

# Britannia

Roman Britain from Caesar to Arthur

6

Life in Roman Britain



### Roman Britain about 410.

--- Routes of Caesar's  
expeditions to Britain  
(55-54 B.C.)

— Roman roads.  
Names of native tribes thus:  
Brigantes

Scale 1:5 000 000  
Miles

**CALEDONIA (SCOTLAND)**  
**HIBERNIA (IRELAND)**  
**OCEANUS GERMANICUS (NORTH SEA OR GERMAN OCEAN)**  
**OCEANUS HIBERNICUS (IRISH SEA)**  
**OCEANUS BRITANNICUS (ENGLISH CHANNEL)**

**Native Tribes:** Brigantes, Trisantes, Parisi, Cornovii, Deceangli, Cantuarii, Trinovantes, Iceni, Durotriges, Dumnonii, Silures, Belgae, and others.

**Roman Cities and Colonies:** Eboracum (York), Londinium (London), Verulamium (St. Albans), Deva (Chester), and others.

**Geographical Features:** Hadrian's Wall, Antonine's Wall, Fretum Gallicum (Strait of Dover), and various rivers like the Tyne, Ure, and Trent.

## Where did the Romans get all that stone?

# Where was the stone for Hadrian's Wall quarried?



Stone was quarried as near as possible to where it was needed. In the central sector, this was quite close, often less than 2km, since the nature of the geology meant that there were bands of sandstone and limestone immediately south of the Whin Sill which provided the raw materials for the walling and mortar. West of the Red Rock Fault, the

Romans had to go further to find sandstone. In the case of Pigeon Crag and Gelt, those quarries were more than 4.5km south-east of the nearest stretch of the Wall.

Further reading: [Breeze and Dobson 2000](#); [Hill 2006](#)

Along with woodworking, stoneworking is the oldest of human skills, practiced for more than a million years.

The difference between this—



—and this



—and this



—is a matter of scale, not of kind.

## Where did the Romans get all that stone?

Rock quarrying for construction projects big and small is as old as history. The Romans carried on that tradition and were good at it.

Here's a good example from the German Rhineland: the quarry at the Kriemhildenstuhl, near Bad Dürkheim.



Der Kriemhildenstuhl ist ein ehemaliger römischer Steinbruch, der um das Jahr 200 n. Chr. von der 22. Legion der römischen Armee betrieben wurde.

Many of their inscriptions, graffiti and carvings have been preserved.



Gettonius, Ursus and Dossus,  
soldiers of the 22nd Legion, the foremost,  
true and upright

|

**Der Kriemhildenstuhl**

Die Herkunft des Namens für diesen Steinbruch ist nicht gesichert. Die Römer bauten im 2. und 3. Jahrhundert n. Chr. in diesem Steinbruch große Quader aus Buntsandstein ab. Diese wurden für zahlreiche Bauten in Worms und Mainz sowie für Sarkophage verwendet. Dieser Steinbruch ist einer der größten römischen Steinbrüche nördlich der Alpen. Die Quader selbst wurden durch Schrotgräben zunächst von der Felswand freigelegt, dann durch Einsetzen von Eisenkeilen in seinem Lager abgehoben. Anschließend wurden diese Quader entweder über Straßen oder auf dem Bach »Isenach« zum Rhein transportiert.

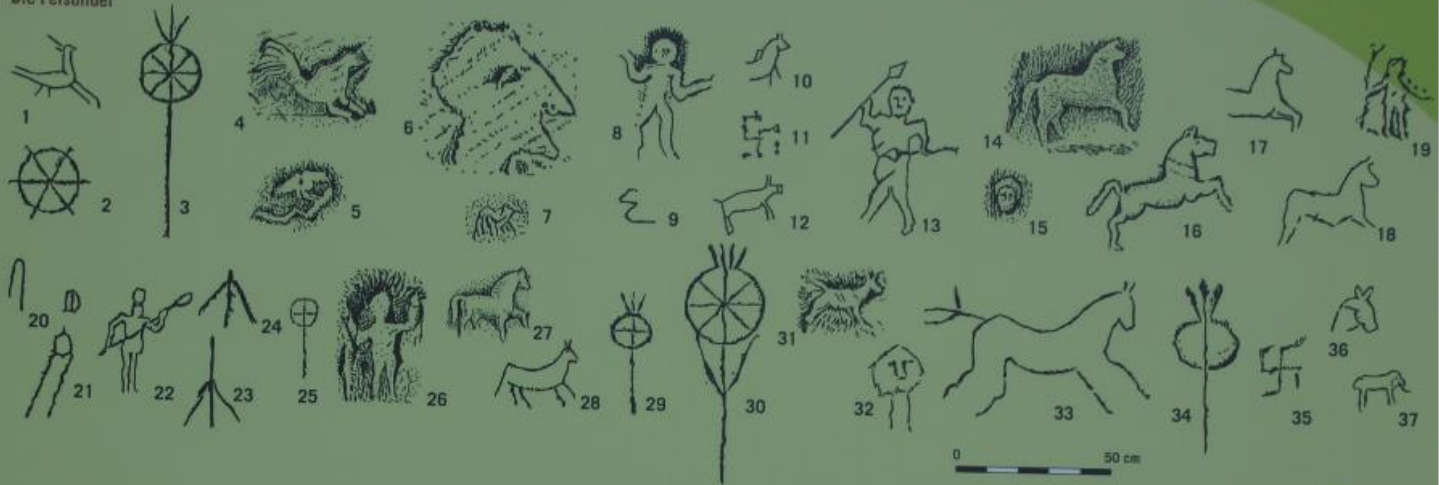
Die Inschriften, die früher häufig religiös gedeutet wurden, sind zum größten Teil weltlicher Natur. Sie sind entweder Steinmetzzeichen oder Kohortenzeichen der 22. Legion, die in Mainz lagerte. Auch zeigen sie Bekrönungen der Standarten. So wurde der Standartenring lange fälschlich als Sonnensymbol interpretiert.

In den Jahren 1934/1935 wurde dieser Steinbruch freigelegt. (Weitere Informationen im Haus Catoir, Heimatmuseum der Stadt Bad Dürkheim).

Diese Tafel wurde gestiftet vom Lionsclub Bad Dürkheim.

Information board at the quarry with diagrams and drawings

Die Felsbilder



Alle Achtung! Mit unserem Sandstein haben die Römer in Mainz Häuser gebaut!



Ja, und hier so ein großes Loch hinterlassen!

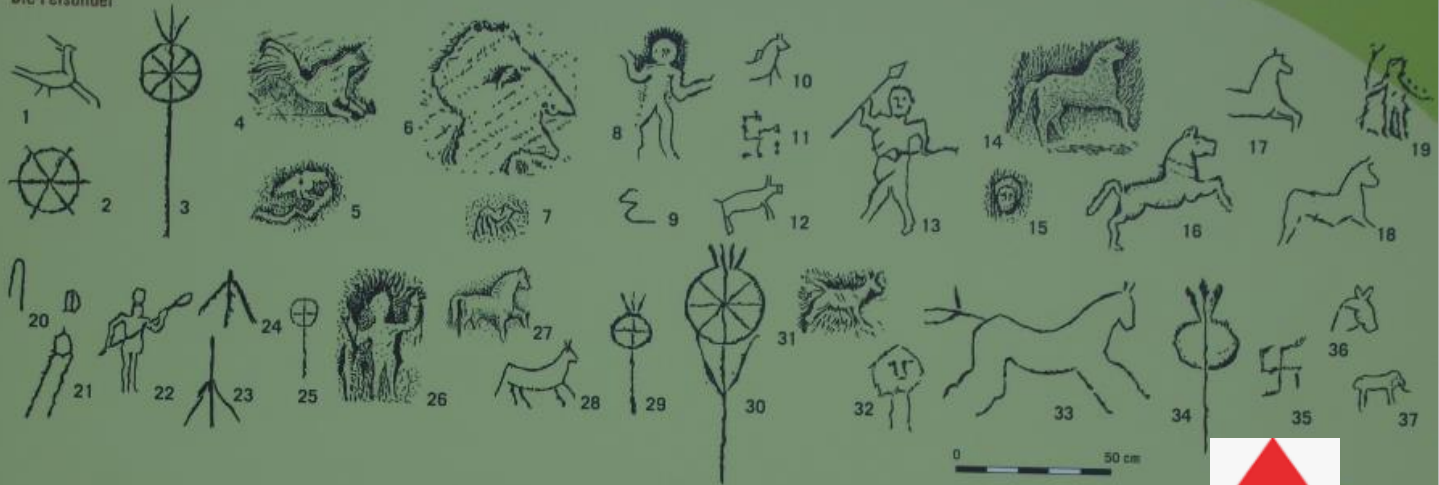


**Der Steinbruch**  
Heutiges Erscheinungsbild mit den Positionen der Felsbilder und Inschriften.

- Felsbilder
- Inschriften

STANDORT

Die Felsbilder



Alle Achtung! Mit unserem Sandstein haben die Römer in Mainz Häuser gebaut!



Ja, und hier so ein Loch hinter

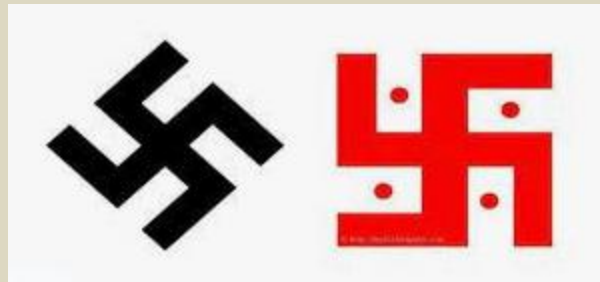
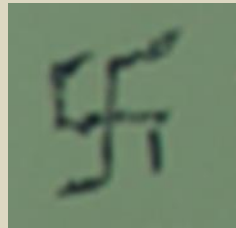


**Der Steinbruch**  
Heutiges Erscheinungsbild mit den Positionen der Felsbilder und Inschriften.

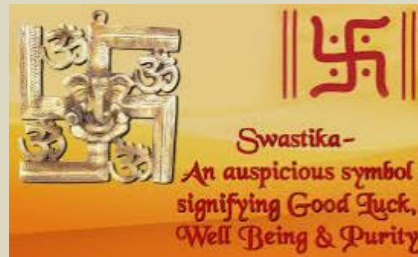
- Felsbilder
- Inschriften
- STANDORT



The swastika (an ancient Sanskrit word) has been a symbol used in cultures throughout the world, often as a good-luck sign. Since 1933, it has taken on a more sinister meaning in Western culture. The Nazis used the German word Hakenkreuz rather than swastika.



In today's Hindu culture, it retains the meaning of a good-luck sign.



Some Roman quarries with graffiti have been found in Britain as well.

## Rare Roman graffiti in Cumbria quarry to be captured in 3D

**The Written Rock of Gelt at risk from sandstone erosion and the site's inaccessibility**













📷 The Written Rock of Gelt was discovered in the 18th century and is one of few Roman inscriptions left in Britain. Photograph: Historic England

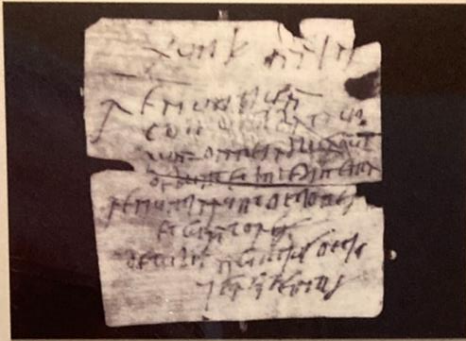
Rare Roman graffiti from AD207, which includes a quarry worker's caricature poking fun at a commanding officer and a good luck phallus symbol, is to be recorded for future generations because of its danger of being lost.

Details have been announced of a project to document inscriptions in a Roman quarry near Hadrian's Wall known as [the Written Rock of Gelt, which are among only a handful left in England.](#)

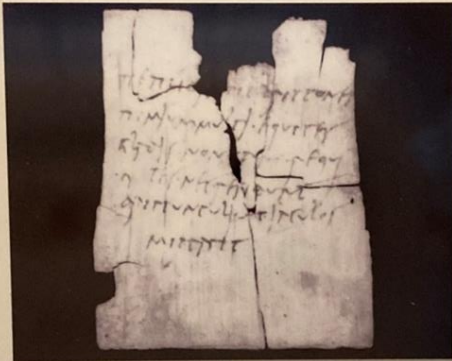
They were made by workers quarrying stone for a major repair and refortification of the wall on the orders of emperor Septimius Severus.



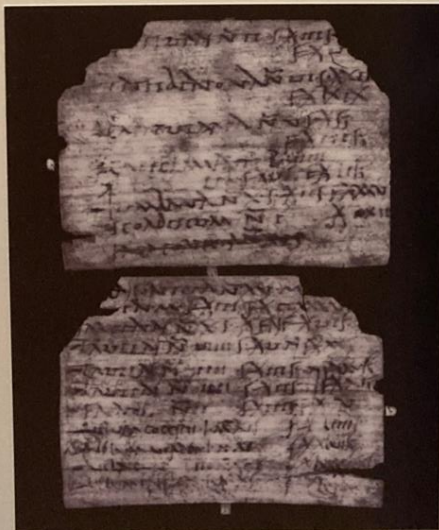
	Agricola frontier forts, AD 85–90		Legionary fortress
	Territory progressively evacuated in AD 85–105		Other fort
	Hadrianic frontier zone and forts, AD 105–42 and 163–367		Hadrian's Wall
	Territory reoccupied, AD 142–63		Romanised area
	Antonine frontier zone and forts, AD 142–63		Antonine Wall



Tablet 2, military report. Infra-red photograph



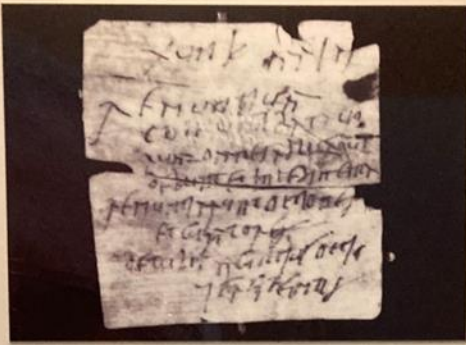
Tablet 3, intelligence report. Infra-red photograph



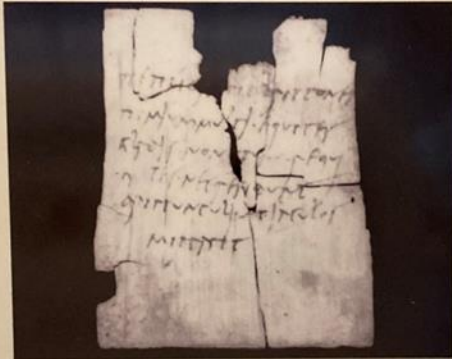
Tablet 5, inventory or memorandum. Infra-red photograph

## VINDOLANDA

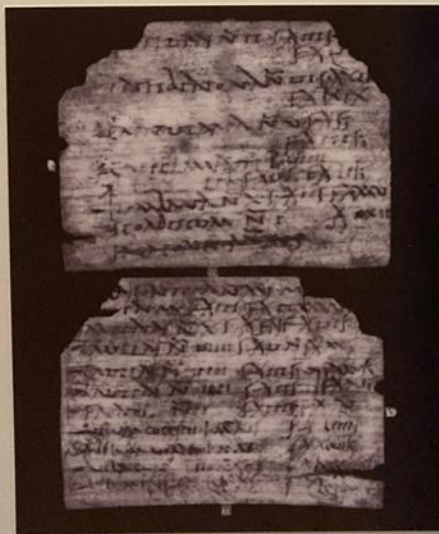
These ink writing-tablets are the oldest surviving handwritten documents from Britain. They come from the Roman fort of *Vindolanda* (Chesterholm), one of the main military posts on the northern frontier of Britain before the building of Hadrian's Wall. The first tablets were discovered there in 1973 and hundreds more fragments have come to light in subsequent archaeological excavations.



Tablet 2, military report. Infra-red photograph

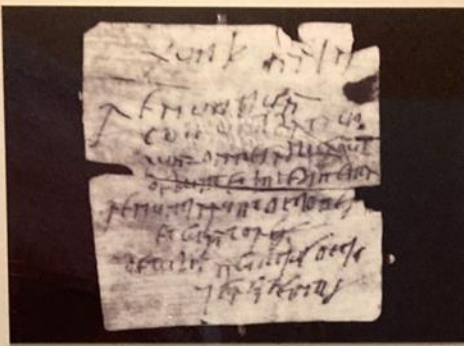


Tablet 3, intelligence report. Infra-red photograph

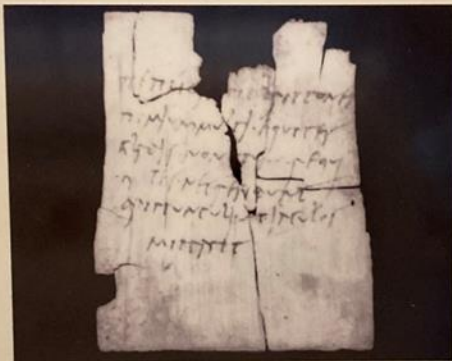


Tablet 5, inventory or memorandum. Infra-red photograph

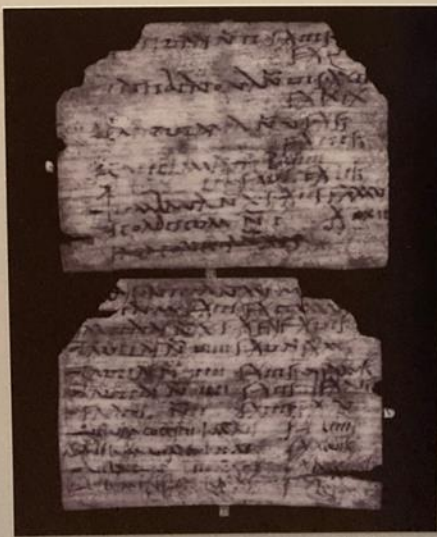
Waterlogged conditions preserved the tablets in rubbish deposits in and around the commanding officer's residence. They date mainly to the phase of activity between about AD 92-120, a period of great significance for the history of Britain's northern frontier.



Tablet 2, military report. Infra-red photograph



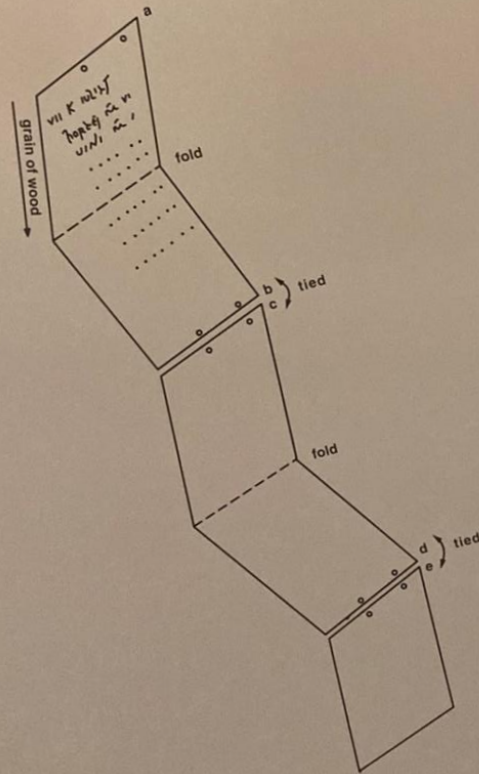
Tablet 3, intelligence report. Infra-red photograph



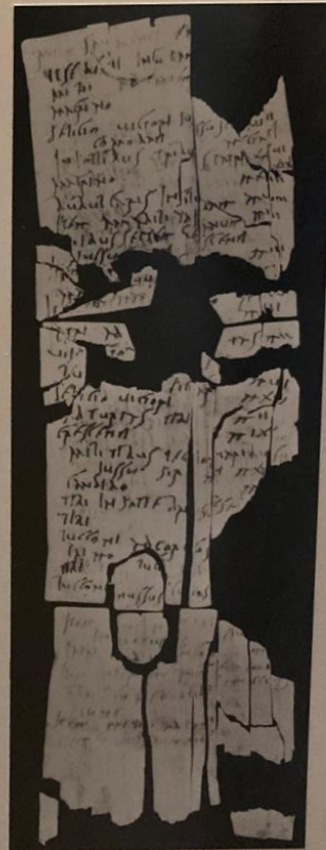
Tablet 5, inventory or memorandum. Infra-red photograph

During that time the fort was garrisoned variously by the First Tungrian Cohort and the Ninth Batavian Cohort, and most of the tablets are official military documents relating to those auxiliary units. However, numerous others are the private letters sent to, or occasionally written by, the serving soldiers and officers. Together, they give a remarkable insight into the working and private lives of the Roman garrison in this remote outpost fort on the edge of the Empire.

