

# Surrey in the Roman period: a survey of recent discoveries

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*This paper aims only to provide a brief update to the survey of the Roman period in Surrey previously published in The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540 (Bird 1987; for the South East in general see Rudling 1988). The London region part of the relevant area has been covered recently (Bird 1996 & 2000b; Perring & Brigham 2000; Sheldon 2000) and will therefore receive less detailed attention.*

*In order to avoid overloading the text with large numbers of references, those that refer to site work have been gathered together at the end, where they are ordered alphabetically by the site name used in the text, grouped where appropriate under a more general heading, for example 'Staines'. The locations of the most important sites are shown on figure 5.1.*

## Introduction

Although it is under twenty years since the last full survey of Surrey in the Roman period (Bird 1987), there is a great deal of new evidence to be taken into account. There can be no doubt that most of this is the outcome of fieldwork in the last decade, usually because of the increase in development-led archaeology, as a result of planning policies based on Planning Policy Guidance note PPG16. In consequence most of the new work has still to be fully studied and reported. Once this has been done we can expect to know a lot more about Romano-British Surrey, in particular about the countryside, both in terms of how it was ordered and in terms of what was grown or managed and what animals were farmed or hunted. Evidence for these aspects has previously been sadly lacking.

There is still a need for much more fieldwork to put the known sites, in particular the villas, into their setting, and we can also begin to think in terms of studying changes through time, as better-dated sites are becoming available. There are also a growing number of properly reported metal detector finds to be taken into account. These finds add to the picture generally and in some cases point to the existence of previously unlocated sites (Bird, J 1996c; 1999c; 2001). For example cosmetic grinders, previously an unrecorded type in Surrey, are now known from Chipstead (Bird, J 1999a), Beddington, the Mole area and Warlingham (Jackson forthcoming). The last three illustrate well the variety of finds recording: one is from an excavation, one was badly reported in the metal detecting press without proper details; one was reported to and donated to the British Museum. The rare find of a gold bulla (an oval box-like amulet) from Chelsham (Bird 2001, 315, no 39) should also be noted; some years ago Henig could not cite an example from Roman Britain (Henig 1984, 186).

Current evidence still favours a foundation date of c AD 50 for London and Southwark, although it has been suggested that there was earlier activity at the latter (Sheldon 2000, 131; Brigham 2001, 8–30; Drummond-Murray & Thompson 2002, 24, 49). Roman settlement at Southwark, however, only makes sense following the creation of the roads which had to be engineered across the marshes in this area, and the only point in doing that was to cross at London because London had been created (Bird, D 1999b). The initial absence of London offers some support to the theory that the Roman forces in AD 43 landed in the Solent area rather than in Kent, and established an early base at Silchester before heading along the river corridor to complete the first campaign (Bird 2000a; see also Frere & Fulford 2001; Bird 2002b; Sauer 2002). In any event the early prominence of Colchester and Silchester implies an early date for the Thames crossing at Staines on the road between them. This would also have required engineering to deal with flood-prone areas. Stane Street is unlikely to have been part of the initial campaigns and before it was built the possibility of a Chichester–Iping–Staines road might be considered (Bird, D 1999b).

It is now thought unlikely that there was an early fort at Staines (Bird 1996, 228, n14) and further consideration of the Westcott cropmark site also makes a military explanation there unlikely. This is in keeping with the rest of south-east England, where it seems that a Roman military presence was not required (apart from the major fortresses) except perhaps following the Boudican revolt. Good evidence for destruction at that time has now been found in Southwark (Sheldon 2000, 132), indicating that Boudica's forces were active south of the Thames, and therefore lending some support to the idea that their next targets would have been the new

