UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED

SOUTH OF BEECHBROOK WOOD

ARC BWD97

An Archaeological Evaluation

Contract No. 194/870

museum of LONDON
Museum of London Archaeology Service
November 1997

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An Archaeological Evaluation

Final Report
Volume 1 of 1

Contract No. 194/870

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Checked by: Date:
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SOUTH OF BEECHBROOK WOOD, NEAR ASHFORD KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

As part of a programme of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Union Railways Limited (URL) commissioned the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) to undertake an evaluation of eight trial trenches situated south of Beechbrook Wood. The site was 3.5km to the north-west of the centre of Ashford, Kent and was bounded by the A20 immediately to the south, Beechbrook Wood to the North and farmland to the east and west.

The principal evaluation aim was the assessment of crop marks identified from the analysis of aerial photographs. Eight trenches were excavated across the area defined by these marks to evaluate any archaeological features. In plan the crop marks suggested a possible square enclosure or building.

Archaeological features were found within six of the eight trenches evaluated. These were all interpreted as ditches and were dated to between the early 1st and mid 3rd centuries AD. Roman deposits were also found in two rather ephemeral "pits". No evidence of a structural nature was recorded and building material finds were limited to one small piece of faced ragstone.

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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 South of Beechbrook Wood (Fig 1), about 3.5 kilometres north-west of the centre of Ashford, in the parish of Hothfield, Kent (URL Grid 78410/25300). The evaluation was undertaken between the 2 and 8 September 1997. It was one of a number of archaeological investigations along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and was designed to assess the effect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage. An Environmental Assessment has also been prepared (URL 1994). This evaluation is within route window 30.

1.1.2 The work was carried out according to the 'Specification for Archaeological Investigations' prepared by URL, which details the scope and methodology of the evaluation including this report. The evaluated area is shown on Fig. 2.

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The site was located opposite and slightly North West of Yonsea Farm on the main London to Folkestone road (later the A20).

1.2.2 The evaluated area comprised part of an arable field immediately to the north of the main London to Folkestone road, later the A20, and to the south of Beechbrook Wood. The southern edge of the field occupied high ground at about 60m OD. There was a moderate slope to the north down to 57.08m OD. The field drained into a small pond in the hedgeline to the south.

1.2.3 The natural geology was silt or sand over Sandgate Beds (firm sandy clay).

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2 SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The 'Specification for Archaeological Investigations' described the general aims of the archaeological works. The evaluation 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 The site specific aims set out in the specification were to:

- evaluate possible enclosures recorded on aerial photographs.

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3 METHODS

3.1 General

3.1.1 A detailed project design for the evaluation was agreed by URL with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following summarises the archaeological aspects of the methodology and notes any deviation from the original specification.

3.2 Survey

3.2.1 The trench locations (Fig 2), specified by URL were established using a total station EDM from URL permanent ground markers.

3.2.2 After excavation, trenches were positioned precisely using total stations and traversing off the URL survey control.

3.2.3 The standard error of the trench positioning was set to normal engineering standards, a traverse accuracy of +/- 15mm over 1km. The trench location plan is based on this information. Drawn plans have been digitised using an AutoCAD graphics program.

3.2.4 The central site coordinate, according to the given URL grid, was 78512/24961.

3.3 Excavation

3.3.1 Individual trench numbers were allocated by URL. Eight trenches were located and excavated, each measuring 30 x 2 metres.

3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket. Topsoil and overburden was excavated down to deposits of archaeological significance or superficial geology. In some cases the trenches were deepened to confirm the nature of the superficial geology. Archaeological features were sample excavated by hand to assess the nature of individual features, to obtain dating material and to allow an assessment of environmental survival.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 Recording was by the standard Museum of London single context recording system but incorporating modifications to adapt the system to the large area under evaluation. Recording procedures outlined in the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (1995) were adopted. Each archaeological deposit and cut feature was given a context number and descriptions recorded on context sheets. Scale plans and sections were drawn of features and all heights indicated on the field drawings were related to Ordnance Datum heights above sea level. Individual sheets were prepared for each trench, recording the nature and depth of each observed deposit and recording the archaeological features contained within each trench.