The letters were generally written with the broad dimension of the leaf running horizontally and the text set out in two columns, the first at the left, the second at the right. After completing the letter the writer scored it vertically down the centre, folded it, and wrote the address on the back of the right hand half. Some tablets had notches cut into the edge so that they could be tied together.



Military reports and accounts were often written with the text running across the grain and parallel to the short edge of the tablet. This format lent itself well to the compiling of lists, and in some cases several of the leaves were joined together in a concertina format to form a wooden notebook. From *The Roman Writing Tablets from Vindolanda*, Alan Bowman (1983)



This account, written on three leaves, lists quantities of wheat issued to various military personnel.

## 1 Strength report

### Translation

'18 May, net number of the First Cohort of Tungrians, of which the commander is Iulius Verecundus the prefect, 752, including centurions 6 of whom there are absent: guards of the governor 46; at the office of Ferox?; at Coria 337, including centurions 2 (?); at London centurion 1 (?); ... 6, including centurion 1; ... 9, including centurion 1; ... 11; at (?) ... 1 (?); ... 45; total absentees 456, including centurions 5; remainder, present 296, including centurion 1; from these: sick 15; wounded 6; suffering from inflammation of the eyes 10; total of these 31; remainder, fit for active service 265, including centurion 1'

This is a strength report of the First Cohort of Tungrians, probably dating to about AD 92-7. It is the first of its kind from Britain, a most important military document which sheds light on the deployment and organisation of military units. The regiment was probably a cohort and the tablet shows it was close to its full complement of 800 men, though it was 4 centurions short of the normal total of 10.

Of the 752 soldiers on the roll only 296 were present at the base garrison, of whom just 265 were fit for active service. Most of the absentees were a detachment of 337 on a tour of duty at nearby Corbridge (Coria). A further 46 were detached for duty as guards with the governor of the province. They were assigned to a man named Ferox, who may have been the commander of the Ninth legion Hispana at York.

PRB P1989.6-2.21. *Tab. Vindol. II*, 154

## 2 Military report (*renuntium*)

### Reconstructed text

xvii K Maias  
*renuntium*  
coh viii Batauo  
rum omnes ad loca qui  
debunt et impedimenta  
renuntiarunt optiones  
et curatores  
detulit Arcuittius optio  
(centuriae) Crescentis

### Translation

'15 May, report of the 9th cohort of Batavians. All who ought to be at the stations are there, as is the baggage. report was made by the *optiones* and curators. Arcuittius, *optio* of the *centuria* *Crescentis* delivered it.'

A novelty among the Vindolanda tablets which sheds new light on day-to-day military routine, is the finding of large numbers of reports with the *renuntium* heading. They appear to be routine reports on personnel and equipment, made at regular (perhaps daily) intervals, and submitted by *optiones* (deputy centurions). The need for such 'all present and correct' reports is understandable in view of the numerous detachments from the main garrison outposted or engaged in special tasks away from base (see tablet 1).

PRB P1995.7-1.211





### report (*renuntium*)

Reconstructed text

*K Maias  
ntium*

*Batauo  
es ad loca qui  
! impedimenta  
runt optiones  
ratores  
Arquittius optio  
e) Crescentis*

ion

report of the 9th cohort of  
is. All who ought to be at their  
are there, as is the baggage. The  
as made by the *optiones* and the  
Arquittius, *optio* of the century of  
delivered it.'

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nnel and equipment, made at  
perhaps daily) intervals, and  
d by *optiones* (deputy centurions).  
for such 'all present and correct'  
s understandable in view of the  
s detachments from the main  
outposted or engaged in special  
y from base (see tablet 1).

.211

### 3 Intelligence report

Reconstructed text

*nenu...[.]n. Brittones  
nimium multi • equites  
gladis • non utuntur equi-  
tes • nec residunt  
Brittunculi • ut • iaculos  
mittant*

Translation

'...the Britons are unprotected by armour  
(?). There are very many cavalry. The  
cavalry do not use swords nor do the  
wretched Britons mount in order to throw  
javelins.'

A tantalizing fragment of what was  
probably a memorandum, perhaps left by a  
commanding officer for his successor,  
describing the fighting habits of the  
Britons. Despite the disparaging reference  
to *Brittunculi*, 'Little Brits', it may be that  
the document was an assessment of their  
potential for recruitment into the local  
military units.

PRB P1986.10-1.34. *Tab. Vindol. II*, 164

### 4 Leave request

Reconstructed text

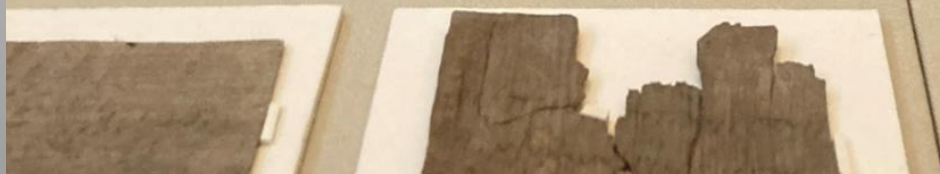
*...[.] ha[b]leas • cui •  
des • commeatum  
Cōris Messicus t[.]  
rōgo • domine [*

Translation

'I, Messicus...,ask, my lord, that you  
consider me a worthy person to whom to  
grant leave at Coria.'

A request from a soldier named Messicu  
for a period of leave to be spent at near  
Corbridge (Coria). The Vindolanda text  
have shone new light on the system for  
requesting and granting leave. They are  
written in different hands and although  
they are almost formulaic they are not  
'form letters'. None specifies the numbe  
days requested, but there may have beer  
standard grant or, alternatively, the per  
may have been decided once the comma  
knew where the soldier wished to go.

PRB P1986.10-1.137. *Tab. Vindol. II*, 175



the report  
of the text

*Brittones  
ulti • equites  
non utuntur equi-  
nec residunt  
i • ut • iaculos  
t*

n

sons are unprotected by armour  
are very many cavalry. The  
not use swords nor do the  
Britons mount in order to throw

ing fragment of what was  
a memorandum, perhaps left by a  
ing officer for his successor,  
g the fighting habits of the  
Despite the disparaging reference  
*sculi*, 'Little Brits', it may be that  
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for recruitment into the local  
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1.34. *Tab. Vindol. II*, 164

#### 4 Leave request

Reconstructed text

....[.] *ha[b]leas • cui •  
des • commeatum  
Córis Messicus t[.]  
rógo • domine [*

Translation

'I, Messicus...,ask, my lord, that you  
consider me a worthy person to whom to  
grant leave at Coria.'

A request from a soldier named Messicus  
for a period of leave to be spent at nearby  
Corbridge (Coria). The Vindolanda texts  
have shone new light on the system for  
requesting and granting leave. They are  
written in different hands and although  
they are almost formulaic they are not  
'form letters'. None specifies the number of  
days requested, but there may have been a  
standard grant or, alternatively, the period  
may have been decided once the commander  
knew where the soldier wished to go.

PRB P1986.10-1.137. *Tab. Vindol. II*, 175

#### 5 Inventory or memorandum

Translation

'Necklace-clasps (?), number 2,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ + *denarii*  
each, total 7+ *denarii*. Cloaks, number 6,  
*denarii* each, total 69 *denarii*. Headbands  
number 5,  $\frac{3}{4}$ *denarius* each, total  $3\frac{3}{4}$  *denar*  
Hair, 9 pounds in weight,  $\frac{5}{4}$  *denarii* per  
pound, total 51  $\frac{3}{4}$  *denarii*. Drawers, numbe  
10,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  *denarii* each, total 25 *denarii*. Sade  
(?), number 1, 12 *denarii*. ~~Cloaks made of  
bark (?), number 15 (?),...~~ [Entry crossed  
Cloaks made of bark (?), number 15,  
measure(s) (?) ..., 3 *denarii* per measure (?  
total 235+ *denarii*. Bags, number 10,  $\frac{5}{8}$   
*denarius* and 1 *as* each, total  $6\frac{7}{8}$  *denarii*.  
Skillets, number 4. 5 *denarii* and 1 *as* eac  
total 20  $\frac{1}{4}$  *denarii*. Skillets, number 4.  $3\frac{7}{8}$   
*denarii* and 1 *as* each, total 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  *denarii*.  
Skillets, number 4.  $2\frac{7}{8}$  *denarii* and 1 *as* ea  
total 11  $\frac{3}{4}$  *denarii*. Reins, number 2.  $3\frac{1}{2}$   
*denarii* each, total 7 *denarii*. Scarlet curt  
(?). 1. measuring 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ , total 54  $\frac{1}{2}$ + *denarii*.  
Green curtain (?). 1. measuring 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ , total  
+ *denarii*. Purple curtains (?). 2. measuri  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$ , total 88  $\frac{3}{4}$  (?) *denarii*. ... curtain (?),  
measuring 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ , total 55+ *denarii*.'

A complete diptych, with writing on bo  
inner faces and one outer face. The tex  
not a normal account and is thought to  
part of an informal inventory of  
miscellaneous items and their valuatio  
the residence of the commanding offic  
Flavius Cerealis. It was perhaps compi  
by a household slave or another indivi  
responsible for the domestic  
administration. It is a fascinating list  
commodities made still more interestin  
the inclusion of prices.

PRB P1995. 7-1.196



Portrait from Pompeii  
National Museum, Naples

‘Claudia Severa to her Lepidina,  
greetings. On 11 September ...  
for the ... celebration of my birthday,  
I give you a warm invitation ...’



ptych written  
script. The  
nders and  
use of  
etters). While  
er of this brief  
atter of some  
it commander,  
ing with the  
ritain. In  
Cerealis had  
ed  
eeting, so it  
cessful.

## 11 Birthday invitation to Sulpicia Lepidina

Reconstructed text

Column i:

*Cl(audia) • Seuerá Lepidinae [suae  
[sa]ll[u]stem*

*iii Idus Septembr[is] soror ad diem  
sollemnem natalem meum rogó  
libenter faciás ut uenias  
ad nos iucundiozem mihi*

Column ii:

*[diem] interuentú tuo facturá si  
Cerial[em] tuum salutá Aelius meus [ ]  
et filioli salutant  
sperabo te soror  
uale soror anima  
mea ita ualeam  
karissima et haue*

Back:

*Sulpiciae Lepidinae  
Cerialis  
a S[e]uera*

Translation

'Claudia Severa to her Lepidina greetings.  
On 11 September, sister, for the day of the  
celebration of my birthday, I give you a warm  
invitation to make sure that you come to us,  
to make the day more enjoyable for me by  
your arrival, if you are present (?). Give my  
greetings to your Cerialis. My Aelius and my  
little son send him (?) their greetings. (2nd  
hand) I shall expect you sister. Farewell,  
sister, my dearest soul, as I hope to prosper,  
and hail.'

Back:

(1st hand) 'To Sulpicia Lepidina, wife of  
Cerialis, from Severa.'

Sulpicia Lepidina was the wife of Flavius  
Cerealis, prefect of the Ninth Cohort of  
Batavians. This birthday invitation is one of  
two letters she received from Claudia Severa,  
wife of Aelius Brocchus. The scribe who  
wrote the greater part of this letter is the  
same person who wrote the letter from Niger  
and Brocchus to Flavius Cerealis (10). The  
tall elegant script contrasts with the  
competent but less accomplished three-line  
closure written by Severa herself. That, and  
similar closures on 12 and one other letter  
from Severa, is the earliest known example of  
writing in Latin by a woman (about  
AD 97-103).

PRB P1986.10-1.64. *Tab. Vindol. II, 291*

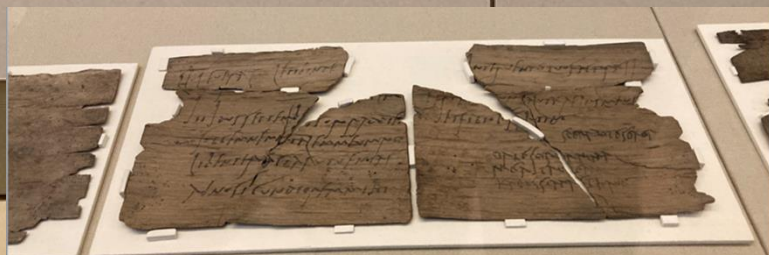
## 12 Letter to Translati

'... greeti  
sister, and  
Brocchus  
him and h  
it was alv  
together'  
way I can  
things wh  
which yo  
I was ... a  
Cerialis  
(Back, 2r  
dearest a  
To Sulpi  
Severa, v

This ratl  
survival  
more th  
example  
on the r  
text run  
broad co  
the scrib  
double c  
letter co  
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The int  
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literal  
Briga i  
near to

PRB P1986

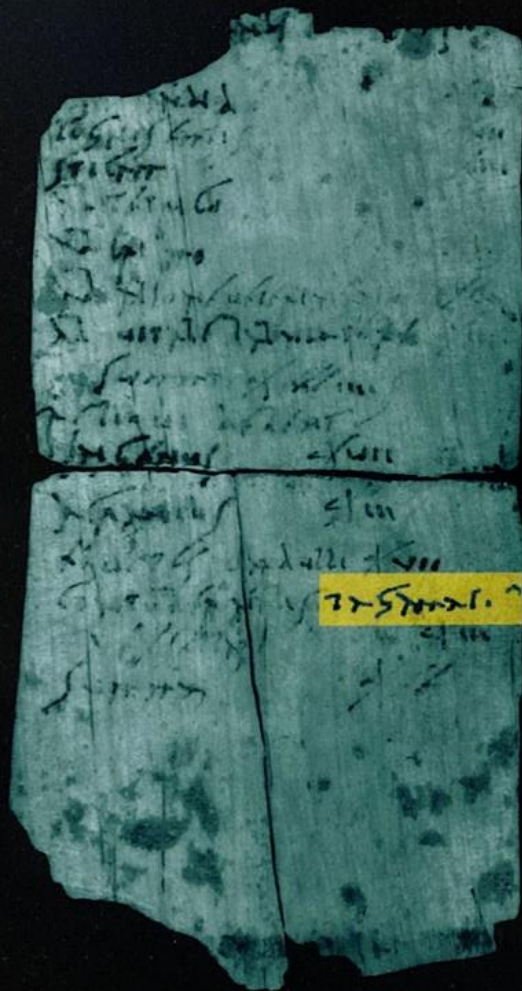


ived or owed

(diptych) was found  
account of cash  
a number of men  
type of spear used  
e account is written  
ough some of the  
eral soldiers' names  
rescens, Exomnius

second column (just  
n the left leaf) are  
r interest,  
l *vexellarius* – a  
ictor, who is  
huntsman. The  
military life is  
la by several  
nting hounds and  
he tablets on  
22) as well as to

nas is especially  
; been found  
, on another cash  
otograph on the  
the handle of an  
s the same  
avalry unit,  
the Spanish  
*dullorum*



Infra-red photograph of cash account tablet  
Tab. Vindol. II, 181 (PY 1989.0602.71), with  
the name Tagamatis highlighted.

### Further information

The translations and reconstructed texts used here are by Dr A. K. Bowman and Dr J.D. Thomas. For their full publication of the Vindolanda Tablets see A.K. Bowman and J.D. Thomas *The Vindolanda Writing-Tablets* Volumes II and III (British Museum Press 1994 and 2003). For a more popular account see A.K. Bowman *Life and Letters on the Roman Frontier* (British Museum Press 2003). For young people see Barbara Bell *Minimus: starting out in Latin* (Cambridge University Press 2004).

Vindolanda Tablets Online

<http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk>

Vindolanda fort online information

<http://www.vindolanda.com>

Visitors may wish to go to Gallery 70  
(Rome and the Roman Empire) to see more  
Vindolanda Tablets on display in case 22.

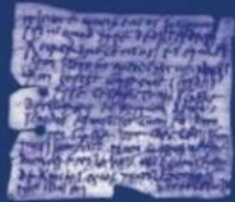
The purchase of the Vindolanda Tablets  
was assisted by a generous grant from the  
National Heritage Memorial Fund.

NATIONAL  
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MEMORIAL  
FUND



## The Vindolanda Tablets: some key points—

1. Britannia's northern frontier was a zone of influence and control, not a simple boundary line.
2. The Roman troops on the frontier were mainly auxiliaries; the soldiers of the legions were concentrated at three fortresses farther south, with frequent detachments sent out on missions.
3. Literacy and record-keeping (bureaucracy and paperwork) were extremely important to everyone connected with the army. Handwriting samples and styles can be studied and analyzed.
4. Some (at least) of the Romans had rather condescending (racist?) attitudes toward the British natives.
5. "Networking"—the importance of personal connections—was a major theme in the careers of these people.
6. Economic factors included the crucial role of coined money (soldier's pay, etc.) and the exploitation of local resources (Britannia had to feed and supply its garrison).



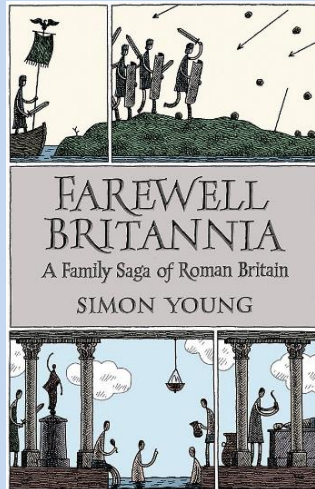
### LIFE AND LETTERS ON THE ROMAN FRONTIER VINDOLANDA AND ITS PEOPLE

ALAN K. BOWMAN

THE VINDOLANDA TABLETS

VOTED BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE  
ON THE BBC-TV PROGRAMME  
'OUR TOP TEN TREASURES'

# What really happened at that birthday party?



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## CHAPTER FIVE

### Wife on the Frontier, c.100 AD



*Claudia Severa, grandmother of Artorius, mother to the guardians of the frontier*

Cetuarus prospered in Britain after the failure of the revolt; ageing in peace and prosperity. But I turn now, instead, to Claudia Severa – we will let the story itself reveal her connection to our kin – who dwelt in the fort at Briga on the northern frontier. Today that same frontier is overrun by Picts and other enemies of the civilised, but in those times, even before the Stone Wall was built, it was held by ten thousand polished Roman helmets and swords ...

The day that the prefect, Aelius Broedius and his wife Claudia Severa arrived at Briga [Fleotobridge], the fort on the high Pennine inclines that was to be their home for the next years, an uncharacteristically ferocious storm broke over the valley. And it was only natural that there were as many explanations for a tempest of such violence as there were nationalities in the valley that Briga guarded. So the German auxiliaries, mercenaries to the Romans, talked

(This author has a wicked sense of humor.)



**Roman Britain  
about 410.**

--- Routes of Caesar's expeditions to Britain (53-54 B.C.)

— Roman roads.