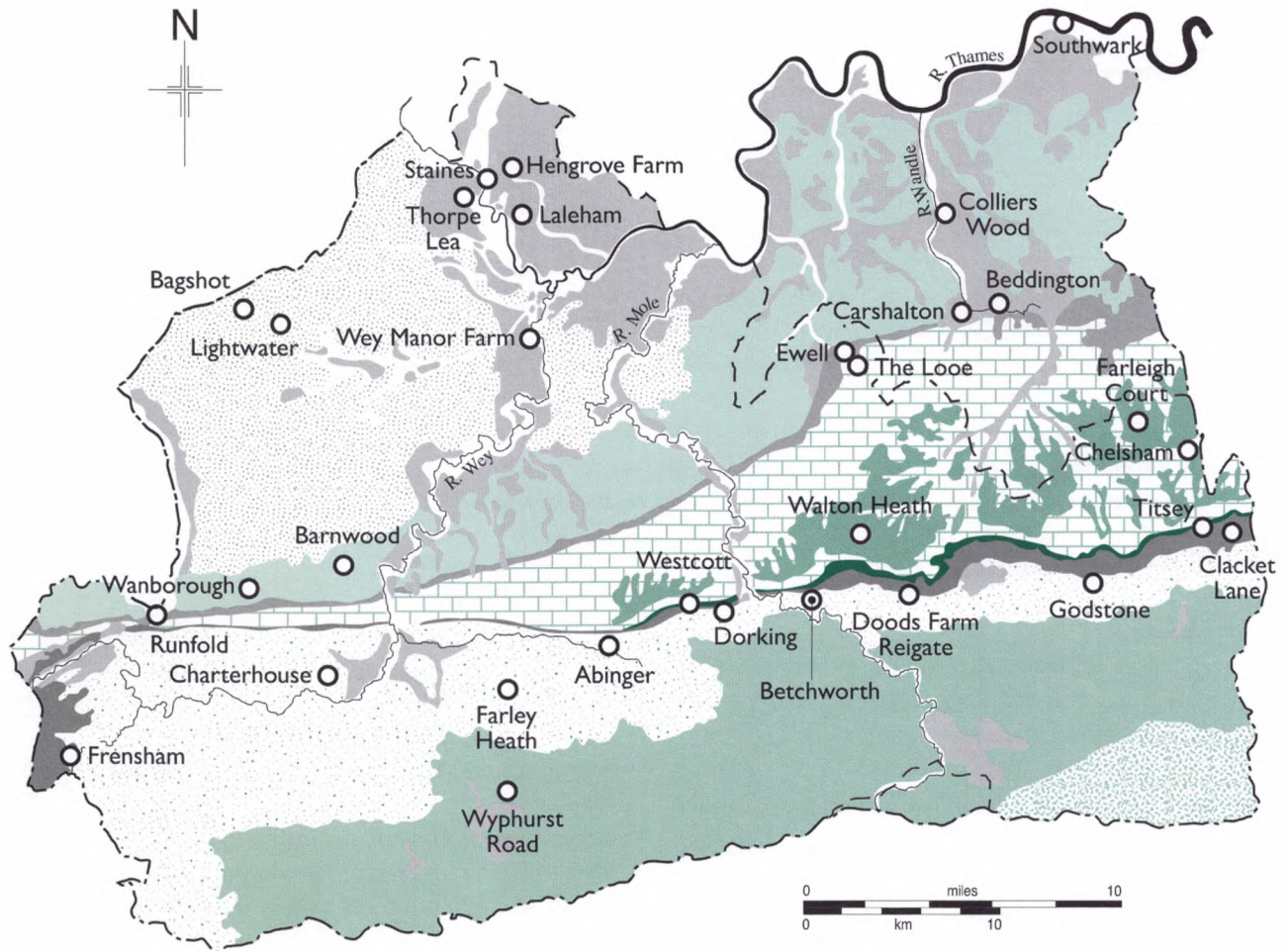


Fig 5.1 Locations of major sites mentioned in the text. For key to geological background see map on page x.

towns to the west (Bird 1987, 192, n9). Surrey probably fell within a general Atrebatian area (the high percentage of Atrebatian coins at Wanborough might be noted: Cheesman 1994, 35–6) and may initially have been administered as part of a client kingdom ruled by Cogidubnus (or Togidubnus) (Henig 2002, 37–62, *passim*), before becoming part of a smaller formalized ‘tribal’ area of the Atrebates set up when the kingdom was absorbed into the Roman province. The boundary between Atrebates and Cantiaci may, however, have been set somewhere within Surrey. In general there is little to suggest much change at first as a result of the events of AD 43; where there is evidence for the Late Iron Age landscape it seems that this often continued in use into the Roman period (see Poulton in this volume). Indeed available evidence tends to suggest no great landscape change until around AD 200 (see further below).

### Communications

There has been little advance in our understanding of communications in Surrey. We still have no good evidence for the use of the rivers for transport (see Bird 1996, 228, nn 12, 13). The known roads have been tested in a number of places; for example: Watling Street in Peckham; the London–Silchester road in Windsor Great Park; Stane Street at Colliers

Wood (where there was apparently more than one track, perhaps because of the river crossing), at Tyrells Wood, in central Dorking (the probable line) and at both North and South Holmwood (Hall 2003); the London–Lewes road at the M25 crossing (Clacket Lane) and further south (Trevereux and Waylands Farm). The linch pin from near Chelsham hints at the kind of traffic using this road (Bird 1997).

The postulated London–Winchester road (Bird 1987, 168) remains unlocated in the county, but the increasing evidence for Romano-British settlement sites around Tongham, Runfold, Wanborough and in the north Guildford area (see below) makes it possible to suggest a route from the Farnham area along north of the Hog’s Back, across Broadstreet Common and on to Burpham, where the idea of a Roman-period river crossing has received support (Alexander 1997). It has been suggested that such a road might have acted as a catalyst for opening up the area to settlement (Poulton 1999b), and that it might have continued to Ewell (Orton 1999), but another possibility might be a route following more or less the line of the later London–Portsmouth road, which is carefully laid out to take account of the courses of the Wey, Mole and Thames. If a major Roman road existed on this line, then inns and horse-changing



facilities are to be expected at the crossing of the Mole and the Beverley Brook (or perhaps the Hogsmill), and it must be said that at present there is little to suggest that this was the case, although the siting of the Chatley Farm bath-house becomes of interest in this context (Frere 1949).