3.4.2 A photographic record of the site was kept.

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3.4.3 Artefacts and samples were collected for dating and identification.

3.4.4 A site code was provided by URL; all records can be referenced from this code.

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4 RESULTS

4.1 General

4.1.1 The main components of the trenches are described below. A summary of the archaeological contexts and associated finds are listed in the Archaeological Context Inventory (Table 2). Detailed reports on the pottery, metal and environmental remains are contained in Appendices 1- 3. The site archive has been prepared and includes Datasets for the Fieldwork Event, Contexts, Bulk Finds and Environmental Samples.

4.1.2 Archaeological features were located in 6 trenches:

Ditches of Roman date were found in trenches *1679TT, 1680TT, 1681TT, 1682TT*, *1685TT* and *1686TT*. Other datable deposits included the fill of an irregular pit [42] in *1681TT* and an amorphous spread [16] in *1680TT.*

4.1.3 No archaeology was found in trenches *1683TT and 1684TT.*

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5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Roman features

5.1.1 *Trench 1679TT* (Fig 3)

5.1.1.1 Base North: 56.41m OD: South: 56.67m OD. Depth 1.23m. Topsoil [1] was recorded over ploughsoil composed of light yellow brown clay silt [31]. Superficial geology composed of light grey silty clay mottled orange [32] lay over mid grey/ dark orange silty clay [33].

5.1.1.2 A linear feature [30] aligned east to west was recorded cutting the superficial geology [32] towards the southern end of the trench. The cut had sloping, slightly convex sides, and a flat base. It was filled with a friable light brown clayey sandy silt [29] containing charcoal flecks and occasional small sub angular pebbles. Local pottery of late 2nd to late 3rd century date was recovered from the fill [29].

5.1.2 *Trench 1680TT* (Fig 4)

5.1.2.1 Base West: 56.51m OD: East: 57.42m OD. Depth 1.01m. Topsoil [1] lay over ploughsoil of light brown clayey sandy silt [26], over superficial geology composed of mid orange, mottled grey green clay silt [27] over light grey brown, mottled orange silty clay [28].

5.1.2.2 Two parallel ditches running N -S were seen toward the eastern end of this trench. The western ditch [13] was 0.19m deep and had steeply sloping sides with a gradual break of slope at the top and a flat base. The single fill of this feature [12] was composed of mid grey sandy silty clay with occasional flecks of daub, charcoal and small to medium sub angular pebbles. A pottery sherd of mid 2nd to 3rd century date was recovered from this material.

5.1.2.3 The eastern ditch was 0.62m deep and appeared to have been recut twice. The lowest fill [19] was 0.15m thick and composed of a light grey brown, mottled orange clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking. As very little of this lower fill survived the original shape of the cut [20] was difficult to define All that remained was a shallow slope to the west stepped down at the bottom to give an almost rectangular profile. Pottery of possible early Roman date was recovered from this fill.

5.1.2.4 Cut into the primary fill [19] was recut [15] filled with a very light brown slightly clayey silt [14] 0.40m deep. The recut was 1.55m wide at the top narrowing to 0.42m at the bottom. In profile of this feature had a steep slope to the east becoming almost vertical at the bottom with a concave base. The western side was shallower with a less pronounced break of slope at the bottom. The rim of a Colchester White Ware Mortaria of late 2nd or 3rd century date was recovered from this context.

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5.1.2.5 The final recut [18] was 0.90m wide and filled with a compact light brown fine sandy silt [17] with frequent chalk fragments. This recut [18] was narrower than its predecessor [15]. The profile was a reverse of the previous cut with a shallower eastern side and a steeper southern bank. The base of the cut was flat.

5.1.2.6 A flat sub circular area of compact very light grey plastic clay [16] was observed to the east of these ditches. Excavation revealed an amorphous area with a flat base and a very diffuse boundary with the natural [27]. Pottery, again with an early Roman date, was recovered from this deposit.

5.1.3 *Trench 1681TT* (Fig 5)

5.1.3.1 Base East: 56.83m OD: West: 56.86m OD. Depth 1.18m. Topsoil [1] lay over ploughsoil of light brown clayey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles [45]. Superficial geology was composed of light brown clayey very sandy silt [46] over mid orange, mottled grey sandy clayey silt over mid orange/light greyish green slightly clayey fine sand [47].