Names of native tribes thus:  
Brigantes

Scale 1:5 000 000

Miles

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54  
52  
50

52

OCEANUS BRITANNICUS  
(ENGLISH CHANNEL)

OCEANUS GERMANICUS  
(NORTH SEA OR GERMAN OCEAN)

OCEANUS HIBERNICUS  
(IRISH SEA)

HIBERNIA  
(IRELAND)

CALEDONIA (SCOTLAND)

Mona  
(Anglesey)

Segontium  
Ordnovices

Canovium  
Viroconium  
Bravonium  
Carnovii

Deva  
(Chester)

Isca Silurum  
(Caerleon)

Isca Dumnoniorum  
(Exeter)

Isca Silurum  
(Caerleon)

Isca Dumnoniorum  
(Exeter)

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Glevum  
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**The economy of Roman Britain**







Roman Britain was divided into two broad social and economic zones. In the fertile lowlands of the south and east a prosperous agricultural economy based on villas developed. Culturally, this area became the most Romanised area of the province; it also became the most urbanised area, though British

towns remained small compared to those on the Continent. In the high country of the north and east, there were no villa estates; these areas were valued as much for their mineral resources as their agriculture. Both farming and settlement here showed greater continuity with Iron Age practices.

Resources and industries



-  Coal
-  Copper
-  Gold
-  Iron
-  Jet
-  Lead
-  Marble
-  Oysters
-  Pottery
-  Salt
-  Silver
-  Tin
-  Wool

Towns of Roman Britain




-  Provincial capital
-  Colonia
-  Legionary fortress with settlement
-  Civitas capital
-  Major town
-  Port

ICENI Civitas


Zones of villa development

-  Principal area of villa development
-  Area with fewer known villas

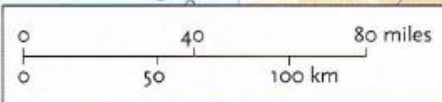
Important villas

-  1st-2nd century villa
-  2nd-4th century villa
-  3rd-4th century villa

 Known Roman road

 Land over 150 m (500 ft) above sea level





- Resources and industries**
- Coal
  - Copper
  - Gold
  - Iron
  - Jet
  - Lead
  - Marble
  - Oysters
  - Pottery
  - Salt
  - Silver
  - Tin
  - Wool

- Towns of Roman Britain**
- Provincial capital
  - Colonia
  - Legionary fortress with settlement
  - Civitas capital
  - Major town
  - Port
- ICENI Civitas**
- Zones of villa development**
- Principal area of villa development
  - Area with fewer known villas
- Important villas**
- 1st-2nd century villa
  - 2nd-4th century villa
  - 3rd-4th century villa
- Other symbols:**
- Known Roman road
  - Land over 150 m (500 ft) above sea level



BRITANNIA

**BRITANNIA**

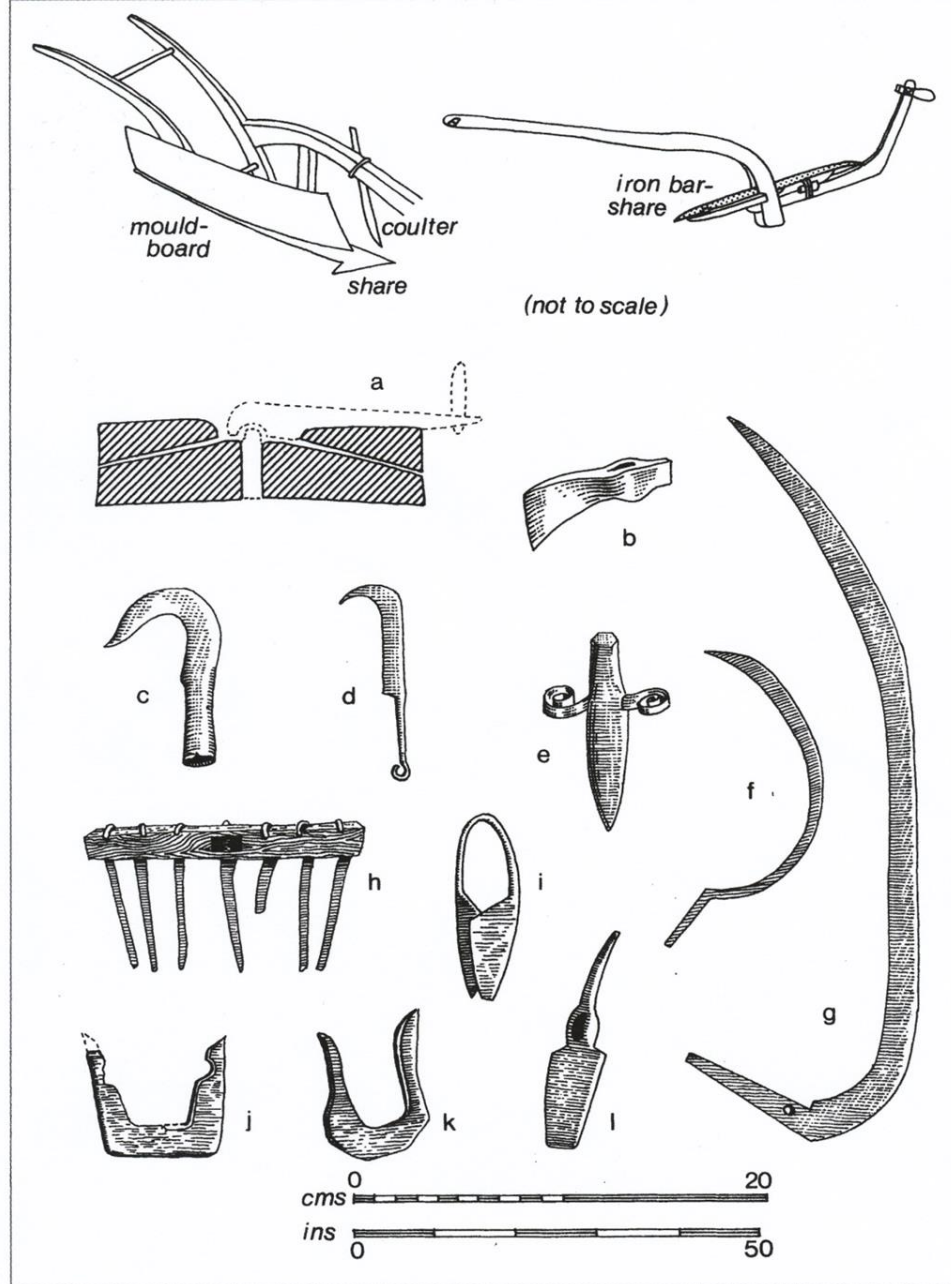
**'UnRoman' Roman Britain**



**How much of traditional Iron Age life in the Roman province was not touched by the new regime?**



104 (above) An Iron Age plough team at work. The 'plough' is more strictly termed an ard which simply scored the ground and did not turn the sod. If the fields had been first 'rooted over' by pigs the 'ploughing' would have been much easier. There is some evidence to suggest that fields were 'ploughed' in two directions at right angles better to break up the soil.



49. (Above) A plough of the Roman type and a typical Iron Age ard. (Below) Farm implements from British sites: (a) oscillatory quern; (b) axe; (c) billhook; (d) pruning hook; (e) mower's anvil; (f) sickle; (g) scythe; (h) wooden hay-rake; (i) sheep shears; (j, k) iron bindings for wooden spades; (l) mattock or hoe.

48. A replica *vallus*, or harvesting machine, that was used at the Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire. (Peter Reynolds)



11. Upton Country Park (Dorset): a replica of the building excavated at Ower. This represents the most basic type of 'cottage-house' of the first century AD.



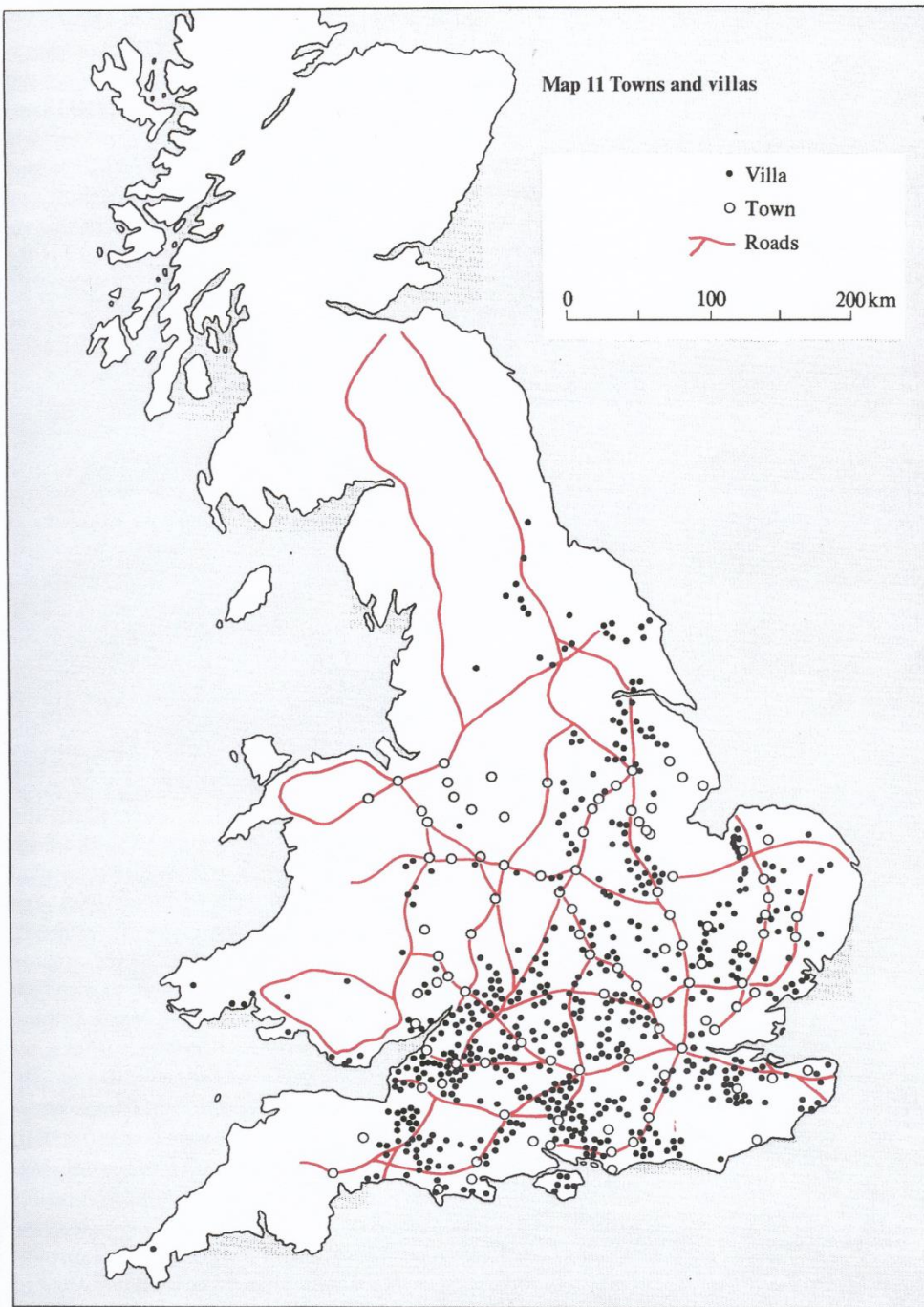


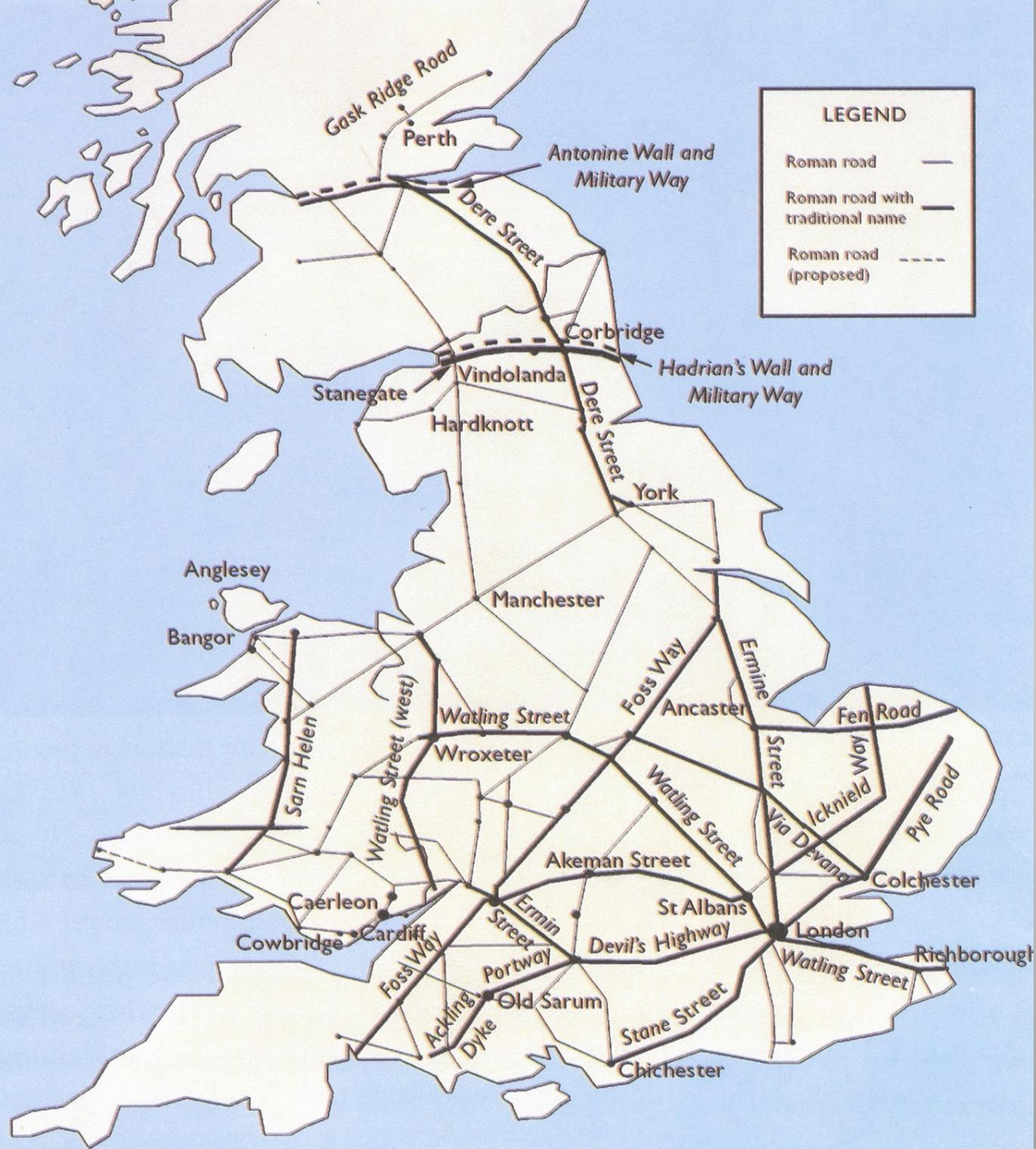


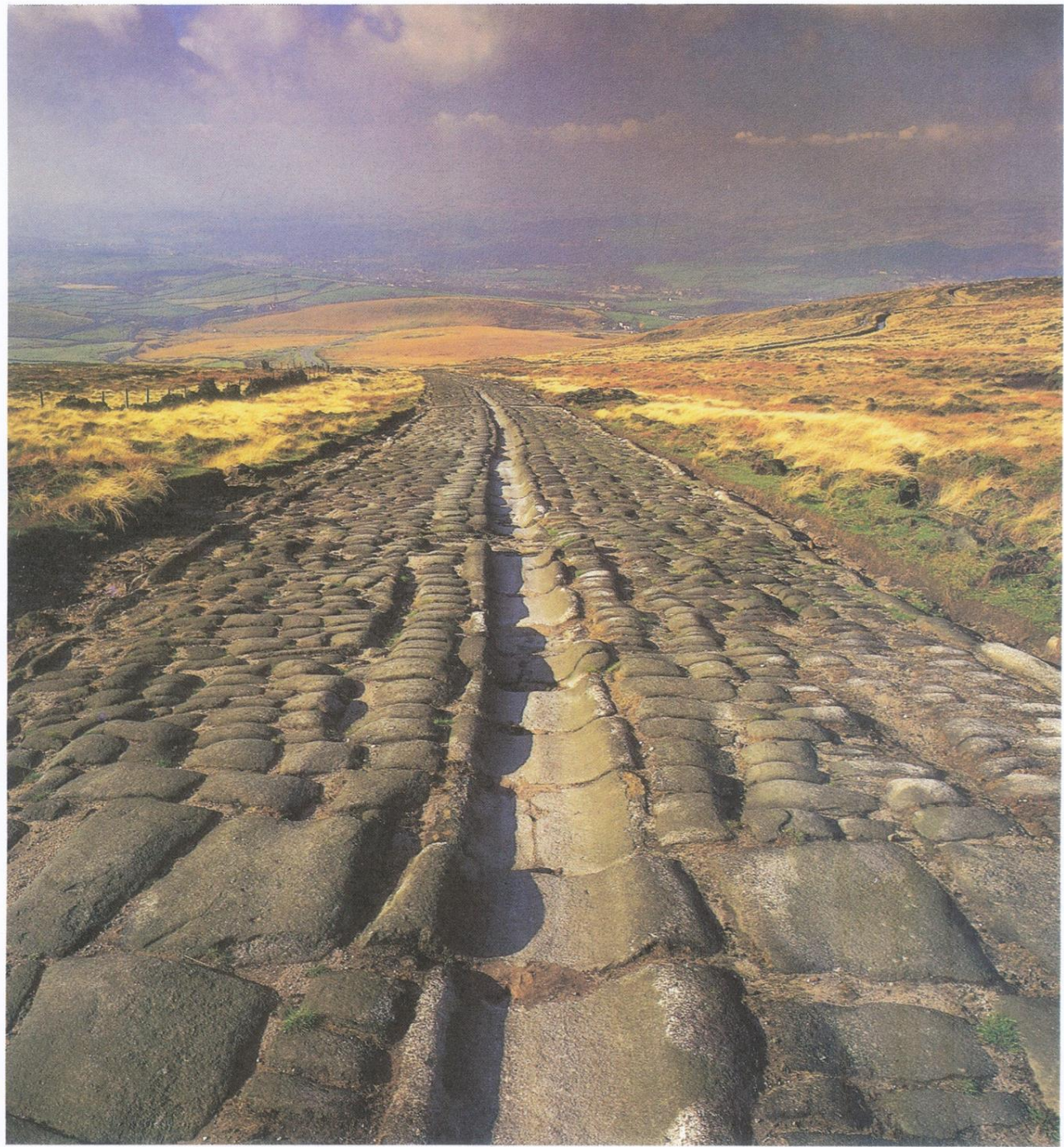
Map 11 Towns and villas

- Villa
- Town
- Roads

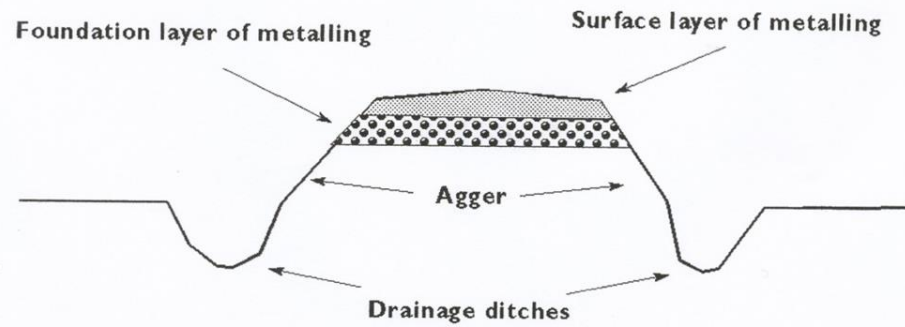
0 100 200 km







## ROMAN ROAD CROSS-SECTION



25. *Diagram of a 'typical' cross-section of a Roman road, showing the agger, drainage ditches and stone metalling. All these elements help to protect the underlying ground from damage by wheeled vehicles.*





