

## SMR SHEET

<b>Site Name:</b> North of Saltwood Tunnel			
<b>Summary:</b> The Oxford Archaeological Unit excavated 17 trenches (30m x 2m) within an area of 4.5ha, between the M20 and Saltwood railway tunnel. This work was conducted for Union Railways Limited, between 13 <sup>th</sup> October and 30 <sup>th</sup> October 1997. A concentration of Roman features was located within a well defined area towards the centre of the evaluation, immediately south of the M20.			
<b>District:</b> Shepway		<b>Parish:</b> Saltwood	
<b>Period(s):</b>			
1. Iron Age		3.	
2. Roman			
NGR Easting: TR 1540		NGR Northing: 3695	
<b>Type of Recording:</b>	Evaluation	<del>Watching Brief</del>	<del>Field Walking</del>
(Delete)	<del>Excavation</del>	<del>Geophysical Survey</del>	<del>Measured Survey</del>
<b>Date of Recording:</b> (From) 13/10/97		(To) 17/10/97	
<b>Unit Undertaking Recording:</b> Oxford Archaeological Unit			
<p><b>Summary of Fieldwork Results:</b> The Oxford Archaeological Unit excavated 17 trenches (30m x 2m) within an area of 4.5ha, between the M20 and Saltwood railway tunnel. This work was conducted for Union Railways Limited, between 13<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> October 1997.</p> <p>A concentration of Roman features was located within a well defined area towards the centre of the evaluation, immediately south of the M20. The features comprised mainly ditches with several pits, and a linear 'hollow'. The linear features clearly continue into the area now occupied by the M20. The predominant alignment of the ditches is north-west to south-east suggesting a layout of enclosures/boundaries. A late second century (AD 160-200) Roman human cremation and associated vessels was located at the eastern limits of the site. Only one feature, a ditch, was identified as likely to date to the Iron Age.</p> <p>It is clear, from the evidence of the M20 watching brief, undertaken by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in 1979, that the site probably extends to the north and probably developed from the Iron Age and lasted throughout the Roman period. The present evaluation identifies the southern limits of an early phase of the 1st-century AD settlement. A full understanding of the 1st-century AD site is somewhat offset by the limited extent of the Roman occupation within the Rail Link corridor. Since the full extent of the settlement is not understood it is difficult to assess the present findings and their context within the spatial layout of the settlement.</p>			
<b>Location of Archive / Finds:</b> OAU			
<b>Bibliography:</b>			
<b>Summary Compiler:</b> Stuart Foreman		<b>Date:</b> 18/01/01	