5.1.3.2 Natural deposits were located at a depth of 0.65m.

5.1.3.3 A sub-rounded pit [42] was observed toward the eastern end of the trench. It had steeply sloped sides and an irregular base. The pit was 0.26m deep and filled with a friable slightly clayey silty fine sand with occasional charcoal flecks [41]. Pottery of early Roman date was recovered from fill [41].

5.1.3.4 Two metres to the west of [42] was a linear feature [44] aligned south-west to north-east. It was 0.19m deep and had a splayed "V" shaped profile which was slightly stepped to the west. The base was slightly concave. It was filled with a compact light brown clayey fine sandy silt [43] with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint gravel. No dating material was found in this feature.

5.1.4 *Trench 1682TT* (Fig 5)

5.1.4.1 Base North: 58.78m OD: South: 59.39 m OD. Depth 0.82 m. Topsoil [1] lay over ploughsoil of light brown slightly clayey fine sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles [24]. Superficial geology was composed of light orange brown, mottled dark orange slightly clayey fine sand with dark orange clay lenses [25].

5.1.4.2 A linear feature [11] running south-west to north-east was observed towards the southern end of this trench. It was 0.84 m wide and 0.17 m deep. The edges were somewhat diffuse with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The fill of this feature [10] was composed of a friable light brown silt with occasional small to medium sub angular flint gravel. Fragments of mid 2nd to early 3rd century pottery were recovered from this deposit and a small piece of possibly worked ragstone.

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5.1.5 *Trench 1683TT*

5.1.5.1 Base West: 58.88m OD: East: 59.1 m OD. Depth 1.05 m. Topsoil [1] lay directly over superficial geology composed of mid greenish brown, mottled dark orange silty clay with frequent weathered chalk lenses [34] over light greenish mottled dark orange silt [35] over light green, mottled dark orange slightly silty sand [36].

5.1.5.2 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

5.1.6 *Trench 1684TT*

5.1.6.1 Base West: 59.05 m OD: East: 58.90 m OD. Depth 1.11m. Topsoil [1] lay over ploughsoil of light brown clayey sandy silt [35]. Superficial geology was composed of light yellow, mottled dark orange, light orange, light grey green slightly clayey silty fine sand [39] over light grey green, mottled dark orange clayey fine sand [40].

5.1.6.2 An early land drain [37] constructed of ragstone was cut into the bottom of this trench. It consisted of a single course of unfaced stone with a "roof" of the same. The bottom of this feature was 1.25 m below the current ground surface and much deeper than any other land drains seen in this field. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

5.1.6.3 No other archaeological remains were seen in this trench.

5.1.7 *Trench 1685TT* (Fig 6)

5.1.7.1 Base North: 59.38m OD: South: 59.52 m OD. Depth 0.73 m. Topsoil [1] over ploughsoil of light brown clayey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel [22]. Superficial geology was composed of very light grey, mottled mid to light orange slightly clayey fine sand [23].

5.1.7.2 This trench contained three features. A very shallow "v" shaped linear cut [7] ran north-west to south-east across the trench. The edges of this feature were diffuse. Roman pottery of early to mid 1st century date was recovered from the fill [6]; a very compact light orange slightly clayey fine sandy silt.

5.1.7.3 Cutting this was another linear cut [49] aligned south-west to north-east. This also had very diffuse edges and had no real break of slope at the top. The sides were very shallow suggesting that the feature was heavily truncated. The base was irregular with many small depressions spread along it. The fill [48] was composed of a light brown silty fine sand containing very occasional charcoal flecks and small flint gravel.

5.1.7.4 Towards the southern end of the trench was another linear feature [9]. Although it was truncated from above, it survived to 0.62 m wide with gently sloping sides and a flat base but was only 60mm deep. It was aligned north-east to south-west. The fill [8] was a composed of compact light grey, mottled orange clayey sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks, daub flecks and small to medium sub-angular flint gravel.

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No finds were recovered from this deposit.