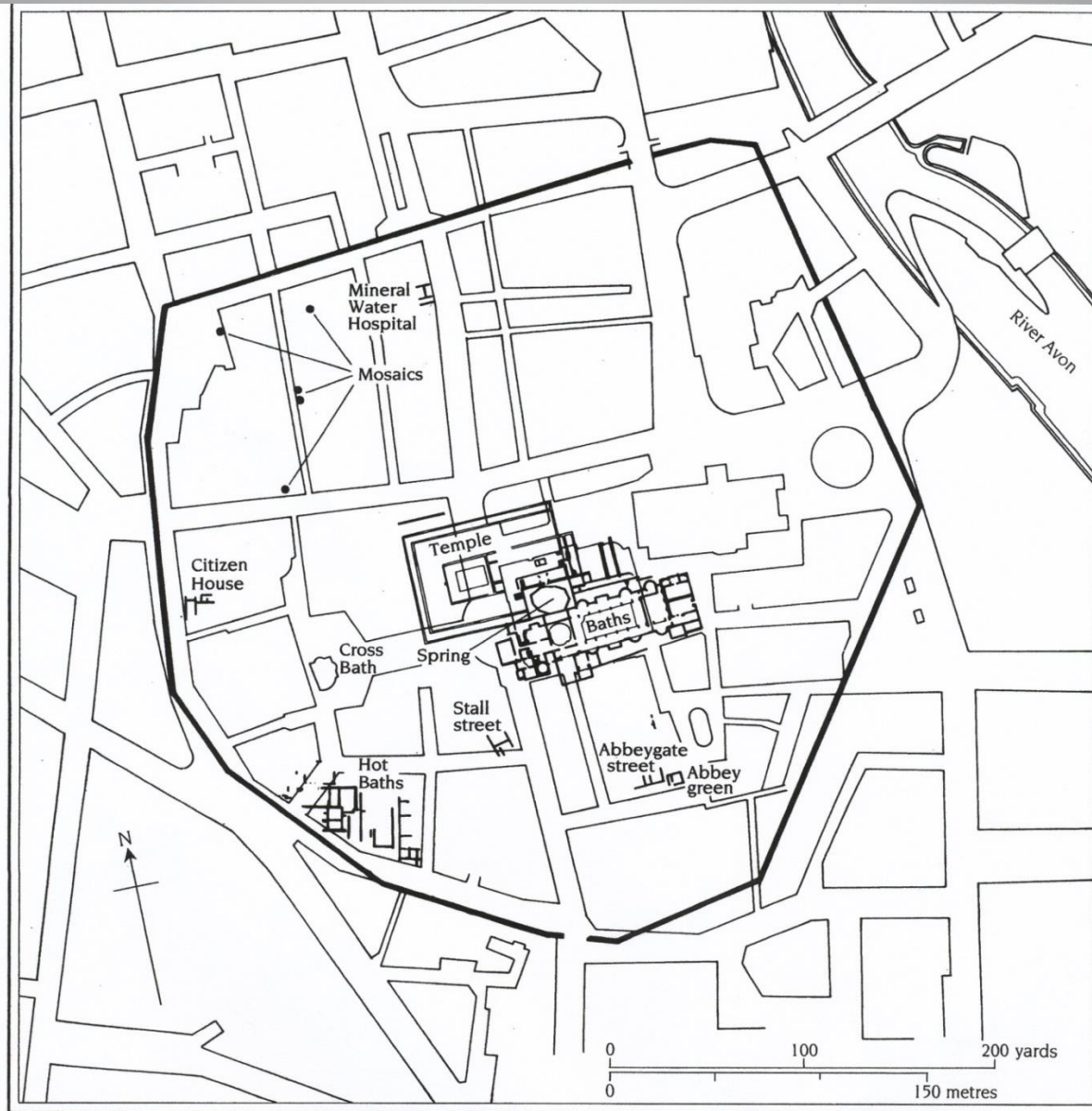
- Resources and industries**
- Coal
  - Copper
  - Gold
  - Iron
  - Jet
  - Lead
  - Marble
  - Oysters
  - Pottery
  - Salt
  - Silver
  - Tin
  - Wool

- Towns of Roman Britain**
- Provincial capital
  - Colonia
  - Legionary fortress with settle
  - Civitas capital
  - Major town
  - Port
- ICENI Civitas**
- Zones of villa development**
- Principal area of villa develop
  - Area with fewer known villas
- Important villas**
- 1st-2nd century villa
  - 2nd-4th century villa
  - 3rd-4th century villa
- Known Roman road
- Land over 150 m (500 ft) abo sea level



The economy of Roman Britain

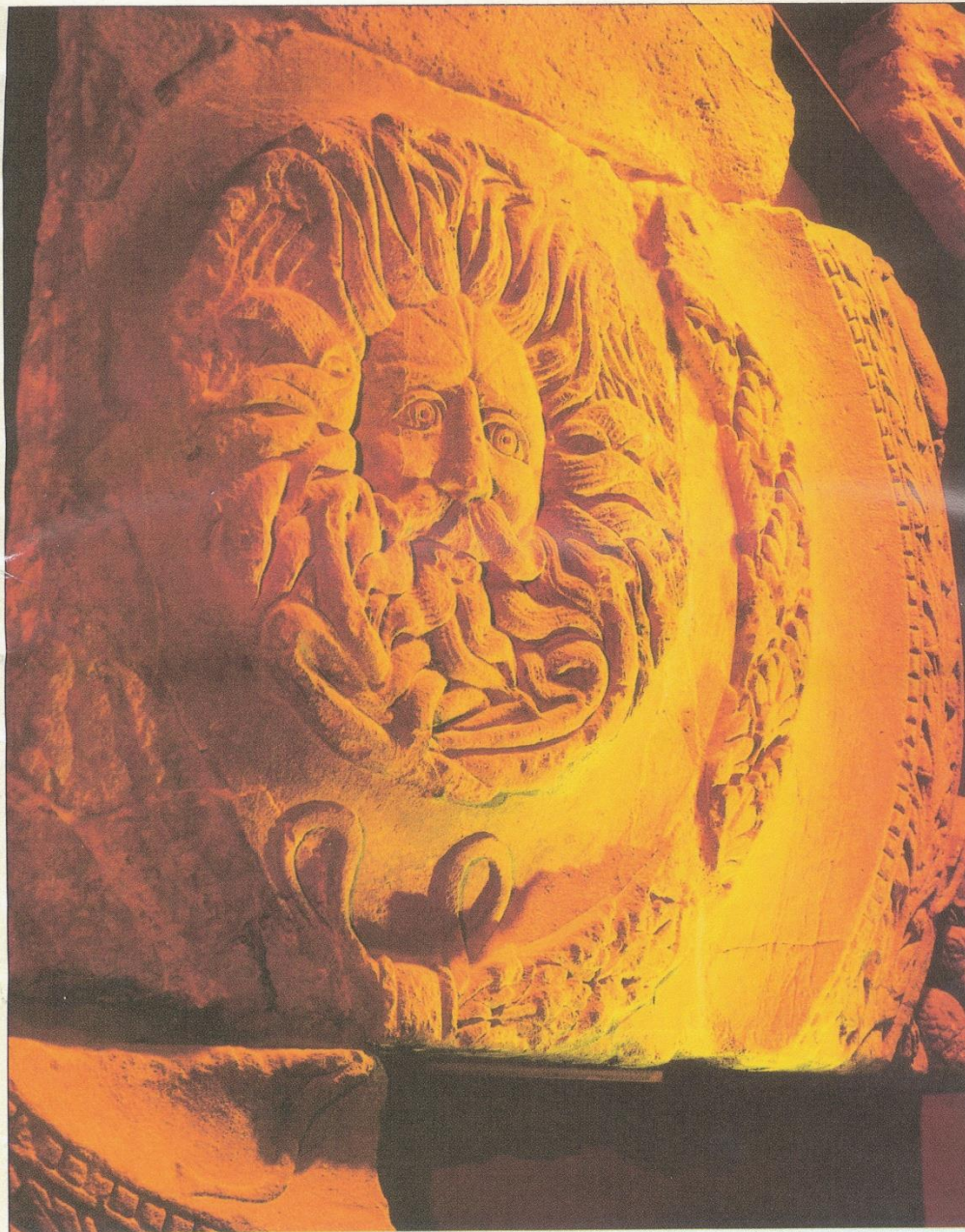




BATH (*Aquae Sulis*) is comparable with both medieval pilgrimage centres and modern spa towns, but also perhaps with *concliabula*, places of assembly as provided in some of the more rural *civitates* of Gaul. Its heart was the sacred complex of Sulis Minerva. The calibre of the architecture indicates early patronage at an exalted level. High-quality development in the late Roman period, within the second-century walls, attests continued prosperity.







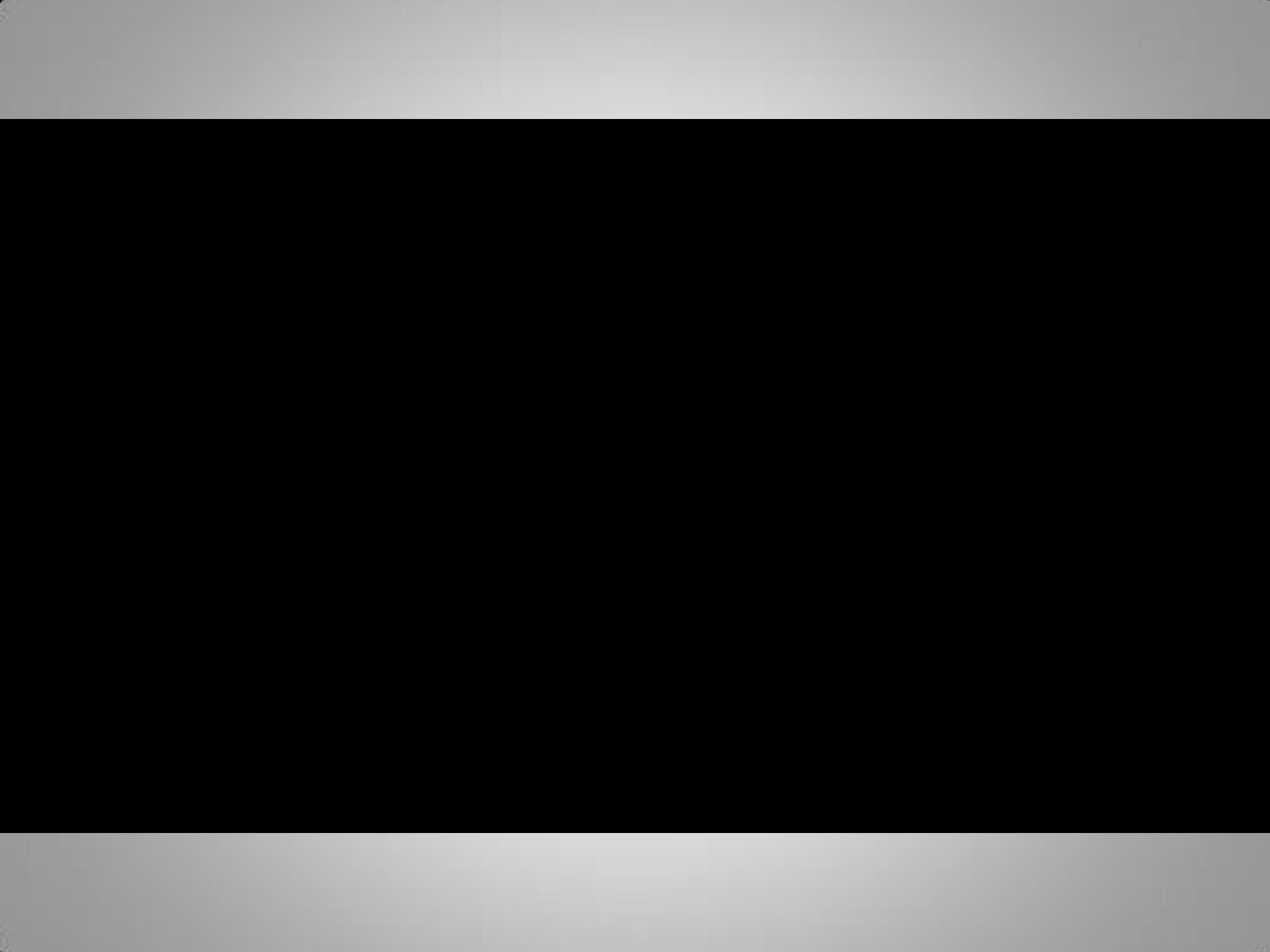
**The Gorgon's head pediment from the temple of Sulis Minerva, Bath.**  
ST 7564 © Crown copyright. NMR

DOCILIANVS  
 BRUCERI  
 DEVS SACRIS SINE  
 SULL  
 DEVS VO EVA II  
 CARCELLI  
 INVOLA VERSTI  
 VIRSIFEMINA SI  
 SERVUS SI LIBER  
 UT QV INDEAS VTE  
 MAXIMO IETVA  
 DICAT NECE ISO  
 AN IMPERMI

IN NECN AIO SNE  
 NNECENTE SDO  
 CARCENTIA  
 MEXADTEM  
 PENTMSVINVAAT  
 NIS PENTIED

90 (above) *Defixio*, or curse tablet, from the temple of Sulis Minerva at Bath (74, 75). This example reads in translation: 'Docilianus son of Brucerus to the most holy goddess Sulis. I curse him who has stolen my hooded cloak, whether man or woman, whether slave or free. May the goddess Sulis inflict death upon him and not allow him sleep or children now and in the future, until he has brought my hooded cloak to the temple of her divinity.'

Bath





- Resources and industries**
- Coal
  - Copper
  - Gold
  - Iron
  - Jet
  - Lead
  - Marble
  - Oysters
  - Pottery
  - Salt
  - Silver
  - Tin
  - Wool

- Towns of Roman Britain**
- Provincial capital
  - Colonia
  - Legionary fortress with settle
  - Civitas capital
  - Major town
  - Port
- ICENI Civitas**
- Zones of villa development**
- Principal area of villa develop
  - Area with fewer known villas
- Important villas**
- 1st-2nd century villa
  - 2nd-4th century villa
  - 3rd-4th century villa
- Known Roman road
- Land over 150 m (500 ft) abo sea level

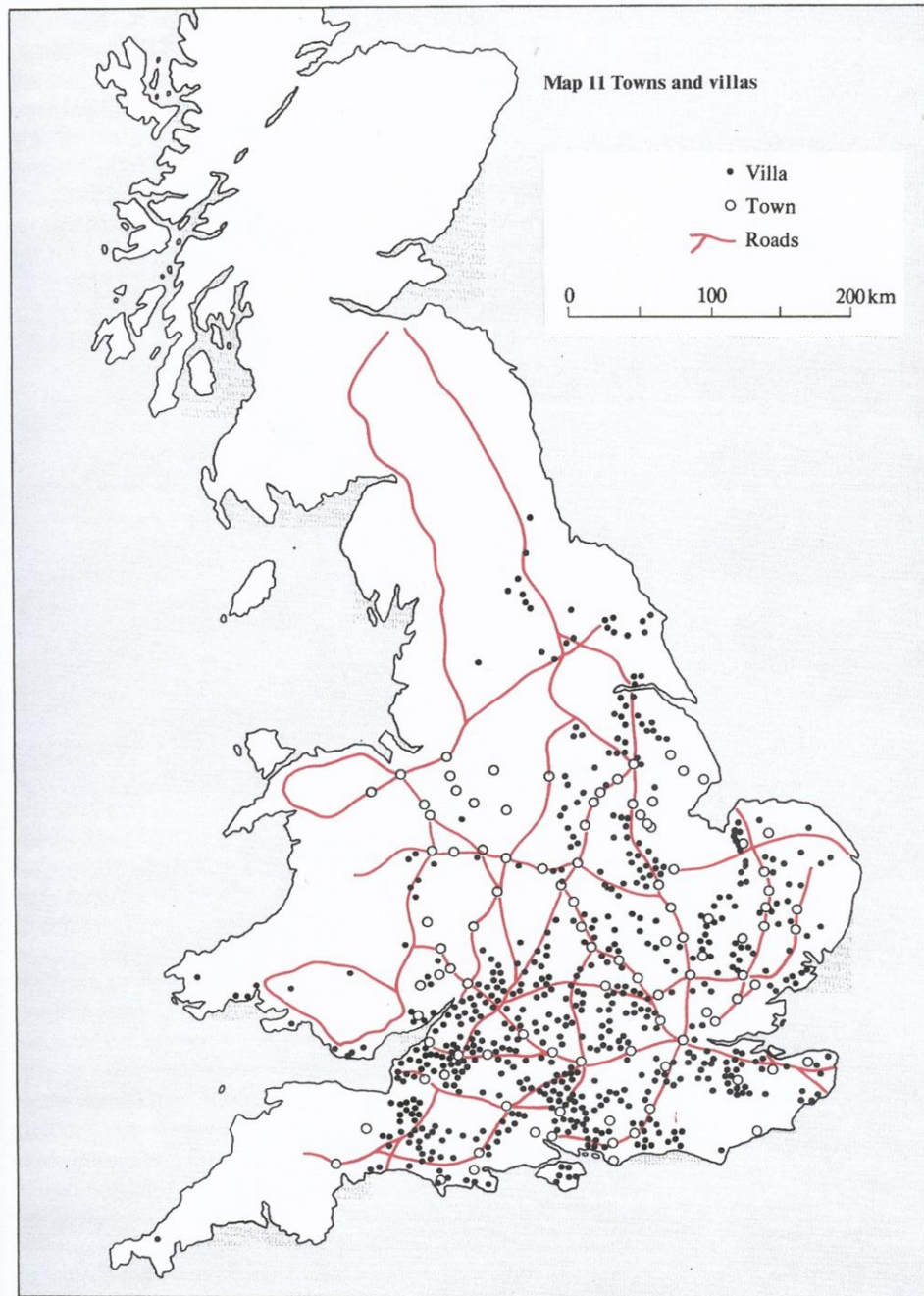


The economy of Roman Britain

Map 11 Towns and villas

- Villa
- Town
- Roads

0 100 200 km

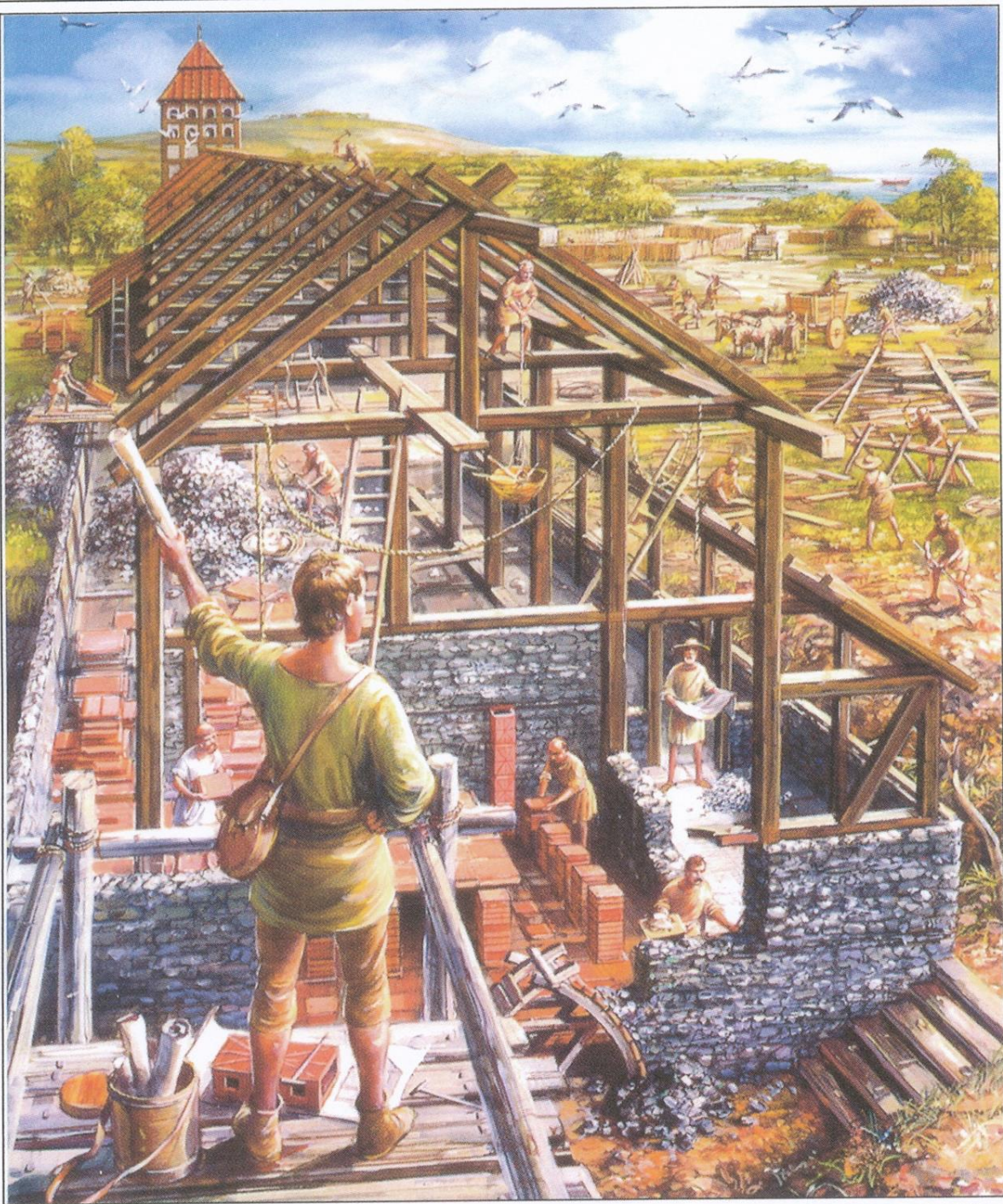




Painting by H. M. Hergt

Geographle Society  
at Corner of the Land Beyond All Others for Me Smiles, Where Heaven Sends Warm Mists and a Slow Spring"—Horace, *Odes*











