

Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB

Summary of Field Results:

Six small, undated, dispersed pits and sunken ovens, possibly of late medieval to post-medieval in date.

Location of Archive/Finds: URL archive at Aylesford

Bibliography: Evaluation Report

Summary Compiler:	Bruce Watson/Niall Roycroft	**Date:**	2/6/99

Fig 1 Knights Place Farm, ARC KPF 98.
National Grid reference: TQ 570300 169300. Reproduced from the 1993 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1193 Chatham map with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown copyright.