### **Larger settlements**

There is reasonable evidence for an inner ring of small settlements on the roads radiating out from London, including at Merton and Croydon, where there have been recent finds (Bird 2000b, 156). These probably served the needs of travellers. Settlements at the next journey stage out along the main roads were at Staines and perhaps Dorking; the spread of evidence for occupation at the latter may now indicate more than a farm or villa (see below). Evidence for the settlement at Alfoldean, just south of the county boundary, has recently been reported (Luke & Wells 2000). Development pressures have led to most archaeological work being carried out in Southwark and Staines, with a resulting increase in knowledge, noted briefly below. All the evidence for Ewell has recently been gathered together (Abdy & Bierton 1997), and work for the publication of the excavations at the King William IV site has led to the suggestion that the settlement might have had a religious function, as well as acting as the centre of a woollen industry (Bird 1996, 224; 2000b, 156; 2002b).

Settlement distribution and comparison with the medieval pattern suggests that a roadside settlement similar to Ewell ought to have existed somewhere in south-west Surrey (cf Bird 1996, 227); Orton (1999) has suggested that there may have been something of the sort at the Broadstreet Common site. Recent discoveries at Skerne Road in Kingston may indicate that evidence for a Roman-period settlement north of the present town centre was destroyed by river erosion, thus explaining why residual Roman tile and pottery is found in alluvial deposits there (Duncan Hawkins, pers comm). The inhumation cemetery at Canbury Field nearby (Hinton 1984), if Roman, also suggests a settlement larger than a farm or two. The finds at Godstone might indicate a small roadside settlement, if it is not a religious site (see further below). An interesting question that needs to be addressed is the origin of the population of these small towns or large villages, which apparently had no Iron Age predecessors in this area; does this imply a growth in the population generally or were some of the sites in the countryside abandoned?

Our current understanding of Roman Southwark has recently been summarized by Sheldon (2000; see also Drummond-Murray & Thompson 2002 and Taylor-Wilson 2002). It has become clear that the area was generally low-lying and wet, with a number

of islands of slightly higher land. The settlement occupied two of these islands, while others nearby were used for agriculture. Water was managed by channels kept under control by revetments, but if there were ever large wooden waterfront structures along the main course of the Thames, like those in London on the north bank, they will have been destroyed by later river action. There is now good archaeological evidence for clay-and-timber buildings constructed around AD 50 and burnt down at the time of Boudica; rebuilding followed and from the Flavian period the two islands became built up, with buildings possibly occupying more than 12ha. There is no evidence for formal planning; buildings seem to have lined the two main roads and then expanded behind them as required. Excavations currently in progress near Tabard Street have produced evidence for early clay-and-timber buildings on the northern edge of the 'dry land' just to the south of the southernmost island (Gary Brown, pers comm). These were later replaced by a Roman religious site and it may be that settlement as such was moved on to the islands as more space became available through reclamation. There are however indications that there are more later buildings to find; if the settlement did move then these should prove to be burial-related, perhaps like the Great Dover Street cemetery further along Watling Street – cremations have already been found on the site.

Parts of more than twenty stone-founded buildings are known in Southwark, mostly on the 'north island', some with mosaics and tessellated floors. There is also evidence for more than 40 clay-and-timber buildings, more evenly divided between the two islands. One wooden building, dated by dendrochronology to about AD 152, had a remarkably well-preserved floor of oak and is assumed to be part of a warehouse. The stone buildings include the extensive and high-quality complex with baths on the Winchester Palace site. This was started before the mid-2nd century and seems to have had some sort of military connection. An earlier complex at 15–23 Southwark Street began around AD 75 and had a long life; it had tessellated floors and hypocausts and has been interpreted as a *mansio*. There were no doubt also less official inns and the settlement has produced good evidence for widespread trade, for iron smithing and working of copper alloys, and use of the nearby watery environments. An inscription (fig 5.2) found at the Tabard Street site mentioned above may indicate that Southwark was seen administratively as part of the wider London settlement (Anon 2002), although since the status of London is not fully understood (eg Wilkes 1996) this is not especially helpful.

Most of the archaeological work carried out in Staines is still unpublished, although there is a synthesis based on work up to about 1988 (Burnham &



Fig 5.2 Tabard Street Southwark: inscription to the spirits of the emperors and the god Mars Camulos by Tiberinius Celerianus, *Moritex*. Photograph copyright Pre-Construct Archaeology

Wacher 1990, 306–10), but reports on some of the older excavations are expected soon (Jones & Poulton in prep). The earliest evidence for buildings seems to be for the Neronian/Flavian period, although there are finds of earlier material. Traces of timber buildings have been found on a number of sites, such as Johnson & Clark, 73–75 High Street, Tilly’s Lane and 78–88 High Street, although it has been suggested that there were fewer buildings north of the High Street (McKinley forthcoming). The Tilly’s Lane site also had a later 2nd century stone-founded building with

red tessellated floors surviving *in situ* (fig 5.3); it probably did not last long as the floors subsided into earlier pits and there may have been a fire. There was evidence for the former existence of a black and white tessellated floor and a hypocaust at Johnson & Clark; at this latter site earlier buildings had been burnt down in the late 1st or early 2nd century. Several sites had evidence for ovens, hearths and wells, and the later dark earth often found in Roman towns – for example at 2–8 and 73–75 High Street. The discovery of a collyrium stamp at this last site should be noted as it implies the presence of a healer probably serving quite a wide area (Jackson 1996, esp 177 and 184).