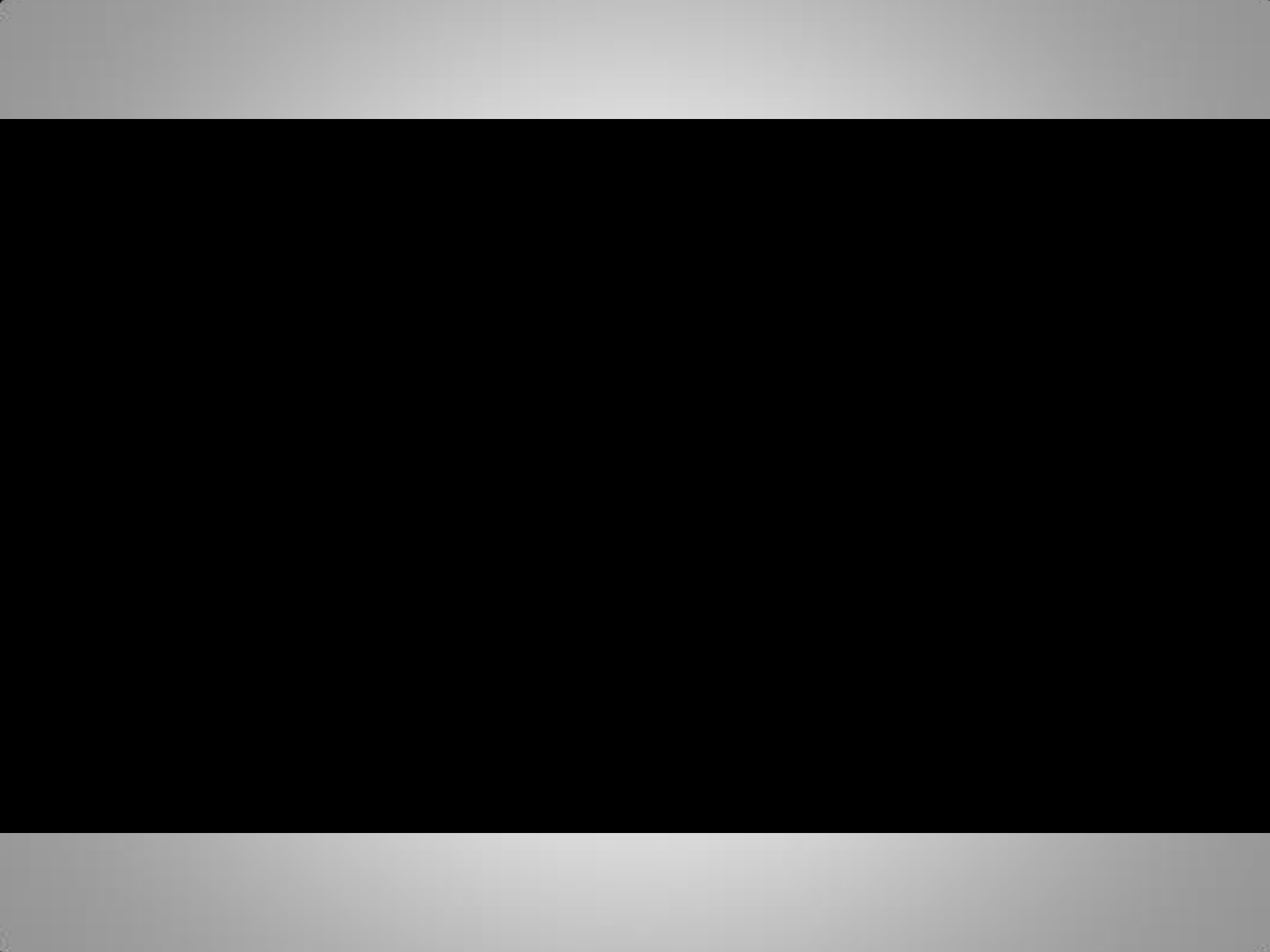
**63.** Chedworth (Gloucestershire): a well-maintained villa in an attractive setting. The gallery in the foreground protects the mosaics.



# Salvete! Welcome to Chedworth Roman Villa

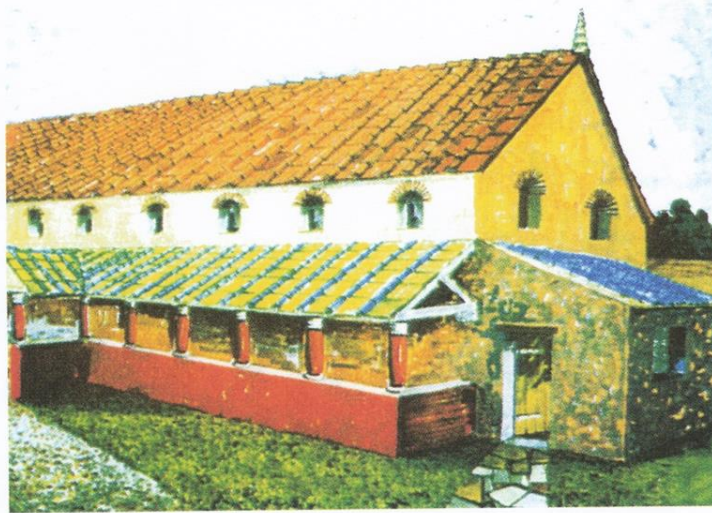
Explore the ruins of this great country house  
and discover the luxurious 'Golden Age'  
of Roman Britain.











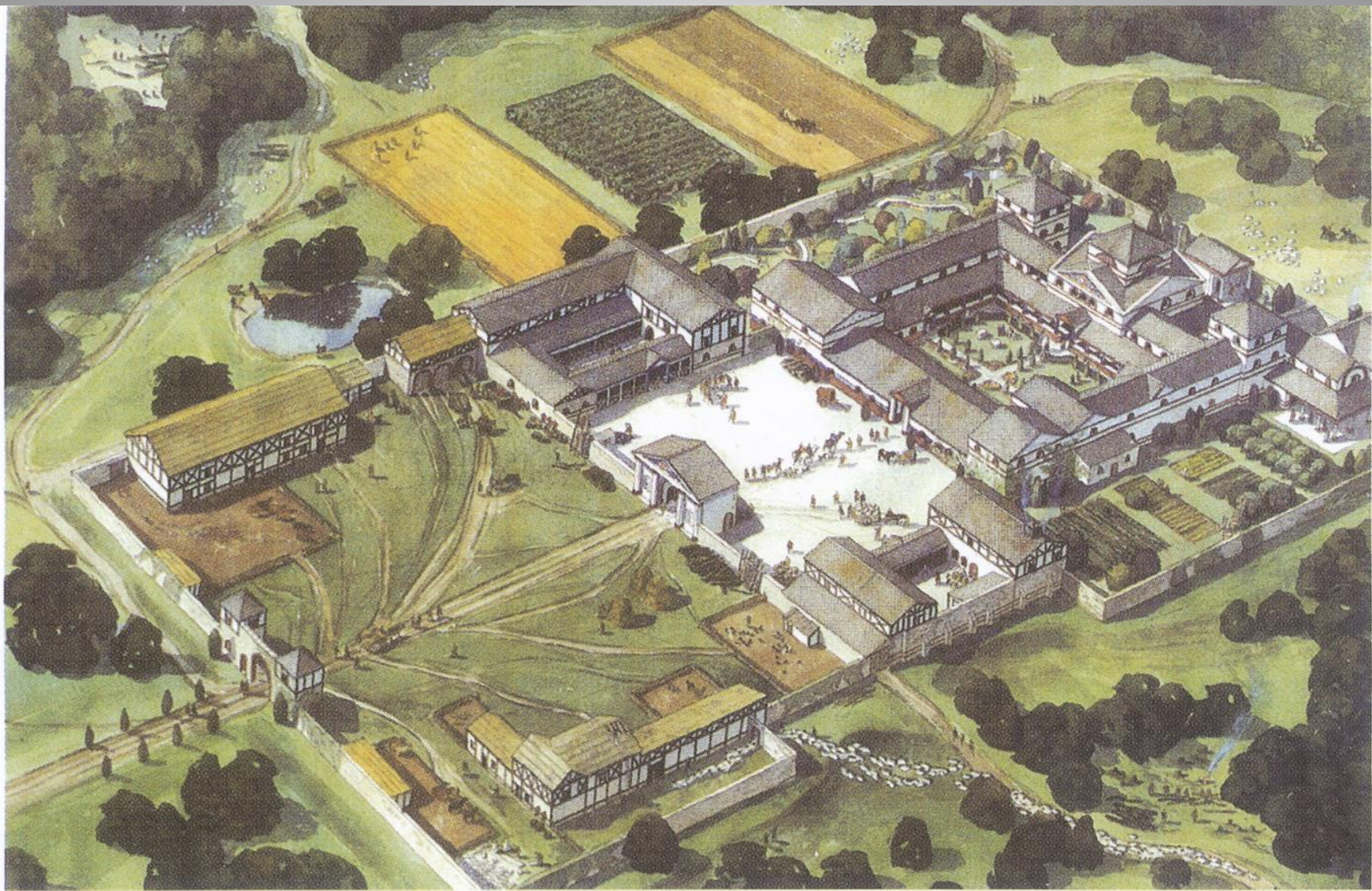
36. The house at Piddington (Northamptonshire) with its colourful external décor. (R. Friendship-Taylor)

37. Newport (Isle of Wight): a reconstruction on the site of the colourful frescoes. The chequered black and white mosaic is original. So, too, is an unusual luxury – a fireplace.

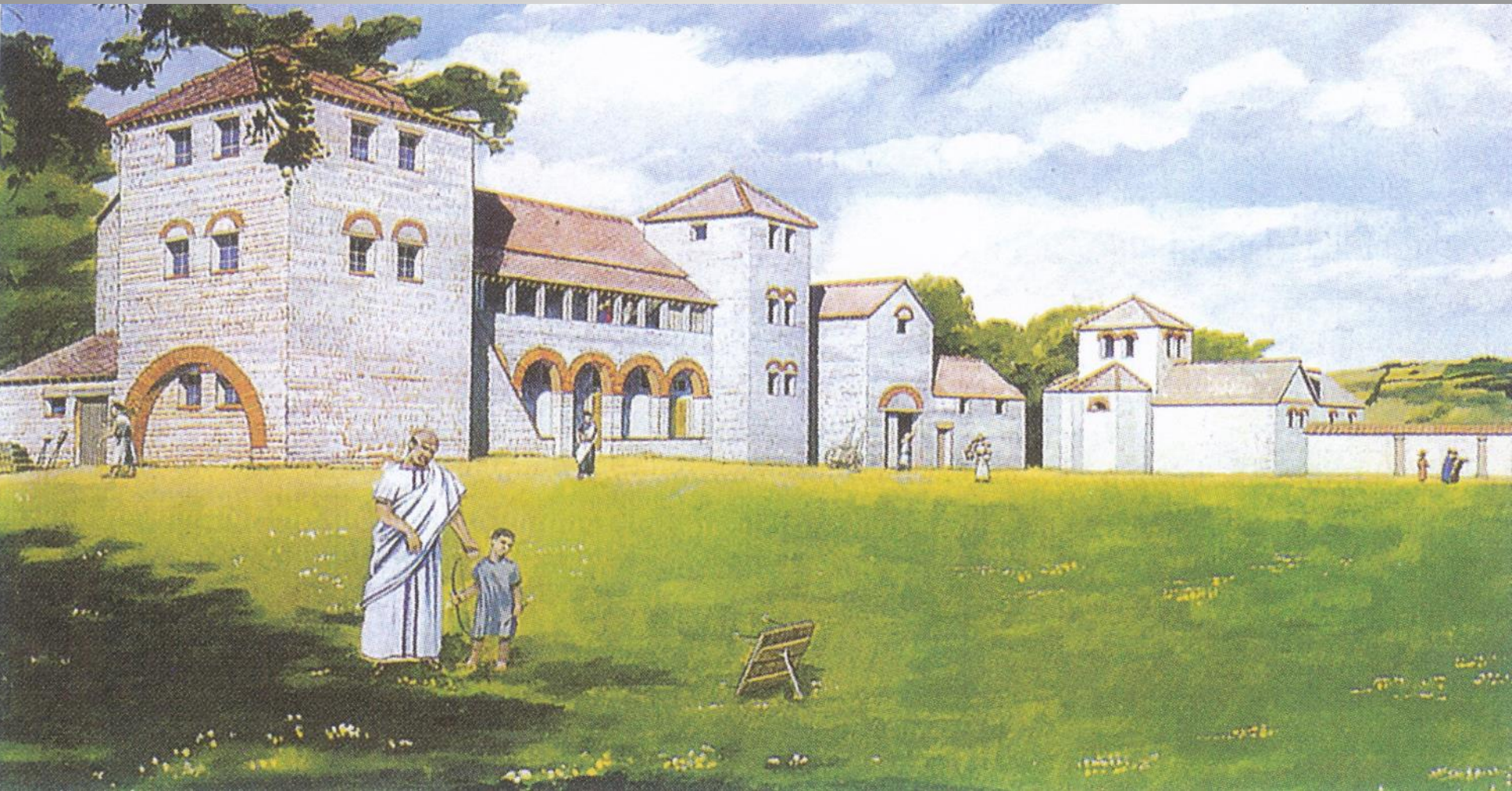


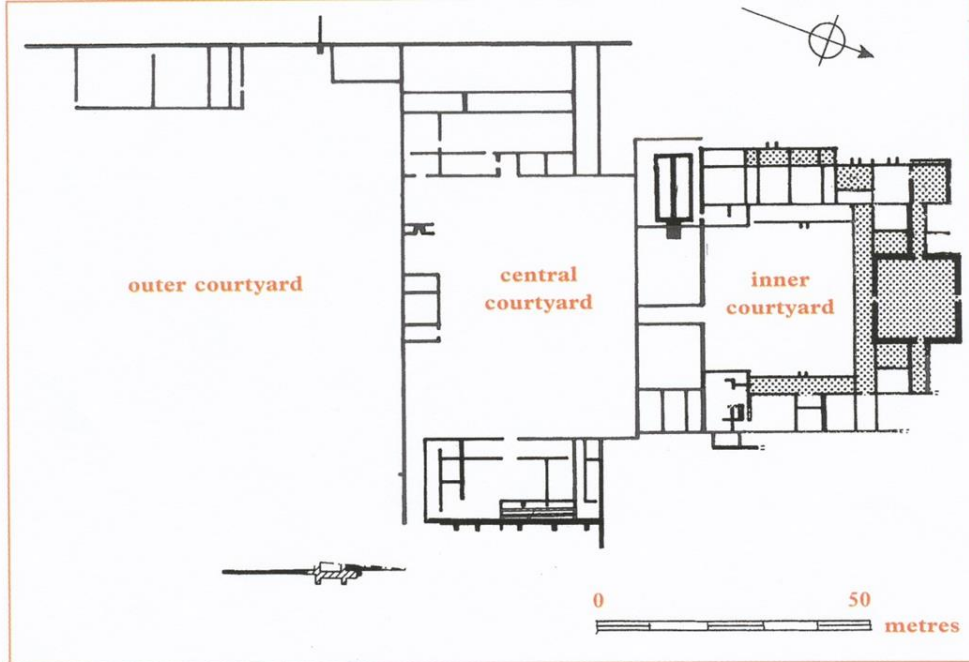


THE WOODCHESTER 'GREAT PAVEMENT' installed perhaps between AD 325 and 350, now lies under the cemetery of the former parish church, and has been seriously damaged by gravedigging and robbing. In this full-sized replica, 47 feet square, the gaps have convincingly been filled from study of other mosaics and records made by early visitors. The principal theme is Orpheus charming the beasts. The mosaic has been compared to 200 square metres of sumptuous carpet, designed and made to special order.



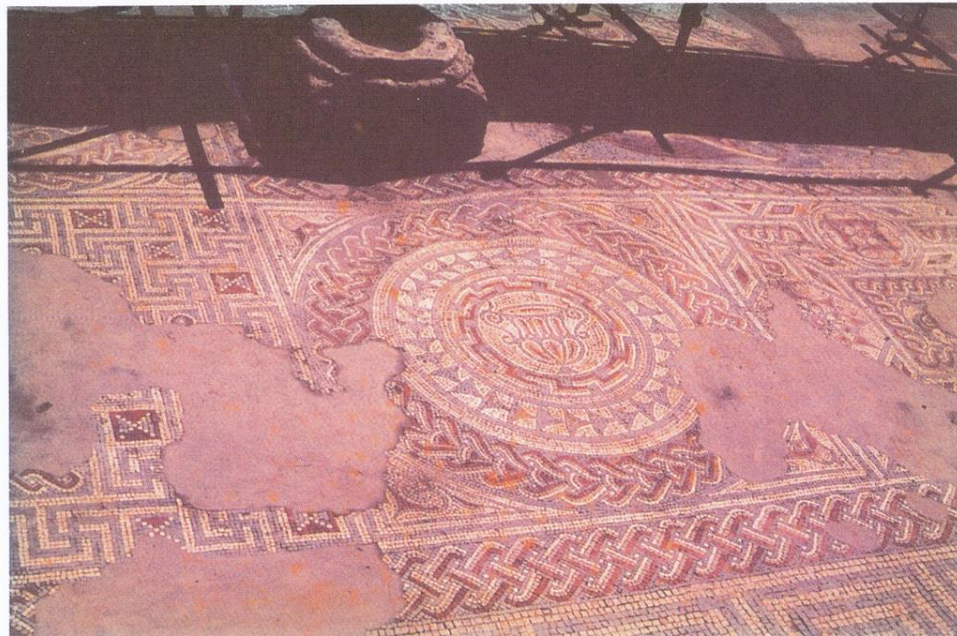
**22.** Woodchester (Gloucestershire): this painting by Steve Smith gives a good idea of the size and complexity of this grandiose villa.