5.1.8 *Trench 1686TT* (Fig 6)

5.1.8.1 Base West: 58.64m OD: East: 59.56 m OD. Depth 1.40 m. Topsoil [1] lay over ploughsoil of light brown clayey fine sandy silt [2]. Superficial geology was composed of light yellow, mottled orange clayey fine sand [5] over mid orange clay silt with degraded chalk lenses [21].

5.1.8.2 A linear feature [4], 6.30m long and up to 1.10 m wide aligned north-west to south-east, was recorded. The western end was slightly truncated by the machine slot excavated to establish the depth of the natural deposits. This feature was 0.17 m deep and had a splayed "v" shaped profile with a very gradual slope which was slightly steeper to the south.

5.1.8.3 The fill [3] was composed of a compact light grey slightly clayey sandy silt containing moderate charcoal flecks, occasional small to medium flint gravel, burnt daub flecks and larger flint nodules. Pottery of Roman date was retrieved from fill [3].

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6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATASETS

6.1 Table 1: Events dataset

EVENT_NAME:SOUTH OF BEECHBROOK WOOD
EVENT_CODE:ARC BWD 97
EVENT_TYPE:Evaluation
CONTRACTOR:Museum of London Archaeology Service
DATE:02/9/97-08/09/97
GRID: 78410/25300 (URL Grid)
PROJECT: CTRL
COUNTY:Kent
DISTRICT:Ashford
PARISH: Hothfield
SMR:
SITE_TYPE:Grassland; Cultivated Land 3- Operations to a depth >0.25m
PERIOD**:** Late Iron Age to Early Romano British; Roman; Post-medieval.
METHOD:Mechanical removal of topsoil; hand excavation and recording of archaeological features.
PHASING:1st-3rd century AD Roman; Post-medieval
ENVIRON:Moderate uncharred seeds, a few roots and charcoal; probably all intrusive and of recent date.
FINDS:Roman pottery, daub, worked stone and amphora
GEOLOGY:Silt and sand underlain by Sandgate Beds
CONTEXT_NUM:49 + 8 trench sheets
THREAT:CTRL
SAMPLE:
SUMMARY:Eight trenches were excavated within the field immediately north of Yonsea Farm. Seven ditches and two other Roman features of 1st and 2nd-3rd centuries were recorded.Three ditches were undated.
ARCHIVE:
ACC_NUM:

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6.2 Table 2 : Archaeological context inventory

Key: R - Roman, ERB - Early Romano British

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
1679 - 1686	1	Deposit			Topsoil
1686TT	2	Deposit			Subsoil
1686TT	3	Deposit	R	4	Dich fill
1686TT	4	Cut		3	Ditch cut
1686TT	5	Deposit			Natural
1685TT	6	deposit	ERB	7	Ditch fill, cut by 49.
1685TT	7	Cut		6	Ditch cut
1685TT	8	Deposit		9	Ditch fill
1685TT	9	Cut		8	Ditch cut
1682TT	10	Deposit	R	11	Ditch fill
1682TT	11	Cut		10	Ditch cut
1680TT	12	Deposit	R	13	Ditch fill
1680TT	13	Cut		12	Ditch cut
1680TT	14	Deposit	R	15	Ditch fill
1680TT	15	Cut		14	Ditch, 2nd cut of 20
1680TT	16	Deposit	ERB?		Amorphous spread
1680TT	17	Deposit		18	Ditch fill
1680TT	18	Cut		17	Ditch, 3rd cut of 20
1680TT	19	Deposit	ERB?	20	Ditch fill
1680TT	20	Cut		19	Ditch, primary cut
1686TT	21	Deposit			Natural
1685TT	22	Deposit			Subsoil
1685TT	23	Deposit			Natural
1682TT	24	Deposit			Subsoil
1682TT	25	Deposit			Natural
1680TT	26	Deposit			Subsoil
1680TT	27	Deposit			Natural
1680TT	28	Deposit			Natural
1679TT	29	Deposit	R	30	Ditch fill
1679TT	30	Cut		29	Ditch cut
1679TT	31	Deposit			Subsoil
1679TT	32	Deposit			Natural
1679TT	33	Deposit			Natural
1683TT	34	Deposit			Natural
1683TT	35	Deposit			Natural
1683TT	36	Deposit			Natural
1684TT	37	Deposit			Stone land drain
1684TT	38	Deposit			Subsoil
1684TT	39	Deposit			Natural
1684TT	40	Deposit			Natural
1681TT	41	Deposit	ERB?	42	Pit fill
1681TT	42	Cut		41	Pit cut
1681TT	43	Deposit		44	Ditch fill
1681TT	44	Cut		43	Ditch cut
1681TT	45	Deposit			Subsoil
1681TT	46	Deposit			Natural
1681TT	47	Deposit			Natural
1685TT	48	Deposit		49	Ditch fill
1685TT	49	Cut		48	Ditch cut, cuts fill 6 of ditch 7.