Evidence for town boundary ditches has been found at a number of sites (eg Clarence Street and Tilly’s Lane); they probably served particularly to protect against the flooding for which there is widespread evidence in the later 2nd and 3rd centuries both inside and outside the town. Waterlogged deposits on the western fringes of the town, for example at Clarence Street and in the Riverside Gardens site near the Old Town Hall, have produced evidence for leather working, perhaps associated with previously noted evidence for the butchery of cattle. As well as leather shoes and offcuts, finds included a rare wooden double-sided comb (fig 5.4), a timely reminder of the kind of common item that is usually missing from the archaeological record.

Like Southwark, Staines grew up at a bridging point on a gravel island in a generally wet area. The Courage Brewery site on the next ‘island’ to the west has produced evidence suggesting Roman buildings, unless it was material taken outside the town to dump.



Fig 5.3 Tilly’s Lane, Staines: in the foreground, walls and red tessellated floor of a later 2nd century building; the floors soon subsided into depressions caused by earlier features. The High Street can be seen in the background. Photograph copyright Wessex Archaeology

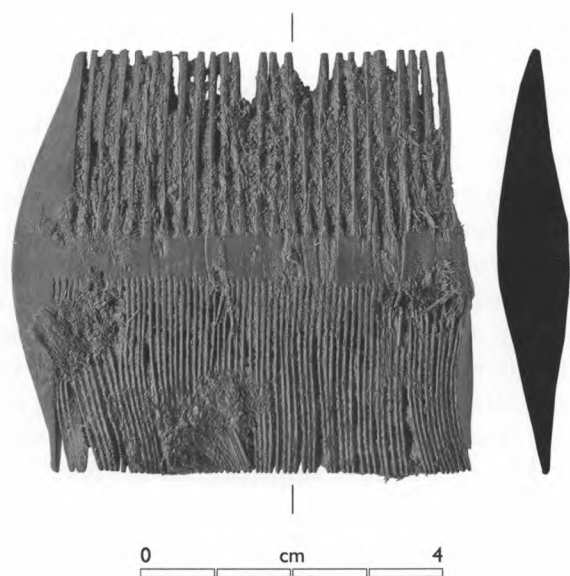


Fig 5.4 Wooden comb from Staines. Photograph copyright Surrey County Archaeological Unit

On more 'islands' to the north, evidence from the Central Trading Estate indicates the existence of fields and enclosures, with some information about the food produced and for the general environment of the town. To east and south, along the London and Kingston Roads, Roman-period burials, both cremations and inhumations, have been found. There is also evidence for occupation in the 4th century, which is unusual in a cemetery area. It may indicate expansion, or possibly implies a radical shift in the settlement pattern, perhaps because of the effects of flooding at the western end of the town.

There has been much less recent archaeological work in Ewell, but the publication of the King William IV site marks an important advance in our knowledge. Recent excavation in Church Field located the course of Stane Street together with evidence suggesting the presence of two buildings including a hypocaust and occupation from the 1st to the 4th centuries. Sites in the High Street, Church Street and West Street have also produced some evidence for buildings, pits and a well and a notable chance find from the churchyard was a probable imported wine strainer with zoomorphic design. In Dorking sites in Church Street, north of the High Street and in the newly created Church Square have produced evidence for buildings, again with 1st to 4th century material.

### The countryside

Recent work will provide a great deal more information about the countryside sites when it has been fully studied and the results are available. Some sites have produced evidence for fields and enclosures, especially at Wey Manor Farm, Hengrove Farm, Thorpe Lea Nurseries and around Runfold and Tongham. There is a general impression that field systems continued in use from the Iron Age until they

were replaced by more regular, longer fields at some time around AD 200, perhaps marking a change in land management and ownership also seen elsewhere in the western Empire. Fields close to Southwark and Staines have been noted above and were presumably worked from the towns. A so-called 'corn drier' at Hurst Park, Weybridge, and other possible examples at Farleigh Court and in Ewell (the King William IV site) are noteworthy as they have not been previously recorded in Surrey. Several apparently lower status or 'native' sites have been found, such as at Thorpe Lea, at Brooklands, at Battlebridge Lane, Merstham, and at Farleigh. A fish weir or weirs at Ferry Lane, Shepperton, even if later than Roman, is indicative of exploitation of resources not usually recognized.