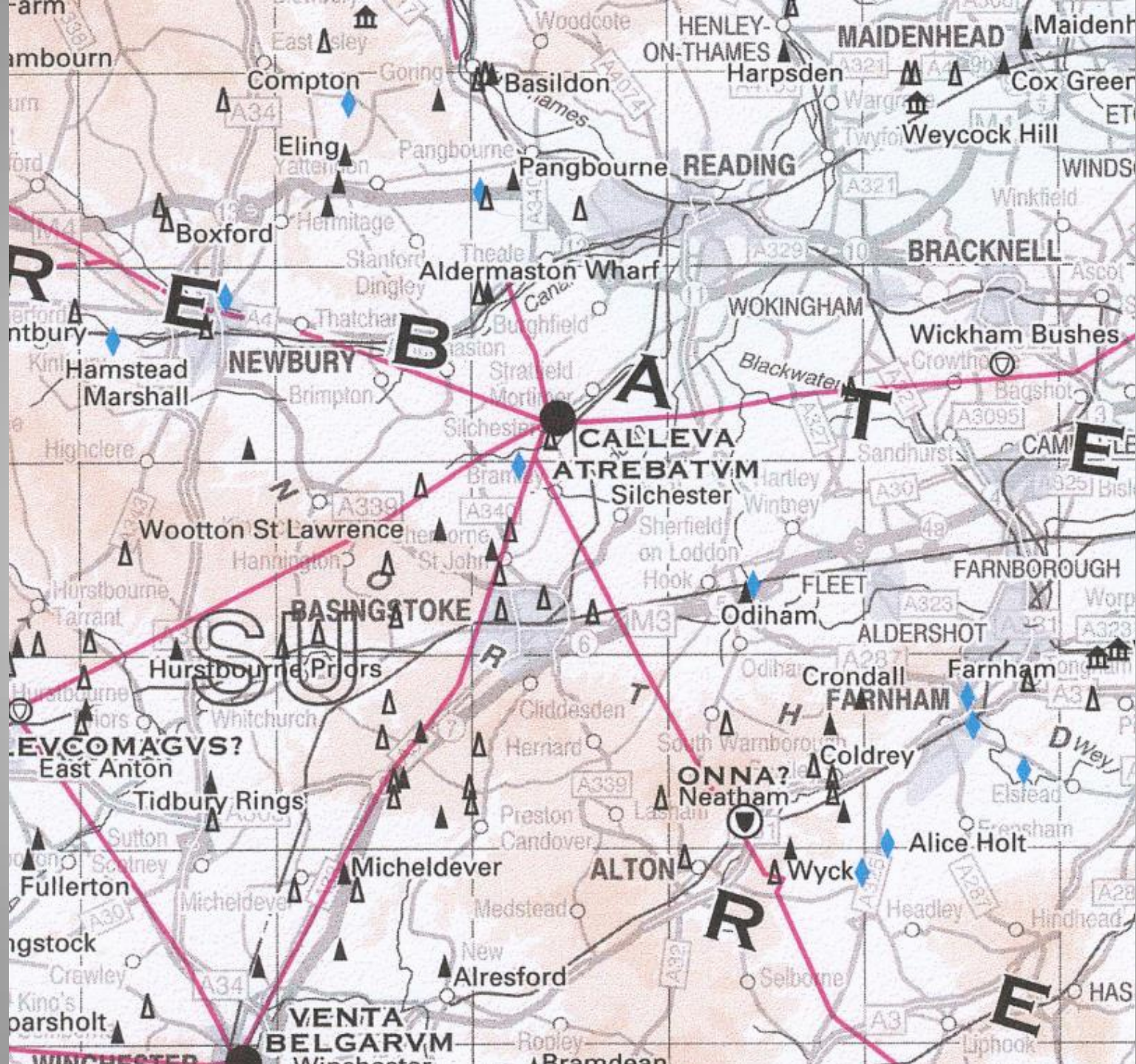
23. Woodchester (Gloucestershire): plan. (After S. Lysons and G. Clarke)

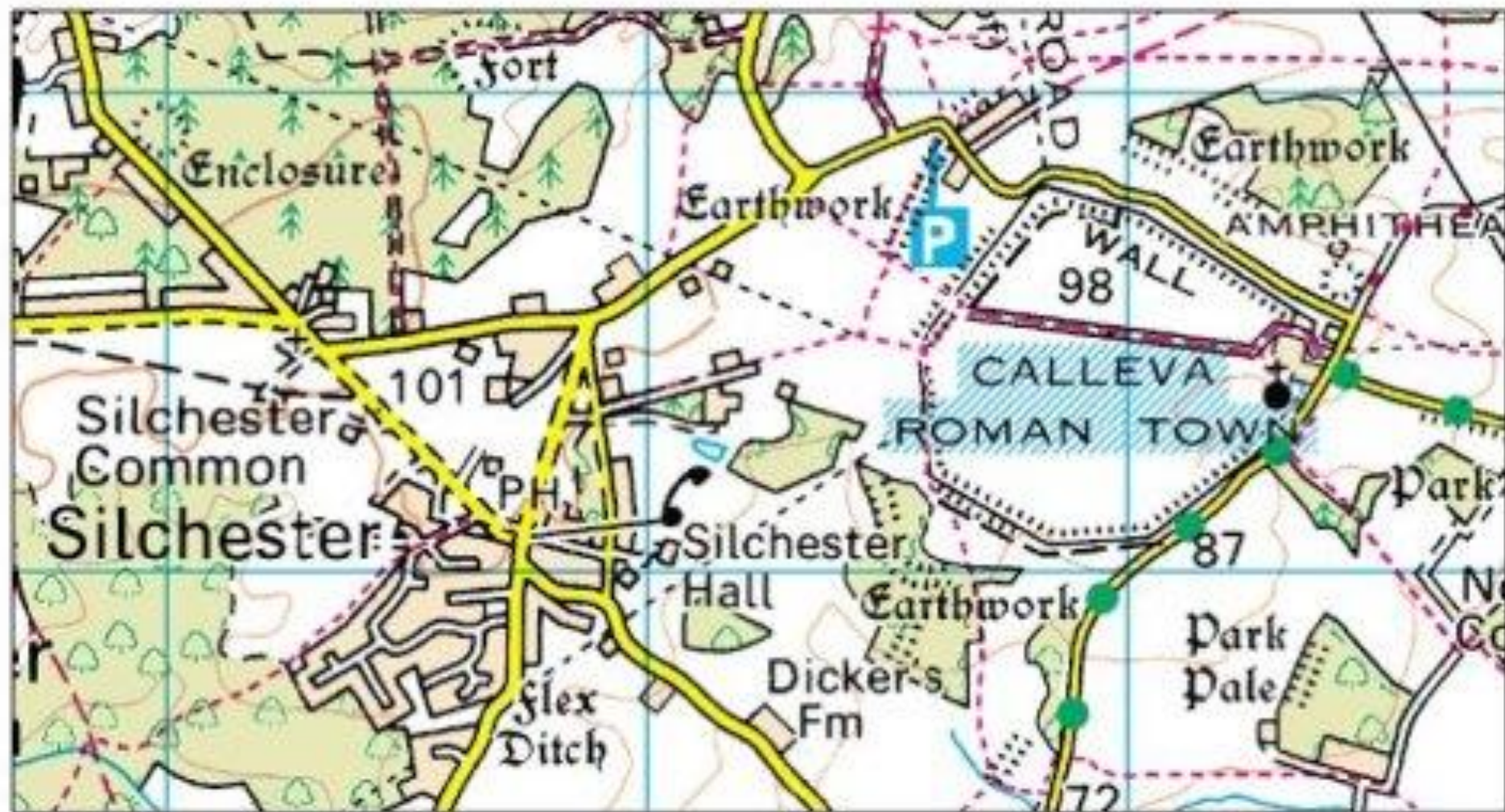
24. Woodchester: a portion of the 'Great Pavement', which was briefly revealed in 1963. One pillar of the colonnade is in the background. (Author)





**60.** Winter in the villa at Brading (Isle of Wight). The main house is in the background of this courtyard villa. (Michael Codd and Oglander Roman Trust)







# Calleva Atrebatum – A Roman Town

The large Roman town known as *Calleva Atrebatum* developed from its Iron Age predecessor from the mid-1st century AD onwards.

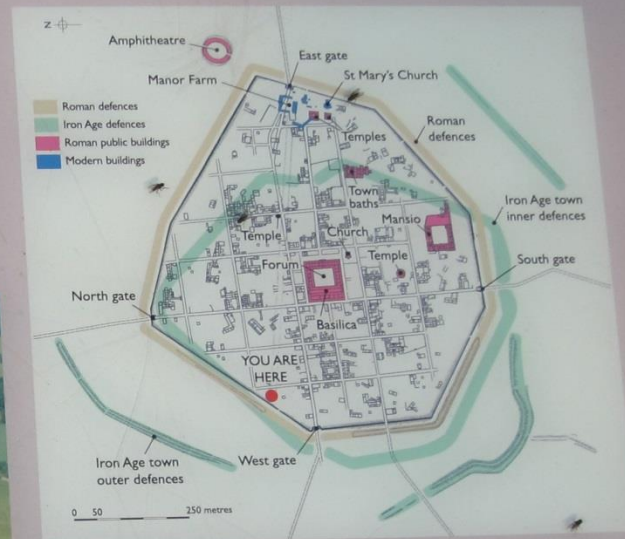
A regular street grid was laid out over an area of about 40 hectares. Important buildings included public baths in the south-east quarter, and an administrative centre (the *forum basilica*) in the centre. There was a rest-house (*mansio*) near the south gate, used by travellers on imperial business, and an amphitheatre on the eastern edge of the town.

The principal streets of the town were crowded with shops and workshops, while wealthier people lived beyond them in larger ornate houses. Several small temples have been identified across the town, as well as a possible Christian church.



This aerial photograph, taken during a dry summer in the 1970s, shows parch marks in the crop, indicating the street grid of the Roman town.

Chris Stanley



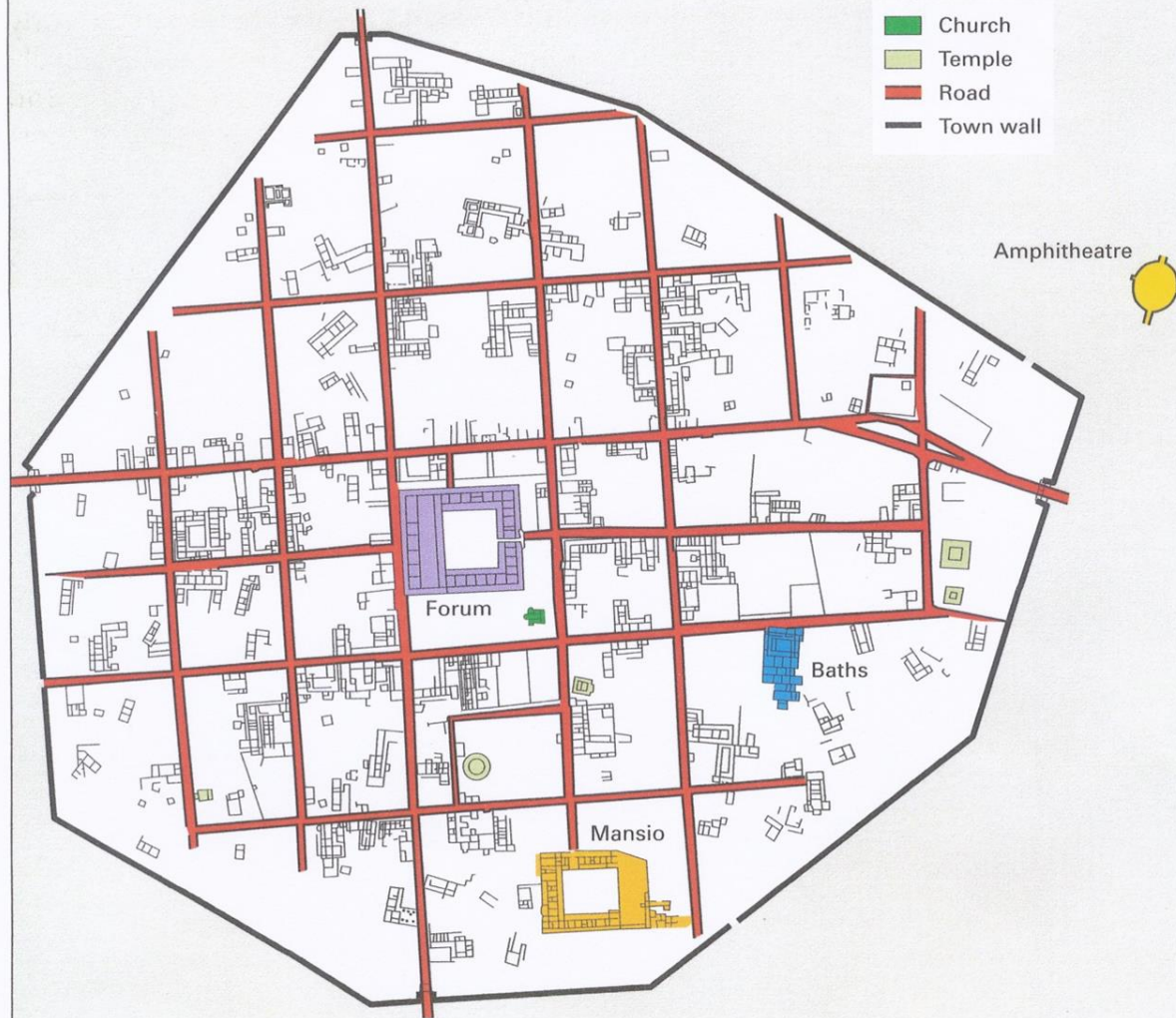
Archaeological investigations over the past 100 years have provided much information about the layout of the town.

In addition to excavation, other archaeological techniques have been used to enhance our understanding of the town.

Aerial photography and geophysical survey have revealed evidence about the town plan, the defences and land-use outside the walls.



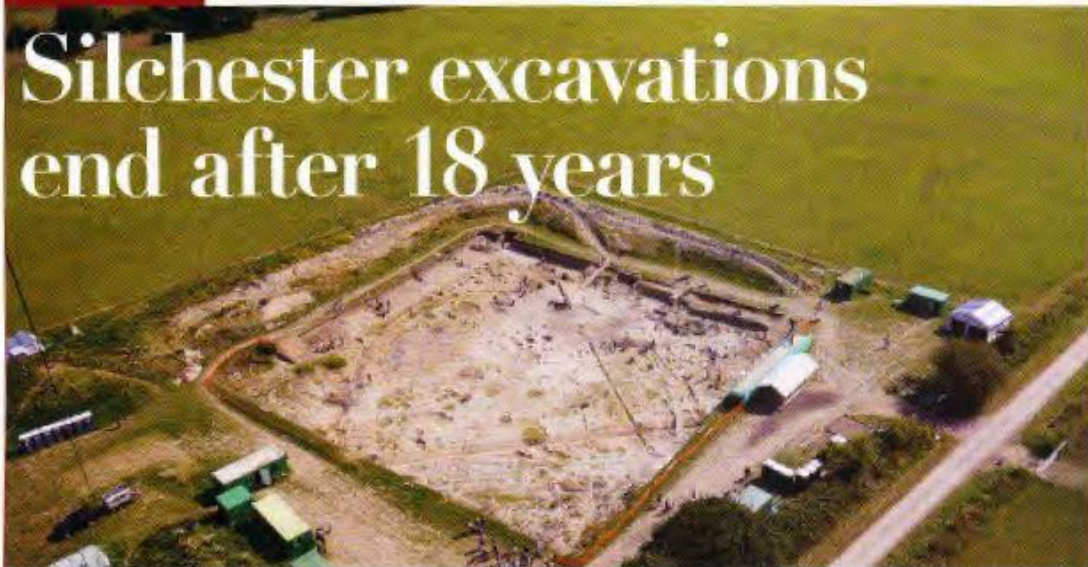
# SILCHESTER TOWN PLAN



**Callewa Atrebatum (Silchester, Hampshire) was a civitas capital. The site was abandoned after the Roman period, so offers unique opportunities for study. By the 3rd century it was a typical walled town with a well-defined street pattern and public buildings, and the plan of its now buried remains gives a clear impression of what many other later Roman towns would have looked like. SU 6462**



# Silchester excavations end after 18 years



**LEFT** Overlooking Insula IX at Silchester in 2014, its final dig season.

The date 16 August 2014 marked the end of the long-running excavations of Insula IX at Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), which since 1997 have been investigating the site's Roman town and its Iron Age predecessor.

After 18 seasons (totalling 108 weeks) on site, the Silchester Town Life Project has exposed some 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of the *insula*, providing the first modern view of a substantial area of a southern British Late Iron Age *oppidum*, and greatly expanding understanding of the site.

The project has revealed at least six phases of occupation covering the whole site, with the greatest complexity seen during the Iron Age in about 20 BC, and in the 1st-century Roman occupation, where

further subdivisions of activity are still being unpicked during post-excavation analysis. It has also become clear that the settlement's Iron Age layout continued to influence the orientation of buildings in the Roman town until the later 3rd century AD.