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SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological deposits

7.1.1 Several archaeological features were noted:

7.1.2 In trench *1679TT* (Fig 3) part of a small Roman boundary or enclosure ditch of mid 2nd to early 3rd century date was recorded.

7.1.3 There were two parallel north to south aligned ditches, [13] and [20], in trench *1680TT* (Fig 4). Cut [13] was a narrow ditch which contained Roman pottery (see Appendix 1). Cut [20] was recut at least twice, [15, 18] and was also of Roman date. An amorphous spread of clay [16], slightly to the east, may represent the filling of a depression in an uneven surface. The environmental sample of the ditch fill [17], in re-cut [18], contained poorly preserved charred cereal grains which included oat and either barley or wheat (see Appendix 3).

7.1.4 There was also a north to south aligned ditch [44] in *1681TT* (Fig 5). This was unfortunately undated but the fill of a nearby pit [42], in the same trench and cut from a similar level, was dated by pottery to the first century AD.

7.1.5 In *1682TT* (Fig 5) an east to west orientated ditch [11] contained sherds of mid 2nd to 3rd century pottery representing both local and imported manufacture.

7.1.6 There were three features in *1685TT* (Fig 6) two of which were interpreted as ditches. It is possible that the upper ditch cut [49] might have represented the remnant of a hedgerow. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature which cut another shallow ditch [7] dated by pottery to the early to middle 1st century. A second shallow linear feature [9], with a flatter base, was seen in the same trench. This was undated. Due to their topographical position at the top of a slope all these features had been heavily truncated.

7.1.7 A “V” shaped ditch [4] aligned north-west to south-east was observed in *1686TT* (Fig 6). This contained burnt daub fragments and pottery of Roman date. A sherd of Gaulish amphora was also recovered from the ditch fill [3] together with several fragments of daub (see Appendix 2). The environmental sample of fill [3] consisted mainly of root fragments, small fragments of charcoal and a few uncharred seeds of goosefoots and knotgrass, all of which were probably of recent origin.

7.1.8 The remaining trenches contained no deposits of archaeological significance.

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7.2 Nature of archaeological deposits

7.2.1 Only features interpreted as ditches and a possible modern hedge line were noted. No structural features were found.

7.2.2 Within the evaluated area natural deposits were generally encountered at a depth of about 0.50m. Little disturbance had occurred below this level with the exception of the cut for a stone land drain in trench *1684TT* and truncation associated with modern ploughing, particularly over the ditch sequence in *1680TT.* Cut [49] *1685TT* (Fig 6) may possibly indicate the line of a modern hedgerow. Modern land drains were inserted at a similar depth to the archaeology but there was no disturbance of the archaeology in the evaluation trenches.

7.2.3 No finds earlier than the nineteenth century were recovered from the topsoil. There was no evidence for medieval or early post-medieval activity in the immediate vicinity.

7.2.4 The survival of plant remains (see Appendix 3) was not good and the aerobic soil conditions suggested that uncharred plant remains were of recent origin. The few charred plant remains could not provide much information on crop husbandry.

7.3 Character of the site

7.3.1 All the material collected from this evaluation was dated to between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. The quality of the pottery is interesting because it includes both local and imported ware from Colchester and central Gaul (see Appendix 1). No evidence of any structures was found and building material was limited to daub fragments and one piece of worked stone. However, the condition of the pottery sherds suggests that although marked by ploughing they had been deposited into the ditches in antiquity and had not been redeposited. The evidence would seem to suggest that this was an area of enclosures or field systems close to a Roman settlement which lay beyond the area of investigation.