More is also known about the villas: newly discovered buildings associated with the known sites at Broadstreet Common (Barnwood School), at Abinger, at Beddington and at Titsey, and new sites at Chelsham and possibly Carshalton and Cranleigh. Conversely, it has been suggested that the Chiddingfold complex of buildings and the postulated villa at Coombe Hill, Kingston, may be religious sites (see Bird in this volume). Work on the distribution of villas by Sheldon and others makes it clear that they favoured certain situations, usually being placed near rivers and at geological boundaries with access to the better soils (Bird 2000b, 157–8). There is, however, a noticeable lack of villas on the main gravel terraces. In general it is becoming apparent that we should be looking for different kinds of landscapes arising from different land-uses based on the varying geological types (Bird 2000b, 164–5). At the moment this can only be speculative, and there is a need for better palaeo environmental evidence from all sites. It is interesting to consider that there were Roman-period attempts to improve some soils: two possible chalk quarries perhaps to provide material for marling have been noted, near Ashtead churchyard and at Clandon (see also Farleigh Court below), and a similar suggestion has been offered to explain the place-name Merrow (Coates 1998).

In the area around Staines, both north and south of the Thames, several sites have produced evidence for occupation and land management in the Roman period, including Vicarage Road, Staines, Hengrove Farm, Staines, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Fairylands at Laleham, Lord Knyvett's School at Stanwell, Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe and Thorpe Lea Nurseries. At the last site there was evidence for buildings and occupation for most of the Roman period, following on from the Iron Age. Interestingly, a 60ha site at Home Farm, Laleham, produced very little evidence for Roman-period activity. Other sites on the gravels that did produce such evidence were at Wey Manor Farm and Brooklands, at the second of which two Iron Age sites showed different subsequent



occupation patterns; one was apparently abandoned, while the other may have been occupied throughout the Roman period.

The evidence for rural sites in the Kingston area has been summarized by Hawkins (1996); there is now some evidence for use of the London Clay near Old Malden. The corn drier found at Hurst Park near Weybridge had curiously little associated evidence within the area of a large development site. Recently discovered evidence for a stone-founded building, with at least two rooms and a tessellated floor, in Carshalton (West Street) probably indicates a 'new' villa site (fig 5.5), while the surroundings of the long-known Beddington bath-house have been thoroughly explored, producing a separate villa and several associated timber buildings, enclosures, wells, etc. It is to be hoped that this important excavation will soon receive the publication it deserves. Three sites near Croydon, at Lloyd Park, Atwood near Sanderstead, and Farleigh Court, probably represent lower-status settlements, although at the last-named a small square chalk-and-greensand-built structure was found which could possibly be a corn drier, as well as ditches, pits and postholes and a very large pit, presumably a chalk quarry. The use of greensand is of interest as it must have been brought in specially.

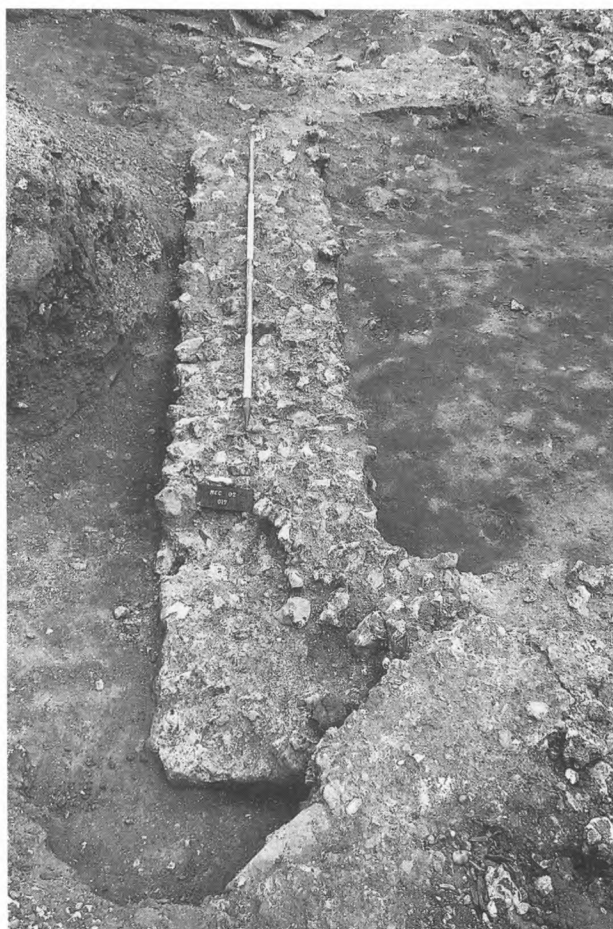


Fig 5.5 West Street, Carshalton: foundation wall of a possible Roman villa, looking south-east (the feature in the right foreground is modern). Photograph copyright Jeff Perry, Sutton Archaeological Services

At Chelsham nearby, aerial photography led to the identification of a 'new' villa site, apparently a small winged-corridor building with detached bath-house.