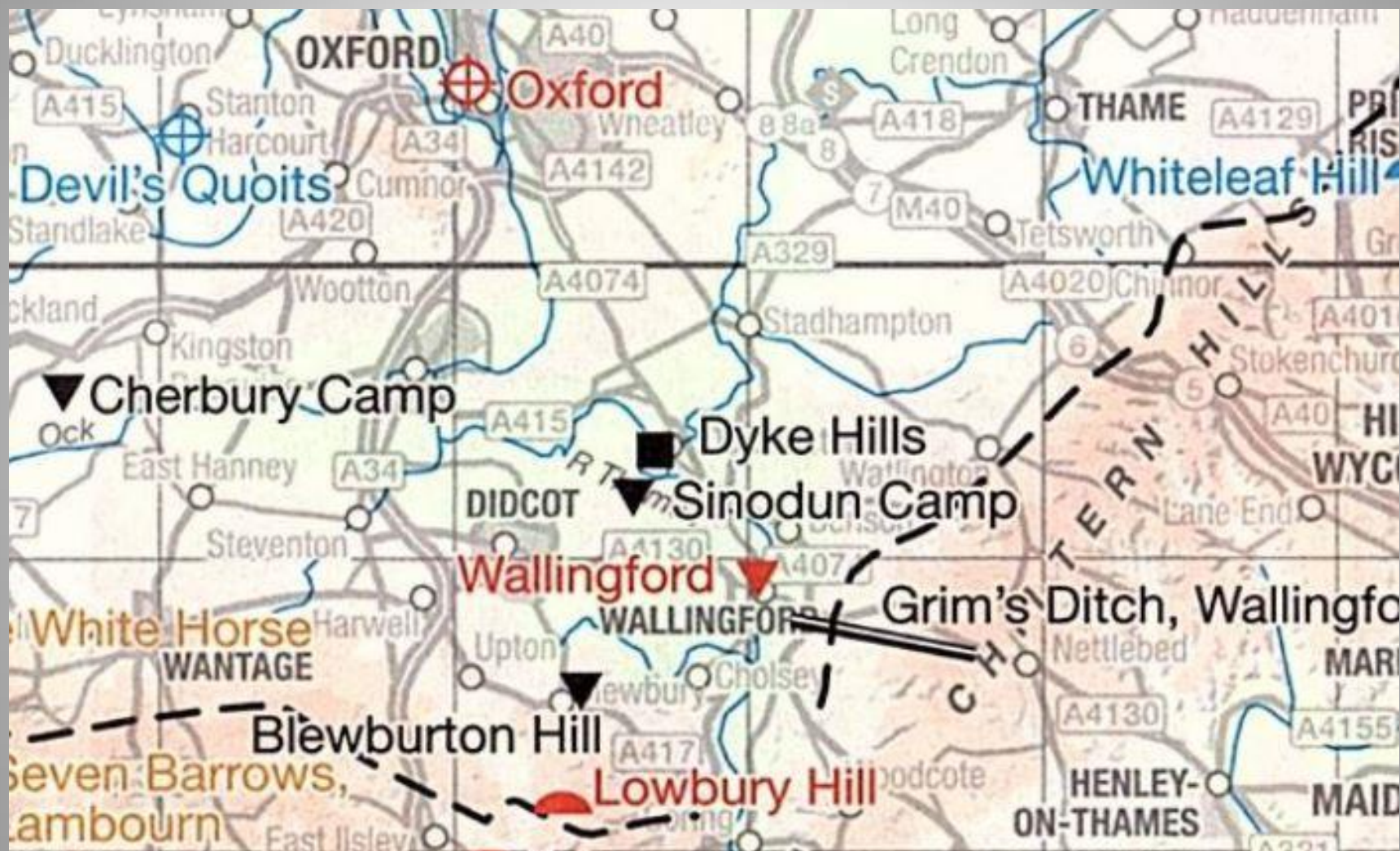
The final season, which involved over 250 volunteers – mostly University of Reading students, as well as those from other institutions, plus a number of older, mostly local participants, many of whom have supported the project since its earliest days – has also produced important results, with the discovery of more buildings and enclosures, including the northern end of the great hall that was first identified in 2010 (CA 288). This

imposing structure now measures some 50m in length and 8m in width, with a large, D-shaped enclosure attached to its northern side. Close to this, the team found a well containing water-logged plant remains that promise to shed light on environment and diet in the years immediately prior to the Roman conquest of AD 43.

Roman finds, including military equipment and weaponry dating from the period immediately after the conquest, were also in evidence, although clearly identifiable military buildings were scarcer.

'This raises an important question about Roman military decision-making, and the process and timescale around moving from a temporary military occupation to one that was more permanent, with the construction of buildings typical of a garrison,' said project leader Professor Mike Fulford. 'At Silchester it looks as if a military occupation which does not appear to have exceeded five years was insufficient to lead to investment in more permanent structures.'

The trench will now be backfilled and returned to permanent pasture.



OXFORD

Oxford

THAME

Whiteleaf Hill

Devil's Quoits

Cherbury Camp

Dyke Hills

Sinodun Camp

Wallingford

Grim's Ditch, Wallingford

White Horse  
WANTAGE

Blawburton Hill

Lowbury Hill

Seven Barrows,  
Lambourn

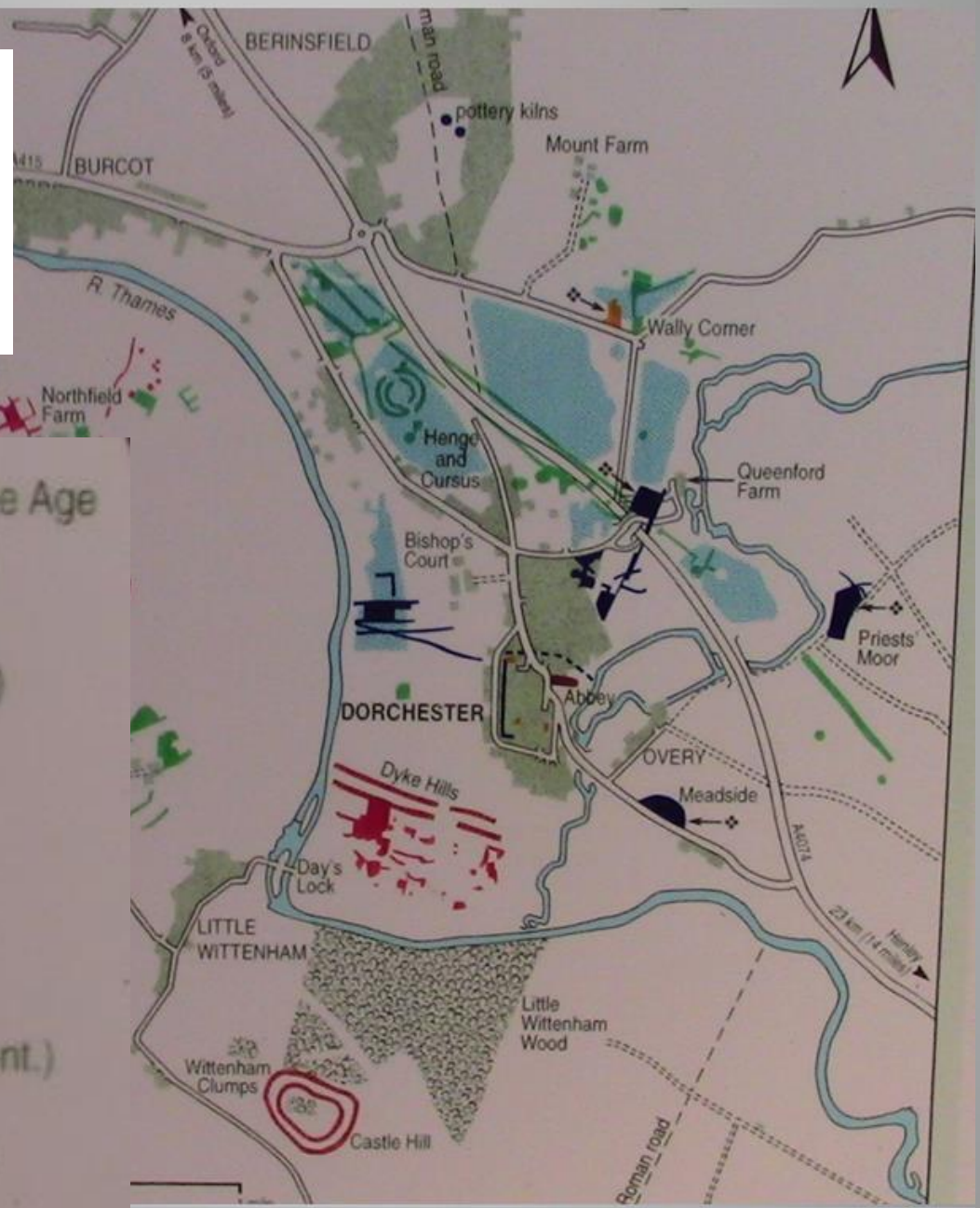
HENLEY-  
ON-THAMES

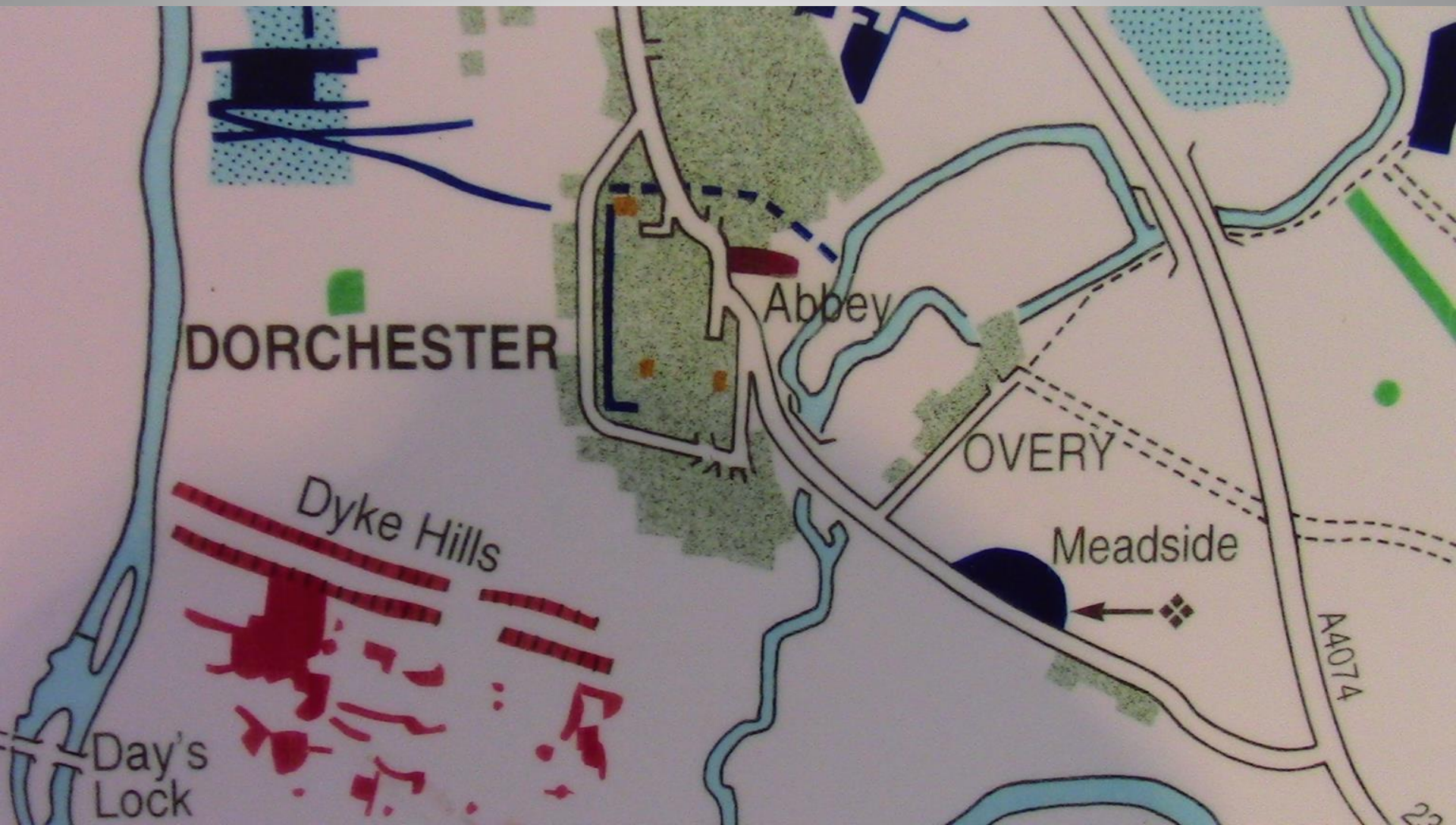
MAID

# Dorchester-on-Thames....

....rich in archaeology of all eras  
of prehistory and history!

-  Late Neolithic/Bronze Age  
(2,500 - c.700 B.C.)
-  Iron Age  
(c.700 B.C. - A.D.43)
-  Romano-British  
(A.D.43 - 5th cent.)
-  Saxon  
(5th cent. - 1066)
-  Norman/Mediaeval  
(1066 - early 16th cent.)
-  Gravel extraction pit