7.4 Date of occupation

7.4.1 The site comprised of a series of 1st to 3rd century AD enclosure or field ditches. Pottery recovered from this site was dated exclusively to this period.

7.4.1.1 The field had been ploughed and harrowed immediately prior to the evaluation and examination of the surface revealed no archaeological deposits. Pottery and building material seen on the surface was of exclusively modern date. No struck flint was observed.

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8 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

8.1 Survival and conditions

8.1.1 There were ten surviving possible enclosure ditches. Seven of these were Romano British or Roman. Two of these were probably 1st century Romano British, [7]*1685TT* and [20]*1680TT.* All of the others, [4]*1686TT,* [11]*1682TT,* [13] *1680TT,* [15] *1680TT,* [30]*1679TT,* were of late 2nd or 3rd century date. If the pottery in the earliest fill [19] of ditch [20] was not residual it might suggest, if associated with the ditch re-cuts, that the ditch was in use for a long time; possibly up to the 3rd century.

8.1.2 Most ditches at the top of the slope; [7]*1685TT,* [9] *1685TT* and [11] *1682TT,* were heavily truncated but it was still possible to trace their alignment and stratigraphic relationship although not to each other. One ditch at the top of the slope [4] *1686TT* had survived to a greater depth, perhaps indicating that it was originally a more substantial feature. The survival of features at the bottom of the slope to the north of the site; [13] *1680TT,* [15] *1680TT* and [30]*1679TT,* was generally much better because the depth of ploughsoil had protected them from damage. Two other features containing datable material were also partially excavated and recorded which included an irregular pit [42] *1681TT*, nearly 0.30m deep, and a thin irregular spread [16] *680TT*.

8.2 Period

8.2.1 The possible enclosures or field ditches were dated by pottery to the early 1st to 3rd AD. The ditches at South of Beechbrook Wood seemed to be represented by both single and multi phase features. The variation in dating from the single phase features may suggest continuous occupation and an associated settlement in the area beyond the evaluation. No material from other periods was recovered.

8.3 Rarity

8.3.1.1 Although the Roman period is well represented in Kent, the suggestion that these features form an enclosure might be significant even though the use of the enclosure was not established during the evaluation. The finds within the field ditches add important information. Firstly they show continuity of occupation from the 1st-3rd centuries. Secondly, the type of pottery assemblage points to domestic activities of a certain status nearby, as it included, besides local vessels, imported ware from Colchester and wine amphorae and Samian ware from Central Gaul. The sandstone paviour found in conjunction with pottery of the mid 2nd-3rd century may add to the suggestion of a dwelling of some status not directly on site but nearby (Appendix 2). Since little is known of the nature and development of such sites locally (OAU, 1994), there may be the potential to examine a complete sequence reasonably free from later major disturbance.

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8.3.1.2

8.4 Fragility and vulnerability

8.4.1 All features of archaeological significance are likely to be destroyed by ground works.

8.5 Diversity

8.5.1 A pit, a spread and several ditches, all of Roman or Romano British date, were located. The ditches may represent surviving Roman field boundaries or other enclosures.

8.6 Documentation

8.6.1 The only previous documentation relating directly to the site was an aerial photographic survey showing crop marks forming a rectangular enclosure.

8.7 Group value

8.7.1 The density of so many features over such a small area is unusual in such a remote location indicating the continuous use during at least two centuries. As most of the features recorded are ditches much more information about a possible related settlement is still to be uncovered. Despite agricultural truncation there is still datable evidence to be found across the site. No evidence was found to suggest that the enclosures were associated with other areas of occupation but they may be located nearby.

8.8 Potential

8.8.1 The results of the evaluation indicated Roman activity in this area and that, even where there has been truncation by ploughing, there is still survival of datable deposits. Although the function of the enclosures has not been established, the evaluation supports the results of the aerial photographic survey and suggests the possibility that other Roman occupation may exist in this area. The presence of relatively early imported wares is of note and the size of the mortaria fragments (Appendix 1) suggests possible domestic occupation near by.

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