Evidence for lower-status settlements has been found at Battlebridge Lane, Merstham, at Chapel Way, Burgh Heath and at Tattenham Way Allotments, Banstead. Golf course management revealed a few extra finds at the Walton Heath villa site, and more information was located about the building at Headley Court, where there was a small-scale excavation in 1959. As this was a rectangular stone-founded building, it must remain probable that it was a villa. Fieldwork on Mickleham Downs has recently plotted probable Roman-period 'Celtic' fields and relocated a possible contemporary occupation site; further north at Bocketts Farm there is evidence for these earlier squarish fields being replaced by longer ones, and another occupation site. The excavation of a 'native' site at The Looe near Ewell has now been fully published.

The plan of the Ashted villa has been noted as unique in a recently published study (Smith 1997, 112). Further work at the Chatley Farm bath-house site failed to locate the missing villa. Work in the Woking area has located another three probable lower-status occupation sites, at Wokingpark Farm, at Black Close, Mayford and at Mizens Farm. Sites at South Farm, Lightwater and in Bagshot (42 London Road) may be of higher status, with stone-founded buildings, but discussion must await publication of the evidence. Both sites apparently had extensive building evidence, possibly associated with ironworking.

Several sites east of Farnham around Runfold have produced important evidence for the Roman period landscape, mostly found in large-scale work in advance of mineral extraction. South of the Hog's Back an excavation at Hopeless Moor, near Puttenham, located a possible post-built structure and aerial photography suggests a settlement site of some sort nearby, while another excavation at Charterhouse produced evidence for occupation probably associated with the previously known cremation burials. Attention has been drawn to probably similar sites found in this area by Kerry in the 19th century (Bierton 1990). Several occupation sites have recently been located in the area west and north of Guildford, indicating use of the London Clay here from at least as early as the mid-1st century; they include Manor Farm, Queen Elizabeth Park (Stoughton Barracks) and Northmead School. They may have been linked in some way to the villa on Broadstreet Common, about which more is now known from work at the immediately adjacent Barnwood School site; here there was a post-built structure and then a 'villa' with very substantial stone foundations suggesting an aisled building with internal subdivisions. It is suggested that it had two towers, unusually on one of

the shorter sides. The building was demolished in the later 3rd or 4th century. Trial trenches suggested that a bath-house might have been placed nearby.

More has also been learnt about two other previously known villas; at Abinger an extensively disturbed area of Roman buildings may have been where Darwin's famous section (1888, 180–194) was taken, but work also located largely undisturbed rooms, one with a fine late mosaic. This may have been part of the north range of a large villa whose estate perhaps covered a substantial part of the Tillingbourne valley. At Titsey geophysical survey located another villa building parallel to the long-known aisled building; on plan they appear to form two sides of a courtyard but in fact the new building is set much higher on the other side of a stream. These sites and the newly-discovered building at Chelsham are all now scheduled monuments.

Finally, a few sites suggest activity in the Weald. At Treverex south of Limpsfield, pottery indicates an Iron Age/Romano-British occupation site. Further west, in the Outwood area, the results of fieldwalking suggest more occupation sites. More certainly, a site at Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh has produced evidence suggesting a stone-founded structure, possibly a villa, of considerable interest in view of its location and its proximity to Rapsley.

### Trade and industry

Little extra is known about Roman-period trade and industry in Surrey, although full study of all the recent discoveries will make possible much better understanding of trade patterns. There is now extensive evidence for an iron industry in Southwark (Sheldon 2000, 141), as well as other similar activities to be expected in a town. The evidence for a leather industry in Staines is noted above, as is the possibility of a woollen industry based in Ewell. Pottery wasters noted at some of the Runfold sites may indicate that the Alice Holt/Farnham pottery industry spread this far. Initial claims for the discovery of a 'through-draught pottery kiln' at the London Road, Bagshot, site seem later to have been abandoned. Work on the pottery from John Hampton's excavations on Ashted Common has identified a probable greyware pottery industry at the well-known tileworks (Joanna Bird, pers comm). It has now been established with certainty that there was a tile production site in the Doods Road area of Reigate, producing material for roofs and hypocausts, including relief-patterned box flue tiles. It was probably operating from about AD 140 to 230.

The establishment of London may have had a considerable effect on the surrounding area and it is probable that in due course different places came to specialize in order to supply this major market, as they did in the medieval period (Bird 1996, 223). The

pattern of pottery and tile supply may act as markers for the organic materials whose source cannot usually be identified, if the evidence survives at all. Thus in the 3rd and 4th centuries the Alice Holt/Farnham potteries were supplying a high proportion of the coarsewares found in London, and it seems that the Reigate tiliary's products have now been identified at over 40 sites in London and even far into Kent, at Canterbury and near Faversham. The distribution of relief-patterned tile including sites in Surrey has recently been studied (Betts *et al* 1994): it seems likely that the Ashted tiliary should be seen as starting at about AD 120, although secure dating evidence remains elusive. The wide-ranging distribution from tile kilns is well illustrated by the Hartfield kiln, whose products supplied both Beddington and Beddingham (Middleton *et al* 1992, 52–3). This coincidence of supply and place-names must raise speculation about joint ownership of estates on either side of the Weald, continuing after the Roman period (Copley 1950).