DORCHESTER

Abbey

OVERY

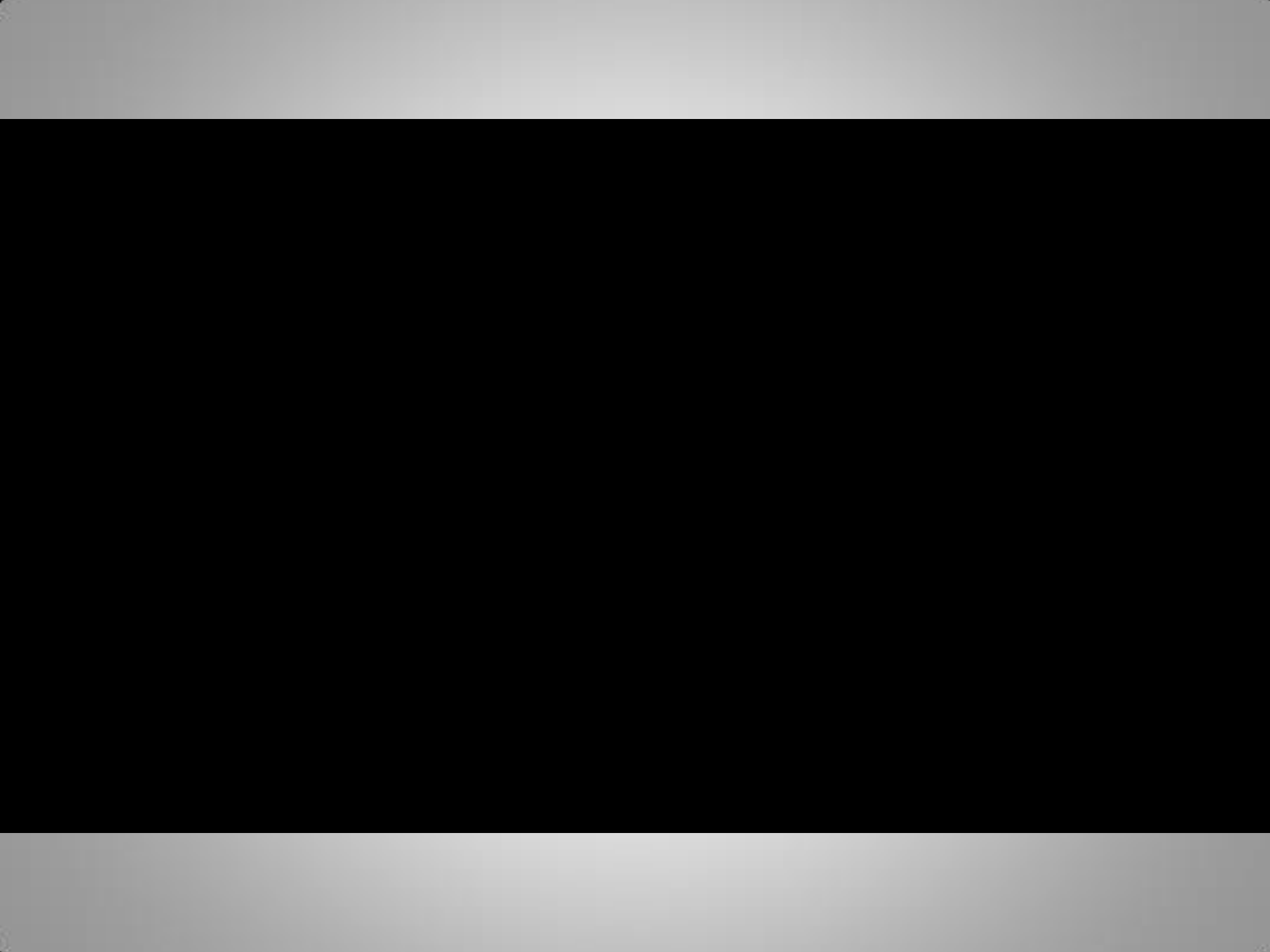
Meadside

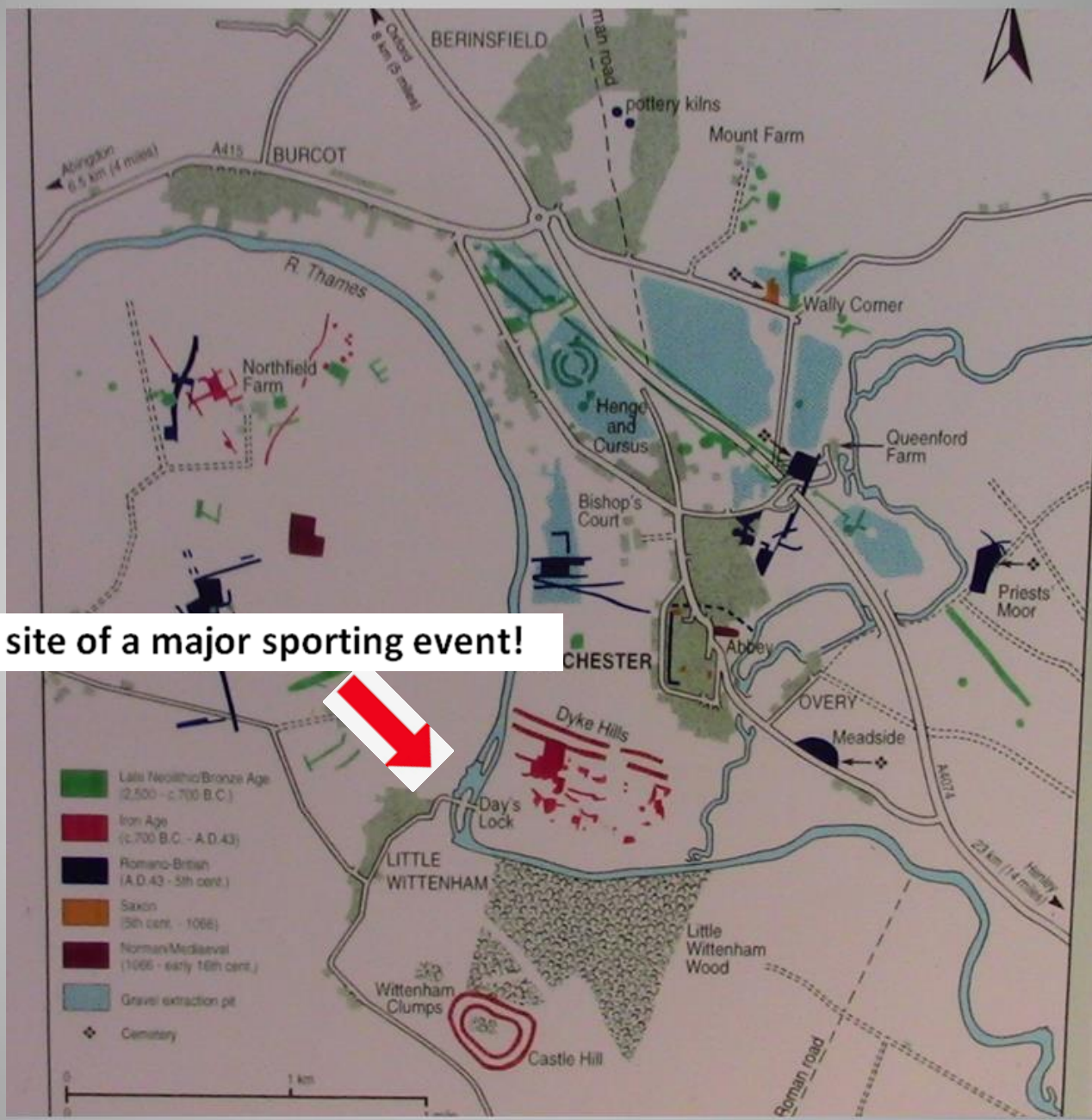
Dyke Hills

Day's Lock

AA074

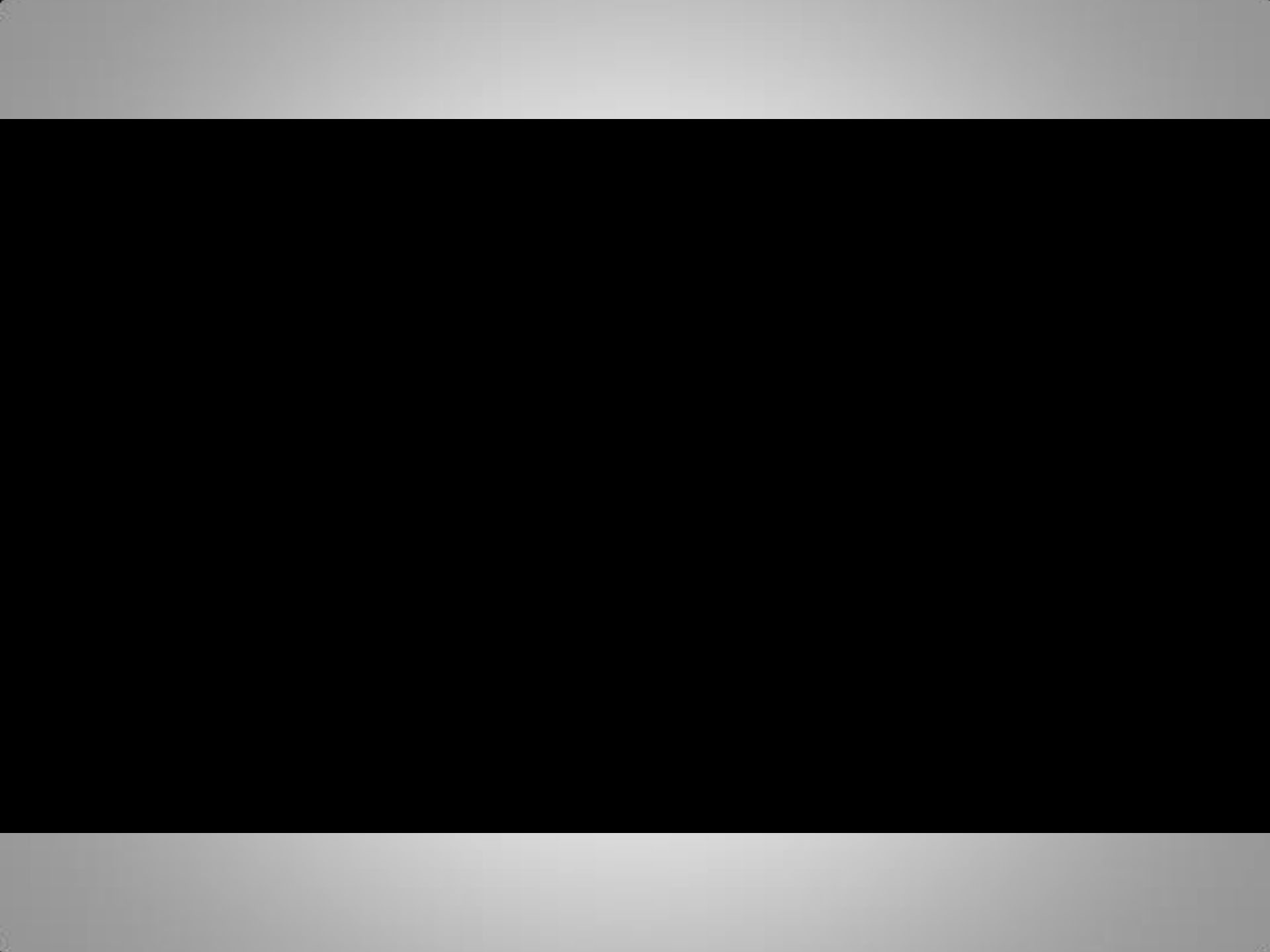


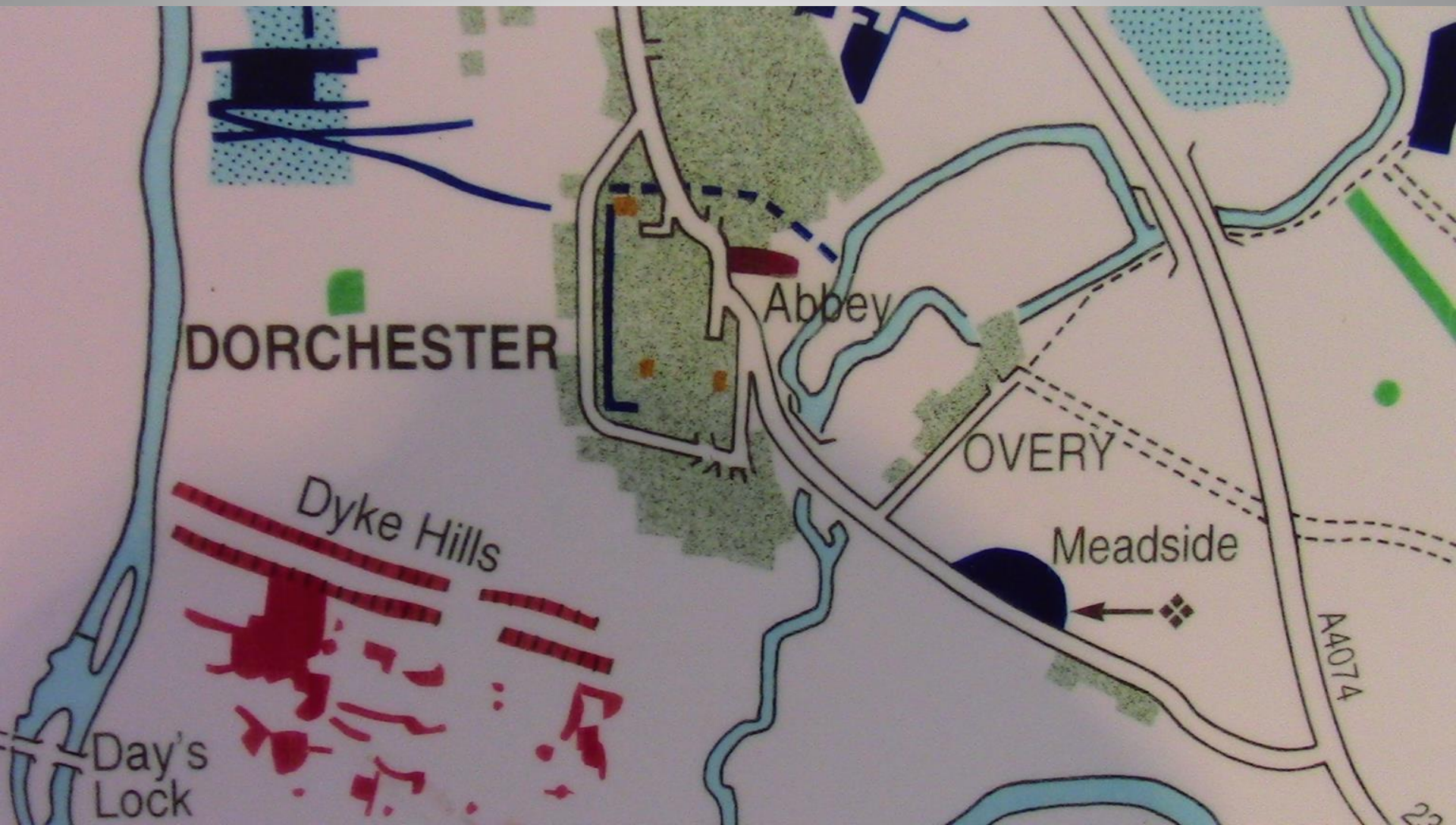




...and—the site of a major sporting event!







DORCHESTER

Abbey

OVERY

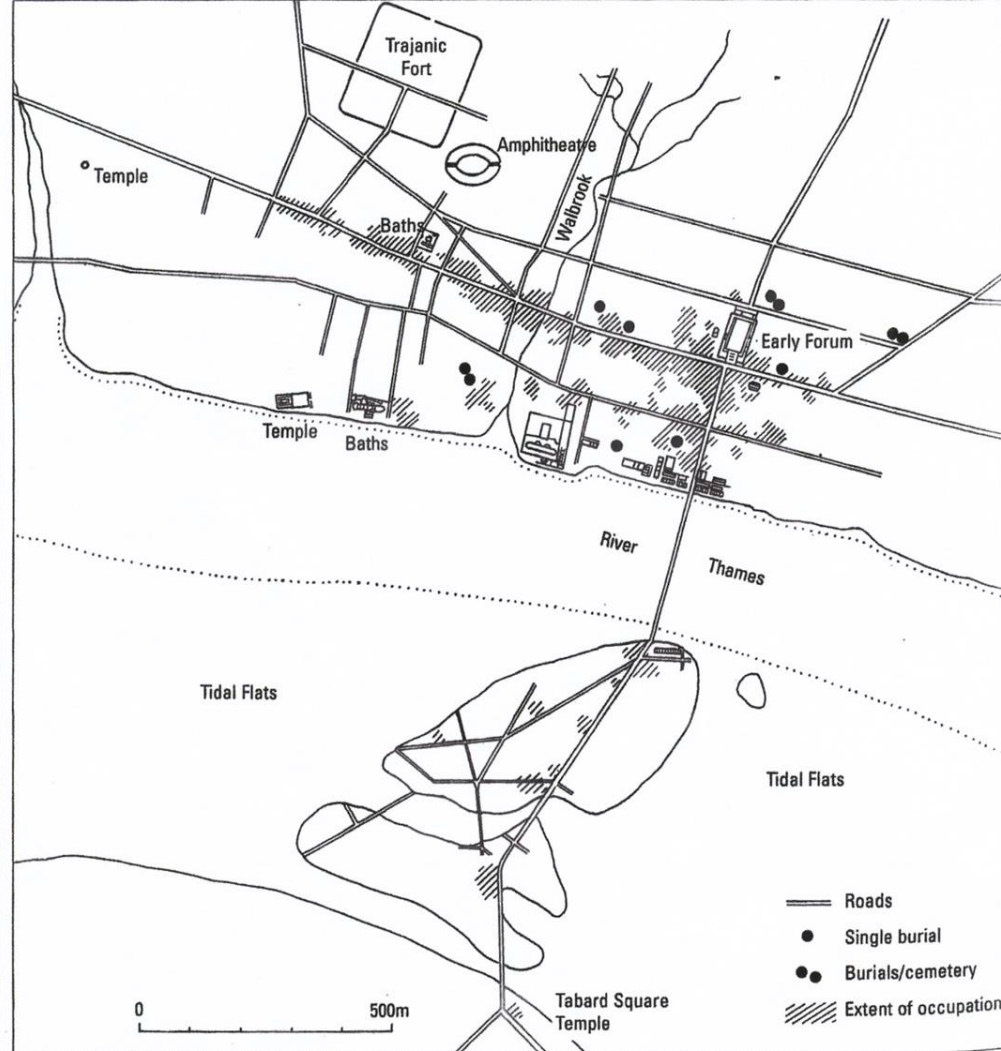
Meadside

Dyke Hills

Day's  
Lock

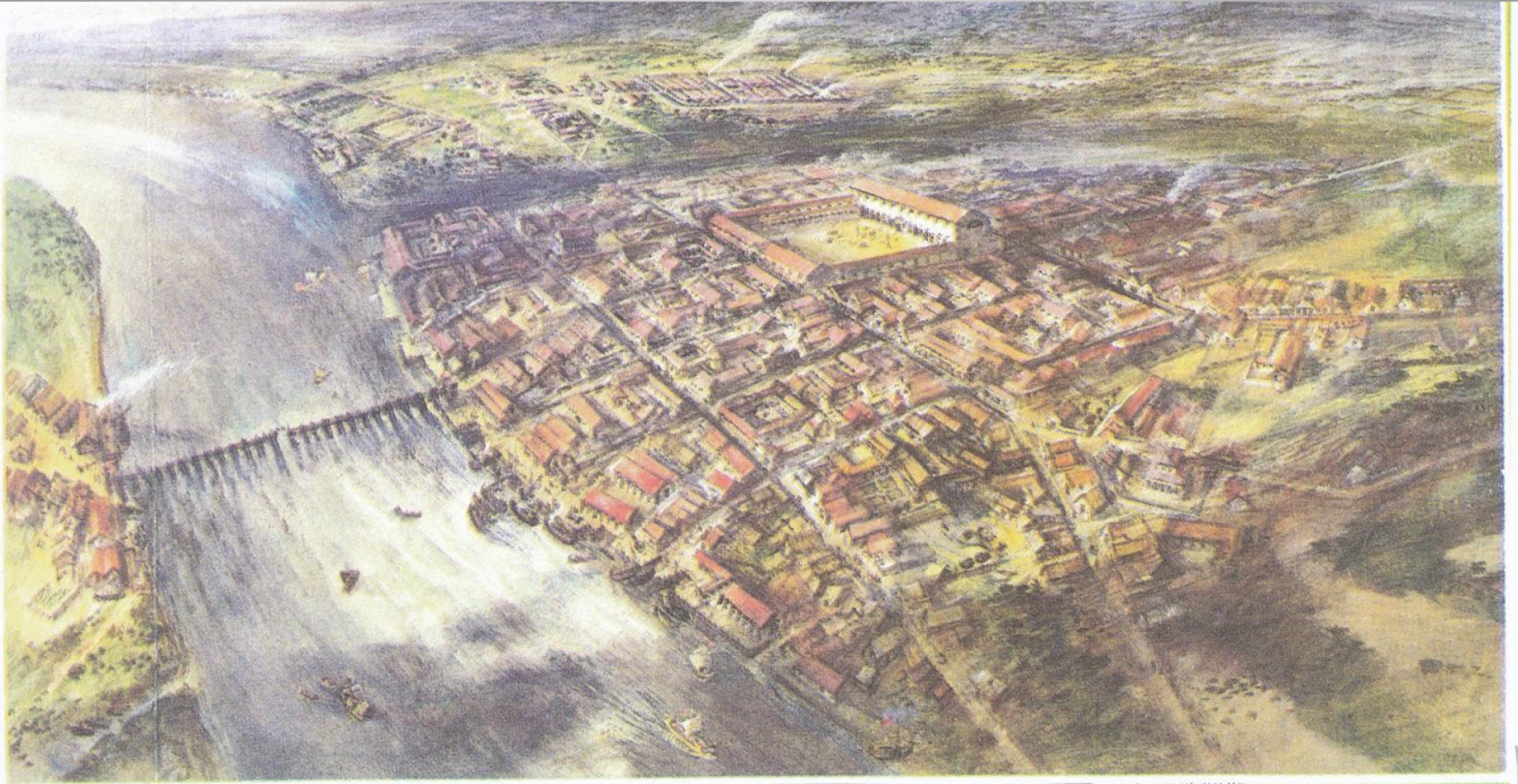
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### **Simplified plan of early Roman London.**

**Settlements were established on either side of the river c. AD 50. That on the north bank was probably occupied by Roman citizens, many of whom migrated from other provinces. London was the centre of the road network and grew to become the largest town in the province. After the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60–1, it also became the centre of government for the province with the procurator, the governor and his military staff based there.**

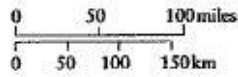



Forum and basilica  
predominate,  
c. AD 125 (Sorrell)









 Mineral resources



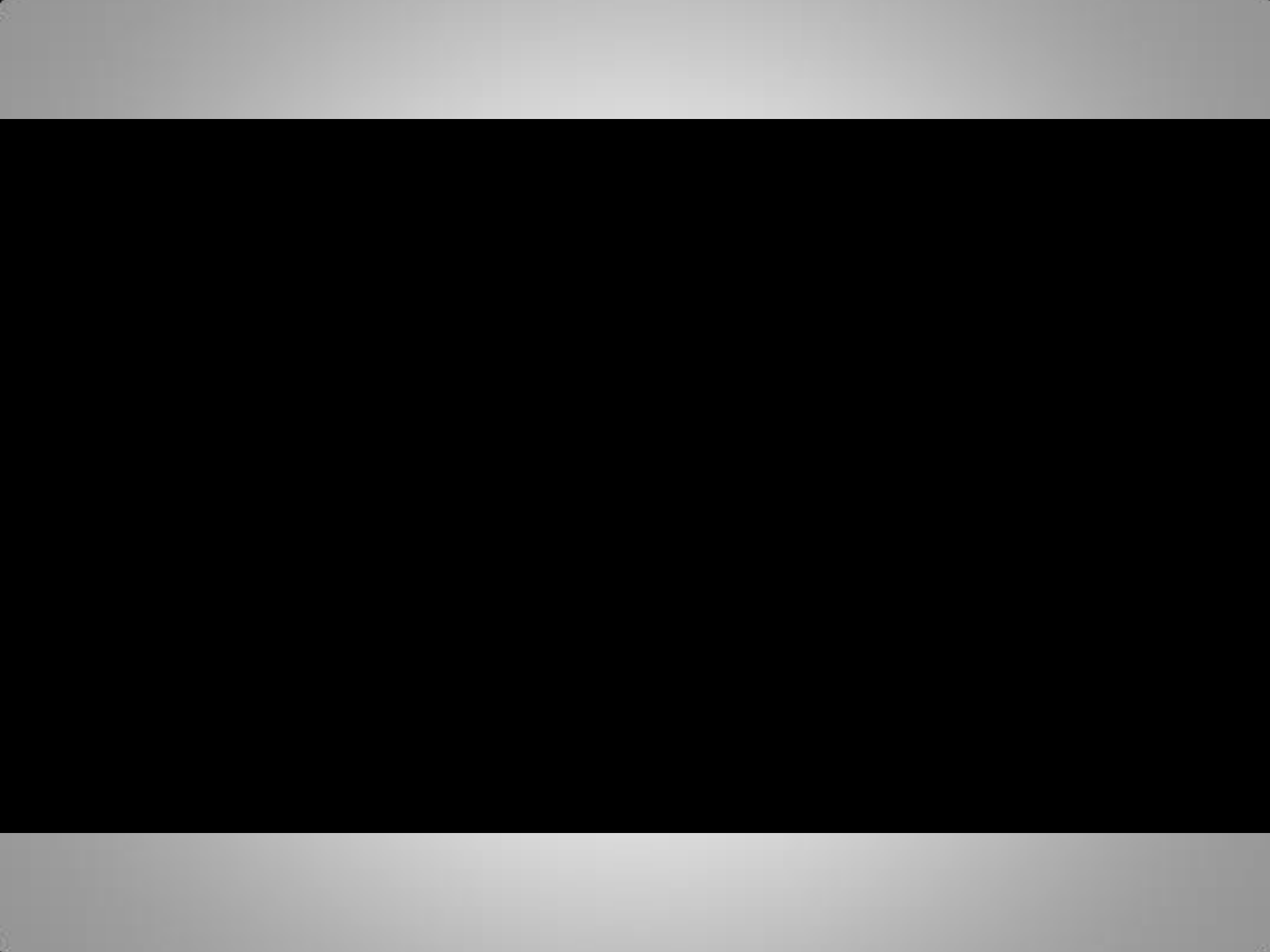
# Roman Britain Industrial Mining

Based on Jones & Mattingly's  
*Atlas of Roman Britain*











Mona  
(Angles)

Segontium  
(Carnarvon)

Mancunium  
(Manchester)

Deva  
(Chester)

Cambodunum

COTITANI

CAMBRIAN

Uxiconium  
(Wroxeter)

Ratae  
(Leicester)

Letocetum

Manduessedunum

Venonae

Durobrivae

Demetiae

Maridunum  
(Carmarthen)

Gobannium  
(Berguenny)

Dobunni

Glevum  
(Gloucester)

Verulam  
(St. Albans)

SITIURES

Isca Silurum  
(Caerleon)

Venta Silurum  
(Caerwent)

Cornium  
(Cirencester)

Nidum  
(Neath)

Sabrina Aest.  
(Bristol Channel)

Aquae Solis  
(Bath)

Bictoci

Spinae  
(Speen)

Calleva  
(Silchester)

Atrebat

Sarbiodunum  
(Old Sarum)

Venta Belgarum  
(Winchester)

Isca Dumnoniorum  
(Exeter)

Durotriges

Vindogladia

Clausentum  
(Bittern)

Durnovallia  
(Dorchester)

Vectis  
(I. of Wight)

OCEANUS BRITANNICUS