### Death and burial and religion

There is still relatively little evidence for Roman-period burials in Surrey, apart from in Southwark, where the evidence for burials has been summarized by Barber & Hall (2000, 103–7). The most impressive recent discoveries have been more than 150 inhumations in America Street near Southwark Bridge and a cemetery alongside Watling Street at 165 Great Dover Street. The latter included a group of well-built tombs and the so-called 'female gladiator' burial (a ritual explanation is more likely). This last was a *bustum* burial, in which a pit dug to aid cremation of the body is then used for the remains and associated offerings. Another *bustum* has been found recently, in Staines (fig 5.6), where the cremations and inhumations on the roads east of the town have already been noted. New finds elsewhere include Iron Age to Roman cremation burials at Farleigh Court and Hurst Park, and one or two other inhumations, including two at Lansdowne Road between Staines and Laleham, and a late burial on the edge of the Croydon Saxon cemetery. A possible inhumation cemetery at Kingston has also been noted above. 'Roman Christian' burials have been claimed in Bagshot, but on currently available information seem unlikely: the so-called graves are irregular and on differing alignments, without any evidence for human burials; the supposed grave goods are said to be in the upper fill and do not seem appropriate to Christian burials; the Christian ring, if with a burial, should have been on a person's hand, and should therefore survive complete and in the lower fill. Nevertheless, the discovery of the jet ring with a rho-cross symbol is of great interest in view of the general lack of Christian material from any part of Surrey (Graham, T 2002).



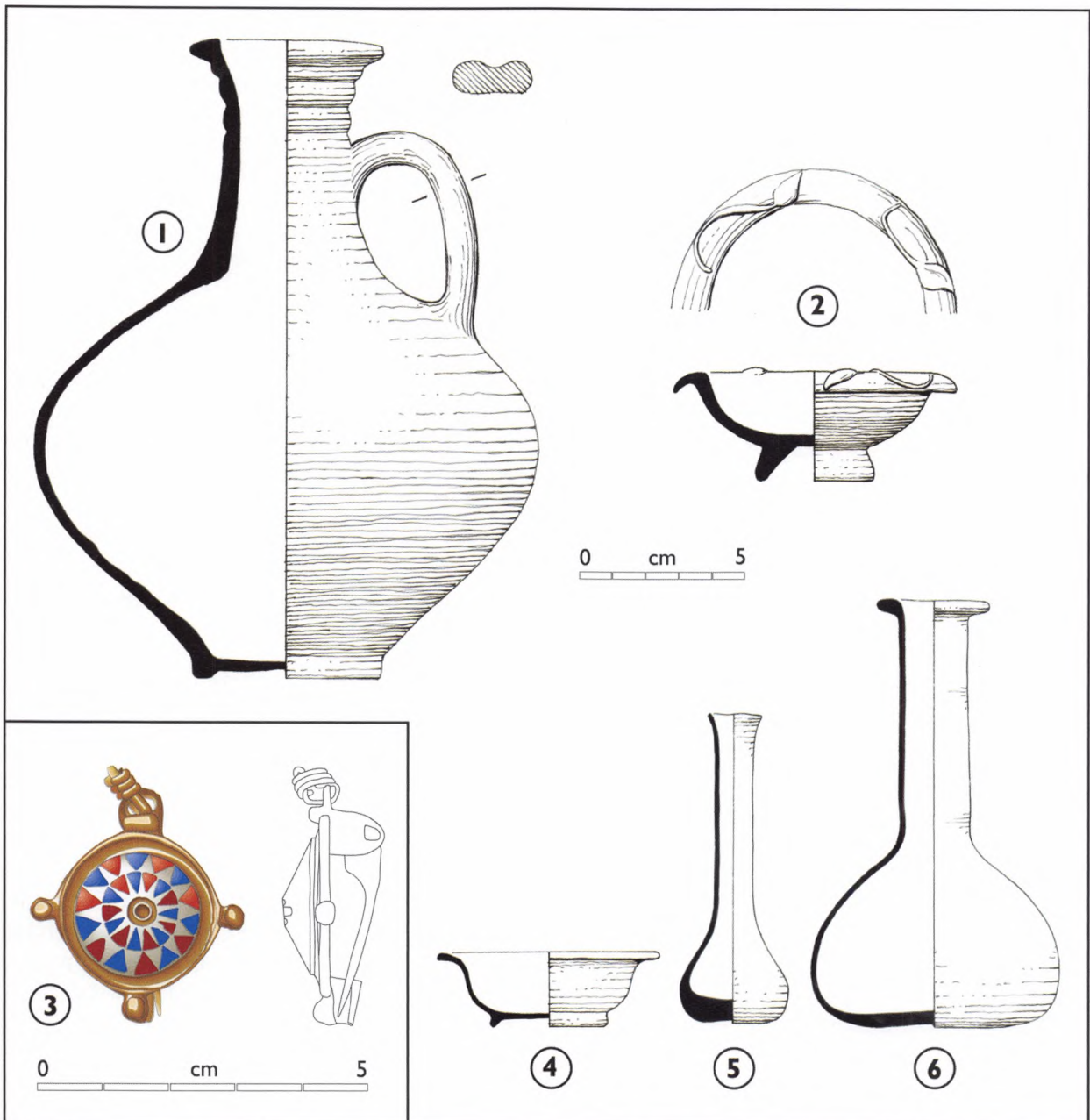


Fig 5.6 Kingston Road, Staines: finds associated with *bustum* burial. 1: Verulamium region single-handled flagon; 2: central Gaulish Samian DR35 dish; 3: one of a pair of enamelled disc brooches, SF1; 4: glass dish, SF59; 5: glass phial, SF61; 6: glass phial, SF60. Drawing copyright Surrey County Archaeological Unit

Most of the new discoveries relevant to religion and ritual are discussed in more detail in another paper in this volume, and it is therefore sufficient to note them here very briefly. The idea of a ritual site in Ewell has been noted above. Further evidence for ritual shafts in the area around the settlement has been recorded at the Seymours Nursery site and at The Looe. Similar deposits have also been noted in a well at Beddington, and in six of the fifteen wells found at a site at Swan Street in Southwark, here probably indicating ritual termination of use. One of these wells contained the skeleton of an adult male as well as a dog skull. Other probable ritual deposits have been noted at a stream crossing in Kingston (Hammerson 1996, 154; Hawkins 1996, 49–50) and in a watery environment at Shepperton Ranges,

where a nest of pewter plates was found (Poulton & Scott 1993).

There has been further work at two of the known temple sites, Farley Heath and Wanborough. Publication of the former will include a full catalogue of all known finds from the site. It would be appropriate to note also the discovery of an aisled shrine building at Beddingham in Sussex (Rudling 1998, 56), as this is reminiscent of the shrine at Rapsley (Hanworth 1968, 17) and both sites have produced fragments of pots decorated with mural crowns (Bird, J 2002). A new religious site has been found at Frensham, marked by many coins and over 65 miniature pots, at least one apparently containing traces of cannabis. Attempts to locate a nearby temple have so far failed. A well-reported scatter of



coins and brooches may mark another possible religious site near Godstone, and a poorly recorded group of brooches and other finds from the Hog's Back near Guildford might indicate a further site, or perhaps a cemetery. At Betchworth, excavation has identified a curious late Iron Age/early Roman apsidal-ended enclosure with a ditch cutting off the apse, and associated evidence suggesting a ritual use. A similar use has also been proposed for the Westcott enclosure, where the main use may be in the late Iron Age (Gabby Rapson, pers comm), and for the enclosure at the Matthew Arnold School near Staines (Bird 1987, 189); the latter suggestion should now be withdrawn as the site has been shown to be medieval.

### Transition

Perhaps not surprisingly, there is little fresh evidence to throw light on the end of the Roman period. The possible continuity of use of the Croydon Saxon burial ground is undoubtedly of interest, as is the increasing evidence from place-name research that implies a surviving Romano-British population (references in Bird 2000b, 165–6). This remains an area of research greatly in need of fresh information.

### Future research

Our knowledge of Surrey in the Roman period remains pitifully small, and it is still the case that significant discoveries can completely revise our understanding and raise new questions. The following brief list is only intended to suggest some of the more important actions required and stimulate debate. Matters relating to religion are included with the relevant paper elsewhere in this volume.

- The transition from Iron Age to Roman is not well understood. Careful analysis of those sites that cover this period is needed.
- There is a need to reassess the information available from material held in museums; eg origins and dating of pottery and tile can provide useful information about sites even when it is unstratified.
- Sources of building stone should be accurately identified and used to target possible quarries for further study.
- Studies of pottery and tile distribution may help in attempting to identify communities such as *civitates* (eg the division between Atrebatas and Cantiaci) or the smaller *pagi*.
- The landscape requires much more attention. Most of our information relates to the gravels and the chalk and it is important to try to understand more accurately how the landscape was managed in all areas. This should include changes through time, which at present can be dimly discerned on the gravels; did they occur generally elsewhere?
- Environmental evidence is crucial and should always be a priority.
- Attention should be given to the location of evidence for woodland industry.
- Analysis of existing information should be used to predict villa estates and functions and the link to the 'native' sites. This should then be tested by fieldwork, especially by fieldwalking and geophysics.
- Much better information is needed about non-villa sites and about the settings and surroundings of villas.
- There is a need to discover more burial sites to aid understanding of the population.
- Proper study of the possibility of river transport is required (and other uses of rivers and streams).
- The London–Winchester road and other missing links in the road system should be located.
- Sites relevant to the Roman–Saxon transition should be given high priority.

## SITE REFERENCES

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